

MINNOWS

JULY 2007 No.8

Sawadee to everyone reading this latest installment of the Minnows. So much has happened since my last newsletter that I fear I will not be able to fit everything in! At the moment we're enjoying quite cool weather (around 30°C) which is shockingly cooler than some parts of Britain and America at the moment!

EXAM RESULTS

In my last letter I wrote that I was on my way to having my first secondary exams. Well, I'm pleased to report that they went quite well and I'm happy with my results. The only problem I am left with is my poor lower lip, which is quite sore due to my endless chewing at it!

SCHOOLS OUT!

School broke up on the 9th of June, just in time for the celebrations for the Thai King's Golden Jubilee. For the celebrations everyone had to wear yellow which I was quite opposed to because it is definitely not my colour! Since my last letter, I have made a good friend called Sarah who I am certain will be popping up in my letters quite often. In the week that followed the end of school Sarah and I took it upon ourselves to visit every single movie in the theatre at that time. Hello popcorn fights! As well as making new friends at the end of the school year I am also losing them. My best friend at school, Adi, is leaving with her family for Israel. Adi, if you're reading this I got to the 21st level of Leo Steel!

CONFERENCE IN CAMBODIA

This summer we attended our first company conference which was held in Cambodia. I found it really interesting meeting all the people I'd heard so much about through my parent's work. I also loved Cambodia itself partly because it reminded me of Thailand and partly because it has its own character that has been shaped by a mix of Asian and European occupations. I would definitely recommend Cambodia as a possible holiday destination. But enough about that. The true highlight of the trip was meeting the other 'teens' of our company. We all had a great time together, having midnight feasts and going out to dinner by ourselves.

CHANGING ROOMS

This summer I decided to do a little redecorating of my room. To do so I enlisted the aid of Father and of Sarah. Together we stripped my bedroom (this alone took us about two days no stop work) and proceeded to paint my

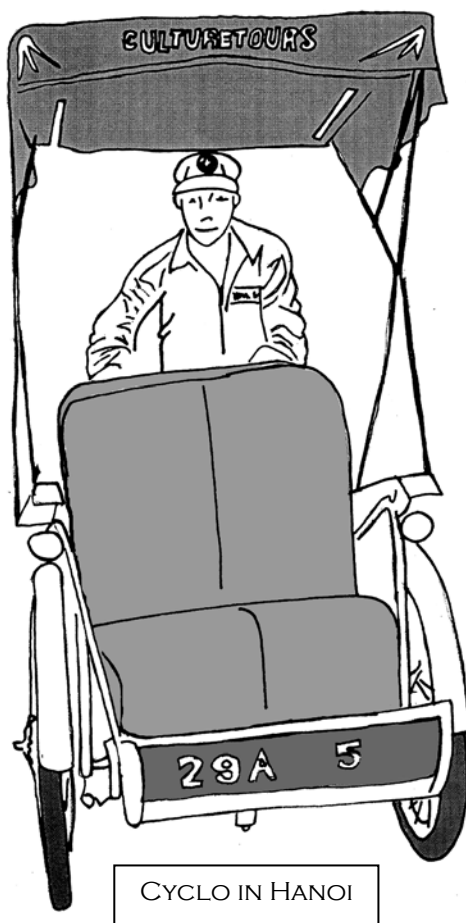
room a 'vibrant lilac'. However, we must have been mistaken because the color turned into an unmistakable pink as soon as it hit the walls! Sarah insists that if peered at in the right light it does look quite purple!

VOY VIETNAM

This summer we had a distinct urge to become tourists. So we packed our bags and set off to one of the only countries in Southeast Asia where we did not have a relative, boss or close family friend we had to visit. We had a fantastic holiday even with the bumps and potholes that inevitably occur wherever the Fucella family goes. First we went to Hanoi where we journeyed around in cyclos and got lost in the tangled web of streets which make up Hanoi's large tourist area. Then we got a van up to Ha Long bay where we jumped on a barge and cruised around the 3000 islands that make up the bay. That night we lowered anchor and had our first night in a cabin on a boat. Our next adventure took us to Sapa, a small town near the border with China. We arrived in Sapa after a night on the train and immediately set off on a trek of the surrounding area even though it was pouring with rain. We explored several hilltribe villages and Aylie and I made lots of friends with the group of children who seemed to consistently be following us! Overall, our holiday in Vietnam was a magical one and I am definitely planning to go back even if it's just to look in one of the many beautiful art galleries that are scattered around the city of Hanoi.

FINISHING THE HOLIDAYS WITH STYLE

These past five days, Mum, Aylie, Noi and I have been staying at The Pines Guesthouse which is right on the beach at Prachuap, Thailand. This place is soooo cool! Not only are they located right on the beach, have swimming pool and a trampoline but they also have a huge selection of board games and plenty of willing players. Ice cream, sun, sea and good books (did I mention they also have a library?), what more could a girl need? That's it for now. Hope to hear from you,



Rachel

