

Features

Education: Made In Japan



photo by Audrey Acosta

Cheryl Howard Back From Japan

by Millicent E. White
Collegian Staff Writer

"Not all Japanese people fit the popular short and thin stereotype," says Cheryl Howard. Cheryl has just returned from an exciting semester abroad in Osaka, Japan. She continued to say it is just a myth that Japanese people are all short and thin, they are almost as diverse in shapes and sizes as Americans.

After competing with students throughout the Penn State system, Cheryl, a junior, was one of ten Penn State students chosen to study in Japan for a semester. Cheryl was also the only student from a branch campus to be chosen.

Cheryl, an English major with a minor in Japanese, became interested in the study abroad program while in high school. She had a foreign exchange student staying with her family and thought that it was an experience she would very much like to have.

While in Japan, Cheryl studied at the Kansai-Gaidai University of Foreign Studies. She took classes in Japanese language, reading, writing, history and literature. Most of her classes were taught in English by American professors. Her Language classes, however,

were taught by Japanese professors and were "very difficult."

Cheryl also added her grades were about the same as they were at Behrend.

Cheryl lived in Osaka with her host family. Her tuition was the same as Behrend's. Her main expenses were the flights to and from Japan and other cost of living expenses. Cheryl was very disappointed that she was unable to get scholarships through Penn State.

In addition to living in and touring Osaka, Cheryl also traveled to Tokyo, Kyoto, and Nara. Usually she traveled by herself on the trains but was never lonely because the Japanese people were very friendly and helpful. She also had many American students studying abroad with her to keep her company.

Because of the mixture of Americans and Japanese, Cheryl said she really had no trouble communicating because she was constantly learning more of the language and many of the Japanese people knew a little bit of English so she was able to get by.

Socially, Cheryl had a great time. On the weekends she would visit discos, see a movie, go to parties, or study. She also enjoyed the unique Japanese customs. Taking her shoes off at the door and using chopsticks were her favorites. Although western utensils were offered, Cheryl enjoyed using chopsticks with her meals.

Another popular form of entertainment was watching TV and renting movies. Cheryl's host family had a bilingual TV set which with the push of a button would either broadcast in Japanese or English.

Cheryl likened the popularity of bilingual TV sets to the

popularity of Cable in the states. Most families have it and many of the Japanese people learn English by watching TV.

Movies are also very popular. Cheryl said her host father had a great collection of films. Most of the movies were popular American movies in English with Japanese subtitles.

Most of the news Cheryl heard was from her adopted country but she did hear some American news such as the space shuttle mission, the presidential elections and Gerald Rivera getting his nose broken by a guest on his talk show.

"The food in Japan is incredible," says Cheryl. "The sushi and tempura was fantastic." They also had fast food restaurants like Kentucky Fried Chicken and McDonalds.

The weather in Japan is much like that of Erie, but the temperature is milder. Japan does have distinct seasons. The main difference is that Japan manages to avoid snow.

When asked if she was homesick, Cheryl admitted she was at first, but eventually she made many friendships that she hopes will last forever. The Japanese people were very friendly. Cheryl also said she was very sad to leave. And although there were very large crowds Cheryl says her biggest regret was not staying a whole year.

Cheryl is from Northeast, Pennsylvania and hopes to become a Japanese translator and go back to Japan to become an English teacher, which are in great demand.

Study abroad is a great experience and Cheryl suggests anyone interested should "definitely contact Mari Trenkle about the possibility of getting into the program because it is definitely a worth while program."



Ask Louanne

The Collegian Advice Column
by Dr. Louanne Barton,
Psychologist

This week:

Advice for a Jealous Woman

Dear Louanne,

The basic problem is - I get insatiably jealous when my boyfriend simply pays attention to another woman. We've been together less than three months. I do trust him, but I can't help being so jealous. I'm a little afraid that someone will steal him away, but I know he loves me very much. My last two boyfriends were respectable and moralistic, but turned out to be unfaithful and untrustworthy. Sometimes when I see him hugging or chatting with a ladyfriend (strictly platonic), I wonder if he secretly is attracted to her. I lay in bed at night driving myself crazy - is there someone else? Am I really the only one? He loves me, but does he secretly hold a torch towards another woman?

Signed,

In love and in jealous doubt

Dear Jealous Love,

You can give yourself credit for recognizing it's your problem. Lots of people who feel like you devote their energy trying to change the other person or, like Peter, try to put them in a "pumpkin shell".

Jealousy comes from lack of confidence or low self esteem. Instead of focusing on your boyfriend, try developing your self into an interesting multi-faceted person. Be sure you devote time to developing your friendships with others. Look for and develop other interests instead of spending all your time being with or thinking about your boyfriend. That way you will feel better about yourself, and your boyfriend will find you more fascinating and stimulating. With a broader base to work from you won't be so dependent on your boyfriend. When relationships break up you won't feel so devastated because there will be other sources of support in your life.

You'll be somebody with or without him.

Send letters to: Dr. Louanne Barton, Personal Counseling
213 Glenhill Farmhouse, Behrend College. Erie, Pa 16563

Carta De Puerto Rico

Letter from a Behrend Student Studying Abroad

Hello Behrend,

This letter is pertaining to my involvement in the education abroad program.

I am presently living in a dorm room with three other girls on the San German Campus of Universidad Interamericana. My roommates speak little English so I must communicate in Spanish outside the classroom as well as inside the classroom.

The people of the university have made those of us from Penn State feel very welcome. They have made the culture shock seem less intense.

Puerto Rico is a beautiful country, and I encourage anyone who wants to experience the excitement in a new land to become involved in an education abroad opportunity.

Sincerely,
Alicia M. Gebhardt