AN INDIAN RUNS THE MARATHON

On April 26, I pulled on my running sweats and decided to run the Famed Boston Marathon - one of the bastions of Boston's cultural heritage. At 12 noon thousands of feet - it sounded like millions - thundered their way to the "Pru" 26 miles and 385 yards in front of them. The first Greek who ran a Marathon died from fatigue, and I wondered if I myself was going to be another victim. Thinking about good food and cold beers kept me going both mentally and physically. I finished in a rather mediocre time of 4 hrs. and 20 mins., but I had not trained at all for the race.

Looking back, I must say I had some strange experiences. I was almost run over by a wheelchair, kicked, shoved, cursed, pinched, but other than these inconveniences, it boosted my ego. Right now, my legs and body are paying dearly for these shenanigans of mine. I was also treated to free hot dogs and chili on the way. So to Bill Rodgers, Seko, and all those sub 2:12 runners, who missed the chili and hot dogs, an Indian says, "Eat your hearts out!"

Matthew Malaihal
A '80
ONE STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE ON THE CHINESE IMMIGRANT EXPERIENCE

More than one hundred years ago, Chinese immigrants were looked down on by native Americans. During the past few decades, American people's attitude towards foreigners has changed a great deal. Nowadays, most Americans are less offensive and more friendly. However, some of them still have prejudices and show discrimination against minorities. A. T. V. sportscaster described a small step as a "Chinese step." On "All in the Family," Archie Bunker continues to insult foreign people everyday.

The Chinese immigrants leave China because of Communism and poverty. But they come to the United States because they always fancied America as a rich and beautiful paradise, like a gold mine. In the past, they called America "Golden Mountain."

Unlike some immigrants today, when most of those Chinese families arrive, they are not very wealthy. They have to work really hard to earn their livelihoods and they begin to realize that America is not as beautiful as they used to think. Like their old country, there is bureaucracy, crime, inflation, and unemployment. As a matter of fact, a Chinese immigrant who cannot speak English will find a lot of difficulties in looking for a job. So they have to take any job that is available. Most of the Chinese work in Chinese restaurants where they will spend their whole lives.

Most of the Chinese immigrants, particularly those who are over forty years, speak very little English at all. Consequently, they cannot express exactly what they feel and it is hard for them to communicate with the natives. Some of them don't even know what is going on in their communities. In fact, they usually like to talk and joke with their American neighbors but the language problem is a barrier; it seems to prevent the Chinese immigrants from breaking into the native communities. They seem to live inside an invisible castle, bounded. In order to protect themselves, they form their own community -- Chinatown.

Although the Chinese immigrants are disappointed, they continue to work hard to support their families despite the fact that their effort is usually not appreciated by the natives. They struggle to raise their children; they send them to college. They want their children to be successful and respectable because they don't like them to become second class citizens like themselves. On the other hand, they want their children to retain the culture and traditions of the Chinese.

Unfortunately, many of those Chinese children who are born in this country usually prefer a typical American life-style. They have no patriotic feeling and they seldom show any devotion to their old country--China. When these children have grown up, they leave their parents. Some of them even lose the traditional hard-working nature of the Chinese; they do not study as hard as the students from Hong Kong and Taiwan.

I have three little cousins who were born here. They are like typical American children. They know very little about China; they don't even know how to speak or write Chinese. They are not interested in learning it because they think it is not practical and they won't use it outside their home anyway.

Like other native children, they love french fries and hamburgers instead of the Chinese food made by their mother. But sometimes, they will appreciate the "American-style" Chinese food like fried chicken-wings and subgum which is served by Chinese restaurants mainly to native Americans.

My cousins will get excited about celebrating Christmas and Halloween but they usually show very little enthusiasm about Chinese New Year or other traditional festivals of the Chinese.

Jimmy Rice is their hero; actually, they pay more attention to the Red Sox than to what is happening in China. When somebody asks them: "Where is your home town in China?" they wouldn't know the answer. They seem to be confused; they live and act like a native but they don't look like a native American. Sometimes they will tell you that they are Chinese and sometimes they consider themselves Americans.
Some people think that there should be no boundary among people from different countries and everybody should mix and mingle with others in this big melting pot - The United States. If everybody could get rid of his nationalism there would be no prejudice, misunderstanding and war between any two countries.

I remember what my grandfather said, "One can never change one's skin; as long as your skin is yellow, you are nothing but a Chinese." However, no matter what people say, there will be still thousands of Chinese waiting to come to the United States because they are looking forward to fulfilling their dreams of "paradise".

Contributed by a Chinese-American student at Tufts University.

Language and Culture

Language is a basis of culture. If one loses his mother tongue by becoming fluent in another language, it is as if he has lost his culture of his mother land. In My Antonia, written by Willa Cather, the main character Antonia Shimerda, an immigrant from Bohemia to Nebraska, acquires American language but never loses her mother tongue and passes it on to her children. She also marries a Bohemian immigrant. In the article "The Language of Soul," the "soul" language of the negroes is only understood by the blacks although the "soul" language originated from English. Finally as a foreign student myself, the language barrier that I face entering into American culture or society is the most difficult task to overcome. Being in the United States for almost six years, I am now facing the problem of forgetting Japanese, my native tongue.

A language runs parallel with its culture; when one's culture is declining, so is its language. In "The Language of the Soul," the writer, Claude Brown points out that "soul" language is becoming extinct. As Claude Brown explains, "Spoken Soul or Colored English is simply an honest vocal portrayal of black America." He says that the blacks are now turning away from the "soul". Today's blacks are either turning to the "semi-Negro" - the soul brother intent on gaining admission to the Establishment even on an honorary basis - and who is anxiously embracing and assuming conventional English or "Ultra Black" - adopting everything including a Western version of Islam. Brown says, "Whatever the Ultra Black is after, it's anything but soulful."

On the other hand, in My Antonia, Antonia keeps her language of Bohemia and passes it on to her children. Although she has lived in Nebraska for most of her life, she never forgets her mother tongue and Bohemian culture. She marries Anton Cuzak, another immigrant from Bohemia and she still makes kolaches the same way her mother made them. All of Antonia's children speak Bohemian fluently although they have never been in that country. When Jim Burden, the narrator of the story and also a very good friend of Antonia since their childhood, went to Bohemia on some business, he sent some pictures of Antonia's mother land. The whole family was delighted to see the pictures and excited to hear the story from him. Antonia gave her children not only Bohemian culture, but Bohemian language as well.
From my experience of living abroad for more than half of my life, I know that language does influence one's culture. Regarding my experience of living in London in my childhood, I was English. I hardly could speak any Japanese which my parents tried their best to teach me. English was my language then. I did not object to any English customs. After living in Japan for a few years and spending most of my time speaking Japanese, and leading a life under Japanese custom, Japanese became my mother tongue. Then I came to the United States, another English-speaking western country. I remained Japanese in many ways. Japanese is still my first language. I object to many of its customs such as walking inside with shoes on and taking showers instead of a bath. I do miss many Japanese styles. I do not think that I can live without Japanese food now.

Reviewing the article by Claude Brown about the black language and Antonia in My Antonia and especially my own experience, one can conclude that language is the basis of culture and by holding on to one's language means holding on to that culture. And the reverse is also true, losing one's language means losing one's culture.

Contributed by a Japanese-American student at Tufts University.

EXTENSION OF STAY
If you are not going to leave the United States this summer, you must extend your stay (I-94 white card in your passport) by completing form I-538 available in the International Office. This should be done 2 to 4 weeks before the expiration date on the white card.

Obtain the required reentry document appropriate to your particular visa prior to departure if you intend to leave the country and return to Tufts for another term.

Obtain a "sailing permit" (Certificate of Compliance) at the office of the Internal Revenue Service, within 30 days prior to departure to certify that you have satisfied any U.S. income tax obligations. See below for specific information.

Apply to the Immigration and Naturalization Service for permission to transfer schools if you do not intend to enroll at Tufts after the end of this semester.

Apply to the Immigration and Naturalization Service for permission to accept employment if you have had an unforeseen change in your financial circumstances or have been offered a full-time job after graduation.

Renew your U.S. visa while you are out of the country if it expires before you reenter the country.

announcements

FALL ORIENTATION
Anyone interested in writing to a new international student over the summer and/or helping out with orientation in the fall, please call the International Office x545, x549.

GET YOUR PAPERS IN ORDER
If you have not requested and/or received your duplicate I-20 or DSP-66 for reentry to the United States after a summer abroad, please do so now. Such forms are also required for reentry after a visit to Canada.
At least two weeks, but no earlier than 30 days, before departing from the U.S., certain aliens are required to file a return Form 1040C or a statement on Form 2063 and obtain a Certificate of Compliance from the IRS. This "sailing permit" certifies that you have satisfied your U.S. income tax obligations. This is not equivalent to your final tax return. Alien students on F-1 visas are usually exempt from this requirement. However, a person admitted to the U.S. on a J-1 (Exchange Visitor) visa must obtain a Certificate of Compliance when leaving the U.S. Assistance and additional information on "sailing permits" should be obtained directly from the Internal Revenue Service. Stop by the local IRS office or call 223-3466.

PRACTICAL TRAINING
If you would like information regarding Practical Training, contact the International Office. You must apply for Practical Training no later than one month after graduation and must have it approved by the Immigration and Naturalization Service before traveling abroad.

SUMMER ADDRESS CARDS
You will be receiving a Summer Address Card from the International Office. Please return this card as soon as possible. The information will be used to update our student information files.

SHIPPING OUT?
The International Sea and Air Shipping Corporation has facilities for shipping personal effects, household goods, university materials and automobiles. For their brochure write:

International Sea and Air Shipping Corp.
61 Broadway
New York, N.Y. 10006

SUMMER MAIL
All mail received on-campus after the 12th will be automatically forwarded to students' home addresses. If you will have a different summer address, be sure to contact the mailroom next to Cousens Gym and notify them of the change.

FURNITURE POOL
Those of you who are leaving and are returning or donating furniture to the furniture pool should contact Susann Sjoberg, x545 or x549.

TRANScripts of grades
If you wish to have an official copy of your grade transcript you must request it in writing from the Registrar's Office in Ballou Hall. Telephone requests will not be honored.

BORDER CROSSING - CANADA, MEXICO, CARIBBEAN
We would like to remind everyone that the documents required for travel to Canada, Mexico, and certain islands of the Caribbean differ from requirements for travel to any other place in the world. One should never assume that because one's papers are in order for travel to Singapore that one will have no problems going across the border. Contact the International Office for information.

SUMMER HOUSING
International students not attending summer school may stay on campus in McCollester or Tousey House this summer. The fee will be $40 per week from May 12-May 20, and $150 per month for the rest of the summer. Students attending summer school will stay in Miller Hall and will be charged as above. For more information contact the Housing Office at x381.

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT
Application for work permission must be made on Form I-538, which is available in the International Office in Brown House. The completed form must be signed by the Foreign Faculty and Student Adviser. Permission to work off-campus is based on financial necessity; i.e. a reversal in your financial situation. If you are considering working during this summer, please stop by the International Office soon. The Adviser can still authorize on-campus summer employment.
WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL

Thurs. May 3  
Evening Program - "The U.S. -Saudi Arabian Connection," with Ambassador William O. Porter, former Under Secretary of State and Ambassador to Saudi Arabia; Professor A. J. Meyer, Associate Director, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Harvard University; and Mr. Ray Dafter, Energy Editor, The Financial Times of London.

Sat. May 26  
International Student Program Annual Picnic: - Join us for a pot luck picnic at the home of the Saval Davis family in Lincoln. (Mr. Davis is former editor of the Christian Science Monitor) SPACE IS LIMITED. Call Andrea Ruelius or Steve Sjoberg for reservations at 482-1740.

It's the end of another school year, and we hope you've had a good year. If you won't be returning to Tufts, we wish you the best of luck in whatever you will be doing. For those of you who are returning, we wish you a very happy and restful vacation and we will look forward to seeing you in the fall!

P.S. If you are around this summer - please drop in! We will be delighted to see you.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT - SPECIAL THANKS

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the following students for volunteering a few hours of their time to share their culture with children in the Medford Public Schools. A special thanks to:

Mayumi Morinaka - Japan  
Neena Shenoy - India  
Walter Rilling - Germany  
Amarjeev Kaul - India  
Harvy Barrios - Venezuela  
Alda de Jesus Oliveira - Brazil  
Beketel Elbelau - Micronesia

The Medford Public Schools do not end classes until the last week of June so if you are interested in participating after finals, please call Susann Sjoberg x545.

SPECIAL BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

David and Moira Hirsowitz had a baby boy on February 18, 1979. His name is Darrin Hirsowitz. Congratulations and our best wishes. David is studying Orthodontics at the Tufts Dental School.