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# ELI STUDENT VOICES

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Volume 5, Issue 2

Summer 2001

## **The Ideal House**

*Mariana Meyer*

R/W 30

**1<sup>ST</sup> Place**

The perfect home must be in a beautiful place and have enough space for everything that you want. This kind of house shows your personality and you can look the way that a person thinks about life. It has to have a big main bedroom and bathroom, a useful kitchen and living room and a big garden around of the house.

A great house has to have a big and spectacular bedroom. It must be spacious and all the walls are large windows where you can look at everything. The view is amazing because you can look at the sea and marvelous beach with clean and white sand. The bathroom must be spacious too with a great Jacuzzi. The ceiling and walls have to be of windows too. Anybody cannot see you because the house is on a little private mountain. If you are in the bathroom taking a great bath in the Jacuzzi, you can look the marvelous garden with a lot of different kind of flowers.

The kitchen and living room should be integrated in a same space without division. Only a little division can be special table where you can eat and drink everything that you want. If you are in the kitchen, you can see the beautiful garden through the living room and have a conversation with your friends at the same time. The area of the kitchen must be spacious and functional. It should also possess all electronics and digital appliances and plenty of cabinet space to store dishes, pots, pans, food, etc. Next to the kitchen is the living room where all the walls around it are windows with special electrical blinds that you can drive through a remote control. In addition, the living room has a digital sensor light systems and you can drive it with remote control, too. The furniture should be smooth, gorgeous and soft shaded because the light and soft decoration is the best for relaxing. From the living room, you can look at different kinds of view. To the left side, you can look at a beautiful and spectacular golf course where behind it, there is the sea. To the right side, you can look at the sea with fabulous beach. From the middle of the living room, you can enjoy an original garden with a lot of flowers and a bridge and water with special design for relaxing.

The perfect house must have a wonderful, beautiful and exotic garden. It should be around the house. The exotic garden has to have many kinds of flower that decorate the little roads made of stones of different colors. In the middle of the garden there is a

bridge and a spectacular swimming pool with an original shape, a fountain and many lamps into it. Diagonal to the garden, there is special furniture where you can do meditation. It is very important for your mind, spirit and health.

In conclusion, the ideal house is not only to think of the inside of it as a big bedroom, marvelous bathroom, beautiful kitchen and living room. I think that people should incorporate to the house a beautiful view like an exotic garden that you can look from all the places where you are. If you can feel relax and share pleasantness with your family and friends, you are in the ideal house.

## **A Trip to Atlantis**

*Ulrich Fiolka*

R/W 500

**2<sup>ND</sup> Place**

It was 4:13 o'clock on Thursday, July 12, 2001 when we discovered a yellowish light far away across the sea from Cape Canaveral. That, what we were able to see, was what Atlantis looked like. It was tied to something that looked like a church tower. It wasn't exactly what we had expected.

The crystal clear sky was our reason why we left our houses at around 12:30 a.m. and also gave us hope that we would be able to find our goal, Atlantis. We drove in a convertible and enjoyed our trip through the mild, dark blue night. The warm wind whistled around us while we were driving south on Highway 27.

When we arrived at a small city named Titusville, we were not the only people there. A huge crowd of cars pushed themselves through the city's narrow streets. After we found a parking space, the flashes of the people's cameras blinded us. Every movement was recorded on tape. The shoreline was full of multi-cultural people. It was not even possible to find a place along the 4.5-mile long coast where you could stand alone for just one second.

At 5:00 o'clock a.m., everybody looked to the East and saw a huge, reddish colored dragon in the direction of Atlantis, what seemed to be the tower. He began to hiss and started to give off smoke. We could hear him trying to escape from his captivity. A snarling wave of sound reached our ears. When it started to spit more fire, everything around us became brighter and brighter and looked like the sunset. At 5:04 o'clock a.m., he broke his chains and managed to escape. He took off very slowly and moved clumsily straight into the cloudless sky. A big flame and a reverberating sound followed his flight.

We saw him drop the gloomy pieces of his chains and how they fell down like shooting stars. He reached his goal of freedom. Not only he left but also Atlantis left and everything became dark and cloudy.

This escape was a rare event which happens maybe only twice a year. The interaction of light, sound and smell is so impressive that you will never forget what you will have seen in these few seconds. Neil Armstrong was absolutely right when he said, "It is a small step for a human but a big step for the humanity", and laid down a milestone in Space Research.

## **Manners**

*Jian Zhang*

*R/W 50P*

Manners are the ways that you treat people. Good manners give someone a gentle impression; it will be an auspicious beginning so that you deserve success and respect from and of the people who know you. But it is difficult to express your manners when you meet people that are from different race or country. So are there universal good manners? The answer is positive, universal good manners do exist, but different cultures create their own standard to judge people's manners.

Shaking hands is the good manner that is recognize by most of the people in the world. It does not matter which country or race you are from, it is the symbol of friendship and peace. It can be used in any of the situation, such as business, friendship, politics even wars. In fact, you do not need to learn this manner from some other people; you will be influence by your surrounding, when you look at two people are shaking their hands, from their impression or action, you will be informed what that means. After a period, it becomes your instinctive reaction and custom when you meet your friends or attend official situation. In my opinion, this is the most powerful universal manner in society.

Smiling has the equal advantage as shaking hands. When you see someone is smiling to you, you do not need to worry that she/he will attack you. At least, she/he is not your enemy. It is another good manner that you should handle. The distance between two people will be minimized by smile. It is more useful than thousands of words when you are in trouble. For instance, you are misunderstood by your friends, and they are very angry with you, you do not need explain too much; on the other hand, if you can keep silent and give them a smile, I think they will be cool down to listen your explanation. So keep your smile, everybody will accept you.

However we cannot say that the standard of good manners is the same in every country. There are also hundreds of manners that we do not know; it is very normal, everything in this world should have some things in common, and some are complete opposite. The manner depends on each individual culture, race custom, and development of the country and race.

Overall, some universal manners are familiar with most of the people; it has become a part of habit that cannot be omitted from life. But we also should know much more manners that are from different area; it will give us lots of convenience. At

the same time, I appeal to you that we should recognize more and more good manners so that different people can be easy to communicate.

## **Materialism**

*Soon Young Lee*

*US Culture*

I am here with a goal for my future. Like other foreigners, I have an American dream. Whenever I think of the USA, I come down to the two words – free and rich -. If I try to do my best, I can take everything in the USA. How nice words! I am able to become the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bill Gates, who is a hero in America. However, I don't hope to give priority to materialism, even if I would achieve a lot of things, because it lead to bad behavior neglect of more important things, and inequality.

Materialism makes people emphasize the results rather than the process. This means the end justifies the means. This is not right. We can imagine a rich man who has sold drugs to teenagers. He sometimes contributed lots of money to the hospital and school. Most people, who don't know how he makes money, admire him and his charity. "He is a very nice man like an angel." However, you already know the method he did. Can you say he is a really good man? Many people use bad ways to get the money they want. It is a very dangerous situation.

Money is one of the most important things in our lifetime, but it is not everything. To live rightly, and happily we need a good family, friends, relatives, neighbors, and society. We can never buy friendship, love, and honor with money. If you think money is the best, you cannot realize what is the most important thing. Sometimes we forget other things that are more important.

Besides, materialism makes people snobs. Sometimes we divide the people into two groups. One group is the rich and another is not the rich. When we meet the former, we use good manners. On the other hands, when we meet the latter, we don't. It can't be denied that we have been doing this.

It is a time to look back upon. We need the time to regret. Haven't you missed important things in your life to get materialism? Don't you emphasize the results rather than the process? Don't you divide the people into the rich and the poor? I wish you would find the best way to live.

## Materialism

*Maria Padua*

*US Culture*

For a long time, materialism has existed in our societies. Usually people have a preoccupation with material rather than intellectual or spiritual things. Although people think that materialism has many disadvantages for the society, it has some benefits too such as the creation of consumption, generation of tax revenues, and development of technology.

Materialism brings consumption, because each person wants to have his/her own things. Likewise, each person wants to have modern and better things. So, the society has to produce more, new and better stuff. Also it can bring more opportunity for jobs and better employment. In this way, each country can develop its own economy and exchange merchandise with other countries around the world.

Similarly, governments can get more taxes from their citizen since they have more income; or from their industries because they have more production. These taxes can be used in order to help other people with other kinds of problems such as disabilities, homelessness, etc. Likewise this money can bring other kinds of social benefits, like for example: police, social security, better schools and hospitals, etc.

Moreover, materialism allows the development of technology since people want to get modern and better things. In this way researchers and workers work hard everyday in order to produce new stuff of excellent quality. In addition, young people have to study more everyday because they need to increase their knowledge for the future time.

In conclusion, even though materialism has some disadvantages, it is the principal economic movement around the world. Also, it has brought technological development and economic growth for many countries.

## Manners

*Taelyong Eom*

*R/W 50*

What do “manner” and “manners” mean? Manner is a way of doing something or the way in which a thing is done or happens, a way of acting; bearing or behavior. Manners are socially proper behavior, the prevailing customs of a society or period, as the subject of a literary work, practice, style, or method in the arts, and kind or sort. Manner originates in *Manuarius*, which is Latin. *Manuarius* is a compound word composed of *Manus* and *Arius*. The meaning of *Manus* is hand and the meaning of *Arius* is more at manual, more by the manual in English. This meaning is a method and form. What do you think about a core of good manners in the world? I think the core of good manners is good acting and behavior, which is based on the true heart; politeness, mercy, kindness,

and so on. In my opinion, these are core factors in good manners. We can see the different ways of manners in the world. Why? These depend on their custom, environment, race, and history.

What are the common good manners, which can be used all around world? They generally consider another person: opening the door for the next person, giving the first turn to a lady, talking politely, respectful acts for older people, and so forth. This means helping other people even sacrifice some of yours. We can think another way, which is called Golden Rule. The Golden Rule means you have to do something, which you expect to act to another persons. If you want a favor from somebody, you should do a favor for him or her.

In the world, we have a lot of different manners in different countries. Moreover, they have many specific methods in manners. Oriental and western cultures have characteristic manners. In Korea, China, Japan people can't make eye contact when they talk with older people but western culture is the opposite of this way. They think eye contact while talking with others is good manners.

If there is a party, some countries and cultures think it is good manners, if they go later than the promised time, however some countries consider this is not good. And when a person shakes a women's hand, some countries and cultures think this is not bad, but some countries and cultures think this is too rude. Many countries have manners about many parts in life; party manners, table manners, indoor manners, outdoor manners, public place manners, conversation manners, dress manners, time manners, greeting manners, telephone manners, and restroom manners. When we go to a party we have to wear proper clothes for the party type. When we are invited by someone who is from a foreign country, then we have to know about the table manners, because some cultures eat by hand, using a lot of glasses, putting both hands on the table or just one hand, even napkin's usage is different. Some cultures take off their shoes in a house, but the others are not like that. When we stay at outside, some cultures can't take off our shirts. If we want to do some public places we have to wait our turn, though we are so busy so we don't have any time. Some cultures speak silently but some cultures say loudly. If we meet someone, some cultures shake hands or some cultures bow, hug or kiss. Why do they have had many difference manners? I think it depend on regional feature.

I said about manners, which are similar in this world and different type of difference regions. Many manners are being made and disappearing. What is the important thing? Humans don't live without others. You have to keep in your mind because this is the most important thesis.

## Universal Golden Rules

*Carlos Guiñan*

*R/W 50*

The behavior of a person tells us about his/her attitude towards other people around him/her, but whether to consider the behavior as good or bad is a very difficult decision. For this reason, it is necessary to examine deeply whether manners are defined independently by each culture. Accordingly with this idea, the main topic of this essay asks the question: "Are good manners universal?"

First of all, good manners are considered to be the key to a happier world. Actually, people in all countries say that everybody knows how useful and necessary good manners are. In fact, with cultural interchange it is possible to see how each culture is learning and teaching good manners and which behaviors are acceptable or not. People want to know which attitudes are disapproved of in each country because they want to be acceptable in those countries. Regardless of that, there exists the conviction that the human being has inside of his heart which ones are basic rules for living together: they are called "Universal Golden Rules".

It is known that it is possible to find a custom that could have two different connotations in two different places. Despite that, Universal Golden Rules have basic ingredients that are similar in every place:

"Justice" is the first one: this is a strong and innate sense of fair play.

The second one is "Empathy": a quality that enables a person to see into the mind or heart of some one else.

And the last one is "The capacity to treat all people equally".

The above basic ingredients are presented in many cases, but this is not enough. Therefore, it is also necessary to present the ways to improve one's manners (they are taken from "Courtesy: key to a happier world", by: Dr. Norman Vincent Peale):

A.- Practice Courtesy.

1.- All skills require constant repetition to become second nature.

2.- Don't let others bad manners make you rude.

B.- Think in a courteous way.

C.- Be able to accept courtesy.

As has been noted, it is very complicated to show which behaviors are right and which are wrong, because perhaps each culture has different manners in many specific situations. However, the general idea is to explain that even though there are similarities and differences of good manners in the many cultures around the world, people are working together in the search for Acceptable Universal Golden Rules.

## What Is Life Like for an International Student?

*Gina Perna*

*R/W 50*

In my opinion life isn't easy for International Students; as a result, many of them change their personality to be more independent than before because they are beginning a new life by themselves

Since February, I have met some students from different countries, and I have talked with them about their new lives. Most of them think that it is great to live alone without any adult's supervision; however, some students think that it has been a difficult experience because, probably, they have a strong relationship with their family and friends. For me it wasn't so cool to live alone without my parents and brother, because I have the best relationship in the world with them; and before I came here we used to have dinner and talk every evening. Moreover, international student have to learn so many things like cooking, doing laundry, ironing, cleaning and paying bills, and sometimes this can be very difficult for some students like me, who have never done some of these things. But I have to learn because I want to stay here for studying because I want a better future in my professional life as a businesswoman.

For those reasons, and others, International Students sometimes give up because they think that all the things are bad and complex in their new life, but this isn't true. During the last 5 months that I have been living here, I have met good friends and I have learned a little more about Asian and European culture, and these kinds of exciting experiences are the aspects that we have to appreciate because not everyone has an opportunity to be in a different country with different people.

My advice as an international student is that we have to fight to have what we want; however, in this world nothing is perfect or easy. Therefore, we must learn from the mistakes that we do to be a better person in our personal and professional lives.

## Fishing in Florida

*NamHak Hur*

*R/W 50*

Fishing should be one of the most popular recreations in Florida. Usually, many people carry fishing tackle in their cars, and whenever they want, they go to the coast and enjoy fishing. Also, I saw many people who fish whenever I went to beach or coast. It was very strange to me that they were fishing under the sun without any shadow. They spent a long time to keep their seat, to have all eyes on a fishing rod without moving. Sometimes they looked foolish, because I couldn't understand why they stayed under the sun.

In this summer break, I bought fishing tackle and went fishing three times to Tampa and Cedar Key. After that I know why people fish under the sun. The simple reason is because there is no shadow around allowed fishing area.

I enjoyed fishing and caught many kinds of fish. Whenever I caught a fish, I asked another person about the name of the fish. Most of the fish that I caught were thrown away or given to pelican, because those were small or couldn't be eaten. Although I caught few fish, it gave me another pleasure in Gainesville. When fish eat bait and catch a hook, the feeling from the hand is very nice. Although I went fishing many times in my country to river or lake, the feeling is different. Salt-water fish are stronger than fresh-water fish; however, the fresh-water fish are bigger.

I will go fishing again after finishing this semester, and I will never think the people who fish under the sun are foolish. I became a kind of foolish person. Fishing is a good recreation. Fishing needs less money than others, because fishing tackle is cheap. Also, every fishing spot and all the fish under the sea are free of charge. The only bad thing is that my skin has become darker than other people who don't fish.

## Precious

*Chan Yoon*

*R/W 500*

Everyone has either a person or a thing that is really precious to them. There are several people who are precious to me: my family, friends, and my girlfriend. Each of them has unique reasons that explain why they are precious to me.

First, my family members are so sweet to me that they always give me hope when I'm in bad situations. I often felt disappointed with myself while I attended the science high school because there were a lot of smart students and I felt it really tough to compete with them. My family members always tried to encourage me by giving me good advice and praying for me. I could feel their warm and soft hearts and that gave me big hope and strength.

Second, I have some friends whom I can really trust and rely on. I can divide my friends into two groups. My friends in the first group are whom I met in my middle school. Almost all of them have huge and muscled bodies like Macho men. They were guys who knew how to fight and they always protected me from gangs. Actually, now, some of them are working in gangs, some of them are studying to be a policeman. We usually hang out together when I visit my hometown. I'm sure that whenever I'm in trouble, they will help me. My second group of friends is whom I met in high school. They are really smart guys who are called "geniuses". Since I was in the science high school and now in a science college, I usually hang out with them and they give me a lot of help in many ways, especially with studying.

Last, my girlfriend, Jaesun, is a pretty precious person to me. Her existence means a lot to me. She is a beautiful girl with shining black hair. She always smiles like an angel and she looks perfect in yellow shirts. She is really smart and kind. She always takes care of me. She checks whether I ate breakfast or not and if I didn't, she usually cooks food for me. She also checks my schedule and lets me know what I need to do that day. She can be my lover, older sister and my best friend.

As you can see, there are a lot of people who love me and whom I love. I always thank them for all the things that they have done for me, and all the words they have said to me. I am lucky to know them and be related to them.

## Eloquent Tranquility at Nae-so Temple

*Jung-Hwa Lee*

*R/W 500*

Have you ever heard the saying, "silent as a temple"? Koreans usually use this phrase when a place is extremely silent. The best way to understand the real meaning of this phrase is to visit Nae-so Buddhist Temple. It is a snug haven, especially for people who are tired of noises, hassles, and yelling in city life.

During a summer vacation several years ago, I felt that my exhausted soul called for something. The moment I stepped on the narrow trail leading to the temple, I knew what my soul had called for--stillness. It was not a good day for a trip because it was rainy. But sometimes nature kindly offers us an unexpected gift.

Walking along a trail to the temple, I heard drops of rain crackling on my raincoat. Birds competed with each other with their melodious voices to decide who was the best singer. Trees warmly welcomed me with open arms, and rich soil smell boosted my fatigued spirit. As an uninvited guest, I enjoyed this welcome ceremony.

When I reached a gate of the temple, I found that Nae-so Temple was smaller than I had thought. It was not a solemn and overwhelming temple, but a homely and simple shelter made of natural wood. The reddish brown wood pillars against the hazy sky seemed to tell me an old, mysterious story. Numerous people must have touched those pillars over hundreds of years. I was excited to imagine that this temple had heard all their sighs, complaints, and pleasures without a word.

Sometimes people need to spend time talking with nature. Nature is never talkative but it tells lots of secret stories that might enrich my soul. Moreover, in nature, I can hear my inner voice such as my dreams and hopes. Stillness in Nae-so Temple taught me how to speak many things without shouting.

## The Emergency Center

*Iltae Kim*

*R/W 60*

It was a Friday evening in March. As usual, I was playing basketball at the South-West Recreation Center, a gymnasium in the University of Florida. At the end of the game, I was just about to block the other man's shot, so I jumped over the man and fell on the court. His heavy weight, probably over 200 pounds, came down on my back. I felt I wasn't OK because my neck and right wrist were sore. Other people who were playing with me helped me get a first-aid from staff.

I came back home to relax after getting a first-aid at the gym. It seemed to be a serious injury when I looked at my swollen wrist again, but it was a Friday night. I thought most hospitals were probably closed at that time, so I decided to go to a hospital on Saturday morning. After taking a shower, I tried sleeping earlier than usual because I was tired by my misfortune. At midnight, I woke up and knocked on my roommate's door because of an extreme pain. When we asked me what happened to me, I showed him the swollen wrist. He told me he would take me to a hospital, and I called my insurance company before we left.

While we were going to Shands hospital, I watched outside. It was completely dark. As we were coming close to the hospital, my anxiety increased. I wished nothing would happen to my right wrist and neck. After 5 minutes, we arrived at the emergency center, and filled out a registration form as a patient at the desk. When I gave the form to staff, he told me I had to wait at least one hour, and he added that an extra charge would be added to my payment because I was at the emergency center at night.

Before my name was called, I had waited one and a half hours in the lobby, and my roommate was sleeping on a sofa. I opened a big, heavy, metal door and was able to see what was happening in the emergency center where only authorized personnel come in and out. The staff in this center seemed as busy as bees, so they didn't pay attention to me while I was standing in front of the door. After a few minutes, a nurse, who was wearing an extraordinary uniform that I had seen on TV, let me enter a small room that smelled of acid, like formaldehyde.

There were an electrocardiograph, an oxygen mask, and an operation bed, which made me scared, in the small room. I looked around the room and found a trash box that was filled with bloody tissues like dyestuff. I muttered quietly, asking why a doctor didn't come to me while I was sitting on the old black bed for 2 hours. Even though many doctors and nurses went around each room, nobody seemed to be concerned with this messy room and a trivial patient.

It was 5 minutes to 4 a.m. when a doctor came into the room. The doctor introduced himself and asked me carefully how I was feeling, like a priest. After a short conversation, he took me to a radiation room, dark inside, and my wrist and neck

were photographed by a dismal X-ray machine. I had to stare at the small room, up and down, for one hour again until the doctor examined the photos. The doctor said, "Your neck is OK, but you have to take a plaster cast for three weeks on your right wrist and also take X-ray again before you take it off." It was fortunate my wrist wasn't broken, so I was pleased to tell my roommate, who had been waiting for me for 6 hours in the lobby, the result. While we were going home, I was sleepy, even though the sun was splendidly rising from the East.

## Two Teachers I Have Admired

*Iltae Kim*

*R/W 60*

When I was a high school student, my favorite subject was mathematics. Math required both steady practice and much patience to master it, so I spent much time studying math. Actually, I was motivated to have a great interest in math by two teachers.

Kim was a small and old teacher. When I was in the second year in the school, he was in charge in my class. Because he was the oldest teacher in the school, no one expected that he would take charge of a class. Unlike many other teachers whom I had met, he never smiled and talked when we had a class meeting in the morning. He just checked the number of students at the meeting and went to his office without saying anything. The only time I could hear his voice and laugh was in math class, and he seemed to be happy when he taught math to us. In class, he always emphasized that we should understand the meaning of theories rather than techniques that might be helpful for raising our scores. And, when I went to his office to ask a question, he just gave me some short advice, but not an answer, told me I could figure out the problem by myself.

Jang was a tall, slender and young teacher. When I was a senior, he was just transferred to my school and took charge of my class. He was an outgoing man and tried to talk with students as much as he could, so he was popular with the female students, unlike Kim. He gave us lots of instructions that we had to do and follow in the school, and called each student's name to check attendance in the morning. Because he taught us how to solve problems rather than how to understand theories, I had to take notes all the time in class. If I asked him a question, he always gave me an exact answer including extra information.

I never forget the two teachers. Kim probably has retired under an age clause, and Jang has been teaching math at another school. I got a good math grade on the test for entering a university, but the more important thing was that Kim and Jang helped me enjoy studying math. One teacher taught me basic skills, and the other teacher taught me how to use the skills. If they were not at my school, I wouldn't have had an interest in mathematics.

## **The Retired Horse Farm**

*Sangchul Han*

*R/W 50*

Sangchul Han R/W 50  
The Retired Horse Farm.

When I told him about a retired horse farm, my roommate laugh loudly, “what retired horse farm? They promise their owners that they never make the horses riding.” I replied, “yes, I know. It still sounds strange to me.” While walking in the hallway in Norman Hall, I could see a board next to the ELI office. The board told me about volunteer day on that weekend. I continued reading the board and I stopped at the section about the horse farm. It sounded interesting and I thought I could have a chance to ride a horse, even though I remembered that the retired horse farm takes care of retired horse and it is forbidden to ride a horse. I decided to go there and signed up.

That morning was not so good for me because I got up 8 o'clock and I was expected to be there at 8:30. I didn't have time to eat or even take a shower. I went to the place where I usually keep my bicycle as quickly as possible, but I didn't remember I left my bike at school. The time went very fast and it became almost 8:20. I was angry at myself because I broke an appointment with myself. I started running to school. Usually it takes 30 minutes by running. I didn't expect I would be there on time, but I didn't have another choice. I wanted to do my best to keep promise with myself. I was at the ELI at 8:40, and with the help of God, I could meet my team, which reserved to go to the horse farm.

The first things made me scared were the dogs which the farm cares for with the horses (to be honest with you, I probably couldn't distinguish them from pigs in the dark night.) The number of dogs made me more scared. When I was just stepping into the farm, they surrounded me with their tails, which were wagging. I showed a smile that was frozen with fear of them. After a short time we became friends and we rode a cart to the horses.

At first the people who work for the horses showed me how to deal with horses and then taught me about feeding, combing, cleaning, rinsing and digging the horses' hoof. After I learned, I, who pretended to be brave, entered the pen very bravely but being honest, I was afraid of horses, but it disappeared pretty soon. Probably they knew how to deal with us. I chose the horse that stood a little behind the gate and brought it to the gate. While bringing it, another horse that stood near by gate blocked me and looked at me straightly. It seemed that it said, “I am the first and you are going against our law.” I said, “Sorry, you will be my second.” The horse moved a little away for making a way out of the pen. After I came out from the pen, I tried to clean the horse but I couldn't because it was fidgety, so I gave it a carrot and told her, “be calm young lady. I'll make you more beautiful.” I knew it was a really old horse, but I didn't want to hurt her mind. Soon it didn't move a lot. I

don't know whether it understood my words or not, but I could finish combing, cleaning, and rinsing successfully; otherwise I couldn't finish digging the hoof because it didn't want to fold her leg. I gave her a carrot once more but it didn't work well. I carefully looked at her for a little while and I found the leg that I tried to fold was supporting her weight. So I folded another leg and I could dig her hoof. After I finished the first one, I cleaned some of them.

While cleaning the old, weak horses, they reminded me of my grandmother who died when 12 years ago. When I was a kid, my mother usually cleaned my grandmother because my grandmother was very old and got sick. Soon I remember my mother also. Now she is becoming an old woman, the same as my grandmother to me. Also she will be older than now when I return to my country after finishing my studies. She will always stay the same age in my mind, but when I meet her, probably I have be prepared for her old features. It makes me so sad because I don't want her to become old. She always works for me and I hope that she has time for herself. It is so sad that she is becoming old without having a chance to live for herself.

In the retired horse farm, I could feel lots of things concerning the life of the aged, yet it is different from my first purpose, where I wanted a chance to ride a horse. In the zoological viewpoint, they are different; one of them is a horse and the other is human. On the other hand, it is same between old horses and humans that they need people who take care of them and want talk with them.

## **The Most Serious Car Accident in my Life**

*Suwat Khemarphirom*

*R/W 500*

Since I began driving a car in 1989, I have been known as the safest car driver among my friends. However, no one can avoid a mishap. I have experienced 2 accidents, though I always drive carefully. One of them was the most serious accident that I will never forget for the rest of my life.

On June, 30 1999, I started my working day just as I did everyday, but my mind felt unusual. During the day, I worked like a retired, old man who had not worked in 10 years. I felt bored, exhausted and lethargic. I worried about something that I didn't know. When I finished my work, I drove home immediately. I felt a powerful fear inside. Therefore, I put more stress into my chilly, damp hands to hold the steering wheel firmly. I drove as slow as an old turtle strolling along the beach. I paid attention to driving more than I usually did. I turned off the radio in order to concentrate on the sounds surrounding me. However, this was not enough to dissolve my fear.

One mile from home, I got stuck at the traffic light waiting for the left turn. The most terrible experience of my life was just beginning. After turning left, I suddenly saw a small circular shimmering light shining against my eyes. It became bigger and

bigger in only a few seconds. I had no time to do anything, not even to think. I immediately crushed the brake pedal as hard as I could. My tires screamed deafeningly just like someone screaming for help. My car completely stopped, but the oncoming light seemed to enjoy its show and wanted reverberating applause when it finished. Finally, it disappeared with a thundering sound into the front of my car. Just few seconds after crashing, many people came rushed to my car and muttered about the accident. I called the police, then got out of my car slowly and walked to see the recent beautiful circular light again. Oh my God! I saw a man lying on the floor unconsciously. His face was pallid. He was not bleeding; however, he looked dead. An acrid alcohol smell came from him. With my shaking voice, I asked the woman who tried to help him, "Is he alive?" She said, "Yes, he is still breathing." "Huhhhhh," I felt as someone just lifted a big mountain off my chest.

On the first day of the new month, I started my working day again, but with new feelings. I was totally different from the day before. All of my unusual feelings had gone. I was in my normal situation again. In the evening, I went to the police station for investigation. The police told me that I was not guilty. The rider was drunk while riding his motorcycle last night. Both of his legs were broken, and he had to stay in the hospital for at least 2 weeks. The police also said that he was a poor man with 4 children, and that he had no money to pay for the damage. Therefore, I had to pay it by myself. I think that this will be the worst luck in my life, and I hope it will be the last one. Although I had some special senses that made me more careful than usual, I nonetheless had an accident. Accidents can happen at any time, in any place, and to anyone. Even though you always play by the rules and never do anything wrong, accidents can reach you if you are in the wrong place and at the wrong time. They are inevitable. It depends on your destiny. The only thing that you can do is just accepting them.

## Learning a New Language

*Oscar Aular*  
*R/W 30*

It is very hard to be alone in a strange place, even more when a person is not familiarized with the language spoken there. Although she/he wants to learn a new language, sometimes she/he rather speaks by himself. At this point, she/he has to make a decision, and think about what is she/he doing in this place? Is she/he really doing her/his best? Answering these questions is not easy.

On one hand, learning a new language is a complex process that involves a lot of varieties and puts a person against her/his own desires, expectations and limitations. The different skills needed in order to speak a language fluently are deeply connected with individual attitudes or intentions to learn the new language. The more she/he pursues a goal, the more she/he has to work.

On the other hand, this process sometimes pushes the person into a difficult situation, loneliness. The need to communicate is a human feeling and not only she/he could feel it, but everyone, particularly, when she/he is in an unknown environment, far from her/his culture and surrounded by strange people. In this sense, when this person finds people with similar characteristics, she/he is tempted to make a connection, especially, she/he is compelled to speak her/his first language.

Consequently, anyone who wants to learn a new language is now among people speaking and interacting in their native language, losing the focus on what at the beginning was the main goal. As a result, the questions, which were mentioned above, gain sense. To sum up, it is time to answer the questions from each individual's perspective and take the right direction according to each person's point of view.

In other words, learning a new language is not an easy ride, so to keep in mind what the right way should be, is useful to have success in this challenge. Finally, it could be interesting citing a work of Edgar Allan Poe, named A few Words on Secret Writing: "As we can scarcely imagine a time when there did not exist a necessity, or at least a desire, of transmitting information from one individual to another, in such manner as to elude general comprehension; so we may well suppose the practice of writing in cipher to be of great antiquity."

## My Ideal Japanese House

*Tomoko Shingake*  
*R/W 30*

An ideal house should be comfortable, useful, relax and good location. It is a traditional Japanese house. The Japanese house has a useful kitchen, comfortable living room and luxurious bathroom.

The kitchen is useful. For example, it has system kitchen where has huge refrigerator and all kind of utilities for cooking. Even if I invite my house any friends from other countries, I can cook all kind of foods. Of course, I can stock a lot of foods in my refrigerator. Generally, when I cook some foods, I can't talk with my guests. But in my kitchen, I can talk with my guests because it doesn't have wall from living to kitchen.

The living room should be comfortable. It has many "Tatami – Mat"; it's like a carpet. We can take off our shoes when we get in the living room.

Not only we can take off my shoes, but also we can lie down the floor. In winter, the dining table change "Kotatsu"; it's a covered table with a heat source underneath. Even if it is so cold day, you don't worry about it. The reason is we can warm it. While we watch TV, we can relax.

The bathroom should have a wide space. It has a shower which can be useful and so a big bathtub which was made from a Japanese cypress in the center of the room. The water was

drawn from hot springs. We can be beautiful and healthy. We can see a good view in the bathroom. If you take a bath at night, you can see a good night view.

It is my dream that I build up this house. If it comes true, you can come my house. I'm looking forward to meet you in my ideal house in the future.

## **Are you Looking for your Own Proper Mate?**

*Suwimol Bee Kruasophon*

R/W 50

To survive in Depression era, people must struggle and select something which is appropriate and can support their own lives to flourish; as a result, the original concept of selecting appropriate mate is not practical. Currently, there are many factors that influence and change people's concepts of selecting their own suitable mates. There are 3 variables which most people in present are likely to use to choose their own proper mates.

The first variable is similarity of conception and background such as level of education, interests, socioeconomic background and so on. It is the most important factor in present economic condition. Most people quest for something superior to or at least something equal to their status to support their work as well as their own life's blossom and happiness. On the other hand, it is a tragedy and a fiasco if you select an unsuitable mate. For example, the inappropriate marriage of Prince Charles and Lady Diana led to the failure of their marriage due to differences such as age and education.

The second variable is different behavior of couple. Possibly, harmony mars a relationship but contrast makes a relationship. While one is hot-tempered, the other is cool-tempered or one is lazy but the other is sedulous. For example, John McEnroe and Tatum O'Neil's marriage is not successful due to their hot-tempered habits.

And finally, the last variable is real love. Real love is mutual understanding and forgiveness. It is the best factor that assists couples to sustain their own marriage. Unlike superficial or fake love, real love must spend a lot of time to study and understand each other profoundly. Certainly, selecting a mate by the first factor may make your own life comfortable. However, it is merely physical comfort. On the contrary, real love fills your mind with comfort, pleasure and happiness.

If you can combine the contemporary conceptions, the 3 factors above, suitably, they can make your marriage successful. On the other hand, if you amalgamate them improperly, they can mar your marriage permanently

## **Why Do People Work?**

*Jose A. Prieto*

R/W 50

Work is the duty in which any person obtains benefits. There are many reasons that explain why or for what people work. Three reasons that may explain why do people work are: Surviving or Necessity, Social environment and Pleasure.

One of the first reason is surviving or necessity. People work because they need to earn money to survive because people need food and some other basic things that are important for the family. In this case, the majority of the people work for this reason only, there is no other reason for them to work. For example, maybe this kind of people work for surviving but they don't work to have some vacations too. Most of this people are poor or lower class people.

Another reason that explain why do people work is the social environment. Our social environment has a kind of rule that people have to work. This is for dignity or something similar, people are used to work because of the society. For example, if you ask somebody if s/he is working right now and that person tells you that s/he is not working, people start to think bad on that person.

Finally the last reason is pleasure. People work for pleasure because they like what they do, or it's something that they have always wanted. Another reason could be that they don't need to work because they are wealthy people, and they only see work as a hobby.

In conclusion, people are always going to work because it's something that is in our environment, even if people are wealthy or not. For example, Bill Gates is wealthy and he is still working. People work for many reasons and those reasons depend on what they need or what they want.

## **Marriage**

*Hyoung-Tae Kim*

R/W 50

I think marriage means not only just living together but also a permanent relationship. In Korea, there are two ways to get married which are dating and by matchmakers for arranged marriage. If someone gets married by dating, she or he will find someone as a spouse by herself or himself. But someone who gets married by matchmaker for arranged married, the matchmaker looks for someone of similar back-ground and temperament for someone's successful marriage because if you get married by matchmaker as arranged marriage, it is very important to marry someone with whom you have many things in common, such as level of education, interests and socioeconomic back-ground. Someone is looking for her or his husband or wife that means finding a companion for one's whole life.

If you meet someone as a spouse, you'll share many interests such as movies, food, hobbies and academic things with her or him, and then your life can be more enriched because you can express and share ideas, emotions and feelings with each other. Also, you can get help and rely on your spouse when you face something that you need to resolve. Therefore, marriage means to get on the same ship. When you sail on the ocean, there is not always calm and peaceful. There are a lot of big waves and storms like wild beasts that you have to go through. If there is no one as a companion for your whole life, it can be harder to go through, and you might feel isolated and depressed in your life. Therefore, it is important to marry someone who can share many things such as hobbies, interests, etc with you.

The words wife and husband mean not only legal status but also a companion for one's whole life, someone who can share everything in each one's life.

## **My Colombia**

*Natalia Araujo*

R/W 30

Have you anytime listen about Colombia? What are the ideas that comes to your mind when you hear that country's name? If the answer to one of this questions is different to " a place that i would like to know", here there are some good reasons to change your opinion.

Colombia is a place divided in 5 regions: Caribbean, pacific, Andin, Orinoc and Amazonic. Each area involves a determinated number of cities, and with it, a variety of cultures and customs. It is possible to find diversity of weather, and according to this, different fauna and flora.

The agriculture is rich in coffee, cotton, corn, and banana, and it is very known for their beautiful flowers. This country has the privilege of having both oceans, Atlantic and Pacific, and this fact helps it to develop the economy and business of importation and exportation, specially of petroleum and carbon.

Although Colombia is a country rich in natural resources, it is more important by the warmth threat of it people, who also enjoy welcoming tourist from another countries to show them, traditional parties like the carnival, and been friendly just giving their houses like yours.

In conclusion, there are many things that Colombian people would like to show at the world, because we want to teach the beautiful face of Colombia, a country which suffers and cries because it problems, but that wish to make the dream of peace and happiness come true, and also be known as far as it can, like the country with lovely people, who enjoy playing a soccer game, and drinking a delicious coffee with family and friends, and of course, with all of you that are invited to join us!

## **I Became So Rich**

*Hee Jee Shin*

R/W 30

When I was in Korea as a student, my life seemed to be simple and somewhat meaningless. I felt bored and tired because I had to go to school and study every day. Everything I did was repetitive one day after another. However, my life has changed since I came to the USA. I have encountered and learned many new things through different experiences with Americans and other people from different countries.

It has been six months since I attended the ELI where I study English with those who came from all over the world. Although I am not able to speak English well, I sometimes find myself amazed when I am talking to them in English. As a matter of fact, I've learned a lot of things from them which would be impossible to learn in Korea. They told me about their culture, lifestyles, and languages which sound to me very peculiar and interesting.

Now, I want to talk about my most precious American friend who is my roommate. Her name is Amanda. Not only she has been very kind, but also she always has helped me when I needed her. One day, she invited me to her house. I was very exited to meet her family because it was my first time to be invited to see American family. It was an incredible experience. I had so much fun and will never forget it.

Every Saturday I volunteer at the Shand's hospital. I feel very proud of myself working there because of the fact that I can help somebody. Moreover, this volunteering will benefit me in the future since my major is architecture hospital. After graduating from the graduate school in Korea, I wish to have a job in the hospital like Shand's.

Sometimes, I've faced with new challenges and difficult situation here, but I tried to convince myself that these are precious experiences which might change the way I live and think. That is why I feel so rich to be here and try to spend every moment as valuable as my life.

## **How to Make Japanese Haiku**

*Yuko Sugimoto*

R/W 30

Japanese has three different words "Hiragana", "Katakana" and "Kanji". Haiku is the shortest poetic form in the world. When you write a "Haiku", you need some calligraphy skill. There are several necessary things to make "Haiku".

First, you should understand Japanese culture, words and make imaginations. In fact, most of "Haiku" include a season word, for example, cherry blossom is in Spring, a frog is in Summer, maple tree is in Fall and snow is in Winter.

Second, "Haiku" forms become 5-7-5 words. You have to express your feeling and your condition in it. If you write over rule words, you have to change to another similar word.

Third, you should read a lot of "Haiku", because you can find unknown words. Sometimes it uses rhyme to make a beautiful reading.

Fourth, you must not copy of others. It is the most important thing, because it can break an individual character.

Finally, you don't use only your brain but also the five senses. If you follow all these steps, you can enjoy making a "Haiku".

## **A Memorable Day**

*Marcela Andrades*

R/W 30

January 30, 1983, was a day that I'll never forget. It was the day I experienced the great moment I became a mother.

That morning, I woke up with a bad dream and I was crying, every day during the last week of my pregnancy I have terrible dreams about my baby.

My husband took me to the clinic. The doctor said that the baby would be born in the next fifteen hours. But she was not engaged to be born.

We spent all day walking and they prepared me for the birth. They gave me some medicine to prepared me better.

Late at night, the baby finally engaged and she was ready to be born; however, I was very tired to push.

My doctor gave me encouragement at the last moment, because it's the most difficult and could be exhausted.

I was so afraid because I was only nineteen years old and I could not believe this kind of experience happened to me.

Finally, my beautiful little girl was born at 3:15 am after a long process in which I pushed and felt so strange with many people looking and helping me, but I didn't cry, I didn't feel pain, I only felt the great emotion of becoming a mother.

God gave me a special gift; her name is Sofia, now she is 18 years old.

## **My Husband Rene**

*Marcela Andrades*

R/W 30

My ideal partner is Rene, my husband and I love him. Maybe it is because he stayed with me for a long time or because really

I'm still in love with him after fifteen years. Anyway he is ideal for me in many ways, but the most important reasons are: he is kind, funny and a good father.

Kindness is a strange quality in a man today, but is the most important characterized in an ideal man. I think if a man is rude or impolite, he is able to kill the most beautiful love in few days.

Rene still is kind with me, with others and with his children. Everybody says the same about him. And I like it. When I laugh I feel happy and maybe this is the secret of the good and long love. All the problems look light if you take them with humor. A good sense of humor and positive thinking are the tools for a fun love.

A good father and a good son with his mother. For our daughter he is her real father because I married with him when she has 2 years old. I feel happy for this right decision. He is patient and he is thinking about them all the time. Tomas, the second one, loves his father and he likes to do everything with him. Sometimes I feel jealous. First for him are the children and second himself.

Marcela's ideal man is a kind of man just like her husband. It's because she is a person who likes family.

Rene is a gentleman, charm, good father, son and husband. And for all of this I love him.

## **Student Websites**

US Culture

The students of the U.S. Culture class have created several interesting websites on issues related to U.S. society. They're available at the following address:

<http://www.geocities.com/tesltimes/home.html>

Douglas Adams, US Culture