
ELI STUDENT VOICES

Volume 7, Issue 3

Fall 2003

To Continue Is Power (1st Place)

Reiko Mayumi
R/W 20/30

One of my favorite proverbs is, "To continue is power." To continue is not always easy. When I started ELI, I told myself, "I will never skip a day." When I cried the first day of my R/W class, not understanding what everybody was saying, I told myself, "Even if I don't understand, I will come to school every day." I believed that something would change if I could continue. Fortunately, I have been able to attend my classes. I did not expect continuing to be easy. When I had a headache, it was difficult for me, of course, and I really did not want to come to school when my homework was unfinished. I believe that my teachers always knew that I did not finish it. But I see a little positive outcome. My friends say to me that I am now speaking better than my beginning days at ELI. I am very happy about their words. Although I am not sure about my English, I love to hear more compliments. Perhaps, continuing made a difference. I can gain a little positive outcome. You can do it more than I. "To continue is power," is true. I am a little proof of this, aren't I?

Room 317 (2nd Place)

Lwind
RW 400/500

Every time I see freshmen looking at the map of Norman Hall and say, "Why is room 321 numbered 319 on the map?" I miss Samir.

Samir, my best friend, always challenged me to see who was bolder. "I'm not scared of ghosts," I told him. "I don't believe that there are ghosts in the world," and he usually repeated his challenge. To test our courage, we decided to play a game. We talked about the ghosts in Norman Hall at midnight. People said that it was a haunted building. Whichever of us felt afraid first would be the loser. I remember that the date we played the game was the 16th of March, 2001.

We entered Norman Hall secretly from an unlocked window and found an unlocked room on the 3rd floor. We lit a candle and began talking about the ghosts. I told Samir two of the most scary ghost stories I knew and tried to scare him, but he wasn't afraid at all. After that, we both felt hungry.

I knew that there was refrigerator in a room nearby, so we went there, room 319. Fortunately, the door was not locked. Samir opened the door; oddly that wasn't a room. We saw a stair down and couldn't see the end. We stepped on the

stair curiously and the door suddenly disappeared. An unending stair up appeared behind us.

"What happened?" I said and wanted to go on walking, but Samir stopped me.

"How many steps have you walked?" he asked me.

"Maybe 2 or 3 I think."

"Was it 2, or 3? That's important," Samir looked at me seriously.

"I...I'm not sure. Why do you ask?" I said.

"Do you know the story of Norman Hall? Why it is called a haunted building?"

"No, I don't know."

"I didn't believe it at first, but....," Samir began telling me the long story, "It was a high school here 40 years ago.

There were three 17-year-old students who went to school at midnight like us. But they were discovered by the guards, so they wanted to hide in a room. They ran into the room which they thought was room 317, but it was not. They ran into the wrong room because of the dark. There was stair down and they fell to their deaths there. After that, their spirit dwelt in room 317. If someone went into that room, he would see the stair and no exit. People said that if he steps on the 51st, 3 multiplied by 17, step, his soul will be taken to another world by those students. We must skip the 51st step and step on the 52nd step to go back."

"Ok, this is the most scary story I have ever heard," I said, "but I remember the room is no. 319!"

"Room 319 was room 317," Samir said, "The school administration skipped the number to avoid the legend, though they didn't believe that at all. It exists."

"So we must skip the 51st step! But we don't remember how many steps we have walked," I said frightenedly.

"Ok. Let's assume that we have walked for 3 steps," Samir suggested.

We went on walking and counted the steps we had walked. Finally we arrived to the 50th step. Unfortunately, we were not precisely sure if that was the 49th step or the 50th one.

"Windy," Samir said, "It's not necessary for us both to take a risk. I will step on the next step first. If something happens to me, I want you to skip that for the 52nd step."

I tried to stop him, but I was so scared that I was slow. Samir stepped on the next step, and, suddenly, a white translucent claw grabbed him and then....

I don't remember what I did after that. I woke up in the hospital the next morning. My classmates said that I fainted in room 319, but nobody saw Samir. Samir was missing and I have never seen him again.

The school changed the number of room 319 again, though they didn't believe my experience. Now it is room 321. That's why there are no rooms 317 and 319 there. I am not sure if I am avoiding the legend because I have never entered Norman Hall after 9 o'clock again. But, if you want to go to room 321 at midnight, do me a favor please. Tell Samir I thank him, and I wanna tell him, "You win."

The Changing Role of Women

Olessia Tchatterdji-Simonova

R/W 40

When you hear the word "woman," what picture comes to your mind? Some of us would think about our mother, Madonna from a Da Vinci picture, or a wife. All associations are different--so are roles of the woman in our lives: She is a housekeeper, a worker, and a politician. But it wasn't the same throughout history. The importance of women in social life and society changed in the past, it's changing now and it will continue to change in the future.

In the past, the role of the women wasn't the same as now. It was difficult for women to attend school, or work outside the house. For a long time a woman was a person who was supposed to house keeping jobs and raise children. Also this attitude was supported by religion and cultural traditions. Recently, in the late nineteenth century the invention of the typewriter gave women a new skill and job outside the home. During the First World War the women began to work in factories as a part of the war effort. They found themselves a place as active members of society. Then the Marxists directed Feminism of the 60s and 70s which brings the question of women's rights. With technological and scientific progress, women's position changed.

Today women play an important role in a society. As an illustration, we can see that more and more women master their professions. Those such as: politicians, scientists, even cosmonauts around the world have employed women. Of course we can't say that all the problems are solved. Still the physical abuse, the disrespect, even discrimination exist.

The future role of women can be viewed more optimistically. Hopefully, it will be the freedom of the individual woman to decide for herself what to do with her life. It also would be good to know that the woman at home is recognized at a values member of society just as much as the one who deals on Wall Street.

So as we are seeing, women's changing role is happening throughout time because women are educated and more active, and with help from special organizations the changing process will continue.

Americans and Fast Foods

Homere Akplogan

R/W 50

It is clear that most people in the United States prefer eating fast foods instead of cooking their own food at home.

Eating fast food presents some advantages such as saving time and energy, but it also has some consequences such as health problems.

First, fast food, as it is indicated by its name, is food that doesn't need much time to be cooked (almost cooked) or is already cooked; and added to that fact is the fact that human beings always want things to be easy. People like to consume fast foods in order to save time and energy. For example, suppose that two people were hungry and they have different foods to eat. The first person has cold pizza and the second has spaghetti, spaghetti sauce, and fresh meat. I bet that it will take more than twenty minutes and more energy for the second person to get his meal ready, when it will take a few seconds and less energy for the first person to heat his pizza up and eat it. In addition, following the saying "time is money", fast foods permit people to make a lot of money and to focus more on their job. As an example, if there were no fast foods and everybody was supposed to cook at home, someone who has young children who must return from school at noon has to come back from his work and cook a meal for them. If this parent was supposed to keep working at noon, his employer would deduct the time he didn't work from his paycheck.

However, fast foods don't provide only advantages, they also have some disadvantages in regards to a dietary plan. First, by regularly consuming fast foods you can become fat or overweight just because in the restaurants where fast foods are cooked people don't always follow healthy guidelines. They put a lot of fatty foods in their cooking to make their foods taste good. For example, in Papa Johns' restaurants, it's probable that all the ingredients they put in their pizza are not healthy but they say "Better Ingredients, Better Pizza" just for marketing purposes. Furthermore, eating too much fast foods can reduce our life span and often make us feel sick. For example, it would be easier for someone who is overweight to catch diseases rather than someone else who cooks his own FOOD because of his habits of eating fast foods. This is because the last person knows much about how healthy his cooking is, while the first doesn't know too much about what he eats.

Finally, the advantages of eating fast foods prevent people from viewing its impacts on their health plan. People know that fast foods are not healthy and keep eating them as much as they can just because they can save time and energy. They forget about their health, which should be their first priority. One thing they should do in order to not become overweight is to exercise, but time is their main problem.

To conclude, fast foods have some benefits, such as saving time, and consequences such as health problems. This might make it difficult for people to stop eating fast foods, but all that we want them to do is to not make eating fast foods part of their daily thing.

Helping People

Monica Gonzalez

R/W 400/500

I would like to share my dream with all of you. Ever since I was a teenager, I've enjoyed being around people. I've

always felt a strong desire to help and work with people who are having difficulties. When I say people, I am talking about the group of individuals that don't have the same opportunities that we do. Sometimes it is not only the money, the social position; it is also about illness, ignorance, starving or just victims from the society.

A couple of years ago, I had the opportunity to do something for somebody; it was when I was in high school. For one of my social science classes we had a project with a family that lived in poverty. A group of classmates and I went to visit a family that lived in a very small house, without utility services and also which was having a hard time. We brought vegetables, milk, rice and some beans to them. I remember that after we finished visiting with them, I went back home and I discovered that I really want to help and also I am this kind of person who is concerned about the social problems. I thought about how much I love the idea to help, advise, and work with people who need help.

That is my dream try to find the way how to give help and see positive results, even if is necessary to go to different places and work hard I do not mind because by helping I will make true what I have wanting to do for years. I would like to work with an international organization which has a goal to achieve duties that involve different programs of human development.

While I was a university student, I had the opportunity to work in different social projects, like activities with kids that needed special education giving them love and company; therefore, that experience finished with the government help and these days is an institutional program. A few semesters ahead I worked in other project with a community where people were living putting their lives on risk because the houses were built in an eroded area. After a lot of work the local government moved them to another zone were they could have lived safely.

Finally as a political science student, during my fifth year of school I started to work in my passion field, in the Human Rights area. My principal task was preparing and presenting workshops about different topics that will help and permit different groups of civilians to understand the origins and development of the violent conflict in Colombia, as well.

For months, I traveled and worked with various groups of the Colombia population, but I couldn't continue with that beautiful experience for different reasons and in that moment I thought that my dream would not have the opportunity to be true because I saw my self powerless and with a lot of obstacles in front that didn't permit me to continue with my goal, help.

My dream is a project and as a process has some steps: first I need to keep growing and I think that I am doing okay, because every year in different ways I am getting close, every single day my foot is more close to the door; therefore I can't wait to finish with these steps in the one I am preparing myself and learning about life, cultures, styles of life, law, immigration services, adjustment to a new culture, volunteer, friendship and some other things that looking forward are going to permit me to advise and work with different ethnic groups, foreigners that don't know the rights, the law and are scared because they don't know the system. I want to help all of them who feel themselves

alone because they leave family and relatives in the majority of the cases; as a result they are homesick and need warmth, love and guidance. Somebody who can show them the way how to understand the adjustment process. I want to be that person.

My dream will come true the day that I will create my organization or either set myself in an organization or institution that will be working to help people. While it will happen I still have things to do like study, work as a volunteer, giving my best and learning something new every single day.

In my opinion, someone is a good human being not only because she helps or spends some hours doing an activity with a group that needs help; a good human being gives until the end and always does everything from the heart. It does not matter if the other person recognizes what he is receiving; for instance if for some reason you have the opportunity to help a child or an adult or a senior whatever the situation, do it with pleasure and you will have the satisfaction to feel your spirit full of love to give.

My dream is growing as I am and I know that soon I will be prepared enough to help people who speak Spanish, my first language, English or some other language. I want to live this process step by step because even though it is not to clear for some and very explicit to others I believe that I'm a person who is full of love and wishing to help with good advice and actions whoever needs my support as well.

My Puerile Childhood

Mary Kim

R/W 50

Sometimes, my old friends ask me what was the most impressive memory in my first school activities of my childhood, regardless of whether it is good or bad. I could not answer at the time, because I grew up much and such a long time has passed since I was an elementary school student. Additionally, I had a lot of interesting experiences and enjoyed thinking something to be strange and odd when I was young. Whenever I look back on those times, I cannot help laughing and understanding why I continued to dwell on such a foolish and strange thought regarding new things or theories through studying, watching TV or reading books. I felt like imagining and making another plot different from the original. So, I fell behind compared to others. However, I picked up one remarkable and educational thing for my life that I can never forget. In my personal memory, it is more important than any other whole education course.

My country has a different curriculum compared to the US. Simply speaking, we have six grades in elementary school, three grades for junior high school and three grades in high school. What was happening in my elementary school? At that time, I was 8 years old, and my teacher proposed to us that she would give different color stickers to us whether we had done something good or not. At the end of the semester, she would collect our results, rank the students and give a special prize to the winner. All of my classmates, including me had our mind set on the winning. As you might have guessed, it was the first competition that I had won and served as the main catalyst to

concentrate on my future school life. Even though I was one unpredictable student rather than an outsider in my class, I wished to be praised and to be a winner. The different stickers were yellow and green. If one student had made a mistake, the teacher would give a yellow sticker. In contrast, had one accomplished his duties or done good things, she would give the other color, which is green. One particular day, I had gotten an undeserved scolding from my teacher. I was watching the variety of clouds near the window, and suddenly someone pulled me into the window. An orchid flowerpot dropped on the floor. It shattered as it hit the floor. It was too good for my teacher to throw away. It resulted in another friend acting mischievous. I didn't do that on purpose; still, my teacher didn't need my further explanation. Only one yellow sticker did I receive. And my bad symptoms kept going. It was not long before I got another yellow sticker. I got one for being one minute late. I didn't know the fact that the class had been just starting. Then there was another surprising rule. If a student received three stickers in one day, he couldn't go home until 5:00 pm, even though class already finished. Therefore, I couldn't go to the private institute for my piano lesson and I couldn't keep my appointment to see the dentist with my mom. Naturally, my mom gave me a long lecture. She told me that I shouldn't have stood near the window and I should not have paid attention to my friends at that time. Finally, I thought my teacher loathed me. To make it worse, after that terrible day, my best friends at that time changed and they didn't want to talk to me anymore. They even changed their seat to be far away from mine. I gradually realized like I was a bad student.

It was a very amusing thing that I realized in my classroom. There was a relationship forming between the students who had green stickers and the students who had yellow stickers. They showed different assembling habits. The ones receiving green stickers used to gather together. In contrast, the students in the other group couldn't flock because they were afraid of receiving another yellow sticker. I really was disappointed and puzzled at my situation. I developed a new interesting revenge means. I started to record my own evaluation chart about my teacher. I couldn't take any hostility toward my teacher such as defiance or a revolt. It is my general expression and opinion, in opposition to my teacher's indifference and her selfish rules. I wrote the score of yellow stickers and expressed that my teacher made some mistakes in my notes, although I couldn't give it to my teacher. For example, if she didn't give any yellow stickers to tale bearer, I gave my teacher one bad ticket. If she didn't give me a chance when I wanted to present my opinion and take part in some topics, I gave her two bad tickets. In the event that she didn't find out who was the person to start a dispute, why it had occurred, and what was going on when I quarreled with a classmate, I gave three bad tickets!

I suddenly found this useless action neither good nor reasonable for my future. I went to the restroom to throw away all my yellow stickers that I had received before. But, while I was scolded by mistake, my teacher found the tickets I had given her for being a bad teacher hidden in my diary. My teacher asked me what they meant and why I had them in my diary. As you might have guessed, I couldn't lie to her. I

disclosed my real intention and my disappointment. Then, my teacher drew me closer to her, just before I burst out crying. Finally, my teacher admitted her unconcerned behavior and apologized for her fault. And so did I. I apologized for what I did. Later, my teacher got rid of the foolish competition. Everything went back to the way it was. So did my friends.

If my teacher didn't understand my grief and sorrow, I couldn't be an affable and well-rounded human. I always thank my teacher consider it as a good experience that is more important than an outstanding academic background. Furthermore, I want to tell you to keep your good memories in your heart. It is sometimes helpful, and they can serve as a foundation to recover you in the world. And do not hesitate to take a risk although it seems to be impossible to accomplish. The God next to you will listen to your desire and guide you the right way.

My Life

Yong Sik Kim

R/W 50

I have been living in Gainesville for more than seven months. It seems to me that I arrived here a few days ago. Time flies like an arrow, as the proverb says. As you know, I came here for two reasons. Namely, to observe the advanced administrative system and also to practice English skills. How much have I achieved my goals so far? To what degree will I be able to achieve my aims by the time when I go back to Korea?

It will surely take me a lot of time to be fluent in English because I am not young and my brain has been used to Korean for 46 years. In fact, Korean is the opposite of English in word order. For instance, "I have a book" in English is "I a book have" in Korean. Anyway, I will try to do my best until I return to Korea.

I have no religion. However, I believe in God as the Absolute. I have often thought about who controlled human beings' fortune. Who in the world brought me to meet Leah, my lovely teacher?

More than 6 billion people are living in their own countries. Even though they are different in race, color, culture, etc., maybe their feelings are just the same in essence. All mankind should love mutually and live happy lives. We will always have to try to understand and to respect other people for the happiness of all of us.

The Pressure of Being a Student

Samir Benzemma

R/W 300

Did you do your homework? Have you already heard this sentence before? The pressure of being a student can be caused by many things. With many examples, I will try to illustrate different kinds of pressure.

First of all, students can feel pressure from their parents. If the students support the ambition of their parents, it means that the student would have to work hard not to

disappoint his parents. For example, a student might be studying medicine because his father and his mother are doctors, and they want that their children follow the professional way. Another cause of pressure is from the too-high parental expectations, because parents want that their children have a good situation because maybe they don't have one. To give an example, sometimes parents don't have a good job and they don't want that their children live through the same situation. The third and last reason concerning the pressure from the parents is that they expect good grades from their children, because good grades prove that he or she is a good student, but sometimes the pressure is too high because a student wants to show to his parent that he is the best. This could lead for example to cheating on an important quiz.

Second of all, students can feel pressure when they have to find a job. First, the students have to work hard to do what he wants, so they are very serious about it. To illustrate this idea, if a student wants to work at the NASA, he has a long and difficult time of studying before being able to work at the NASA. Next, a pressure comes from the competition between students, because everybody wants to be the best or wants to win a scholarship, so they constantly have to work more. The third and last reason comes from the pressure of employer's high standards. If an employer is searching for an engineer, he will take the best and the most qualified one. That is why students are under pressure, because the employer asks from them always more and more.

To summarize, the pressure of being a student can be from all of above reasons but especially from the relatives and from the school. I think that the pressure can be a motivation but also a negative pressure that can sometimes push you to make mistakes. I will finish with a citation from *Albert Einstein*, "Imagination is more important than knowledge."

The Beautiful Early Morning I Experienced in Gainesville

Jung yun Lee
R/W 50

I got up early this morning because I haven't adapted to the time change yet. We had to set the clocks back one hour as summer time finished last Sunday. I got up at around 5am, and I couldn't fall back asleep. It was too early to go school, so I decided to work out by going jogging. I actually hesitated a little bit to go out because when I looked outside through the window, it looked very dark, and I had never jogged at such an early time. When I finally went outside, I really regretted and regretted that I didn't enjoy the early mornings of Gainesville before. The atmosphere was so fresh and attractive to me; pretty cold air touched my face, and I couldn't take my eyes off the beautiful sky which was a dark blue color. At that time, it was so stimulating that I prayed the moment would continue permanently. I ran lightly along the road by my apartment. Then I jogged out of the apartment area, and reached the bridge on the main road, which is a little far from my apartment. At that time, the sky was slowly becoming red; blue and red were sharing the sky, and the border of them showed several kinds of

purple colors. The moon, which shined smoothly, added beautifully to the scenery. I stayed near the bridge for a couple of minutes to enjoy the moment, and then I went back home with the thought remaining in my mind that I wanted to stay there longer. Just before I got home, the morning was opened completely. Birds which had beautiful sounds started to chirp; their songs made me realize that I was in a place like paradise. I love the early morning I experienced here, it can't compare with any other things. I'll never forget what I felt that early morning in Gainesville.

Does Hard Work Have Good Reward?

Eliza Lin
R/W 20/30

Sometimes hard work is not rewarded. For example, parents' bringing up their children is a kind of hard work, and they don't have any reward. My parents brought me up without getting any payment. They always gave me the best and never expected that I would reward them. They worked hard to earn more money so that I could have a good education. They saved money to buy everything good for me. Besides, I was often sick at night, and they needed to take care of me even if they were very tired. Like my parents, many parents in the world have the same experience. No wonder people say, "Sometimes hard work is not rewarded."

Public Service

Su Hyun Kim (Sue)
R/W 50

Do you know who Steven Hawking is? He is a very famous scientist and disabled person. I think if he lived in my country, he would not be an honorable person. Handicapped people never have easy lives in my country because most people in my country keep away from them and avoid them. Not only do people's gazes make it hard for them to live, but also we have a poor welfare system for disabled people. When I came here, I was really impressed by America's public services for disabled people. That is why I want to talk about public services such as transportation, buildings, and research in the U.S.A.

First of all, all transportation facilities are adapted well for disabled people in the U.S.A. I think most public transportation, such as buses, trains, the subway, parking lots, and airplanes provide good accommodations for them. However, in my country, there are only a few seats for disabled people on the subway or on an airplane. For example, in the U.S.A., when a handicapped person wants to take a bus, the bus driver stops driving and lowers a moving stair that moves up so that a person in a wheelchair can easily get on the bus. Moreover, the driver helps the handicapped people fasten their seat belts and get off the bus safely. Although the driver takes a long time to help them, the passengers never complain about it. I was impressed when I watched the bus public service the first time because I did not expect this because I have never seen it

in my country. Thus, I think transportation is well adapted for handicapped people in the U.S.A.

Secondly, most buildings in America have adaptations for disabled people. I think public places such as schools, department stores, restaurants, and any buildings are adapted for them. If some disabled people want to study at a university, they can easily study in the U.S.A. because all public services for disabled people are well set up at the university. For example, on UF's campus, all buildings have elevators and automatic door opening buttons for only disabled people. Moreover, when disabled people try to move to go somewhere, there are always some people who help them. So I think most buildings have set up the services very well for them.

Finally, many disabled people are given welfare public services in the U.S.A. According to internet data on www.gao.gov/cgspeeches, it shows that thirty-nine million seniors and disabled people rely on their social service, and the government has spent about \$22 billion a year on biomedical research for the disabled people and seniors. The author, whose name is David M. Walker, also emphasized that America must increase the number of people who use social services. He wrote that public services would make a difference in America's future. As he asserted, we know how much Americans are concerned about disabled people.

In conclusion, I think that America's welfare system and public services are much better than other countries. America's public services, including transportation and public places, are valuable to me. I hope that my country's people can learn and realize the value of public service.

The Pressures of Being a Foreign Student

Sung Ah Choi

R/W 300

There are so many foreign students at the ELI. All of them come here to learn English from different countries of the world. They live alone without their family and study in new environment, so foreign students undergo a lot of difficulties. Especially the biggest things that pressure students are the different culture and language.

First, foreign students stress about the different culture. They have grown in their culture since they were born, but they have to live in a different culture while they study in another country. They experience a new life style and unfamiliar food. For example, in Korea most people spend the time resting in their house on weekends, but most Americans have a party or go on a trip in their rest time. Students can stress because of the different life style since it is difficult to adjust to a different culture.

Second, the other pressure that students undergo is the language. Foreign students are learning English as a second language. Most students are not good at speaking, so the communication is not easy for them. They are stressed about listening to and understanding other people talking to them. They are tense when they have to listen to the teacher in class or when they go to the restaurant. Thus, they get easily tired and stressed.

In conclusion, foreign students undergo stress when they live in a different culture with a different language. It takes time for them to get accustomed to a different culture. However, living in a different culture, they have to respect and understand the differences, and they should learn the language.

Do You Believe . . . ?

Reiko Mayumi

R/W 20/30

Do you believe that an animal often acts in place of a human? I believe it. I think an animal has a wonderful power. In fact, when I kept a dog before, my dog acted in place of my mother. I had two dogs. They were kind of Cavaria in England. We called one male dog "Jimmy," the other dog called "Lily" was female. When my mother had a uterus problem, my dog "Lily" had a uterus problem too. Lily's uterus enlarged gradually. One day, Lily's uterus was operated on. Because of Lily's help, my mother recovered from the illness. What do you think about this case? I think "Lily" acts in place of my mother. Unbelievable, but it happens to be a true story. Yesterday, I heard same stories from my friend. She said, "In my case, the cat acts in place of my mother." Wow! An animal is very mysterious. I believe that an animal has a beautiful and wonderful power.

The Pressure of Being a Student

Sung Joung Yang

R/W 300

Recently, the suicide rate of students is seriously increasing through the entire world. The rate has been steadily growing every year, and this tendency becomes more a social problem. Why do students make up their mind to kill themselves? That is, many students are sensible of the pressure about expectancy of their parents and future of oneself. There are two reasons why students feel pressure. Pressure comes from their parents and from the unpredictable future.

First of all, many students want to obey their parents' expectation. Most of the parents desire that their kids are healthy, famous and wealthy. They want their kids to obtain a good position in a society. So many parents push their children to get high-grades at school. Such expectations cause great pressure for many students.

Second of all, many students usually feel a sense of unrest in their future. Therefore, they spend time to think about their future, but they never have definite solution for their future, and then they feel confused when they make a little mistake or waste their time. For that reason, many students deal with pressure caused by the uncertainty of future.

At the end, excessive expectations of students' parents and an anxiety about their future are harmful elements to many students. In order to get over their pressures, parents have to hold an opinion that their kids aren't parent's possessions, and parents have to respect what their children want to do in order to achieve their goals in the future. Above

all, many students have to have a relaxed mind and firm sense of their priorities. It is a very important thing that students create their future themselves.

One-Day Round-Trip to Miami

R/W 20/30

Eun Young Lee

One week ago, I went to Miami with my family for one day. It was the busiest and most exciting trip in my whole life. At 3 o'clock in the early morning, my family left Gainesville for Orlando International Airport to go back to South Korea. At the airport, we were surprised because we had confused the date for departing. It was a funny mistake, but my parents had one more extra day to stay in Florida. At that time, my husband suggested the idea to travel to Miami. We left Orlando as quickly as possible for Miami. When we arrived in Miami, weather wasn't good enough for sightseeing. Before it started to rain, we went to Bayside Mall and got on the boat to sightsee famous actor and actress's houses. Next, we went to South Beach and took a picture on the beach. The wind was so strong, even the seagulls couldn't fly. After we took a rest there, we decided to eat dinner at a famous restaurant in Miami. At Crystal Café we ate seafood *ossoboco*, lobster ravioli and seafood pasta. After we finished our dinner, we came back to Orlando and stayed in a hotel room. The next day we went to Orlando International Airport again, and finally my parents left Orlando. When my parents left, I was sad and crying. Although it was only a one-day round trip to Miami, I was happy to show Miami to my parents.

The Pressures of Being a Foreign Student

Aki Yanagita

R/W 300

Many students want to study at another country. When students stay at another country, they have a good experience. Now, we have an international society where many people should know another country. Especially young people should know about another culture, customs and life styles. This is very helpful for our international society. However, sometime when students study at another country, they are under a lot of stress because foreign students need money and need to worry about immigration issues.

First pressure can be caused by money. Money gives students a headache. For example, when foreign students apply to a university in another country, they have to save enough money for tuition and their new lifestyle. Also, sometime foreign students have a hard time getting a job in another country. That means students have to prepare a lot of money for their abroad stay.

Second, immigration services can cause stress to students. They put pressure on international students. If students want to study in another country, they have to get student visas. Nowadays, it is very hard to get these visas. Moreover, immigration services keep changing their laws. Now students

have to report every time where they are studying, where they will be transferring to, and when they are traveling.

Therefore, money and immigration services cause stress to foreign students. Governments and every school should make less strict for students who want to study abroad. I believe, that when immigration services loosen up their laws, more students will go to study abroad and people will understand each other's cultures better. Then we will have a real international society.

My Father and I

Reiko Mayumi

R/W 20/30

People say that my father and I have many similar characteristics. The most similar characteristic is that we are very optimistic. Whatever happens, we are very calm. Next, we both laugh a lot. Whenever we have a problem, we try not to be depressed but try to laugh about it. Finally, we are the followers of my scary mother. Both of us obey whatever my mother tells us. My father and I smile at each other. My father and I are very alike, and I am very happy because I am very proud of him. We are really father and daughter.

The Pressures of Being a Student

Fabrice DeSouza

R/W 300

Have you ever been frustrated when there was an important test? And you were not ready or when you wanted to be the best but also when you wanted to be highly educated for a good job. These are many pressures like that many students have to endure and then they sometimes do bad things because they are stressed. These pressures are often caused by a strong desire to succeed and to get a good job.

First of all one pressure is that students absolutely want to succeed in their exams. They are ready to do all things that they can do if they are too ambitious and too stressed about their success for example during a test students are used to hide some papers, talk to each other, they cheat because they don't want to fail to their exams.

Second of all the students are stressed about getting a good job. They are obliged to learn more skills and sometimes they even have to move from their country to another as an illustration there has the case of foreigner students in English speaking cities such as Toronto, London, New York where these people has to learn a language, to adapt to cultures, habits and to make efforts to learn and to understand news courses and subjects.

Finally today being a student is very hard because you have to succeed to exams and to be highly educated for a good job. However are there any solutions to this problem that is the pressures of being students? That's a question that hasn't unanswered.

About Obesity

David Park

R/W 60

A fat boy, who looks like an elementary school student, has just come back home from his school. Both his mom and dad are working, so they haven't come back yet. He throws his backpack in his room and then directly goes to the kitchen. After finding pizza, popcorn, and a coke, he goes to the sofa, located in front of the TV, with his food and then he turns on the TV. While watching his favorite TV programs, he is continuously eating his food without any interference of others. Isn't this a typical scene of the modern home? What about your child?

The obesity problem is becoming more and more widespread among the U.S. people. According to *The Gainesville Sun*, "South leads nation with obesity boom" (1999, p.1A), "The number of Americans considered obese . . . soared from about one in eight in 1991 to nearly one in five [in 1998]." This problem is not limited to only the U.S. According to *CNN.com*, "Asia falls foul to fat" (2002), "Obesity was once an exclusively 'Western' disease, but not any more, people falling foul to fat now exist in the far corners of the globe." Fast food stores such as McDonalds and Burger King have already pushed out the traditional restaurants, which are famous among the young in Asia, from the street. The industrialized and busy lifestyle prevents people from exercise. Just a few decades ago, most Asian parents were worrying about their children's thin bodies which represented weak and not well-fed condition, but now, they are concerned about their children's fat bodies.

Is obesity a serious problem?

Yes, obesity causes many serious health problems. The fat people are more likely to get cancer. According to *CNN.com*, "Most in U.S. unaware of cancer-obesity link" (2002), "The World Health Organization estimates one-quarter to one-third of cancer cases worldwide are related to being overweight and physically inactive." Obesity causes not only cancer but also many diseases like diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, and joint problems. If a pregnant lady becomes fat, her child's health is not safe any more. According to *CNN.com*, "Eat right before pregnancy and boost your baby's health" (1999), "A baby may be at extra risk of obesity or diabetes later in life if the mother is overweight or has poorly controlled diabetes during pregnancy."

To solve this problem, we need to know the causes of obesity. As mentioned in the first paragraph, inactive life and fat food is the main cause of this problem. This problem is too widespread to be regarded as a personal problem. It must be treated as a social problem. Some schools decided to teach students to prevent them from obesity. According to *CNN.com*, "Feds go local to help public fight fat" (2003), "Boston-area school will begin teaching students why 100-percent juice is better than soda, and urging parents to limit children's TV time to two hours a day." Some reporters and scientists have shifted the responsibility of this problem to city designers. They think that the sprawling design of the modern city, which was once regarded as the object of praise, is leading people to be inactive.

According to *The Gainesville Sun*, "Suburbs' sprawl may fuel obesity" (2003), "Sprawling suburbs that make it harder for people to get around without a car may help fuel obesity: Americans who live in the most sprawling counties tend to weigh six more pounds than their counterparts in the most compact areas." Now city designers have to consider this problem when they are designing a new city.

From surgery to exercise, there are many solutions to this problem. People can take a surgery or pills to eliminate the fat part of their body rapidly. However, those are temporary. If they don't change their lifestyle, their good-looking and slim body soon will disappear. Only low fat food and exercise will help them keep their healthy body. To help them exercise automatically, city designers have to make an effort to design walkable place.

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Latin & Country Songs

Maria Alava

R/W 20/30

I am Latin and I love Latin music because that is my music. I find in that music my essence, my roots and the exact expressions for my happiness and sadness. Also, I appreciate other kinds of music, like country music. I saw a T.V. program whose subject was The 40 Greatest Drinking Songs of Country Music. These songs tell us about friends, pain, life, love, Tequila Sunrises, Pina Coladas, Jose Cuervo Tequila and more. There are country songs for dancing, for laughing and for crying. With each song I could feel energy and intensity. I feel the same when I hear Latin music because our music is the reflection of our culture and our life. For that reason I think that country music is unique, and it belongs to a special life style. There are cowboys and cowgirls. They have their own style of clothes, of life, and of slang. Now I think that Latin music and country music are similar. Why? Because both styles of music show us strong feelings and sincere emotions.

Am I an Adult?

Ana Da Silva

R/W 60

I do not think I have become an adult yet. Actually, I will probably never feel like one. Adulthood is much more what other people think you are than a feeling. If being an adult means being responsible I was more adult at 10 years old than I am now. If adulthood means financial and emotional independence from your primary family or if it means getting married, I am an adult now. If being an adult means having a child, I am not sure if I want to be one. If it is to realize that life has limitations, I hope I will never become one. If growing up is consciousness of death, I was an adult at 12.

Calm Night

M. Alejandra Vega Báez

R/W 60

The sky is blue tonight;
The sea is calm;
The birds are quiet,
And my soul is too.

My heart is slowly beating;
My eyes are closed, and I can hear you breathing.
I know soon I'll be gone,
And I know that now I'm on my own.

I'm not sure of what's next,
But I'm sure it's the best.
I'm afraid but calm at the same time
But happy that you were mine.

The moon is shining up in the sky,
and you smile at me with your shy eyes.
You know that I'm leaving.
You tell me to don't stop breathing.

Now I'm gone and you're crying,
And on my bed I am lying.
You kiss me goodbye
And walk away on this calm night.

Humorous and Unfortunate Observations of American Life

Yulia Horwitz

R/W 60

When you come to live in a different country with a different language, you can get into funny situations because of limited mastery of the language and poor knowledge of the culture.

When I just came to the US, I had a lot of problems even with simple things, like ordering food in a restaurant. Oh

my God! It was tough. I have traveled a lot. I have visited many countries. In each European or Arabic country I could get a menu with Russian translation. It made my life easier. In my first weeks of living here I went only to restaurants that had a buffet. This way I could see what I was getting; otherwise, I was ordering "blindly" from a menu I didn't understand.

Then, a few weeks later I already knew the names of some foods by sound, but I didn't always know how they were spelled. Once, my husband's family invited us to a Mexican restaurant. When I opened the menu, I was surprised to see "turtle" soup (I thought). Where in the world can you get turtle soup? To me it is a real delicacy! I asked the waiter, "Is it real turtle in this soup?" He told me, "Of course." I ordered it. When the waiter brought the soup for me, I wanted to be funny, and I asked him, "How old is this turtle?" He was very confused by my question and looked at his watch, "Just a couple minutes." Then I started to eat it, but I couldn't find any piece of turtle meat in it. I told my husband, "Something is wrong. This turtle soup doesn't have any turtle meat." "Of course," he said, "this is tortilla soup. Sorry, there is not turtle meat in it, just tortillas!" Oops...

Being in a different country is a fascinating adventure of studying a new language and new traditions, especially food. To eat in the US, you have to understand the English names for food from all over the world.

Unfortunately, a person from a different country sees many things more deeply than people who lived in one place all their lives. This insight isn't always funny, sometimes it is quite sad.

For example, usually when a person is sick in Russia (especially a child), you can call your family doctor, and he or she still comes to your house, without any charge. Even an emergency ambulance may come and take care of you for free.

Once, my son was extremely sick with a very high temperature. I was surprised that the pediatrician wouldn't come to our house. His office told us to drive our son by ourselves to the emergency room at the hospital. In Russia, a sick person must stay in bed because any movement is dangerous when you are sick. But here in the US, we had no choice, so we went to the hospital.

What happened next shocked us more. Our sick child must WAIT in line for hours before the doctor could see him! In the end, we spent six hours (the whole night) in the hospital in a big room with a disgusting crazy person on the opposite side who was screaming and moaning all the time. Then in two weeks, we got a new surprise – the hospital bill (\$980)! After this experience I understood that the US isn't the best place to be sick.

Living in a new country can give you a lot of funny new adventures, but some sad ones also.

Pressures of Being a Foreign Student

Christine Held

R/W 300

Do you know which are the principal causes of pressure of being a foreign student? How would you feel if you

were a foreign student? The principal causes of pressure of being a foreign student are the language and homesickness.

First of all, foreign students have a lot of stress when they have to learn a new language in order to communicate with their teachers and classmates, they usually feel a lot of stress when they want to express their ideas to their teachers and classmates, but they can't do it because they don't know how. Also sometimes they feel uncomfortable when they don't understand. They want to learn the language as soon as possible but it takes some time, so that's the reason why some students feel pressured, frustrated and desperate.

Second of all, foreign students also feel very homesick because they are very far from home. However, they have to fulfill their responsibilities like other students. In addition, students sometimes miss a lot of things from their countries and that doesn't help them to concentrate in their studies.

In summary, language and homesickness affect foreign students and make them feel stressed. The language is one of the principal causes of pressure of being a foreign student. Also the feeling of homesickness stresses students out because the students constantly think about their countries and about their family. However, I believe that learning a different language is a very good experience for anyone.

Wrong Client

Carmen Rojas
R/W 20/30

As an insurance agent, I always want to find a perfect client. Three years ago I received a referral from one of my colleagues. I called the prospect immediately and made an appointment. Days later, we met. He was the owner of a limousine rental company, and he was very interested in disability insurance. He appeared young, healthy, prosperous, and it seemed that he had a good income and stable business. I had found a perfect client. I had the product that he needed, and he could pay the monthly premium.

After that, we made a second appointment to fill out the disability application form. As always, I put emphasis on the section about health condition questions because it is decisive for the approval of the policy. All of his answers were negatives. I thought Bingo! and completed all the requirements of the sale process. Finally, the contract was approved, and I delivered it.

One year later, the client made a claim because he got disabled from a back problem. During the claim process the company discovered that the client had lied about this information. It was a pre-existing condition. Thus, the company decided to cancel the policy and returned him 100% of the payment premiums. As a consequence, I had a charge-back of \$3,000 dollars. I felt very furious because I had done my work correctly and responsibly.

Today, I think that the company was not fair with me, and the client just wanted to take advantage of the company and me. Finally, I lost my time and my money with a wrong client that appeared to be a perfect client.

The Pressures of Being a Foreign Student

Francis C. Hoffmann Lopez
R/W 300

When we start our studies, we are always going to have pressures for different reasons. When we study in another country, it can be very difficult for us. We, as students, feel pressured when our time is limited and when the foreign language is a barrier to study.

First of all, student's time is limited. It is hard to make time to study when you are working and studying at the same time. In order to be a good student, we need a lot of time to study, prepare for classes, and do homework

Second, the language barrier is a big pressure for a foreign student. It is very difficult to study and communicate with classmates and teachers when they don't speak the same language, memorize class content, express ourselves and make people understand us.

In conclusion, the most important thing is to divide correctly our time between studies and work. In that way, we will not become pressured. In addition, it is essential that we know the basics of a language where we will be studying. We also need to have a lot of patience. That is very important if we want to reach our objectives.

Crazy Dog Treatment

Sinem Atahan
R/W 60

I have always loved animals. Since I was a child, I've always wanted to have a dog but my mother has never let me get one. I am aware that having a dog means a lot of responsibility. When you have a dog, you have to take it to the veterinarian, you have to take it out regularly, and you should play with it; in other words, you should take care of your dog. In the USA, there are a lot of people who have dogs and some of these dogs have crazy life conditions because owners take care of them "too" much!

Nowadays, in different areas, dogs are treated in extraordinary ways! For example, in the legal area, owners bequest their house, car or money to their doggies by their last will when they die. Another example of too much treatment is in the fashion area. There are stores that sell clothes and jewelry for dogs. According to the article "It's a Dog's Life" in the Time magazine, "At Fifi & Romeo in Los Angeles, \$172 cashmere dog sweaters hang on tiny wooden hangers next to \$135 polkadotted raincoats. The store also carries the Chic Doggie line, which includes a very popular \$95 necklace of faux white pearls with a rhinestone ball." The dog owners also purchase expensive furniture for their dogs. According to "It's a Dog's Life" "At Dogmopolitan, a store in Newport Beach, Calif., miniature dog sofas range in price from \$400 to \$2000. Dog furniture also includes the PetaPotty, a 34-inch square of grass with a drainage system that, for \$230, plus \$30 a month maintenance, allows your dog an indoor bathroom of his own." I think this kind of expensive treatment is for owners instead of

dogs because this kind of people who are wealthy love to show their “power” to other people. I don’t think that dogs like to wear clothes or jewelry. Those things might make them uncomfortable and I think especially clothes are the kind of torture for dogs. For example, whenever I see a dog that has clothes or has shoes on its paws, it doesn’t look happy to me at all. But owners should be happy to see them as if they were human. And I am sure that dogs must be happy to share their owners couch with them instead of using their own expensive private sofa. There is no limit for excessive treatment. Here is a good example to prove this; Owners even take their dogs to the salon for “peticure”! They put on nail polish! I don’t know what they do to control dogs during the peticure. It must give them a very hard time.

What can you do to entertain your dog? You can take them out to walk or you can play with them. They are happy when you spend time with them. Some owners must “love” their puppies more than the other people since they give such an excessive treatment to amuse their dogs. For example, they dance with them or they send them to a play date! According to “It is a Dog Life” “The World Canine Freestyle Dance Organization opened the show, performing a kind of ballroom dancing between human and dog that club founder, Patie Ventre, vows to get into the Olympics. . . . Gossip columnist Cindy Adams walked the runway with dogs ‘My dogs have my car and driver take them to the play date and I walk to the theater in the rain.’”

How about pet day care centers? Some families who have to work hard afford to send their KIDS to a children’s care center. But some dogs are so “lucky” because they can go to pet day care centers where they can be treated like a kid. According to “It is a Dog’s Life” “People in Boca Raton, Fla., who need to be separated from their dogs during working hours but feel guilty about it can send their pets to day care at Camp Canine, where, for \$22 a day, the dogs can play to exhaustion and then watch videos such as 101 DALMATIONS. ‘It is like a children’s day care. They get time outs and treats,’ says owner Lisa Schettino.” Some pet care centers make an interview with dogs before accepting them as children’s day care centers do so your dog must be appropriate to go to a day care center. According to the article “A dog’s life worth living” (www.azcentral.com) “Before a dog can stay at Doggie Domain, it must complete a pre-screening interview to see how the dog interacts with other dogs. ‘It’s similar to a child getting accepted to preschool,’ said Ninette Hupp, owner of Doggie Domain.”

Today, pet care centers are also offering overnight boarding services. It is called kennel where dogs can stay overnight. Even though kennel is a really good opportunity for owners who go out of town for a while, it is quite expensive because of excessive treatment which is provided to the dogs. According to “A dog’s life worth living” (www.azcentral.com) “Applewood Pet Resort in Paradise Valley provides anything from traditional cages to private suites for dogs, each with color cable televisions for anywhere from \$16 to \$38 a night. Play times, bathroom walks, treats and dips in the kennel’s bone-shape pool cost extra. Raintree offers similar amenities ranging from \$20 to \$45 a night.” At Doggie Domain, overnight prices

range from \$45 to \$70 but include five hours of solid playtime, all treats, snacks and bathroom breaks. Some kennels provide more crazy things for dogs. For example according to “It’s a Dog Life” “At Tappen Hill, in the wine country north of San Francisco, \$36 a night will get a pup access to heated floors and two swimming pools and lots of scheduled activities.” At some of the kennels, the cost of boarding a dog for one night or one day of dog day care rivals the cost of day care for a child. According to “A Dog’s life worth living” “The typical Northeast Valley child day care center costs anywhere from \$25 to \$70 for an eight-hour day of care.”

Today, some dogs have their own private rooms where they can watch TV, they have to go to the salon for a “peticure” and they have to follow dog fashion by wearing clothes and they have chance to be rich in the future so they can still have the same life condition after their owners die. We can clearly predict that there will be more foolish treatment in the future because all those excessive treatments are created by people who like to be remarkable by using their currency. It seems to me that people try to highlight different things instead of showing their love to their dogs.

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The Pressures of being a Student

Karla Segura

R/W 300

Do you think students have pressures? When you were a child, did you feel pressured during your studies? And what about now? Children and adults are affected by different kinds of pressures.

In the childhood, doing the homework like reading, copies, multiply, add, study, etc, is the owe of the children but maybe this can cause them a lot of stress, also getting high scores in every test or quiz, represent the pressures of being a student as a child because children have to fulfill their school responsibilities in order to be considered good.

During the adulthood, getting education can grow into the biggest pressure for an adult student. While an adult receives his knowledge, perhaps they want, and they have to try to learn everything because when you get more knowledge, you can have more opportunities to get a better job.

To conclude, everybody in his life has at least once felt pressured as a student, no matter if you are child or an adult. However, sometimes stress can make the individual a better person and can make them achieve their goals.

Does a Pet Deserve Better Treatment Than a Member of Our Own Family?

Vanessa Fortuney
R/W 60

The high level of treatments that some people give to their pets these days is exceeding the limits. People sometimes treat their pets better than they do to members of their own family. It's true that animals are alive beings that have helped people in different ways and for that they deserve respect, but it's also true that when people start treating them as if they were human, giving them special and obsessive treatments, spending inconsiderable amounts of money, it's the moment to reflect and realize that something is going beyond the limits.

It's well known that animals are on earth for special purposes. Some people use animals, in particular dogs for working purposes, for example, seeing eye dog, hearing ear dog, aide dog, security dog. Other people use animals for medical research; food; companionship; medical therapies, like cancer and autism. Others use them as pets to teach children responsibility, social relationship and love for others, and others think that it's a good solution for those who can't have children.

When a pet enters in the life of a family, the members of this group establish special bonds with them. Due to the time that they spend together they develop a specific attachment to each other. Some people use pets to keep them company. If we take as an example dogs, a result from a survey (Salmon & Salmon, 1983) "suggested that dogs satisfied more of the needs of widowed, separated and divorced people than those of people at other stages of life. Apparently, the needs of these people were not being met fully by a family network, and hence the dog was playing a more important part in their lives," DOGTRAINING.COM.UK reported.

The problem starts when humans give pets all their attention and start treating them in a fanatical way as if they were members of their family; they insist to treat them as if they were their children. These types of treatments are more commonly seen in people that own dogs, which are often young married couples without children and that have money to spend on spoiling an animal, or whose children have already grown up.

Examples of obsessive attractions that people have for their pets are showed in different ways. There exist people that talk about their pets as if they were humans saying their names in a conversation. Some people provide pets human amenities such as clothing and medical treatments. They dress them with clothes of fashion designers, when the pets don't even worry about what they have on.

For those who want to show off their pets, there exists a pet boutique online called "All Season" where people can order the perfect outfit for their pet. The outfits are made according to the measurements sent, and the owners can choose from a variety of fabrics depending on the pet's mood. The prices range between \$ 46.00 for two outfits/same size and \$ 64.95 three outfits/same size.

There are owners who would go to the extremes for their animals. An example of this is a woman in Boise, Idaho,

who adopted a little dog with health problems and took her to a holistic veterinarian to give her acupuncture treatments. According to LJWORLD.COM (February 16, 2003, p. 1/2) "holistic veterinarians may use several kinds of alternative medical treatments, including Chinese herbs, healing touch or chiropractic."

There exist the kind of people who have the privilege to spend their money in elevated stuff, like sending their pets to resorts especially designed for them where they are fed in bed and a special staff gives them massages and body care.

In addition, there also exist special camps where owners and their pets can have a great time together doing a variety of activities such as sports, games, lectures, contests and crafts. "Camp gone to the dogs," at the Mountaineer Inn in Stowe, Vermont, "charges \$ 850 to \$ 1,300 (depending on which sessions you attend) and includes room, food and activities," reported NATIONALGEOGRAPHIC.COM (June 20, 2003, p. 3/8).

People that are not satisfied with the treatments that they give to their pets also have an special way to please them, throwing them birthdays parties with all the details as possible: invitations, b-day treats, games and cake. For some pet stores, a party gives people the opportunity to discover the variety of products that they offer.

Personal massages, manicures, gourmet food, special clothes, ballroom dancing, camps, are some of the things in which people spend inconsiderable amounts of money on their pets. Animals are unable to reason, they react by instinct, they don't really care about how much money they owners spend on them or the special treatments that they give them. The only thing that they really need is love, care and respect. They give people many satisfactions and they can fulfill some empty spaces, but we can't permit that they take control of our life, and above all we can't permit ourselves to treat them better than a member of our own family.

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The Pressure of Being a Student

Saleh Saleh

R/W 300

There are a lot pressures that students face when they study. Some of these pressures make student confused and sometimes they stop complete studying. However, the main pressures are homework and quizzes.

First, many students feel confused and tired when they have too much homework. Some of them keep thinking how to do the homework. They spend too much time in libraries and they also have to organize how to present their homework.

Second, the pressure of being a student is also caused by the quizzes, exams and tests. Some students do not like to take quizzes for several reasons. For example, one of them could be that the students are very nervous, or they become scared.

In conclusion, people always face a lot of pressures when they become students, especially when they have homework and quizzes. However, the important thing is to be able to overcome these pressures and continue their study.

Thanks from the Editor

Thank you students for allowing us to share your writing. I hope you enjoy reading your fellow students' essays. Also thanks to Noreen Baker and 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 Todd Allen, Darion Hutchinson, and Patti Moon for reading and evaluating the entries.

Thanks everyone!

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