

Malay Transcript:

Kali pertama saya terdengar tentang Mount Holyoke College adalah apabila saya berjumpa dengan seorang pelajar Malaysia.. Semenanjung Malaysia¹ yang sedang belajar psikologi di sana. Dia merupakan seorang penulis yang.. blog yang sangat terkenal di Malaysia dan banyak pemuda Malaysia suka membaca tentang kehidupan dan penulisannya. Saya rasa bahawa prinsip kolej yang memberi pembantuan kewangan walaupun saya bukan merupakan warganegara Amerika dan suasana kolej yang begitu terbuka kepada sesebuah komuniti pelajar yang datang dari latar belakang yang begitu berlainan menyebabkan saya memilih untuk datang begitu jauh untuk um.. belajar di sini. Selepas saya menyertai aktiviti budaya seperti Malam Cina dan Malam Asia Selatan, saya mendapati bahawa budaya komuniti imigran di Malaysia mempunyai banyak persamaan dengan komuniti di negara-negara asal mereka. Di kolej juga saya berpeluang untuk belajar lebih tentang budaya asing yang saya tak pernah um.. lihat atau mengalami seperti budaya Caribbean dan budaya Afrika melalui persembahan mereka dari aspek.. dalam aspek muzik, tarian, dan makanan. Saya rasa bahawa detik pertama saya tiba di Mount Holyoke College, identiti saya sebagai seorang Malaysia lebih ditonjolkan dan ini memaksa saya menyangkan beberapa soalan berkaitan dengan identiti diri-sendiri, yang sebelum ini saya tidak berasa bahawa ini merupakan sesuatu hal yang begitu penting. Saya mendapat tahu..saya mendapati bahawa terdapat orang negara lain yang berfikir bahawa semua orang Malaysia merupakan orang Melayu. Terdapat juga ramai orang negara lain yang menganggap bahawa semua orang Malaysia merupakan orang Muslim. Contohnya, saya mempunyai seorang rakan dari negara Vietnam yang begitu terkejut untuk mendapat tahu bahawa saya merupakan seorang Malaysia, um.. yang berkaum Cina dan saya juga merupakan seorang penganut agama Kristian Katolik. Dia memberitahu saya bahawa di Vietnam, semua orang akan menganggap bahawa mereka merupakan kaum Vietnam. Ini membuatkanku menyedari bahawa.. betapa jarang konsep rakyat yang homogenus dipeluki di negara Malaysia berbanding dengan negara-negara yang lain.

English Translation:

The first time I heard about Mount Holyoke College was when I met a Malaysian student.. a Peninsular Malaysian² student who was studying psychology there. She is a very famous blogger in Malaysia, and Malaysian youths love reading her entries about her experiences. I feel that the college's principle of giving financial aid even though I

¹ Malaysia mempunyai dua bahagian geografik yang berlainan – Semenanjung Malaysia dan Malaysia Timur. Semenanjung Malaysia menyempadani negara Thai manakala Malaysia timur berada di Pulau Borneo.

² Malaysia consists of two separated geographical regions – Peninsular or West Malaysia and East Malaysia. Peninsular Malaysia borders Thailand and forms the mainland. East Malaysia is located on the island of Borneo.

am not an American citizen and the atmosphere of the college, which is so open to students of various backgrounds, prompted me to choose to traverse such a large distance to study here. After attending cultural activities like China Night and South Asia Night, I found that the cultures of the [Chinese and Indian] immigrant communities in Malaysia have much in common with the communities in their native countries [of China and India]. In college I also had the chance to learn more about foreign cultures which I had previously never encountered before, like Caribbean and African cultures. I had the chance to experience them via performances in the aspects of music, dancing and cuisine. When I arrived at Mount Holyoke College, my identity as a Malaysian was really projected, and this forced me to question my own identity in ways which I had previously never thought about. I learned.. I found that there were people from other countries who thought that all Malaysians are ethnic Malays. There were also many people who assumed that every Malaysian was a Muslim. For example, my friend from Vietnam was surprised to find out that I am a Malaysian, um.. who is an ethnic Chinese and that I am actually a Catholic. She told me that in Vietnam, everyone thinks of themselves as ethnic Vietnamese. This made me realize how rarely the concept of racial homogeneity is embraced in Malaysia compared to other countries.

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