Halloween Party

By Annie Jang

I would never dress like a nurse except for a Halloween Party, one of the biggest campus-wide cultural events that is held by International Student Programs once a year at Highline!

The Halloween Party is a costume party; it provides an opportunity for all students to dress up to be the people they dream of being. Some male students wore make up for the first time and dressed up to be the most adorable maids at the party; a Thai student became the Bumble Bee Transformer, which was also the spotlight of the night. In addition, there were many interesting costumes at the party. You could see a Japanese Homer Simpson and a Chinese Hulk smiling and standing in front of you. Native Americans and vampires were craving the pumpkins, and zombies were taking photos with a policeman. For me, it was one of the most pleasurable nights of the school year!

To match with the party theme of this year, Highline Hospital, I dressed up to be a nurse. My involvement in the Halloween Party included reception and the haunted house. It was fun to volunteer at reception with the other two beautiful and frightening nurses because we could meet all kinds of costumed people at the entrance! The haunted house was one of the most exciting parts of the Halloween party. There are no better volunteers to scare and freak people out in the haunted house!

Again, Halloween was one of the most interesting and pleasurable holidays of the year, and I had a blast with all of my friends at the Halloween party!
Hello. My name is Kady from Burma. I came to Highline Community College last winter. I would like to share my story about the Mt. Rainier Trip. Before I went on this trip, I was very excited and I kept thinking about what to bring and wear on that day. I also prayed to have good weather on the day of the trip.

However, on the day of the event, the weather was terrible. I wore a big waterproof jacket, three layers of clothes, two layers of jeans and a hiking boots. Then, I was ready for hiking! On the bus, we ate blueberry muffins for breakfast as we watched "Madagascar". On our way to Mt. Rainier, we had to pass through a thick forest with big tall trees. As the bus passed through the national forest, I saw a beautiful and a wonderful view of the forest. I was in love with this natural forest!

When the bus arrived at the Visitor Center, I could not see because it was covered by fog. All I could see were red flowers and leaves that made me feel like I was in heaven. They were gorgeous and lovely! I could not climb to the top of the mountain because the higher we climbed, the weather become colder and colder. To make matters worse, it was raining heavily and it was windy on the mountain. I could not make it to the top and I returned half way through.

When I got back to the Visitors’ Center, I didn’t find the driver in the bus. I was wet and cold and my change of clothes was on the bus. I felt so cold and all I wanted was to change my wet clothes immediately. But I had to wait for the driver for five hours in the Visitor Center; wet, cold and starving. While I was waiting, I played cards with my friends and we had fun. Time went so fast and at 3:00 p.m., the bus driver came back. At last, I changed my clothes and stayed warm. On the way to home, I enjoyed an apple and cocoa drink.

Although the weather was bad, I enjoyed my trip, and I had a lot of fun with friends. The weather didn’t bother me a lot since I was having a good time with my friends. I remember Ame Moon, the associate director saying that, “Don’t let the weather determine your mood.” So, if the ILSC plans another trip, I will join it again with my beloved friends, no matter how horrible the weather might be.
I would like to introduce Japanese culture and inform you about Coming of Age ceremony, which is called Seijinshiki in Japanese. Seijinshiki is a traditional ceremony for people who are twenty years old, and it is held on the second Monday of the month of January every year. This is a big holiday in Japan, and the ceremony takes place in every city, town and village. Tokyo Disney Land is one of the places where this ceremony is held. However, some people get together at their junior high or high school and meet with their old friends. This ceremony is important because it welcomes people who are twenty years old to adulthood, and they get right to drink alcohol, smoke cigarettes, pay pension and vote. In this ceremony, those who are twenty years old meet their friends and listen to mayor’s story.

During the ceremony, women wear Furisode, and men wear Hakama. These are Japanese traditional clothes and Furisode signifies the breaking of jinx. When men wear Hakama, they are considered full-fledged. Married and single men can wear Seijinshiki, but women cannot wear Furisode after they get married. Therefore, many women take photos at the studio and keep them for memory. In Seijinshiki, a lot of women wear Furisode, but few men wear Hakama. Most of them prefer to wear suits, but there is no reason why they choose not to wear Hakama. However, some people think it is strange for men to wear Hakama. If you visit Japan on the second Monday of January, you will see a lot of people dressed in Japanese traditional clothes and you would be moved!
During summer break, I took a culinary trip to Taiwan. I had a good time with my friends there for 4 days. People who live in Taiwan are kind and warmhearted. Even though we had never met, Taiwanese people treated me like their friends. The first day I got there, I went to a night market. The night markets, which are street markets or Snake Alleys, as it has been called in Taipei, that operate on the roads adjacent to the streets in urban or suburban areas are great. Food is the most popular thing at the night market. The food there is so delicious. Many people went there to have dinner or to buy a late night snack. I don’t know where to travel since I didn’t go with a tour group, so I asked an old couple when I was sitting in eating house. They patiently told me which places are worth going to and even told me the history of the night market in Taipei. It was so touching.

Two of my friends, Clyde and Roy from Taiwan were my tour guides during the trip. We didn’t go to many tourist attractions but attended Chinkuashih which is the gold deposit of Taiwan. Instead, we went to every snack alley to have typical Taiwanese snacks. Taiwan is known for its food. Three of my favorite foods that I really recommend to people to try when traveling in Taiwan are braised pork rice, oyster omelet, and bubble tea.

A Taiwanese saying goes, “Where there is a wisp of smoke from the kitchen chimney, there will be Lurou Fan”. Lurou Fan is braised pork with rice and is one of the specialties in Taiwan. In addition, oyster omelets taste good too. It consists of an omelet with a filling that is primarily composed of small oysters. Potato starch is mixed into the egg batter, giving the resulting egg wrap a thicker consistency. Moreover, the bubble tea there in Taiwan is the greatest and unlike any that are in Chinatown, Seattle.

Hence, Taiwan is a good place to travel to. I love Taiwan.
I have lived in the U.S. for over 10 years, and the most interesting event that I have experienced was the Black Friday, which comes after Thanksgiving. I am writing to share with you how crazy it was for me to experience my recent Black Friday shopping. My first Black Friday was at BestBuy about four years ago. I waited from 4:00 p.m. during Thanksgiving until 5:00 a.m. the next day, and bought my first laptop. I thought that would be the craziest moment I would ever experience in my whole life. However, during the recent Black Friday that I went to, which was in Tukwila Westfield mall, my mind completely changed. I went to the mall with my girlfriend at around 7:00 a.m. and saw a whole bunch of people lined up in front of Sears to buy their products. My goal was to buy some clothes for winter at H&M, but I decided to go and try what Sears had to offer. When the door opened at 8 p.m., people rushed inside to get the best deals. From what I could recall from four years ago, no one was sprinting through the store and no one was being crazy over what they wanted. I saw a news reporter from some kind of local news channel, and of course, there were a lot of people lined up to pay for the items they had chosen. Around 9:00 p.m., Westfield mall opened up their hall-ways for people to line up in front of the stores they wanted to shop at. I rushed toward H&M, and luckily I was the 15th person in line. Not long after, did I experience the worst Black Friday shopping ever. The people in front of me started calling their friends and tried to cut all the people behind, including myself. I was glad someone called security and made them leave, but another problem approached. Right before H&M opened their doors, people started huddling up, and all of a sudden the single-file line turned into a crowd.

When the store opened, I was being pushed from all directions, and in that moment I thought, “I am going to die.” As a result, I only bought three pieces of clothing and headed home. I will never recommend people to go to Westfield mall on Black Friday.
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