

BOSTON



Newsletter from Boston/Cambridge 17 January 2008

THE ADVENTURE CONTINUES...

Hey there,

I finally arrived back to Cambridge... and everything's still as great as I remember it from the last time I was here: nice people, a constructive/productive working environment and lots of "personal relations" in the office.

My flight was just as annoying as I would have imagined it. The Indian guy beside me (déjà vu!?!?) called the stewardess five seconds after she brought him everything he needed, just to tell her in a very charming way: "I want water!" or "Give me butter!"

However, after having arrived, two very nice people picked me up at the airport to be my personal cab for the rest of the day. Thanks to the Schmid family for this courteous service!! After I had shopped the most essential things for a comfortable (or more surviveable) night, I just fell asleep early in the evening.

On Sunday, I tried to get everything fixed for my stay here in terms of apartment facilities, decorating my room and preparing for the first working day. During the first two days, I couldn't understand why everybody told me that Boston winters suck. The weather was perfectly fine, a bit more than 0°C, sunshine, no wind – just great. However, now I totally know what those people meant. The weather forecast says -10°C on Friday including snow storms. This being not enough, the temperature will be felt as -27°C :-S Thanks god I'm a born-and-bred Lungauer... ;-)



Before...



and after :-)

The flat and my room are really nice, the location's perfect (5 walking minutes from MIT), the room mates are great (but [or because] they're not home too often), but the kitchen's a medium disaster ;-/ And I had to find with great regret... that there are NO DOGS!!! [I'm still dreaming badly of them] Whereas the best thing is the first thing I see when I wake up: (s. picture at the right)... an American flag, welcome home! ;-/



When I came here, I heard that the vicinity might not be the most exclusive, but I didn't face any incidents so far... except for two days ago, when I took a walk during the late evening and took a few pictures with my new camera! A guy started shouting at me: "Taking pictures at night, huh? Did you pay for that???" :-) I thought I'd better not discuss the price with him and walked on...



@work: I don't know too many people at work, as most of the guys left in my absence. I'm confident though that I already found my new no.1 companion, he seems to be pretty much of the same kidney as I am. And I have to state that the existence of well-tasting cinnamon roles make my life here a lot easier and way more pleasant :-)
Yesterday, we've been out for an extraordinarily delicious dinner... burgers *yaaawn* ...I didn't get the pics yet, but they're definitely worth being shown in the next newsletter ;-)



Tomorrow's gonna be another busy day. After work (which is currently the most relaxing part of my life), I'll go to my first ASCINA meeting. ASCINA (<http://www.ascina.at/greaterBoston>) is the Austrian Scientists and Scholars In North America initiative, which wants to create a network of Austrian scientists and help newcomers start their scientific career. If you go to the web site you'll see that our beloved Dr. Philipp Nagele will present tomorrow [please observe his academic title,

which he presumably bought from Moscow University while I wasn't paying attention for a short moment ;-]

Directly after the ASCINA meeting, I'll have my first experiences with Volleyball after my accident in Sweden last summer. I'll try to start slowly and see how it goes. On Saturday, I'll watch a game of the MIT team, in which I definitely wanna try to get in.

Finally, if you also want to reach me apart from emailing:

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work:

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At the end, I again want to share some (random) pictures with you, which I took during the first days here (some with my mobile phone... thus the poor quality :-/)



My room... still lacking flowers and liveliness ;-/.



Boston impressions.



Might remember this one... slightly more snow than last time though...