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Write for us!

International Student Newsletter "Mosaic"

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From Hiking to Snow Fight



By Yuru Yang
 ILSC/Social event Coordinator

The snow was slowly falling down the dark sky when students arrived at the Longmire visitor area, Mt. Rainier National Park. They took a short hike on one of its fabulous trails called "The Trail of Shadow". The trail was surrounded by an old coniferous forest. They looked pretty similar to virgin forests in South America, only covered with snow.

Then students had a bus ride through the pine wood and along the rivers covered with a thin layer of icing. It was quite a new experience for the students to observe the bus driver change the tires in order to make everyone's trip on the ice safe. At first the weather conditions made quite a few people worried, because most of the students were not expecting such weather. Everyone was pretty determined to have a mountain hike up the hill and not the "mountain slide" down



International students at Paradise, Mt. Rainier

the hill. However, snow made everybody excited because of the lots of fun it promised. You would be surprised, but the college students actually enjoyed playing in the snow. They had snow battles after lunch, slid down the hill on a board, and threw the snowballs. Students got a chance to take lots of pictures that would definitely make this trip unforgettable.

The next stop was Narada Fall. Here took place another snow battle with the photo session following it. All the activities of the day were so entertaining that it couldn't leave anybody indifferent, even the bus driver got involved in the snow fight eventually.

We had some young "explorers" with us, too. A group of students went all the way down to get closer to the waterfall. They even managed to take pictures behind it. Everybody was amazed with the beauty of nature!

It was a long day for everybody; people were happy, but tired after all of the time spent in the fresh air playing and running around.

The trip was a real success!!! A lot of students commented on it as being the happiest day since they came to Seattle. All the ILSC members are really grateful to the chaperone and the bus driver who was of a great help to the whole team.

Who's caught with their pants down?



By Mabelle Allman
ISP Advisor

Do you know what that means? If someone is “caught with his/her pants down”, it means that someone is surprised and unprepared. This Fall, many students were dropped from their classes for non-payment, and were “caught with their pants down”. What is the system?

Pre-registration for classes begins about two months before the new quarter begins. Students who register for classes at this time have an early payment date. This is a benefit, because paying the tuition is like making a reservation for a class. You have that seat in the class for certain.

Students who register for classes or make changes after the pre-registration payment date have two days after the registration to pay the tuition.

Pre-registration for Winter Quarter begins: **November 6th**

Tuition is due on **December 3rd** for any class pre-registered

After **December 3rd**, any added classes or changes that add a fee must be paid for within **2 days**.

What are some problems that we see? Sometimes students are waiting on a waitlist to join a class, so they wait to pay the tuition bill. If the student waits until after the deadline, then the registered classes could be dropped! It's much better to pay the bill for the registered classes, and then arrange the waitlisted class. Then the student can pay for the waitlisted class later. There's no requirement to pay the bill all at one time.

Another problem is that students wait to get their final bill to tell their parents or sponsors how much to send. If it takes many weeks for the payment to arrive, the classes could be dropped! It's much better to give an estimate

of the quarter's bill (for example, we know already that 15 credits plus fees should be around \$2700) and have the money sent in advance. Then, if there is a difference, the student can fix that later.

Sometimes students think that the classes won't really be dropped. It's true—the Registration office will drop students who have not paid. The primary reason is the waitlist. The Registration office must make seats available for students on a waitlist, so they drop the students who haven't paid by the deadlines. This is a benefit to you, because if you are on a waitlist, and someone has not paid for their seat, when they are dropped, you have a bet-

ter chance to get that seat.

So, what does this all mean?

Pre-registration for Winter Quarter begins November 6th. Tuition is due on December 3rd for any class pre-registered. After December 3rd, any added classes or changes that add a fee must be paid for within 2 days.

Emergencies: If you have an emergency and can not pay by the deadline, then you can complete a “promissory note” and ISP can hold your classes for a short time. A call or email is not enough; we must have a “promissory note” on file for you!

Plan ahead, and don't get caught with your pants down!

Mosaic/Highline International Student Newsletter

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One Man's Trash is Another Man's Treasure

By Ameer Moon

ISP Associate Director

It's a sunny Friday afternoon in August and you're riding the bus to your friend's house. You were lucky enough to get a seat by the window so you can watch the hustle and bustle outside as the bus drives by. From the corner of your eye you see a sign that says, "Garage Sale: Sat. 9-4" written on a poster with a big black marker. The bus stops to let passengers out and you see another sign: "Multi-Family Garage Sale: Sat. 9-3 and Sun. 10-4." As the bus continues on its route, you see another sign, and then another. What is a garage sale?

A garage sale is when a person sells their own personal goods in front of their house. These sales are also called yard sales, estate sales, or moving sales. They usually happen on weekends in the spring, summer and early fall.

Americans collect a lot of stuff over time. When someone buys a new sofa, they might put the old one in the basement. When they buy a new set of dishes, they put the old ones in a box in the attic. When the children grow up, they get new clothes, toys and bicycles and the old stuff goes into storage. Eventually, you run out of space to store all that junk in your attic or basement, so you hold a garage sale to get

rid of everything. First you put price tags on your sofa, dishes and bikes. Then, you make big signs to put around town and run ads in the local newspaper to invite people to your garage sale. When it's over, the buyers have things they need at low prices and you have more space and a little money in your pocket. Everyone wins!

Garage sales are a bargain-hunter's dream. The items range from dishes and small kitchen appliances to sofas, chairs and dining room tables, usually at super cheap prices. You might find a coffee mug for 25 cents, a DVD for \$1 or a set of dinner plates for \$3. You can find a sofa for \$100, a dresser for \$50 or a mini-refrigerator for \$10. Is \$100 too much for the sofa? Make an offer! Sellers are usually desperate to get rid of their stuff, especially if it's at the

end of the sale. Garage sales are one of the few places in America you can bargain for a better price.

For some people, garage sale shopping is a hobby. They check the newspaper on Thursday and plan which garage sales they will hit over the weekend. These shoppers, often called "early birds," wake up early to make sure and buy the good stuff before it's gone. You never know what you might find at a garage sale. Sometimes people sell things that are brand new or rarely used. A family

may hold a garage sale once or twice in a lifetime, so they could be selling things from their great-grandparents, like antiques and collectibles. My cousin once bought a painting for \$10 that was the work of a famous local artist valued at \$3500!

The next time you're riding the bus and you see a "Garage Sale" sign, stop by and check it out! You'll have a truly American experience, and you might find something interesting. After all, one man's trash is another man's treasure.



Wide range of items in garage sales



Let Me Get Over It



By Ngoc Vuong Bao Doan

Studying in another country is interesting but also risky. At the age of 17, it was the first time I came to the United States as an exchange student. It has been more than a year since I came here. Now I am a freshman in Highline Community college. Although I am pretty confident about my first year in college with some experiences, I still have to face many problems and difficulties.

Last year, when I was an exchange student in Indiana, I lived with a host family who always loved and cared for me. I didn't have to worry about food or paying the bills or transportation. What I had to worry was studying and getting to know other cultures. Of course, I faced with cultural shocks but I got over them easily with confidence.

I came to Des Moines with a thought that I would be fine. This year is different because I am not living with a host family but living in an apartment with 10 Vietnamese friends. At first I thought it would make my life easier to live in a group. Two weeks later, I become tired and want to give up everything. Life is not easy at all, especially to live by myself. I have to worry about how much I should spend in a month, how to get along with other people in my group and how I can manage my time logically to



Ngoc Doan and her host family in Indiana

achieve academic goals. At first, everything seems to be expensive so that I have to make a plan how much I have to spend and what I should spend on. I have to record every time I buy something.

Secondly, living in a group requires solidarity and agreement among members in a group. Conflicts are definitely inevitable when each person has different personalities and opinions. It is important to organize the group and share everyone's opinion in order to approach a last decision. In fact, this is my first time living in a big group like this, so I can't ignore everyone and only think about myself. However, living together

has its benefit. When I need someone to share my feeling, or ask for help; they are the only one I can rely on. At the weekend, we spend time together by going to downtown Seattle to get away and have fun. It is necessary to tolerate others' imperfections.

Finally, the most important thing is making a logical schedule for studying. Because this is my first year in college so that everything including registration, taking classes, paper works and understanding school system is so strange and new. It did take time to get used to it. Besides going to class, getting involved with some activities on campus is very necessary

for international students. It offers the chances to make friends and improve my English. Right now, I am a member of table tennis club because I love playing ping pong and want to make more friends. I also join Conversation Pal in order to improve my English and learn more about other countries' cultures.

Despite those difficulties obstruct me; there are some motives that help me to get over. If someone follows their dreams persistently, they certainly achieve their goals no matter how hard they have to get through with confidence and pride. My goal is to get into a medical school with a dream of being a doctor.

My life in America

By Ayano Sato



Ayano Sato and her friend



My life in America is great so far. I have been getting good experiences.

However, when I just came to America, I had hard time because everything was new to me. I was confused and cried many times. They were also good experiences for me. I'm going to write about my life in America.

When I just came to

America, everything was hard for me. I didn't even know how to take buses, so I couldn't go anywhere. Also, I didn't know about money, so it was hard to go shopping. I was desperate to learn from Americans who were around me. It was very difficult to learn everything myself, but it was what I had to do.

One day, I met a man who is my good friend now. At first time, I was scared because I couldn't speak English well,

and I couldn't trust people in America. However, he was so kind and nice to me. He taught me so many things, such as English, dangerous places, living in America, and so on. Because of him, I didn't have any dangerous experiences in America. Of course, I learned English from him little by little.

In addition, he taught differences between American culture and Japanese culture. I was sometimes surprised and shocked about the differences. I cried many times because I couldn't understand American culture. I didn't know whether I had to forget my Japanese culture or not. Of course, I liked Japanese culture, but I was in America.

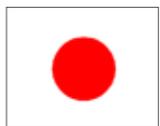
Now, I keep my Japanese

culture and try to understand American culture, also, I think it's nice to keep my own culture. It's also nice to learn a new culture. It's still hard to do both of them, but I can do it now because I'm used to being in America.

In conclusion, I got many good experiences in America. Because I spent time with my good friend, I can learn American culture. I'm still confused about the differences between America and Japan, but I'm trying to understand American culture because it's a great culture. I'm glad that I'm in America now. Studying abroad is not easy, but I'm studying in a foreign country, so I should be glad and make use of the rare chance. I will study and learn as much as possible.

How Are You Doing?

By Ayumi Sato



"How are you doing?" Almost everyone in the U.S. asks this

question first. This question was the start of my nightmare in the U.S. When I arrived here, I was asked this typical question. I was just giving a bitter smile. ".....?" Actually, that was my answer. ".....?" "How are you doing?"

I was thinking, I know what "How are you?" means. I know what "doing" means. But, why did the man put "doing" at the end of the sentence? Did he mean what I am doing? If so, I am talking to you now! That is what I am doing! Did he mean how I am? If so, I am fine! Do you need to know whether I am fine or not? Do you need to ask it to me? I do not know you, though! (In Japan, we do not ask strangers "How are you?")

I was thinking, thinking, thinking and then, I did not say anything. I could not say anything because I had not found my answer yet. Then, the person, who spoke to me, seemed to think "She is

stupid" (because I did not answer him.) "Doesn't she understand this very easy rudimentary question?" like these. I understood what he was thinking from the expression on his face.

I shouted in my mind, "I am not stupid! I could have understood if you had asked another question even in English! I have studied English! I can understand if you, but you cannot understand another language, can you?! If I speak Japanese now, can you understand? No, you cannot! Not even a little!" I wanted to go back to Japan. I did not want to live speaking English. How much easier speaking in Japanese was! I was stressed out. "Why can't

I communicate in English?" I thought.

However, since I have been here, I have learned, the American lifestyle, customs, culture, and, of course, English. Eventually, I have adjusted them, and my frustration has been relieved little by little. "How are you doing?" This is not only a question but also a greeting. I owe my happy life here to the new people I have met: my new family, new friends, school, church, and fellow riders. I have learned a lot from them.

"How are you doing?" Now I can answer this question naturally. I am enjoying my life in the U.S.

This year, as usual, the new ILSC will prepare many interesting events and seminar for all the student in Highline. We encourage all native speakers to join our events. Your attendance will increase the depth of our event and these events will be the best opportunity for you to meet new friends, experience different cultures!

Don't hesitate! Most of our events have people limits. Please sign-up early. We are looking forward to meeting you!



Last stop of the Mt. Rainier trip, the Narada fall

Past/Current Events Highlight



Group 30, conversation pal.(above) Students walking down “The Trail of The Shadows” at Mt. Rainier.(down) Welcome B.B.Q at Saltwater State park.(upper left) Students discuss English slang at the Slang Seminar.(lower left)

