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# *PALS NEWS*

The Newsletter of the Program in American Language Studies of Rutgers University-Newark

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*This issue of the PALS newsletter is dedicated to our Director, Mary Moya, in sincere thanks and appreciation for her concern and dedication to the PALS program.*

*We at the Program of American Language Studies at Rutgers University, Newark said farewell recently to our Director of twenty years. To all of us, Mrs. Moya is the only PALS Director we have known. We feel saddened that she has chosen to retire, but we rejoice in the prospects of her coming days in her second home, Peru.*

*Mrs. Moya has worked in the field of ESL at the university level her whole career, as a teacher and administrator – both in the United States and abroad. We will miss her cheery voice on the phone and in her office where her door was almost always open and her style unhurried and friendly.*

*As Acting Director of the PALS program, I have appreciated the encouragement and support I have received and look forward to the coming days working in the office while the University continues seeking a replacement for Mary Moya.*

Bonnie L. Harley

## **A Favorite Dog**

Ana Villalta, Honduras

The German Shepherd is my favorite dog because he is very intelligent, strong, adaptable dog. The German Shepherd is the most popular dog because a lot of people use it for work in farms and in police work.

The German Shepherd is originally from Germany. He has large upright ears, a black nose, large sharp teeth, long legs, and a long bushy tail. When I was in Honduras I had on German Shepherd who is Peluche. He was little when I received him. Every night I woke up to give him a bottle of milk like a baby.

I am thinking of getting another German Shepherd in the future when I have a house with a yard.

## **The Merchant of Venice** **by William Shakespeare (written 1596 – 1598)**

Romel Gonzales, Peru

In Venice, Bassanio asked for a loan from his friend Antonio, because he wanted to marry Portia. Antonio didn't have money, so he asked the Jewish Shylock for a loan. Shylock was mad with Antonio because Antonio didn't like Jewish people. Shylock told Antonio if he didn't pay the loan at the specified date, Shylock would take "a pound of Antonio's flesh." Antonio accepted the contract.

The man who could marry Portia had to choose the correct chest, from three chests. Portia's father decided that Bassanio could have Portia as a wife because he made the correct selection when he chose the leaden chest.

In Venice, Shylock's daughter left his house because she wanted to be a Christian for her love for Lorenzo.

The time passes and Antonio could not pay the loan, so Shylock arrested Antonio. At Belmont, Bassanio received a letter telling him that Antonio was arrested. Bassanio left for Venice. In the court Shylock didn't want to accept Bassanio's offer to increase the repayment. Shylock just wanted the "pound of flesh" from Antonio. When Shylock wanted to cut Antonio, Portia arrived disguised as a lawyer and said that Shylock could cut Antonio's flesh, but without blood!

At the end, Shylock wanted to accept Antonio's money, but it is denied him. As punishment for attempting to take the life of a citizen, Shylock had to give his fortune to the government, Antonio, and his daughter.

## **The Pursuit of Happiness**

Dayan Bejarano, Colombia

The movie was a real story. It began when a family (father, mother, and son) lived in an apartment and they were happy. But one day the problems arrived. The father, Chris Gardner, had to pay the services and the school for his son. He didn't pay because he had to sell six X-ray machines and he couldn't. When this happened his wife abandoned him and her son. Chris Gardner didn't like the idea, but he accepted it.

One day, Chris walked in front of a business building and he saw all the people were happy. He said to a man, "What do you do?" and "How do you do it?" The man answered, "I work in a business building and I am a business man."

Then Chris thought, "Why don't I have the same job?" He goes into the building and he applies for this job. Chris had to take an academic business course for six months and pass a test. At the same time he had to pay for many things: school, water, but he couldn't pay this. At this time, he and his son had to live in a motel and in shelters until he finished the academic business.

On the test day he went to the test and took it. At the last day the president called him and said, "You have the job." This day was the happiest in his life. Today Chris Gardner is a famous president of Gardner Rich which was established in 1987 as an institutional broker-dealer serving public sector pension funds. They are outside money managers and he is very very rich.

## **Siberian Husky**

Paola Rosenthal, Peru

I like the Siberian Husky because I had five dogs in Peru. These dogs are more expensive in my country. I bought the first for \$400 and in my country that is a lot of money. My first Siberian Husky's name is Skipper. The female is Durga, and the others were the colors: Pink, Blue, and White.

However, I felt bad for the dogs because the weather in my city is very hot. It is tropical weather and the Huskies are from Alaska. The weather is very cold and it is totally different. But they slept in my room with an air conditioner. My dogs were very happy and comfortable.

The Siberian Husky, generally, is a quiet dog, intelligent, loyal, and very friendly. The Huskies do not bark; they howl and make a "Woo, Woo" sound. In some Huskies, one eye may be blue while the other is brown. This trait is called a "Pinto Eye" or "Split Eye." These dogs are very clean. The Siberian Husky is a medium size dog. It is just under two feet tall at the shoulders and weighs about 45 to 60 pounds (20 – 27 kg). The male is a bit larger than the female.

In conclusion, these dogs need life in cold weather because it is more comfortable for them. They also need larger houses and gardens. I love these dogs because these dogs are adaptable with people.

## **Giraffes**

Dayan Bejarano, Colombia

The giraffe is a beautiful animal and the "tallest land animal." If you compare a person with a giraffe, you can see the giraffe is five and a half or six times taller than a person.

It's incredible; the giraffes have seven neck vertebrae – the same number as humans have. The giraffe has beautiful skin because it has many large brown polygons and smaller ones on the face. Since this animal is bigger, its skin doesn't camouflage it from predators like lions. Then how do the giraffes survive in the wild? The giraffes can see their enemies from far away, and run as fast as 35 mph. This is faster than a lion because the giraffes have slightly longer front legs than the rear legs. For this reason, this animal can run extremely fast.

The giraffe is a magnificent animal because it is beautiful, fast, interesting, and it never makes injury to others. I think the giraffe is the most gorgeous wild animal!

## **THE IDEAL . . .**

**A collection of ideas about the ideal version of various people and things**

**By the Low Advanced Writing class**

Jamil Sadullayev, Turkey

My ideal friend is someone that I like to be with, and someone who lets me know that I am never alone. I will fight for him and believe in him as much as I believe in myself.

The ideal mother is one who embodies the best of family values in her children and she is her child's best friend. In my opinion, for every child, his or her mother is the most perfect, loveliest and ideal in the world.

In my opinion, the ideal father and ideal husband has a basic or primary responsibility for family responsibility, supporting his family and protecting them. His primary duty is to tell his children and his wife what is right and wrong, and has a great responsibility to prepare his children for their future.

In my opinion, the ideal wife should be gentle, educated and beautiful. And also I can say not so beautiful, because the people can think you married her only for her beauty. And she has a great responsibility to love her husband, believe in him and prepare his children for their future.

The ideal teacher is one that students respect. He or she motivates the students and boosts their morale to give positive motivation, and she or he is a student's friend.

The ideal student is proactive and communicates with the teacher regularly, and has the desire to learn, and shows responsibility for his learning.

In my opinion, the ideal job is that work I have fantasized doing, what really interests me. The kinds of people with whom I'd like to work, and my salary which I will get.

The ideal doctor should be well-educated and he has experience. The ideal doctor has great responsibility to his patients and boosts their morale to give positive motivation.

The ideal political leader has a primary responsibility for setting overall country policy and has the goal to improve and develop his country. The ideal political leader is one who is loved by the nation.

In my opinion, the ideal vacation is without your cell phone and wife.

The ideal school is one in which there are not any tests and crazy teachers.

Yoshimi Hirayama, Japan

I have an ideal friend who reminds me of my sister. I'm comfortable with her as if I'm with my sister.

The ideal mother learns cooking at a cooking school where a famous cook is working, so she can cook very well. That's why she's called an ideal mother.

I have a friend whose father is an ideal father. He bought her an expensive car, which I wish to have. He was looking for an ideal wife who would treat him like a king. However, now he's gotten married to a woman who treats him like a servant.

My ex-husband was the ideal husband, whose fortune was extremely high. I don't know why I left him.

Many parents consider choosing a school for their children. They look for ideal teachers who teach their students eagerly and warmly.

The image of ideal students can change occasionally. Most likely it depends on what is asked by their teachers, among whom the students have no choice.

The ideal political leader has many politician relatives, some of whom are ideal politicians, but others are not.

An ideal doctor for patients is a doctor who is skilled and looks after them with tender care. An ideal doctor who wants to be a doctor is a doctor who is respected and earns much money.

I don't want an ideal boyfriend for every girl. I want someone who is an ideal boyfriend only for me.

I can't wait for the next summer vacation. It can be an ideal vacation that I've never had

before.

I'm seeking an ideal job that I can feel comfortable with. It doesn't matter how much money I can earn.

I love my school. It is the ideal school, where I have many chances to learn a lot.

It is difficult to have an ideal system of government. The ideal system of government that everyone wishes to have is difficult to exist.

Chen-Yin Lee, Taiwan

The ideal friend is someone who can listen to my complaints for everything and keep secrets for me. Sometimes my ideal friend can also give me some advice if I do something incorrect.

In my opinion, the ideal mother can cook meals very well. She can give me a lot of advice when I am confused too.

My father is the ideal father because he earns money for me to study. He takes our family on vacation every weekend too.

I think the ideal wife is someone who can support me all the time. She can also cook good meals every day.

A person who can protect his wife and children is my idea of the ideal husband. He has to listen to his wife's complaints too.

My teacher is the ideal teacher because she leads me in the right direction when I am wrong with grammar. She also has a lot of passion to teach students.

My ideal student should be polite to all the teachers, but he/she has to question the teachers when they're wrong.

I think the ideal political leader is somebody who can lead my country out of economic decline. He/She also has to stop political corruption.

My definition of the ideal doctor is that he/she should care about the feelings of patients. He/She can't make earning money his/her first goal.

In my opinion, the ideal pet should watch my house all the time and protect my family. It also doesn't have to eat anything.

For the ideal vacation, it doesn't matter where you go, but it has to be in nice weather. It also has to be safe but exciting.

For me, the ideal job should be close to my home and take me only ten minutes to drive to. Besides, I can earn \$200,000 a year.

I think the ideal school for me is near a big city so I can have fun when the class is over. It also costs a total of \$10,000 a year.

The ideal system of government is really concerned with all the citizens, especially those who can't take care of themselves. The ideal government system should also have a great organization to control all the emergency situations.

Juan Pablo Esteban, Colombia

The ideal friend is a person who tries to be very close to you at all times.

The best mother is the one who believes and loves without her noticing.

In my opinion, an ideal father is the person in whom you trust everything.

The ideal wife is a woman who trusts in her husband's words.

According to what I know, the ideal husband is the one who behaves like a good man.

For me, the ideal teacher is the person whose knowledge you learn from.

A good ideal student is one that sees the student like a real man about his developments.

The ideal political leader is the person who sees the people as his own interest.

According to what I believe, an ideal doctor is a person who tries to save human lives.

The great priest is the person who teaches the love of God.

To go for a walk out of town, that's my ideal vacation.

According to many workers, the ideal job is the one in which you can earn a lot of money.

A great school is the one which tries to give a real education.

The ideal system of government that gives good rights to the people is the one that does not lose its essence.

Silvia Regina da Silva, Brazil

An ideal friend is someone who shares the good and bad moments. In my opinion, a person who is an ideal friend has to understand what respect is in a friendship.

What defines an ideal mother is the ability to accept and appreciate the gift of being a mother. My mother is the ideal mother because she received me with love and always makes me feel special.

A man who spends time with his kids and participates in activities with them makes an ideal father. The ideal father is one who knows about responsibilities.

A woman whose time is sacrificed is an ideal wife. The ideal wife has to be a good lover, good friend and good accomplice.

The ideal husband is a man with a good character who respects his woman. A hot man with a nice voice and nice personality is a good idea of an ideal husband.

The ideal teacher is someone whose techniques help the students to achieve the objective of learning something. When somebody knows how to explain a difficult subject in an easy way that makes him or her an ideal teacher.

An ideal student is one who works hard. The ideal student is someone whose characteristics are respectful, disciplined and with the self-interest in learning.

The ideal political leader is someone who fights for the needs of the people. An ideal political leader is not interested in the self-seeking of benefits.

In my opinion, the ideal doctor is the one that gives the right medical treatment after hearing what the patient has to say. The ideal doctor has to treat the patients properly.

An ideal house has to have enough room to be comfortable. The house which has cozy and warm rooms gives me the idea of an ideal house.

Having an opportunity to go to a nice place with a lot of money to spend is a good idea of the ideal vacation. I think when you can spend time with someone special and pleasant it will be

an ideal vacation.

According to what I think about the ideal job, working few hours with nice people, getting good benefits, I have no doubts it is an ideal job. When you get paid to do something you really like to do, in my point of view, it is an ideal job.

An ideal school is the institution which offers opportunities where the students can get prepared to compete out there in the business world. The school whose program of education is focused on forming good students into excellent professionals results in an ideal school.

My opinion of an ideal system of government is to help all the people to have good opportunities to do well in our society. An ideal system of government is when the corruption does not exist.

Fredy Sanchez, Colombia

Life is full of troubles. For this reason, you have got to have a friend for helping in all circumstances.

My ideal mother is a person who is always taking care of the family, loving and protecting them.

An ideal father is not someone who gives education to the children, but is who loves them very much.

The ideal wife is one who spends her life loving and taking care of the husband all the life.

My ideal of a good husband is someone who loves his wife very much through all circumstances of life.

An ideal teacher is one who teaches, but also learns from the students.

The ideal student is someone who shares his teaching with others and helps to improve the world.

You may know a good political leader when you see his actions in order to improve people's lives.

The ideal doctor is a person who spends the life healing and helping when people are suffering from any illness.

Spending life in order to improve the world would be the ideal for all men who are, in this way, teaching us how to love each other.

The ideal vacation is spending time with relatives and friends doing right things.

The ideal job is enjoying everything which you do, loving and treasuring the effort of each other.

The ideal school is a place where everybody goes for learning and enjoys being there.

The ideal system of government is one which is concerned about the necessities of the people.

Galo Pinieros, Peru

In my opinion, the ideal friend is the person who is very honest. The ideal friend is someone who is always a kind and loving person.

My mother is the perfect mother for us because she has always been taking care of us. My mother has worked very hard to give us a good education, which is the best investment.

The ideal father is someone who spends quality time with his family, which is very important. My father was a caring person who was a teacher.

The ideal wife is a person who takes care of her family. My wife is a good mother who takes care of us.

The ideal husband is a person who provides food and love to his family. A good husband takes care of his children, giving a good example, which is valuable for the family.

The ideal teacher is a person who spends time with the students. The ideal teacher makes sure that students learn.

The ideal student is one who pays attention in class. Good students are on time for classes.

The ideal political leader will make an effort to help the poor, whose children can't attend classes with a good meal. The ideal political leader keeps promises made during his political campaign.

The ideal doctor is that person who takes care of the sick person who doesn't have money. The ideal doctor is compassionate with his patients.

My ideal boss is one who appreciates his employees, which is important for the business.

Camilo Cruz, Colombia

An ideal friend is someone who shares bad and good moments with me. A person who is loyal is my best friend.

My mother is the synonym of love and had a big, sweet heart. I think that to be an ideal mother is to be an ideal woman.

An important quality of the ideal father is responsibility, which ought to be taught to their sons. A man who feels love for his kids is the ideal father.

The Queen of the home, who takes care of everything in her house is an ideal wife. If the wife loves her husband, she is always the ideal wife.

The ideal husband is one who respects his home and loves his wife. I think that the husband who fights to support a wife is ideal.

I think that the ideal teacher is a person who gives a good example to his pupils. The ideal teacher is a man or woman who loves education and values.

One who follows the good teaching from his teacher probably will be the ideal student. A student that always wants to know more and more is the ideal student.

In my opinion, the ideal political leader doesn't exist in actual society. A political person who does not seek his own interest and has good qualities is the ideal political leader.

The ideal doctor is a person who is concerned for his patient. A doctor who has professional ethics is the ideal doctor because he is loyal to his profession.

The "ideal" is an abstract goal that every person always wants to achieve in life. I think that some superior ideas are better than others. They are like brilliant lamps in our way. That is

the ideal.

When you change the routine and time becomes a period where you enjoy your own life in a special place, this is the ideal vacation. To be in the ideal place with the ideal person, I think that is the ideal vacation.

The ideal job is work that you can do with enthusiasm and love. I think that to do many things is not the ideal job.

The ideal school is one which teaches you good ideas. I think that bad schools don't exist, that every school is ideal. Maybe the problem is the students.

Omar Hernandez, Colombia

The ideal friend is one who is loyal to me. I know the ideal friend who gave me help. I have the ideal mother because she is lovely and friendly. I know the ideal mother whose children disobey her.

The ideal father is one who guides his son to reach his goals. The ideal father is someone who is a good friend.

I know a friend who has the ideal wife. She is the ideal wife whose husband was disloyal to her.

The ideal husband is one who takes responsibility for all the duties of the home. The ideal husband is my father because he has been loyal with my mother.

The ideal teacher is one who improves knowledge together with the students. The ideal teacher is someone like our grammar teacher because she enjoys teaching English.

The ideal student is someone who practices every day until he becomes a wise person. The ideal student is one who knows how to take advantage from the mistakes.

The ideal political leader is one who has the quality to establish dialogue with the people. The ideal political leader is someone that makes efforts in order to keep peace and harmony in a country.

My mother is the ideal doctor because she took care of me when I was sick. Our scientist Manuel Patarollo is the ideal doctor because he had worried to investigate and to find the cure for malaria.

The ideal scientist is one who tries many times until he gets a theory.

The ideal vacation is when I spend it with my family. The ideal vacation is in the country because it is peaceful.

The ideal job is one which gives me peace and realization. Being a teacher is the ideal job because I can help other people grow in knowledge.

My high school is the ideal school because I have the best memories of it. The ideal school is where the students can express their ideas.

The ideal system of government is one which gives people the right to be free. Greece was the ideal system of government because the governor was a philosopher.

Rodrigo Balarezo, Ecuador

In my opinion, a good friend is the person who shares with you good and bad moments in life. My best friend is almost like my brother, who knows my virtues and defects and accepts me as I am.

For me the ideal mother is the support for all the family, whose every day we enjoy. The ideal mother spends a lot of time surely doing for all the members of the family because she is very responsible. My mother is the ideal mother because she always took care of her children. She was covering all the necessities in all senses. She worked hard in the house for us.

My definition of the ideal father is that he must provide economic support for the maintenance of the family. My idea about being a good father is with the example of a good human being, because the children learn by watching the behavior of their father in all senses. The ideal father tries to be friends with his children because today it is necessary to have good communication.

My wife is the support in the family. We are married nearly twenty-six years. In this time, she has spent her life next to me. She shared difficult moments with me, but she is the best wife because she always takes care of our children. She always worked, saved money and spent money on the necessary things. My wife is frequently smiling. She is happy and enjoys the simple things in life. She adapts easily to any situation. She solves the problems with more tranquility. She is a good human being.

The ideal husband is the strong support for his wife, because he must be a good complement in the couple. In my opinion, the ideal husband is someone who tries to make his woman happy. My definition of an ideal husband is when the man tries to be a best friend to his woman, with whom he shares every day.

The ideal teacher is that person who is generous with her students, giving all his knowledge. In my opinion, the ideal teacher is someone that leaves lessons in the students that last all their lives.

In my opinion, the ideal student is the person that tries to learn more and more, because to learn is very important in life. The ideal students do their homework and study hard because it is necessary to be responsible.

In my opinion, the ideal political leader must be honest and speak the truth because this leader is remarkable for the people. The ideal politician must help the people to resolve daily problems that frequently are economical.

My definition of the ideal doctor is to be honest, also to think that the sick person is not another business. The ideal doctor, in my opinion, must be most human with the patient because many doctors have been losing this quality.

In my opinion, the ideal player is the person that does exercises in the natural form without overexerting. The ideal player is the person that maintains a good performance and is a good example for the children.

The ideal vacation is to take a couple of days, exit the city, travel to another place and enjoy with your family, because it is necessary to relax. In my opinion, the ideal vacation is to forget the problems for a few days.

The ideal job is when the company helps coworkers to achieve realistic objectives, because it is necessary to have tranquility for a better performance. The ideal job is when the workers enjoy the job and the pay is very good.

In my opinion, the ideal school is a good complement in the formation of our children

because next to the parents it makes a better future. My definition of the ideal school is when the teachers spend time with the students with whom they share every day.

In my opinion, the ideal government system is democracy because the crowd elects the authorities. Democracy is a better government system than the best dictatorship.

Meridangela Gutierrez, Peru

Having a friend is already difficult, but my ideal friend would be a person whom I can trust in and tell him or everything that I want.

I cannot think about my ideal mother. She does not exist, and sometimes I like errors as my mother makes.

In my opinion, the ideal father is a person who works for his family, takes care of them and helps to clean the house.

Maria, the mother of Christ, is the prototype of the ideal wife. Maybe she is in Paradise because of that.

For me, a man who has a beautiful face, good career and works hard is the ideal husband. Perhaps I need to speak with his in the same language, but it does not really matter.

The ideal teacher just needs to teach his course. It is what the students want.

My definition of the ideal students would be a person who does his homework, studies every day and has great grades. In addition, she or he has to be in class on time.

There is not a good political leader in the whole world. Therefore, the ideal political leader is the person who does not have any of the characteristics that politicians already have.

A doctor who knows all the diseases and is a good person and cheap is my ideal doctor. I wonder if he or she exists.

The ideal clothes are those ones that do not need to be cleaned and will never be damaged. by the way, they do not have sizes and are cheap.

My ideal vacation would be to go to a rural area with lakes around and a beautiful view from the house where I will stay. When I wake up, I will smell the perfume of the flowers and look at the green farm and nature.

I like computers and any kind of mathematics problems. Therefore, the best job that I can have would be one in which I can enjoy doing what I like.

If there were a school where I did not have to do homework and be bored, it would be my ideal school. The school must have every kind of entertainment and a giant pool.

*Utopia* by Thomas more has to be real to have an ideal system of government, but because of the nonexistent good system, I accept a simple, noncorrupt government system.

Juan Pablo Morales, Colombia

The ideal friend is one who has all the time in the world to spend with you. My definition of the ideal friend is not who makes me laugh with lies, but who makes me cry with the truth.

An ideal mother is one who teaches her children not how to eat fish, but how to fish. I think that everybody has their own ideal mother.

He who supports a child in the right moments is an ideal father. An ideal father is not

who begets but who raises.

She who is like a best sister is an ideal wife. A perfect woman who does everything for you is an ideal wife, but she doesn't exist.

Superman is an ideal husband, but he is only an imaginary hero. If I would like to tell you who is an ideal husband, I will just show you my Dad.

A teacher is someone who teaches, but an ideal teacher is one who is still learning. An ideal teacher doesn't teach with word but with acts.

I think that an ideal student is not who studies for the exam, but who studies for life. One who studies for good grades is a good student, but who studies for learning is an ideal student.

Someone who thinks as a political leader is a bad leader, but who thinks as the people is an ideal political leader. An ideal political leader is someone who works with the people, by the people, and for the people.

The ideal doctor is one who knows that hospitals are for the sick and never for doctors. Someone who feels pain in others, he is an ideal doctor.

The only thing that a person needs to be happy is to be near his ideal love. The ideal love is Christ, but whoever is able to love as Christ loved is not human.

I think that to do and to enjoy my free time with my best friends is the ideal vacation. The ideal vacation is not lived in a beautiful place, but with friends.

Enjoying what I do and doing it with love is the ideal job. To be a good worker or to work in a wonderful place is the ideal job.

The most expensive school is a prestigious place to study, but the place where you learn is the ideal school. I think that an ideal school is not where your children want to go, but where they do not want.

The people without a leader is a group of people. A leader without the people is a dictator but the people with a leader is the ideal system of government. I think that the Catholic Church is the ideal system of government.

## **How War Affected Korea in the 20th Century**

Tae Yoon Kim, Korea

During and after WWII, Korea, my country, underwent extreme change. The war ruined the country's culture and Koreans' lives. At the end of World War II, Korea was controlled by the U.S. and the Soviet Union. The adoption of their two ideologies, democracy and communism, at the same time caused a civil war in 1950 that hasn't ended yet. . Now, my country is divided into the democratic South Korea and communist North. South Koreans have tried to make peace in Korea, but it is very difficult to reunite the two factions. This serious situation affects everything in our lives.

Before the 20<sup>th</sup> century, my country was independent and people lived peacefully. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, however, Japan invaded Korea and controlled it until the end of WWII. At the time of the occupation, we couldn't use Korean or have Korean names. Japan had tried to eliminate Korean culture for 40 years.

After WWII, Korea became an independent country, but on June 25, 1950, North Korea attacked South Korea. The war continued for 3 years. Over 4 million people died, and the Korean economy collapsed. People lost their family members and everything that they had.

When a truce was declared in 1953, Koreans were devastated. They suffered from poverty and disease.

Since that truce, South Korea has tried to rebuild its society. Our parents have worked very hard to take care of their families and country. Now, the South Korean economy is in a very important position in the world. Even though we live with a dangerous situation because North Korea has a nuclear weapon, we are trying to survive under hard conditions. Koreans will never give up their lives. We have always solved difficult problems and will continue to solve them in the future.

## **Mathematics in Taiwan**

Mau-Chuan Lin, Taiwan

Do you believe that people in Taiwan often get good grades in mathematics and are almost the second or third best in math in the world? It is true. People in Taiwan can calculate very fast and can solve math problems quickly. But they are not really good in mathematics.

First of all, Taiwanese students are just machines that can calculate well. They have been trained to calculate every day and at any time. Students in Taiwan always have so much homework that it is hard to finish. They are asked to calculate and calculate, day and night. Maybe we Taiwanese have the most practice in the world. We are also asked to solve many problems in a few minutes. That is why we are among the best in calculating in the world. But is this really good mathematics?

Secondly, students are always taught by formula. Our training just teaches you how to put numbers into formulas. Few students know why they do that. They have no abilities to create new solutions and only solve problems by rote steps. If there were ten people in a class solving the same mathematics problem, maybe there would be only one solution because the teacher only teaches them one way to solve a problem.

Students also sometimes memorize the math rather than solve real- world problems. Why is nine multiplied by nine eighty-one? It is because teachers tell them so, and they remember it. They don't need to think, so they can do math fast, but they cannot do anything new.

In conclusion, I don't think that the Taiwanese are really good at mathematics. Maybe we are good in calculating, but now we have computers for that. There is one thing we need to learn: to be creative.

## **AIDS in Cameroon**

Daniel Mve Owono, Cameroon

Ten years ago, the average Cameroonian knew nothing about AIDS or HIV. Now almost everyone can argue about the virus because of the damage it has done to families, tribes, adolescents and workers. HIV/AIDS has surpassed all other diseases to become the number one killer in Cameroon. It is now a public health problem, so the government, churches, and non-governmental organizations are working together to push the disease out of Cameroon.

HIV is spread mostly through unprotected sex. It can also be contracted via unsterilized needles, transferred by a mother to a child at birth, and caught through blood transfusions. AIDS

affects every generation in Cameroon, but the most affected group is the 15-25 years olds. At this age, sexual activity is very high and a lot of sexual activity is unprotected. In this group, girls are more affected than boys because they are forced to have unprotected sex if they want to receive favors (gifts, money) from their partners, who are always older. The consequences are enormous, and some scientists have argued that if the HIV/AIDS problem is not resolved, there will be only children and old people in the future of the country.

The department of health has made up strategies to reduce the number of new cases. To realize this objective, agency workers need to be close to citizens, particularly those who are most at risk: the 15-25 year olds. Among the group, many don't know how to protect themselves from HIV. Therefore, the agency has organized campaigns of explanation in both cities and rural areas to make the people aware. Afterwards, workers distribute condoms and try to answer questions. The public health administration also advertises on TV and radio about HIV/AIDS so that everyone can become aware. Churches, whose opinions were against condoms, try to see what they can do now, because their traditional no -sex -before- marriage stance seems to be out of date. The religious leaders are thinking about alternatives to their traditional view.

In conclusion, HIV/AIDS affects all ranks and groups in Cameroonian society: poor and rich, young and old, church and government. The government believes that education and condoms are the keys to solving the problem. Millions of dollars are spent every year on condoms and education, but HIV/AIDS is continuing to afflict more and more people. It is as if HIV/AIDS were a malevolent ghost that nobody can stop.

## **Looking for Time**

Natalia Winkleblech, Brazil

For many years the food industry has been researching ways to produce more food. The concept of "good," however, is each day further away from quality. The focus is on profit. It seems a long time since food was treated with respect. Mealtime and the preparation of food were very important in the past. The food was natural; for example fruits and vegetables would be available in their specific seasons and geographic areas. Families would take time to prepare meals and try to eat together.

Now, however, people have less and less time for home-cooked meals and family togetherness. The food industry has come up with great solutions: fast food, canned food, frozen foods, everything necessary to make life much easier. Computers, telephones, cell phones, laptops, electric stoves, blenders, mixers, and many other conveniences have been created, all with the aim in mind of making life easier and better.

The situation seems paradoxal: there is more technology to allow people to have more time, but it seems that everybody has less time. The food industry has developed countless ways to increase productivity and bring to the market a large variety of fruits and vegetables. They are being grown all year long, but they are contaminated with pesticides and other chemicals. And to make the consumers happy, the food producers will do anything, so if an orange is too acidic, they make it sweeter; if a watermelon has seeds, they make it seedless, and if someone wants a purple banana or a square egg, they will make it, and worse, sell it!

One day we will wake up and look at all the obese children and adults all over the world and ask why. Should airplane seats be made bigger or the doors wider? All the comfort has become a huge excuse for being lazy: not walking, exercising or looking at the labels on the food

that is bought. What have we done? With all this technology, the population's health has become worse. Some people have found healthier life styles, but the majority of them still have a long way to go to fix what has been done.

### **My Whole Life With My Religion**

Mustafa Gulerce, Turkey

After death, I thought that I had lived a very good life: honest, responsible, caring toward other people and about making the world a peaceful place. I had always thought about what could make us better human beings, and always got the same answer: having a religion. A religion gives us responsibilities that help us perfect our lives, responsibilities that help us make the world an amazing place to live in.

I stood for my religion. I spent my whole life as my religion instructed. I prayed to my God, helped poor people, paid attention to communication with people who believed in other religions, and also told others about my religion's beauty as well. A lot of people believe that Muslims are not good people, but I tried to change that idea because my religion never ever has given directions about doing bad things. Our holy book was sent by the same God who also sent holy books to other believers, so how could other believers think that our book alone could give bad directions? I never answered this question, and am still confused by it in death.

I believe in Islam because its responsibilities are not hard to follow, but following them brings rewards. My belief changed my life a lot. I never lied, never stole, never made a person feel embarrassed in front of others, and always thought of myself as a person that talked and behaved as I wanted.

So don't miss the train; behave like a human while you have time. Remember, everyone goes to the same place: the cold grave.

*The PALS News is devoted to presenting the writings of our intensive English language students.*

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