



2013 June

Where Idea Grows



IMPRESSIONS OF Taiwan

by Francis 洪德取

Letter to
The
Seniors
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I have been in Ping Tung for three months. As far as I am concerned, this is a very comfortable city to live in. Among so many elements, three things attract me most: beautiful scenery, wonderful food and the hospitality of people.

Not long after arriving at Ping Tung, I went to Ken Ting for a visit. Ken Ting is situated in the south of Ping Tung County, which wins itself worldwide fame for its beautiful sea. When I got there, the weather was wonderful. Blue sky as well blue sea gave me a very pleasant feeling. In addition, the mild wind from the sea was very comfortable. The scenery was really beautiful.

Food culture is also a very distinguishing feature. There are two night markets within the city and various foods were sold in the night market. People can choose whatever they like or wherever they feel like to go. By the way, the food price is comparatively acceptable, so I enjoyed the food very much.

Last but not least, the local people are also very kind. A couple of days after I arrived here, I was still not familiar with the city. One day when I asked a gentlemen randomly about how to go to the train station, this very kind sir drove me there. How cordial an atmosphere is here!

One month later, I will go back to my hometown. But I believe the landscape, night markets as well as kind people will be unforgettable.

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LETTER TO THE SENIORS

Dear Graduates,

Soft and quiet, here approach unnoticeably the footsteps of June, a time of parting. How fast time flies, doesn't it? It has been three years long since the day we met. We recall those good days we spent together, which was remarkably wonderful. It occurred to us that you were just a sophomore, but it was only two years ago. Do you still remember the joyful memories we weaved, such as the Freshmen Welcome Party, the Taitung 3-day trip, and the Talent Show. Genuinely speaking, we are really proud to own all of these precious moments with laughter and tears that we had gone through.

For the past three years, we would like to appreciate you that you spared no effort to provide us everything helpful whenever we needed it most. You are, in a sense, just like our older brothers and sisters, paying careful attention to us. We cannot thank you enough for your taking care of us in every possible way. It is such a pleasure to be a part of this one big family where love and joy are around us.

Now it is very close to the time for you to depart from this big family even though it is realized saying goodbye to you is harder than we expected. Still, time never stops and you need to move on. We believe that you will have prosperous days ahead and hopefully, you will soon get accustomed to the new stage of life. Last but not the least, although the days in June may be blue for you, keep holding on to your beliefs and goals because the Flame tree is in full bloom and will carry our blessings with you. These are the things we sincerely hope for you. Farewell, my friends!

Best wishes,
The Juniors

Dear Graduates,

Congratulations on reaching this important milestone in your life. Do you still remember when you first entered this big family? Do you still remember how hard you prepared for the singing contest, drama contest, and dance contest? That must be a very bittersweet memory. After four years has gone by, you must have a lot of things to say. However, this is a turning point in your life. All you can do is to take these unforgettable memories with you and create your new future. No words can express how much you will be missed, and things won't be the same without you around with us. From here on out, there will be a brand new world waiting for you. Just go ahead and do what you want to do. Thank you for giving us such a good memory and teaching us a lot of things from when we were still freshmen. We wish the best for you. Last but not the least, don't forget about us!!! Congratulations and Good Luck.

Sincerely,
The Sophomores



Dear seniors ,

Time flies. It seems like you just welcomed us to enter the English department in NPUE, but now a year through, it is our turn to say goodbye to you. It is sad to say farewell, but it is also a time for us to send out our blessings that we might not usually say. After the college years, it's time for you to strive for your whole life career whether that means first going to graduate school or to work. We know that you will always do a great job. If you are tired and exhausted, don't forget that we will always stand besides you. In the end, I would like to say thank you and it was a real honor to meet you.

Wish you always the best,
The freshman class





Alien Mummy Confirmed to be a Human being

by Johnny 張仲羽

10 years ago a human-like mummy was discovered in the Atacama Desert and was strongly presumed to be an extraterrestrial. Recently, scientists have surprisingly confirmed that skeleton was human and named it "Atacama Humanoid" .

The Atacama Humanoid is about fifteen centimeters long, about the size of a pen and it also has sharp and solid teeth. Similar to all alien creatures, it has big skull with prominence on it and dark skin. The only difference from humans is that it only has nine ribs.



Do You Drink Energy Drinks?

by Agnes 黃瑋玲

Energy drinks, released about 20 years ago, is the fastest growing beverage in the American market. Nearly one third of American teenagers often drink this to boost vigor. In 2011, the total sales reached 9 billion worldwide.



However, based on current information, there is powerful evidence that energy drinks might be harmful to health, especially for children. These drinks are loaded with caffeine and sugar, and other ingredients that are supposed to enhance concentration and performance. Not only are these claims false, energy drinks may actually be bad for our health and no more effective than coffee.

According to an article in a Pediatric medical journal, these drinks do not really enhance energy or highly improve concentration and performance. Guarana, ginseng, and taurine are such ingredients in these drinks, but there is no evidence to prove the claims that they can boost energy. Moreover, most energy drinks have 3 times more caffeine than sodas, and some even contain up to 14 times more.

Since Caffeine generally disturbs sleep, which means energy drinks might even make people less energetic because it can keep you stay up late, and a lack of proper rest tires you out.

Therefore, doctors stress that energy drinks that contain as much as 270 calories per serving should not be provided to children. Especially for those with heart problems, diabetes, and attention disorder.



Many countries have begun tracking the effects of energy drinks on health, and some side effect have been discovered. It turns out that it may cause liver and respiratory disorders, accelerated heart rates, and seizures. Red bull was even banned in Taiwan for a few years. So, the next time you want to drink an energy drink, make sure not to drink too much at one time and keep it in moderation.

The Gallery and Music Hall of Pintung

by Mei 李佳穎

Recently, I went to the Gallery and Music Hall of Pintung to see a performance of A Cappella. The performance was great, but I want to introduce the Gallery and Music Hall.

The building of the Hall provided a place for local people to hold their own performances, usually the orchestra and wind bands of schools. It also gives other art groups a place to perform, which stops Pintung from being a “culture dessert.”

In addition to the schools’ concerts and the local art groups or groups from other counties in Taiwan, sometimes there will be foreign groups. I always think that it’ s so good to see foreign groups in Pintung because these performers always go to only Taipei and Kaohsiung.

As everyone knows, there are a lot of aboriginals in Pintung, so there are often performances that feature aboriginal singing or music or art in the Hall. I happened to hear the singing of an aboriginal group, and that was amazing. I think it will be a lot of pleasure for people to see the performances.

The Hall is located on No. 487, Heping Rd. It’ s not a faraway place if you go there by scooter. So, check online and pick some performances you’ re interested in and go!



The subject of nature / death / religion in the poems of Emily Dickenson

by Carol 余純宛



I believe that a poet would use

some elements in his/her poems because of the experiences of his/her own life. Emily Dickenson is religious, she also insists that God can be found in nature, and nature always teaches her about life and death (mortality), so that's why nature, death, and religion are often seen in her poems. In the following paragraphs, I would like to discuss these subjects and how they are used in Dickenson's poems.

Nature is a big concept. As opposed to humans living in society, almost all the other lives live in Nature. The way of thinking separates humans from nature. When Dickenson watches a bird coming down, the bird doesn't seem to know that "He didn't know I saw", which suggests that the world of nature is hidden from normal human interaction.

Besides, people tend to think, but nature doesn't stop to think; it just does. "They look like frightened beads, I thought." I guess that's also why nature could operate in an immediate way, beautifully and seamlessly. "Too silver for a seam", Leap, splashless". Nature, in Dickenson's mind, is not only beautiful, but great, too much for her. She would imagine herself as a robin associated in nature, but eventually, she was still an onlooker and observer looking at nature from an angle, not being able to take all of it in.

"I dared not meet the Daffodils" because they were "foreign to my own" Things often have two sides. Despite the romantic part nature can give us, it also tells us about "death." Different from humans, nature won't understand the permanent death for that after winter, it will be spring again. Sadly, humans have to experience the real death.

To Dickenson, she died twice before her own death. "MY LIFE closed twice before its close". It is painful to lose our close family or friends. Same for her, the two deaths of her close friends were so hard to stand that she felt that her own life had ended. She still could not know the feeling before she had died, but every time she watched seasons changing or shadows on the lawn, even a slant of light on winters afternoon, she would think of death.

Nature would try to give us hints about life and death "presentiment is the long shadow on the lawn", yet it doesn't have to stand the hurt while humans do, and thus we try to make 'meanings' from nature.

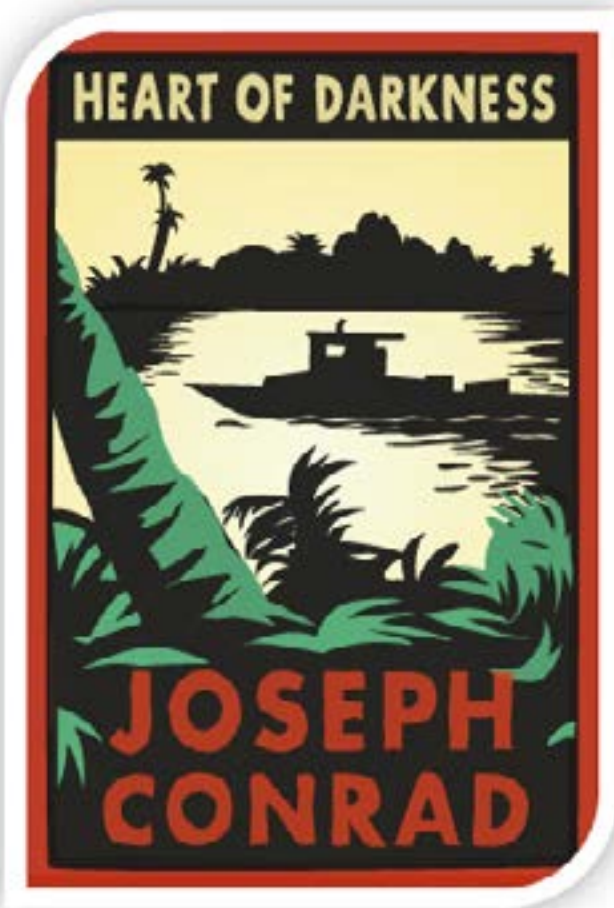
Dickenson, though, is a religious woman, and the religion could partly give her hope. When the slant of light came and suggested death, she used "Cathedral tunes" as a metaphor, feeling herself under God's protection. However, one thing that should be mentioned when talking about her belief in God is that she believed that God could be found in nature. People go to Church once a week to show their belief, but she is praying all the time at home. In her time, I think it is transcendentalism that made her hold such a belief.

To sum up, what I want to say is that I could feel the importance of these three subjects, and if we would like to think of these in our daily lives, what might be different? Dickenson put her life in more than one thousand poems, so to me it's like she cares about every moment. They are so dear to her. Nature is where she prays, and religion must be the power when she has to face death.



FREUD IN HEART OF DARKNESS

by Daphne 葉俐君



To me, although the main ideas and plots in the novel Heart of Darkness are about a journey deep into the heart of Africa and the jungle, from what the characters in this novel do, say and even think, we can apply the theories of Freud into it.

In the following paragraphs I will talk about how the writer uses different characters to represent different thoughts and levels in human being's complicated mind.

First, I will discuss about Super- Ego. To Freud, Super- Ego means high moral thoughts and standards to do everything "right" and have to be perfect. In Heart of Darkness, Mr. Kurtz's fiancée represents Super- Ego very well. To her, her fiancée Mr. Kurtz is a man that people can't resist and even impossible not to love him.

However, she has no ideas about what Mr. Kurtz has done in the inner station of Africa.



From her perspective, Mr. Kurtz is the perfect man who always does things perfectly and has high moral thoughts. In order not to hurt and destroy her, that's why Marlow, who knows a lot about Mr. Kurtz, doesn't tell her all the things happened in the jungle after Mr. Kurtz's death.

Second, I will discuss about Ego. To Freud, Ego means the balance between perfection and reality. It is also more rational and possible to do things than Super- Ego. In Heart of Darkness, Marlow, who is also the narrator of the novel,



Marlow is a young man who desires the life in the unknown and mysterious Africa and yearns to visit Africa. However, after going to Africa and even deeper into the heart of the jungle, what he sees, hears, and even experiences are over his expectation. He starts to think that savagery may also be a kind of civilization.

Therefore, it is important for him to aware what he used to thought about civilization is not right. To him, the thought that white people are superior to black people is totally wrong. So, in this novel, Marlow never treats the black people badly and cruelly.

On the contrary, he realizes the pain of the native workers and even blames Mr. Kurtz about his cruel behaviors. He is a rational person and knows how to balance the reality and perfection. So, he undoubtedly represents the Ego.

The last one and also the most real one astonishes me very much in this novel is Id. To Freud, Id means the instinctive desire and deepest wishes in human beings. In Heart of Darkness, it is Mr. Kurtz that represents the Id.

Before going to Africa, Mr. Kurtz is a man with high moral ideas and hope to bring civilization to all the millions ignorant natives in Africa.

However, after arriving at the inner jungle of Africa, he changes and acts like wild animal in the grassland. To him, the mysterious jungle is like the limitless grassland. In here, he doesn't have to show any responsibility to anyone like what he used to do in the modern and civilized society.

All he has to do is use any ways he can figure out to collect ivory. The more ivory he has, the better his job would be.

So, he loses control and does anything he wants, including hurting the native people, in the jungle. In here, there are no people to judge him, no people to blame him, and even no people to stop him.

That's why all his moral thoughts (the Super- Ego) disappear and only the Id, the instinctive desire and wishes, is left.



He acts savagely and cruelly and the heads on the sticks is the proof.

From Heart of Darkness, we see clearly the different changes in different characters.



To me, the most impressive character is Mr. Kurtz because I see how human beings would change if their eyes are covered with money, desire, greed, violence and all the deepest wishes in their minds.

They would have no differences from the wild animals and would hurt people and the environment, just like what has been done in Africa by Mr. Kurtz. So, to be gentle and civilized people, maybe being limited by moral thoughts is unavoidable.

We don't have to do everything perfectly, but we should still try to find a balance between our Id and Super- Ego.



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