A Meaningful Day at George Fox

By Qianjun Wu

Serve Day is an annual day at GFU; perhaps most students may think it makes them tired and it’s not useful for them to participate in, but I think Serve Day is a meaningful day at GFU. Because GFU is a Christian school, most of the people are Christians. By participating in Serve Day, international students, especially, may experience the basic spirit of Jesus; sharing your love with others and helping the weak. All in all, I think Serve Day is a valuable day for all GFU students and staff. In addition to helping the weak, we also can help people get to know each other well while working together.

Sharing your love with others is meaningful. I have participated in Serve Day for two years. I remembered the first year I participated; I served in a place that helped parents take care of their children, and processed donations. On that day, our group not only cleaned all the toys that children would play with, but we also cleaned the garden the children often played in. Also, we helped the staff sort out the donations and pack clothes in boxes. Then later, the staff delivered clothes to the weak. When I saw the staff put all the boxes in the car, it seemed like they also put my love in the car and delivered my love to the weak.

Getting to know each other well during Serve Day is also meaningful. On Serve Day last year, we worked in a big group; this was a great chance for me to get to know people deeply. I worked with my floor mates. I was new in America, so I was very afraid to talk with any strangers, especially Americans. But during the time we worked together, I began to know my floor mates well. All of them were very nice; they gave me tips on how I should interact. They also encouraged me talk with anyone bravely and to share my experiences or ideas frequently. That helped me make more friends in America more easily.

Above all, it is clear to see that Serve Day is valuable. As far as I am concerned, people should not think Serve Day is tiring and meaningless because it can help us to understand a lot.
Enjoy Life in America

by Xueqi Jiang

Everybody wishes to live a happy and enriched life. For our international students, coming to America is a wonderful chance to start a new life. We feel excited at first by a lot of wishes and hopes. But things might not always go well. Problems are always there. What we international students need to do is to fix the problems and enjoy our life in America.

Making friends is always one of the most significant things for us. We spend a big part of our lifetimes with friends. Now we are in America. Making friends with Americans can not only be a good opportunity to practice our English speaking, but also an enjoyable way to learn about the American culture. Every time I spend time with my American friends, they tell me something about American cultures and show me their life styles. We join in different activities such as the 80’s party and a barbecue. That makes my life lively. So let us enjoy our life in America.

Religion

by Haidong Wang

Since I came to America, I found one thing that gives me deep thought, religion. I am studying at a Christian university and there are many churches around the town where my university is located. This is why I am thinking about religion. According to the data from Wikipedia, 84.9 percent of Americans are religious.

I found a fact that on Sunday morning, there are only a few American students on campus. Most of them go to church. This really shocked me. I couldn’t imagine why they were so conscientious. So I went to the church with my curiosity. During those two hours, the congregation sang the praises of Jesus. Then the pastor told a story from the Bible. Some of the congregation couldn’t help themselves from getting on their knees.

Things are totally different in my hometown. People who are not monks go to temple to seek forgive-
My Experience at the Lantern Festival

by Xiang Ting Wang

The Lantern Festival is a Chinese traditional festival. I prefer this festival because my family often gets together and eats Tangyuan, which is also called glutinous rice balls. The glutinous rice ball is a food made with sticky rice and peanuts, or something sweet. I am crazy about it because it tastes so soft and sweet. Every year, I celebrate the Lantern Festival with my family. The deepest impression of a Lantern Festival I have was when I was a middle school student.

On that day, I remember there was a heavy snow and the weather was pretty cold. Even though the weather was terrible, I went shopping with my friends because there was a discount at the mall; we could also guess the lantern riddles and maybe win some prizes. The mall was decorated very beautifully. There were some lanterns hanging from the ceiling, and on every lantern there was a piece of colorful paper, which was the lantern riddle. After we bought some clothes, we thought, “Why don’t we guess some lantern riddles and win the prizes?”

We felt so excited because guessing a lantern riddle is a part of the traditional celebration during the Lantern Festival, and the riddles are always interesting. We walked through the mall and looked at the riddles, but we found we had no idea how to answer any of the riddles. After about 20 minutes of seeking, we finally found an easy one. The question was: “how many months have 28 days?” The answer was that every month has a 28th day.

We got the prize, which was a soft plastic bag of rice balls; however, when we went back home, something shocked me. I had lost my phone! I was so careful at guessing the riddles that I did not realize someone had stolen my phone. We thought that it would be impossible to find out where it went, or who stole it, because there were so many people in the mall. When I got home, I told my mother. My mother said, “Oh! Put that bag of rice balls in the fridge quickly; it is so expensive because it is worth a phone.”

This was my memorable experience of the Lantern Festival. We didn’t eat the rice balls. It was not because they were “expensive,” but because we did not think they would taste delicious. After several months, my mother threw them away.

Before I came to the United States, I celebrated the Lantern Festival with my family every year. Now, I really miss the Lantern Festival because I cannot get together with my family on that day.

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Sports

Different people have different hobbies. Different areas have different sports, which are their favorites. Also there are many differences between Chinese and Americans, including the different physical attributes and the sports we usually play.

First of all, I think the reason why we have different favorite sports is decided by our physical attributes, which are very different. Americans are stronger and more powerful so that they are good at powerful sports including basketball, baseball, and American football. As for American football, if you are not very strong and do not run fast, you will fail the game, because you must have speed to avoid your opponents. I observed that all American football players are very strong or fast. Also I can’t find a good player who is Asian. In contrast, Chinese are good at skillful sports, such as table tennis, badminton and so on. We use skills to play with opponents. Badminton is a good example. Even though you are strong, you still can’t control the birdie to where you want to play.

I like to play badminton and basketball. Also, I’m good at badminton; I don’t care about whether opponents are strong because I only need to control my badminton birdie to control opponents. Basketball is different, because you need to have a strong body to protect and get the ball. I’m not tall and I can’t jump high, so I’m not good at basketball even though I love it and I love to watch NBA games. So we have different physical attributes which decide our different favorite sports.
The media are quite important methods to disseminate information. Television, newspaper, magazines, and radio are all classified as media. Nowadays, because our countries, societies, and lives have an intense connection with media, all aspects of our lives are strongly affected. Undoubtedly, media are very essential and important for a country. Hence, I am interested in talking about the differences in media between China and America.

In China, the foremost media are usually under the control of the government. If the agency of media wants to publicize some significant and serious information, such as some major accidents, the deaths of famous people, or some disastrous phenomena, first it has to get the broadcasting permission from the government. Hence, Chinese media do not have enough liberty to disseminate what they really desire to. On the other hand, some reports in Chinese media are definitely unreliable. Sometimes media can’t publicize the truth by itself. For instance, on May 23, 2011, there was a serious event: a train derailment that happened in Jiangxi province. According to the media, there were about 30 people dead and over 150 people injured by the accident. Actually, there were at least 60 people dead. I got this real information from the blog which belonged to a soldier, and this soldier was one of the people who were rescuing the injured at that scene. Because the government does not want to create panic among the people, the government always uses its power to control the reporting of the media.

In comparison, American media has a higher degree of freedom than Chinese, and it can deliver most kinds of information. It is not controlled by the government, and it has a great autonomy. The only requirement of its dissemination is that it must be true. For example, there was a terrible tragedy that happened in 2001 in America—the 911 event. When the tragedy happened, the American media immediately reported what was happening to all American people, and even all over the world. I remember that I was watching a TV show with my mother at home at that time. Suddenly, the TV show was interrupted, and the reporting of the terrible tragedy was shown on TV. It not only reported the number of the dead but also the process of the tragedy. It did not try to hinder anything at all. It delivered that information because it wanted everyone in America, and even all over the world, to know what was occurring. It only wanted people to know the truth.

In conclusion, in spite of the fact that Chinese media have less liberty than American, the function of the media is disseminating information to people, so the information has to be reliable and justified. The essence of media are to tell the truth to people. Hence, Chinese media have to enhance the accuracy and truth of their dissemination as American media do.