

features

First-hand experiences provide culture

by Loukia Louka
News Editor

As last semester slammed to a grinding halt, I eagerly awaited my Winter Term in England. The closer my departure came, the more I talked about my long-awaited journey.

"You're really going to England?" friends would ask incredulously.

"Yeah, I am, and I can't wait to get out of here."

"It'll be an easy A."

Group travels through Europe touring country side, visiting popular landmarks

I heard that line an inexhaustible number of times—to the point where I started believing it, too.

No Classroom

It had to be true. I mean, there was no sitting in a classroom three hours a day, no

homework, no exam. In fact, all we had to do was get on a plane to England, travel around to various designated areas, make several semi-formal appearances and keep a basic journal of what we saw. Simple?

Hardly. There was so much ground to cover in three weeks that I used up all my available energy, and burned up my reserves as well. We were given about 24 hours to get our bearings and overcome jet lag, before a lengthy train ride took everyone to Edinburgh, Scotland.

We had no obligations or appearances to make. Edinburgh was thrown at our feet, and we were to do as was seen best for us.

Some people went directly to the nearest pubs, some shopping and others sightseeing. For three days, with a wind chill factor at what felt like minus 30 degrees, I teamed with freshman Ray Covington, and headed first for the Edinburgh Castle.

We fought our way up a slick mountain-side with whipping winds and slicing sheets of rain greeting our every move.

Looking very superior and stately, the Edinburgh Castle sits high atop a vast hillside. A spacious park with pigeons, greenery and benches lay below the castle. Once at the top, the viewer has a perfect view of the underlying city.

Edinburgh

Edinburgh lies in a valley so that daylight is exhausted at about 4:30 p.m. The castle itself divides the city between the new, modernized half and the old half, with its fairy tale shops and streets. It all looked like something you would see in a travelogue of major European cities, with winding back roads, quaint pubs, and shops that catered to every whim.

Shopping in Edinburgh saw a great deal of tartan material for Scottish family surnames like Linsay, McKenzie, and Stuart. There were countless patterns for about a hundred different surnames, with no two being the same.

After returning to London, we had time to acquaint ourselves with our temporary home: The Kennedy Hotel, is located outside of central London, and its big advantage is its proximity to Euston Station, a major subway terminal and railway station. One of the worst parts of London, was getting used to their drivers: they don't brake for anything, not even people. In addition, because they drive on the opposite side of the road, Americans look the wrong way (to the right) before crossing the street.

The First Week

During our first week as a group, we saw Stonehenge, and Winchester and Salisbury cathedrals. The cathedrals, as explained to me by Professor Terrell Cofield and fine arts student Miles Johnson, are all in the shape of a cross.

Each has a major center aisle, that ends where the altar starts. To either side, there are two more aisles. Stained glass windows and wood and marble carvings, tell the



Seeing
London

PAUSING for a moment's rest along one of London's many busy thoroughfares are Elon sophomore Loukia Louka [top left] and Dr. Bruce Waller, a philosophy professor here. Below, a pedestrian on a walk across a narrow street in Windsor at a more leisurely pace. Bottom photo by Loukia Louka.



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