

"Without doubting there is no seeking; without seeking there is no gaining"-Yukichi Fukuzawa

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Japan faces the AIDS challenge -will Keio's students follow?

By Ritsuko Ando and Kuniyuki Horiuchi

The AIDS crisis today

Today, the world faces a growing rate in the spread of AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome), a disease caused by the transmission of HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus). As of June 30 of this year, 985,119 AIDS cases have been reported. The true number (including cases which have not been reported) has been estimated at 4 million, and 17 million are thought to be carrying HIV.

Asia now faces a particularly serious crisis, with an estimated 2.5 million cases of HIV infection. While most of these cases are in Thailand and India, Japan has not been spared, either.

Japan has had a relatively low rate of HIV

Japan has not been spared...

infection partly due to few cases of transmission through the sharing of needles by intravenous drug users and through homosexual contact. Many hemophiliacs, in the past, contracted the virus through the transfusion of blood-clotting agents. Still today, a majority of AIDS patients and HIV-infected persons are hemophiliacs; however, since 1986, all donated blood has been screened for HIV antibodies. Therefore, cases of AIDS among hemophiliacs can be expected to decrease. Instead, today, there is a marked increase in HIV infection through heterosexual contact and an acceleration in the spread of AIDS among Japanese citizens nationwide. Also, there is a concentration in HIV infection among females in their twenties.

many lives of gay men have been lost to AIDS, many homosexuals are practicing monogamous and safe sex. The number of homosexuals contracting the virus is decreasing as a result of heightened awareness in the homosexual community. The same trend can be seen in Japan: heterosexual contact accounts for most HIV infections.

Know the facts

HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, can be transmitted through the exchange of blood, semen, and through pregnancy (mother-to-infant). Those who have been infected with HIV usually show symptoms of a cold two to eight weeks after infection. However, the symptoms will disappear after two to three weeks. The HIV carrier then enters a state during which he or she shows no signs of carrying the virus and can lead a normal and healthy life. This state lasts about ten years on average, but can last from six months to as long as fifteen years. Though an HIV carrier may show no outward signs of being infected, the virus is contained in their blood and semen; hence, they can unknowingly transmit the disease through unprotected intercourse during this stage.

An HIV carrier is diagnosed with AIDS

an HIV carrier may show no outward signs of infection...

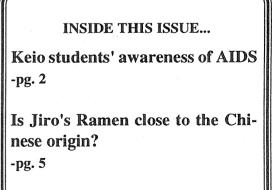


(above) a lymphocyte infected with HIV

AIDS persons.

AIDS patients show outward symptoms, such as cold sores, weight loss, diarrhea, and frequent fevers. The symptoms vary according to what kind of virus or bacteria they have been infected by. It is not rare that patients become infected with multiple viruses or bacteria. The symptoms usually become more serious, and can lead to blindness and paralysis. Patients diagnosed with AIDS have, in developed countries, been known to live for one to two years after contracting AIDS. However, with the advancement of medical science, AIDS patients

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Gay men, in the past, were considered a "high risk group" because anal intercourse often involves bleeding, leaving both partners vulnerable to HIV transmission. However, since so

when he or she begins to show signs of infection, or becomes ill. Symptoms include fever, diarrhea, lack of appetite and weight loss, among others. When one enters the state of AIDS, one experiences, as the name of the disease suggests, a deficiency in the immune system. The patient becomes vulnerable to bacteria and viruses which would pose no threat to non**Student Profile** -pg. 4 Sports: Baseball and the international media -pg. 4-5 The movie Speed: plagiarism? -pg.6

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can now live for an average of three years. However, as of now, without any known cure for AIDS, all patients face an eventual death.

The fact that there is no cure for AIDS has made many people fear the disease. However, with the right information on AIDS and AIDS prevention, there is nothing to fear. HIV cannot be transmitted through casual contact such as handshakes, hugs, and light kisses. Also, using the same bathroom, or bathing in the same bath or pool with an HIV-positive person involves no risks.

Today, the key to reducing the risk of HIV transmission is the practice of safe sex. Though abstinence is the only way to be 100 percent sure of not contracting any sexually transmitted disease, this is not a realistic notion for many: sex happens. Safe sex means the proper use of a latex condom during intercourse. Monogamous relationships are also considered a factor in reducing risks of contracting any STD's (Sexually Transmitted Diseases).

Japan's AIDS strategy

To counter the spread of AIDS in Japan, the Ministry of Health and Welfare began drawing plans since 1985, when the first AIDS case was detected. The AIDS Surveillance Committee was set up to monitor the number of AIDS patients and HIV-infected persons. In 1989, the AIDS Prevention Law was enacted to closely monitor the trends of transmission. This law requires a doctor who has diagnosed a patient with HIV infection or AIDS to report the sex, age, and mode of of transmission - but not the name or address - to the Surveilance Committee, which compiles this information bimonthly and reports it to the public.

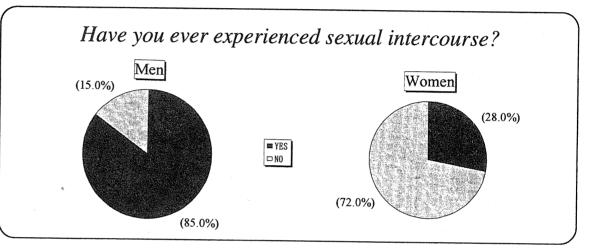
In addition, to promote AIDS research and education, the government decided to set up the Japanese Foundation for AIDS Prevention (JFAP). Dr. Yasushi Sawazaki, who works for the Foundation, explained the efforts being made to counter the spread of AIDS and to aid those who have contracted the virus. The Foundation's main objectives are: (1) to educate, train, and assist young research fellows in universities and research institutes, (2) to promote international cooperation through collaborative

AIDS, condoms,

While AIDS is becoming a serious and controversial issue in Japan, it is wondered whether students at Keio University are aware of facts about AIDS. If they are, are they willing to see AIDS as an issue they should seriously think about, or do they dismiss it as somebody else's problem? The Mita Campus took a random

thinking, to some degree, that it is safe to have sex with Japanese nationals, while it is unsafe to do so with foreign nationals. This contradiction represents the confusion and lack of knowledge students have about AIDS.

In fact, less than 25 percent of the students surveyed said they had received a full education



survey of 100 students of both sexes and in different faculties, and obtained interesting results.

88 percent of those surveyed recognized AIDS as an issue relative to Japanese people. This shows that students recognize AIDS as a problem; however, a majority also admitted to on AIDS. Only 55% of the students knew the difference between the terms "AIDS" and "HIV." Unfortunately, ignorance leads to fear, as nearly half of the students responded that they would probably be uncomfortable or did not want to be in the same room with an AIDS pa-

AIDS Plan." The principal elements of the strategy include, in addition to those of the Foundation mentioned above, improvements of the health-care system, instituting counseling and guidance systems, providing testing, and other plans that will hopefully decrease the rate of HIV infection.

Since the trends in HIV infection in Japan are unlike those seen in the United States or other Asian countries, strategies adopted by the Ministry and JFAP are quite different from those of other countries. At the same time, the campaign against AIDS in Japan faces difficulties of its own. Dr. Sawazaki, who returned this fall from Cambridge, Massachusetts, where he was staying as a research fellow at the Francois-Xavier

ment subsidy and trust money, a large part of the Foundation's funds come from donations from individuals, various organizations, and corporations. However, the Foundation also serves the role of pooling funds to non-governmental organizations. AIDS-related NGO's in Japan have been experiencing great difficulties, such as the lack of funds. Unlike the U.S., many NGO's were unable to receive aid from the government. However, since the International AIDS Conference in Yokohama this summer made people realize the importance of NGO's, many organizations are receiving aid for the first time this year, including gay and lesbian organizations. However, there are not many activities where citizens can participate. "It is a pity that there aren't many activities at local levels, especially since there are, in fact, many people willing to participate. They just don't know how," remarked Dr. Sawazaki, who believes that activities at the local level are highly effective.

scientific efforts and the exchange of research fellows, (3) to educate the public about AIDS, (4) cooperating with various organizations and individuals in holding symposiums and training courses in various parts of the country, and (5) to help counsel AIDS and HIV-infected persons with the cooperation of the Ministry of Health and Welfare.

In April of this year, the Ministry implemented a strategy called the "Seven-Year Stop Bagnoud Center of Harvard's School of Public Health, explained the difference in AIDS-related efforts being made in the United States and Japan.

"Whereas in the States, grass roots and nongovernmental organizations play an active part in the campaign against AIDS and promoting the rights of AIDS/HIV-infected persons, Japan's campaign is led by bureaucratic organizations," said Dr. Sawazaki. Besides govern-

On AIDS day (held on Decmber 10 every year) of this year, famous rock bands showed up to play at benefit concerts to raise funds. While

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Cover Story

and Keio students

tient.

An important part of AIDS prevention is talking about AIDS and safe sex. To see how sexually active Keio's student population is, the survey asked whether the respondent has ever had sex. 85 percent of males responded "yes," while only 28 percent of females circled "yes." This puzzling response can be interpreted in many ways, but the most obvious conclusion is that students find it hard to be open about their sexual behavior. Perhaps while society judges sexual experience for each gender by different standards, neither sex will find it easy to talk about safe sex.

Another interesting result came from questions regarding the use of condoms. Though only a few respondents said that they use a condom every time, over 90 percent responded that they use a condom most of the time they have sex. Most males considered the use of a condom a must, and 99 percent responded that they would definitely wear a condom if their partner asked them to. Despite this, only 64 percent of females said they could be the one to ask

their partner to wear a condom. Results showed that females prefered leaving decisions about sex up to their male partners. Japanese women have been traditionally known as being reserved and timid. If both sexes do not have enough courage to come to terms with their own sexual behavior in answering an anonymous survey, it is doubtful whether they will have the courage to talk about AIDS or previous sexual experiences with their partner.

Many college students consider the use of condoms as pregnancy prevention rather than prevention against STD's. While it is true that the risks of becoming pregnant are greater than the risks of contracting AIDS, considering the possibility that the use of a condom can mean the difference between a healthy and meaningful life and a slow, painful death, to take that risk seems extremely dangerous.

While many students may feel that college is a place where one can be free from all societal responsibilities, one must realize that no one is immune to the virus that causes AIDS.

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the activities were not led by the citizens, this kind of big-scale campaigning has its good points, too. AIDS day events, by attracting the attention of citizens, can boost awareness and provide a chance for people to talk about AIDS in the open. Another reason bureaucratic-led camapigning can be effective lies in the area of education. Since Japan has a high literacy rate, AIDS education campaigns can be highly effective when done at a national level.

Asked whether an explosive spread of AIDS could be possible in the near future, Mr. Sawazaki responded, "that's hard to answer... it's really difficult to see the exact results of the campaign against AIDS. One must keep in mind that the real situation of AIDS can be something different from reported figures. For instance, few reported cases might simply mean fewer people are being tested....etc. In the same way, it is difficult to read what may happen in the future. Even if the campaign against AIDS attracts attention and people learn of AIDS, it wouldn't mean a thing there is no behavioral change."

This kind of behavioral change depends largely on each individual's sexual decision making. The work of those involved with the AIDS prevention campaign, including NGO's, research scientists and volunteers, boils down to each individual's initiative to practice safe sex.

NGO Profile

By Ritsuko Ando and Sachiko Yakashiro

The November 14th issue of the magazine, The New Yorker, ran an article by Stan Sesser on the treatment of AIDS patients in Japan. The article pointed out that discrimination against those infected with the virus is so strong in Japan that Japanese AIDS/HIV-infected persons, fearing ostracism and becoming a burden and disgrace to their families choose to be tested and treated abroad. Although it is true that, to some degree, many infected persons cannot live the same kind of social life they led before becoming infected with the virus and that they face many difficulties, it is also true that there are many people who are willing to help. The fact that there are over fifty non-governmental organizations that are AIDS-related, and that many people are willing to lend a hand to infected persons so that they will not have to face the challenge alone was not mentioned in the article. As the AIDS crisis has become more serious, the number of organizations have increased.

Each AIDS-related non-governmental organization based in Japan is different in its own way. Some work in the area of prevention, while some work with AIDS/HIV-infected persons. Some consist of AIDS/HIV-infected persons, a few entirely of gay and lesbians, and many of volunteers.

The HIV and Human Rights Information Center (hotline: 03-5259-0255) was founded in 1988 by friends and doctors of HIV-infected persons. Today, members include doctors, psychologists, lawyers, and citizens. The Center takes phone calls in both Japanese and English, and has a hotline for gays.

the fields of Health and Sex Education and by those with experience in volunteering. The Project sends speakers to corporations and schools to speak on AIDS, and publishes AIDSrelated materials, such as leaflets on AIDS and condoms targeted toward a young age group.

Another AIDS-related organization, Red **Ribbon International Japan** (03-5450-0794) was founded in 1992 by the current representative who returned from Great Britain, where she learned of the red ribbon. The red ribbon is often worn and seen at public events as a sign of supporting AIDS-related causes. The organization does not provide care or information to those already infected; instead, its members hand out red ribbons at events and post information regarding the red ribbon at medical facilities to make it known. "Wearing the red ribbon can mean something different for every person," a volunteer explained, "it can be a sign of support for AIDS patients, or simply, a sign of awareness... it's a very personal expression of how one associates with AIDS." These are just a few of the organizations that make up an important part of the challenge against AIDS, which act as a ink between society with AIDS, and patients with help.

AMDA International Medical Information Center (03-5285-8086) is also an organization that provides information on testing and treatment facilities of AIDS to foreign nationals living in Japan. Their hotline provides counseling in Japanese, English, Spanish, Korean, Thai, Chinese, Phillipino, Potuguese, and Persian. The International AIDS Project (03-3327-2139) was established in 1991 by educators in

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Feature / Sports Editorial

Student Profile: Marguerite Lefleive

By Yuko Iwata

It is that time of year again when foreign exchange students for the next academic year are being selected. While many students from Keio University go to study abroad, many students from foreign countries come to the University under the student exchange system. Marguerite Lefleive is one of these students. Currently studying marketing in the Department of Business and Commerce, she is originally from France.

Arriving at the International Center in time for the interview with her hair cut short and a charming smile, she gives the impression of someone you'd like to get to know. "Call me Margo," she says.

This is not Margo's first time in Japan. Also, since she has studied Japanese for one year already, she can speak the language well. "I will enjoy my time in Japan... I will be learning so many things." Besides her studies, she says she is learning a lot about the Japanese culture. "Everything is different, from cooking and eating to ways of speaking..." Also, since many students ask Margo about her home country, she has felt the need to know more about France.

After returning to France after her stay in Japan and graduating from her university in Paris, she plans to work on city projects.

"By coming to Japan, I have been able to see a different kind of city. After graduating from school



in France, I would like to work in the international section of Paris' municipal center. Perhaps my experience in Japan will enable me to work there," she said. However, in the meantime, she hopes to visit Northern Japan over Winter Vacation. "I'm not returning to France for the vacation because I'd like to experience the Japanese 'shogatsu' (New Year). I hope to be in Northern Japan. If I can find a host family that will let me stay, I'd be happy." Margo is also looking forward to seeing cherry blossoms in the Spring.

"I'd also like to talk to Japanese students more, since foreign exchange students tend to gather..."

Margo is full of ambitions, with ideas about what she would like to do in the future. While she spoke in a soft and gentle voice, while talking about her her future plans what she'd like to learn in Japan, her tone was very firm. While learning about a completely different culture from her own, she is making an effor to adjust to a different way of life, so she may better understand the country and its people.

The international sports media: where is baseball happening?

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By Masato Moriuchi

Hisanobu Watanabe, a pitcher for the Seibu Lions, appeared on

LH (有) ランゲージ・ハウス 慶応義塾大学出身の女性を中心とした翻訳・企画会社です。ファッ クス/パソコン通信などを駆使し、迅速なきめ細やかな対応をモッ トーにしております。お役に立てる事がございましたら、ご用命く ださいますようお願い申し上げます。 代表取締役 最上 沙紀子(昭和45年卒) the cover of *Sports Illustrated*, America's most read weekly sports magazine, with the headline which read, "Made in Japan" with the word "yakyu" (baseball) written in Japanese characters.

If the World Series had been held this fall, the cover would have been a major leaguer instead of a Japanese pitcher. The major leaguers' strike resulted in an interruption in the World Series that was even held during the two World Wars. Television stations had to broadcast minor league games that Michael Jordan, who gave up professional basketball, plays on from necessity. For the first time, the American mass media paid attention to Japanese baseball, since they could not report the regular World Series. For example, some magazines featured the series and all of the games were broadcast on cable television, though they were previously recorded programs.

Many may have an interest in how the Japan Series was reported abroad. Sports Illustrated ran a four page cover story on the series. The same magazine ran a six page article on the Dream team that won the gold medal at Barcelona, but the article did not make the cover, to give an idea how large the scale of the article was. "Appearing on Sports Illustrated's cover is a very big deal for athletes and a great honor. When Magic Johnson made the cover for the first time, he was said to have felt his adrenaline pumping with pride," described sportswriter Yoko Umeda. She also mentioned, "there is a jinx that sports players go into a slump if they appear on the cover." This jinx became a reality for Watanabe, as the Seibu Lions did not win the games, losing the Japan Series title to the Yomiuri Giants.

Most of the article introduces the atmosphere of Japanese ball game, and the players' professional environment, such as working contracts. It is reasonable that the magazine shows an interest in the business dealings of baseball players and teams in Japan, including free agency and striking, with major leaguers of the States on strike against the new salary system. Those who want to read how the games were played, though, will be disappointed. There are no descriptions of Kazuhiro Kiyohara, a Seibu Lions slugger, who hit the first home run of the series, or of Masumi Kuwata, a Yomiuri Giants pitcher, who knocked out the opening game. Although the magazine carries marvelous phographs and the article gets the idea across that baseball is a popular sport in Japan as it was in the States during the good old days, it failed to pick up on the content of the games. Asian magazines also paid attention to the Japan Series. Jungo Baseball Magazine, one of continued to page 5...

<業務内容>

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Feature / Sports Editorial

Does this taste close to home? Ramen Jiro's noodles

By Suguru Watanabe

One can eat almost any kind of food in Japan, whether it be Chinese, French, or Indian. One may often wonder if the dishes are prepared in the same way they are in their original countries, and whether they taste the same. This series introduces foods from different countries that have become familiar in Japan, and seeks to answer the question: how different is it from the original recipe?

One item that has become familiar in Japn is "ramen," the Chinese noodle. Most Japanese like ramen, and it has become so familiar that one can find many kinds of ramen in Japan. Students attending the Mita campus of Keio University pass by "Ramen Jiro," a Chinese noodle shop, quite often. One can always expect a long line in front of the shop, of businessmen and students, waiting to have a taste of the ramen.

To test whether the ramen of one of Tokyo's popular stores is like those eaten in China, *The Mita Campus* invited Mr. Zu Bao Weng, originally from Fujian, China, to taste Jiro's famous ramen. Mr. Weng is currently a junior studying in the Economics Department of Keio University.

During the long wait (one hour) to get a seat, the editor explained how to order. Ramen Jiro has a unique way of taking orders, which will be explained at the end of this article. Mr. Weng ordered "Shobuta (show butcher)," small size noodles with some roast pork.

After finishing his bowl of ramen, he commented, "that was nice," as he went out of the store. "I t was like eating the noodles from where I am from... I can find a lot of similarities..." Mr. Weng commented that the soy-sauce flavoured soup made at Jiro's is like those made in his home country. Another similarity was the use of cabbages and roast pork in the noodles. The fact that there was no menma or miso being used were also noted.

"I was glad to hear the owner who was serving us say 'thank you' even though he was busy... I felt really satisfied after that." He says that his satisfaction was rather unexpected. "The taste of Jiro's ramen is pretty similar to the noodles eaten in China," he said.

continued from page 4...

Taiwan's popular sports magazines, reports on Japanese baseball. In In their March 20 issue of last year, rar for instance, the magazine ran an article describing the pennant wh race's prospects of the Central and sta Pacific Leagues of Japan, with photographs. In addition, as some about Japanese players quit professional par baseball teams of their home country to join Taiwanese professional is of baseball teams, local magazines focused on their plays. Jap

a regular basis and some magazines, such as *Number*, publish special issues that focus on the games. In comparison, the Japanese media rarely focuses on baseball in Taiwan and other Asian countries where the sport is in its budding stages.

One thing seems clear from the

We interviewed Mr. Yamada, who is the owner of Ramen Jiro, to ask about his recipe. Asked whether he has ever trained in China, he laughed, answering, "no way." The only reason menma and miso, typically Japanese ingredients often used for ramen in Japan, are not used at Jiro's is because, as Mr. Yamada said, "they cost a lot and take too long to cook." He also said that he is not making efforts to make his noodles the way they are made in China. However, he says that there may be some similarity, since he was once taught how to make and knead noodles by someone who had returned from China after World War II.

"I say 'thank you' to my customers because it is natural for a professional to do so. But I may not say it when I'm very busy," he commented.

He also mentioned that foreigners sometimes visit the store to eat, especially after the consumer tax law was put into effect. "The Foreign Minister introduced my store as one exempted from consumer taxation, and Ambassadors from Africa came after the Minister's recommendation," he said. Now, Asian students from China and Korea often come.

Finally, directions on how to order at Jiro's ramen store:

First, one must select the size of the bowl. "die" means large (380 yen), while "show" means small (350 yen). Next, one selects the amount of roast pork. By selecting "butcher," one can have some roast pork for an additional 50 yen, while asking for "double" means extra for 100 yen. Next, one can choose from the following options: "yeah, say" (extra vegetables), "car amen" (extra soy sauce), "knitting Nick" (extra garlic), and "abrupt" (extra oil). All of these items can be added for free.

When ordering, Mr. Yamada will first take orders for size ("die" or "show"). For the second order, customers must say all of his or her choices in order out loud. Here are some examples:

"show double yeah,say car amen!" (small size, extra roast pork, extra vegetables and soy sauce) "die butcher knitting Nick!"

(large size, some roast pork, and extra oil)

"show yeah,say" (small size with extra vegetables)

Prices would come out to 450 yen, 430 yen, and 350 yen, consecutively.

Enjoy a taste of home more often. For less.



How are American and Taiwanese baseball games reported in Japan? Satellite broadcast programs report the Major League games on

above: the difference between Japan and Taiwan in amount of attention paid to one another's baseball is quite similar to the gap found between that of the United States and Japan. The sports media in both the United States and Japan should look towards Asia more often, to see how the game is being played in countries other than their own.

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Culture

Inspiration or Plagiarism? Strikingly familiar stories on the big screen

By Norimasa Sakai

"Even if it were [plagiarism], he would be pleased in Heaven," was the comment that ended the dispute over whether Disney's cartoon, *The Lion King*, was a work of plagiarism. For many, the film was too much like *Jungle Taitei* (Emperor), by Osamu Tezuka, one of the most popular Japanese comic writers, to have been a coincidence. From the setting to the plot, the two movies were similar. However, since the office of Tezuka has filed no charges against Disney, the decision over whether *The Lion King* was plagiarized will never be made.

Recently, however, another movie which rouses possible suspicions of plagiarism has appeared. Speed, directed by Jan de Bont, with Keanu Reeves and Dennis Hopper playing lead roles, has arrived to Japan's movie theaters in time for the Christmas season. The film is said to be similar to Shinkansen Daibakuhatsu (Bullet Train Demolition), directed by Junya Sato, starring Ken Takakura. This movie, filmed in 1975, was a big hit, and was shown in Europe and the U.S. The plot and settings of both films are similar. In Speed, an ex-policeman who used to work for the bomb treatment team sets a bomb on the local bus and demands 5 million dollars. In Shinkansen... the hero also sets a bomb on the Shinkansen and demands 5 million dollars. The most striking similarity is that the bombs in both films are made to detonate if the vehicle is driven under a certain speed.

It is true that film makers in both the East and

the West have been influenced by each other's works. In the 30's and 40's, Japanese film makers at Nikkatsu used American filming technique, while in the 50's and 60's, were influenced by Nouvel Vogue (New Wave) from the French. At the same time, Akira Kurosawa's slow motion techniques and Yasujiro Ozu's use of low camera angle influence European film directors greatly.

However, cases in which the setting and plot match are rare. Hirohisa Suzuki, a movie critic,

says that he is sure that "de Bont saw the movie somewhere in Europe 20 years ago, and got the hint of making his movie, *Speed*..." Jan De Bont is known to like Japan very much. His next film will be *Godzilla*. He said in a press conference that his heart was almost broken when he saw the original movie during his childhood days.

Those who have not seen *Speed* or *Shinkansen*... should see both movies. After watching both, one can decide for him/herself whether *Speed* is a work of plagiarism.

The celebration of Christmas: For Christians, more than just presents

Mr. Raziq Pervez is a Telecommunication Engineer, of Pakistan Telecommunication Corporation, and a Visiting Researcher in the Faculty of Science & Technology at Keio University's Yagami Campus. He is a national of the Islamic Republic Of Pakistan, but belongs to the Christian Community. In this article he introduces the religious meaning of Christmas.

Christmas is a festival celebrated on December 25 by Christians all over the world. On this day, Jesus Christ was born. His birth was unique as He was born of the Virgin Mary, and in fulfillment to the prophecies of different prophets.

According to the Bible, at the time of Jesus's birth, Emperor Augustus ordered a census to be

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taken throughout the Roman Empire. Every one had to register himself at his own home town. Joseph, Jesus's father, went from the town of Nazareth to Bethlehem, the birthplace of King David, because Joseph was a descendant of David. Mary who had promised to marry Joseph, followed him. She was pregnant by the virtue of Holy Spirit and while they were in Bethlehem, the time came for her to have her baby. The city was crowded with people from all over Palestine who had come to register. Joseph and Mary could not find any room to stay, and had to stay in a stable where cattle were kept. Jesus was born there and was laid in a manger. At the same time there were some shepherds in the same country, keeping watch over their flock by night, and the angels from heaven came upon them to announce Jesus's birth, so the shepherds when to Bethlehem.

At about that time there were some wise men (who made a special study of Astrology and Mysterious Natural Sciences) who saw his star in the East and followed the star to Bethlehem in search of the new born King of Jews, Jesus. They were men of priestly caste from the East and are believed to represented the three races of Asian, African and European origin. These wise men brought with them gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. The figure of Santa Claus is built upon the legend of Saint Nicholas, Bishop of Myra. Presents, shopping, and parties are the new additions that our generation has contributed towards the evolution of Christmas celebration. All these bear some marks of the spirit of Christmas, but the religious meaning of the celebration is written in the Christian bible.

Advisor

Noritake Kobayashi

(Professor, Graduate School of Business Administration, Keio University) Special thanks to Masahiro Noguchi

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