Hello IELI Students, Teachers, and Staff, and welcome to seventh issue of The IELI Gazette, a newspaper completely designed and written by our international students. This semester the name of our newspaper is International Voices and we have some wonderful features for you to enjoy. Look above, where one of our editors tells you about what’s inside our paper. 

Fiore Sireci, 
Faculty Advisor for The IELI Gazette

The International English Language Institute at Hunter College (CUNY) is one of the oldest and most successful language programs in New York City. We offer high quality language instruction at all levels for people living in New York. Our instructors are very experienced in a number of specialties, including pronunciation, academic and professional writing, theater arts, test preparation, and of course the most effective techniques for rapid improvement in English communication. If you want to enroll in one of our programs, please visit the IELI website at https://www.hunter.cuny.edu/ieli or call (212) 772-4700 or (212) 772-4702. The second Spring term begins April 2. Please call to schedule a placement test.

In this fourth edition of the Gazette, International Voices, we will enjoy the experience and expertise of each of our authors. Students have worked on issues ranging from the Middle East question, Eurasian culture, Japanese gastronomy to special suggestions for discovering beautiful and comfortable spots in New York City.

Our curious eyes have analyzed the unique aspects of each issue. Here are some specific areas we will be covering:

- NY immigrants’ feelings about the disastrous situation in the Middle East. 
- Eurasian folk: how soccer is experienced in Turkey and the customs and historical traditions of Izmir, the western extremity of Anatolia.
- An architectural guide to NYC’s High Line and some special study spots in the city.
- Gastronomy: Japanese Ramen curiosity.
- Movie review: Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind, directed by Michel Gondry, which earned Charlie Kaufman an Oscar for the screenplay.
- Excellent places to study in New York City.

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Japanese Ramen, Freak Style!

Written by Masumi

Japanese Ramen Etiquette

1. Entering the ramen restaurant, it’s best to sit at the bar.
2. To get a good idea of quality please order their basic ramen.
3. Don’t drink too much water.
4. While waiting for your ramen, you should watch how they make it.
5. When you get your ramen, don’t be in a hurry. First you observe your ramen.
6. Taste the soup with a ramen spoon.
7. Suck the hot noodles off your chopsticks.
8. Finally, you should eat everything in the bowl to get the full experience.
9. You must finish eating everything in about 7-8minutes, ten minutes.
10. After finishing and paying, leave quickly!

About me
Hi, there. I am Masumi, from Japan. I like all kinds of noodles including some pasta. I always think about eating the way which is the most delicious! I want to share the best way to eat Japanese noodles (soba, udon, ramen). So, I wrote about Japanese ramen-do. If you have the best way of eating your country’s noodles, please tell me!

Japanese Culture
Do you know about Japanese culture? I’d like to introduce below the article from The Hiragana Times.

My first mistake was to apply Western notions of what it means to be religious, to the Japanese lifestyle. In the West, we endlessly try to explain and justify our beliefs and spiritual feelings. For the Japanese, however, “mystery” is an everyday fact that should be silently experienced and not be judged by the empty cleverness of cultural commentators. In Japan, I have discovered the integrity of silence. Japan has a culture that is rightfully skeptical of using words to communicate spiritual truths.

Ramen eating is part of this cultural style. It is represented by no wasted movements. Each movement is significant. You become aware of your mind and senses. If you understand this meaning, you will feel happier and after eating ramen. Because understanding the ramen chef’s spirit is same as living his life without conversation. If you can do it, you will be able to understand the Japanese mind.
What is life without soccer? Are you a soccer fan? You want to know more information about soccer? My name is Ibrahim Mehdiyev. I am 18 years old and I am a soccer player in my country. I have been playing for 8 years and I love it so much. In the past soccer was a very easy game because of using the hands. After it started to modernize it became a little bit harder to play. The modern version of football was standardized by the English in the 19th century. The main 2 rules were that, first, players cannot touch the ball with their hands, and second, a team must have eleven players.

This sport then began to spread to countries like Spain, Italy, Germany, and Brazil. After the rules changed the game become more interesting for fans. It became more organized with positions, referees, coaches and well-defined teams. By the 20th century the first national teams were formed.

Soccer is like chess. One wrong decision and the game is lost. That is why coaches are very good strategists. In conclusion I want to translate one of my favorite proverbs by Bill Shankly: Some people think football is a matter of life and death. I am quite disappointed with their attitude. I assure you that football is much, much more important.

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT FOOTBALL.
1. THE FIRST NATIONAL TEAM WHICH WON THE FIRST WORLD CUP WAS URUGUAY IN 1928.
2. THE MOST SUCCESSFUL TEAM IN THE HISTORY OF THE EUROPEAN FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP IS GERMANY. 3 TIMES IN 6 FINAL APPEARANCES.
3. REAL MADRID ARE THE MOST SUCCESSFUL CLUB IN THE CHAMPIONSHIP LEAGUE SINCE THEY START TO PLAY IN THIS TOURNAMENT.
The cold winter is gone, and the warm spring is coming.
Many students have a lot of stress at the beginning of the semester.
I’m going to introduce to you an awesome place in New York City.

The High Line

History

In the past, there were warehouses for management both marine and industrial products. The high line was originally a railroad which supplied materials to New York City. As time goes by and technology of storage and transportation has improved, these warehouses are not needed anymore.

By 2006, the government planned to convert this unused place into a new park.

On June 9, 2009, the park was finally opened and the park has become a new recreation resource to New Yorkers.

Enjoy

If you go there, you can appreciate the area. There are a lot of restaurants. Each restaurant offers nice service and authentic food.

In addition, if you walk along the road, you can also see many boutiques and go window shopping which allows visitors to relieve their stress.

Why don’t you go for a walk this week with your spouse or friends?

FYI

Hour

The High Line is open from 7 A.M. to 7 P.M.

Access

- Gansevoort Street
- 14th Street (Elevator access)
- 16th Street (Elevator access)
- 18th Street
- 20th Street

Getting to the High Line

A/C/E to 14th Street; C/E to 23rd Street;
1/2/3 to 14th Street; 1 to 18th Street
Hard working students need space where they can concentrate. There are many public places for studying, but many students have picky preferences. In New York, we can enjoy many kinds of studying spots wherever you want. You can even choose one of them according to your mood of the moment. Here are some suggestions for your reference.

Have you found your favorite?

For serious students;
They need a space where nobody disturbs them. If you are in that mood, you should go to study at the Science, Industry and Business library. There is a bunch of individual desks, so you can immerse yourself in your work for the whole day.

For just doing homework; The New York Public Library on 5th Ave is best. As you know, it is the world famed library. Studying something, you can enjoy ceiling paintings there, but there are some small problems. It’s cold inside of the building thanks to air-conditioners, and the closing time is early, so you need warm clothes and after the library closes, you can move to the Mid-Manhattan library which is open until 11 PM.

Depending on your study style!

For students who like to spend time browsing for books, you can visit these welcoming bookstores. If you feel like having a break while studying, you can have a great time in these places.

They are Strand Books near Union Square and Community Bookstore in Brooklyn.

Other Recommendations

- Starbucks near Lincoln Center
- Macdonald’s on 42nd St. afternoon and evening
- Morris Raphael Cohen Library at City College (with student ID)

The cozy sofa at Community Bookstore

Written By Noriko
The Islamic Republic of Iran.

Who Owns the Truth?

By Filippo Calabresi

Every day we read thousands of news stories coming from the Middle East, and the content of these becomes increasingly worse. The problem’s crucial point seems to be the Islamic Republic of Iran, which occupies a central role in the Middle East scene. Is the media hyping the danger, or is there really a risk of facing the rise of Islamic fundamentalism?

For their part, the United States (and consequently the Western world) accuse the Islamic Republic of Iran of the following things: First of all, Iran’s model of society and State. In Iran, the Islamic Revolution has introduced religion into the State and politics. Pointed out to pursue, through the figure of the Supreme Leader as Ayatollah, a program for the expansion of Islamic fundamentalism on the basis of the jihad (literally translated: striving in the way of God), a religious war with those who are unbelievers in the mission of the prophet.

Second, the nuclear weapons issue. With President Ahmadinejad, Iran has launched its own nuclear program. This has caused concern among international political observers because of fears that Iran will become a nuclear power and nuclear weapons will be used militarily.

Finally, the alleged Iranian desire to build and control an Islamic Middle East. To do this, Islamic militant infiltrators would have to be present in every Middle East strategic point, wait to help fellow Muslims to gain power.

To this, the Iranians respond: The Ayatollah’s revolution (the 1979 Islamic Revolution), contrary to Western public opinion, was not fundamentally political. This revolution was social and cultural. In all his speeches he did not speak of the Iranian people but of all humanity, of man’s problems. The revolutionaries fought for the dignity of man as a person, certainly his message was better understood in Islamic countries, where it has a position of respect and prominence. The Islamic Republic of Iran has pledged to fight the hegemonic powers, to support the underprivileged.

According to the Iranian ambassador to the Vatican, their uranium enrichment program is entirely peaceful, and is fundamental for the production of electricity and to provide uranium for power plants, and aids research in science, medicine and in other fields, for instance in agriculture engineering. For Iran, the program is a pressing need. As the highest authorities of the country, Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei Ayatollah said, “the atomic weapons and those of mass destruction have no place in our military doctrine.” Moreover, he stressed that the use and production of nuclear weapons is illegal from Islamic point of view, so it has stigmatized this topic.

Lastly, from this point of view, the riots in the Middle East (best known as The Arab Spring) are a result of Western political threats, sanctions, and demonstrations of military superpower. Now, in these countries, everybody can note an awakening of the people. It is happening because of a growing belief that men and nations themselves must determine their own destiny and not rely on power or political capital. This awakening is today in defense of the rights which stem from the nature of man. This is seen in both Europe and the USA.

What do the Iranian people in the Western World think about it? Do they agree with the international media opinions? How they comment what is happening in their countries of origin?

You will find out in the next International Voices edition, where I will enclose my discussion with an Iranian student who lives in New York.

Please visit www.ieligazette.tk if you would like to add a comment or write me an e-mail to discuss further.

(fcalabresi@tiscali.it)

"All governments must listen to the wishes and aspirations of their people."
GREAT IZMIR

Written by Mehmet Sezer

“Izmir is a princess with her most beautiful hat on”
- Victor Hugo

Izmir (its former name in Greek is “Smyrna” at the time of the Empire of Rome) is the 3rd largest city of Turkey after Istanbul, and Ankara (capital). The population of Izmir is 4,500,000. Izmir is a port city because of its geographical location that makes it the center of fairs and trade. However, Izmir’s residents are seen as lucky by others in Turkey because of paradise beaches, beautiful climate, and night life of the city. Moreover, the people are very polite to each other. They say hi, thank you and they act very respectful each others. That’s why it was named one of the premier cities of Turkey by Ataturk, who is loved very much by the city’s people and whose statues are located on all the main streets of the city. The most important thing for city’s residents is soccer. Not all our teams play in the first league of Turkey, There are six big teams of Izmir such as Goztepe, Karsiyaka, Altay, Bucaspor, Altinordu, and Izmirspor. When the matches are on between Goztepe and Karsiyaka, life completely stops in the city makes these matches one of the biggest derbies of the world. For many other wonderful activities, Izmir is the place to go. It offers opportunities to explore Roman and Christian, Muslims, and Ottoman Empire ruins, beautiful beaches, mountains for hiking, and night life. Izmir gets a lot of tourists coming visit but fall in love with the city and do not want to go back to their own countries from all over the word during the year. When you go to explore that princess as Viktor Hugo said, you would probably meet a lot of people who fall in love and moved in Izmir after visiting it.
Why you must see this film

So many movies come out everyday. In the summer, there are tons of horror movies and at Christmas time and New Year’s Day, there are a lot of romantic comedies, family and animation movies. Watching hundreds of movies, we are like experts on film and start to have a taste of what kind of movies we like. Thanks to the huge film industry, we can find good films in mixed genres.

I want to talk about an amazing movie that is hard to categorize. It starts with two very different individuals bumping into each other on the train, Joel who is very quiet and shy feeling empty about his life and does nothing fun thing and Clementine who has a totally free spirit and is outgoing. They do not realize it at first, but they are in fact former lovers, who are now separated after having spent two years together. After a huge fight, Clementine hired the “Lacuna company” to erase all her memories of their relationship. Joel also has a hard time and decides to erase his memory. While he is undergoing the procedure, he sees happier times of his relationship with Clementine at the beginning of their relationship. Even while his memory is being mechanically erased, he struggles to preserve at least some memory of her and his love for her. Then, the film goes back to the moment they meet on the train.

The reason why I am introducing this film is that it has a unique style. You can compare it to sci-fi films but with most of the emphasis on romance. The basic background of the film is definitely about a couple who are so different from each other falling in love—a romance. This is a pure romantic movie from the beginning although it does not have extravagant sets—a more realistic apartment, street and people. However, the way that this movie presents relationships and deals with them is very complex and sophisticated.

MY FAVORITE PARTS

1. Great actor and actress Bright acting by Jim Carrey beside his expertise, comedy
2. The way of erasing memory that film describes is amazing.
3. Huge compliment from critics (you know how hard it is to satisfy them)
4. The cinematography is unique and beautiful.