

St. Somewhere Times

Teaching Becomes a Job

Volume 8

February 2002

As I sit here pecking away at a newsletter that is long overdue, I can't help but feel like there is so much else I should be doing. We are smack dab in the middle of a long run without breaks. Christmas and Thanksgiving are just a memory and Easter is too far away. So is the life of a teacher. No matter how much we love our jobs, they are still JOBS.

Special Report!

Mike Hirsch is a history and philosophy teacher in our high school. In this special report he shares with you a recent field trip with the EIS seniors to a local factory some people might dub as a "[sweatshop](#)". Join him on his experience.

IOWA Testing

It is finally over. The students just finished out their week of Iowa testing. We tested them for the first three periods of each day and granted them a week free of other tests or even homework. Still, we are all glad the week is over.

Note:

Iowa testing isn't easy, especially if it is in a second language!



We congratulate all of our students for doing their best!

Making the Decision!

It is time for our principals prepare to fly to the states and attend the international recruiting fairs. That means it is time to make the decision to stay another year or to move on. While I cannot speak for all of the teachers, I can only share a few of the decisions I know of.

Shannon and Brynn, Mike, Amelia, Hal, Ron, and myself are all returning for sure. Megan is in love with her boyfriend and is going back to the states to teach somewhere (there are rumors of San Francisco). I cannot speak for the rest of the teachers but I have heard that a lot of us are staying. Many of us feel the best way to give back to the school is to stay on for a few years and add to the stability of the staff.

Top Ten Usuals for some of us

1. **Pool Night.** Every friday night several of the guys play a few hours of pool down at the local pool hall. You can't wear shorts and you can't go if you are a woman. (Pamela and Megan disagree)
2. **Early to school.** You can bet that Greg takes a taxi several times a week around 5am to school. He likes to be there early. (Roan is the usually there by 3am)
3. **Let's go to the Caseta.** At least 4 times a week a group of us eat baliadas or tacos up at Hermes's outdoor bar.
4. **Pleated clothes.** Olga is the maid that lives with Shannon and Brynn. She works at a few of our places. If you give her a pair of shorts, pants, or even underwear, they will come back to you with pleats. She is awesome!
5. **Soccer games.** We love to go to the local, sometimes National, soccer games. You can view some of the pictures [HERE](#).
6. **Tutoring.** Most of us tutor about 4 times a week after school. The standard rate is about 150 Lempiras/hour.
7. **Video conferencing is where it's at.** If you don't video conference yet then you are missing out!
8. **No internet when it rains.** It always goes out when it rains.
9. **Fast food screw-ups!** No matter how well you speak Spanish, fast food joints are the same as in the states. They screw up your order EVERY TIME!
10. **Children are quicker at language learning.** Yep, Joe kicks all of our butts in Spanish. He plays with his buddy Gerardito every day! What do you expect?

Some Comforts of Home

We all miss home at some point or another, but that doesn't stop us from surrounding ourselves with a few comforts of home.

Shannon and Brynn bought Judy's truck.

It works, sometimes.



This is probably the most important addition in any of our lives. Shannon loads up the guys for the Friday night billiard outings, Brynn takes it to buy loads of books for the pre-school, the Friedrichs do a lot more family trips, and we can all count on Shannon or Brynn to be there in an emergency.

B-Ball!

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Shannon was a basketball player throughout school so some of us got together and bought him a hoop (actually 2-long story) for his birthday. Passers by can see a few gringos playing a game of pick-up or game of HORSE (we play GRINGO).



Who can live without dogs? Brynn is seen here washing Taba, the younger of their two boxers. Even though they are always fighting, the dogs add to the feeling of living here rather than just passing through.

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Reporter