

Nedj Alsagoff

SMAD 311

Wendelken

Self-Profile Assignment

Her dark brown almond-shaped eyes squint simultaneously while the nostrils of her small squishy nose flare for a moment, as she lets out a big yawn and stretches her arms. “I’m so sorry,” she apologizes, as if she’s exposed a weakness to a stranger and covers her yawn with her hand. “I’m always so tired.” It is 9 AM on a chilly Monday morning and Nedj Alsagoff hasn’t had her daily cup of coffee yet.

The 21-year old SMAD major also partly blames her constant fatigue due to her slight anemia. “I’m supposed to be taking iron pills, but it’s hard to get to the GNC store without a car”, says Nedj. Suddenly Nedj’s usual cheery and happy demeanor becomes sullen as she reflects on her high school days of having a 2007 silver Honda Civic Coupe. “Freshman year I had to sell it to Car Max, so that I wouldn’t have to make payments on a car that was just sitting in my driveway at home”, she says while heavily sighing.

Home isn’t too far away from her, as she reveals she’s a “true NOVA girl.” Born in Arlington Hospital, raised in both Great Falls and Ashburn, she now lives in McLean, Va., only about 15 minutes outside the District of Columbia. “I am so fortunate to live close enough to a city where there is so

much diversity,” she says as she waits in line at Starbucks for her venti sugar-free vanilla iced coffee with a shot of espresso. “Growing up, my parents flew me back to Malaysia every summer so that I wouldn’t lose my heritage- then whenever I was back in the United States, my family stayed highly involved with the Malaysian embassy,” she explains. Her parents, formerly Malaysian diplomats, have been permanent residents for more than thirty years in Northern Virginia. “This past summer made me realize how great of a city D.C. is and not to take things for granted,” Nedj says as she takes a sip through the green straw of her drink.

This past summer, she spent two months living in New York City interning at a cyber public relations firm. With no prior experience, the moment she stepped in the concrete jungle, she immediately took the subway to visit her Sigma Kappa sorority sisters living in the NYU dorms. “It was pretty easy to use the subway to navigate around the city, thanks to my iPhone,” Nedj says in a rushed manner as if she has somewhere to go. “I honestly don’t know what I would have done without it.” She then goes on to describe New York as a “fun city, but highly exhausting and dirty” compared to home. She then however begins to list off all the concerts she was able to attend while she was in the city. “Mumford and Sons, Florence and the Machine, Chris Cab and Foster the People...oh my gosh, they were all great but Foster the People was the best!”, Nedj exclaims as she breaks out into a huge smile, uncovering hidden dimples near the bottom right of her mouth. It isn’t until she smiles that she begins

to resemble Kimora Lee Simmons, with her high cheekbones, heart-shaped face and tan skin. It becomes evident that music is her one of her passions as she goes on about Foster the People's performance at Bowery Ballroom. "They were just so energetic and are amazing live; everyone was dancing", Nedj enthusiastically says. Though her final conclusion about New York was that she "wasn't sure whether she would move back there or not", she still had an experience of a lifetime.