Korean pen pals (a letter to the editor of a campus paper):

Editor:

It is my great pleasure to write to you. I expect you will be pleased to accept my appeal regarding overseas pen pals for our students.

I am an English teacher in a noted high school in Seoul, Korea. This school has about 1,500 students of both sexes. I am eagerly seeking foreign students who would like to correspond with our students. There are many Korean students who would like to exchange letters and friendship with foreign pen friends. And they frequently request me to let them have foreign pen friends.

Throughout my foreign language teaching career, I’ve noticed this would help not only their English and emotional life, but also expand their knowledge of foreign lands. This would also promote world-wide friendship and mutual relationship as well as serving as a true foundation of world peace.

I feel it necessary to publish this simple wish among the boys and girls of the world. Therefore, I courteously request you to run this letter in a corner of your valuable paper.

The only information I need of a student is his or her name, address, sex, age, hobbies and picture if possible. I expect to receive many letters from your readers wishing to correspond with our students.

I will appreciate it very much if you let me have the chance to do this for my students. This would be a warm and thoughtful favor. Awaiting good news, I remain,

from Berkeley Voice (campus newspaper, Berkeley University, Berkeley, California), 11/23/83

a reader’s letter to the editor:

The Americans economically exploit every country but particularly in developing countries such as Thailand. This is done via political pressure, aggressive foreign policy and economic might. I started to think like this when I understood what the Americans did in Vietnam. Their history of intruding in the business of other countries continues in various ways today. In the past few weeks the media has been reporting how the Americans are placing import tariffs on a lot of our exports, yet they are comparatively free to export anything they like to our country. Their policies directly affect our farmers and many have become bankrupt. I recently saw a documentary on the US and the point that I remember is that 40 million Americans live in poverty. This is because there is no real protection for American workers as their economy relies on the availability of cheap labour. I am always surprised to see developed countries like the US and UK where there is such a wide gap between the people who have everything and the people who have nothing.

– reader’s letter to Nation, c. 1998