

Opening *Writing* DOORS

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University of Pamplona

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The University for an Intelligent and Interconnected Society

OWD

EDITORIAL

The Faculty of Education will have an anniversary on the 30th of November, 2010 when we will be celebrating 50 years of pedagogical work at the University of Pamplona. This Faculty was the basis of the University itself under the guidance of its first Head Dean, Father Rafael Faria Bermudez, an educator and visionary.

Today, the Faculty has undergraduate degree courses in Social Sciences, Spanish Language and Communication, Foreign Languages, (English-French), Child Pedagogy as well as Specializations in: Educational Management, Translation of Written Texts, University Pedagogy, the Spanish Language, Political Science, Special Education and Educational Orientation.

Our Faculty is present in many parts of this country with its great mission of forming professionals in education who generate change, promote peace, human dignity and national development.

The Faculty has always been committed to a personal and professional growth as the first step to produce an integrated individual anticipating every day as a chance to learn and share the particularly interesting ideas forming those teachers of the future.

Those who have dedicated their time to write their thoughts on paper are in constant inquiry; here they show their experiences in that growing and cultural amplitude which opens their minds to investigation, instruction and embark upon that renewed daily process as part of being students and forming the habits of good teachers.

The University of Pamplona at the end of this decade, should be the first center of higher education in the Colombian East.

Dean José del Carmen Rojas Contreras
Faculty Science of Education



Opening Writing doors

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POEMS

WAITING, WAITING. . . WANING. . .

Finally,
Everything I do becomes futile, fruitless.
Perhaps. . . my destiny is already written in the stars.
And it is foolish to try to change it.
Time elapses quickly.
The Apocalypse is closer than yesterday. . .
I live in a constant fight against everyone, even against myself,
against my heart and my mind.
They all refuse to accept this cold hell that has become my cell.
Am I fighting alone?
Nothing exists now.
It's only me. . . fighting alone.
Not even a wish in my soul. . . nothing but futility.
With feet but no way to go-nowhere to go.
With wings but with darkened heavens.
With a heart but all doors closed. . .
A N D
I'm still here,
Waiting, waiting, waning,
Waiting for that brilliant Sun
And the green open fields giving me freedom awaits me.
Perhaps, death will arrive first.

The past must not return.
But I am still here.
Waiting, waiting, waning in my hope, desire, yearning. . .
Counting every second to the end of my life. . .
Four, three, two. . . one – the countdown continues.
I can't stand this pain.
It eats my bones, my blood and weakens my senses.
Stifling my reason.
Taking my strength away but not diminishing this open wound,
And keeps me here waiting, waiting . . . waning.

Will I disappear just like the moon?

Leidy Johanna Solano Rios
9th Semester
Foreign Language Student

GOD'S HOUSE

H oly place of grace and peace
E mbassy where angels welcome God's children
A mazing atmosphere, ineffable and sacred
V alley of red roses and blue rivers
E ternal blissful empire of Our Lord
N ation where love and glee reign.

Yahir Barrera B.
9th Semester
Foreign Language Dept.

SAVAGE SEA

Savage and seductive
'gentleman' that pacifies my
spirit and gives it peace. .
.makes me forget my lost
love. You, beautiful SEA,
owner of my destiny;
magisterial 'gentleman', full
of power and magic. . .

Eternal 'gentleman'. . . with your magnificent sound,
calm my sadness and give sweet consolation to my
tormented soul.

Anxious and sage that with your waves reflect your
eminent power, mysterious and sensitive in an afterlife. .
. seek him out and little by little, you will feel 'HIS'
presence . . .

Karen Mendoza &
Johanna Rojas
5th Semester
Foreign Language Dept.

A BRIGHT
LIGHT

Only
A light
Has shone
In my life when
I needed it. Oh,
What a strong
light
that transformed
my life in an
instant
Deep light,
You formed a path
Of happiness
In my life.
What are you made of?
Where do you come from
To give so much delight?

Oh, radiant light!
I seek you out,
I search for you.
You are my ray of love
And energy.
Your vigor full of love
Oh, effulgent light!
Lead me on the road of
Merriment until the end.
To find the end is you,
Oh light of lights.

Adriana Marcela Polanco M.
8th Semester
Foreign Language Student

ONCE AGAIN

I try it again; there's
something I want; I
don't get anything near
it. So, I feel hard,
strong heart pain. . .
that confused sadness.

Then, I think I'll be an
expert; I will not fail
anymore; I stand up
and I try it again. Here
I am again. I know I
am the best but
this is how victory
escapes me. So, on-
comes the hard, sharp
pain to my heart and
the sadness begins
again saying to myself,
"It's time to give up."
Now, it's the third time
and I am on my feet
again with force but
also with fright.

Gerson Madrid
8th Semester
Foreign Language
Student



WHICH SHADE OF BLACK IS BEST?

What is the basis of your relationship with people of different skin tones? Are you prejudiced toward people darker than you? Or do you hate people who have a lighter skin tone than yours? Do you base your relationships on this tone?

What's the reason for your discrimination? Is it history or how you were brought up to feel? Do you feel or think these people of different skin tones do not deserve respect from you— that they are totally different from you?

In Colombia one would think this problem would not exist but what a disappointment when you face reality. Here, there is a mixture of all bloods from all races throughout the world. In just one family you can see children with dark skin but with slanted eyes. One offspring could have dark toned skin with a brother who has white tones and Caucasian features. Here in this country anything is possible.

However, the Bible says that 'man was created in the likeness and image of God' but it does not say what color he made man. So why do we look at other people's skin color if this is contrary to the original plan of the existence and creation of man on Earth?

Do other people's feelings of hate and prejudice influence our own thoughts, opinions and reactions? Do we repeat what others say like thoughtless parrots? If we were brought up to feel these differences, why are we so closed to changing our ideas? Can we change? Are we capable of a fundamental revolution in our own minds and feelings?

If just one person profoundly changes his ideas, thoughts and reactions to others, it's a beginning. This person is an example of individuality; someone who can think for himself and is not afraid of doing so. He does not depend on the opinions of others to be a shadow under a tree of the masses hiding his original ideas and is an example for others to follow and be individuals also.

There is no reason behind prejudices of any sort since a cogent argument could never be found for hating our fellow-man.

Alejairo Torres
9th Semester
Foreign Language Dept.



TO BE OR NOT TO BE - THE FASHION BUILDS OR DESTROYS

According to the philosophers and the left AVANT-GARDE plus many dusty encyclopedias that inhabit the darkest corner of our houses, the vanguard is defined as a set of schools or artistic trends that were born in the 20th century with the intention of renewing and advancing culture and art. For us the young men of this millenium, this definition seems strange to us and even out of context, but if we remove it from the common language summarizing this rigid concept, it might seem that the vanguard possesses those encyclopedias of prehistory. It is a tendency or a movement created to innovate, to modify and especially to enter different worlds and discover things that have never been seen. This movement is of great acceptance in the younger-adolescent society, since we seek to be different and specially to be rebels. Nevertheless, another clear example of groups of ultramodern people exists; the hippies have a very different trend. They live alone experiencing the present and whatever love can be found and they care for the environment. They do not think about the future because panic is caused in them. This is nothing very strange to the young people of today; we only think of being well for the moment and not about what we will have to do tomorrow. We do not detain our minds in thinking about what could possibly happen or what God has destined for us. We live in the superficiality of things.

Unfortunately, through time, this concept of the avant-garde movements has been changed and renewed in a brutal way and it is ironic because this is precisely the base of all the innovation taking place today and produced at the end of the last century. These brutal changes are reflected clearly and particularly in the music today, in the fads and fashions young people are wearing. You might wonder why? If what is listened to is so beautiful and the clothes also are, well then, for the information of all, (this is my personal opinion), Music in general has been destroyed by its interpreters since according to them the subliminal messages in these songs are the most important. They do not even think that they are destroying what we adore.

Thanks to some of us, there is still some music from different areas that are rich in rhythm and have a logical message to convey; these have survived the onslaught and the attacks to our ears from other cultures; undoubtedly, it is also happening with the style of clothes. In the days of our great-grandmothers, that is to say, many years ago, men and women dressed decently; nevertheless, the whole disaster began when miniskirts were created for women; from that time on, we have been seeing the utmost IN-decency.

Women dress to produce desire and are showing everything; that modesty, that pride and femininity are extinct just like the dinosaurs. Everything is done just to be in fashion and to attract the unwary male. If we speak about men's fashions, they have created skirts, 'tangas' and a quantity of accessories and holes in their faces and bodies to show off whatever part of their anatomy they like.

The truth is not known! since nobody comprehends what is really happening to society. We all want to be noticed, to be in the forefront but we do not know why and ignore its real meaning; that is to say, who the real villain is! We repeat things as if we were idiots running behind a butterfly. It is necessary to land and to realize that the world is definitely

upside-down. Then, you might not think that this music and these fashions are indeed avant-garde or are they a true story for Swindlers?

Geovanny Villareal
5th Semester
Foreign Language Dept.



BEING A HANDYMAN IN MY HOUSE

Every student in our lovely university has two months vacation, for example: from December to February or from June to August. Most of us go home since we study in Pamplona and the majority of the students come from other towns; some of us relax and others begin to work for those months.

But don't you consider this a very long vacation? What happens if you finish working? What do you do? What do you become? A couch potato???

If you help with chores at home, you become 'a handyman'. Do you know what a handyman does or is? According to the free on-line dictionary a 'handyman' is "a man skilled in various jobs and other small tasks or a skilled worker whose job is to repair anything." You might become a jack-of-all trades. That's McGyver (t.v. character who knew what to do at the right time for all obstacles).

At my house, for example, I began by taking down the Christmas lights and decorations; I mopped and swept the floor. I fixed the window so that now it slides back and forth easily. I cleaned the water-canal on the roof that was filled with debris and leaves obstructing the rainwater from flowing into the drain. I helped my little brother with his homework and played with him so that he could learn how to play fairly with his other friends. I fixed the washing machine for my mother and for my father, I plugged in his t.v. set with the correct lines to the D.V.D. player so there would not be any damage done to this set.

Those things make me feel comfortable because I'm helping my family with the everyday chores and necessities. I consider it to be very little help for them but they consider this as an enormous help so that their lives may run smoothly and without any obstacles. All of this comes from the bottom of my heart; besides, after doing all the above-mentioned tasks you get the best reward ever. Your family blesses you or better yet, your mother blesses you.

Imagine, this is the best way to spend your vacation time. If you get tired of going camping, or shopping at the mall or window shopping or swimming (in pools, lakes, rivers or going to the beach); then help at home. Your parents will appreciate it and repay you with deep love, affection, your favorite foods and their grace.

*note: not only men but also women can be handymen—women.

By Bladimir Orozco
9th Semester Student
Foreign Languages



TATTOOS

The word tattoo is said to have two major derivations, from the Polynesian word "ta" which means striking something and the Tahitian word "tatau" which means to mark something. Proof that tattoos were used as long ago as five thousand years; this has now been uncovered by modern archeology. They have found tattoos in use in the Egyptian, Roman, Greek and Japanese cultures. Greeks normally used tattoos to indicate slavery; the Mayans, Incas and Aztecs are known to have used tattoos also. Tattoos were sometimes used as a mark or symbol of belonging to a tribal group or a common area.

The art of tattooing has been around for many thousands of years; the styles and the reasons that people want to design symbols or images on his/her body is perhaps to show their beliefs, religion, customs or individual expressions. They are unique and each one has something different. Tattoos such as designs from the Celts, Indian Tribes, wild animals, monsters, rock bands, etc., show their singular meanings. Each tattoo has a relationship to the personal feeling, history, motive and lifestyle of the person who carries it and makes that special sacrifice of caring for it after it has been engraved on the body; perhaps, this makes them immortal since it cannot be removed by ordinary means.

There may be many concepts about them. People might think that it is wrong to tattoo the body and one could probably get some dangerous illness, too. They might think tattoos are usually used by bad people, like prisoners, robbers, and violators of the law. Maybe it is wrong, but time has shown that there were many different influences in the history of tattooing from other cultures evolving throughout time; besides, we could say that our personal identity is based on our minds just like our personality is.

Everyone should make up his own mind without being influenced by what people think. This is also an individual distinction.

Jhuber Arley Cely López
7th Semester
Foreign Language Dept.



PIECES

Draw a line that I will
never cross
Fly away where I can't
find you,
Hide and seek is the
game we always
played
I always sought; you
let yourself be found.
I cherished you but
your uniqueness was

an enigma.

I feel you everywhere I am,
I can see the shreds of your clothes in my hands,
The crumbs of the bread we ate that night
And the sheet of the newspaper you so intensely read.
The grains of sand left by your shoes on my carpet
The scent of your perfume in the air of my apartment.
I still keep the left-overs of our last dinner together.
I constantly remember how you made things look
better.

You tiptoed out of my room and walked out of my life.
Leaving drops of sadness filling up my pensive nights.
Staggering under
the pressure of
letting go.

That last night
you came over, I
rushed to the
door.
We sat, we
laughed, I poured
the wine.
We drank, we
ate; we wildly
kissed each
other's shadows.
And let our wicked thoughts take over and invade our
most sinful dreams come true.
How we swept the floor with our bodies to finally fall
asleep on the couch close to the open exit.
Then, came the cold wind, the deadly-freezing breeze
of the dawn taking you away from me.
You didn't even kiss me good-bye.
You heartless rattlesnake. How I miss you!

Alejairo Torres
9th semester
Foreign Language Student



THE SILENT ENEMY

We are subjected to many different tensions in everyday life that affect people of any age. These emotional strains have a great incidence on the attitude we assume when under pressure. Sometimes, we feel that this STRESS is having an adverse effect upon us. Other times we might have difficulty managing the situation at hand and this is when we say, 'we are stressed-out!'

This emotional tautness appears when we are worried or uncomfortable about some event happening in our everyday life. Worry, anger, frustration or just feeling afraid may in some cases give us the wrong idea about how to treat these effects; even happy, sad or negative thoughts coursing through our minds can cause this tension and that lack of equilibrium we need for our daily events, for just living every day in this complicated world.

Plenty of things can show us how tense we are in our personal lives. We may even have physical effects from this stress. We could feel butterflies in the stomach or our hands get sweaty, our brows and upper lip glow with beads of sweat and some just get nauseas or run to the bathroom.

When others are fighting, when we see people who are helpless or there are economic problems, these can make you feel stressed. When we fight with others, accidents in the home or on the street, physical illness, and toothaches, are all factors causing negative emotions and strain. For young people changing from childhood to adolescence their hormonal changes, voice sounds, premenstrual syndrome in young girls and then, tension appears in older women when the level of hormones decreases in their bodies during menopause. Stress might cause emotional unbalance in men if they become impotent or loose their hair. This is all a cause for the change in our cognition, our ability to think and reason adequately.

It is said that we cannot eliminate stress completely from our everyday experiences but we can learn how to use it to our advantage and make it work for us. One of the ways to manage this taut anxiety, these temporary feelings, is to try to overcome our own emotional state remembering that 'everything passes'. Another trick to play on stress is to use it to accelerate our movements, thoughts, feelings and get out of bad situations at the right time since we need challenges to overcome and inspire our lives. Avoid having conflicts, discussions or disagreements with others giving them that word they are looking for, "Yes, you're right!" even though they are totally wrong. But here is where we do not suffer the 'slings and arrows' of their 'outrageous fortune'. Simply say this and excuse yourself. There's no reason to fight. In this way we are managing that stressful situation.

The Dalai Llama says, "There should be no opposition to wrong or evil!" Negative reactions are definitely to be avoided at all costs!

Yessica Bernal
6th Semester
Foreign Language Student



CROPS OF DEATH

For many years Colombia has been synonymous with drugs because the history of the country has been marked by wars among drug traffickers and illicit cultivation. This does not make us proud. It is evident that problems like illegal crops are not only tragic in the social aspect harming our people but also the political, economic and ecological aspects of our lands.

The problem of illegal crops, as we have expressed, goes far beyond that of affecting the population since this also has its deadly affliction on the farmers, on the indigenous population, on young boys and girls who are forced into being used as instruments and must collaborate or die.

The planting of illegal drug crops is a great economic opportunity for these farmers and tribes. The plantations of the amapola (poppy flower), marijuana, the coca tree all need little care since they grow, practically speaking, by themselves without any weeding, little water and very little fumigation and practically no economic investment. With the harvest, great earnings are gained to send their children away from danger and into the big cities to live like kings and get an education plus an easy life.

These are all true victims of this tragic displacement of food for society since the farmers are persecuted not only by the authorities but also by the cartels.

The authorities make an effort to eradicate these illegal crops by fumigating with glyphosate; also harming and damaging the other legal crops surrounding these and meant for society's table, injuring the ecological and environmental balance.

This is not the solution! They affect the very air we breathe and our basic health. It has been shown that these chemicals used to destroy the plantations of illegal crops do as much or more damage than the cultivation of coca trees and poppies.

It is necessary to create new alternatives for the rooting out of illicit crops that will not harm our food, our health nor our economy. One suggestion would be to create supportive-educative programs to show the farmers and the indigenous tribes that they are backed by the government and through this education, they, themselves will stop planting these crops hidden among those we need for sustenance.

Principally, the solution is in the hands of all Colombians united as a single nation to support and to say NO to illicit crops here in this world where money preempts people and Mother Nature.

Francis Yesenia Jaimes Mendoza
VI Semester
Foreign Language Student



MOTHER KNOWS BEST

At the middle of the last century Education in our small hamlet, 'Four Fevers', did not meet the temperament, the upsetting character of life around arbitrary conflicts and customs found there. It might have been possible that 5% of the people had 48 chromosomes and that is why, Mother, decided that we would not be the useful slaves of the ignorant humanoids teaching us. We sought a fast exit out of there since their customs were grooved into the same riverbed surrounding the village.

There, the caprice of injustice and barbarity ruined education for those children who were taught that it should bring them happiness and the love of knowledge inspiring the

search for more freedom from ignorance.

Anger and anguish were sufficient to develop the Karamazov and criminal complexes – syndrome of the 'caciques' – who tried to change the people's chromosomes into 50 or more by force.

They did change the limits of property from one place to another; the rights to pass through other's lands became prohibited, and the right to take the water from a common point were all areas of contention for our daily lives. The water and the animals were contaminated or poisoned. Practically 30 meters of Eucalyptus trees were cut down because they "caused too much shade".

Besides all those gangsters around town, the gossips were out to do their damage as well. Slander and calumny were the bread and breakfast of the village. . . and I was becoming a young man with what kind of values? So the best idea to come from Mother was to separate ourselves from these criminals and swindlers; then, perhaps within our lifetime, we could rid ourselves of the inferiority complex marked in us by all these negative influences.

Settled into the house of Doña Petra, blessed by Divine Providence, along with Don Pedro Ignacio, I was sent to school in Urubanzá where I was to save myself from all those misers, swindlers, corrupt burgermeisters who only knew which end of the beer bottle was up.

Don Felix saw that I was a diligent student and he used his influence to get me into the Seminary at Duitama since the school-board at 'Four Fevers' sent word for me to return and study there. All of this overwhelmed us with fright and anxiety and the move to Duitama was rushed – it was at the Seminary in Duitama that I realized how I had escaped Hell just by changing schools.

Salomon Herrera
Professor
Foreign Language Dept.



EAST MEETS WEST

up

When I was child – 10 years old – I began to see things in a different light; the world, Mother Nature and whatever was around me. Eating meat was out of the question. The idea of harming an animal gave me indigestion. I only wanted to protect Nature with all its plants and animals. Many said I needed the proteins meat gives the human body and plants don't have. With all this I felt I needed a religion, or a reason for being, that could fulfill my spiritual yearnings giving me that direction and based on a healthy way of living and keeping within the boundary of this society and Mother Nature. I found it! BUDDHISM!

The idea to change my religion did not come through rebelliousness, or to follow a fad or be contrary to my parents' ways and customs; this was the most important, radical and autonomous decision taken for my life and I am happy being on this path.

Buddhism is based on a perfect earthly life – people without egotism, selfishness, without suffering or ignorance. These are the ideals of intelligent people with good intentions; there are those who make the right effort, who earn their

livelihood correctly and who have correct speech and actions. This all seems like a wonderful way to live.

Since being a Buddhist, I feel a great change in me; I mean to say, I am much more patient, tolerant and respectful of others. To be frank, I feel much more respect for myself, as well, and I feel at peace with this path and with my life. I am prepared to receive the Karma my other lives have proportioned in this one and to accept this just law of cause and effect with happiness since I can pay what I owe, here and now, in this 'vale of tears'.

I have changed other attitudes since my tenth birthday; now I eat meat!

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QUALITY IN REALITY AND SOCIAL IMPACT

Faculty of Education
Language Department

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