

A blast with pumpkins



By Eleven Liu

Halloween is normally an ordinary day for me. But this year at Highline, I had a different experience which I will never forget. It was the pumpkin carving party that made me feel so. To be honest, I do not like the smell of pumpkins but I had much more fun that I can ever expect.



Eleven Liu

The party started with a presentation about introducing the history of carving pumpkins. Besides that, the presentation came with some pictures which gave us some inspirations that could possibly stimulate our creativity. There were about 40-50 students sitting in the room and dressing up differently. Most of them dressed up as some scary creatures like, skeletons, witches and monsters, while some of the others dressed up like penguin or even pumpkin which were very amusing.

As soon as I started carving, I realized that carving pumpkins was actually a very



Student dress up for the pumpkin carving party in HSU.

tough job. The pumpkins came with a very odd smell and it was very hard to cut through the skin by a little knife. The nastiest part is that after we took off the top of the pumpkin, we had to dig in the pumpkins and try to empty the pumpkins' inside part. And the problem I had, was that the hole I cut was way too small for my hand to fit in. It took me about 30 minutes to get out all the seeds and vines inside the pumpkins and I finally I started carving face on my pumpkin. That was definitely my favorite part of the whole process, to give the pumpkin a face with some Halloween spirits. My pumpkin turned out fine and I was so proud of what I had done.

The party was finished with an unforgettable ending. We located all the pumpkins that we carved at the outside of the student union. We lighted up the candles in the pumpkins and we shared our happiness as well as memories of this fascinating festival.

Celebrations are never so important to me, but the carving pumpkin party changed my mind. Sometimes, we need to try out for something we did not like, and perhaps we might find a different point of view. Therefore, as new international student of Highline, I would love to attempt some other more activities with enthusiasm.

Inside this issue:

- I-20 issue / **See P.2**
- X'mas Movies / **See P.2**
- Student Article: Thanks-giving dinner / **See P.3**
- Student Article: Don't buy a junker / **See P.4**
- Student Article: Do my best in America / **See P.5**
- Student Article: My feeling of America / **See P.5**

Past Event

- Valenteer Bank / **See P.6**
- Pumpkin Carving / **See P.6**
- Ice skating / **See P.6**
- Thanksgiving Dinner / **See P.6**

Oncoming Event

- Giving tree gift wrapping / **Dec. 6**

Write for us!

International Student Newsletter "Mosaic"

For More Info
please contact
David Hsu
dhsu@highline.edu

Plan ahead for your travel plan

By Michael Gruberg
ISP Assistant Director

remind you of some simple facts regarding travel during your vacation period.

Make sure your I-20 has not expired. The dates are listed in item 5 of the I-20.

re-entry.

I-20 signatures take 24 hours (1 day) to process, so plan ahead!!!

Be sure to have all of your I-20s (even your previous I-20s from other programs) with you at all times.

Make sure your F1 visa has not expired before travel.

Take a copy of your transcript or registration for the upcoming quarter

The staff of the ISP wishes you a warm and festive holiday season. We would like take this opportunity to

Make sure the signature is valid and signed in the past 6 months!

Be sure to take the SEVIS fee receipt with you before re-entering the United States with the valid I-20. Both documents are usually required for

If you plan to travel to vacation destinations other than the United States, check on the visa requirements for those specific countries you plan on visiting.

America's five favorite christmas movies

By Amee Moon
ISP Associate Director



Amee Moon

It's that time of year again when the spirit of

It's a Wonderful Life, 1946: A heartwarming story about a man who gives up his dreams of traveling the world to help his family with their savings and loan business. In a moment of depression he thinks about suicide, but an angel comes to his rescue to show him what would happen to his family, friends and town without him. He realizes how wonderful his life really is, and how much of a positive impact he has had on those around him.

he must prove to the world, and especially to Doris and her daughter, that he really is Santa or he will be committed to a mental hospital.

mountains near Whoville. He hates the happy and festive Whos that live in the village, and tries to destroy Christmas by stealing their gifts and decorations. He just can't seem to stop Christmas, however, and begins to see that the meaning runs deeper than presents and trees. The Grinch learns the true meaning of Christmas and joins the Whos in their celebration.

Christmas is all around us. Christmas trees and pretty lights decorate streets and stores, radio stations play Christmas music 24/7, and families gather together to watch their favorite Christmas movies.

Miracle on 34th Street, 1947: A nice old man agrees to play Santa Claus at the Macy's department store in New York. He is a wonderful and beloved store Santa, who seems to inspire the Christmas spirit in everyone around him. But Doris Walker, the woman who hired him, becomes concerned about his mental health when he claims to be the real Santa Claus. The man fails a psychiatric examination, and

Scrooge (A Christmas Carol), 1951: One of the best adaptations of the classic Charles Dickens story of redemption. Ebenezer Scrooge is a rich, mean and stingy old man who is visited by the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future to teach him about his lonely and wasted life. After this horrible night, Scrooge learns the value of love, the spirit of giving, and how to celebrate Christmas with family and friends.

A Christmas Story, 1983: Nine year old Ralphie Parker wants nothing more for Christmas than a BB gun, and the entire film recounts his efforts to make sure he gets one. The film is told from Ralphie's perspective, that of a small town kid having various adventures during the Christmas season and what he thinks about his family, friends, neighbors, marketing scams, and scary Santa Clauses. TNT will play this film over and over again for 24 hours straight on December 24-25.

How the Grinch Stole Christmas, 1966: The animated version of this classic Dr. Seuss book came out decades before the Jim Carrey film, but still remains a favorite among America viewers. The Grinch is a green, heartless creature who lives in the

My Thanksgiving dinner



By Ngoc Vuong Bao Doan

This year was my second Thanksgiving in the US but the first time in Washington State. The first Thanksgiving I held with my host family last year. Unlike the first one, the Thanksgiving this year I was celebrating with the International Student Program of Highline community college. It was held at a church for all international students who don't have plans for Thanksgiving. I really enjoyed that day with many fun activities.



Students preparing for the thanksgiving dinner.

I was volunteering to decorate and set up the stage at the church.



Doan

The volunteers met at school at 8:30 in the morning and we took the bus to the church. We set up tables and chairs, then blew up balloons to hang around. It was so much fun. Everyone seemed excited about the dinner, because to some of them, it was their first Thanksgiving. Most of our students arrived at the church at 3pm, and the pastor welcomed us and gave wishes to everyone before we had Thanksgiving dinner. There were so many delicious foods such as turkey, mashed potatoes with gravy, cranberry jelly and many kinds of

cake. It has been a long time I haven't had them since I had Thanksgiving dinner with my host family last year. It seems that international students really get into the holiday especially to anyone who has their first Thanksgiving.

After the dinner, there were some other activities related to Thanksgiving holiday. Starting with a presentation about traditional foods from other countries, there were 7 international students representing 5 countries Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Japan and Vietnam. Each of us introduced our traditional foods that were typical and popular. Two Vietnamese students and I introduced 3 traditional foods that were "Rice steamed rolls," "spring rolls" and "egg crepes." We all hoped that people could get to know about our

foods and they would have a chance to try them. The day was closed with a drama about Thanksgiving Holiday. The drama was directed by Shanti Liang and played by international students. The drama was a story about Thanksgiving such as where the Thanksgiving holiday originated. Although the drama was very funny following with the excellent acting of the crew, it gave a lot of useful information about Thanksgiving history which attracted many international students. I think the drama was very creative especially the dance of the actors and actresses.

The day ended with many unforgettable memories for most of the international students, the dinner, the presentation and the drama.

I really had fun and think that the Thanksgiving dinner is very interesting and helpful. I hope that the ISP will celebrate Thanksgiving dinner again next year.

Mosaic/Highline International Student Newsletter

Editor: David Hsu,
Machelle Allman
Graphic Editor: David Hsu

Comments?

Please Email David
dhsu@highline.edu

Don't buy a junker!

By Jae Hwang



A car is very useful transportation in America. You have to ride your car wherever you want to go unless it is not far away from where you are and you can just go by walking. It is not necessary to have one car and drive. You can take a bus or other public transportation but it is not as comfortable as driving your own vehicle. Buying a car cost a lot of money. You have to pay for taxes, insurance and gas. If you want to ride a new car, you have to spend extremely a lot of money. So, many international students are willing to buy a used car. So now, I would like to give you some information to buy used a car for your happy American life.

Before you go out for looking at the car, I suggest to check up on the history of the car. If you can have the VIN(vehicle identification number), then you can check any of the car's history such as car crash, stolen history, fire damage and many other histories. I suggest this very strongly. You can check it on www.carfax.com

There are two ways for buying used car. From dealers or owners. It costs more expensive if you buy it from dealer but some dealers have their own certifications for their used cars. And they do all the paper works for you.

at the use car. There are many components such as engine, transmission, cooling system and many others. You have to check condition of engine. Just start it and wait for about 5minutes. After the engine is heated, take a look at RPM.

you drive it. If it smells like burning or very weird, it may have some problem under the hood. Engine and transmission are the most important parts under the hood and cost a lot of money. Please look very carefully.



Jae and his car

So, it's easy to buy if you have only enough money. Buying from the owner is cheaper than buying from a dealer but no one can guarantee the condition of the car. You have to check the condition of the car by yourself as many as possible.

First of all, you have to look all around inside and outside of the car. It cost a lot of money for repairing body parts as if the frame is twisted.

If you don't want to put all of your money for fixing just how looks of your car, please check very carefully.

If you think the exterior and interior is ok, then open the hood next. Actually, under the hood is the most important part when you look

If it stays between 700~1000 and the engine is not squeaking, then it means it works fine. And look at under the head cover and check if engine oil is leaking or not. If it is very greasy and dirty, there is a possibility that the oil is leaking.

After that, try to drive more than 10 minutes and check the transmission. If you want to ride with automatic transmission, try to look at the RPM meter when you drive. Usually, automatic transmission changes gear between 2300~2700 RPM. If it doesn't change at the moment, it has some problem on it. If you want to ride manual transmission, try to change gears as much as you can and feel how the clutch and stick shift work smoothly. And try to smell the car while

just bad smell with steam is fine.

And after that, you should check tires. Tires are strongly related with your safty. If the car is equipped with bad condition tires, then there is huge possibility to slip on wet or iced road. And bad tire gives you very unstable cornering. And if tire or wheel is too big for your car, it is going to be a reason that waste lots of gas.

I have seen some international students who bought very expensive poor condition used car. I felt very sorry for them and I have wanted to introduce some information for buying used car. These steps are not enough to look for very good condition used car but I really hope it can help you find better condition used car.

Do my best in America

By Koichiro Ikeda

I came to the America after I graduated from high school. In Japan, we have some career choices after we graduated from high school, such as going to university, getting a job, or studying abroad. In my case, I want go to study at the university in Tokyo because I lived in Tokyo. However, I was thinking about something big to do every day.

One day, my mother told me about Study abroad. Then I thought "This is the thing that I want to do!" But I

couldn't tell my parents about my career choice because of money. My parents have their own company; but it is small. Therefore, I didn't think my parents allow me to study abroad.

First time when I asked to my parents, their answer was no. But I didn't give up, and I told them my opinion. Finally they allowed me to study abroad. After they allowed me go to study abroad, they showed me a bankbook; and I worried about money again. Then, my parents told me "We have only this money. But we work very hard to make money for you to study

abroad. So please do your best."

Now my parents work so hard every day. Therefore, they got a lot of good trading company. However, I am still worried about money. Also I am worried about my parent's health because they work so hard.

For my parents and myself, I have to do my best in America. I always want to thank my family from the bottom of my heart; however, I said thank you to them only a few times.

Dear Mom and Dad, I want to say..."Thank you."

My feeling about America

By Seungbum Hong



The first thing that shocked me was the student in Highline. Although the boys and girls were handsome and pretty, to me, they were like barbie dolls in the toy store.

When I was walking along in the campus wandering, I felt the students was staring at me with curiosity. I felt like

people were looking at me as if I were a caged monkey or an alien that landed on earth. Wherever I went, many eyes followed me. I was partly scared and a little confused.

When a girl came to me and said, "Hi, nice to meet you," "What is your name?" For the first time, I could feel the warmth and comfort in her voice.

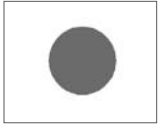
It has been 10 months since I first saw the vast sky of America. The students in Highline Community College are very nice to me. They try to understand my culture, and help me with a smile on their face. The teacher in school is also very nice. They treat me as if I were their friend,

not like the Korea does. Now I have many friends, and I'm getting used to my life in America. I know that there are many hardships and there may be more in the future. No matter happen, with those nice people I meet here, I think I will definitely survive.

This could be your AD, for FREE!

Yes, we offer free ADs for your department/class. Mosaic will publish twice every quarter, and we have limited space for free ADs! First come, first serve.

For more information, contact David Hsu
dhsu@highline.edu



NEW CLASS! FS207 GLOBAL CINEMA

Watch this!

See Bosnia, Russia, China, Palestine, India and Africa this winter and get college Humanities credit without leaving campus.

Learn about youth culture in China; suicide bombers in Palestine, and love Russian style. You will learn about cultural identity, emergent cinemas, and a new generation of film directors. Learn about the world; learn about yourself.

COUNTS TOWARDS
HUMANITIES REQUIREMENT
#4205 MTWTH
12:10 pm - 1:13 pm 5 credits

Films we will be watching:
The Cranes Are Flying
(Russia)
Paradise Now (Palestine)
Tsotsi (South Africa)

For more information contact:
Susan Rich, 878-3710 ext. 3253
srich@highline.edu

Can't believe it is the end of Fall quarter 2007! Snow is falling and it means the winter break is waiting for us... Yeah! We had so many good times together this quarter!

ILSC and International Student Program want to thank international students and everyone for spending time with us in our past events. It is such an encouragement

for us to keep going and put more efforts to make the next events more interesting. Since we only have one more event for this quarter, but don't worry! We are planning more activities for the winter quarter! We promise to make the events more attractive because we love to see you guys have fun. Remember, your attendance is the power that keeps us motivated.



Past/Current events highlight



Students light up their jack-o'-lanterns in front of the HSU. (Top) Volunteers bank visit nursing home in Seattle.(upper left) Thanksgiving buffet.(upper right) Students present Thanksgiving skit in the Des Moines church.(lower left) Students on their Ice skating trip.(lower right)

