

## Hello from Pinawa

(April 6, 1992)

To my friends in Japan:

Hello from Pinawa, Manitoba, Canada. I've come to Canada! Big country. I'll live one year here at Pinawa, at the highest-latitude and in the smallest town that I've ever lived.

**Pinawa** is a town of about 2000 people located 100 km east-northeast of Winnipeg, the capital of province of Manitoba. Pinawa is about 2200 km from the Pacific Ocean and 2800 km from the Atlantic Ocean. The US boundary runs 130 km south of Pinawa. It's 9900 km to Tokyo, but only 4600 km to the North Pole.

The town of Pinawa was "re-established" in 1963 as the residential complex for AECL Whiteshell Laboratories staff. Sixty percent of the staff live here and commute to the Lab 15 km west of the town. Far more than half the residents are related somehow to AECL. Everyone knows everyone. Everyone knows what everyone is doing (and I'm afraid everyone knows what everyone is thinking).

I said "re-established" because this place was native Canadians' long ago. As some of you might have noticed, the names of *Pinawa* and *Manitoba* are not of English origin; they are derived from dialects spoken by native Canadians. One of characteristics of the native peoples' language is a combination of a consonant and a vowel that is repeated, like  $(P-i) + (n-a) + (w-a)$  and  $(M-a) + (n-i) + (t-o) + (b-a)$  (So is *Canada* in spelling). But unfortunately, this doesn't necessarily mean that people here can easily say my name, *Nakayama*, a typical spelling of a Japanese name. Other names of towns here around, such as *Whitemouth* and *Brokenhead*, also probably came from native Canadians, but they were translated into English.

In its 2 km x 0.5 km area, Pinawa has one gas station/garage, one motor inn/bar/ restaurant, one shopping center - containing one supermarket, one barber/hair dresser, one bank, one drug

store and one post office, one... What a very efficient town to live in! On Saturdays, most people in Pinawa drive to Winnipeg to go shopping. The people here are all kind and friendly, and smile a lot. It makes me feel happy.

Snow in March and April, and maybe even May, doesn't surprise me. (If it snows in June, though, I will write to all of you!) It's comfortable indoors (air conditioned, of course).

Humans in general have taken one of three attitudes toward nature. Americans and Russians, for example, think that human beings should conquer nature. Mexican peasants think that humans should bow to nature. Japanese think that humans should maintain a harmonious balance with nature. One of typical example of the Japanese attitude is reflected in the structure of houses. The traditional Japanese houses are built with wood and paper. The houses can't perfectly shut out nature. They are not compactly built; they have openings and gaps that admit drafts. In this sense, Japanese houses are said to be designed to fit the life in the highly humid summer. We can't equip air conditioners in the loosely built buildings - they don't work. Air conditioning has not been popular in Japanese houses because the houses don't need them.

The harmony with nature in Japan, however, is attributable to the mild climate. The lowest temperature in winter is around 0°C except on the northern island, Hokkaido. Here in Canada, people have no option. They have to conquer nature.

One of the best examples of this is Canadian cars. Cars here must be really "cold-proofed." I've never seen anything similar in Japan. Each car has a cord and plug in the hood, attached to something called a block heater. When cars are parked for a long time, the cords are connected to electric outlets in the parking lot to keep the oil in the

cars' engines warm<sup>1</sup>. Otherwise the whole engine freezes. In the morning I must scrape the frost from the windshield and other windows. It's a lot of work. When it's easy to remove the frost in the morning, it implies that the lowest temperature during the night was higher than -10°C. (Everyone remarks about "the warm weather"! - JM)

Pinawa and surrounding area abounds with **nature**. Spring has come. Although it'll take time to turn green, some animals have already come out from the woods - white-tailed deer, squirrels, skunks, and (I heard) black bear. Geese are flying back from the south in V-shaped lines. But they are a bit too early. The surface of pond where they are supposed to spend the summer is still iced over.

The landscape looks like the early winter of Japan. No green, no flowers yet. Japan's spring is really colorful - pink and white plum blossoms in February and March, pink cherry blossoms in April, and red, pink, and white azaleas in May. These pinkish colors turn into violet of hydrangea, iris and wisteria in June. Here I found two trees-only two-which looked like cherry trees, at the Old Pinawa Dam. It's still too cold to bloom. I keep watching them. I hope green leaves and flowers will come soon here.

About **Canada**, I think I should begin with some statistics, in comparison with Japan. Don't say this is boring. I don't think many of you know how many provinces there are in Canada, for example, and that they don't call them "states"(like the US), but "provinces."

The *population* is 26.5 million (1989), a fifth of Japan (120 million). The *area* is 9,976,000km<sup>2</sup>, ranked second after the Soviet Union (22,402,000

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<sup>1</sup>**Jude's note:** When I first came to Canada, the sight of all these cars plugged into posts in parking lots reminded me of the westerns on TV, where everyone would tie their horses to the rail outside stores.

km<sup>2</sup>, before the independence of the three Baltic states), and 26 times as big as Japan (378,000). For reference, Canada is followed in area by China (9,597,000), the United States of America (9,373,000), Brazil (8,512,000) and Australia (7,687,000)<sup>2</sup>. You may have a picture in your mind that Canada is much bigger than China, but in reality they are almost the same size. Canada looks bigger on Mercator maps, which are the rectangular maps that you are the most familiar with, because higher latitude districts are more magnified in the Mercator projection.

The population density of Canada is 2.8/km<sup>2</sup>, much sparser than Japan (323/km<sup>2</sup>) and China (110/km<sup>2</sup>). The population in Canada is uneven; the northern district of Canada is not suitable for habitation due to the severe coldness of the weather. Most cities are located within a few hundred kilometers from the US boundary. The Northwest Territories, covering 34% of the land area, as big as India, has a population of only 50,000 (a population density of only 0.02/km<sup>2</sup>). Imagine only one couple living in an area of 10 km x 10 km. On the other hand, 3.5 million people live in the 59.5 km<sup>2</sup> of metropolitan Toronto; the population density is about 50,000/km<sup>2</sup>. This is about as crowded as Japan's most packed Tokyo-Yokohama area (65,000/km<sup>2</sup>).

Canada extends from 52°41'W (St. John's, the capital of Newfoundland on the Atlantic Ocean) to 141°00'W (the boundary of the state of Alaska, USA, and the Yukon Territory), and from 82°30'N (Alert, Ellesmere Island in the Northwest Territories, on the Arctic Ocean) to 42°N (Lake Erie, one of the Great Lakes). Most of Japan is south of Canada, being situated between

<sup>2</sup> The area of China can't be measured exactly because the border between China and India has not been fixed yet. They are in conflict. Look at the map, and you can find two borders. But, the error due to the difference in the border is small both for China and India. They are big countries.

45°26'N (Wakkanai, Hokkaido) and 24°30'N (Iriomote Island, near Taiwan). Tokyo is at 35°40'N.

Canada borders the USA in the south. In the eastern part, the boundary goes through the south of Montreal, Lake Ontario, Niagara Falls and Detroit. The central and western parts of Canada are bounded by the USA at the 49°N line. The boundary at the eastern part was decided by some agreements between France and England after their conflicts, but I don't know when and how the 49°N line became the boundary. And also I don't know why and how Alaska was transferred to the US<sup>3</sup>.

There are 10 provinces and two territories. They are called provinces, not states, because historically Canada was governed as the colony (called *province*) of the United Kingdom. The Canadian provinces are, from west to east, British Columbia (capital: Victoria), Alberta (Edmonton), Saskatchewan (Regina), Manitoba (Winnipeg), Ontario (Toronto), Quebec (Quebec City), New Brunswick (Fredericton), Prince Edward Island (Charlottetown), Nova Scotia (Halifax) and Newfoundland (St. John's). The two territories are Yukon and the Northwest Territories. Territories are under direct control of the government of Canada. These two regions are sparsely populated and don't have enough industries to maintain self-government.

I know of three "musts" for Japanese tourists: Banff, Niagara Falls, and Prince Edward Island. The West Edmonton Mall follows. If you don't visit any of them when you go to Canada, you must be prepared to be laughed at when you go back to Japan.

<sup>3</sup> **Jude's historical note to S.N.:** Alaska originally belonged to Russia, not Canada. It was purchased from Russia for practically pennies in the 1800's by a member of the U.S. government whose name was Seward. Most Americans couldn't understand why the government spent good money on useless, frozen wilderness - it was a big scandal. For years, the land deal was known as "Seward's Folly."

AECL is not so familiar to the Japanese. It'll take a few more years to be "discovered."

Banff is one of the most beautiful places not only in the Rockies, but also in all of Canada and North America. It's a small town with a population of 4,000. They welcome more than 10,000 visitors in summer. The Niagara Falls are 100 km south of Toronto, Ontario. Since I have been there only in summer, I would like to see the frozen falls in winter. The only Canadian novel that Japanese know is Lucy Maud Montgomery's *Anne of Green Gable*. I bet that each summer the Prince Edward Island gets a flood, not of red-haired girls but of black-haired Japanese girls and newly married couples, and is as crowded as the Tokyo-Yokohama area<sup>4</sup>. I haven't read it. Who is Anne?

Some notes. The most famous city of British Columbia is Vancouver, but the capital is the adjacent city Victoria. The most famous city of Quebec is Montreal, but the capital is Quebec City. The capital of Canada is not Toronto, but Ottawa, both of which are in Ontario. The 1988 winter Olympics were held in Calgary, Alberta, and the 1976 Olympics in Montreal, Quebec. Quebec is a French-speaking province. Montreal is the second biggest French-dominated city in the world after Paris. Carly Simon mentioned Nova Scotia in her song YOU'RE SO VAIN, where a man, having thrown away his lover, flew up for horse races, but I have not yet found any relation between Nova Scotia and horses<sup>5</sup>. The Yukon River, which was popularized in Japan by the Japanese canoeist Mr. Noda for wild canoeing, has its origin in the Yukon Territory. It flows through Alaska to the Bering Sea.

<sup>4</sup> **Jude's note:** From what I've read about tourism in PEI, you're right!

<sup>5</sup> **Ken Ticknor's note to S.N.:** The man flew up to Nova Scotia not for horse races but to see the total eclipse of the sun, as "...you went up to Saratoga and your horse naturally won/ Then you flew your Lear jet up to Nova Scotia/ To see the total eclipse of the sun."

There is 4.5 hour **time** difference from end to end of Canada, which is divided into 6 time zones: Pacific Standard Time (PST), Mountain Standard Time (MST), Central Standard Time (CST), Eastern Standard Time (EST), Atlantic Standard Time (AST), and Newfoundland Standard Time (NST)<sup>6</sup>. PST covers British Columbia, MST Alberta, CST Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and southwest part of Ontario, EST Ontario and Quebec, AST New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Nova Scotia. NST is adopted only in Newfoundland; it is thirty minutes faster than the AST. These time zones, except AST, are common to those of the USA; PST includes Seattle, San Francisco and Los Angeles, MST includes Denver, CST includes Chicago, Dallas and Houston, EST Boston, New York, Washington, D.C. and Miami. The sunset is at 6:00 AST and 6:00 PST, but a baseball night game starts at 6:00 AST and 10:00 PST. The time difference between Canada and Japan, of course, depends on the time zone; PST + 17 hr = JST (Japanese Standard Time), and AST + 13 hr = JST, in winter.

The summer time-winter time system is confusing for Japanese, because we have the single time system throughout the year<sup>7</sup>. At the first Sunday of April, the winter time suddenly changes to the summer time. It was April 5 this year. 1:00 of April 5 comes one minute after 23:59 of April 4. We lost one hour. And I lost one hour of my birthday. (Fortunately I did not lose my birth time.

<sup>6</sup>For reference, the standard time at Greenwich, England, is called the Greenwich Mean Time and abbreviated as GMT. Don't call it the Greenwich Standard Time, GST. It's a name of a tax. (Another tax is called PST!)

<sup>7</sup>**Jude's note:** The time change is confusing for North Americans, too - who can remember whether it's time to move the watch ahead or backwards? There's a saying that helps me: "Spring forward (like a tiger); fall back."

I was born at around 9 am.)<sup>8</sup> All we need to do is to advance our watches by one hour. At the last Sunday of October, the winter time comes and we gain one hour. Then, the time difference is like this in summer; PST + 16 hr = JST, CST + 14 hr = JST and AST + 12 hr = JST.

The wide region including the eastern part of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, spanning 1,500 km from west to east, is called the Grand Prairie. Grand. However, in a tour guidebook I brought from Japan, the whole of this region is explained in only 57 pages, in comparison with that 74 pages are used only for the Canadian Rockies, 86 allocated for Vancouver and the west coast, 64 only for Ontario, 46 for Quebec, and 57 for the four Atlantic Coast Provinces. Some Canadians say this region is "empty." Is this empty? It's full for me!

Canada was first established as a colony of France, and later governed by England in cooperation with French people. A fourth of the population now is French. The official language is naturally English and French - **bilingual** policy. All of the official documents of the nation should be written in both languages. Higher class national employees are naturally required to be bilingual.

The bilingual policy has penetrated into provincial governments. However, this does not mean ordinary Canadians are all bilingual. It is true that many Canadians understand and can communicate in two or more languages. This is mainly because they are immigrants from foreign countries, particularly from East Europe. This situation is not so much different from that of Koreans living in Japan, who are almost all Korean-Japanese bilingual.

Most of children of Canada grow up and are educated in an English-speaking environment, except in Quebec where French is the dominant language. Due to the English-French bilingual policy of

<sup>8</sup>**Jude's note:** Many of us would be glad to lose an entire birthday completely! (I agree - SN.)

the government, all children must take French class in school. But few master it. It's like the way that few Japanese master English in spite of the fact that almost all of us learn English for at least 6 years. I hope that Canada does not become English-dominated, like the USA. There are only two developed countries where people speak or can speak only their own language - USA and Japan. Of the American embassy staff held hostage in Iran more than ten years ago, there were only two staff members out of 50 who could understand Iranian.

Staying abroad will no doubt enrich my life beyond measure. Living with Canadian people helps me to see through media stereotypes and to realize the fact that, despite differences in language and customs, all of us are the same.

And life in a foreign country will give me a new perspective of my own country as well. While I am staying and learning western customs, I should not forget our own customs and traditions. In our mutual quest for global harmony, we should not try to erase cultural differences, but to accept and enjoy these differences. I'm trying to accept all.

My report will continue... someday.

## Deforestation and half-split chopsticks

(April 20, 1992)

I read a book on environmental issues, saying that three major reasons for the deforestation in Southeastern Asia are the following.

The first to be blamed is McDonalds, the hamburger chain. They don't want woods. They burn up wide areas of forests to make pastures where they raise cattle to supply beef for their hamburgers. In Southeast Asia, there are still widespread undeveloped forests, labor wages are low, feed for cattle is cheap, and people have not yet awakened to the environmental problems so

that McDonalds does not have to get public acceptance.

The second reason for deforestation is coffins. The consumption in China is a particular problem because of its large population. Trees grown in Southeast Asia are favored as high-quality coffin materials.

And the third reason is single-use, half-split chopsticks, most of which, they say, are consumed in Japan. But some people, including chopstick manufacturers, don't admit it. They say half-split chopsticks are made of chips. A considerable number of trees cut down in Southeast Asia are used for construction materials in Japan. Timber dealers take, for example, rectangular parts out of the logs for columns of houses. And the chopsticks are taken from the chops, residues. So, they insist that half-split chopsticks don't contribute to the decrease in the forests. But, other people don't agree. The opponents say the number of trees cut down for chopsticks cannot be ignored.

I have no idea about the chopsticks. I have no real data. Limiting the discussion to chopsticks only, the third story may be worth discussion. However, in my understanding, the more basic problem that must be watched is the importation of wood for Japanese domestic use without any firm commitment towards restoration of the forests. The native peoples are seriously concerned about the huge loss of forest, as indicated by their repeated demonstrations against Japanese trading companies. The notorious Japanese trading companies are eradicating all the forests in Southeast Asia, if not stopped right now. (Japan imports wood also from Canada, as well as coal and woodpulp.)

### Melonagain!

(April 27, 1992)

Melon, the green watery fruit, is not very common and is much more expensive than other fruits in Japan.

A Japanese TV actor took his family to a French restaurant one evening. The delicious full-course dinner satisfied them, of course. The greatest delight for the children, a boy and a girl, was melon served as dessert. When they saw the slices of melon were carried to their table, they cried, "Wow, melon, melon, melon! Papa, this is melon!" Other customers all looked and burst into laughter. The parents were embarrassed.

After they were back home at the end of the evening, the father, the actor, said to the kids, "I'm sorry, but I haven't told you the correct name of the green fruit you had. We call it melon sometimes, but to be exact, it should be called melonagain. Melonagain. OK?"

Next time they went to the restaurant, melon was served again. Then the kids cried, "Melon again! Melon again!"

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(April 27, 1992)

A married couple of my friend went to see a two-feature movie. The first was Edgar Allan Poe's *The Murder in the Rue Morgue*. The second was *The Fly* - a kind of a horror story of a researcher on flies metamorphosing himself into a fly.

Just before the end of the first movie, the wife asked her husband, "When will the man become a fly?"

### Speak out, anyway

(May 4, 1992)

This summer, AECL Whiteshell Laboratories are welcoming summer students from all over Canada. Summer students remind me of the summer of 1985, which I spent at the Argonne National Laboratory near Chicago in the US. I was in the first year of the doctoral course of a Japanese university, Kyoto University, and I was a summer exchange student between the US and Japanese atomic energy societies.

The behavior of the students revealed to me a glimpse of American ways. At his office, the supervisor showed me a list of some experiment topics that they had and told me to choose from them. I already had some experience doing experiments on sorption of actinide elements on geological materials. So I thought I would get involved in a sorption study there, too. I was not so brave as to take on any new topics for my 4-month stay. But, the supervisor didn't necessarily have the same topics, of course. I carefully looked at the list, and hesitantly chose one, that seemed the closest to my own interests.

Soon thereafter, an American summer student came to the Materials Science Division. His supervisor also showed him a list of their experiment topics and told him to choose. He selected 3 or 4 experiments - "I'll take this and this, and I think I can do this one, and, oh, possibly this one, too." I was dumbfounded.

He was a summer student and was only going to stay for three months. He could never finish as many as 3 or 4 experiments. At worst, he could end up with nothing complete. It should have been obvious to anyone, but he strongly insisted on his intention. More exactly, he spoke whatever was on his mind. His supervisor understands the reality, though; he knows everything. He must think, "Whatever you say, guy."

This was not only the case. I heard others, too. This may be an extreme example, and I know that generalization may be dangerous. But, is this the American way? "Push, push, push, who cares about the results? Speak, anyway" A speak-out country, there. If unsuccessful, will the students make plausible, specious excuses to their supervisors as aggressively as when they convinced the supervisors before? Is it this way in Canada, too? I hope not.

### Please forgive me

(May 11, 1992)

I was looking for my friend. He is an MIT student. I made a call to MIT.

I found the fact that the telephone operator is irritated or blunt or may be too busy to listen to the speaker's entire sentence is a phenomenon common to famous universities in the USA as well as in Japan, maybe all over the world. She answered, "MIT."

I asked "MIT?" to make sure.

"...Yes," she said after a short silence.

I have been trying to speak English as correctly as and as politely as possible. Otherwise my broken English stays broken. So, I began with "May I speak to Prof...," but I stopped and thought, "I don't intend to speak to Professor Lester. All I need is to have this call transferred to his office."

I began again, "Could you transfer me to the offi..."

"NAME!" She said in a loud voice suddenly.

"Professor Lester, please." I replied hurriedly.

"NAME! NAME!" She cried.

"Do you need his first name? Er... R. K. Lester."

"NAME! Whole name!"

"His family name is Lester. I'm sorry, but I don't know his first name. R. K. Lester, please."

"His last name is Lester? We have two Lesters. Nuclear Engineering?"

"YES, please."

"\$#(&^% @!)^, \$^\*#)^@," she said something, but I couldn't follow because she spoke fast and the voice was away from the receiver. So I said,

"Pardon me?"

"HOLD ON A SECOND!!!"

...I was about to say, "Please forgive me, please."

Yes, I am guilty. I am not yet used to English conversation on the phone. I still have difficulty in hearing, and my pronunciation is probably unusual and difficult to understand for her, a native speaker.

Still, MIT may be much better than Japanese universities. Nagoya is the fourth biggest city in Japan and has several dozen universities and colleges. I

am not entirely sure, but I have heard that the operator at Nagoya University answers, "Yes, university." (They naturally think they are only one university in Nagoya.)

### It isn't too bad to experience if guaranteed

(May 19, 1992)

A friend of mine went on an African safari to see the wildlife. One night on the safari he stayed in a tent. At midnight a lion came in. The lion shook my friend's body with his paw, which awakened my friend. Another man awakened, too.

Until then, my friend didn't believe that people urinated when they were terribly afraid - but he learned differently. And the other man got diarrhea from the fright. Fortunately, very fortunately, they were not hurt at all (except their pride?!-JM).

What an extremely unusual, more than exciting, unbelievable experience he had! It's certainly something that we can't experience in our daily life, and even very few visitors on a safari probably have had such an experience. Visited by a lion, touched with his paw, but still alive. Do you care to try it?

(I suspect, however, he wasn't in such a fright, because he even noticed that the lion's breath was bad. In spite of his shocking adventure, he was greatly impressed by the wildlife on the safari and felt keenly the necessity of protecting nature and the environment. He became a member of the World Association of Animal Protection.

My friend is a Japanese government officer, and was studying economics at the masters level at Oxford for two years. Examining his passport after he returned to Japan, he found he had been out of England for 11 months during his 2-year stay?! He was travelling around Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Soviet Union, etc. He was not necessarily a rich student, however. He had a loan

from the Embassy of Japan in London. He may still be returning it.)

### When quiet, when noisy

(May 25, 1992)

If you visit Japan during election campaigns of any kind, I bet you are surprised at the raucous loudspeakers mounted on the campaign cars which call and shout the name of the candidates repeatedly. If you happen to be around where two or more such cars meet, you had better cover your ears. Such a method of election campaigning is allowed from 8 in the morning to 7 in the evening for two weeks. Our right to have quiet is completely ignored. Is this a cultured country? I sometimes think I will vote for the quietest candidate.

In this respect, in other developed countries people have a sense that quietness for individuals should be observed almost as a human right. I think western people are surprisingly well educated since children are taught not to make noise in many situations. Americans seldom speak loudly and make noise in residential areas, at tables, in banks, during classic or ballet performances.

So, when I stayed at a hotel in the center of the city of Seville, Spain, last November, I would never have thought that they were Americans who were talking so loudly just in front of the main entrance of the hotel at 5 o'clock in the morning. My room was at the second floor, and unfortunately, right above the main entrance. I was awakened at 5 in the morning by all voices. I looked out a window to see what had happened. Forty, fifty American "senior citizens" were waiting for buses to go sightseeing. Yacking - vociferously, boisterously, clamorously. (I knew that they were Americans because I had seen their badges the previous night.)

I couldn't believe those people were Americans, whom I've heard are very very sensitive to the so-called human rights. Or does this right disappear

while they are merry, especially when abroad?<sup>9</sup>

Partly, I don't blame them for not observing the rule there. The previous night, Saturday night, young Spaniards' conviviality on a square in front of the hotel was intolerably noisy until midnight. I couldn't sleep until late at night, and I couldn't stay asleep the next morning.

Another experience of mine with noise is here in Pinawa. Many summer students are visiting AECL and staying at Kelsey House. I have a friend, a visiting scientist, living there, and I visit him sometimes. Each time I go there, I am surprised at all the noise that the students are making. Many, not just one or two, students are listening to heavy metal at maximum volume with their doors open. Some students are talking in loud voices at the door of the room. Noises are all coming into the hallway.

Also in Japan, and maybe everywhere in the world, students are noisy. People are generous to students. Students' noise is generally allowed. However, in Japan they are warned in a public accommodation such as the Kelsey House, I suppose.

Why here in Canada, where people naturally ask for quietness, are the students allowed to behave like this although some residents are surely complaining?

## Everyone fulfilled one's own duty

(June 8, 1992)

AECL Whiteshell Laboratories has a library. It's small but clean, nice-looking and comfortable. Shortly after I came here I was looking for a book on chemistry and another on mathematics. As I

was a newcomer, I didn't know how to look for them and how to operate the computer reference system. I asked one of librarians, "Would you look for these books for me? I don't know how to do it." She answered with a brilliant smile, "Sure. When you are in trouble, we'll do anything. It's our role to make you comfortable." Perfect human interface. She input the information I showed her into the computer very skillfully, and the computer immediately displayed information about the books. Perfect. Perfect human-machine interface.

She looked at the information displayed and told me, "We have several copies of each of the books you are looking for. Only one copy of each is in the library right now. All of the others are on loan, and one was lost." She took out the computer print-out and brought me to a shelf where the chemistry book should have been. *Should have been.* We couldn't find the book there. It was lost. We couldn't find the other book, either. It was also lost. I was disappointed. Passing the print-out to me, she said again with a brilliant smile, "We're sorry, but the computer seems to have the wrong data. The best way for you to get the books is to ask borrowers directly who are indicated on the paper. They are waiting to be asked." "I see. I'll try. Thank you very much." I said.

Examining the paper, I was disappointed, once again, to observe the dates when the books were loaned. Some of them were 1985 or earlier. Seven years ago. Can we call this 'borrow'? It should be called 'personally-owned'. (Or does this library have no time limit to keep books?)<sup>10</sup>

As it happened, there was no serious problem for me. In fact, I was able to get the books later. I agree that the source/storage and the retrievability of information on books is one of important roles of the library in this modern

age. But I think we should not forget the original and essential function - libraries keep books so that they are available at any time.

The AECL library is kept clean and comfortable for users. They have developed a very sophisticated computer reference program and system which users can easily access with no difficulties. Librarians who are very familiar with various things about the library and library science attend to us with superb kindness, friendliness, and smiles. Everyone has fulfilled his or her own duty. But we can't find books there.

My wife is a pharmacist. She is working for a prescription section of a hospital. The hospital is not a big general one, but small and has been involved in local activities of popularization of medical information. These activities include, for example, seminars on geriatric disease, issuing brochures on what and how diabetics should eat, which were edited based on the experiences of nurses and doctors, and instructions about how to take medicines properly. These activities are not well computerized, not fully systematized, and not satisfactorily funded. But their activities are warmly welcomed, relied on and appreciated by the local people. We can say their efforts are definitely having an effect.

My wife is interested in medical activities in Canada, one of the most developed countries in medical terms. I sent her some brochures I found at the Beausejour medical clinic. They were topical series on high blood pressure; *drugs and high blood pressure, alcohol and high blood pressure, diet and high blood pressure, exercise and high blood pressure.* She was impressed with the fact that such brochures, which look inviting and easy-to-understand for ordinary people who usually don't have much medical knowledge, have been published and are easily available, and that these brochures seem to have been widely distributed.

However, after reading the brochures carefully, she had one

<sup>9</sup>**Jude's note:** Sounds like you've observed the stereotypical "Americans abroad," best known to people in other countries as the "Ugly American."

<sup>10</sup>**Jude's note:** I've also complained about this problem, to Chuck Vandergraaf. He told me (joking, I hope!), "If everyone returned all the books that they have checked out, we'd have to build another library!"

question - do they really work? As mentioned above, the brochures look "user-friendly" and easy-to-understand. The names and addresses of the local medical centers and responsible doctors are written for inquiry for more detailed information. No omissions. No mistakes. Nevertheless, it is doubtful that the brochures can get really people interested. They have no illustrations, for example. Many instructions begin with *should be* and/or *should not be*. And no matter what, they still say to consult your doctor or the experts "described below" about the individual case.

The local medical center felt the necessity to plan and publish such brochures for ordinary people. The experts including doctors gave them advice. The center published them by using recycled paper. The center did what was required, in an eco-friendly, responsible manner. All the individuals fulfilled their own duty perfectly...but no one is sure if the brochures really work.

California is famous for the world's most strict regulations against environmental pollution. The regulations are so strict that if they had been applied to Japan, all of the dry-cleaning laundries and all of the chemical industries in Japan would have been shut down.

Californians found their air seriously polluted by automobile exhausts and their groundwater polluted by waste water from high-tech industries. According to the rights of taxpayers, they accused the industries of pollution and also accused the state government of negligence in protecting the environment. The taxpayers did good work. They were satisfied. They fulfilled their duty as sufferers.

The state government took over. They advised industries to reduce discharges. The industries obeyed them immediately. It's a corporate identity activity to show that they are friendly to the environment. The industries fulfilled their duty.

The state government further had to prepare the new regulations to convince

the taxpayers, and which should have been the best model in the world as the most eco-friendly state in the US. The government, probably urgently, organized committees consisting of scientists, lawyers, economists, representatives of taxpayers, representatives of industries, EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) officers and so on. Scientists and the EPA suggested technical requirements, and lawyers examined the problem from the juridical point of view, and industry people and economists did the same from economical points of view, and..., and... Anyway, they gathered often, talked a lot and agreed to construct new regulations. Finally, lawyers prepared thousands of pages of documents.

Everyone fulfilled his or her own duty. But, the regulations are too strict to observe and the documents, which look like a bunch of bureaucratic jargon, are too difficult to understand, and consequently no improvement has been achieved for their environment. Air and groundwater in other states are cleaner than in California.

When he chaired a session at the conference on radioactive waste disposal research in 1987, Ian Mckinley of NAGRA made a joke that may symbolize the results of the foregoing attitudes: "85% of the pages in an American report is the plan. The work that they really did is the remaining 15%." Yes, reports published from the USA are all thick. I bet all the people involved in preparing the thick reports are satisfied with their own work.