

Yama (continued)

mature, says Yama.

Students are more disciplined in Japan too, he noted. It is very unusual for students to be up until midnight there, although it is commonplace for us.

When one settles in a new country, there are always misunderstandings in language and other adjustments to a new way of life, examples of which Yama shared.

A girl once told him, "You're a crazy guy." "I got so upset," Yama said, "because I translated it directly into Japanese and I thought she meant it literally. I didn't realize she meant I was funny. I thought she actually thought I was crazy."

"At midnight," Yama continued, "the guys in my dorm screamed- I thought they were crazy-but I was afraid to go out in the hall."

Yama also talked about the international student softball team. "To win is so important in the U.S. The Americans helped us-they were patient. Some international students didn't even know what a bat was. We only won one game-by default-the other team didn't show up."

Yama's favorite movies are "The Graduate," "Love Story," and "Easy Rider". His favorite sport is tennis and he says he'd rather be an active participant than a spectator. His hobbies include classical music, drinking, and sleeping.

There are two ways that Yama feels Capitol could help international students. One way is to have a student-run orientation, since things that are important to international students are not covered in the university-sponsored orientation.

Instead, international students must often learn these things at informal get-togethers with other students.

Another of his ideas is for Capitol to have one basic American history course for international students in which American students could lecture on the American way of life.



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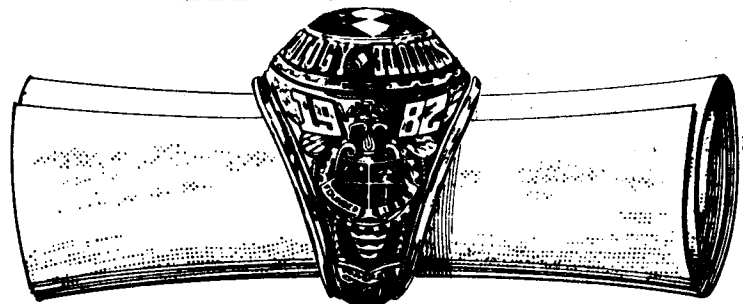
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