

GLOBAL TALK

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

A wave of a different color

今月のGLOBAL TALKは、仙台校のDavid先生のサーフィンについてのエッセイです。ハワイ出身のDavid先生。サーフィンの良さやハワイと日本でのサーフィンの違いなどについて話してくれました。

“S”urfing has always been a major part of who I am. It defines me, it shapes my soul, and it has given me the flexibility to handle life's ups and downs. For those people, like myself, who have been lucky enough to be born and raised in the beautiful islands of Hawaii, the ocean has always been there as our playground. Whether it be surfing, bodyboarding, snorkeling, windsurfing, outrigger canoe paddling, fishing, and many other water activities, the ocean is a major part of what makes us Hawaiians who we are.

Now that I live in Tohoku Japan, I've found that I desperately need that connection with the ocean again. Sendai gets pretty cold, so surfers are limited to a shorter surfing season, late spring to late autumn, as opposed to all year round, which is what I'm used to in Hawaii. That is, unless you are willing to wear a thicker wetsuit, along with gloves, booties, and a wetsuit cap (not my idea of standard surf wear). It's also much harder for me to get to the beach here, compared to back home. Since I don't have a Japanese driver's license, I have to depend on my friends to take me

surfing. In Hawaii, I can just jump on my bike with my surfboard and pedal about five minutes to my local surf break. But for all the difficulties there are for me here, once I get in the water all troubles fade away.

Surfing for me is a lot like going to an outdoor hot spring. Of course there's the thrill of riding the waves, but there are also the relaxing aspects of surfing as well. During the quiet times when we are out there waiting for the waves, we are also taking in the natural beauty that surrounds us. For example, here in northern Japan, it's the beautiful shoreline with its pine covered hills. In Hawaii, for me it would be the palm trees and other tropical plants, with a stunning backdrop of the Koolau mountain range, and of course the beautiful skies. Being in the ocean, or on the shore, is also very therapeutic. The breaking waves give off minus ions which are known to have a stimulating effect on our well being. Much like the feeling you get when you stand near a waterfall.

“A wave of a different color”

Surfing in Japan does take some getting used to. The surf culture here is **similar** in many ways to the surf culture in the States, but there are also some **significant** differences. The way people dress, and the gear they use are the same, but when you get in the water you can really feel the difference in culture. Japanese surfers are much more **courteous** with each other in the water. Back in the States, surfers are very vocal and **aggressive**. I've even seen fights break out in the water. They'll shout at other surfers to let them know that they are taking the wave. In Japan, the **intentions** of the surfer are there, but are usually unspoken. There's a different, more **subtle** form of communication among surfers in the water here. Crowds are also another thing you must get used to when surfing in Japan. At one of the popular surf spots here in Sendai, it's not unusual to see about 150 to 200 surfers in the water. Back home, at a similar kind of break, around 60 surfers in the water would be the **norm**.

All in all, I've had some pretty wonderful surfing adventures up here in Tohoku so far. The waves get really good when the conditions are right. The scenery is still amazing and **inspiring**, and I've made some good surfing buddies. It would just be nice if the summer season lasted a little bit longer up here.

読み解きのヒント:

define – (本質などを)明らかにする

desperately – ひどく

opposed to – ～とは反対に

be willing to – 喜んで、自ら～する

depend on – ～に頼る

pedal – 自転車に乗る

fade away – 消えていく

aspect – 側面、解釈

shore line – 海岸線

pine – 松

stunning backdrop – 素晴らしい背景

mountain range – 山脈

therapeutic – 治癒力のある

stimulating – よい刺激となる

well being – 健康であること

similar – 似ている

significant – 大きな、重大な

courteous – 礼儀正しい

aggressive – 攻撃的な

Intentions – 意志、態度

subtle – 微妙な

norm – 標準、平均

inspiring – 感動的な、胸の躍るような

長文読解のコツ

長文を読むコツにはいろいろありますが、その一つをご紹介します。

文を頭から区切って理解する=日本語に訳さない

例) I went / to the library/ where I borrowed / a book called "Norwegian Wood"

私は行った→図書館へ→そこで本を借りた→「ノルウェーの森」という本

この様に、英語は文頭から理解することはテスト対策などでもとても重要です。ぜひ練習してみてくださいね。

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