

An L&A Publication

Fall 1991



the
lemberger

*Truth unto its innermost parts, parts
that nothing has ever touched before*

Editor's Note:

Welcome to a new year and a new group of Lemberg students! So far this fall has been a busy combination of classes, studies, trips, and just a few parties. The material in this newsletter stems from all of the stress, anxiety, and good times that we've experienced up to now.

This is *the* fall newsletter, in place of the planned two newsletters. For all of you Lemberger regulars, sorry there is no LSA International Cookbook, but since no one gave me any recipes... Anyway, I think you'll enjoy reading about our impressions of this semester. If there's anything you'd like to see in future newsletters, feel free to write to:

"The Lemberger," Brandeis University, The Lemberg Program, Waltham, MA 02254-9110 USA.

Sara Burbine ('93)



Christian's birthday party: a perfect photo opportunity.

two months at Lemberg that I figured a few choice phrases in Italian would better my chances of knowing such bliss.

While we are on the subject of love's sweet sorrow, I must say that our own Jakob Schmidt really knows how to put thoughts about this down on paper (plates). The man is a natural blues composer and singer. He is also a philosopher! At Sophie's bleu, blanc, et rouge birthday bash, Jakob and I started developing an explanation of the meaning of life. Unfortunately, we didn't get much beyond the birth part.

One last anecdote! I was having a little argument with my engineer roommate about our chosen fields, and he had an interesting way of describing the difference. He said that if a bridge falls down you can gather together a group of engineers and they will all pretty much agree on the fact that indeed the bridge fell down, what caused it to fall down, how long it will take to fix it, and how this will be done. If you gather a group of economists, half of them will concur that the bridge is lying in ruins while the other half will say it is perfectly fine...Seems to me to be an arguable point, but maybe that's why I'm here!

ALUMS AND STUDENTS AROUND THE WORLD

Nitin Manchanda, currently working at Lewtan Technologies as an ABS Analyst ("ABS stands for Asset Backed Securities") writes: "Forming a rock 'n roll band called 'The Green Manalishi With a Two-Fanged Tongue.' Anyone interested? We especially need go-go girls!"

While still working at MIFA this summer, Jing Li wrote: "Everybody here in MIFA has taken or will take a vacation except poor Jing Li, who will work till Sept. 6, the last Friday before my trip to Japan on the 9th...I did have some fun this summer: I got my driver's license recently so that I no longer need to take the buses for school!"

Shortly after arriving in Barcelona, Adam Decter sent a postcard saying: "Rocio picked me up at the airport and believe me, by the time we stuffed my bicycle into her car, there was about another 30-40 inches in the entire car."

John Morris writes from Mexico: "The place is abuzz with the Free Trade Agreement. Politics, as usual, is a mess, unless you happen to be in power!"

TK in Denmark: "Copenhagen is a very beautiful city, and Danish people are very kind and friendly. I enjoy staying here very much."

Donna at ESSEC: "I see Patrick, Steve, David and Dezso every day...Alain Mestat was very accurate in describing ESSEC and Cergy to me, so there have been no surprises."

Didier Lepoutre writes from Belgium: "Regarding my own address, it's still the same. I'm finishing my thesis after some problems and I'm waiting for an internship at Electrobél (electrical company in Belgium)...I'm always happy to receive news from Lemberg in the 'Lemberger.'"

among the highest worldwide. Even sharing a room means about \$450 per month. A monthly ticket for the subway ranges from \$30 to 50. Altogether it adds up easily, without any travelling, to \$900 to 1200 per month. Moreover one has to calculate the costs for travelling on weekends: Taking the Shinkansen for three hours to Kyoto costs (round trip) about \$180, accommodations in the Kyoto area about \$40. The School's registration fee is about \$400 plus \$750 for the summer course. In addition, about \$80 goes to textbooks, practice books, language tapes and fees for the language lab.

What remains after seven weeks, apart from a Japanese student I. D. and a certificate, depends to a large extent on what you make out of it. The 100 Kanji that a beginner learns are barely enough to find your way in everyday life through "exit" and "no smoking" signs.

For whatever reason one is interested in Japan, the interest that the Japanese take in Europe and America is surprising. Their interest in our culture and their knowledge about us compared to our prejudices about and unawareness of Japan is reason enough for a first-hand investigation.

More information: The Tokyo School of the Japanese Language, Naganuma School, 16-26 Nampeidai-machi, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 150, Japan.

Mt. Monadnock
by Jakob Schmidt (Denmark)

Imagine a staircase 3000 feet high, with no handrail. Take away every second step. Then cover the whole thing with mud. That should give you an idea of what it is like to climb Mt. Monadnock. A group of naive international students attempted it, at the climax of the celebrated New England fall, Columbus Day weekend. Only a handful of the most stupid and stubborn students actually made it to the top. All of us were sweating like pigs in spite of the cold, panting and with shaky legs, but the reward was magnificent. Mt. Monadnock is the last remaining mountain of an ancient range. The others have been worn down to soft rolling hills, the hard rock turned into rich soil that nurtures all kinds of trees as far as you can see (which is very far, indeed!). In the horizon, there are other mountains, blue and gray, maybe the White Mountains mocking their name. The colors of the thick carpet of trees covering the hills,

occasionally obstructed by sparkling rivers and lakes, I cannot even begin to describe. Suffice it to say, that day they were the essence of fall, if there is such a thing. Patches of light drifted over this scenery, highlighting a hill here and a lake there, lending movement, contrast and shadows to it. Now, at the Fine Arts Museum in Boston, there are quite a few American romantic landscape paintings that will give you an idea of what I am talking about, but they are but a poor imitation of the real thing. It is not often that reality lives up to our expectations, but I think that everyone on that trip had their expectations of the New England fall fulfilled once and for all. There is therefore nothing left to say, than to thank our never tiring social committee for organizing this wonderful trip. And should any of you not on that trip one day feel fairly fit and ready to have your minds blown, may I suggest you go climb Mt. Monadnock!

THE FINANCE DANCE

by J.C. Crammer

Listen up, people,
Will you give me a chance?
We're gonna do the finance dance.
Try to resist, but you know you just can't.
It will get in your pants
Like a million red ants.
It will set you on fire,
As you push those yields higher!

Let's talk some concepts here...

There's one equation
For duration.
It's an approximation
Of sensitivity to fluctuation
Of interest rates.
It's the one I hate
To evaluate.

And what do we do
About present value?
Just take some money and let it accrue.
Then discount, to see what it will do
For you
Today,
Because they say
That a dollar today
Is worth more than one tomorrow,
You spend it
And lend it.
You can even borrow
More if you want to!

And I don't have a clue
About what to do
With alpha, beta, sigma,
Delta, rho and mu.

All these Greek letters
Sound like a fraternity.
Oh, God! This class lasts an eternity!
Is return on equity known as "returnity?"
Oh, man, I doubt it!
This is really burnin' me!

But the source of my depression
Is linear regression!
Which way is this line supposed to go?
I know I should know!
It has to do with rho!
It's a correlation,
Another damned equation!
Such a frustration!

I know my depression would be healed,
If I could figure out
How to figure out a yield.
I could ask a specialist,
Who brokes and deals,
But first I gotta know,
"Is this stuff really real?"

Before I end this song,
I got some advice, Jack!
Mind your bid and watch your ask!
I know it's not an easy task!
Just show appreciation
For depreciation.
Maintain purity,
And watch your maturity!

So now you've done the finance dance!
There are many other variants,
To try to cure financial frustration,
But the finance dance
Is my standard deviation!

Sometimes it came close to the kindergarten talk "bigger, cheaper, faster and who has the strongest brother", but I guess you have to own a car in order to understand all this.

This only thing Lembergers could get more serious about than buying a car was the election of the Lemberg student association. Different views on delegation of nasty work (Why should I do it?) and the question of who would care for the Lemberg Lounge were the first times the Lembergers were divided. Finally, nobody took responsibility for the lounge and housekeeping, but some people have a heart and thanks to Alice there is at least coffee in the lounge.

Sailing, movies and parties (Thursday!) became the main occupation of some students; calculating and reading that of the rest. But even the two-year-students made an effort to come to parties (the trick is to come late and to leave early) and some wished to stay longer than campus police (A7) wanted them to stay. Anyway, the police couldn't keep Deborah from singing "New York, New York" and Joe from his famous Blues.

The increasing workload made some students try to flee reality, either by alcohol or shopping. Özlem for example was so excited about her new computer that she immediately unpacked it in the Lemberg Lounge (one day after buying eight (!) pairs of shoes at Freeport). (If one person kills me for this article, it's Özlem.)

Over time, more and more students became aware of the other gender, so Eddie asked around for opinions on whether he looked like an Italian sex symbol. Deborah agreed that he looked Italian. There were a lot of stories to tell about private life but if you are reading this article to learn some gossip I have to disappoint you. (You could ask me though!). If you were reading this because you were afraid your love life might be published here and your boy/girl-friend could find out, relax: I'd rather inform them directly by phone.

We are still looking for some prizes to give. Not the prize for the copy-king, because it went to Carlos. The prize for the toughest trip went to Hartmut and Tip for freezing a whole weekend in a snowstorm. But if you wish to make any suggestions about the best looking student or the nicest accent or the best message on an answering machine feel free to write. (<--This is a joke. If you write, you'll get a prize for the most naive student.)

Sorry for not mentioning all Lembergers, but I heard such horrible stories about some of you that I think you're better off not being mentioned! Maybe next time,

Christian

Alumni Update

Calling all alumni -- calling all alumni!

Please complete and detach this sheet and mail or fax it back to us. Fax number: 617 736 2263.

We want to hear from you!

Name

Address

City/state/postal code/country

Telephone (business)

Telephone (home)

Fax

Current title

Current employer

Address

Information for the next Lemberg Newsletter

Stamp

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