

Mosaic

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Sleepless in Whistler



By Naoto Watanabe

A beautiful view of the Cascade mountain range, lake, and forest in white unfold before my eyes. Everything is covered with snow. Here I'm in Whistler! Finally I got here all the way from Seattle. Whistler, the world class ski resort that has 960 cm (31 ft) average snow falls, is the home of the Vancouver Olympics, 2010. This wonderful trip planned by ISP allowed me to have a great time skiing and even on our way there; it reminded me one of my High school field trips. Although it took over six hours to get to Whistler, we had so much fun on the bus. We were chatting, eating snacks, taking pictures and singing songs.

Whistler is located in British Columbia, Canada. With numerous ski courses, it is considered one of the most famous ski resorts in the world. We arrived at a hotel in Whistler village at 7 p.m. It was still light outside, so we saw many ski courses laid on the mountains. In the meantime I felt impatient because I had to wait until the following day to ski. Who can sleep right in front of Whistler? The next day morning, I quickly finished my breakfast and ran towards the main entrance under the sunshine. As soon as I rented ski equipment, I eagerly jumped on

a gondola which took me to the top of the mountain. From the gondola, I noticed the snow falling down from the sky. Because of the beautiful view, I dismissed whatever bothered me. Considering it was the end of March, snow conditions were just perfect for skiing with powder snow.

Beginning skiers and non

and inside of it looked like a Japanese bar that I'm familiar with. They provided us good quality sushi, tempura and even sake (a traditional Japanese alcohol). In Whistler village, the buildings integrate European style. The houses and streets looked as pretty as a picture. People we met in the village were very friendly

and funny as well. Moreover, Cascade Mountain Lodge, where we stayed for 2 nights had a hot tub and swimming pool outside of it. Taking the hot tub in snow let our



tired muscles relax, and it reminded me of a Japanese hot spring that I had missed a lot.

skiers also enjoyed staying at Whistler. Since some of us have never tried skiing or snowboarding before, they took beginner's class. They said that the lesson and their instructor were awesome, and they improved their techniques a lot. Fortunately nobody got any serious injuries or accidents, except my friend lost his digital camera on the top of the mountain. Food in Whistler was fabulous. We found many different kinds of restaurants, and we ate dinner at a Japanese restaurant and Italian restaurant. In the Japanese restaurant, some of the clerks were Japanese,

On the last day of our ski trip, we had kept skiing until 30 minutes before the bus left Whistler. We didn't even have enough time to buy any souvenirs. When our bus was leaving, I started missing Whistler. I wished I could have stayed there longer, and the primary reason why I could enjoy this trip so much is because I was with my friends. Although I have a lot of experiences of skiing in Japan, I'm pretty sure this ski trip will be the best one ever.

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Write for us!

International Student Newsletter "Mosaic"

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My Little Devil Plan

By Aaron Lee
From Korea



All people have specific turning points in their lives, and these special experiences continuously affect them through out their entire lives. I also had a turning point that affected my life and has been affecting my life so far. The turning point provided me with the time to think about myself, to shape and create my personality positively.

Whenever I think back on my childhood, I describe myself as a ‘hardworking student’. I was an only child. So, my parent’s expectation about me was kind of higher than other children. My mom always put pressure on me to study and practice, and she sent me lots of education institutes such as the painting academy, the piano academy and the math tutor. However, all of them didn’t attract me; I just went there without passion. I started to skip the academies- because my mom was working at that time. I thought nobody could notice me. At that time, it sounded like a perfect crime and it had to be a perfect crime. When I skipped the academies the first time, I literally felt like I was walking in the heaven. I enjoyed my little freedom and I felt like my decision was absolutely right. Unfortunately, my little freedom was just maintained a few hours. After my tiny freedom, I had to face the consequences of my stupid behavior. My mom

wouldn’t have noticed my perfect crime. But the reality of life flew in a totally different way. As you know, that little devil idea came from my seven-year-old child brain. I overlooked the possibility that my teachers had an extra way to contact my mom without my control. They called my mom and prosecuted my perfect crime as soon as I skipped my classes. My world, my beautiful heaven was totally converted upside down. It was just a nightmare. Everything became so dark, and everyone started to blame me about my crime. All I wanted to do was just finding a way to escape from that situation. But there was no way to avoid what I had done, unfortunately, I was just a little child criminal who was dragged to the court because of his cruel crime. I felt like there was a big, giant stamp on me written in ‘Criminal’. All

I was supposed to do was just wait for the judge whose name was “mom.” I still can remember vividly my mom’s face, voice and what she said. She didn’t say anything after she got the phone call from my teacher. She just entered the guest room and didn’t show up. A couple hours later, she called me and said to me, “Sorry, I just gave you a burden. I really didn’t realize that you’ve got lots of stress. If you really don’t want to go to academies, you don’t have to go there. I’m really sorry.”

She should’ve been mad at me and given me a penalty. Since, I already knew as soon as my teachers called to my mom. I realized that I deceived my mom and it was a terrible behavior. My mom’s reaction was totally different than what I had estimated. I might feel better if my mom was mad at me and gave me a penalty of what I had done. But she just told these simple sentences with a sad face and voice. I couldn’t forgive myself. I just felt guilty. I deceived my mom, and I throw away my mom’s expectation of me. I just wept continuously.

“Sorry mom, that was all my fault.” All I could say was this. Seven-year-old little criminal couldn’t say anything even though I had good excuses that defended

myself. I didn’t have any will to deceive my mom. I didn’t have any other choices. I had to beg for forgiveness from my mom and recover my mom’s expectation of me.

My previous experience gave me a big shock in my little brain and that clear, distinct and giant stamp never disappeared from my brain, heart and eyes. The most powerful thing didn’t refer to physical power. Forsaking other people’s expectation is the most terrifying thing and I have to accept the liability for my behavior. My Little Devil Plan provided me the opportunity to think about myself and it also gave me a nightmare enough to make myself as a ‘real hard working student’.

Mosaic/Highline International Student Newsletter

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I Will Never Turn My Back to You

By Olivia Ho
From Hong-Kong

Kawamura Yurino was an optimistic girl who had been in Seattle for one month; she left two weeks ago. I am waiting for her, and I know that one day we will meet each other again with our promise.

“One, two, three, jump!” She held my hand and pulled me to the cold water. It was the first day she arrived at our apartment, where a lot of international students live. She came here to visit her brother who is a student of Highline. We met, and we couldn’t help our curious minds that we wanted to know each other. She was a funny sweet girl, and she was totally different

from the other Japanese girls who I had met before. I remember one time we studied in the school library, “Olivia, go for your study, and you can do it!” She wrote a note in Japanese and put it in my pencil case secretly. I didn’t know how to write nor read Japanese. Therefore, when I realized that there was a note inside my pencil case in Japanese, I was surprised. I asked my friend in haste to translate for me. After knowing the meaning, I held the note in my hand with joy, and I almost cried with happiness.

She has taught me a lesson. She told me something that I remember clearly and I would never forget. Every time when I leave, I just say

good-bye one time and leave without looking back. She looked back all the time at me and she was hoping I would do the same thing. However, every time she could only see my back, which never turned around. And the day she told me that was the day before she left to go back to Japan.

I held on to her hand with sadness but without saying anything when we were in the airport. I watched her walked along the gate by herself. I didn’t turn my back around this time, not until I couldn’t see her. No one knew, my



Olivia(right) & her friend Yurino

eyes were full of tears.

I wanted to tell her, the girl who pulled me into the water, that we don’t need to have a pledge for proving our friendship; we don’t need anything to further our friendship. I will just remember our promise: I will never turn my back to you.

Start small, go BIG— Volunteer Fair



Kai-Wen (Shanti) Liang
From Taiwan

People might think “volunteer” is not a big deal, but for me, it is a BIG deal.

Luckily, I was chosen as the committee chair in 2008 by Noory Kim; luckily I had Olivia Ho, Jerry Li, Takuya Kawamura, and Eleven Liu as my awesome committee members. It is also a great opportunity that Career Department staff Erik Tingelstad and Diana Baker worked with us. We all spent over three months working and discussing the Volunteer Fair together. Planning an event is not hard, but making it successful is a huge challenge.

All of us needed to be very clear about what we were going to do, what would be our next steps, and what would be our back-up plan, such as creating a local, theme, and color of fair. And what is more is that we have to know how

we can do promotion to attract peoples’ attention, and the way to decorate the whole building. Besides, we needed to be concerned about the day of the event, like how many organizations would come, and the arrangement of tables and chairs. Do we need a DJ? Do we need to provide lunch for organization? We could not miss any details! We put our entire time and energy just trying to make the event successful, not just beautiful decorations, sweet cotton candy, popcorn, but an effective fair.

During spring break most students went to some places and had fun, but my committees and volunteers were making paper birds for decoration. We stayed up late at

school the day before the fair, and we woke up early on the fair day. Erik and Diana kept in touch with the organizations for the fair, and volunteers were willing to help and be so creative. We had done this just because all of us wanted to achieve our goal and make our fair into a different kind.

I want to say “Thank You” to everyone who helped and participated in the fair. I want to say “Thank You” to all the people who have put so much of their effort and energy into the fair. And I believe we have all learned so many things and have grown a lot from the Volunteer Fair. It was a great experience that we all worked together. I believe we will never forget this day- Start small, go BIG—Volunteer Fair.

Taste the Stink!!!

Some of the foods in Asia taste better than it smell; let us learn something about some stinky food which you might have never seen before.

Natto



Takaya Ishizaki
From Japan

One day an old Japanese woman was on TV whose skin was so smooth. She looks 20 to 30 years younger than her actual age, 99. What made her skin like that? The answer is Natto.

Natto is fantastic. It is basically brown bean, and sometimes it is served with soy sauce and mustard. Let me point out some nutritious benefits which a pack of Natto has. It contains 7.4g animal protein which is equivalent to the same amount of 50g sirloin. With 3g of Vitamin E, Natto helps us digest better and take all the bad things out of our body. What's more is the 45g magnesium, which removes flecks and pimples. And last but not least, Natto-kinase, a kind fungus makes our blood run through our body smoothly, and gives you good color on face.

Akita County which

is located in North Japan was awarded the County of having most beautiful ladies out of 47 of in Japan. And the interesting part is that Akita County consumes the most Natto in Japan. Natto, itself is stinky and it looks nasty to people from other countries. However there is an old saying, "Good medicine tastes bitter". Natto brings you a healthier life. And there is another old saying, "Illness starts in the mind". It depends on you if you get sick or not and it is totally up to you if you like Natto or not. If you believe Natto is healthy for you it can taste better.

Biji Soup



Nari Kim
From Korea

Biji Soup is a traditional Korean food. It is made of soy bean. When we cook the soup, we usually put pork and Kimchi into the soup. Biji with pork and Kimchi are perfect! It tastes awesome even though the smell is super strong and kind of stinky. It is very tasty and after eating the soup, it makes our appetite increase. Biji soup is yellow and brown in color and it looks like a thick porridge. According to

recent reports, it could even decrease the rate of cancer. It is a very healthy and "Good-for-you" food. Why don't you try eating Biji Soup?

I loved Biji soup until it happened. It was a sunny day. That day, I had a date with my friend. I remember I was so excited and nervous while I was getting ready to see him. Suddenly, I smelled something strong. I followed the smell and I found my mom making Biji soup. It looked so good! When I tried to taste it, my mother did not let me do that because she thought the smell of a Biji soup was stinky, it could ruin my date! Even though my mom was totally right, I could not give up the fantastic soup! I ate two bowls of rice with the Biji soup and unfortunately, I forgot that I was having a date! It was a sign that my date was going to be awful. As soon as I saw him, he looked uncomfortable. At that time, I did not notice why he looked sick. Finally, he asked me about what I had for lunch. When I heard that, my feeling about my formerly favorite soup was messed up, and I started refusing to eat the Biji soup before dating. It was the worst day ever! After that day, I do not eat Biji soup anymore.

Taiwanese Stinky Tofu

Eleven Liu
From Taiwan

As you are walking in to



any night markets of Taiwan, you will smell something different: it comes with sort of a stinky odor. As you come closer to the peddler, you will be astonished of what you see in front of you. It is Stinky Tofu, one of the most popular night market foods in Taiwan.

Stinky Tofu was originally from mainland China, and it was once served in the palace a long time ago. Different from the normal tofu, Taiwanese Stinky Tofu is cooked and fried, and it is normally served with sweet and sour pickled veggies to balance the oily taste. The tofu is fried into a golden color, sometimes it comes with soy sauce too. The taste of the Stinky tofu is amazing. It is crunchy when you have bite into it. When you chew the tofu, the juices which were kept inside the fried skin explodes in your mouth and you will totally forget what it smells like.

If you ever have a chance to visit Taiwan, Stinky Tofu must be your first priority street food. It is absolutely not hard to find a Stinky Tofu Peddler; you just have to follow the smell.

An Unexpected Punishment

Jerry Li

From Hong-Kong

“Put the chairs back to where they were.” After a clear and serious sentence, the big stone pressing on my heart fell apart, and I got released from the cage of anxiety. However, at the same time, the magnitude of my guilt expanded rapidly and widely.

It was Friday, the longest day in the week. After my only class, which was finished at 09:00, I went directly to the computer lab to complete my homework assignments. Without any worries in my mind, I got settled in my favorite seat, ready to work. There were tons of problems,

but it was still only 9 o'clock in the morning; I had plenty of time to consume. In just a short time, I was totally into my work.

Three and a half hours passed, I finally stood up, stretched, and ran my eyes over my watch. After seeing the time, an extremely helpless and terrifying thought popped into my mind. There was something that I forgot to do, something very important. I quickly cleaned up my stuff, and ran out from the room. While I was walking toward the library, there were thousands of millions of thoughts flowing in and out of my mind; what was going to happen, what were the consequences I would have to face, what about those people

I had disappointed. Guilt and agitation filled up my mind. I was trying to figure out some excuse, but I couldn't. My mind was not working, not even one cell.

I forgot to go to my tutoring job. The job I had been fighting to get for a long time. How could that happened? It was a shame and flunk. I couldn't believe what I just did. I was going to make my confession to Sam, the boss of the center, and tell the truth. I would take my lump, whatever it might be. When I finally met with him, face to face, I couldn't say a word, the guilt and embarrassment I had kept my mouth shut.

The tutor training session takes place on every Friday from 1:20 to 2:20pm. I was

sitting there with the other tutors, a smile on my face just like theirs. The only difference was, behind that fake smile, I felt as if a knife was pierced through my heart, and a dark cloud was placed over my head. With all these hardships, the hour training session was like a whole year fighting in a battle field. After struggling with myself and a deep self-reflection, I finally did it.

“Put the chairs back to where they were.” After a clear and serious sentence, the first thing popped out of my mind was “That is it?” My soul had been conquest by the most complex feelings. After returned the chairs, I walked out from the door, with cheer and thanksgiving.

Get Dirty

By Tachit (Tay) Chairat

From Thailand

On April 19th, we had an Earth Day restoration event in Codiga Park. This was a volunteer bank event organized by Nobuko Ishii. Most of the people took the metro bus to the event and they had to walk for about ten minutes. This place was very hard to find too, because when I got the direction from the internet and they were totally wrong. But when we got to the event, we started to see some fun in front of us.

We had hot cocoa and also some muffins before we got

to work. After that we listened to our group leaders for what we were going to do and what rules we needed to follow. There were three basic rules they wanted us to follow, they are BE SAFE, LISTEN TO YOUR BODY, and HAVE FUN!! It was one of the best opportunities for us, international students, to explore another world and another kind of volunteer work. We did use a lot of our energy in this event because we needed to remove weeds before we could plant some new trees. After two hours of working hard in mud, rain, sun and hail, we finally had a lunch break. We ate sandwiches that the organization provided to us. They also provided some chips along with fresh fruits and some



drinks. After we finished our lunch we went straight back to work again.

This time our main work was planting trees such as Douglas fir and other kinds of trees. I learned something new too, from planting trees. You cannot just put the tree in the hole that you dig, you

need to carefully put the roots into the hole and make sure that the roots don't go upside down because the trees might die or have difficulties growing. During the time we removed the weeds and unwanted roots, we suddenly found something so surprising; we found two baby mice. They were so cute, and they ran so fast. We had a really hard time catching them. We just wanted to hold them in our hand and take a picture. After we took pictures with them we released them to the ground and they went back to their home. When we finished with our work, we took a group picture and everyone looked so happy, because today we gave something back to our world.



Past/Current events highlight



Students have their score sheets holding on hands after Laser Tag event. (Upper left) Highline Volunteer Association members help children to learn Chinese. (Upper right) Students visit Whistler Village, B.C. Canada. (Left) New Student Orientation of Spring Quarter 2008 in Starbucks. (Right) Volunteer bank cleaning up the streams for Earth Day. (Lower left) Highline Annual Volunteer Fair (lower right)

