

The Pride

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY SAN MARCOS

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VOL.XI NO.21

SPRING BREAK HOTSPOTS

By KIM SCHLATTER
Pride Staff Writer

Spring break is approaching fast; actually, it's only four weeks away. So if you have not planned your spring break trip yet, you'd better hurry. Most CSUSM students are looking to vacation in a warm, exciting, and cheap spring break spot. So here are five that are exciting and reasonable.

Mazatlan is known as the city of perpetual summers. With the longest uninterrupted beaches in all of Mexico, Mazatlan offers exciting water sports, great beaches, awesome parties, all night dance clubs, great shopping and great restaurants such as the Shrimp Factory and Shrimp Bucket.

Mazatlan offers low cost shuttles, tour guides and taxicabs so you can check out some of the highlights of Mazatlan such as: the cliff divers, the Corona and Pacifico Breweries and Old Mazatlan where the old Mazatlan Cathedral is located. Mazatlan is an unforgettable spring break experience. When people hear about Cancun they automatically think of non-stop partying. Cancun is fourteen miles of beautiful coastline with clear turquoise water and fabulous white sandy beaches. During the day you can enjoy the sights and sports that Cancun has to offer. Explore the Mayan ruins, snorkel, tour the jungles, swim with the dolphins, golf and enjoy exciting water sports like parasailing.

There is also great shopping and restaurants in Cancun, and if you just want to relax, you can do so on the beach all day. The night life in Cancun is out of control. There are clubs and bars everywhere to ensure a vacation you will never forget.

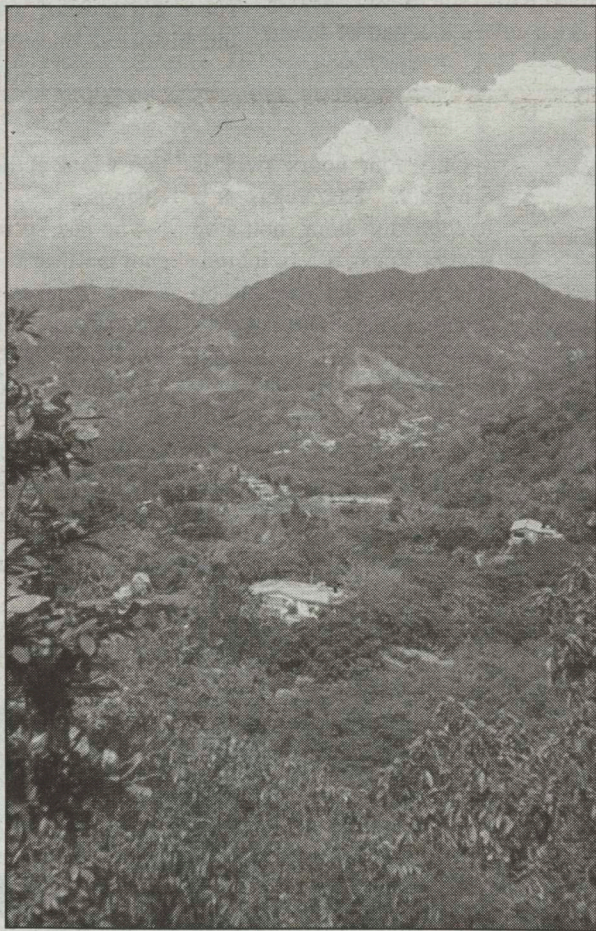
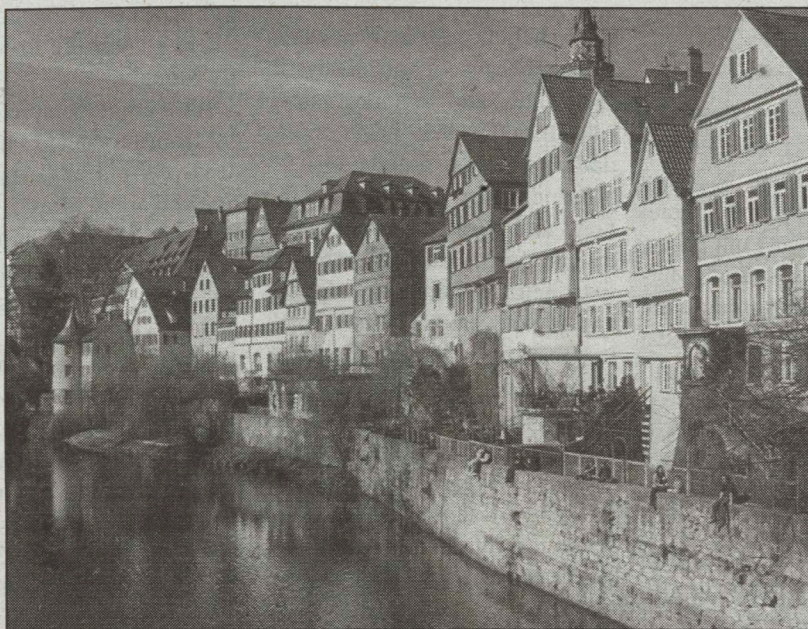
Get ready to kick up your feet and relax to some reggae music, because we are going to Jamaica man. Jamaica is a tourist paradise. Due to the overpopulated and poverty-ridden country, the best and safest resorts to vacation at are those like The Sandals and Beaches resorts. These resorts ensure a relaxing and exciting vacation. Plus, there is all you can eat buffets and bottomless drinks.

For daytime excitement, these resorts offer snorkeling, parasailing, boating, booze cruises and cliff jumping. While in Jamaica, kick back, relax, and soak up the sun.

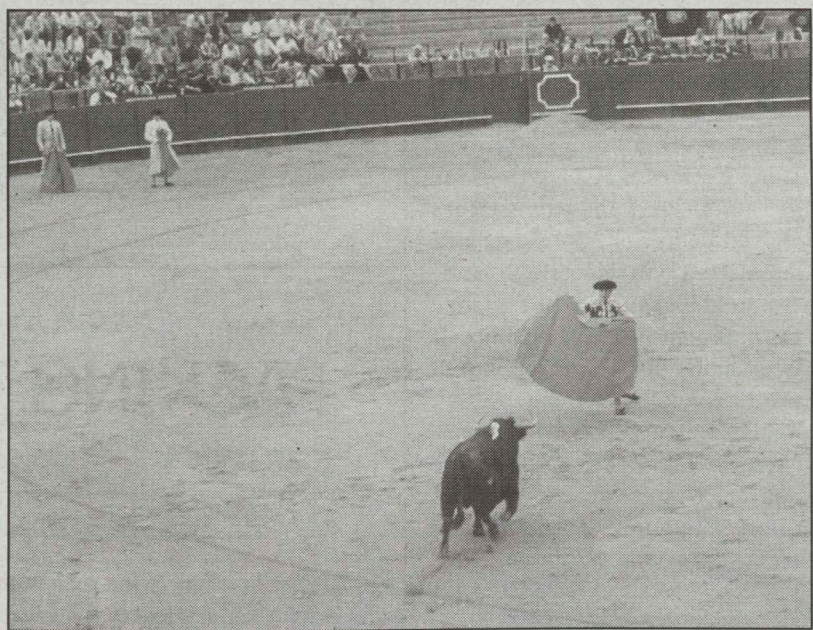
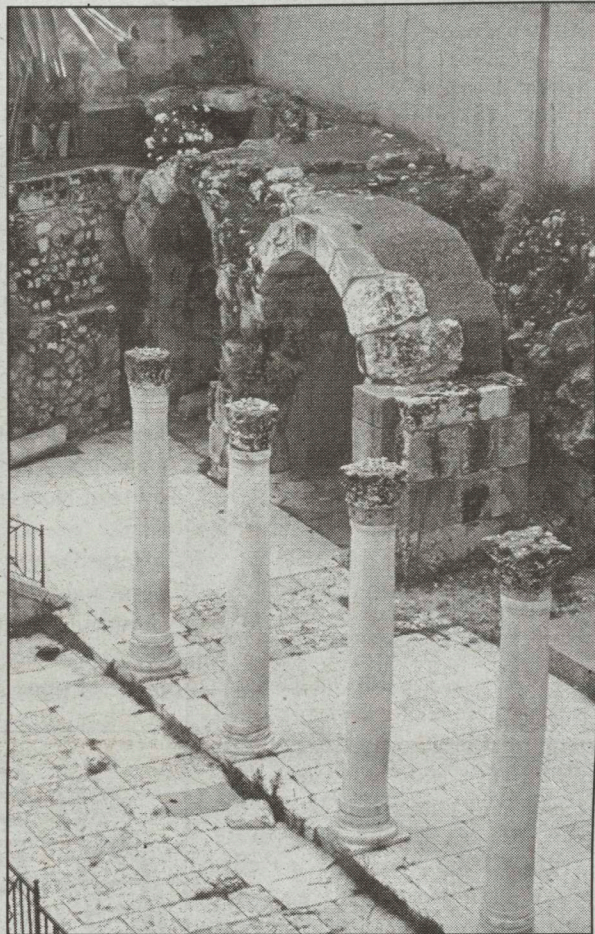
For those students that wish to drive to a spring break destination here are two hot spots that are fun, cheap and only a couple hours away from San Diego.

See **SPRING BREAK**, page 2

PRIDE AROUND THE WORLD



(above; clockwise)
Germany to Israel,
to Spain, to Puerto
Rico. We will take
you to all these
beautiful countries
and explain the
benefits and fun of
venturing abroad
this coming year.



Photos by Sarah Carlin, Tor Freed & Elizabeth Baldwin/The Pride

Pack right before you leave home

By CHAD SPINKS
Pride Staff Writer

Whether you're planning to go back home to see the family, or planning to go to Beirut for the international marble players competition for spring break, chances are you need to pack.

Don't worry, because packing for a trip is as fun as a toaster in the bath. Wait a minute, that's not fun—who am I kidding—packing sucks.

But still, you need to be prepared. Let's go over some tricks of the trade. I heard that some of these tips have been passed down from ancient boy scout lore. But who cares, I never wanted to be a boy scout anyway.

First off, bring a toothbrush. If you bring nothing but the clothes on your back and a toothbrush, you should be okay. When traveling, it's hard to receive help from someone if you are in their face with rotten breath, asking them where the nearest Motel 6 is. Along with a toothbrush, bring a razor

If you like to pack heavier, however, you will need a bag. Anything with wheels is a plus. If traveling through airports, it's a must. If using a duffle bag, you can use duct tape to attach a skateboard to the bottom

of the bag. It makes walking through the airport easier. You can attach a rope to the handle and pull it, or you can ride your bag like a sled (be careful of running in to the ankles of elderly people. This will often create an unwanted dramatic scene.) If you don't have a skateboard, it should be easy to acquire from a little brother or a friend's sibling.

Maximizing space in your bag is a helpful practice. Rolling your clothes instead of folding them is a great way to save room and minimize wrinkles.

Black colored shirts and pants go a long way on trips. You can get away with wearing a dirty black shirt for a couple days with no one noticing. White clothing will instantly become a magnet for coffee,

See **PACKING TIPS**, page 2

The Pride

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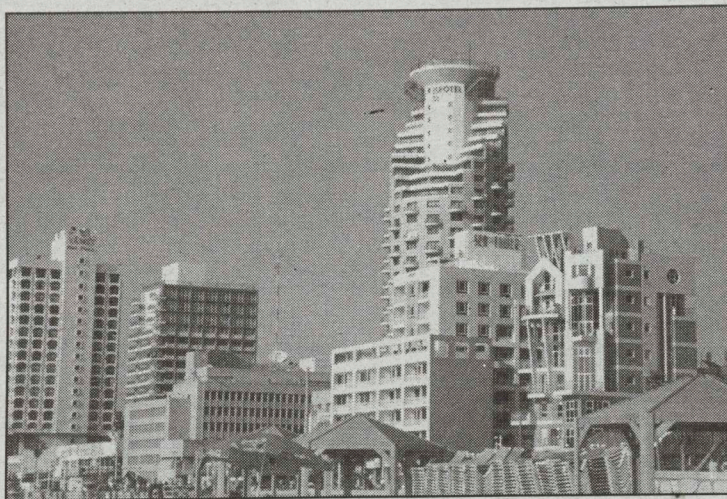
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MY JOURNEY TO ISRAEL



Photos by Tor Freed/The Pride

By TOR FREED
 Pride Staff Writer

In a post 9-11 world, travel to the Middle East is not the way most Americans want to spend their vacation. Mention Israel and images of burned out buses, bombed restaurants and Merkava tanks rolling through the West Bank permeate our minds, it is a wonder anyone would go at all. It is a shame because, Israel, a country smaller than New Jersey, has more to see and do than most European destinations.

Jerusalem is a great starting point and aside from how utterly beautiful it is one of its striking features is that every building is made of stone. In ancient times,

it was believed Jerusalem was in heaven because it was always in the clouds and the long, steep ride from Tel-Aviv helps one to understand this.

Standing in the old city, the view in any direction is breathtaking. Valleys and hills abound with neighborhoods and forests and it does not take too much to imagine you are back in biblical times. Jerusalem has so much history and religious significance, it can be almost overwhelming. To avoid this, simply get lost in the old city and wander through the Armenian, Arab, Christian, and Jewish quarters. Take in the smell of aromatic spices and strong Turkish coffee that can be found

everywhere. At some point, you will want to see the Wailing Wall, Judaism's third holiest site. It was the retaining wall to the second temple before the Romans burnt it down in A.D. 70. It is fascinating because on top of it lies the Temple Mount and the Al-Aqsa Mosque, Islam's third holiest site.

The Holy Church of the Sepulcher is right down the road; it was built at the spot where Jesus was nailed to the cross. The Brave traveler can also venture out to Yad Vashem, Israel's holocaust museum that is enormous and at times difficult. It's also where all visiting heads of state are brought.

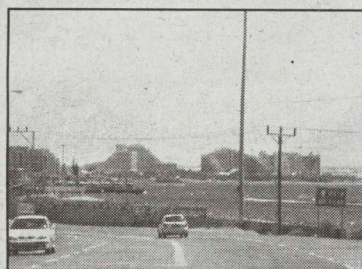
Tel-Aviv is completely different from Jerusalem. In this hundred-year-old city, you will feel like you are in Miami. There are modern high rises, fancy restaurants and very chic young people talking on cell phones wherever they go.

There is a very long promenade on the beach where Tel-Aviv sits and it is lined with restaurants, bars, and clubs where if you do not look good enough, you do not get in. Jerusalem feels like history and religion, Tel-Aviv screams party, which they do until seven in the a.m. There are tons of art galleries and historical museums. It's a

fast paced town and the best way to see it is to just wander around and get lost.

After all the history, museums and ancient ruins, it's time to just relax and head out to the port city of Eilat. Only five miles wide, it sits in the red sea between Egypt and Jordan.

Eilat is about beach bars and Vegas style hotels. The desert is right at its doorstep and riding a camel can be an interesting if not smelly adventure. Eilat also offers submarine tours and has an interactive dolphin park. The reefs in the Red Sea are some of the best in the world for diving and the water is warm and inviting with lots of tropical fish. Nightlife, it doesn't matter where you go, is cranking. This is a city of guilty pleasures.



Israel doesn't require a visa for Americans and if booked in advance, round trip tickets can be around six hundred dollars. It is not the most popular destination but the exchange rate is good and there is a lot to do.

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SPRING BREAK

from page 1

Only four hours away is Sin City. Las Vegas is a twenty-four hour non-stop party. Vegas offers incredible hotels and casinos on the strip that house world-famous clubs. After a night of partying, you can enjoy the famous buffets, gamble, watch a show or two and if you have some time you should walk around and

take a look at the outrageous casinos.

The last spring break hot spot is Rosarito. It is a little over an hour away. Rosarito has exciting clubs like Papas and Beer, Senor Frogs, Rock and Roll Taco and Boom Boom. After a night of partying at the clubs there are cheap hotels, so you can sleep the day away. With

Rosarito's proximity to the border, it's a great spring break spot that is convenient with all the fun you need. With spring break so close, keep these five hot spots in mind. Just sit back, relax under the sun and party your school worries away because spring break is almost here.

PACKING TIPS

from page 1

salsa, ketchup, wine and numerous other staining agents once it leaves for vacation. Stick to black or dark clothing whenever possible.

If flying, I advise anyone to avoid checking luggage on a flight unless they have to. A good trick to provide more carry-on room is to wear the bulkiest clothes on the plane. You spare valuable baggage room, and if you wear a large jacket with many pockets, you can stuff them with books, CDs, or more clothes. (Warning: you will have to empty out all contents of your pockets at the security checkpoint. Putting underwear in your pockets might be embarrassing, but if you have an unusually amusing taste in underwear, go for it.)

Know your clothes. Bring your most versatile outfits. Pack clothing that you can be comfortable wearing in hot or cold climates.

Always check the weather of your destination. This can save a lot of hassle, but as we all know, weather forecasts can be wrong. Bring along at least one pair of clothes that would accommodate weather opposite of what the forecast says.

Most importantly, have fun and be safe.

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PUERTO RICO offers the best of the Caribbean

By TOR FREED
Pride Staff Writer

Puerto Rico is often the starting point for people taking cruises around the Caribbean. Unfortunately, that means most people only spend a day there and miss much of what this exciting island has to offer.

Everyone likes a tropical destination and Puerto Rico will not fail in that regard, but it also has a lot of history, a vibrant culture and all the modern amenities that people love. Puerto Rico has lots of mountains in the center of the Island for hiking, world-class surfing in Rincon and even horseback riding. There are also excellent golf courses for those wanting a more 'Hawaiian' vacation.

Whether you want a rugged, adventurous holiday, being a beach bum or clubbing in San Juan, it's all there.

San Juan, the capital city of Puerto Rico, is really two parts. The main city has been built up, is very modern and serves as the banking center of the Caribbean. Here you'll find trendy cafés, fine restaurants and trend-setting clubs with some of the most beautiful people in the world. It's easy to take it all in, lounging on the beach, and then go clubbing at night.

The old city was revamped in the early 90's to retain its traditional Spanish architecture. Here you'll find old buildings in bright colors and cobblestone streets—remnants of Spanish settlers who tried to make it like home. This is the place to be: most of the tourists don't frequent the bars here and you'll run into some really wonderful locals. At the end of the city is Old Fort Morro, a sprawling park that used to house cannons to protect the Island from invasion.

Leaving the city and driving through the countryside is quite interesting. Things stop being so modern and become much more cultural. Rincon is a fun place, not only because it has some of



Photos by Tor Freed/The Pride

the best waves in the world, but because it's a sleepy town and the beaches are relaxing. It's not unusual to see roosters roaming about or wild yaks in someone's yard. The people are very laid back and the town is quiet, perfect for some rest and relaxation.

Puerto Rico also boasts the highest point in the Caribbean, the Arecibo observatory. It's a bit of a drive to get there but the view is breathtaking and you can see much of the Caribbean for miles. While you're there, for those that like hiking there's a really interesting hike down into San Cristobal Canyon. It's literally a chasm in the middle of the Island that you can follow to an old quarry with great swimming. The vegetation is lush, and the waterfall at the end of the quarry is not to be missed.

Puerto Rico has a few other interesting attractions as well. The Sea of Mayaguez has phosphorescent water. There are tour boats that go out at night and anything that touches the water sets off a natural light show because of all the algae. It's a fun ride and unlike anything you'll ever see.

The Luquillo beaches, a little east of San Juan, are some of the nicest anywhere. Long strips of clean white sand with public bathrooms and cafeterias make it very popular.

Since Puerto Rico is under the jurisdiction of the U.S., travel is easy and the currency is the U.S. dollar. You'll find everything inviting: the culture, the people and the food are all top-notch.



Photos by Tor Freed/The Pride

OMBUDSMAN'S notes

By MICHAEL DOLAN
Pride Ombudsman

Corrections for VOL. XI No.
20

With spring break just around the corner and summer not too long after that, the staff of The Pride has decided to put together a special travel edition this week. This is a departure from our standard newspaper format, which should become obvious as you read through these pages and notice that there are, in fact, no hard news stories. Rather, the stories in this travel issue are features written with an international emphasis and assisted by the diverse population of international students and professors on campus.

The Pride will return to its normal format next week. It is my hope, as well as that of the staff's, that this special edition is enjoyed by all. Please send me any thoughts that come to mind about this edition whether good or bad to dolan005@csusm.edu. And remember: we are at week eight. Hang in there; we are half way through the semester.

The caption accompanying the photo for the article "Skateboard makers sending manufacturing to China" misidentifies the trick the skateboarder, Dave Mercado, is performing. The trick is "tail sliding on the coping" not "grinds the rail."

Pride Staff Writer Nicole Sullivan's name is misspelled in her article "Bible marathon: 14 hours a day for four days last week."

The comic strip "Beer Nuts" is not titled or attributed to Chad Spinks.

The article "CSUSM and The Center for the Arts host free play" is not attributed to Pride Staff Writer, Lorian Samano.

The Pride apologizes for these mistakes.

If you notice an error or inaccuracy in The Pride, please email me at dolan005@csusm.edu.

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SPRECHEN SIE DEUTSCH?

By SARAH CARLIN
Pride Staff Writer

The only appropriate answer to the question, "What was it like living abroad for an entire year?" is the cheap one. The cheap answer is at the same time the most honest: "I can't."

In a quaint college town in the south of Germany was where I lived for an entire year. As sleepy as the town felt most of the time, never have I felt as awake as I did living my life somewhere completely different to what I had known up to that point in my life.

I could write about the endless churches and castles I saw during those twelve months, but the memory of the grocery store is what permeates most strongly. I can smell the fresh baked pretzels and the cheese. I remember my walk through the snow, down the bike path, past the yellow phone booth and the geese that would honk at passers by.

The grocery store closest to my east-German-esque style living situation was the HL-Markt. This grocery store was unlike any major American grocery store; not

only was hot, spicy food sometimes difficult to find, only three check-out stands and a myriad of sausages, but a number of other things I had to become accustomed to.

Take for instance, when in the German grocery store, or farmer's market, one must not touch, feel or squeeze to test the ripeness of any fruit or vegetable. I found this out the hard way one morning while examining avocados at the market.

"Was machen Sie!?" said an older German frau. I was confused, dropped the avocado in the bin, and walked away a bit perplexed. Germans have a very stern language at times, and the approximate English translation of my encounter would be, "What the hell are you doing!?"

My grandmother, who is originally from Berlin, and currently lives in the Los Angeles area, just as she has for the past forty years, explained to me when she came to visit that Germans do not feel fruits or vegetables at the grocery store. She also explained to me that this was a benefit as she sees it to living in America: testing your produce prior to purchase.

Another thing I could never get used to was the idea of standing

in line at the store. There is no personal bubble, that space you own wherever you go, like there is here in America, that everyone else is keenly aware of. People breathe on you in line. You feel every exhale of the guy standing behind you on the back of your neck.

After much aggravation I adapted. I couldn't change the people standing in the line, but I could change the way I was standing in line. I began placing the basket on the floor between my legs and standing over it sideways. I was happy not to be breathed on, and no one really noticed my change in position.

Here in America at the major market chains, consumers choose from ten different checkout stands at any given time, whether it's 4 a.m. or 12 p.m. If the line is three or more people long a new check stand opens and customers will ask the person next in line to go ahead.

It took me a long time to get used to the German system of check stand lines. There was never, in my experience, a time when I was asked to go ahead because I would be the next person to be checked out. Instead, whoever could run, push or shove his or her way through the quickest was the winner.



Photo by Sarah Carlin/The Pride

Cafe's line up the sidewalks in Germany.

It took a very long time to get used to this. I thought everyone was just rude. I should have caught on sooner, but didn't really feel comfortable with the idea of bulldozing through shopping carts and baskets just to pay for my items first. As time passed, after spending too much time in line, there was the revelation that I had been living in the country long enough that I should really attempt to fit in better.

On one particular frosty December morning, the line was at least ten people long and there was only one check-out stand open. I saw from the corner of my eye a teenager, Fanta and chocolate in hand, waiting on the side for the new check-out stand to open. I slyly left the second to last spot in line and pretended to examine the

chocolates. I watched the woman from the corner of my eye take her seat at her cash register, and then swooped in with my basket of goods.

I felt a little guilty, like cutting in a line of cars by using the freeway shoulder—not that I would ever do that. I looked around as I placed my items on the conveyor belt to see the faces of my fellow shoppers, but there weren't any angry expressions on the faces of anyone in line. I had successfully made them think I was German.

After this turning point, living in my cute college town was different. Instead of pin-pointing all of the similarities, or the differences between Tübingen and my hometown, I started living where I was, and stopped living somewhere in between the two.

The shock & awe of a Spanish Bullfight

By ELIZABETH BALDWIN
Pride Staff Writer

The best part about traveling is the unexpected events that happen to you. I like to refer to these as "blessings in disguise" because these are the moments that will stay with you forever.

On my way to Barcelona, Spain I got stuck in Seville. Getting stuck was really me not knowing I had to book a reservation and then finding out the trains were all filled up for the next three days.

Seville is one of the best places I found in Europe. The people are extremely warm and friendly; the weather is a perfect 75 degrees; and the streets are clean and safe for walking around at all hours.

On one of my walks around the city I came across an advertisement for a bullfight that would be taking place that day. I thought this would be a great opportunity for some cheap entertainment.

Well it was definitely cheap, but way beyond entertaining.

I had never been to a bullfight before and was so excited to see what one actually is like.

I found out quite soon that yes, the matadors do dress in the traditional costume that is depicted in movies.

But one new detail that struck me in the heart was that the bulls are stabbed in the back before they even enter the ring. And to make the fight even less fair; there are about 4-6 "helpers" out in the ring protecting the matador from the bull.

As I watched the battle from my ring-side seat, I was shocked and amazed at the brutality of this popular Spanish sport. After the matador stabs the bull so much that the animal can barely move, he then makes a sort of flourish movement with his arm and finishes the bull off by sticking a sword between

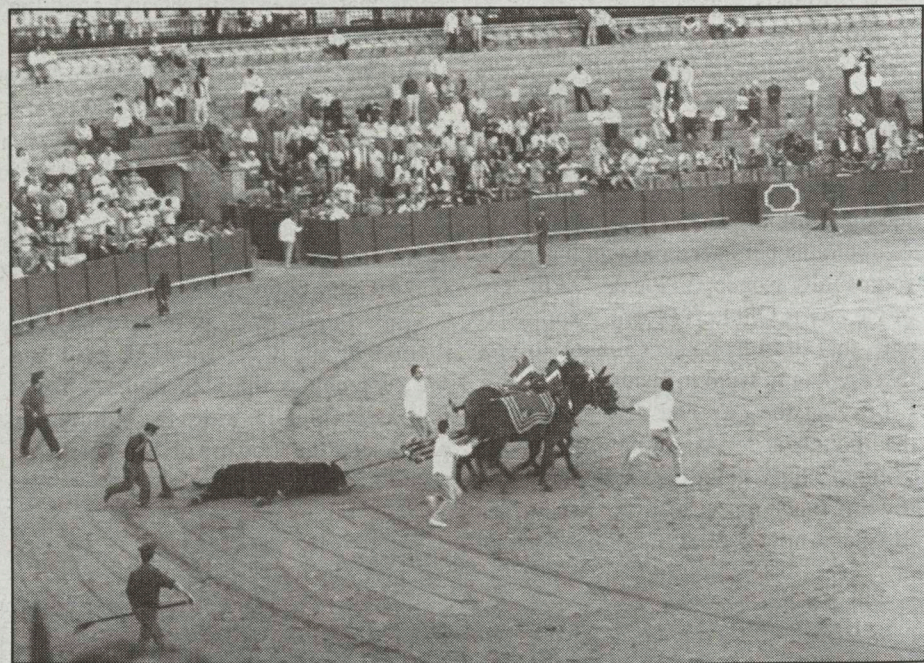


Photo by Elizabeth Baldwin/The Pride

A bull gets led away from the ring after being stabbed between the eyes by a victorious matador.

the bull's eyes. At this point the whole stadium stands up cheering...for what I'm not sure.

The "unforgettable" moment that I experienced at this event was when the fifth bull came out and during the so-called "battlle", the bull skewered the matador with his horns.

This was the most surreal image I have ever witnessed. I saw the bull literally stick his horns into the matador's right thigh and lower stomach...then lift the man entirely off the ground.

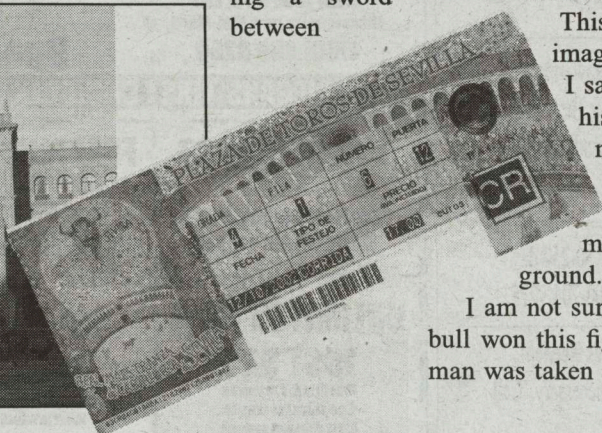
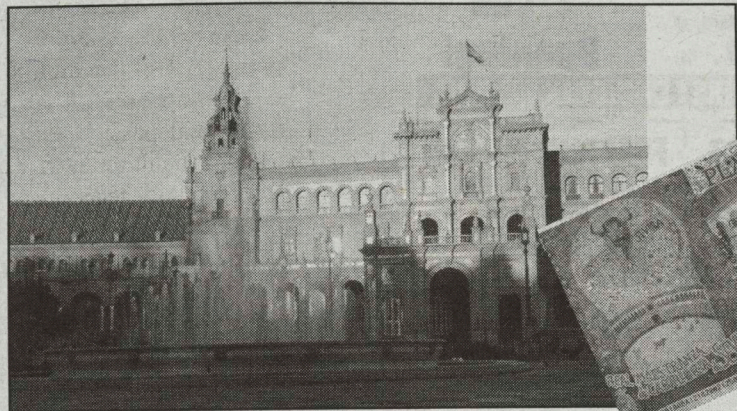
I am not sure I can say that the bull won this fight...as soon as the man was taken away about six men

came out and killed the bull.

This seems very unfair to the bull. It was rough to watch a man get hurt, but it just seems so wrong to kill the bull if he wins the fight.

I tried to find out the next day if the matador had died, but all the newspapers were in Spanish.

I do not think I will ever go see another bullfight, but I will never forget the one that I saw.



THE PRIDE

We put out every
Tuesday!

UPROCKED IN TURKEY?

By **David M. Beatty**

As the U.S. economy enters a new year, the construction industry is looking for a bright spot. One place to look is Turkey, where the construction industry is booming. The country's economy is growing at a rapid pace, and the construction industry is a major part of that growth. The industry is expected to continue to grow in the coming years, and the U.S. construction industry is looking for a bright spot.

The construction industry in Turkey is booming. The country's economy is growing at a rapid pace, and the construction industry is a major part of that growth. The industry is expected to continue to grow in the coming years, and the U.S. construction industry is looking for a bright spot.

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The shock & awe of a Spanish bullfight

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A bullfight in progress in Spain.

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**THE
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FOR
CONSTRUCTION

What is it like to be an international student at CSUSM?

Yoko Suzuki and Emily Ng explain what it is like to be a student so far from home



By CLAUDE SAYF
Pride Staff Writer

Being far from home is quite an experience. Being far from home in another country and not speaking the language can be terrifying.

Yoko Suzuki is a 23-year-old senior from Kanagawa, Japan. She started her college career three and a half years ago at San Diego State University's English program. This program was for new students in the United States who needed to learn English quickly in order to begin college.

Moving to a new country for school is a very adventurous thing to do. She felt only excitement when she got here. Living in San Marcos, she started at Palomar College getting her general education requirements out of the way.

At that time she didn't have a motorized form of transportation, so she bought a bicycle and got around on it instead. Suzuki says that her bike became her best friend for the next year and a half as she rode it everywhere.

After completing her general education requirements at Palomar College she transferred to Cal State San Marcos. Her major is Sociology and she plans on using her degree to help children in need all around the world. She aspires to work for organizations like UNICEF that help children.

Suzuki believes that because children are the future of the world, they must be cared for and provided with the same kind of education that she feels so fortunate to have.

Yoko appreciates her sociology professors because they have been so kind to her. They never have any quams about staying after class to help her or making extra time for her, she says. That type of concern and care is what she wants to share with others after college. And given the right opportunities, she will.

It's not easy being away from her family, who own a sushi restaurant in Japan called Shige Zushi. Shige is her dad's first name and Zushi means sushi. It's a family-run business that her mom, dad, and grandfather work at.

Suzuki's older sister is also away from Japan, working as a hairdresser in Sydney, Australia. Yoko had the opportunity to spend last New Years with her in Australia. They had a wonderful time enjoying the ceremonies and fireworks together, she says.

For Yoko, the experience of a college education in a far away land made her see how precious her life in Japan really was. She is able to look at her country from the outside in and see the good and the bad that Japan has to offer. When asked what she thought about being away from her country she answered, "You don't know what you've got until it's gone."



By JASON ROBBINS
Pride Staff Writer

How many ocean waves do you think break between Hong Kong and North America in a day? My estimate is about nine million; plus or minus ten million. While nine million is plenty, do these waves alone serve to propel dreams across the Pacific Ocean? Or does it take something else?

In some cases all it takes is a degree from a California university and a messy serving of the English language.

These are the incentives that guided the 21 year old, international student, Emily Ng to CSUSM.

Born and raised in Hong Kong, Emily left her homeland to finish high school in Canada. Upon graduation, Ng then left Canada for a college she had heard about during a college fair. This college was Cal State University San Marcos. "English is an international language," said Ng in explaining why she chose to attend an American school. Acting congruent with her reasoning, she selected Global Business Management as her major. As her travels and studies reveal, Ng is a truly international student.

When Ng is able to ignore the wailing pleas of her text books, she enjoys partying, dancing, and time with her friends. While a lack of confidence once inhibited her personality, Ng says she has established friendly relationships through the International Club. Despite the radness of San Marcos and the new Starbucks in the library, Emily and her friends prefer downtown San Diego for social activities. In comparing San Marcos to her birthplace, Ng said "Hong Kong is more fun." There is no doubt.

Sometimes it is difficult to have fun inside the classroom too. Emily understands most simple English words but has trouble with the more complex ones. Fortunately professors have acknowledged her limited English in a positive manner. She says that instructors have exhibited patience and effort in dealing with her situation.

When it comes to the more concrete components of our campus, Ng has mixed feelings. "I expected a bigger school." This international student, who essentially traveled thousands of miles to learn English and attend college, had no clue as to how small the CSUSM campus was. She said she expected the community to be more populated and for there to be more sports teams.

It is indeed hard to recognize our campus as small without the aid of blue prints or a visit. But it is easy to imagine some of the lumbering difficulties that may subdue even the most spirited of international students. Ms. Ng includes the language barrier, financial issues, and self-reliance on her list. She has a part time job on campus to help nurture her finances and must rely on herself for every other challenge. Yet it is clear that being away from home has its benefits. "I enjoy being alone sometimes." Ng said there was too much pressure at home. This comes from a working student from Hong Kong up against a language barrier and the doldrums of San Marcos.

For Emily Ng, waves were not what propelled her dreams across the vast Pacific. It was not several soul-enriching, will extracting, ocean sunsets that forced her to reach past the horizon. It was education and English. And it was the resolve to be truly international. Emily's best experience at CSUSM: "Meeting new people."

Lit Studies gets an International prospective from Professor Moukhlis



By TOM PFINGSTEN
Pride Staff Writer

Salah Moukhlis is clicking through a photo album on his computer of pictures he took the last time he went home to Morocco. Little black-haired nephews, dusty roads and colorful marketplaces fill the screen. "By the way," he says, pausing on a photo of an ornate brick building, "that's the oldest university in the world."

The irony is not lost on Moukhlis, whose education has taken him from Morocco to England and Long Island. He teaches literary theory at CSUSM—one of the youngest universities in the world—while in Fes, Morocco, his counterparts have been instructing students since A.D. 859.

During his time as an undergraduate in Morocco—and then during later work on his M. Lit in Victorian Studies in England—Moukhlis focused exclusively on British literature. But after having a drink with a colleague in Morocco, where he taught college classes for 12 years, Moukhlis decided that he needed to study literature from "The Maghreb."

After awakening to the world of African writing, Moukhlis says he remembers thinking, "Hey, I want to read something about myself, about my people."

With that in mind, he began working on his PhD in Comparative Studies at Stony Brook University in New York, with a focus on the Maghreb.

"Maghreb" is the Arabic word for "west," but serves as the name for the country of Morocco, situated on the north-west corner of Africa. Maghreb literature, written mostly in Arabic, has been heavily influenced by the years that Morocco spent as a French Protectorate (1912-1956).

The diversity Moukhlis has experienced in his education makes for an interesting take on literature: British traditionalism with an African postcolonial twist. While Moukhlis has studied British literature extensively, he makes no apologies for European colonialists.

"It's good to see things in perspective," he says. "They literally carved Africa."

Moukhlis also notes that British colonial texts played a large part in sparking his interest in Maghreb literature, much of which exists as an answer to colonialism.

"When you read what these people have to say about you, all of a sudden you're not a neutral reader," he says.

Speaking with an accent that is neither wholly French nor wholly Moroccan, Moukhlis explains that English is his fourth language, preceded by Arabic, French and Moroccan Arabic, a barely-distinguishable Arabic dialect. He is known by his students for that accent, as well as for his quirky style of teaching and his former "addiction" to breath mints.

They also know him for his unusual passion for subjects widely regarded as dry and difficult to teach. It's not rare to find Moukhlis energetically teaching the details of Russian Formalism or New Historicism, pacing the classroom with his coffee cup in hand and drawing pictures on the blackboard.

How does he explain his excitement? Turning back to his computer, Moukhlis admits with a guilty smile, "I just love literary theory."

HOLIDAY FOR HUMANITY

If vacationing at the beach isn't for you, try one of these alternative breaks and help others at the same time



Photo courtesy of Steffan Hacker

Becky Sutter and Jamie Smith work on the framing of the Habitat house.

By TOR FREED
Pride Staff Writer

If you are strapped for cash and cannot afford to go to your regular hot spots such as Cancun, Hawaii, or Daytona Beach alternative spring breaks may be an interesting option. You will miss the party vibe but the payoff of alternative spring breaks may be rewarding.

Alternative Spring break programs enable students to participate in helping and learning more about the epidemic of homelessness in this area. Students

"Alternative Spring Break programs enable students to participate in helping and learning more about the epidemic of homelessness."



Photo courtesy of Partick Bonz

(from left to right) Melissa Holliday, Brian Reed, and Brock Winstead, students from NC State, work on the roof of a Habitat house.

work with organizations such as the YMCA, Habitat for Humanity, and other community based organizations. The goal is to educate students and open minds, while giving them hands-on experiences toward the issues of homelessness.

If San Diego is a little too close to home to be spring break worthy, then you might want to head a little north and spend a week in Santa Cruz and San Francisco. In these cities, alternative spring breaks offer a closer look and understanding of people with disabilities. Join and meet other fellow Cal State students as they learn the rights and laws affecting disabled populations, mental-physical-cultural awareness, and a survey of different organiza-

tions such as people with cerebral palsy and mental retardation.

These may not be your typical spring break ideas however, alternative spring breaks offer something more rewarding. They offer an opportunity to help your local community while educating and experiencing critical issues close to home. If you are looking to do something during spring break with a little more substance than cheap drinks and easy hook-ups then alternative spring breaks may leave your heart singing rather than heart broken.

For more information on these and other alternative spring breaks go to www.statravel.com.

Spring Break rip-offs

By ELIZABETH BALDWIN
Pride Staff Writer

California Student Public Interest Research Group (CALPIRG) released a report citing that students pay on average 62 percent more for travel.

The report found that travel companies included hidden fees along with deceptive marketing practices in their Spring Break travel packages.

"Spring Break is supposed to be a chance for students to relax and recuperate. Instead, travel companies are using it as a chance to fleece students," said Merriah Fairchild, CALPIRG higher education advocate.

Students are encouraged to research a travel agency before booking a package deal.

Also, beware of any company that requires you to sign a contract waiving or limiting your legal rights to file a dispute or receive a refund.

To read the full consumer report on student travel go to www.calpirgstudents.org.

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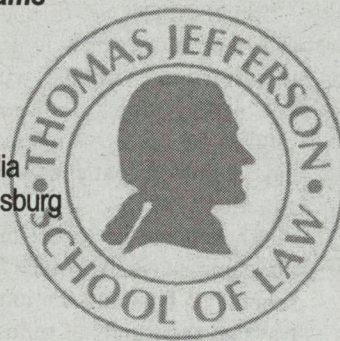
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CSUSM CALENDAR

MAR 9- MAR 17

TUESDAY 9

Maria Zemantauski is one of the world's few heralded female flamenco guitarists, and one of even fewer female flamenco composers. Maria offers a dynamic blend of artistic freedom, innovation and tradition in her compelling music. She brings novel touches to her arrangements of Spanish classics, and she introduces gorgeous originals. **Commons 206 at 2:30 p.m.**

WEDNESDAY 10

Dynamic performer, **slam poet**, and **spoken word artist Bridget Gray** returns to Cal State San Marcos! Her powerful poetry addresses issues of racism, sexism, and the problems facing black women in contemporary society. **Arts 240 at 7:30 p.m.**

THURSDAY 11

Nancy Pierce, Regional Vice President of GEICO Corp., is the guest speaker for the "In the Executive's Chair" forum, sponsored by the College of Business Administration. **ACD 102 11:00 a.m.-12:50 p.m.**

Dr. Leilani Holmes discusses the power of women, and the "power of place" in ancient Hawaii, as seen through the dance of *hula kahiko* (ancient hula), in her presentation, "Ancient Hula, Women, and Power in Hawaii." **Commons 206 at 3:00 p.m.**

MONDAY 15

Dred Gerestant's act is a gender-bending, rollercoaster ride, alternating between man and woman, outrageous and serious, ironic and sincere, while promoting messages of self-love, tolerance, acceptance, and diversity. Her act uses hilarity to demonstrate that ideas of femininity and masculinity are not set in stone. **Arts 240 at 11:30 a.m.**

TUESDAY 16

Two of San Diego's finest musicians, pianist **Jaime Crawford** and guitarist **Tristan Prettyman**, perform their songs in this unique, double-concert appearance. **Arts 111 at 6:00 p.m.**

WEDNESDAY 17

The Vagina Monologues comes to Cal State San Marcos! Explore the mystery, humor, pain, power, wisdom, outrage, and excitement signified in women's sexuality. Based on interviews with a diverse group of hundreds of women—from a Long Island antique dealer to a Bosnian refugee—*The Vagina Monologues* brazenly explores questions often pondered, but seldom spoken aloud. **Arts 240 at 7:30 p.m.**

All events are free of charge and open to the public. Seating on a first-come, first-served basis. Many of these events have been made possible by a Lottery Grant. For more information, please contact Women's History Month Coordinator Josh Harris (jharris@csusm.edu) or Professor Linda Pershing (Lpershing@csusm.edu) at 760-750-8008.

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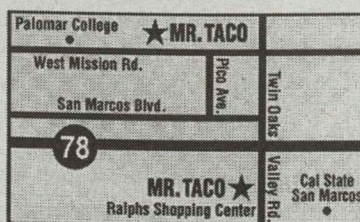
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Travel Tips w/ Chelsea George

By CHELSEA GEORGE
Pride Staff Writer

As spring break grows closer many students are getting ready to jet off to exotic locations. But before you pack your bag, here are a few helpful travel tips.

Choose your traveling companions wisely. Nothing is worse than taking a trip with someone and hating them at the end of it. Pick people that you know are out to have a good time. If your group is happy and ready to find fun things to do in your new locale, chances are you will be too. Plus, if it's one of those friends that you love to death but who drives you nuts after being around them for a few hours just imagine how you'll feel after a few days.

Check the weather and pack for it. You don't want to drag around a bunch of unwanted baggage so pack the essentials and try to leave everything else at home. If you already know most of your itinerary pack by outfit not by piece and try to pick outfits that can go with the same accessories. If you're going somewhere warm, however, you should pack at least one warm outfit because even deserts get cold at night.

If you're going somewhere that requires

you to be in your bikini or trunks the whole time, work on your tan beforehand to try to prevent burning. You don't want to have to stay in the hotel after the first day because the skin is peeling off your back.

Another way to avoid burning is to pack your sunscreen. One that you might want to try is Bullfrog: it comes as strong as SPF45 and lasts extremely well in water, though it is a little greasy.

For those traveling to foreign countries, you can check regional recommendations on vaccinations, food and water-borne illnesses at www.cdc.gov/travel or call toll free 877-FYI-TRIP. It gives you helpful ways to avoid illnesses in any destination. For instance, those of you going to Mexico should bring bottled water even to brush your teeth with and not drink any beverages with ice.

Another thing travelers should consider is trip insurance. The best policies cover trip cancellation, trip interruption, baggage and trip delay, accidental medical expenses, in-hospital indemnity, lost or stolen baggage, rental car collision damage waiver and rental car personal accident insurance. Call your insurance company to verify that you have medical coverage overseas. If you have a AAA membership, you may already be covered.

If you're taking a road trip make sure you have a fully-inflated spare tire. Bring a flashlight, a cell phone and your AAA card in case you have any problems and end up on the side of the road somewhere. Try to drive during the day and if you do drive at night avoid truck stops and scary neighborhoods.

For all those flying to their vacation spot, you can avoid flight delays by flying in the morning, the later the day goes the more air traffic has built up and don't even attempt to fly on a Friday. Try to get a nonstop flight but if you have to take a lay-over try to avoid airports known for bad weather or traffic. Also, when packing for a plane trip make sure to pack electronics, jewelry, documents, medicine or any necessary valuable items in a carry-on bag. If you're traveling with a friend split your luggage between the two bags so if one is lost you still have some clean clothes to change into.

Once you get to your destination you're most likely going to need some cash. There are three options: converting all your cash to foreign currency, using traveler's checks or using credit cards.

The problem with carrying your cash around the whole trip is that you probably won't get a very good exchange rate and

if something happens to it you're stuck. With travelers checks you can cash them out as you need throughout your trip and if they end up lost or stolen you can have them replaced. Meanwhile, no one else can use your traveler's checks because they require matching signatures and a photo ID.

When cashing traveler's checks or exchanging your cash for foreign currency, try to go to a bank—they usually give the best exchange rate, so you won't be losing some of your hard earned cash during the exchange.

Another way to get a good exchange rate is to use your credit card. If you have a card and plan to pay the balance responsibly, use it when you travel overseas to get you a better exchange rate that you'll get almost anywhere. Credit card companies can get better rates than you can, so if you charge your hotel and restaurant bills instead of converting travelers checks and paying cash, it will end up costing you less.

Probably the most important piece of travel advice for everyone is, have fun. After all, that is what vacations are all about.

LETTERS FROM ABROAD

Two csusm students write in from overseas about their experience in the United Kingdom

If you had the opportunity to change your life would you take it or let it pass you by?

Imagine travelling the world on your weekends, having friends from all over and gaining the experience of a lifetime! You can have all of this just by studying abroad. My name is Stacy Goldstein and I didn't know why I wanted to study abroad at first, I just knew I had to do it. I had no expectations, just the curiosity of wondering what it would be like to live and attend a university in the UK. Now, after one semester, I have travelled through most of Europe and have friends in Spain, Finland, France, Germany, and Australia and of course in England. I am also involved in the International Society and play for the University of Central Lancashire's Women's Basketball Team. I liked being here so much that I decided to extend my stay for another semester. It definitely wasn't the cold, rainy weather that kept me here; instead it was the people, the culture, and the opportunity to gain a new set of eyes that allowed me to see America in another light. Living in another country has helped me gain a better perspective on America and the world. Don't get me wrong, I still love America and I miss the beach and eating carne asada burritos, but overall, studying and living in another

country is unlike anything else I've ever experienced, and it's something you would have to try for yourself to fully understand. It's so refreshing to wake up every day and be faced with decisions like: do I want to travel to London or Paris today? It's so easy to travel because the transportation system here is so amazing and it makes me forget all about my car at home. The social life is also thrilling and ongoing, sometimes I find myself going out every night: I mean going to pubs is a part of the British culture and I'm just doing my part to understand it. The going to school part is also great; I like the fact that you are encouraged to call your professors by their first names, and also that we are not given homework or tests! At the university I'm attending, class only meets once a week and your grades are based on two essays. Sometimes it can be difficult to balance school, clubs, sports, travelling and a social life but then again...it's all a part of the experience. All I know is that coming here was the best decision of my life and has changed me forever. So, whatever your reasons are for studying abroad, whether it be to travel, pick up a British accent, meet new people or no reason at all; just stop by Global Affairs and look into it, because it could be the best thing you ever did too!

Hiya from Preston, UK

I found out why European cars have such heavy frames, "parking spaces" are half on the curb and half on the street; those cobblestone streets don't help either. I have yet to drive on what us Americans would call the 'wrong' side of the road but would like to try. On the other hand, never have I felt so liberated from my car, or walked so much in my life. It feels great. The streets in town are busy with people, unlike America's deserted main streets. It's pleasant to drop into a pastry shop on your way to class or slip into the small shop tucked away down an alley.

I think my friend had the best advice: "Be a sponge and absorb everything around you." I feel invigorated being in a different country and participating in other cultures. It's easy to pick out the Brits standing in a queue (line) for the club, they are the ones without a coat on whether it's freezing or raining. In addition to the British culture, I live with two Polish, one German and another American. It's fun to compare our

languages, food and other idiosyncrasies.

So...everyone was right, the food has something to be desired, but when I get desperate there is always Subway, KFC, or McDonalds. Globalization couldn't be more obvious. Starbucks is also a hot spot but I have yet to find one in my university library. In addition to the few familiar restaurants, the entertainment industry is very alive with American films and music. In other words, it's hard to get homesick.

I have to be honest, there are a few things I miss - like regular size kitchen appliances, service at restaurants and toilets that flush. The Brits would say, "Yeah, the toilets are dodgy." I never knew it was a luxury. Since the tip is included on the bill the food servers are very inattentive. If you get their attention you have to be ready to order or else you sit around for another twenty minutes. This is something that I need to adapt to, I am usually eating on the go..

Traveling or 'going on holiday' couldn't be easier here. I have already explored London

and ventured to Liverpool (home of the Beatles), Manchester (home of the famous football or soccer team), York (you don't know York, c'mon), Edinburgh, Scotland (to see the castle and men in kilts), Conwy castle in Northern Wales, and this weekend, who knows where the train will drop me. If only the U.S. was smaller, I would ride the train over flying any day.

On a more serious note, university, or uni to the locals, is structured a lot differently. It only takes three years to earn a bachelor degree because they don't take any general education courses. Your chosen major is a much more in-depth study; hence, students are more specialized in their field. One of the most intriguing lessons that I have learned thus far is others perspectives of the United States and 'our land of opportunity.' I never appreciated being an American until others brought it to my attention.

Don't miss your chance; travel while you are young and don't have as many responsibilities! Open your mind!

Cheers, Zoë Underhill

