

Better Known as the Fun Section

Gray shares Asian adventures

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Copy Editor

"I felt like Buddha going out into the world, seeing misery sickness and death for the first time," said English Instructor Kate Gray of her trip to Indonesia last term. It was her first trip to a developing country.

As part of the "Brown Bag Travel" series, Gray shared a slide presentation of the Indonesian islands of Java, Bali and Lombok as well as Hong Kong and the Portuguese colony of Macao on the southern coast of China. Thirty-two people attended the informal talk.

Gray spent one week in Jakarta on the island of Java, which "has a population of 12 million in the day and eight million at night" due to the number of commuting workers.

"The smog [is] unbelievable," exclaimed Gray.

Despite pollution-control regulations, Gray said the smog continues to be a problem because people who drive "bumblebee" taxis -- a meter maid cart which is the modern alternative to bicycle carts -- often bribe officials rather comply with the law.

The only traffic law, according to Gray, is "bigger go first." She also noted vast discrepancies in technology.

"I saw Mercedes with cell phones next to people pushing carts," said Gray. "There were also a lot of minivans. They take out the seats and put in benches."

She saw entire families riding on motorcycles. The children were wedged between the parents and in front of the father, she said. One slide portrayed a Muslim woman wearing a motorcycle helmet over the top of her veil.

Gray also reported that the people were not particularly friendly in Java.

"When I looked into the children's eyes on Java, there was nothing there," she said.

She assumed this was because they saw her as an American with money, a sharp contrast to their own poverty.

On the other hand, the children in Bali "would laugh and smile."

Gray attended two very different ceremonies in Bali: a cremation and a royal wedding.

"They want tourists there [at cremation ceremonies] because we add to the confusion," she said.

For the people of Bali, confusion is an important element in keeping away evil spirits.

The cremation is conducted as a celebration, "a passage into the next life."

At the wedding celebration for the prince of Bali, Gray was required to come in "proper attire." This attire con-



Photo contributed by Kate Gray

English Instructor Kate Gray felt a strong affinity with Buddha during her travels in Indonesia last fall.

sisted of a long-sleeved shirt, sash and sarong worn over her shorts.

"There were two gamelons playing different songs. ... One hundred and fifty women came in with two to three feet of fruit on their heads as an offering to the prince," said Gray.

She left before the ceremony was over because the discordant sound of the gamelons gave her a headache.

In Hong Kong, Gray was struck by a "sense of panic" due to the British turning the country over to China.

"They were reclaiming land from the river and putting in a huge international airport there," she said.

In Canton, China, she found that although the pollution was not as bad as Jakarta, "you could smell the water before you saw it. Everything was huge, concrete. There were not as many cultural identifications any more."

One of her most unforgettable times in China was in the market.

"I went through the meat section three times. There were goats, dogs, cats, 'rat on a string,' and turtles," said Gray. She was especially disturbed by seeing dogs and cats in cages since our culture identifies these animals as pets, not meat.

Toward the end of her trip, Gray was "pretty sick and liked having a flush toilet and hot water." She stayed at a five-star hotel in Lombok, Indonesia, and "tried not to look what was going on. [People were coral fishing with dynamite.] Later, she wrote a poem about seeing the dead sea animals floating in the bay.

Despite her "eye-opening experience," Gray said she would return to Indonesia and visit other developing nations. But, next time, "I'd bring a lot more Pepto Bismol tablets," she concluded.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

❖The Volunteer Center seeks volunteers to help organize the 5th Annual Human Race, held in August. proceeds from the event benefit hundreds of nonprofit organizations in our community. Call Kris Hudson 222-1355.

❖Clackamas Service Center which provides emergency services for low or no income people in north and west Clackamas County, needs daytime helpers for reception and/or light clerical work, organizing the clothing room and interviewing clients for eligibility for services. The Center also has openings for members of their Board of Directors.

❖Camp Fire Teen Parent Program-Mt. Hood seeks adult mentors to work with teen parents in a friendship relationship. Volunteers are also needed to do child care while teens are in a peer support group (minimum age 12). Also, you can help out by supplying treats for the meetings. Transportation, mailings and special event assistance also welcome. Call Anne Dueltgen 656-2530 ext. 17.

❖Beaverton Schools Volunteer Service is looking for reading and math tutors to work one-on-one with students. Also needed are volunteers (youth welcome!) to help organize the clothes closet. Call Maureen Wheeler 591-4443.

❖Volunteers Needed for the National Easter Seal Celebration '97 April 19 and 20. Volunteers needed to help set up, decorate, sell tulips, help with kids program and telethon on TV. Stop at CC 140 for more information.

❖Volunteer Tutors needed. Energetic people needed to tutor adults in reading and writing approximately two hours a week. Contact Joe Vanzutphen at ext. 2724.

❖Volunteer Needed at Rosemont School. Data entry 6 to 8 hours per week. Call Benson Meyers 777-8090.

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The Mind
Bender

By Jon Roberts
Uncommon
Definitions

Sometimes uncommon definitions are the best way to demonstrate what you mean.

This week's Mindbender is dedicated to uncommon definitions.

AMERICA -- A country so rich they have the best politicians that money can buy.

BATHROOM -- The only place in a government agency where the bureaucrats usually know what they are doing.

BEAUTY -- Is quite different from charm, beauty is what you notice in a woman, charm is when a woman notices you.

BONES -- There are 206 in the human body. No need for dismay, however: two bones of the middle ear have never been broken in a skiing accident.

BRAIN -- The thing you must use if you haven't much education.

COLLEGE -- Is a place which slows up your education by four years.

HOSPITAL -- A place where they wake you to give you a sleeping pill.

MIDDLE AGE -- You're in when you realize you have more on your mind and less on your head.

PIG -- Only animal besides humans that can get sunburned.

Useless jokes of
the week

The World's shortest books:

1. A Guide to Arab Democracies.
2. Everything Men Know About Women.
3. The Amish Phone Book.
4. Drive-In banks were established so most of the cars today could see their real owners.