

The Nishisha Student

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And CUT!!

Alpha Girl

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According to www.dictionnaire.com, the word, "Alpha Girl" signifies the dominant or primary girl within a group. From my perspective, this prevalent word in recent days stands for the women representatives—Margaret Thatcher, Hilary Clinton, and Condoleezza Rice who show the power or leadership of women. In this article, I will elaborate on the movie, "The Iron Lady". As a matter of fact, the movie, "The Iron Lady" received great praise with the performance of Meryl Streep, who was the protagonist of the movie and she actually got the best actress award at the 84th Academy Awards by playing Margaret Thatcher. To be more specific, I will be focusing on the characteristic of Margaret Thatcher, moreover, her adamant and tough action or firm policy during her

government. Then I will briefly touch regarding the movie and my personal opinion on the woman, Margaret Thatcher.

First of all, Margaret Thatcher, also known as the Iron Lady, was born on October 13th 1925 in Grantham, Lincolnshire. In fact, she was the longest serving British Prime minister. She became a well-known figure internationally because she was the first woman who ever took the lead role. Thatcher's major was chemistry when she studied at Oxford University; however, she later studied law. She was elected as a Member of Parliament on October 8, 1959 for the first time. In 1975, she became the leader of the conservative party, leading her to have the landslide victory in the 1979 election. Briefly, 1979 is the year that Thatcher was elected as the Britain's first woman prime min-

ister and since then she governed Britain for 11 years. During her first two years of governing, there was an incessant rising of unemployment and inflation. However, she never refused to change her economic policy and later her policy gradually helped to improve the British economy. As following the economy, Margaret Thatcher was able to bring more of her supporters into cabinet and she boosted her reputation by the so-called, "Falklands War", Britain's war to retake the Falklands Islands from Argentina. Additionally, with the advent of fragmented opposition party, the Conservative Party won elections again; thus, Margaret Thatcher was reelected as the Prime Minister. Thatcher's government, as known as Thatcherism, aim for anticommunism by reducing the role of government and boost the individual self-reliance. Margaret Thatcher propelled a program of privatization, reform of the Trade Unions, tax cuts and public spending cuts in health and education. However, her governing years did not go smoothly within being reelected as the Prime Minister. The year 1984 to 1985 was known as "The Coal Miner's Strike". The Coal Miner's Strike was the peak confrontation between the unions and the Thatcher government. In 1984, Thatcherism proposed to close 20 mines and cut nearly 20,000 jobs, leading the National Union of Miners to order strike and refuse to work. There was a

strong violence between police—"scabs" and strikers; therefore, a myriad of people got injured. Despite continuous violence, she never refuses to make any difference and continue her policy. Following her strong action and firm policy, she got the praise by Soviet leader Gorbachev and gained her nickname, "The Iron Lady." The Iron Lady indicates Thatcher's strong, firm attitude towards her policy and the dissent. Furthermore, this also means Thatcher is the first figure showing how a woman can be strong like a man. This is because during 1980s, this is the period of male chauvinism, meaning almost all the men got high status and took the lead role; thus, the character of woman leader such as Thatcher was uncommon and unique. Paradoxically, however, after I watched the movie, "The Iron Lady", I felt pitiful and sorrowful to her life instead of feeling strong and toughness of Margaret Thatcher. In the beginning of the movie, she got dementia and she was thinking back to her old days before ending her own life missing her husband especially, who was a great supporter of her during her life. As the movie started and ended with her being in dementia, I felt like her life, as a person in the world, was very unhappy and miserable. Her governing days were like a war everyday and she had to persuade a myriad of opposition to precede her governing policy and

her argument. Although she showed her toughness and cold and freezing attitude towards the so called, Anti-Thatcherism when she propelled her policy, by watching movie, I realized that she was also a woman who really want to take care of her family and who wants to be loved and be protected as a wife. I would say, the movie changed my viewpoint of Margaret Thatcher. I had thought of her as a strong spirited woman, however, she was also scared and afraid of all the dissent against her and she spent restless nights to fight with them or persuade them. Her father was actually the influence of her to be independent, strong, adamant and later to become the woman leader; however, the movie indirectly show us how she put great effort to satisfy what her father demands of her. In short, the movie occurs to me that the movie director wants to express the real Margaret Thatcher as also a normal lady, a typical mother who has her affection to her husband and children and who has her own emotion. In addition, after watching the movie, there is a one memorable quote that I could never forget. The quote is as follows: "never run with the crowd, go your own way." This is a word quoted by Thatcher's father, who was an effective person to her to step in as a politician into the men's world of the 1980s. The reason I felt myself that this quote was

important is because my father also said exactly the same words to me. While I was in high school my father told me not to follow what others think is good, what others prefer. To be more precise, during my high school year, everyone hopes to go to three prestigious universities in Korea instead of thinking about what they want to be, what are their dreams and what specific major they want to study. Despite other friends, I have a big dream to become one of the members of the United Nations and I felt myself that I should experience diverse cultures and learn many different languages. Also, I felt that studying in university in my own country will not greatly help to improve my English skills. Just like Margaret Thatcher, I also chose my own way instead of following others. I kept searching and decided to apply to the Institute of Liberal Arts. For now, I really enjoy studying international law, international policies, international organizations and more. Moreover, my English ability is improving and also my Japanese skill is gradually developing as well. I am fully satisfied about my choice and kept walking my own way, my own road to reach my dream. I also want to be an Alpha girl, who took the lead role within a group working for making changes and making better world just like an ambitious woman, Margaret Thatcher. Women, be ambitious!

The Family Man

XIAO Yajing, Graduate of 2006 Centre for Japanese Language

The Family Man taken in 2000 is not a new movie. I am sure most movie lovers have seen it. Jack, played by Nicolas Cage is a single, wealthy Wall Street executive in New York City. Marriage means nothing to him. He is arrogant and believes that he has got everything which annoys an angel. The next morning, on Christmas Day, when Jack wakes up, he finds himself lying in a suburban New Jersey bedroom with Kate, his girlfriend, broke up with him 13 years ago and their two children. The house is a mess, and they are not wealthy at all. He is a tire salesman and Kate is a non-profit lawyer. Jack is shocked and confused, and he struggles for a while. However,

the desire for peace and love deep in his heart is gradually aroused and he finally gets to love this "Glimpse", falling in love with his wife, bonding with his children, and working hard at his job. Jack comes back to his real life when he finally realizes the true value of life. He knows what he has lost and what he needs most, and he tries to get it back.

I am touched by a line, "I choose us", from this movie. When Jack finds a new job in New York, Kate says, "..... If you need this, Jack, if you really need this, I will take these kids from a life they love and I'll take myself from the only home we've ever shared together and I'll move wherever you need to go. I'll do that because I love you. I love

you, and that's more important to me than our address. I choose us." And Jack says to Kate at the airport when Kate is leaving for Paris, ".....I know we could both go on with our lives and we'd both be fine, but I've seen what we could be like together. And I choose us." I went to study Japanese in Kyoto six years ago, and I've planned to go to Tokyo afterwards, to get my doctor's degree. However, I met my husband in Kyoto, so I've decided to find a job in Kyoto because "I choose us". I came back to Beijing with him three years ago, giving up my favorite job for "I choose us". I knew this would be better for his career so we needed to spend more time with our parents. I was a little bit upset when I had to choose a new lifestyle. But I knew "I

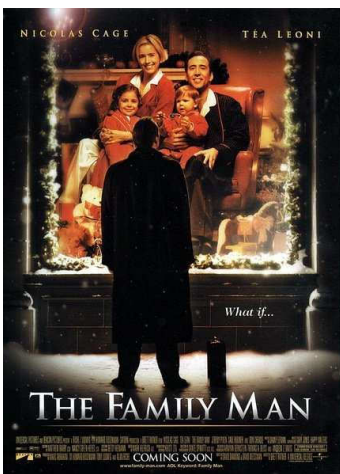
choose us" which is just so simple (words) but so meaningful. Career is everywhere, but happiness is not. One won't be lucky enough like Jack, from *Family Men*, to find it, a new life back once you lose it. Although I would not work at international companies anymore, using neither English nor Japanese, I took a new job at a university and treat that as my career. I am happy because I can have more time with my parents, support my husband's career, and provide my daughter with the education from kindergarten to high school subordinated to the university.

I found that it is important to choose a lifestyle you really enjoy. The life in Beijing is hard; the cost of housing, the bad traf-

fic, difficulties in children's education and getting doctor's appointment etc. Many problems are confronting most people in Beijing, especially those without Beijing "Hukou" (registered permanent residence). The movie character, Jack and Kate, I know so many people who prefer to live in smaller cities. I can tell they are happy with their lives, sharing more times with their families, no need to worry about the education of their children, and no necessities for queuing long in hospital.

Real happiness comes from the true feelings insider your heart, not from priority or wealth, not from others' point of views or from the rule criteria of the society. When you have to choose between happiness and success,

please ask yourself if you want to say "I choose us". Lifestyle is never important if you think you are happy. The movie reminds us to slow down and take a look at the important things in our lives when we view it again.



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Edward Scissor hands



When I was asked to write about my favorite movie, many movies I recently watched came to my mind first, but after thinking for a while I decided that for me there is no movie as touching as "Edward Scissor hands," produced in 1990. I first watched this movie when I was twelve and I still love to watch it even today (at age 23.) I think I will still love this movie even in the next 20 years. "Edward Scissor hands" is a movie that is timeless and everyone I knew who watched it, no matter their ages,

remember it as one of the best movies they have ever watched. This movie is about an artificially created man, named Edward, who has scissors as his hands. Because his creator died before completing his work, Edward spends his life alone in the dark castle on top of a mountain, neither being a machine nor being a human being. He seems to be a creature of the dark, similar to Frankenstein at first, because his looks is quiet scary; from his clothes, and also his hair being dark while his skin is nearly white and his face is full of scares, but Edward's eyes are different unlike the monsters we recognize. His eyes show his fragileness, vulnerability, and his kindness. One day Edward was founded by a woman who happens to come from the old castle. She feels pity for him and takes him home to her family and forces him to live with the family. Because Edward always spent his life alone, without his

master who died early and never met anyone else, he feels completely intimidated. However, he started adopting to his new life and became very popular. Because Edward is too nice and too naïve, he can't decide if people are treating him well or just exploiting him. On the other hand, Edward fell in love with the family's daughter, Kim, who already has a boyfriend. Her boyfriend, who is quiet a mean fellow, hates Edward and tries to harm him as much as he could. He even manages to bring Edward to jail for a little while, accusing him of a crime Edward did not commit. Even though Edward is innocent of this event and some others, he is not responsible for bringing the other people in town to feel fear towards Edward. Finally the only people who still stand behind Edward are Kim and the other family members. Because it was in December, they prepared for a Christmas feast together and

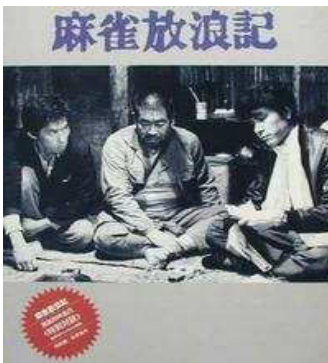
Edward created a big ice sculpture of an angel in the garden as a decoration. Kim watched him, while Edward was did his work, when her boyfriend suddenly appeared. He called out for her very loudly. Kim was frightened and because of the sudden movement, one of Edward's scissors was scratched and her boyfriend saw it and immediately used the chance to accuse Edward for being violent. Because Edward is too gentle to defend himself, Kim helps and she breaks up with her boyfriend, realizing that he is a too ill-natured person. Finally in another incident Edward tried to protect the family's son from being overrun by a friend of Kim's former boyfriend, but instead, scratched his face accidentally. This is seen by some neighbors who enrage and start chasing Edward, who also gets upset by being treated so unfairly and because he cannot understand why people are

treating him like that, he fled back to his castle and hide there from the angry crowd. Kim reaches the castle before the others, but is followed by her ex-boyfriend, who tried to kill Edward. In the end, Edward has to kill Kim's ex-boyfriend in order to protect her. Then standing alone in the castle Kim and Edward confessed their love for each other. However, both knew it was impossible and the girl leaves to encounter the angry villagers to tell them that both Edward and her ex-boyfriend died from the fighting. Edward and Kim never saw each other again, but towards the end of the movie, Kim as an old woman, explains to her own child, how it is starting to snow. She says it is because Edward is still living in his castle forming ice creatures with his scissors, and from his cravings, the villages was filled with snow.

because it is not only a simple love story but also a movie about dreams, friendships and morals. Watching this movie always feels like dreaming a dream and the end of it is like a bittersweet awakening. It is kind of touching to see Edward standing up against and dealing with all the problems he encounters, because even though he looks scary at first, he has a gentle character and can overcome the people around him in kindness. Because of this, it is so hard to watch him being treated so badly and finally even being chased like a dangerous creature. Even though one hopes until the last second that Edward will be rewarded for having the purest heart of all in the end he cannot stay with the person he loves, and has to spend his life alone forever. This, I think gives quiet a sad ending.

I like this movie so much,

Mahjong Yamashita



I want to introduce to you my favorite Japanese film called, *Mahjong Hourouki*. This film teaches the viewers about gambling. Many famous Japanese actors and actresses appear in this movie, such as Takeshi Kaga and Shinobu Otake. The direction is Makoto Wada.

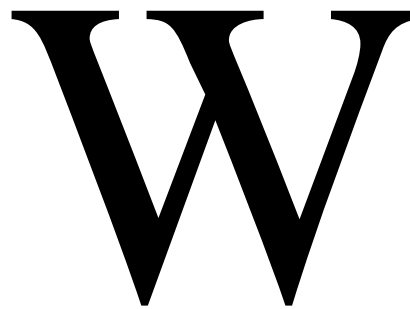
After the war, there is a young man. His name is Tetsu.

He begins a Chinese game called "Mahjong" from an invitation by a man who is pure and weak. He always pairs up with someone who can win. Joshu Tora deceives him. But Joshu is also deceived by someone as well. Tetsu teamed up with a woman who he really loves. She is a very clever and sexy woman, but also weak. For example, when her bag was robbed in the taxi, she cried a lot. She likes this young Tetsu, but doesn't truly love him. One day, the women left Tetsu on a flight and he failed in loving her. Throughout this story, Tetsu is deceived by many men. But thanks to those men, he became a stronger per-

son.

Joshu has a rival whose name is Dosaken. He is an old romantic and passionate man who loves to play the Mahjong and loves his girlfriend very much. He bets household effects and his girlfriend, but he never gives up on anything. He is a very attractive man and his life is to play the Mahjong. Because of that, he is an expert in this game, so he taught it to Tetsu.

Bouya Tetsu, Joshuu Tora, Dosa Ken and Deme Toku. How their game went is the climax of this film. I won't mention what happened at the end, because I want people to see this film. Hope that many people reading this paper got interested and want to watch it soon.



The Doshisha Student is now looking for new members who are willing to join the club. Please e-mail at

Jeongmin Han : myosim@i.softbank.jp

Shinobu Ando : doshishaswim4@gmail.com

World as a Melting Point

My Adolescence Period in Japan Zhou Weiwei, Graduate of Business school 2011

To me, adolescence happened in my middle school year which was later than all my friends around me. I noticed this by what I wrote on my diary and started to wonder about my future. Especially during my middle school year, I was interested in the philosophical book, and also the ancient history and science as well. I started to question myself how we came to be in this world.

During my adolescence period, my family and I suddenly moved to a native country or Japan. This was when I was 14

years old and didn't know how to speak Japanese. Although I was studying Japanese a little, because I was interested in a native language, I only learned it for fun and could only get to a beginners level. In grammatical terms, Korean and Japanese are similar and said to be easy to obtain the languages.

However, it was nothing like that. Maybe it was because the school I transferred, a municipal school in Kobe, was speaking in "Kansaiben." Either way, I didn't understand what was being taught in the class and

couldn't comprehend more of my friends' conversations. Why were they laughing so loudly? I just naturally laughed when everyone else was laughing. I anticipated that I would soon be able to speak Japanese but even after one or two years, I still could not speak well. It was heartbreaking for me that I couldn't express my thoughts out in Japanese. During my high school years, I was speaking Japanese for 24 hours, compared to my middle school years, so I started to lose my ability to speak Korean. My body didn't feel good and I started to

get very stressful when I experienced the gap between the reality and my imagination, emotional changes which occurred many times in a day, and feeling very worrisome as to why I am here in Japan. My high school teacher said a person's value and personality will change according to the country they wish to live. My teacher also told me that depending on where and how I spend my last minute of the adolescence period will become important in the way I think when I become an adult. In other words, my teacher advised me to experience as many things as possible! Even though I was the only foreigner at my school, I have obtained many things there. For example, I got to understand the social problems between Japan and Korea in a neutral point of view, and I could understand Japanese much better than before. Not only that,



but I learned the importance of learning a new language, understanding and respect others and achieve an international way of thinking in any situations. I was also an immature inside and wondered all the time, but look-

ing through my adolescence period as the base, I want to challenge myself in many things through the rest of my life.



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My First International Exchange Program



"My First International Exchange Program" was an event that invited people who were interested in other countries. They shared his or her opinions and experiences. The presenter introduced what he or she is doing now. Then, we had time for

some questions and debates. "The Doshisha Student," an English Newspaper club, invited Kimura Manami who is in the international group, "We Are One Japan," to our 1st "My international interchange" that took place in Tanabe on Dec 12th. About 15 Korean, Chinese, and Japanese students took part in this meeting and shared their views.

Before mentioning about We Are One Japan, let me sum up what we've talked about in our meeting. We've discussed about the result of the national census in Kyoto. It is said that

there are 5,000 foreign students in Kyoto City. In fact, many international social groups exist in Kyoto and each group has their own organization. All participants in this 1st meeting joined together with the foreign groups. We talked about the similarities and the differences of the social groups which were the most popular topics. It was more important for the foreign group to share the same goal than talking about friendship. Each team had a leader responsible for their group members. After this meeting was over, I felt I should have made the groups just like how "We Are One Japan" always does.

Now, let me introduce to you about We Are One Japan.

We are one Japan was first established in 2008. It is a voluntary, event organizing group that

bringing together exchange students living in the Kansai area through various events and activities. The objective of We Are One Japan is to create a place for people to connect to and exchange cultures with others regardless of their race, language or religion. There are various events but Tour de Kyoto, Traveler's Night and Kansai international Student Party (KISP) becomes the typical activities. We

Are One Tour de Kyoto cycling event allows people with different backgrounds to come together to enjoy regular bicycle day-trips to somewhere yet to be discovered. They choose the different bicycle roads each time. At each Traveler's night, they invite a foreign guest speaker of the theme country to present and share with the members. He or she will be able to tell the members what to see, what to eat and where to go that are only known to the locals. The KISP is a subgroup under We Are One Japan that organizes different international events for students, by students all over Kan-

sai areas. The objective is to enhance interaction and exchange between students not only within their schools, nor within Kyoto or Osaka, but in bigger Kansai area for both Japanese and international students.

Likewise, We Are One Japan does not suggest you to just hang around but also do something valuable and meaningful. If you are interested in working with We Are One, Please contact we.are.one.japna@gmail.com. Thank You!

Studying abroad Rieko Yamamoto

I

have been in Ireland for four months during the winter season. I decided to go abroad to study English in my third year at my university. In November, my friends started their job hunting. I also did my job hunting, just like my friends, but I stopped after I went to Germany in December of that year. When I heard from my friends

that they just started working, I felt a bit lonely. However, I have never regretted for my decision of being in Ireland.

I went to Germany to see my friend who learned German. I met many of her friends who had gone abroad to study like my friend. I couldn't talk with them fluently when they spoke to me in English. Many Europeans are able to speak English even if it's not their native language. They learn German as their third lan-

guage. I felt frustrated that I couldn't speak English. When I was going back to Japan from Germany, I was thinking about my future. I had to restart my job hunting after I went back to Japan. While on the plane, I looked unintentionally at the cabin attendants. It seemed to me that they were enjoying their work. The cabin attendants were attractive because they were able to change their manners while speaking to customers to match

with the situations. Then, at that moment, I decided I want to be a cabin attendant and go abroad to study English.

I met a woman, after I came back from Germany, who is two years ahead of me in my faculty and works as a cabin attendant. After I met this woman, I changed my idea of going abroad to study. It's necessary to speak English to be a cabin attendant and then to later be entrusted with an important post in the

future.

Life in the Fastlane

future.

The reason why I decided to study in Ireland is that few Japanese have lived in Ireland. I thought it was better for me not to meet other Japanese so I can master English. I really hoped my English would improve after ten months. It's not common though for Japanese to choose Ireland to study English. They usually go to the United States, Canada, England, or Australia. I heard from my friend who went to the United States to study English that there were many Japanese in her class. They tend to get together even in a foreign country. I hardly met any Japanese in Ireland. There were only four Japanese, including myself. But even if we met around the cam-

pus, we still spoke English to each other because they also wanted to learn English too.

Living abroad is a pain but also a pleasure. I made many friends, who I spend the best time with, in my school, but I had a problem with my Brazilian flatmates when I moved to the apartment. It was a matter of whether they have a different sense of values for many things than me or not. But we quarrelled over trivial matters every day. There were about money, cleaning the house, frequent parties, etc. My flatmates strongly fought back when things like this happened. Since I am never contented, I also fought with them too. Whenever I was in the house, I felt very stressful.

It was a serious problem for me to feel stressful in my house. I noticed the characteristic of being careful about other people which most Japanese were great at doing. On the other hand, when I had a difficult time, my friends helped me out. I have many friends who are from South America. Although I accidentally had a problem with Brazilians, most of them were very kind to me. I learned, from them, how to keep smiling whenever I had a problem. I have lived in a different apartment with girls from different countries. It was interesting how each ones' individualities came out. I was very happy that I met them.

I have worked in a lunch

box shop for one month while I was in Ireland. Working there was an excellent opportunity for me. I got to practice my English which I usually didn't use with my friends and had a chance to meet with the Irish people. Each one of them had a strong personality. Although I was often surprised about their request, I have never thought myself being interested in this part-time job.

My daily routines were usually set through the life of Ireland. I went to school in the morning and then I worked in the shop for four hours each day. After I finished my work, I studied at the library or at my house until I went to my bed. I didn't have enough time to improve my English level by just living in

Ireland. I suppose I also needed to study harder on my own too. On the weekends, I met with my friends and spend the most brilliant and relaxed time of my life. Although studying by yourself could be considered important, I also thought meeting your friends were another effective way to improve your English skill. I was surprised how fast time flew very quickly. If I didn't challenge myself into everything in this life, my studying abroad will be meaningless.

I also have enjoyed going travelling to other cities in Ireland or to other countries. I like visiting places where there are old histories and I love looking at beautiful architectures. There were so many kinds of old his-

tory and architectures in Europe. It was easy to go travelling around Europe from Ireland. I particularly recommend travelling there by train. Whenever I go travelling somewhere, I often recall my professor's word. He repeatedly said, "Young people should go abroad."

I agree with my professor. I will be able to obtain different points of view I haven't had for certain things or ideas. In my case, I am getting confidence and a wider view on things.

Going abroad to study was a way to achieve my goal in the future. My goal in the near future is to work as a cabin attendant and be entrusted with an important position in my job.

Noisy Girls

Walking north along Kawaramachi St. towards Imadegawa St., you might not ever see my favorite noise club. Even if you happen to glance at the small plastic and metal "Socrates" sign on the sidewalk in front of the illuminated and ever-bustling Fresco supermarket, you're likely not much closer to noticing the entrance of the venue, a wide grey metal door at the bottom of a commodious and nondescript stairwell. The steepness and depth of the staircase is such that, from the street, it is nearly impossible to see the grey door; one must deliberately enter the building, walk to the head of the stairs, and gaze downward. If you are atten-

tive and curious enough to find yourself at the bottom of this staircase, looking through the wide doorway, you'll be faced with a poster-lined hallway, at the end of which is the door to the music hall.

The main room of the venue is very intimate – a full mixing console, two large powered speakers, a DJ/merchandise table, and a stage all fit into an approximately 25 m² room that still accommodates a crowd. Quiet or more "experimental" nights might see single-digit audience members, but Socrates also hosts some big name acts (relatively speaking, of course) that easily command crowds of 50 or more. When this many heavy music enthusiasts are confined to such a small space, the energy level of the experi-

ence can be an impressive sight to behold. I once was particularly ill and attended a kamomekamome/F.I.B. concert, with no intentions to physically engage myself in the performance. After a few songs, which elicited wild responses from the other patrons, I was so psyched up that I couldn't help but throw my sick body into the fray of the mosh pit, with a big grin under my runny nose. It was actually while in this mosh pit that my research on the underground music scene in Kyoto took a turn towards questions pertaining to gender.

As I was tossed about by the natural churning of the pit, I noticed that I was body-checking (incidentally, of course!) an unusually high number of females, in comparison to concerts of a

similar nature I was used to attending in the US. A quick glance around the room confirmed my suspicions – there was absolutely a higher number of girls in the audience than there would have been at the same concert in the US. But why? Was this concert an outlier? How much of a role did the particular bands play in drawing this diverse crowd? In the months following that show, I attended similar concerts with the intent of answering these question and others.

When it comes to the 'amateur' or 'underground' music scenes in Kyoto, the most surprising trend I have noticed is the rate of female participation in performance. Compared to similar subcultures and music scenes in which I've been involved in the US, there are

proportionally far more women banging drums, slappin' bass, and shredding guitar in Kyoto. Although I still have a lot more empirical work to do, I would estimate that 20-40% of band members in these music circles are women, while most scenes in America probably see low single digit rates. Additionally, I have casually observed that between 70% and 85% of bands in the Kyoto scenes have at least one girl member. I think it says a lot that bands without a girl member are seemingly in the minority.

As an avid participant in these kinds of music events, the gender trends are extremely interesting to me. The questions they can raise are equally compelling: does Japanese female youth culture have a fundamentally

different outlook on styles of music that Americans might dismiss as too radical or less legitimate than other activities? How do the views of Japanese youth on other extra-curricular (e.g. symphony orchestra, soccer) compare to their views on participation in the underground music world, and how does this influence the participation rate of women? These are just two of the many inquiries that come up as I investigate these unique trends in Kyoto. Before arriving in Japan, I don't think I ever expected to become so interested in and involved with answering such questions, but I suppose I also never expected to stop at the top of an unremarkable staircase and explore the unusual world beyond the grey door at the bottom.

AFS Tanikawa

The four exchange students who came to study in Kyoto last Febru-

ary have safely returned to their own countries. From the Tohoku earthquake and the tsunami in March, many districts all over Japan were affected and many victims still suffer physically and mentally. The AFS intercultural program, organized a plan for the exchange students to extend their arrivals to half a month than usual. This year was a very different year compared to

all the other years, because many of the foreign students canceled their exchange programs, or weren't even allowed to come to Japan. With many support from the host family, school friends, teachers, and the AFS volunteers, many of the exchange students who came were able to have a great time in Japan with the limited amount of time they had. All of the students

went back to their native countries with tears in their eyes and joy in all their faces. In November, the AFS organized a study program to think about the earthquake and peace in the world. We also observed an exhibition of the Great Hanshin Earthquake to see how fast Japan was able to recover from a huge disaster. Because the exchange students have experienced and

understood the differences between Japan and what was heard in their native countries, I hope they will share their experiences in Japan but also spread the words about the present conditions of Japan.

During the middle of March 2012, the new exchange students arrived in Kyoto. In February, the seniors have graduated and we

had an orientation for the new volunteers who are interested in our AFS club. We hope to devote greatly on creating an international exchange program for as many people as possible. I want to take this opportunity to say thank you for supporting the AFS to successfully finishing the year without any problems.

What's Up on Campus

DESA

We had farewell party for our seniors. We called this event "Oikon" According to Japanese vertically structures society, there is invisible boarder line between youngers and elders. However, our circle does not

have such age lines. There are more than 100 people involve with DESA, and all of them are friendly.

I could recall a lot of memories with Senpai that we went to the study abroad to the U.S., prepare for school festivals, Halloween, Christmas and so on. Our senpai, talented and have attractive personalities, we all admired them. I'm glad I met such wonderful Senpai in the university.

Since it is international circle, each person has variety careers after they graduate. Some of

them will have jobs in global companies, attend overseas graduate schools, or take a journey around the world. Whatever ways they take, I would like to celebrate their decisions. We reluctant to left Senpai, and promised to meet up again.

This year is going to be my last university life, so I will treasure every moment I spend, not to regret even the time comes to the part with dear friends I met in DESA. For recent event, Hanami and BBQ party are coming soon. I cannot wait!

Modern Jazz Ballet

Spring has come! The cherry blossoms are blooming and new students will come. In the university you can do whatever you like. Considering about how to enjoy your university life, joining the circle is one of the choices. Also, if you feel like to

dance, Modern Jazz Ballet always welcome you to join us.

Modern Jazz Ballet, wearing ballet shoes and dance with the jazz music, was established in 2006. The founder had been learning modern jazz ballet and she wished to spread.

Last November, we have done our 4th performance. In the first performance, we welcomed the audience by becoming Takarazuka girls. Then seniors performed the slow step dance which is fascinating. Hence, juniors played cheer

leading to the springy music. At last, the audience gave good hand to us. Before the performance, we were busy to train our dance and make costumes for a long time in the fall semester. I sometimes I wondered why am I training. However, the moment I was given the big applause always make me full of achievements. This satisfaction is motivated me to play dance again

If you have interest, you can contact to

rily0429@hotmail.com.

Enjoy your university life!

Habitat for Humanity ~ There's Always Something We Can Do to Help**Yui Shinohara**

One of the biggest projects that the members of our club worked on was the volunteer work at the Tohoku areas. This work does not only require our club, but can also be said to all the places in Japan. Each of us visited the tsunami affected areas and thought about what, as a college student, could do to help.

Right after March 11th, Habitat for Humanity started off with a fundraising campaign in Kyoto cities. I can still recall many people supporting our campaign directly after the Tohoku disaster. Some were an elementary

school student who contributed part of his pocket money to help. Another person said, "I am so sorry that this is all I can give" and put as much money as she had in our collecting box. I was delighted how so many people in the Kansai area, a place not effected by the tsunami, were interested and had the strong impression of wanting to help. However, as the time flies, people were not showing much of interest to our fundraising campaign anymore.

In November, I visited Kesenuma in Miyagi Prefecture to remake the anchors that were washed away by the tsunami.

While hand making these anchors, the fisherman told us how a huge tsunami affected their lives greatly. We heard many stories, from the disaster-stricken areas, about their experiences of the devastations and we were all impressed by their words. "We [victims] were able to live through from all of the wonderful help by the volunteers. We thank all of you very much." There, they were so many relief supplies delivered from all around the world. It is important for all of us to never forget about this natural disaster that swept many parts of Japan.

AFS : Cross Cultural Communication Yuen Li

Lunch Time Communication, made up of Chinese and Japanese students, was held on December 15th by the Doshisha Student Support Center of S-cube.12 of those Chinese students were from the CSSA, or the Chinese Student & Scholar Association, and 10 of those Japanese students were from different majors.

It was the first time for the Chinese Students to experience talking with the Japanese students who can speak Chinese very fluently. Their ability in speaking Chinese really sur-

prised us. Many of those students were able to speak, because they had the experience to study in China or lived in China before. Others took Chinese classes after they've entered college, so their pronunciation was very beautiful. Many of the CSSA asked them why they decided to learn Chinese. All of their answers had a one common point that most of them wanted to find jobs relating to China. Manabe, one of the Japanese students, said that learning Chinese was just a coincidence. She took a Chinese history class in senior high school and her interest in China grew (stronger). She went to

Shanghai in 2008 and she wanted to be a diplomatic worker in China. Yimoto, another Japanese student, impressed me because he knew how to use "the QQ," instant message software that is popular among the Chinese. He said he would join the student exchange program to study in Fudan University in Shanghai.

Although our conversation time was very short, we had a wonderful time and made many new friends. Many attendees (attendees?) were wondering when the next meeting be held again.

Summer days of the Lifetime Yamashita

A college life in Japan is known as "The Summer days of your Lifetime." I became a college student by hearing this phrase too. The image of "a summer holiday" for me is "hanging out every day rather than studying." Just like how I imagined it, after I entered the university, everything was our decision, whether we wanted to attend the classes or not. I did not attend to most of my classes and pretty much did not do anything. My life at that time was like my "summer break" during my high school years. I spend every day trying to find something that I can concentrate on. And then I met a circle named "SIVIO." Right away, I decided to be a

member of this club. By participating in this circle, I was able to have a successful college life and all the events in SIVIO were something I can take part in. From the events at SIVIO, I was able to understand what "The Summer days of your Lifetime" meant..

"The Summer days of your Lifetime" is the time when you fully accomplish what you appreciate doing. After the summer break in the elementary or middle school, I remember everyone being different in certain ways like some of my friends grew few inches in height or they got more intelligent than before. These changes can also be said for college life too. The experiences

that one had or the decisions which one makes will completely change the way a person is.

I hope new students will experience "The Summer days of their Lifetime" during their valuable four years in the university. This can be anything from joining the club activities, studying very hard, taking part in the part-time jobs, joining the circles or even having love relationships. I hope everyone will spend a wonderful life time in their college years.

If you cannot find anything you want to do, why don't you try joining our circle, SIVIO?

If you are interested in our club, please visit our website at sivio.jp.

Aisec

During the late 2011, AISEC Doshisha Local Committee supported students who applied for the Overseas Internship Program in Asian countries such as India, Thailand, and Turkey as well as Germany and Kenya. Every year, the students applying for these programs are increasing. Last year, about 20 students from the Doshisha AISEC Committee were involved in this program. Over

500 members from all of the AISEC Committee have challenged themselves to work in different places around the world.

The reason why many of our members are taking part in these programs is because the world has turned into a globalized world and there's the necessity to look into the world and having experiences overseas becomes important. This year, in

2012, the Doshisha AISEC Committee is organizing an overseas internship program again and tries to help people be comfortable in the globalized world.

Japan is said to be left behind from the wave of globalization. Thus we hope that students who experienced various programs in AISEC Doshisha Local Committee will work well in any countries around the world.

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