

Day 12 September 30, 2004

Dear Journal,

Today is very exciting for all of the students because this will be the start of the “National Day weekend”. The students are allowed up to 4 days free out of school, to do whatever they please. The students have all expressed their feelings about how excited they are to have this break. You could see the change in their attitudes from when we first got here, to when it got closer to National Day. The difference was like watching someone who had just filed for bankruptcy, to someone who had just won a 400 million dollar lottery. All you could see when you looked on their faces was teeth, some white, some gold, and some brown, and some with none at all. Okay, maybe I’m going overboard, but they were REALLY happy! This was the day I walked into the English office and Mr. Fu was completely drunk and smoking like 3 cigarettes. He came up and held me tight while burning my nostrils with his horrid breath. I didn’t know which was worse, being stuck in one of the small bathrooms where “you know what” was everywhere, or barring the smell of his breath. It smelt like a skunk had balled up and died in his mouth. I hid under the desk while Andrew had unintentionally distracted him from me. Thank You Jesus! After being invited to his home, that afternoon, I soon got up and ran out while Andrew still talked to him.

Today all we did was visit the number 7 and 4 middle schools. The students all seemed excellent. I couldn’t tell a real difference between the students or the school facilities themselves. Everyone was very kind and welcoming. They all huddled around me and spoke as if I was Santa Claus and they were telling me what they wanted for Christmas. They are as sweet as can be.

I couldn’t even think right today, because I am looking so bad without my haircut. I feel like Don King after getting beat down by a crowd of white police officers. When I don’t look up to par, the whole day is ruined.