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Spring 2017

The Howl - Spring 2017

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Spring 2017

The Howl

Otterbein ESL Publication

Editor

My name is Gwendolyn DeRosa. I have been teaching ESL for over four years. My favorite aspect of teaching ESL is getting to know our students and hearing their stories. I've known students who lived through war. I've taught students who overcame overwhelming challenges to study in the U.S. I've spoken to students whose lifelong dream was to learn English. I'm so proud of our students and their journeys. As the editor of The Howl, I'm excited to share their stories with you. Stories are what connect us to each other.

Gwendolyn DeRosa

About the Howl

The Howl is a magazine that is planned, researched, written, photographed and designed by Otterbein University's ESL and international students. The magazine serves to give them a safe space in which to use their voice to share their cultures, experiences and lives. If you are interested in submitting to *the Howl*, please e-mail your writing or photography to gderosa@otterbein.edu. Please enjoy Otterbein ESL's contribution to the Otterbein community's literary scene.

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Meet the Writers

"My name is Eun Jin Jung. I am from Korea. My hobby is to watch Korean dramas and travel around the Columbus area."

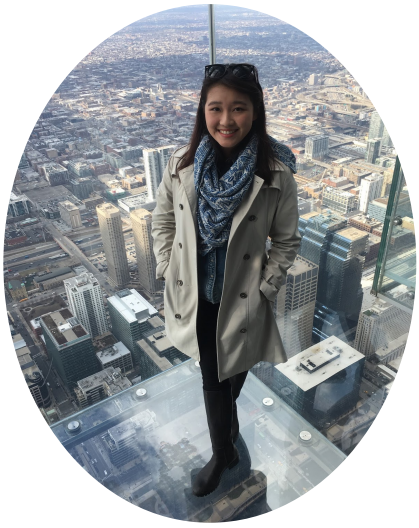
"My name is Na Kyung Kim. I lived in Korea, Japan and the States and travelled to more than 15 countries. My dream is to live and travel around Europe with my family. While studying at Otterbein University, I made lots of good memories that I would never forget."

"My name is YoungJoo Kwon. I'm from South Korea.
I love learning about something new, and what I already knew, again.
I like thinking, reading and listening."

My name is Aileen Lee. I am from Korea. I am studying English. I like to listen to music and watch movie. Also, I love to travel.

Hello, I am Kihoon Kim, and I am from Korea. I have been studying English for 3 months in the U.S. In Korea, my major is environment. I am going to study English for 1 year. My hobbies are to travel around the world and to play bowling

My name is Yu-Ling Tsao. I am from Taiwan. My major is Drama in Application and Creation. I like to watch baseball game, youtube videos and dance.



Candlelight

Brings Down S. Korea President

By Na Kyung Kim

COLUMBUS, OHIO -- It was like seeing an overly exaggerated Korean drama. The daughter of a former President witnessed both of her parents getting assassinated. Her weak soul was influenced by a cult leader and somehow she got elected to become the first female President of Korea. However, due to her political scandals with a long-term confidante Choi Soon Sil, who happens to be the daughter of the cult leader, she was impeached and ended her presidency with disgrace. This was a true story about our ex-President, Park Geun Hae.

Unlike typical dramas with a happy ending for the protagonist, the glorious ending of this story goes to the people of South Korea who have successfully completed the impeachment of the President with non-violent candlelight demonstration. It was praised for its unprecedented size and style of an anti-government protest. It was surprising to know that there was no single casualty reported. I had a biased perspective towards political protests.

For me, they were held by extremists throwing fire bottles at police officers and the law enforcement suppressing the crowd by tear gas. Consequently, people got hurt most of the time; however, this time it was different. There were 20 rallies held over the period of 4 months, with over 1.6 million people gathered at one time, and yet, the participants managed to keep the protests peacefully. The civil organization provided safe marching routes, the police were cooperative, and people controlled their anger by holding candlelight on one hand and their loved one on the other. Frustration and resentment toward the President's scandal mobilized millions of people, usually by family groups and friends, and it successfully pushed the reluctant parliament to vote for impeachment in the National Assembly.
Another surprising thing for me was that it brought out South Koreans to show more interest to politics. Cho Sung-Hun from NY times wrote that the street was filled with various people such as buddhist monks, mothers with babies or pet dogs, and young couples on dates.

These were type of people hardly seen on political protests. Most of my friends who were not passionate about politics attended the anti-Park protest at least once and told me that it was an amazing moment to share their belief with so many people. There were performing musicians, food vendors, and volunteers cleaning after them. They told me that the overall mood was light as if attending a cultural event but they were serious when chanting

"Resign, Park!"

There is a chance that the union that organized the rally may become one of the nominee for the Nobel peace prize as the application process is on the way with encouragement from the world. I am proud of my people as the series of candlelight demonstration showed growth and maturity of a civilized citizen. It certainly set a good example of democracy and marked a cornerstone leading South Korea to a politically developed country.

If You Get A Sick in a Foreign Country, What Should You Do?

When I came in America, I got sick. I could not eat well, I had a stabbing pain in my pit of the stomach. That was reflux esophagitis. The reason why I got a sick was American food didn't suit me. Compared to Korean food, American food is too fatty, oily, and rich. Actually, at first, I did not recognize my illness. I just felt an uncomfortable feeling. I never thought I was sick, because I had never gotten any sickness in Korea. I thought, I am healthy. So, the sickness was regarded as not a big deal. Time passed. But in hindsight, it was totally wrong thinking. If someone suffers something like me, I just don't want him or her to make the same bad mistake I made. I want to share how I cured it.

After getting sick for a few weeks, I went to the student health center, which is near the Campus Center parking lot. At that time, I couldn't endure my pain. I was too foolish. I didn't need to wait to heal by myself. The people at the health center were so kind, nice, and free. As you know, America's medical fee is super expensive. But meeting with the school doctor fee is free for all students. I told the doctor my symptoms. She gave me a prescription and pills. I was in unfamiliar environment, and I needed the help of pills.

I have relatives in Columbus. I am very thankful for this. I always visited my aunt's house every weekend and ate Korean food. My symptoms came from stress. So, I needed familiar things, and my family gave it to me.

When I came here at first, I thought I will do well. I will not miss home, and I can eat every kind of food. But I couldn't. Because my body and mind were nervous without even knowing.

If you are in same situation, you have to try to ease your mind. I know, it is not easy. You only need time to adapt to unfamiliar environments. Plus, don't be stubborn about your health. Even though you have a strong body, you may not be completely healthy here. If you need help, find it, and go early. Please, keep your health and enjoy America.

By Aileen Lee

Feeling Nostalgia

Train trips bring up nostalgic memories for me. Different from past, these days, people go on travels by plane or car. It is a very fast and accessible mode of transportation. But flying requires complex check-in processes. Driving can cause physical and mental fatigue. Travels by train can give you special moments. Last year, my family and I had a train trip. Fares range from $140 to $1200 per person, depending on class. It was a very impressive and unique experience.

My family and I had a plan, which was about taking a trip around the Canadian Rocky Mountains. My husband and I felt uncomfortable driving in a strange place, and a long distance. We decided to travel to Jasper by train. So we used the VIA rail, an independent Crown corporation in Canada, at Vancouver. The train moved us from Vancouver to Jasper. It took about 22 hours. We stayed on the train during two days and one night. It started at 8:30 pm, and arrived at 4 pm next day.

The Crews on the train transformed passenger's seats into beds. My kids liked this process. Also there was a wine party for the passengers at the double-decker carriage. We couldn't participate in the party because of my kids. Other passengers joined the party, and spent time talking with others. This was their own special event of a train trip.

After the special night, which had a little shaking, it was time for breakfast. During the meals, we enjoyed the beautiful scenery, over the wide windows, which changed constantly like an excellent film or notable painting. We had two times fantastic meals.

My family enjoyed the whole time together. We could play a board game, read books, draw pictures, and talk about anything whatever we wanted.

While we enjoyed our way, we arrived at Jasper. Crews would carry baggages from the train to the platform. They gave passengers perfect services until passengers finished their travel on the train. Our new journey would start here, Jasper, and we expected it. Also we were satisfied with this train travel. It was a wonderful experience for us.

My family and I could enjoy the beautiful scenery and the comfortable trip on the train without worrying about driving and motion sickness. A travel on a train will give old people a comfort and time to fall in nostalgia. Also it will give young people new unique experience and time for healing.

By Youngjoo Kwon

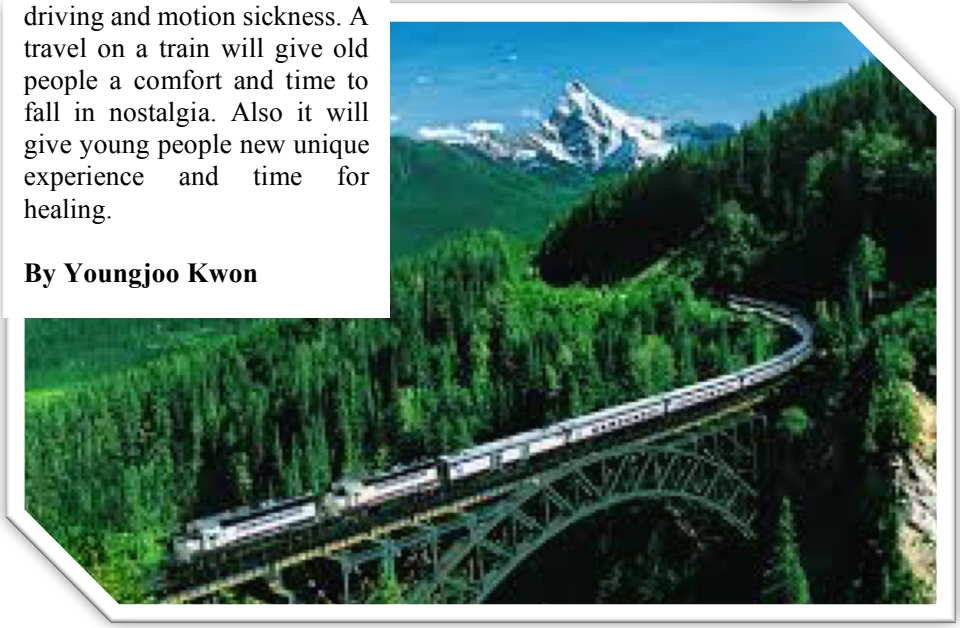


Photo Credit:
http://www.canadiantrainvacations.com
http://www.irtsociety.com
http://www.canadapolarbears.com

I Was A Soldier

It was Jan 15, 2013. I went to the Korean army in winter. At that time, I was 21 years old. In South Korea, every healthy male must go to the army for about 2 years. If you do not go to the army, you will go to jail. Because Koreans are under obligation to protect the country. South Korea and North Korea are technically still at war and have been in a truce since 1953.

When I was 20 years old before going to the army, I really did not want to serve in the army. Because I heard so many army stories from my acquaintances. And I felt like I will lose my own 2 years. But after finishing the army, I thought that there were pros and cons. I learned about social life and manner to one's superiors. Also, I built up my physical strength, and the more I trained, the more I felt confident, so I thought that I could do whatever I want.

On the other hand, there is such unfairness, because an army is an army. Senior leader has to establish military discipline, so subordinates have to follow their orders. I had to clean up the equipment for my superiors every weekend and prepare equipment before doing training, night duty.

The first time, every recruit has to stay in a recruit training center for 1 month. In Korea, Koreans have freedom of religion. Also, soldiers have freedom of religion. During the four weeks of the training camp, the trainees had to eat only food from the military. Nothing can be eaten except for military food. But all the training camps participated in religious events. Because all religions handed out social food to the trainees. So, soldiers who did not believe in religion also participated in religion to eat, and unbelieving soldiers roamed around religions that offered better food.

I was trained for 2 years. There is a lot of training in an army. For example, in winter, every soldier has to be trained for cold weather training. Soldiers have to March 40 kilometers in full gear, and climb up mountains, and be trained in real war situations till dawn. This training takes about 1 week, and return to their base marching 40 kilometers in full gear again. When I was trained cold weather training, I felt that my feet would be cut off soon. I really do not want even to imagine that again.

In the end, I finished military service safely. Sometimes I think that every man needs an army or not, but I cannot decide on an answer every time. What do you think about mandatory military service, is it necessary or not?

What do you think about mandatory military service, is it necessary or not?

By Kihoon Kim

Translating for My Mom in the Smoky Mountains

Last year I went on a trip with my mom without anyone else for the first time. Usually on a trip, I'm the one who people take care of, but this time, since my mom does not speak any English, I had to do all the work; my mom lives in Korea and she came to visit. Although I'm not good at English either, I thought "What can go wrong?" and began our journey. After reserving a hotel to stay in at the heart of Gettysburg, a town inside the Smoky Mountains, we packed our stuff and got on our car.

On our way to Smoky Mountain, we talked many things like when I was young, how I ended up in US, and some conversation between me and my mom that helped reconnect with my mom. The ride was long, but having all kinds of conversations with my mom made it fun.

When we arrived at the hotel, Country Inn and Suites by Carlson, I gave them my reservation ticket and dropped our stuff off at our room. The people working there were nice, nice enough to repeat what they were saying when I didn't understand them. The hotel was small compared to other hotels in Smoky mountains, but the room and the hotel was very organized and clean.

After that, headed out to get lunch, we went to "Dick's Last Resort" where at first we didn't know why the restaurant was so popular, but when we headed in, we realized that this one's different than other restaurants we have been to. As soon as we got in the restaurants, they put a tall white hat over our heads and sat us down on a table.

The out over people in the restaurant were college students around 21, because the theme for this restaurant was to be a "dick" to your customers. My mom and I did not forget the restaurant because it was interesting place for us.

After lunch, we walked around the town. Gettysburg, known for their whiskeys and moonshines, had multiple places where we took a bunch of samples of different drinks.

By EunJin Jung

Next morning, we visited the top of Smoky Mountain call Clingmans Dome but there was cool and we could not see the view at all. The way up was hard too, since we had to park our car and walk up for half a mile

From this trip, I've made many memories with my mom and for the first time went and finished a trip without anyone's help.
Do you try to travel with your parents without any other people.
You and your parents will make eternal memory.

After the long tiring walk back down to our car, we visited the Indian reservation where we watched quick videos about the tribes who lived there and then had a tour through the woods where they had examples how Native Americans lived. After this, we headed back to our hotel and packed to go back home.
You and your parents will make eternal memory.

Photo credit
http://www.visitmysmokies.com
http://www.greatsmokies.com

Legendary Female writer in Taiwan

By Yu-Ling Tsao

***"E**ach time when I miss you, a grain of sand falls from the sky, thus forms the Sahara Desert.*

"Each time when I miss you, a drop of water falls from the sky, this forms the Pacific Ocean."

Photo Credit
http://www.baike.com/wiki/%E4%B8%89%E6%AF%9B

How beautiful this quote is! This quote is from San Mao, who is my favorite author. Her real name is Cheng Ping and Echo is English name. Her work ranges from autobiographical writing to travel writing, and reflection novels to translations of European comic books. San Mao has been regarded as the most legendary female with her charming personality. I have read at least 5 times from middle school. In her books, San Mao mainly share about her stories studying and living abroad with her husband.

San Mao has affected me a lot. She is such a brave and intelligent woman. She changed the way I see this world. The most famous book is The Story of Sahara. She writes about her life in Western Sahara and the traditional African tribe culture . For instance, her neighbor named Guka is only ten years old. One day, she is informed that Guka is going to marry a stranger after two weeks. San Mao joined the celebration and everybody drinks happily. Until midnight, bride and groom walk into to the room and the guests just wait outside. Suddenly, she hears Guka screaming. Guka's husband walks out of the room and waves a fabric with blood. Everybody claps their hands and cheer for him. San Mao felt disappointed and ridiculous. She wrote that at that moment the only thing she wanted to do was to rescue her, but she couldn't. This was part of their culture and she had to respect it even if she thought it was disgusting. San Mao makes me know we have to respect any culture. That is why I am interested in knowing about culture in different countries.

Photo Credit
http://jishi.cntv.cn/special/zjzx/sanmaozm/

All good things come to the end. In 1979 her husband drowned while diving. San Mao ended her travel life and went back to Taiwan. Unfortunately, in 1991 Sanmao hanged herself with a pair of silk stockings and died in a hospital in Taipei.

My favorite book is “Dear San Mao” which collects advice columns that she wrote. Some letters are written about how the readers love Sanmao and some are full of self-doubt. San Mao can always give them great solutions to solve their problems. When I am down, I would read this book and it makes me feel better. Because the letters written by readers include all kind of problems, I can always find a similar situation that I am facing in the book. I can’t live without it so I bring it with me wherever I go.

Mongolian Barbecue on Wednesdays

By EunJin Jung

COLUMBUS, OHIO--Mongolian Barbecue is my favorite restaurant because they have fresh ingredients that you can choose from. Also, the price is pretty low, too. They are open from 11am-10pm, Monday through Thursday, 11am-11pm, Friday through Sunday. It is located at Festival Center, 6242 Sawmill Rd Dublin, OH 43017. You can also call them at 614-798-8300. Their lunch bowl is $9.99, Unlimited bowl is $11.99 where you can pick and choose anything you want as much as you want. At dinner, one bowl costs $14.79, and the unlimited bowl costs $17.99. They also have student discount, so with this discount, one bowl costs $9.99 and unlimited bowl costs $11.99. (The student discount can only be used on Wednesday though.)

In the restaurant, you basically make your own special bowl. You can choose from various raw items like beef, pork, chicken, egg, tofu, and various kinds of seafood. You can also add many kinds of vegetables too, with multiple sauces. There are more than 30 different types! When you finish choosing your items to be cooked, there is a very big grill that a cook cooks the food right in front of you. Basically, you bring your food, ask him or her to cook it in to your liking. Sometimes they entertain you with little tricks like cracking an egg mid air. When the food is done, you can bring the food to your table and eat them with rice, tortilla and lettuce. You can also have free salad bar. Our family goes to this restaurant multiple times since they have very nice waiters, also the food is great compared to the price.

Unending Slavery

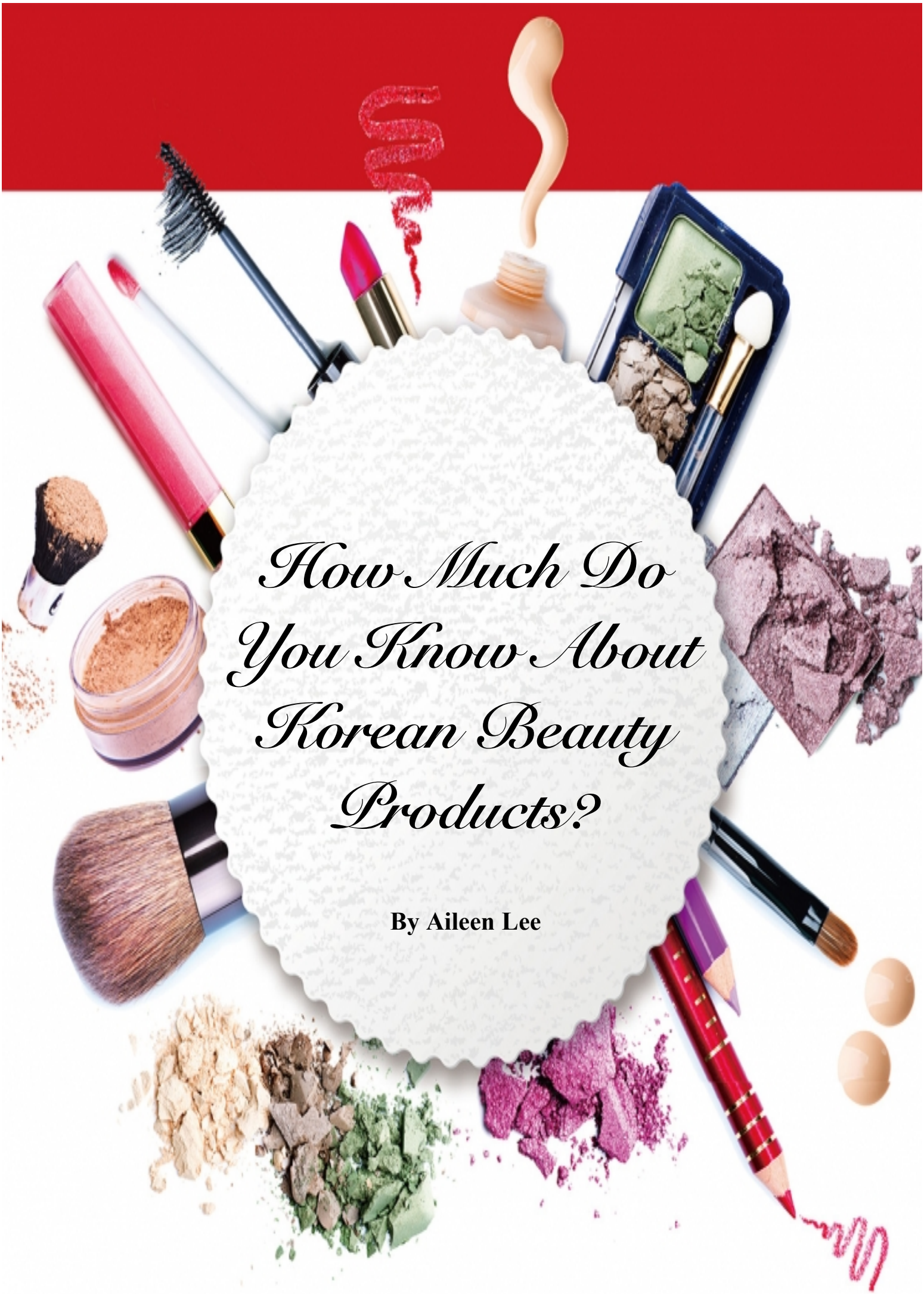
A Review of 13th By YoungJoo Kwon

COLUMBUS, OHIO -- 13th is a documentary, which is made by Ava DuVernay in 2016. "In 2017, this film was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature at the 89th Oscars." (Wikipedia) Director Ava DuVernay, who is "the first black woman to be nominated as a director by the academy in a feature category," (Wikipedia) expressed "the history of racial inequality in the United States, focusing on the fact that the nation's prisons are disproportionately filled with African-Americans." (http://www.space538.org/events/13th) This movie is titled after the 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution.

The 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution declared that ***"Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction."***

We know the slavery was abolished and all black people were set free. This film shows that this situation is not actually true. Director focussed on the "except" part of the 13th Amendment. This film shows the series of historical events, which were involved racial discrimination. It also shows growing criminals, which were related black people. Political leaders of the United States made clever actions. They made black people brutal criminals. A prisoner is another type of slave. The nation's prisons are filled with African-Americans. The United States has legal slaves. This film shows the reverse side of the 13th Amendment. Also, as you watch this film, you can learn about the ALEC, American Legislative Exchange Council. The ALEC is amazing and shocking. You can see Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump, too.

This film is composed of interviews. At first, it is boring. Let's just be patient a little. 13th will make you very astonished. What you have already learned is not actually the truth. *Black Lives Matter* doesn't just trouble African-Americans. It troubles all Americans. You will get a new vision of America. You can see this film on *NETFLIX*. (www.netflix.com).



How Much Do You Know About Korean Beauty Products?

By Aileen Lee

COLUMBUS, OHIO -- Do you guys use cosmetics? I think you use them everyday, no matter if you're a man or a woman. Koreans are very interested in beauty. So, Korean cosmetics are a very big part of industries. I want to introduce a few cosmetics that I use or that are famous in Korea.

1 Sheet Mask

The first product I would like to discuss is the sheet masks of THE FACE SHOP company. It is a really famous beauty product and I use it more than 2 times per week. You can care for your skin with a reasonable price. For example, you can easily get the sheet mask just $1. But that's not the only reason why the sheet mask is so popular in Korea. If you use them for a couple of days, you can know that your skin is better.

2 Sun Block

The second product I want to review is the Primera company's sun block. It is an essential product that all the people should us to protect their skin from ultravioletrays. And for woman, it is based on every make-up. The biggest difference from other contries' products is texture. What I want to introduce sun block is not watery. It is more thicker than what you have already known. Thus, it is to permeate your skin well

3 Cushion Foundation

The last product that I would like to recommend is for woman. It is chusion foundation. Most Korean woman use this type of foundation more than pump and liquid type. It is a portable, easy to adjust quantity. And, it is good for touching up make-up. Also, there is mirror in the compact, so you can check up your appearence, whenever, wherever

There are some ways to get Korean cosmetics when you want to use them; just go to Sephora, or order them online. You can easily find that in Korean skincare.

Photo Credit

http://m.cosinkorea.com/index.html?cname=mobile&sname=n_04_05&dcode=18846

http://www.shopatkorea.com/primera-skin-relief-uv-protector-spf50-pa/

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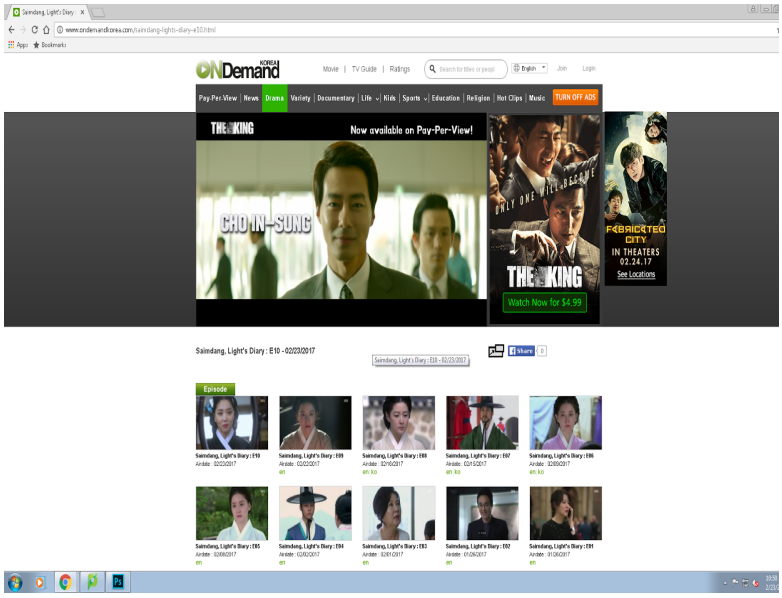
Wanna Watch

COLUMBUS, OHIO -- If you are interested in watching Korean TV shows or dramas, you may want to download OnDemandKorea application on your cell phone or watch it through online streaming on your laptop or AppleTV. The best part is that you don't need to register or pay anything to watch your favorite show.

OnDemandKorea (www.ondemandkorea.com) offers variety of content including Korean dramas, news, TV shows, movies, education and even sports. They also offer English and Chinese subtitles, so anyone who can speak either language can enjoy the service as well. The update speed is amazing and it takes only about an hour to see the show after it is aired in Korea.

Free Korean Dramas?

By Na Kyung Kim



However, as it is a streaming service, high speed internet connection is required. You have to endure watching several advertisements during the shows which could be annoying. For people who do not like to watch commercials, they offer a 'ODK-Plus' service which requires $6.99/month. Recent movies are offered by pay-per-view as well.

It is easy to find free online content on the web but they are mostly illegal or have a very low-quality resolution. OnDemandKorea is legal and it has most of the popular TV shows you want to watch all gathered in one site. It is easy to access and convenient to watch at anytime you want. OnDemandKorea is recommended to anyone who is interested in Korean content or even to people who haven't seen one yet. Why not give it a try? It's free and fun! It certainly is my best choice of enjoying Korean TV shows.

KOREA mand

Photo Credit
http://www.148apps.com/app/1076891806/
http://ondemandkorea.android.informer.com/
http://www.ondemandkorea.com/blog/?p=2074
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https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:OnDemandKorea.png
https://www.dramafever.com/news/now-you-can-watch-dramafever-on-the-new-apps-for-fire-tv-and-fire-tv-stick/

Best Theme Park Ever

Yu-Ling Tsao

COLUMBUS, OHIO---- Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida is everybody's dream. Additionally, Disney World in Orlando is the biggest Disney world all over the world and Animal Kingdom is the biggest park in Orlando Disney World. Animal Kingdom is devided into six themed area; Discovery Island, Africa, Asia, Donland U.S.A., Oasis Rafifi's Planet. I can feel When I just arrived at Animal Kingdom, I thought it is just "Disney Zoo". However, facts proved that my worries were uncalled for. Animal Kingdom became my favorite theme park. It combines zoo and theme park perfectly. My favorite attraction is Kilimanjaro Safaris. We sit on a open-air vehicle and go into a wildlife adventure. The environment is almost same as a real savanna. Animals are all active there. In addition to, shows are also popular. We watched Nemo and Lion King. Both of them are high quality performances. Lion King is my favorite show which combines with stunt performance and songs of the movie. By the way, don't be worry about long line for attractions. We can get three fast pass reservation online before your trip. I think Fall and Spring is great season to visit. No matter what, you have to visit Animal Kingdom. It won't disappoint you.

Photo by writer

How To Learn English

By Kihoon Kim

Otterbein University, Westerville, OH

There are 73 international students; some students have been studying since 2011 and others joined in 2017. Most students have been at Otterbein University since 2016. They study International business, Psychology Allied Health, Equine Science and much more. International students are from Japan, South Africa, South Korea, China, Taiwan, England, Sri Lanka, Mexico, Brazil, Jordan, India, Nepal, Canada, Sweden, Russia, and Singapore.

Some students would like to become more proficient in English; Others look to stay in the US long term and work here.

Ling, who is from Taiwan, has been here for six months, is an exchange student. Her major is drama in education. She said, “you have to spend all of the time to learn English after class.” She likes watching youtube and Taiwanese drama in English and listen to American drama.

Hikari, who is from Japan, has been here for one month, is an exchange student.
She said, “you must speak English much time, Do not care about grammar, just speak and have confidence.” She told me that watching American movies is a good way to listen and speak English.

Omar, who is from Jordan, has been here for one month. He is an ESL student, and his major is engineering. He said “you should go to the school or college and listen to the music.

Exploring The United States

By Na Kyung Kim

WESTERVILLE, OHIO - Three female international students from Otterbein University travelled to Miami, Orlando, Boston, NYC, and Washington D.C. for three weeks during their winter break. It was the first time for the exchange students from Taiwan and Japan to visit somewhere outside of Ohio.

The total amount they used for the trip was around $2,500 per person. They reserved transportation and accommodation ahead but they planned their daily schedule everyday for spontaneous activities. Planning ahead, they used websites, such as, 'Booking.com' and private travel blogs to gather information about the cities.

They took airplanes from Columbus to Miami, and from Washington D.C. to Columbus. Other transportations they used were buses, bikes, and Uber (www.ubber.com) services. They reserved hotels around $30 per person and bought weekly subway passes and 'City Pass'(www. citypass.com) to save money.

There was a dangerous moment in Miami when they attempted to take a long bike ride to go to another island and didn't know the path was going through rough neighborhoods. "I don't know if because we were young girls or racism... they made fun of us," said Yu-Ling Tsao from Taiwan. Further, Google Map service led them to a bridge they had to cross but they found out that it was closed. She advised not to rely on Google Map so much but to research ahead.

However, for most of the trip, they said they felt safe because they didn't go out at night except for the New Year's Eve in Manhattan. They went to Time Square to see the countdown 12 hours early. "We didn't feel cold because there were so many people. We bought diapers because I heard we couldn't go to bathroom after we get inside," said Naoko Hirakami from Japan. She emphasized that they endured without using the diapers and witnessed the very first moment of 2017 with thousands of crowds. "We are young and we are in America and this may be our last chance," said Ms. Tsao."It must be precious memory for us," said Ms. Hirakami.

Photo Credit:
Hisoka
Naoko

Enjoy Your Time In Columbus

By YoungJoo Kwon

DUBLIN- You shouldn't leave for enjoying your time to another city or state. Columbus has various interesting places.

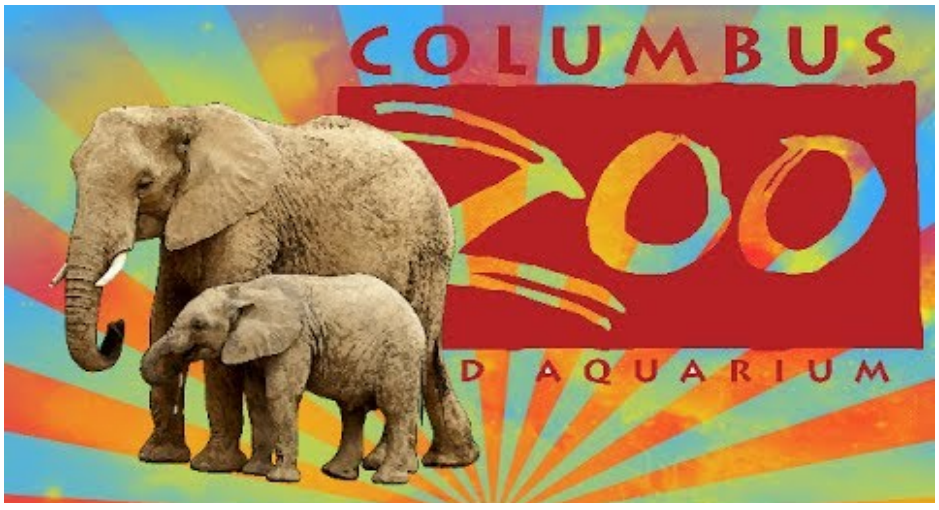
You can experience and meet animals all over the world at Columbus Zoo and Aquarium. "The best place for kids in Columbus is the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium," said Mary Miehls, who lives in Dublin, "I go to the Zoo a lot. I grew up going there myself and I now take my child there at least once a week from March to October." Also, she said "There are all kinds of activities there, arts and crafts, camps, birthday parties, animal encounters, animal shows and lots of educational opportunities. Plus yummy food and plenty of places to play in open spaces or on playgrounds."

You can be surrounded by Mother Nature's arms in Hocking Hill. "For my family, the most favorite place is Hocking Hill, about an hour from Columbus. It is a part of national forest that include caves, falls." Hyejoo Lee, lives in Dublin, said "We could visit only 'Old Man's Cave' because of a limited time. We really enjoyed that place. The scenery was very beautiful."

North Market. "I have been there many times, it is near the downtown. It is different from department store. You can find many handiworks. You can have some foods from several countries."

Whether it is a half-day or a full day, you can have a great time in Columbus, Ohio.

Photo Credit:
https://www.hockinghillsgolfclub.com/hockinghills_attraction
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eMxJ6sVlK3I



Haiku Poems

By Na Kyung Kim

Alarm wakes me up
I brush and wash. Ready nov
Oh, No! It's a dream

By Kihoon Kim

Cellphone steals my time
But I can't quit this cellphone
Cellphone is like drug

By Yume Ozaki

Colorful fireworks
Gone in the heaven like you
With shiny little sparks

Photo Credit:
http://www.dreamstime.com
http://www.smarterware.org
http://www.greatergadsden.com

The Wonderful Encounters

By Yume Ozaki

Back in the spring in 2013, I came to Hiroshima as a school trip. I cannot forget what happened to me and my friend at there. That was a beautiful moment.

*　　*　　*

"This is the oldest hot spring in Japan, and also a model of the famous movie, which was made 10 years ago by Miyazaki Hayao…" The old lady guide is talking. I and my friend, Yurie are bored to hear her hackneyed speech. She keeps talking over 30 minutes already.

"Let's escape from here, Yume." Yurie whispers to me by my ear.

We stealthily sneak away our group not to be found by our teacher, and start walking along the small, old shopping district where various souvenirs and special products of Hiroshima are sold. We just wander around there looking at each shop.

She suddenly stops her steps and says, "Hey, can you hear the sound? Like… cat's meowing?"

I strain my ears. Yes, I surely hear the delicate crying of a cat.

We follow that direction of the voice, and find the white cat at the back of a small ice cream shop. This shop is closed somehow. She meows when she sees us. She looks so painful as to breathe with difficulty. Looking her carefully, we realize that her stomach is strangely huge.

"By chance, is she pregnant?"

We are almost freaking out. I have never encountered a birth, and besides cat!　Should we do anything for her? What should we do then?

And then, a young couple came close to us. The woman looks Japanese like us, but the other man looks a foreigner. To be surprised, they are smoothly talking in English.

"Oh, she is almost giving a birth, isn't she?" The woman says, "I'll bring some towels back from our hotel to make her keep warm!" Then she disappears leaving him.

He seems not to be able to speak Japanese. I do not know if I should talk to him, or rather if I can talk in English, since I do not have any confidence for my English skills at all. Literally, not at all. Surprisingly, he talks to us in English with softly smiling. I encourage myself and answer back in English.

"I… we are just a tourist, and just heard cat's voice and…"

I know that my English does not make sense, but I try to explain the situation when we meet the cat. He is listening to me while smiling and nodding. I am relieved somehow because this man has a warm and welcoming air about him. I feel so comfortable when I am talking even though it is almost first time for me to communicate with a foreigner in a language except Japanese.

The woman comes back with some towels and water. The cat still pitifully looks like she is in pain. We cannot do anything except watching her by her side. But she looks relieved not to be alone. Strangely, when the guy tries to leave here, she only meows as if she calls him back. She might notice his indescribable- warmness as the soft and cozy sun light in spring.

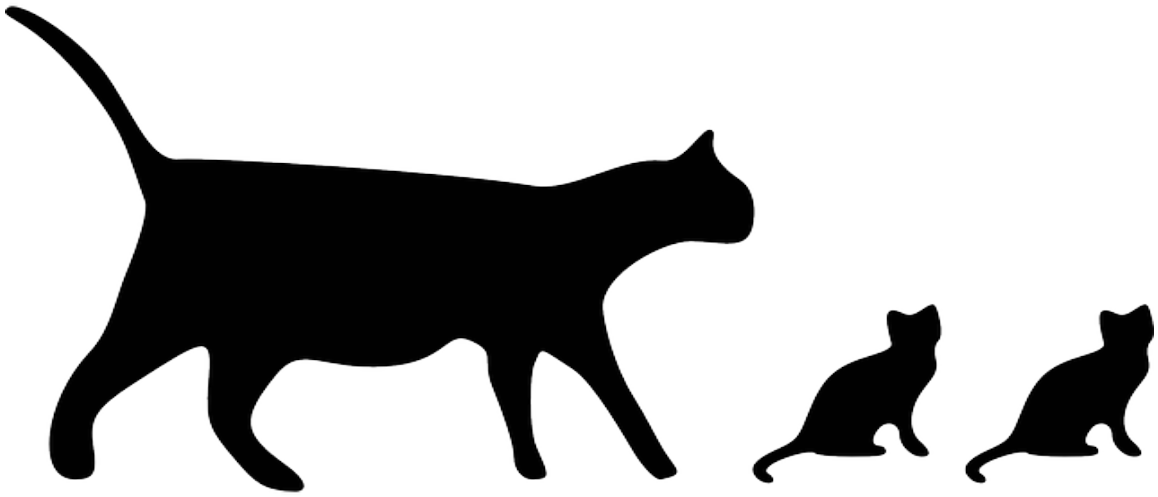
After a while, “Yume, we got to go now, our group supposes to be back our hotel in 5 minutes!” Yurie reminds me.

I do not want to leave there. I want to watch her giving birth at the last moment by her side. Yurie pulls my arm. I stand up and say “Thank you” to a couple.

He smiles and says, “Enjoy your trip, girls!”

* * *

While we were going back to our hotel, I remember that I could not stop my tears somehow. I did not why what that tears for. Maybe I was so touched with the beautiful moment of cat birth. I believe that the cat connected me with the international couple. Since I heard their smooth conversation in English, the woman has been my adoration. I clearly remember that I felt that I wanted to be like her. But at the same time, I realized that there is more important thing than a language to communicate with people. It is smiling, like he did.



My Old Lady

By YoungJoo Kwon

When I was a child, I used to take it all for granted. I thought all considerations were fair and natural. I loved to be with my old lady, which was the meaning of my grandmother's name. I used to like to go to my old lady's house. She was always kind to me and she loved me. I was the only one grand-daughter of all the grandchildren.

One day, I visited my old lady's house. She had a small farm and cultivated many crops. She had schedule for harvesting potatoes that day. I felt a kind of interesting to harvesting potatoes. I wanted to join that work. She concerned about hot weather, but I pestered her.

She took me along to the potato field. I was upset to have new experience. I learned how to dig out potatoes. It was very amazing! When I dug the soil, I could find connected potatoes in one underground stem. It was covered with potatoes. After a number of digging, I became a rich of potatoes. It was the best interesting and the best pleasure to me.

Sadly, the interesting didn't keep going for a long time. I realized the sun was hot, and there was no shade and no wind. It was a boiling hot day. Fresh plants smells made me suffocate. I hunkered down to dig out potatoes on the row. My legs were not mine any more. I felt my back bone would be fixed and my waist would be broken. I wanted to give up my work. I took a look around the field. Other people kept going their work. I had no concern for them.

I found my old lady. She had kept going with her work. My old lady was very old. She had a white short hair and a bent back. She had a small frame, almost same height as me, and slimmer than me. Unlike her appearance, her voice was pretty husky and loud. I wondered if she couldn't feel such pain or she endured it well. I was sure that I was more healthy than her. Except me, she would continue the work. That was unnatural. Anyway, I couldn't give up that work. I felt that the small field had changed to become the largest one, the row in front of me wouldn't be end. I was just a ten-year-old girl hunkered down under the sun. Two divided myself struggled in my mind. So many emotions crossed my mind.

My old lady looked at me and smiled.
"How about take a rest and go back to my house," she suggested.

I could not answer immediately. I would have this indulgence. I didn't really want to do like her word. But I, surrendered to physical pain, and accepted her suggestion.

" Yes. I will go back home alone."

At last, I came back her house alone, then I took a nap.

Late afternoon, my old lady came back home, too. She didn't take a rest. She began to start make a dinner. We had a delicious dinner. She complimented me on my effort.

"Thank you for your helping. Because of you, I am very happy and I don't feel too tired," she said.

I felt the shame one more time. There were no natural things. Everything, what I have had and what I have enjoyed, was an effort and a consideration of someone. I really respected her life and appreciated her love for me.

A Regret Memoir

Lan Tian

When I was 15 years old, my mom bought two budgerigar parrots for me. That was when I attended senior high school. They were one blue and one green. They were so adorable and lovable. I loved them so much when I first saw them.

Why did my mom buy them for me? Because before that I had a period of dreaming to have two parrots every day. I thought they are cute and I also preferred birds. So I pleased my mom to buy two parrots for me. But my mom was very unhappy with that idea. Animals were unacceptable for she thought they can bring germs and virus to home. I said the only two parrots won't bring the germs and virus to home. But my father told me:" Don't think you can get everything if you want. This time we buy you the two parrots, next time we may buy the two tigers in the zoo."

But I didn't feel agree with them. I only wanted to have two parrots this time! So I bagged my mom everyday and exhausted every kind of excuses and finally made her felt so impatient that she bought two parrots for me. I finally got them to my wish!

The green one was male, and the blue one was female. I quickly gave names for them. The green male was called Johnny and the blue female was called Vanessa. They ate bird corn and lived in a pink house like a cage. It had two boxes and three doors at the bottom. One box was for food and one box was for water. The big door was the main door and the other small ones were for food and water. It also had a round swing hanged in the middle of the inner cage. They sometimes liked to stand on it.

The blue Vanessa was so bossy that she never allowed the green Johnny to eat with her at the same time. When he did it, she would pick him. They nearly twittered all the time every day. Their twitter was clear and sweet. They looked beautiful and cute in figures and motion. Sometimes they would also did fun motions like stretch their wings and legs.

But you would felt busy to blow their food ashes and tidy their home every day. Certainly, they also disturbed my concentration when I studied at home. I couldn't control to look at them for several times when I studied.

I loved them day by day. One day, after school I brought them to the balcony to let them bask the sun. I also fed them with food. But after that, I forgot to shut down the cage door.

After lunch I went back to look at them. To my surprise they were not in the cage. They flew away! I can only heard them twitter on the tree but not seen them anymore. I was so sad and filled with regret that I cried. It was a big pity to let the such big sad thing happened. They were so cute and lovable that not worth to leave me so early. They ought to live a long time and death in my home. It was winter when they left. Maybe they couldn't find food and cold starved to death. Due such a mistake, they got such a tragedy.

From then on, I also kept other parrots. But I think the two that are missing are the most cute!

Photo Credit:
http://mascotafiel.com/que-alimentos-comen-los-periquitos-australianos/