

33° Latitude

International Students Community Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 2

Halloween 2003



Student Focus - Jad Mortada (Economics)



The decision to leave my country, Lebanon, and move to study in the United States was a laborious one to make. I decided to come to Tucson and start my independent life at a very young age, fifteen years old. As a result of that choice, I moved away from my family and friends, my native country and its small society to reside in a vast land that embraces a large number of people of different races, beliefs and orientations.

Still, although I knew my life was going to be full of twists and turns, I had the ambition to pursue my education in a high-quality American school. Most importantly though, the main reason I decided to leave my country was that I wanted to expand my horizons by living on my own accord. I knew that I was going to travel to Tucson at that time and study at Pima Community College. I made it safely to Tucson's airport after almost a full twenty-four hours of flights. My brother greeted me by saying, "Welcome to America". It was great to see him after a two-year goodbye. We had a long talk when we reached our house and after that I remembered I slept forever.

I was so excited to start my new adventure in this land of opportunities. I never took into account the complexity of my journey. It was not long before I realized how difficult it was for me to acclimatize to my new surroundings, not to mention my new and completely altered life style. I had be-

come a serious student who lived on his own. Everything had changed, the food, the people and their mentality, the weather and so much more. All of this added to my feeling of homesickness. However, gradually, I managed to find my feet in this new place with the help of my mentor. My mentor was my older brother who also was my friend. He lent me a hand and helped explain all of these new sights and sounds. I also found comfort in the International Student Services Office (ISSO), chiefly through my advisor, Pat Grasis, for whom I have a great deal of love and respect. Her kindness and understanding aided and guided me at all times.

Two weeks after the start of school, I started to meet some other new students in the ISSO. These people became good friends of mine as we had shared the same difficulties and struggles. Soon my homesickness started to fade. Other friends I would meet would come from my classes and my outside activities. I would go to the park near my house on Fridays and Saturdays and play soccer with people from other nationalities. Finally I felt that I was not an extraterrestrial in this place called Tucson.

This is going to be my last semester here at Pima Community College. I have already started another adventure by transferring to the University of Arizona. Being a Pima student has been a great opportunity. My time here has allowed me to mature and become more independent. This is in addition to the great education you will receive. So to all of the new students; everything is going to get gradually better. It is only a matter of time before you settle in. I wish you good luck and success in your new world.

Favorite Day Trip:

You have seen it in the movies, but where does the real Wild West exist now? The town of Tombstone may be as close to the Wild West you will get. Located Southeast of Tucson, this little town will take you back to the time of the OK Corral, Birdcage Theater and Stagecoach rides down Main street



To get there, take I-10 to Benson and follow highway 80 to Tombstone. To see an old copper mining town, continue on highway 80 to Bisbee.

Test Taking Tips

OH NO! I have a big test next week! Taking tests are part of our academic life and here are a few tips to help you through this task.

BEFORE THE TEST:

GO TO CLASS!

- Ask your teacher what will be on the test
- Take good notes.
- Review and organize your notes, texts, assignments and quizzes.
- Do your homework and assignments.
- Set up a study schedule for yourself or with a group of other students.

Test yourself on the material.

DAY OF THE TEST:

- Bring everything you need to the test: paper, pens, pencils, calculator etc.
- Arrive early for the test
- Try and relax before the test

(continued on page 4)

Halloween

Mention the word "Halloween" and a child from America will immediately think of pumpkins carved into Jack-o-lanterns,

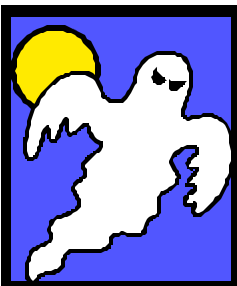


costumes and candy. Try to explain it to somebody from Africa or Asia and you are likely to be met with a blank stare. What is Halloween and how do you explain it to someone who has never been exposed to it? Where did it come from and why do we celebrate it still? Is it an evil festival, represented by witches and devils? Or just an evening when begging for candy from strangers is permitted?

In the limited space, we will try and give you some insight into this holiday.

The word Halloween comes from the contraction of "All Hallows Eve" and is a combination of several Autumn Festivals. On November 1st, the Catholic Church would celebrate the lives of hal-
lowed Saints. One of the traditions for this day was to dress up in costumes depicting saints, angels or devils. This date coincided with a Celtic festival for the

end of the Celtic year on the October 31st. On this day, the Celts believed that the souls of the dead were able to roam the land in search of a body to inhabit for the next year. To confuse the spirits, the Celts would dress up in costumes of ghosts, in the hope that they would mistaken as just another spirit in search of



a living host. This tradition of dressing up in a costume continues to this day. The first Jack-o-lanterns were carved from turnips. The Celts would place these by the front door to frighten away the spirits from the home. It was during the Irish immigration to America in the mid-1800's that the turnip was replaced by the more plentiful, easier to carve, pumpkin in America. This influx of Irish also solidified Halloween in all corners of America. The Native Americans had already been celebrating a type of Autumn Festival that fell around the same time as the European holiday. This would be after the last harvest of crops. They would say goodbye to the time of the sun and growth and hello the time of

the cold and dark. Now back to ancient history.

In the Celtic festival, homes would have all of the lights and cooking fires extinguished, leaving the house cold, dark and uninviting. The glowing embers of the old cooking fires were thrown outside. These embers would cast an unearthly light onto the face carved into the turnip, frightening away any spirits. In modern times, with no glowing embers, a candle is placed inside the jack-o-lantern.

The tradition of asking for treats has been around for hundreds of years as well. It came from the belief that the soul of the deceased is not allowed to immediately enter into heaven. In ancient England, a soul could enter into heaven on All Souls Day, November 2nd, and only after there were sufficient prayers for that soul.

Beggars would travel from door to door, asking for a gift of food, (a treat), usually a small piece of bread with currants baked into it made especially for this occasion, in exchange for their prayers for the souls from that house.

Tricks came from the practice of trying to scare away any spirits by making loud noises or committing aggressive acts.

Modern trick or treating is more along the lines of if you do not give me a treat, I will play a trick on your house. The treat amounts to a bribe. Tricks are usually harmless and can include the soaping of windows, toilet papering the trees on the property, tying a cord onto the front door so the people inside cannot get out. Trick or treating allowed an entire community to partake in this festival, whether they had children or not.

History shows that this time of the year was never associated with witches until

recently. As we entered into a modern time, a lot of the reasons for the traditions associated with Halloween, now well over 500 years old, were forgotten. Only the major parts are carried out, thus leaving an incomplete holiday. As more and more children took up this time to dress up, they knew less and less about the reasons for doing it. Pair this to an American culture

that has become more graphic and violent in its culture and you can see the costumes that follow this trend.

Mexico has the celebration of Dia de los Muertos. This occurs on November 2nd, All Souls Day in the Catholic Church. This Mexican holiday came from the Aztec calendar, although it did

not share the same name. It was moved from its original time of celebration of July/ August, to the beginning of November to align with the Catholic holiday of All Souls Day. This took it out of the pagan belief system and put it into the church's dogma. The Aztecs believed that beyond this life is where they truly lived, that this life here on earth was merely a dream. It is not a sad or morbid day, but one of celebration. It is a time to reflect on one's family, living or dead. So, while you are here in America on the 31st of October, join the celebration! You can participate by dressing up in a costume for a party, passing out candy to the neighborhood children or participate in Pima's Safe Halloween on October 25th. And if an American asks you "Do you celebrate Halloween in your country?" tell him about any of the Fall Festivals in your country. Then you can ask him "Why do you celebrate it?" and watch him turn as white as a ghost.



-Eric Rook, ISSO

October 2003

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 <i>International Students Club Gathering 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm</i>	8 <i>45th Day</i>	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17 <i>TOEFL Exam (West Campus)</i>	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31 <i>Halloween</i>	

November 2003

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<i>1 - All Saints Day (France/Germany)</i>
2 - <i>All Souls Day (Mexico)</i>	3 - <i>Culture Day (Japan)</i>	4 - <i>National Unity Day (Italy)</i>	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 <i>Veteran's Day (College Closed)</i>	12 <i>Withdrawal Deadline</i>	13	14 <i>TOEFL Exam (West Campus)</i>	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 <i>Thanksgiving Holiday</i>	28 <i>Thanksgiving Holiday</i>	29
30						

Schedule of Events/Important Dates to Remember

- October 8 - Census Date 45th Day
- October 31 - Halloween
- November 11 - Veteran's Day - (College Closed)
- November 12 - Withdrawal Deadline for 16-week classes
- November 27- 30 - Thanksgiving Holiday (College Closed)

Learning Centers Assist Students

Many of our students find that, at times, they need some extra help with their studies. Pima offers this free service at the Learning Centers located on most campuses. The centers are staffed by friendly, caring, well-qualified tutors who are committed to assisting you in reaching your academic goals. Their website has been designed to extend the resources to you beyond regular hours of operation and when you are unable to come to us. Academic assistance can be found in a number of subject areas including: accounting,

writing, math, ESL, stats, reading, Spanish, and software applications. There are a number of self-assessments to help you learn about your learning style, compute your GPA, and to evaluate your study skills. The study skills section provides information designed to assist you in becoming a more effective student. Questions can be asked to the tutors on-line and they will respond within 24 hours. You will find the website to be a valuable resource in addition to our regular services.

The web site address is <http://wc.pima.edu/~lcenter/>.

Hours of operation:

Monday	8:00am - 6:00pm
Tuesday	8:00am - 6:00pm
Wednesday	8:00am - 6:00pm
Thursday	8:00am - 6:00pm
Friday	8:00am - 6:00pm

Telephone: WC 206-6819, 206-3196
 Helpline: 206-3053
 Fax: 206-3119

International Student Club

Margaret Rweikiza, ISC President

I hope by now you have become more familiar to the PCC community. I would like to encourage you to participate in **Club gatherings** and even Board meetings.

We like to get your opinions, ideas and input. One of our goals is to help you get to know your fellow students through our gatherings. We normally have a one hour program where we can discuss future events and just have a little fun. As our intention is to help you enjoy other cultures and friends at school, we will be having a **multicultural potluck**

on Monday, November 17th, from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm in the Cholla room. This is when each student brings in a dish from his/her country to share with other club members. We encourage you will sign up for this event in the ISSO by November 12th. This will allow you to meet new friends, explore other cultures and enjoy new types of food.

Other events which we hope to do between Fall and Spring semester are: Safe Halloween, Dance Party, Sabino Canyon trip, Picnics, Candy Sales, Bowling, Old Tucson Studio excursion,

Arizona Sonora Museum excursion and a tour to the University of Arizona.

Again, if you are interested in any of these activities, please contact board member Eduardo at edcampoy@hotmail.com or the ISSO, (WC C157). We are still working on a website so that all of you can have easy access to information concerning our club.

Scheduled Gatherings will be on:
October 7th, November 4th and December 2nd, 2003 at the WC Student Government Room **12pm to 1pm**. While discussing club events, we will be enjoying refreshments. We will be happy to see you on these dates.

Pima Community College

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"Successful Journeys Begin Here"

We're on the
Web:
www.pima.edu

*For article contributions and
suggestions, please e-mail them to:
Maria.Tecson@pima.edu*

Pima Community College is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer and educational institution committed to excellence through diversity. Reasonable accommodations, including materials in an alternative format, will be made for individuals with disabilities when a minimum of five working days advance notice is given. For the general public, please contact the PCC information line at 206-4500 (TTY 206-4530); for PCC students, please contact the appropriate campus Disabled Student Resources Office.

Today's Recipe - Beatriz Padgett, ISSO

Green Chilaquiles Recipe

Ingredients:

3 lbs. of green tomatillos
1 medium size white onion
16 sprigs of rinsed cilantro
6 serrano chiles rinsed (add more for spicier)
1 clove of garlic
2 cups of water
2 dz corn tortillas
2 cubes of chicken bouillon or 2 tablespoons of the powder one (Knorr)
½ cup oil to fry corn tortillas
2 cups of shredded mozzarella cheese
half and half cream (optional) or one 7.6 oz can Nestle Media Crema (Mexican)

Cut corn tortillas into squares (a little smaller than corn chips). In a deep skillet heat oil at medium heat and place corn tortillas squares. Stir until a little brown (be careful not to burn).

Mean while, peel husk from tomatillos, rinse

well and dice into quarters. Dice onion, garlic, and serrano chiles into small pieces. Puree in blender tomatillos, onion, sprigs of cilantro, serrano chiles, garlic and water. Place green sauce, 1 tablespoon of oil and bouillon cubes into a medium size pot and cook until green sauce turns into a darker green (about 20 min.) then pour into fried corn tortillas and stir until tortillas are completely covered with green sauce. Add cheese and cream and serve. They taste great with refried beans.

Approximately: 10 – 12 servings

Tip: All ingredients can be found at Food City Stores

Optional: add shredded chicken

(continued from page 1)

Do not cram (last minute study) the day of the test

TAKING THE TEST:

Write your name on test papers

Preview the test before you answer anything

Quickly calculate how much time you should allow for each section

Read ALL the directions carefully

Answer the easy questions first

Go back to the difficult questions

Answer all questions

Ask the instructor to explain any items that are not clear

Use the margin to explain why you chose the answer

Circle key words in difficult questions

Try to not second guess your answers by changing them

Use all of the time allotted for the test

University of St. Thomas has an excellent website on test preparation and test taking

<http://www.iss.stthomas.edu/studyguides/tstprp.htm>

-Remy Sotto, Counselor