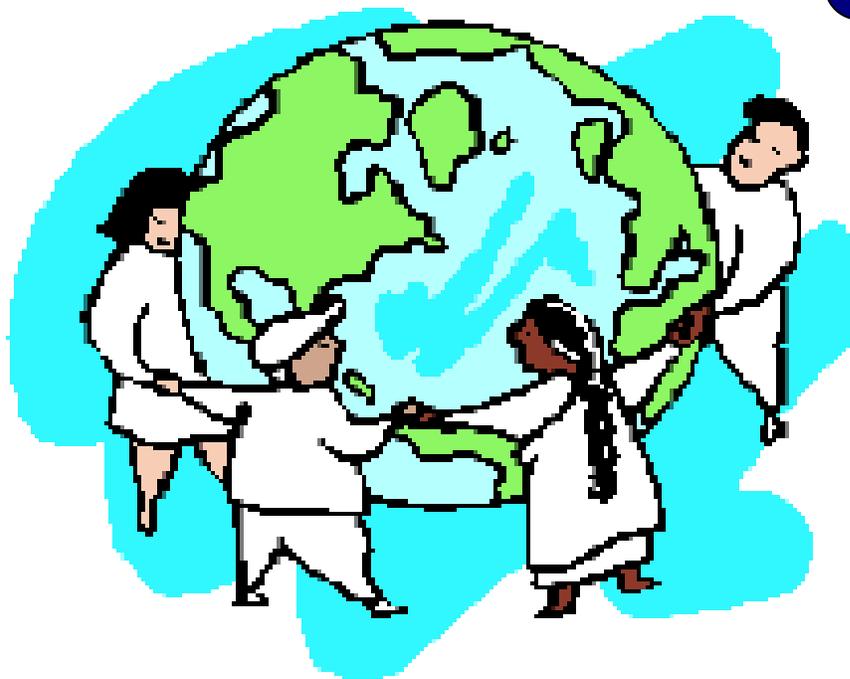


IHOUSE 04 - 05



Make friends around the world...

San Jose State University Foundation
PHYLLIS FORWARD SIMPKINS
INTERNATIONAL HOUSE NEWSLETTER
FALL 04 - SPRING 05

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The Lion's Den

Jenin Abed (Germany)

"Jenin, don't you feel uncomfortable going to the United States these days, after all that happened? After Iraq?" "What? You're going to the States? An Arabic girl? How could you do that?" "Beware of the CIA, Jenin!" and "Wow, you beard the lion in his den!" These are some of the comments that I heard from people in Germany when I told them that I would study in the United States. The United States reputation is not the best for the moment. It is suffering from wars, Bush, Guantanamo, capitalism, and torture.

Honestly, I was really worried about these facts, but when I came to San Jose I realized that I am really in Mexico. But even that was not so sure. Thanks to the International House, I was confused about where I actually am. Sometimes it felt like Spain or Latin America, sometimes like France, sometimes like home. I was surrounded by people speaking Japanese, Spanish, French, English, and a lot more. Only here is it possible to learn 20 languages at one time. Here is the place where Japan made peace with Korea, Palestine with Israel, Armenia with Turkey and so on. Finally!

I will tell people in Germany that I had the most peaceful time of my life in the United States. It was really worth it to visit the lion in his den.



A vision of Kabul

Nina Schjelderup (Norway, I-Center '85 - '94...)
First Secretary, Development Cooperation
Embassy of Norway, Kabul

An interview by resident Dino Kouyialis (Cyprus)

Dear Dino,

Background information: I started studying at SJSU in the fall of 1984. I first moved into the I-Center in Spring, 1985. I stayed in and around the I-Center on and off until I graduated in Spring, 1994, working as an RA, office assistant and Assistant Director among other "things" at the I-Center. I have a Bachelor in Business and a Master in Social Science. In 2000 I took a year off from work to pursue a postgraduate diploma in African Studies at University in Cape Town, South Africa.

Q. Are you in Kabul right now, and if yes do you move a lot around the rest of the country? What is the state of the country right now? Is there a feeling of safety or not?

Yes, I'm located in Kabul, working for the Norwegian Embassy here. The first ever-presidential elections were held in October, and the Parliamentary election is scheduled to take place in September this year. The security situation is unstable and unpredictable. Some anti-democratic

forces are interested in destabilizing the country during and around these elections. Certain areas in Kabul are considered safe, while we avoid other areas at times when security forces have information on potential terrorist acts against the international military forces, the international community in general and/or the Afghan government. Movements around the country are limited due to the unstable security situation, but I have visited a couple other provinces.

Q. What exactly do you do? Is it voluntary? Is it a humanitarian service?

I work for the Norwegian Embassy as an employee of the Norwegian government. I'm a diplomat. Afghanistan is one of the major recipients of Norwegian development assistance. Development cooperation is when a developed nation (rich country) assists a developing nation (poor country) with money and expertise to enable the developing country to help its people out of poverty. Norway contributes to certain sectors in Afghanistan,

education being one of them. My job is to make sure the education program (and other programs in other sectors) which Norway and other countries support in Afghanistan is as good and effective as possible, and that the money is used in the best possible way. To do this I work closely with the Afghan government, with civil society, and with other donor nations/Embassies.

Q. Would you call what you are doing a liturgy? A service to the Afghani people?

Yes, what I do is certainly a service to the Afghan people. The Afghan government wants all its children to go to school (the Millennium Development Goal for 2015). At present there are not enough schools or teachers, and families are too poor - and many places in the country too scared by the unstable security situation - to send their children to school, especially the girls. The international community, including Norway, is therefore assisting the Afghan government in building schools, training teachers, and creating income-generating activities.

Q. Do you feel that you are making a difference in the world? Can the actions of one person bring change to the world, or just hope?

I believe in joint efforts. The more various forces are working together, the stronger the force becomes, and the more likely it is that it will make a difference. I feel that I am contributing to Norway's support of the Afghan government and the Afghan people. Norway's and the international community's job in this country is to support the government by helping it to develop and be strong enough to help its people out of poverty. We are also giving support to civil society (Non governmental organizations - NGOs) because we believe in civil society as a counterpart to the government.

As a diplomat I work mainly with overall structures rather than with individual Afghan people on the ground. I feel I'm making a difference on behalf of Norway and because I share the values I'm supposed to represent by being a diplomat for Norway. I can also see how our efforts are making a difference for individuals, families, and communities. But the important part is that it has to be sustainable, meaning our task must be to enable the Afghan government and civil society to provide the goods and services now coming from the international community.

Q. Would you do what you are doing right now if it were not through an official establishment

such as the Norwegian Government? I mean would you do it if you were not working for your government? Would you join an international relief agency as an individual?

Good question. I've been wanting to work for the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation/Ministry of Foreign Affairs since I was 15 years old. Working with development cooperation has always been interesting to me. I would, even today, like to try working more "on the ground", for an NGO like the Red Cross or the Norwegian Refugee Council, or maybe for the UN. I might just try that sometime in the future, changing from the political level to more groundwork.

Q. What does it do to you, seeing all that pain and sorrow every day? Has it wounded your soul yet? Are you trying to be emotionally detached from it?

Another very good question. I guess one to a certain degree detaches oneself in order to be able to do a job, and you keep your eyes where you see hope. I get very touched by the lives of individual people I meet. Afghan people are proud, and they have learned to survive through many wars. People's dignity touches me -- women and young girls determined to make a life

for themselves, despite the very many obstacles in the country, not least for the female population. I learn something, and understand more, of my own life from what I see and experience in Afghanistan. No, I don't feel wounded, rather enriched!

Q. Does this job have priority over other areas in your life?

Hi hi hi. I guess so, since you're talking to a 41-year old single woman! In many ways the job I now have here in Afghanistan is the one job I've "always" wanted. This has been a priority so far in my life. I plan to go back to Norway in 2006 or 2007. In many ways I wish I was younger now, so I could begin the "settling down" part of my life with marriage and children ... Life is based on choices for all of us and I don't believe I would make different ones if I were to start all over again. The older I get, the more I chose to believe in faith: What comes my way is for me to learn something from, what does not come my way is not "meant to be"- maybe I would have nothing to learn from it. Whether one believes in this or not, I think it's a comforting thought!

Q. Something more private now. You don't have to answer it if you feel that I am invading your personal life. Are you married? Does this job require sacrifices on

your part so far? How far would you go?

Oooops, I think I answered this question already. Single with no regrets, but after my job here in Afghanistan is finished, ready to find a young, handsome Norwegian man and "settle down" (-: ... until my next mission at least (-:

Q. I know it sounds cliché, but if you had the power to be heard around the world, and inside the walls of the White House, what would you say to those who are playing with the fate of the world?

Stop the universal Apartheid!!! Allow free movement of people and goods. Lift all restrictions. For the energy, money, and resources the rich part of the world is putting into protecting its own markets and borders, we could have eliminated poverty many times over and once and for all. It's really absurd when you start thinking about it! Development cooperation would not be necessary. Nobody would get any welfare from any government, but could freely move around the world and make money from equal opportunities! I would have to find another line of work, and Norway in the freezing north would probably not be very populated, but I still think the world would be a better place to live in general!

Q. I know that the Scandinavian example of socialism was pioneering in the protection of human rights around the world, and the Scandinavian countries are the protagonists in the struggle for a more liberal and humane world. Did growing up in that kind of an environment influence you in any way? Do the rest of the Scandinavians think like that?

Yes, I think the "Scandinavian values" and the Scandinavian model of social democracy have influenced me to be interested in the world's inequalities. Our location and size has allowed us nation-building on a much smaller and more common scale. Even though this small corner of the world called Scandinavia is becoming more diverse in terms of people and attitudes, there is a common red thread in our values, making us to a large extent "like-minded" in a developing context. Also, I believe my 10 years spent in and around the International House has had influence on me in this regards.

If any new or old friends want to get in touch, I can be contacted at nsc@mfa.no .

Greek – Turkish Dinner at I-House !

Mert Ulas (Turkey)

It was a big surprise followed by a smile for everyone who heard about our dinner. A Greek-Turkish dinner prepared by mainly three international students, one student from Cyprus, one student from Greece and the other student from Turkey. The idea came first from Dino, my friend from Cyprus. He wanted to make a different event from the Mediterranean Dinner to give the residents a more local taste.

I thought we could not find the required ingredients but we were pretty lucky that Dino had some relatives here who knew where to find the Middle Eastern markets but the things we ate everyday in our countries were luxury products for here so we override the budget as expected. It is very sad that we have to pay extra for the food we are used to eat everyday in our countries.

In the day of event we started cooking from morning till afternoon. Many other residents helped us while cooking, it was very fun and we had no conflicts at all. We started serving at 7 o'clock in the dining room which was decorated by Greek and Turkish flags. We had a play list of Greek and Turkish music playing. As far as I can see, all the guests, more than forty people, enjoyed their dinner while trying to pronounce the names of the foods. After the dinner we showed a movie called "Taste of Spice" which was a Greek-Turkish movie and maybe the best choice of movie to be shown after a dinner like that.

No matter how the politics are between those countries, there are still bonds between their citizens who have lived on the same land together for long time. I hope more opportunities and events like that will strengthen our relationships cause for many centuries we have dined at the same table and many more we shall.



Residents from Japan, Thailand, Croatia, Indonesia, Taiwan, USA and Korea at Greek-Turkish Dinner, I-House (Spring 2005)

I won't be diplomatic about it

Constantino "Dino" Kouyialis (Cyprus)
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I won't be diplomatic about it. I never liked Turks. If not for anything else they ousted my parents from their home and occupy half of my country for more than thirty years now. I grew up learning in school about my nation's great struggles to fend off the Ottoman invader, and the triumph of Christianity over Islam. Learned about our heroes getting "skewered" on sticks, patriarchs getting hanged while chanting songs of freedom...Many years have past since then. I don't feel like that anymore, and I learned a few more things. I learned that nothing is black and white, and that both sides did mistakes. Some would say, one side did more bad than the other, but wrong is wrong no matter what the numbers say. I realized that the reason all this hatred was transfused from generation to generation was because some fanatics wouldn't have it any other way. And the few evil can do a lot of bad. It took one man with a funny mustache to bring the world to the brink of destruction. And of course you can always count on the ever-contemporary world powers to either capitulate on that fanaticism and hatred, or stir it up a little bit, so they can get their own. A bit of an old classic "divide and conquer". And when the few are done taking, and when they are done raping the land, a land that they do not

own, who do you think is left to pick up the pieces? Ordinary people will.

Greeks and Turks have fought for centuries. They fought for Cyprus, they fought for the Rome of the East; the pearl of the world, for Constantinople, they fought for Smyrna or Izmir as the Turks call it now, and they are still fighting over the Aegean Sea, but for the most part they lived in peace. The older ones have nice stories to tell. Some of them have bad ones, but why should we remember those? The human mind has a tendency to disregard bad information, and time heals old wounds, and scars. If we are to look back in the past, we should only take the good memories. The smell of orchards! The summer breeze under the pinewood trees. Fruits, spices, colors, women. These are the memories that we should keep. Yes, a nation needs to know its history in order to face the future, but if that past is going to be an obstacle to peace then maybe nations should learn to be more flexible. It's going to be hard, especially for those who experienced all the grudges, but it is going to be easier for the generations to come. All it takes, it is leaders with vision, and believers. Believers of peace.

I am getting lost as I am writing. This is a matter that affects me personally and I

tend to get emotional about it. As I am writing, millions of thoughts and blurry images are going through my mind. And I am struggling; to catch them, materialize them, put them down on paper, and arrange them in some order so they make sense. Do I succeed? I do not know, but what I do know is this: I came to this house, and I met a Turk. His name is Mert. Mert Ulas. In my life I only met four Turks! A small number if you compare them to the amount of French I met...The first one was our guide in Antalya, in southern Turkey during the Junior World Cross Country Championships. The second one was a leather goods salesman in the same city, who sold to me a great quality leather vest for a great price!! He even tried to burn the vest with his Zippo to prove the authenticity of his product! There in his shop my friends and I tasted for the first time a Turkish tea! It wasn't that bad if you consider that we thought it was made of cyanide! The third one was this waiter at this great Turkish restaurant in London. It was a beautiful April night in Angel. Café Gallipoli was the name. My best friend Ellie took me there because me being a good food lover and all she felt that I would enjoy it. It was quite funny to watch her being all proud about herself taking me there, cause she knew how I felt about it, and she felt it was quite entertaining, me puffing and huffing going there. And indeed, I went there with a bit of skepticism. But then, I opened the menu, and half of the things in it, we eat

them as well in Cyprus and Greece. Halloumi was hellim. Keftes was kioftes, and Imam Baldi was Imam Baldi. And it wasn't just that. As the night progressed, the waiter I was talking about earlier got warmer and warmer, and before I know it he was on the table and dancing. Watching Rauf (I can't remember his real name) jumping from table to table reminded me of back home, and it made me think; maybe *these* people aren't so bad anymore.... and then again there was Ellie's testimony who claimed that the Turks she was buying halloumi from were top quality lads!

The fourth Turk I met was Mert. The first thing I wanted to do was to crack his skull open! Nah! I'm just joking, but let's just say that I wasn't overwhelmed. But then I got to know him a bit and he was alright. Simple as that. After a while I got to know him a bit better so that gave me the intimacy level I was looking for to approach for a kill! The sizzling question? Was he involved with the invasion of my island and did he know anything about it? To my great surprise he knew very few things. I was also flabbergasted to find out that he was not involved with the invasion. I am a very clever man. I did the math and him being 24, it would have been impossible to be involved with the invasion, since he was minus six years old at the time. And right then it hit me! This man knew nothing about my country's tragedy, let alone being blamed for it. And

right there Mert ceased to be a Turk. He was no longer a Turk. He was just Mert. A new acquaintance, a future friend. A few months later Mert and I hosted a Greek-Turkish dinner, with another Greek friend Katerina, for the rest of our housemates. We had a lot of fun that day!

Some say that food brings people together. I agree. I say we have a lot more in common than we have keeping us

apart. Some would say the exact opposite, but if the food is the only thing we have in common let it be the thing upon we built our common history...The entire world is divine love shared as food and drink. A meal is not only material, but also it is a profound spiritual experience. They say: "man is what he eats", and if we eat the same, aren't we the same? I won't be diplomatic about it; halloumi or hellim it still tastes the same! And it tastes great!

In This Gloaming Hour

Christopher A. Wolfe "Alan" (USA)

In this gloaming hour,
this moment between moments,
I sit and think of what has gone
and what is yet to come.
my only company the memories
of the last hour's sunlight
and the wispy non-moments of
the next hour's moonlight.
Memories have no actuality here in this
between-time.
I think back to walks at night along
Charlemagne's way of light
and through barley fields lit up by Mars.
A red eye awake in the mid of night.
That eye stares down at us—
chased us and now waits.
It waits in the night ahead of us,
where it will greet our souls like it did by the *Friedhof*.
The *Friedhof* whose flowers we enjoyed—
the flowers we hoped would be there,
when we moved on through the gloaming.



(Left to Right)
Top: Sindy, Leann, Helle, Marijan
Bottom: Pilar, Jenna, Alan

Ii-ne!

Yumiko Miyagawa (Japan)

Do you know something about Japanese music? It's not only *enka*. We also have punk, rock, pop, rap, and R&B. Japanese music is not famous like American music, but it's good stuff as well. I want many people to know about Japanese music, so I'd like to introduce my favorite Japanese artist, Crazy Ken Band.

Actually, even Japanese don't know much about Crazy Ken Band. In 1997, Crazy Ken Band was organized around Ken Yokoyama. The band's central location is Yokohama, which also their home town; their music has many place names of Yokohama. Moreover, they made a song to call people to reduce the amount of trash in Yokohama and wrote the anthem of Yokohama baseball team. These are ways they contribute to their hometown of Yokohama.

Yokoyama said, "I want to tell young people about cool stuff from the Showa era." As he said, their music sounds like Japanese classic pop, *kayokyoku*. It sounds a little bit old and uncool, but these aren't weaknesses but are attractions. Listening to their music make you know the roots of Japanese music. Yokoyama also got close to foreign

music since he was a kid. Though their music sounds like *kayokyoku*, elements of rock, funk, bossa nova, and soul are included in it. Therefore, it has the attraction of Japanese music, and it has the attraction of world music. It means that you can approach their music easily.

Then, I'll show you some songs from Crazy Ken Band. My favorite is "GT". Yokoyama is also well informed about the car. GT consists of Gran Turismo. This song is about going girl-hunting by the sea in his dream car, GT. This rhythmical and up-tempo sound makes you want to have fun. The next song is "Tiger and Dragon". This song is the opposite of "GT". This song, "Tiger and Dragon", can make people feel like Japanese very much. The sounds, lyrics, and his way of singing, brings us the atmosphere of Japan.

I have one more thing I want to say. Yokoyama always says his favorite phrase, "*Ii-ne!* (It's okay!)" As this word shows us, he is a positive person. He says that 30 percent of his music is funny. I always get energy from his positive and funny songs. Are you getting interested in Crazy Ken Band? If you are, let's enjoy it together. Say, *Ii-ne!*

The International House Experience

Veronica Zacharie (USA)

I have been a resident in the International House for over a year now and I have had so many experiences. I have had roommates from Mexico, Japan, and now the United Kingdom. Through my time in the House I have been able to interact with many individuals, and through them I have gained cultural knowledge. I feel that I am a culturally informed American, and now by being a resident in the House I have become globally aware of other cultures.

The International House fosters change, tolerance, and exploration. The House is always changing from semester to semester with the opportunity to meet more interesting people. Tolerance is another aspect that the House offers, and is always seen through the different cultural events that we have such as Japanese Dinner night. Exploration is something that all of the residents are able to participate in. Once coming to a new country, foreign students are able to interact with American students and become more acquainted with the surrounding community and culture. Residents travel to places such as Los Angeles, San Diego, Santa Cruz, and even far from the House such as New York.

The International House is a place for everyone from all over the globe to call home. No matter how long residents stay in the House they are able to bring their experiences, cultures, and ideas with them to share with the other residents in the House. The ability to have change and many people together in one place creates a special environment in which miracles can happen. Miracles that I think can only inspire once you experience life in the International House.



Left to Right: Lani (USA), Mayumi (Japan), Veronica (USA), Vedran (Croatia), Saro (Armenia/Israel) at Orientation Jan '05

Friends

Song by Ketsumeishi
Translated by Misato Kamei (Japan)

We are friends forever.
Time passed, we had to choose our way.
We chose different towns, different ways.
Even if we aren't together, I always wish
you happiness!

Without notice, we may forget some
memories in those days,
But we grew up and became adults
together,
we spent the same time.
Don't forget this fact!

Do you remember the color of the sunset?
Do you remember the tears of joy,
bitter tears, we cried together?
Go our own way, different ways,
and tomorrow leads us to the future.

I wrote here, "I met many friends.
Even if we cannot be in the same place,
you are my treasures forever!"

Always have a dream.
Don't worry.
I won't forget you.
I always wish you are happy!

モダチ

Song by ケツメイシ

ずっと友達 だが時は経ち
離れた街と町で 別々の道
選んだり Random された人生を
共に生きている君に 幸あれ

気づかず忘れることもあるだろうが
あの頃から見れば 共に育ち大人

胸に夕日の色焼きついていますか
共に流した涙乾いていますか
俺ら別々の道進む 進めば明日が俺らを作る
変わっていく中 変わらないものがあるから

いくつもの出会いは退屈ない願い
俺の財産だと ここに書いたんだ
常に 胸に 君に 夢に



Spitting on People can be a Blessing!

Katerina Vati (Greece)

I was walking around the SJSU campus the other day and a mother holding a beautiful baby was walking toward me. My first, automatic reaction was to do what most Greek people do and that is to pretend that I am spitting at the baby while saying the following: *Ftou-ftou-ftou na min se matiasw*, which translates into something like: "Ftou-ftou-ftou (spitting sound)! I hope I will not give you the evil eye!" The best way to describe the above Greek custom is by referring this website: "www.in2greece.com"



The Evil Eye is a kind of negative power we all more or less carry within ourselves. If we stare too long on a person, animal or even an object we may inflict damage through this power. It is often totally unconsciously, but the staring in itself often comes from admiration or envy, which are perfect channels for the Evil Eye. If you want to pay someone a compliment you can ward off the Evil Eye you might be sending by spitting three times at them. It won't give you a popularity price, but many believe it works.

Another way of protecting one's self from the Evil Eye is by wearing the famous Mediterranean blue color stone, which sometimes depicts an eye.

Although now, you have an idea why I would "spit" on the baby, I still think the mother would have thought I am crazy! I will tell you one thing: People's customs can be really "interesting!"

The Clown

A representation of happiness?

Sima Parikh (India)

Nostalgic were those days when father, mother, and I walked to the circus,

To see the beaming faces of the clowns -- expressions flawless.

Laughing, joking, celebrating, monkey-ing around,

Surely, they are the happiest people on earth, found.

But are they frank, and are they joyous?

Who knows what expression lies beyond that curvy painted carcass?



The German University

Olivia Aschwald (USA)

When I-House residents from other countries tell me about their experiences at SJSU, I understand what they are going through; having studied at a foreign university myself. I know how frightening it is when you have to do a class presentation in front of native speakers, and how exhausting text books can be, when you've read the same passage twice or five times to get the meaning. I also know how refreshing the new system can be- there are ideas and methods of teaching that you have never seen at home.

In Germany, you only study your major and university is free. Germans do an extra year of high school, and that is considered their General Education. The university courses are usually only once a week, mostly in the form of 1.5 to 3 hour lecture, and attendance is not taken. There is one test at the end of the semester for some lectures, or you have a test on many different lectures around the same time after 1 or 2 years! It is not like the American system, where in each course you have to take 3 or 4 quizzes and possibly write a couple essays. The amount of independence in Germany was a little overwhelming. Since there was no constant barrage of quizzes and papers, and I only had to go to each class once

a week, I had an amazing amount of free time. In Germany you are responsible for knowing the material and learning it. The professor points you in the right direction, but he will not help you as much as American professors do.

I did miss the American professors, with their availability during office hours and helpful guidance. In Germany, the professors have only an hour or two every week, for which they are paid. And usually these hours so full of students that you have to make an appointment for your little 10 minute conference.



(Olivia in Tuebingen, Germany – Spring 2004)

But German universities put the learning in your hands. It is assumed that you are there because you want to learn. And that you will study on your own on a regular basis, until the test comes a year later. It is a wonderful system if you are passionate about your major and like to study it for fun. But it is difficult for those

students that just do the work because they have to, and they tend to fall between the cracks because there is no professor constantly jumping on their back to get them to study. In the American university, the professors help push those unmotivated students along and they receive a lot of second chances.

I really enjoyed the challenge the German university presented to me; having to do all my studies in another language, and be more responsible and independent. At the same time I missed the easy American introductory courses and studying in my own language. I cannot say which system is better, but I am truly glad that I have experienced both.

English Slang

Tanzin Choudhury (United Kingdom)



I've noticed that a lot of people get confused at hearing some of us English folk talk (mainly me), so, here is an explanation of some of the slang terms we use in England. Enjoy.....

mank – disgusting

mingin – disgusting

fit – attractive

pissed – angry, drunk

safe – ok, cool

cheers – thank you

scab – borrow

fag – homosexual, cigarette

nick – steal

skanky – disgusting

snout – cigarette

sod off – go away

a sod – a layabout

bloke – man

geezer – man

bevy – beverage

knackered – tired

git – an annoying man

bird – girl

blood – friend

stitch – screwed over, stitched up

taking the piss – making fun of, to mock

taking the mick – making fun of, to mock, to take advantage

tic – attractive

geezer bird – a man who looks like a female

dossing – not doing anything

Recipe - Swedish Meatballs

Jessica Karlsson (Sweden)

Swedish meatballs are probably one of the best-known Swedish cooking specialties. Here you have the recipe.

For 4-5 portions you need:

400g (1 pound = 454 g = 16 oz) of mixed minced meat (50% pork, 50% beef)

¾ dl of bread crumbs (1 dl = 2/5 cup)

2 dl milk

1 – 1.5 teaspoon salt

½ teaspoon black pepper

2 tablespoon grated onion

1 egg



Preparing:

First of all mix the bread crumbs with the milk. Let it stand for 10 minutes, otherwise the meatballs may get a taste of bread. Meanwhile, mix the minced meat with the salt. Add pepper and the onion.

Add the milk and bread crumbs mixture, and the egg. The egg makes the whole mixture more porous and easier to fry. Mix the ingredients well, but don't overdo which could result in the fat escaping from the meat. Don't use a kitchen mixer; use a fork or your hands!

Frying:

Roll the mixture until they have the shape of a ball, use your hands and don't make the balls too big (about 20 - 25 mm in



diameter). Wash your hands in cold water; it will make the rolling easier. Place the balls on a cutting board that has been rinsed in water (prevents the balls from sticking). Heat butter in a hot frying pan. Place the balls in the pan, but not all at once. Shake the pan often so the meatballs can get fried on all sides. Once they have obtained a golden brown colour, reduce the heat and let them fry for another 3 - 5 minutes, depending on size. Do not cover the frying pan.

The gravy:

After each batch of fried meat balls, pour some water into the frying pan and stir. Pour the water into a pot. This is the base for the gravy. When finished frying, stir flour (mix with cold water before adding) into the gravy and add spice with soy sauce.

Suggestions for serving:

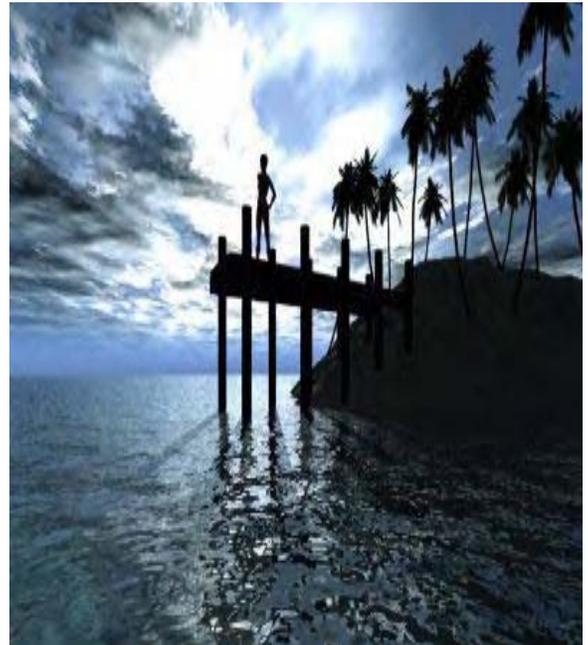
Swedes enjoy their meatballs with boiled potatoes and something we call lingonsylt, which taste almost like cranberries. Pour the gravy over the meatballs and potatoes when serving.



Yearning

Rachel A. Dutra (USA)

When all is said, and cried, and all is done;
When I am left with nothing but my own
I stare at what might have been. The sun shone
For a short while; no more. I run
Now from all that desires me, I shun
Love and trust. I want to search the unknown
Depths of the solitary. I want home
To be without the heart. I want no one.
But there's still a place only you can find:
The spot deep in my forgotten, the place
Where you belong. You still hold the one key
That opens into my palace of winds,
Where my heart of clouds wants your warm embrace
And we're together; we're finally free



A President's Ramble

Lani Carissa Wong (USA)

President – Students' Council, International House – Spring 2005

(sigh) The I-House. I have lived here now for the past 3 years and have honestly enjoyed every minute of it (ok, well that's of course what everyone wants to hear, right?). No, really, the I-House has definitely grown on me and because of that, this semester I ran for student council president. You see, I'll be moving out this summer (finally, as some would say), so figured I'd go out with a bang and leave my mark forever. First of all I'd like to say that the people in the I-House this semester were awesome and everyone had a lot to put into the House whether as a coordinator or participant. Anyway, I am going to give a brief recapping of the events that happened over these past few months.

The first thing that I remember about this semester is the first party of the house. It was themed "Dress as the opposite sex!" Hmmm...well everyone in the house got excited and spent hours getting prepped for the party.

Ok what else...there was the Chinese New Year festival which was great, lots of people helped to put that together. There was a ton of food, entertainment, and interaction so this event went on for about 3 hours.

The following event was the Indian celebration of Colors/Spring (Holi). It was a headache to figure out a budget but

eventually it was done and the festival was extremely fun. The event had a fun cultural game and a ton of food that the coordinators cooked themselves. It was held close by in Williams Park where people could run around and throw colored powder at each other while they ate food. WOW—the people were stained from head to toe in lavender, lime green, reds, fuchsia pinks, and other bright colors.

Then there was the Persian New Year event that took place in our dining room and was actually hosted and put together by our new Office Manager, Solmaaz. She decorated a table with different Persian ornaments that were for the New Year and of course we can't forget the delicious Persian snacks and desserts that she brought also. Solmaaz brought in a book of Persian poems that she had people read out loud so that was an interesting aspect, reading and performing poetry.

Oh, and somewhere in between there was the Basketball tournament, which was quite brutally competitive (I jammed my finger). Then of course there is the great PCB, Pancake Breakfast. We made a good amount of money from that this semester; I can't

remember the specifics but it was close to 2 thousand dollars, I believe. Yeah we had a line of people that was winding its way almost out the front door at one point in the day. For me it was great, I dressed up in a beautiful Indian outfit my friend lent me, helped watch the kid's corner (or more like watched my own pokemon movie that I had brought for the kids) and was a part of the fashion show. Now that's how PCB should be forever and ever. ☺

The next big event was The Great British Night, which was superb. It wasn't just dinner or plain old entertainment. The coordinators sent people on a mystery that they had to solve and follow clues.

The next event was the Hawaiian party that I got to help buy food and decorations for which was nice (of course that was only because I had a car at their disposal. But that's I-House, you become popular if you have a set of wheels). It was one of the most successful parties of the I-House that I had been to in the last 3 years I've lived here. The set up was darn creative; they brought in lots of couches that they put in a cool lounge way in the middle of the normal dance floor and put the dance floor a little bit off to the right of the basement. They had a cool bar on the front wall and the decorations were spread out just enough to where the whole room seemed decorated. They played games like Twister and Limbo, and the music for the most part was great. I

was proud of my party committee. Next up was the Mediterranean Dinner with tasty food and a game on Mythology. Next was the Greek-Turkish dinner; look for the articles on this event.

Many events have happened this semester that weren't held in the House either, including a ton of trips that the road trip committee had organized and many by regular students. Oh, and there have been proposals that have made a difference. We now own a huge 52 inch high definition TV that I must say my council has to be proud of. We did the research and found the TV and within the first couple of weeks of school we had this monster of a television in the house. Also a Playstation 2 was bought so that people could play games with others instead of always on their computers in their own rooms. We are also now subscribing with a company to rent movies and games for a set fee so it's awesome. Hopefully the movie committees of following semesters will be able to handle this new concept. Last thing that we purchased was a set of free weights which is great for working off that fabulous I-House food ;-). I feel like I've rambled on enough and I hope this gives you a small look into the semester of Spring 05. (I apologize if there are events or people or other things that have happened in the house that I have left out.)

Poesia

Maria Del Mar Hernandez Mondejar (Spain)

In my soul's dark night
A light just appeared
That brings strength to my wings
And to my whole life, and that is you
You opened the hope to a fulfilled illusion's world
Illusions finally renewed in this my little heart
Heart that has been rescued from the deepest despair
Despair caused by the ungrateful love
But at the end I have found the bonfire
Where the flames can heat but do not burn
Where darkness doesn't exist because their clarity fills up everything
And as the stars light the sky up
The immensity of your look lights my path up
Because in my life's dark night a light has appeared
Because in my soul's dark night you have appeared



En la noche oscura de mi alma
ha aparecido una luz
que da fuerzas a mis alas
y a mi vida que eres tu.
Me abres la esperanza de un mundo lleno de ilusión
ilusión por fin renovada de este mi pequeño corazón,
corazón rescatado de la honda desazón,
desazón causada por el ingrato desamor.
Pero finalmente he encontrado la hoguera
dónde el fuego calienta pero no quema
dónde la oscuridad no existe ya que su claridad todo lo llena
y al igual que las estrellas iluminan el cielo,
la inmensidad de tu mirada ilumina mi sendero
porque en la noche oscura de mi vida ha aparecido una luz
porque en la noche oscura de mi alma has aparecido tu.

I-House Office Managers '04-'05

Leann Cherkasky Makhni, Director – I-House (USA)

Dear Friends,

Another year has passed by and I continue to be stimulated and challenged by life at the International House.



Congratulations to Pilar who had a really beautiful baby girl named Ariana last summer. Pilar and her husband Robert then decided to move out-of-state to Phoenix, Arizona. We really miss Pilar after 5 outstanding years with her in the front office greeting each newcomer, making everyone feel at home, and running all of the myriad day-to-day tasks and many aspects of our programs.

As Pilar left the I-House, we were fortunate to have several competent and friendly people take over her position on an interim basis. Each unique individual in the Office Manager position draws different people to them and offers a unique set of skills. Thus, Anna Rudel and Tasnim Fidali who shared the position from May through October, balanced their varied work styles, developed relationships with different individuals in the House, and managed to keep us moving forward so that we were able to meet most of the needs presented to us.

Kathleen Erickson accepted the Office Manager position and with a few weeks of training managed to run the I-House over the winter break while I traveled in India. After only two months on the job, Kathy found she had health concerns to address and had to leave her new position.

Astonishingly, on the very day that Kathy let me know she would have to leave, I received a call from Solmaaz Sarrafzadeh who asked if the Office Manager position was filled at this time, and indicated she was very interested in taking the position for the next 6 months. She has quickly learned the ropes and I'm very fortunate to have her on board as I search for our next long-term (I hope) Office Manager. We're excited for Solmaaz now as she recently was offered her first lead mezzo-soprano role in an opera. If you're in San Jose, come support her where she will be performing the role of *Rebecca Nurse*, in Opera San Jose's upcoming show *The Crucible*.



FALL 2004 STAFF
(Front Left to Right): Helle, Kerilyn, Kathleen, Tasnim, Kat, Anna, Leann
(Back Left to Right): Sam, Alan

Phyllis Simpkins, Our Guardian Angel...

Our big news concerns Phyllis Simpkins who continues in her role as Guardian Angel of the International House. Phyllis not only continues to be active on the I-House Advisory Board, but she also has just made a really big donation – sit down for this one: \$100,000! With Phyllis' support, we hope to renovate the restrooms on the men's and women's floors this summer. You can imagine how much they need it; no matter when you lived here, they are still the same...

And more great news is that the SJSU Foundation is now making it possible for I-House to set up an account with a company so that we can finally receive credit card payments. I hope you will take advantage of the ease and convenience of the new system to make a donation to the I-House and help give our residents an opportunity to enjoy a wonderful experience as you did. As soon as it is set up, we will have a link on our I-House website. Please use it and support our residents!

Smaller contributions add up, larger contributions make a significant difference right away, and on-going monthly contributions give us something we can count on. Matching donations from companies are a real bonus.

Just the other day another alumna came by I-House and told me how his days at I-Center were among the best he'd enjoyed in life. I hear it often from alumni. Please help us keep the opportunity alive for today's college students...

SJSU International House – Your Home Away From Home

Enclosed is my gift of \$250.00 \$150.00 \$100.00 \$50.00 \$_____

I have enclosed my (or my spouse's) employer matching gift form.

My check is made payable to the **SJSU Foundation**

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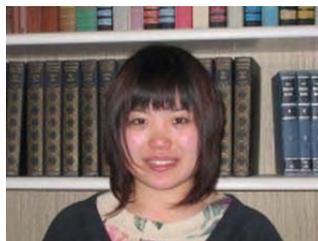
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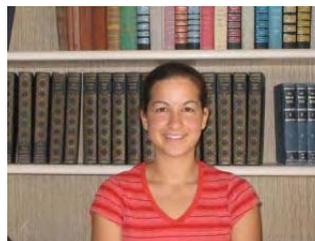
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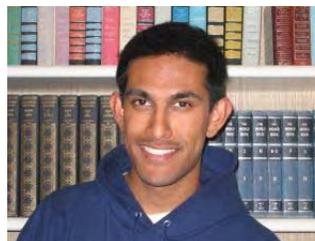
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