

SPRING VIEWS

Spring International Language Center, Littleton, Colorado

May 17, 2010

International Day Is Highlight of Spring Term

Hundreds of college and community members enjoyed the festivities at the 29th annual International Day Wednesday, April 14, in the ACC Dining Hall. Booths from more than 15 countries featured ethnic foods, artifacts, and information. Food ranged from Saudi Arabian kubsas to Belgian chocolate mousse.

Entertainment featured the Mariachi Aguilas de Mexico, African Kudzidza drummers, belly dancer Rooshana, Belgian swing dancers, Latin dancers, and traditional dances of Saudi Arabia, Qatar, UAE, and Libya.

Special guests at the Day were members of the Littleton immigrant community. The annual event is sponsored by Spring International and the ACC International Club. Organizers were Missy Hull and Connie Shoemaker.



Living in the US: How It Has Affected My Personal Life

by Lilia Johnson, Russia

I thought I was smart, intelligent, young, healthy, and ready to face any situation that could possibly be. I thought I could face many problems and easily live in any place in the world with new experiences. When I first moved to the US, I thought I would find many friends and a new family and be one of the best, like I was in Russia. Time has passed and I realize that it is not as easy as I thought. There were some situations that really hurt me personally, and I had a hard time finding the right solutions. Specifically, some Americans discriminate against people from other countries, especially Russians. Certainly, some Russians think the same way. Indeed I am Russian, but my home is the United States. I have been living in the US for almost three years and, of course, it has had many positive and also negative effects on me.

First of all, I hate to stay at home for a long time, so I put my personal application in a few places that I wanted to work. For some reason they all answered the same: "Sorry, you have to wait. No positions are available at the moment, or the vacancy has already been filled." After a while, I realized that my college degree means nothing in a foreign country. In addition, I can't speak intelligent English or read or write English well. So I decided to start over and went back to school.

Furthermore, I realize that I am a very good chef. I can learn new recipes quickly and create delicious meals. Moreover, I really enjoy cooking for my family, which I never liked before. I also found that I am interested in learning about American culture, cuisine, holidays, and events. Thus, I like to make some special food on holidays and enjoy seeing a mixed table with American and Russian dishes on it. I do like to celebrate American holidays, but at the same time, I will always remember Russian holidays even if I do not celebrate them here. When I start to think about Russia, it always makes me feel horrible because I absolutely love that country, and I miss it so much.

There is another issue that I have been faced with. I used to have many friends in Russia, but for some reason we all lost the close connection we had with each other. When you live far away from your friends, interests and things change. Eventually, our conversations became shorter, boring, not very interesting, and not important. We still keep our friendships but mostly just through e-mails from time to time. However, I have been trying to find some friends here.

For instance, my daughter has a girl friend from school. Her mother and I became friends, too. Her daughter had sleepovers in our house every week for about a year. I spent a lot of time with the kids, and I liked the girl. I treated her the same as my own daughter. Occasionally, all of us would go out for lunch or to an event. I thought that all was happy and everything was good until I found my daughter crying. I asked her, "What happened?" She said that someone had deleted all the exclusive items on her computer and hacked into the account of her favorite video game (cont. p. 2)

Living in the US (cont. from p. 1)

"Well," I said, "does anyone know your password?"

"Only my girl friend, but she would never ever do that to me," she cried.

I still called her mom and explained the situation. Her mother said that her daughter had done it. I was shocked and didn't really know what to do in that situation. Then I thought that we must cancel the sleepovers for awhile because of this incident. I also sent an e-mail to them.

The girl's mom sent me an answer saying that I am stupid and rude. Also, she said that I don't understand that American culture is very different from Russian, especially about kids. In the US, kids can make mistakes, but you can't punish them like that! I was completely disappointed because stealing has nothing to do with culture. Kids at the age of 8 or 9 should understand that stealing is wrong. Friends can share things easily without any problems. After that, our relationship pretty much ended. However, I have found many virtual friends from all around the US who play video games on-line with me and my husband! Friends will find me in time; it will happen naturally.

Overall, I have had many problems and headaches here. I also have plans that I am facing and trying to fix and achieve. Some of the effects of cultural differences have hurt me more than others, but some have made me happy. As a result, I will never give up. In fact, the experience of living in a foreign country has made me a stronger person, and I am ready to take on any possible situation in my life just the same as I was three years ago.

Cheek to Jowl Kiss

Communication Differs in Belgium and the U.S.

By Arnold Lantonnois, Belgium

Using nonverbal communication is something we do automatically and all the time. The United States and Belgium have a different point of view in the field of social relationships. What can be considered as weird here might be seen as perfectly normal in Belgium, and vice versa. We use our personal space differently in the way we greet people, have an intimate conversation, or try to persuade someone at an official meeting. Moreover, men and women don't have the same need of space between them and their interlocutor. In other words, there are several cultural differences in the use of space between Belgium and the US.

First of all, people are closer while greeting in Belgium than in the US. Two people meeting for the first time can greet each other in a different way, depending on whether it is an official appointment or not, and if the characters are of the same gender or not. For instance, meeting a girl at an unofficial occasion often means giving a cheek-to-jowl kiss, particularly between young people. People shake hands at the beginning of an official meeting, between elderly men, and sometimes between adult women who don't know each other. What might also be seen as weird in another culture is the fact that young boys who are friends can greet each other with a cheek-to-jowl kiss. In the US, people are far more distant. Greeting someone with a simple "Hi, How are you doing?" is more than enough. However, Americans still shake hands a lot, no matter their gender. It happens, too, that they might hug each other when they are very close friends or relatives.

Belgium and the US are also different in the way men and women use personal space. In both countries men and women are equal, they have the same rights, but we can distinguish them in the field of using personal space. Belgian women can stay very close when they are talking. It is quite usual, for example, that they touch each other's arms or shoulder during a discussion. On the contrary, it would be considered as strange if two Belgian men are holding each other's hand when talking. However, people from a different gender speaking together don't need more or less personal space than if they are people from the same sex. The US, on the other hand, is kind of different. Thanks to what I have experienced, I can tell that if you don't want to embarrass a person from the other gender, don't come too close during a conversation.

Afterwards, there are dominant and dominated people, and you see it through non-verbal communication in Belgium or in the United States. In my country, you can sometimes immediately say which person is dominating the speaking before they pronounce a single word. For instance, some Belgian bosses put their hand above the job applicant's hand to show who the chief is. Furthermore, you can tell if someone has a strong personality or not, just watching his eye contact. People who avoid eye contact are seen as submissive. American people also have habits you can easily discern. Let's take the example of an application again. The boss, because he feels confident, sometimes put their hands at the back of their head to be relaxed. On the other side of the desk, the person asking for the job is usually recoiled in his chair. The last catchy example I can provide is the way an adult disapproves a child's act without speaking. He may give an angry look and the kid immediately understands he acted wrong.

In conclusion, I would say non-verbal communication and use of personal space are a part of the culture. Belgium and the US are both Western countries, but communication doesn't look the same at all. A cheek-to-jowl kiss is normal in Belgium, whereas it just sounds bizarre here. A big hug or a large space between two people is not common in my country. We should know our interlocutor's customs to avoid misunderstanding. Men and women can act in a different way and we must respect each other and them him feel comfortable in their use of space.

Level 3's Happiest Days

Wedding Party Is Memorable...By Raed Al Ogaily, Saudi Arabia



I have a lot of events I will never forget in all my life. Of course, it is the very special events of my life I remember all the time, but the most special event for me was my wedding party. It was a special day in my life and it will always be in my memory. On February 18, 2009, was my wedding day and I was waiting for this day. Everything was ready, the concert hall already rented, the invitation letter already sent to the guests, and the honeymoon trip already reserved. In the evening, I was in the hotel, and I was preparing myself in order to go to the party. When I arrived at the party, I was feeling like a prince. I was the most important person in that party. All of my family, friends, and my manager were attending my party. All of them wanted to take a photo with me, and I really felt so happy. I did not want the party to end, but beautiful moments expire quickly. When the party finished, I went to the hotel with my wife, and we prepared ourselves to start the honeymoon. We had a wonderful and amazing honeymoon. This event in my life will never be forgotten since it was the beginning of my married life and the event which combined me with my wife.

Road Trip to Arizona Long But Happy...by Faisal Al-Dhubayi, Saudi Arabia

Have you ever seen Arizona state? Arizona is the most beautiful state I have ever seen. The people in Arizona are very nice and friendly. During the Spring break, I traveled to Arizona with my friends. I went there by car. However, the road was so long, and we were on the road about 15 hours. We were exhausted when we arrived, but during that time we were happy, too. In Arizona, we met our friend Ahmad, and he drove us to the hotel to take a nap. At night, we met each other again. Ahmad invited us to dinner. The next day in the morning, we woke up early. We met Ahmad at 9 a.m. Then we went to eat breakfast. After that, Ahmad took me and my friends to show us the state. In addition, we went to his city, which is Tempe. Tempe was a beautiful city. Also, the weather over there is fair weather. Then he showed us his university, Arizona State, a beautiful university. He explained to us the important places on campus. We were so happy to see our friend and the state of Arizona.

My Best Day in the U.S. Was a Surprise...by Humaid Almansoori, U.A.E.

Everyone has bad and good days in their lives that affect them. However, I'm going to write about one of my good days here in the U.S.A. This day was last Saturday. I had a lot of fun and went to many places with my friends who visited me from another state. Also we did many things together.

First of all, I was really sad on Friday because I was alone, but then my friend called and told me that he was coming to visit me with his friend. I was excited to see them. They arrived in the early morning without even calling me to pick them up from the airport. They surprised me and because of that we went out to eat some quick breakfast. After that, we went to my apartment to plan for the whole weekend. They had never been to Colorado before, so we decided to go to the mountains.

Second, I thought we would have more fun if there were more than just three of us. Therefore, I called my friends from UAE and Qatar and invited them to go with us. We went to King Soopers to buy some hotdogs and hamburgers because we wanted to have a small picnic. It was difficult for us to choose where we should go, but in the end we chose to go to Estes Park. We got there around 1 p.m., and we came back before sunset. I saw many beautiful views and the weather was amazing. We did many things, such as cook and taking some pictures. It was my first time to be there, and I hope it won't be the last.

In the evening, we went to my Qatari friends' apartment in Westminster because it was his birthday, and we wanted to do something special for him. One of my friends was wearing some Arabic clothes in a stupid way and pretended like he was a famous singer. It was really funny. After that, we started to sing all together the Happy Birthday song for my friend. He was very happy. Also we danced Arabic dances together.

In conclusion last Saturday was really a long, good day. I didn't even have a chance to think about anything bad and I was laughing all the time. On this day, I saw everything in a different way. Everything was beautiful and clear for me. I wish I could have many days like this day in my future life

Graduation Day Was Best Day of All...by Abdullah Aldosimany, Saudi Arabia

Many people have good days, but my graduation from high school was the happiest day of my life. I got good grades in every class. If you want to have good days like me, you have to do what I did.

First of all, I studied hard and seriously. Second, I did everything the teacher wanted from the beginning of school until the end. Then I went to school early every day. Next, if I didn't understand anything, I went to my teacher to explain it to me. The last two weeks of school, I worked more in my studies, so I got a high grade in all my scholastics. That day became a very good day for me because it was the day I graduated from high school and my father bought a new car for me. Also, that day my father said, "I will send you to the U.S. to study." That was the happiest day and one I will not ever forget.

In conclusion that day was one of my most beautiful memories. My family helped me to be happy in that day. I will never forget what my father did to make me happy

First Day of School Was Happy But Sad Time...by Fahad Albouq, Saudi Arabia

When I was a child, before I went to school, I loved anything about studying. I woke up in the morning and saw my brothers were preparing to go to school. I put on new clothes to go with them, but my father stopped me because I was too young. Then I cried at the door because my father didn't want me to go. I was five years old at the time. After a year, when I became six years old, my parents decided to enroll me in school. I was very happy because I would start school.

On the morning of the first day, I was happy because my father was taking me to school. When I went into the school to go to class, I saw children my age there. The children were crying and I said, "Why are they crying?" I was happy until I saw that my father wanted to leave me because he wanted to go to his job. I felt scared because I had to stay for six hours with people I didn't know. When he left, I started crying. I didn't stop crying. Then I knew why the children were crying. However, I think it was a nice day and one I will never forget.

Development of English Is Important to Libya...by Osama Enajeh, Libya

Is it important to teach English as a second language in public schools? English is more useful than ever before for foreign countries because it is the main way of life, especially for the Middle Eastern countries. After Libyan autonomy, English was thought all over the country as a means to develop education in the country and to support relationships with other countries. Nowadays, Libya plays a major role in making English its second language. No one can follow civil development without learning English. The British Council has a lot of activities teaching English; it has established about eleven language centers in various universities with the help of students who have scholarships to study out of the country. In Libya, the importance of English is as a global language, a language of science and a language of technological development on the Internet.

According to an article in *Libya, English teaching.* "Between 1964 and 1968 the speed of industrial, economic and social development has been such that quite unforeseen demands for teachers and for an improved quality of English teaching have been and are now being made" (Barton). Despite the progress made in colonization up until 1970, English occupied an increasingly important place as the second language in Libya. It is now studied in primary schools. Many universities have conducted scientific, technical and medical courses in English. However, the random owner of a store or the doorman of a hotel in Tripoli is likely to speak a bit of English language, but the practice of businessmen to the debate to do so. The government issued also at least some statistical documents of the interior and other publications in the form of bilingual English and Arabic. In 1986, Libya created a policy aimed at the elimination of English teaching in favor of education in the Russian language at all levels. Although the policy was implemented in 1987, it was still assumed that English would remain widespread in the future ("*Libya*")

From 1992-2000, Libya returned to incorporating English into education. It was considered a key stage in the middle, high school and university levels, but the curriculum was not as complicated or useful as it must be. During the 21st century, English developed within the schools, especially in secondary schools, so that now English is taught to children in the third grade in primary schools. Most of the programs that we currently have in Libya are British English programs that are officially taught. However, Libyans also show great interest in learning American English because most of the stuff in our oil companies nowadays is American.

Cultural Differences Lead to Misunderstandings...by Heba Yeslam, Saudi Arabia.

If there weren't cultural differences, there wouldn't be any misunderstandings. Different values, which come from culture, can cause misunderstandings. Values and assumptions about correct behavior distinguish one culture from another. They illustrate how people understand and treat people from the same and different countries. As an international student in the U.S., I have observed many different values between my country, Saudi Arabia, and the U.S., such as individualism, informality, and personal space.

One of my country's values that is different from the U.S. is individualism. For example, in my country the family stays together in the same house until the children get married, but here in the U.S. older teenagers can move out of the family home. Also, in my country the parents still help their children until they get married, but in the U.S. the parents try to teach their children to make their own decisions about their own many and choices.

Formality and informality are values that are different in both countries. For instance, in my country we treat foreign people in a formal way. Moreover, we have to dress up to go anywhere, like school, work, or even shopping. In contrast, Americans treat almost anyone informally. For example, in the restaurant the table servers treat customers informally and in a friendly way. Also, I have seen some Americans go to school or to the grocery store in casual dress.

Personal space is very important between people, and it is different between my country and the U.S. For example, in my country people like to be near the person whom they talk to but not too close. However, in the U.S., people like distance between them and the person who talks to them. For example, on the light rail, I have never seen two men sitting next to each other even if there is extra room.

As you can see, each culture has different manners of understanding and treating others. Individualism, formality, and personal space are different values between my country, Saudi Arabia, and the U.S. I think if there weren't these different values in each culture, life would be boring.

Transportation, Education and the Economy Differ in the U.S. and Saudi by Mohammed Almarhoon

We all agree that Saudi Arabia and American have a lot of differences which can affect daily life even though both of them have a good economic budget. However, both of them use money in ways they like. For instance, America is interested in many things, such as transportation, education and economy.

Transportation in the U.S. is something very important and needed by all because of the nature of life in the U.S. Transportation has many useful things and this is why people use it. Many people use trains and because they can be faster (cont. p. 5)

Transportation (Cont.. from p. 4)

and cheaper than cars. Therefore, there are tons of reasons for using public transportation, such as avoiding traffic and saving money because of the high price of oil.

Saudi does not really use public transportation, it is just for the foreign workers in the country. Although Saudi Arabia is a big country and it has a lot of cities, it still does not have public transportation. For example, every day in the capital there are more than ten accidents around the city. Can you imagine how many accidents there are in the whole country? Traffic plays a serious role in this case, because without cars, people cannot go to work. In addition, oil is cheaper than water, so it makes sense that people drive all the time.

The U.S. has advanced education with a lot of materials and modern technologies which can help people to be educated. Moreover, many students would like to complete their studies in the U.S. because of the large number of universities and the multiple choices of majors. American can absorb a lot of students from other countries unlike Saudi Arabia, who sends the students to the States for education.

Education in Saudi Arabia has not changed for twenty years especially in high school. Studying in high school is very hard for many reasons, which are the ministry required students to study thirteen subjects and all of them have two sections. In addition, students cannot get admission to study in universities unless they get more than 80 per cent on tests. Furthermore, there are not enough universities to absorb all the students. There are around eight to twelve universities in the country. They don't use either modern technology or advanced materials, but today the King has opened a very big and nice university that includes all the preparations of modern technology, nice building, and professors from other countries. Many students from around the world have traveled and exchanged their students to the new university. It is really the honor of education in Saudi Arabia.

America has the strongest economy in the world because of the multiple sources in the trade industry, farming, and electronics. The U.S. has a strong economy because they have more than one source, which means when they fail in one source, it can be offset by another source. The U.S. economy has the ability to get over economic problems. America has some reasons for success, such as labor and diversity of products. Although there are a lot of features in the U.S., still the people are very simple and save their money as well as they can. Although America has a good economy, it still doesn't have the stability of industry.

Even though, Saudi doesn't have a diversity of products, it is the richest country in the world. It has a good economy because of oil. It exports oil to many countries. It produces more than eleven million barrels of oil each day. Oil in Saudi Arabia can last for over eighty years. This protects Saudi's economy.

Finally, in my opinion, the U.S. has a very good economy because of the diversity of products. They even have a good transportation system and perfect education. If America had as much oil as Saudi has, it would control the world. Even though Saudi has oil and really know how to export it, they don't know how to use it in the way it should be used. Eventually, Saudi Arabia needs to improve in public transportation and education.

LEVEL TWO-A WRITES ABOUT INTERNATIONAL DAY

THE INTERNATIONAL DAY is a very important celebration for Spring International because all students have an opportunity to show their culture, food, and tourist places. I visited the different expositions of other countries, such as Kuwait Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Japan, Colombia, Mexico, Belgium, Russia, South Korea, Qatar, and Libya. I listened to mariachis, saw the presentation of Belgian classmate and belly dancers. I also danced with my classmates: Yazeed, Mohammed K and Ghazi. We danced *reguetton* and Arabic dances. It was very enjoyable.

I got my name written in some languages like Arabic Korean, and Russian. On that day, I took 116 pictures and 5 videos. I really thought this was a great souvenir for me. I ate a few different types of food, like Saudi Kabsah, Libyan rice, Saudi camel meet, Colombian *arepas*, Mexican chips, Korean BBQ beef name "bulgogi" and "Belgian crepes, Saudi sheep meat, rice and chocolate mousse. I also drank Saudi tea, coffee and *horchata*.

My suggestion is that International Day should last for more time, at least five hours. The rest of the event was very excellent and organized. In my opinion, this celebration was very fantastic, interesting and funny. I think International Day is a great idea! ...**by Alice Villacorta, El Salvador**



YESTERDAY WAS INTERNATIONAL

I came to the United States. I put on my traditional clothes at home. Then my friend took me to school. After that, different costumes and culture. My country brought of Saudi Arabia. Also, everyone from my country wore *thobs*, the traditional dress we wear to parties or celebrations. After that I took pictures with many teachers and friends. I talked with teacher Susan and her daughter. She is very nice and cute. After that the belly dancer began to dance. She had an Arabic dance that I liked. Then I went to the European Center. I met someone from Belgium. He explained the customs of his country to me and I ate the food. It contained sugar, bread, lemon and cheese. After that we danced on the stage.

In my opinion, I want to make International Day every day because we can learn about different customs, dances, and food. I took pictures with Sun from Korea and Alice from El Salvador. I met all of my friends. They were very happy. Yesterday everyone was happy. Finally, I want to say thanks to everyone there because International Day was wonderful....**by Mohammad Al-Khuzaim, Saudi Arabia.**

I WAS SO HAPPY AT INTERNATIONAL DAY because I saw all my friends and all my teachers and some students came from ACC. Also people came from Littleton that day. It was interesting to all these people. Saudi Arabia had Arabic coffee and dessert, and *kabsah*, a main dish in Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the Emirates. I ate dates and *kabsah*. We took some pictures for memories with my teachers and my friends.

That day I had more fun and met people and got to know the customs and traditions in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Middle East. I saw dancer performing and people even went on dancing with the belly dancers. Then came student Abdulrahman who played the *aoud*. The *aoud* is like a guitar but a different shape. Then the students danced and had fun.

At International Day, I saw my colleague from the class. Sun is from Korea. He was amazing that day. I took pictures with him and had some Korean food that was very delicious. I also saw my friend Alice, who is very nice. She danced to Spanish music. In the end, it was a beautiful and wonderful day. I hope that my friends were very happy and spent a good time together...**by Abdulrahman AlBaoud, Saudi Arabia**

INTERNATIONAL DAY CREATED THE SPIRIT OF COOPERATION between us. It also made us eager to represent our countries perfectly. International Day was a great day, and I hope the school will change its plan to make it twice a year. When I came to the school, people looked for me and some of them talked to me.

"Can I ask you what is this you're wearing?" one person said.

I answered, "Yes, sure. This is our clothes in my country and these pictures are of Mecca (*Al kabah*) Many people come every year to Mecca because they want to say prayers to God."

One woman said to me, "I hope to visit your country because my son is Muslim. He works in Turkey. When he worked with Muslim people, he was affected by Islam and now he is a Muslim. He hopes to visit Saudi Arabia."

"I hope that everybody visits my country, so they will know the truth about it, and they will know what's happening in Saudi Arabia." I said to.....**by Younes Al-Rabany, Saudi Arabia**

LEVEL TWO-B SHARES ITS STORIES

LOST: I visited my country last Christmas because I missed my family. I searched online for cheap tickets and I bought a ticket. One hour before the airplane flew, I went to the airport. Customer service told me, "You are late!" After that, they booked me on another flight. This plane was from Denver to London. When I got on the airplane, it actually took me to Houston, Texas and from there to London. In London, I had a layover visa, so I got a train ticket. I got lost riding the train. I finally found my way back to the airport when I got lost again between terminals. When I found the right gate, the person behind the ticket desk got me a business class seat. Finally, I arrived at Riyadh. When I got off the plane, I saw my friend. I ran to hug and kiss him. I was so happy to be home...**by Ali Al-Othaim, Saudi Arabia**

TRAVEL: My favorite thing to do with my family is travel. On vacation, we go to different countries. I like to travel because I get to know new places and new cultures. Every trip we use different ways to travel. Traveling with my family is very comfortable and interesting. In the summer every year, we go to a different country. We went to Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon for about one month. Sometimes on vacation we went to Egypt. Travel with my family was a rest after working.

I like to travel with my family. It is better than when I travel alone. If we travel we make sure to visit new places. In Jordan, we visited all older places and the International Museum of Jordan. When we traveled to Lebanon, we took all the time on the beach and we took a small house in front of the sea. We were interested all the time to see new things and know about new culture. Every year we choose another country.

Every year we change our way of travel. Sometimes we go by airplane if the country is far, like Europe. Sometimes we travel by car if the country is near, like Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon. These countries are north of Saudi Arabia. Sometimes we cross the border to travel to Egypt. We crossed the Red Sea from Jeddah to Alexandria. It's a good idea when the way of traveling is changed every time. I like to travel with my family and see all the new things. I hope when I finish my studies in the USA, I will come back to my family and go to another country...**by Usamah Alkhaldi, Saudi Arabia**

FREEDOM: I live in the United States. I can go to a lot of interesting places, and I can learn a lot of things about the English language. In the mall, theater and international buy a lot of new things. Also I can see strange theater and see the newest movies. I can also Mexican, and German. I can eat a lot of kinds

In the United States, I can do my favorite of sports. For example, I play football in the park run with my husband because I can't do that in my country. Also I can walk in the street and I can go anywhere I want to go. In the United States, I feel freedom.

In the United States, I can go to the English Language Center, and I can learn a lot of things about English. For example, I can learn grammar, writing, reading, and listening. I can meet other students from other countries and I can improve my English and my speaking. I can read a lot of books. These books help me to know things I didn't know before.

Finally, in the United States, I really feel freedom because I can go anywhere, I can do anything I want to do, and I can learn a lot of things about the English language...**by Maha Al-Hamedyi, Qatar**

MY BROTHER: My story is about my brother. His name is Ryan. Riyan was a good boy and funny. When Riyan was 7 years old, he had a bad accident. I only chose this story because I want to tell you what happened. I remember a time that was bad for my family. It was a scary day. When we were at the farm, we went to the swimming pool. After that, my mother came to watch us. While we were swimming, my mother said, "Where's Riyan?" We said, "We don't know." Then we jumped into the water to find him. When we found him, he was dead. All of my family was crying. This day was a bad day. Now I miss my brother every day, and I think about him all the time...**by Hossain Al-Shedohi, Saudi Arabia**



There are a lot of favorite things here. For example, I do a lot of things I want to do. Also I can learn a lot of things about the English language. In the United States there are a lot of interesting places, such as restaurants. In the mall, I can go shopping and I can buy things for the first time in my life. And I can go to the go to international restaurants, such as Arabic, of food.

sport because in my country, women can't do any kind with my friends, and I can go to the beach, and I can go to the beach, and I can go anywhere I want to go. In the United States, I feel freedom.

Thank you to all the students who submitted compositions for *Spring Views*. Because of limited space, not all the writing was selected. Writing was chosen from as many levels as possible and for new topics of interest to readers. The goal of this newspaper is to encourage student writing and cultural understanding. *Spring Views* is published each nine-week term by Spring International Language Center, Arapahoe Community College, Connie Shoemaker, editor.