

CONSULTANT: Christina (didn't give her last name)
AGE: 34
RESIDENCE: Carey, NC
OCCUPATION:
INTERVIEW DATE: July 30, 2016, approx. 8:30 am
LOCATION: Durham Farmer Market @ Durham Central Park

Christina approached the table on her bicycle. She had ridden to the Farmers Market from Carey. I asked her about some interesting circuit boards attached to the spokes of her front wheel (they're colored lights that make patterns as the wheel spins). She asked about the project and we briefly discussed it before she agreed to an interview.

You've already said that you're limited as far as what what you personally remember, but take me back to that day, and think about – personally and in general – what stands out in your mind from that moment?

I do remember the scare of Y2K. I was living in Tokyo, Japan, at that time. And I lived in Shibuya, and Shibuya is like the Times Square of Tokyo. And just remembering like, "Will the world end when it hit midnight?" I remember that pretty well. We were out in the streets. The countdown. The fireworks and so forth. So it was pretty cool.

So you *do* remember it.

I do remember, but it's not like vivid memories of, like, the differences between now and then.

So your family was living in Tokyo?

Correct. I was a senior in high school.

Were you going to an American school?

Yeah, I was going to the American School in Japan.

**What do you remember about the cultural mindset at that time in Japan?
How were people feeling and thinking?**

There was a lot of scare. I will admit there was a lot of scare, between like...because everything there is so technology based. And then, just the mood of Y2K, and them assuring everybody the world's not actually going to end. There's not going to be total chaos when computers, the next day, will not be working. I think the assurance that New Zealand and all those countries had a

couple of hours ahead, and they didn't start breaking down, led to the fact that, you know, Tokyo just a couple hours behind, will be okay.

I had totally forgotten that. Somebody I spoke with earlier said that they watched each country at the time zones change, and I had forgotten how seeing those first ones change over and be okay, was a big difference.

Yeah.

I imagine things were somewhat different in Japan, as far as the technology and everything. Do you remember what technology was like then, and compare it to now, as far as internet use, and cell phone?

So when I graduated high school, I could tell a huge difference. I graduated high school and then moved to the States for college. So that was pretty much a six-month period between New Year's and me coming to college here in North Carolina. And when I came back to the States, the technology was like, three years behind. Completely. Like, they already had cell phones that had cameras on it. I came back here, and I barely had a flip phone that had color. So, like the fact that they already had cameras on their cell phones, was completely different. I had been texting friends on the phone since, like, my freshman year of high school, since like 1996. They called it Sky Mail. So we were texting back and forth back then, and then coming here, and people were like, "What? Texting?" It was just like a step back, completely.

That's interesting. So do you think it affected the culture, too?

Oh, a hundred percent. Everything was super fast-paced. You were always accessible, because you were never home. People don't...Here, I feel like...I feel like it's changed a little bit, but back then, when there wasn't cell phones, weren't accessible, people were at home, or people said where they were going. There, people just said, "Call me on my mobile."

So it was like three years back?

At least, at least. It was a culture shock when I moved to the States.

How long were you in Japan?

I was there for 10 years. So I grew up over there.

So some of your first memories are in Japan.

Yeah.

Do you remember there being a mindset in Japan – beyond just technology, but maybe from more of a religious perspective – that people thought that really, the world was going to end? Or is that more of an American phenomenon?

Um, I think it was more, maybe not the end, but like, the chaos of trying to fix it as fast as possible. I don't think... I think the US thought more of doomsday, versus the Japanese of, "This is going to be a pain to fix if it actually happens."

How are Japanese New Year's celebrations in general, in any given year, different from America?

Um, it's more religious. Everybody goes to the temple. And so you have the bonfire with the temples, and you throw a prayer arrow into the fire. You ring the bell; you say prayers. So it's more religious-based, it's more ceremonial than here, where you kind of, like, get to someone's house, drink some beer, kiss on New Years. [laughs]

You're saying that's not religious?

[laughs] Um, not really.

[sarcastic voice] **In some parts of the country...**

I thank Christina for her time and end the interview.