

Half Way

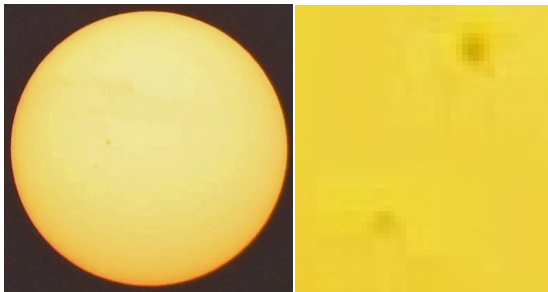
Our instruction in Tianjin has passed the half way mark and is still going well. This past week we had a special speaker. She is Kwen Ip, who now lives in Hong Kong. Her instruction was the same as last year: understanding personality types (DISC system, but with her arbitrary colors rather than the official titles), coping with change, and the seven habits of highly effective people.



Game night was ended with a surprise party for Ron, one of our teaching team. It was the day after the birthday of his wife and the day of their 25th wedding anniversary. We supplied a cake. His class sang a special song for him. He already had an alternative celebration in America before coming to China.



Movie night showed Akeelah and the Bee, the story of a young girl from a poor Los Angeles neighborhood who was able to win the national spelling bee. (I saw it again for the third time after seeing two previous summer showings in China.)



Saturday morning the smog was so thick that a couple hours after sunrise it was still safe to look directly at the sun with the eyes and camera. This picture has been enhanced to remove the foggy foreground. In the lower left I could see sunspots, shown in the enlargement.



Sunday morning the air was clean enough to get these photos of the subway system. The terminal building is at the north side of the



university campus, as viewed from our classroom building. It opened last year a month

after we had returned to America, so we could not use it then. Each train has six cars. The track is elevated near the campus but underground in the city. The cars are nice inside and air conditioned.



This is a schematic diagram of the system. Our university stop is second from the end of the blue line in the lower left.



This dragonfly was on a wall of the subway, far underground in the city. Its wingspan was about 4 inches (10 cm).

Everywhere on the skyline are construction cranes building tall structures. China is preparing for the movement of hundreds of millions of people from the countryside to the cities. This view to the north is from our classroom building. The diagonal lines are power lines in the foreground.



Ed Holroyd
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