

# Denise Dilbey... (Continued from page 1)

clap his hands and expect her to do something. She quietly asked him to wait a minute until she was finished what she was doing. He agreed. He called his wife and she came running. After that he did not expect the same treatment from Denise.

In three of the four homes, she did not see any sign of affection towards the husband and wife. Only in her second home was the atmosphere relaxed enough for that, she said, which might explain why it was her favorite home.

She knew she had to bite her tongue when evidence of male favoritism came up. After all, she kept telling herself, she was a stranger in their land, she had to live by their rules.

Denise got tired of always having to smile and be friendly and in a good mood. In her homes and at school she was representing Acton and Canada. Her behaviour was a reflection on all Canadians. However, when she was out where people didn't know who she was, or why she was there, she says if she wanted to tell someone what she really thought, she did.

She was waiting on the train one day to start the long train ride from Yokohama back home (all her host homes were outside the city) when a stranger came up to her and in Japanese explained he wanted to buy her a coffee. He grabbed her arm and started pulling her off. Denise remembers she was frightened, but didn't want to appear rude. Finally she yanked her arm free and escaped.

Even the weather was foreign to Denise.

Her airplane landed in a typhoon, which was hair-raising enough, but there were many more after that. They have typhoon seasons and rainy seasons, but no defined summer or winter, she noted.

And earthquakes are a way of life, Denise said.

She was sitting at her desk in school when the first one came. Everyone dove under their tables, except Denise, who sat looking around wondering what was happening. Their schools have earthquake drills the same as North American schools have fire drills.

The Japanese are terrified of thunderstorms, Denise states, but she noticed they do not have too many of them, which may be the reason for their fear.

Denise says she didn't have time to get homesick. Between her Tea Ceremonies, her dancing lessons, karate, and another self defense course, her calligraphy classes and flower arranging courses, as well as her regular school classes, speaking at the Rotary Club meetings and learning about the kimono customs, she was always on the go. On top of everything else, she adds, each of four host homes was at least an hour-and-a-half train ride to Yokohama where she went to school, and the school was a 20 minute walk from the train station.

But there were times when she craved good old Canadian cheese, ice cream, submarine sandwiches and macaroni and cheese.

Going away for the year made her realize how proud she is to be a Canadian. She saw Canada from the outside looking in, and sees how Canadians do not appreciate their good fortune. On the other hand, she says, Japanese are not proud to be Japanese.

Denise's first venture with chop sticks was not very successful, she recalls. Her hosts had taken her to a noodle restaurant, and the slippery food kept sliding off her sticks. She didn't eat much, she says. But, like the language, she eventually got the hang of it.

When she left last August, Denise took three suitcases. Coming home she had five suitcases, and a 500 pound crate is being shipped, full of souvenirs and

gifts. She was constantly being given gifts by her friends and host families and had a lot to bring back.

Being an exchange student, none of Denise's marks went towards her Canadian schooling. She did not have to write exams, but could not escape tests. She earned 89 per cent in Japanese, and 100 per cent in English she boasts. English in Japan is like Canadian schools teaching French.

The social levels bothered Denise. No matter how good a person's marks were, if they were not from the right kind of family, they were not accepted in schools, or jobs. Children of divorced parents are labelled as being no good and irresponsible and therefore not given preference in jobs.

The rich and poor never mixed, Denise noticed.

Because of that, she never saw the poor side of Japan. Japanese Rotary members were all well-to-do, highly paid, professional people, and she led a very comfortable life.

Half way through her

stay, Denise went after a university scholarship which would enable her to stay in Japan. However, she found out it was only offered to Australian students, and she was not qualified to apply. She was offered a job teaching English, but doesn't feel she has the patience to teach.

Before she left, Denise was accepted at three Canadian community colleges. Her application to Humber College was deferred and she will be entering there in September in the Marketing Retail Co-op program. She will be working while attending school. In the meantime, she is looking for employment until September. She eventually wants to get into a business of her own.

It is very strange to be home, Denise admits. She finds herself having to translate English into Japanese and then back to English before she speaks, and finds herself slipping Japanese words into her conversations.

She doesn't even recognize some of her friends anymore. She

knows she has changed and has to remember that when speaking to another friend. She is much closer to her younger sister now, she says.

Denise would like to go back to Japan, and visit other countries around the world. However, she wants to see Canada before she goes anywhere else.

"There is no point in knowing other people if you don't know your own people first."



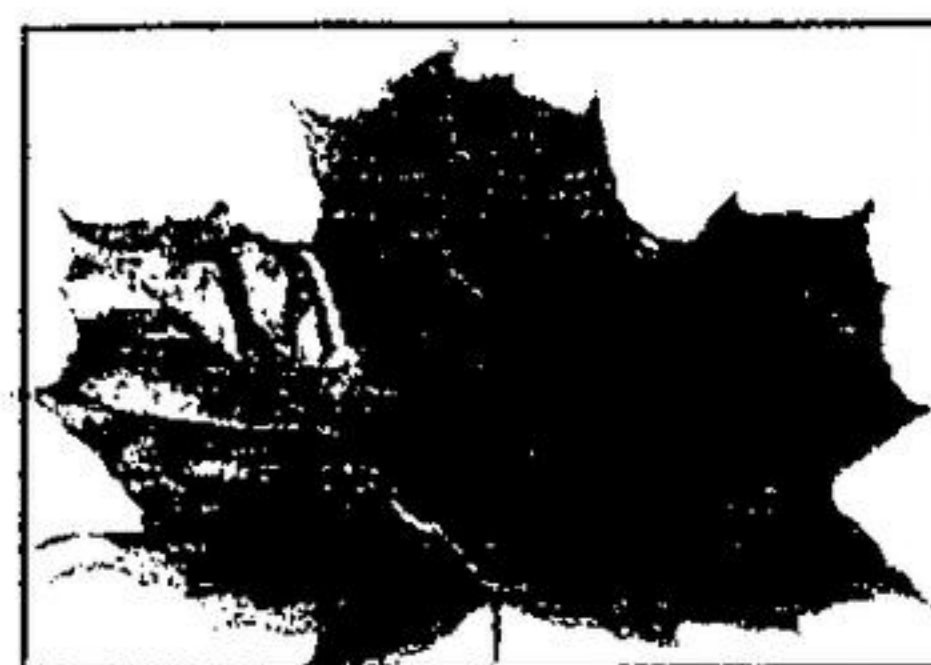
Julie Clow got the works last week when returning Rotary Exchange student Denise Dilbey wanted her to model a Japanese kimono, right down to slip. Underneath the many layers of the apparel is a simple, two piece white slip.



Denise Dilbey, behind, ties a cummerbund around the second last layer of Japanese kimono. Friend Julie Clow was the model.

## Unusually large deposits of insect honeydew makes leaves shine, cars a mess

Are you one of the many Actonians who has noticed a shiny sticky substance on cars, garden furniture, shrubs, plants or tree leaves?



If you're wondering what this is, it is honey dew, according to experts at the University of Guelph.

The Free Press was contacted by Marge Murray on Church St. East this week about the shiny, sticky stuff on the leaves of a number of her maple trees and the reporter quickly spotted the substance as the same thing he'd seen on his own car the past couple of weeks and had heard many local people grumbling about. Alerted to the signs, it was easy to spot trees showing the symptoms all over town.

A call to the University's Pest Diagnostic and Advisory Clinic solved the mystery.

It seems insects called aphids are on the surface of the foliage, or leaves, of the various types of Norwegian Maple trees around town sucking the plant sap out. These small pale green bugs concentrate the plant sap in their guts according to Rick Wukasz. The nutrients from the sap are stored while the rest is excreted out their hind ends, he explained, adding the droplets of concentrated sticky substance is called honey dew.

This situation isn't new, it happens every year.

However it is much more noticeable around town and there is considerably more honey dew shining on leaves and dropping on cars,

etc., because June's cool, wet weather allowed the bugs to build up in population much more quickly than usual.

In addition tree and insect secretions are more prevalent in other varieties also this summer.

The aphids and honey dew aren't something to be worried about, he said. The "trees don't suffer too badly" and besides the bugs will be killed in the next few weeks by parasites and predators.

A lot of these sticky leaves seem to be lying on the ground, more have fallen than would be normal. Some have blown off more easily in the wind because they are heavy with the honey dew.

A good scrubbing will take the honey dew off cars or furniture, etc., and if it's on your garden fruits or vegetables don't worry. Just wash it off. They are still edible.

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