

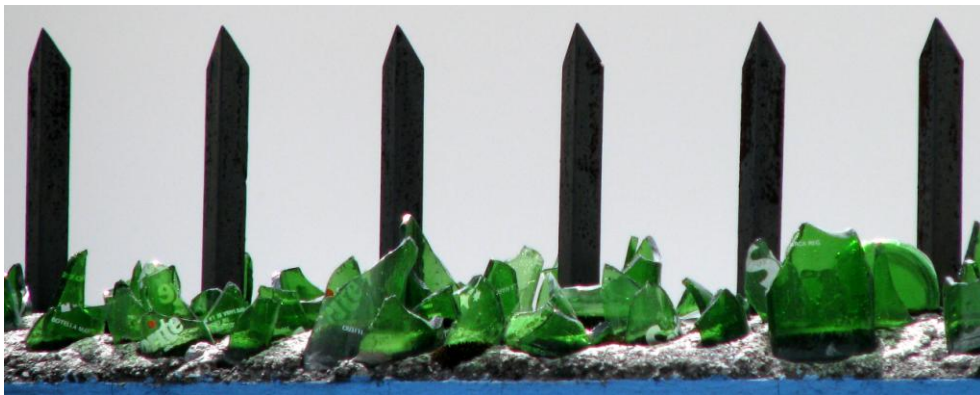
# Ecuador

7 JULY 2008

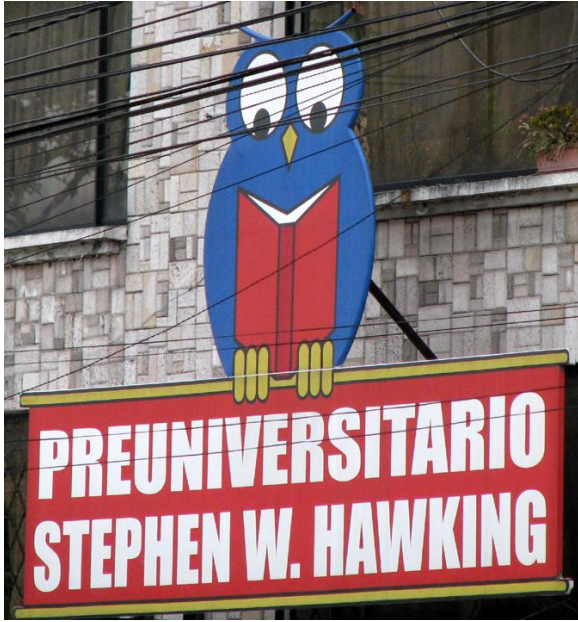
They all insist we have to get permits,  
The trouble is our man works well then quits,  
We visit first the Universidad,  
We walk and talk and see the cityscape,  
The town is nice, but smog is really bad,  
The lady there is really very good,  
She worked darn hard to do all that she could,  
(This rhyme scheme is turning out to be murder, let's switch to paragraphs)

Basically we had a guy what was helping us get permits. Then he disappeared and never formally quit as our advisor. So Victoria did all she possibly could in the states and now we have to pick up the permits. At least that is what was supposed to happen. In reality, we visited two universities over several hours of meetings and paperwork and MAY have done what we needed to do. We owe all of this to Victoria and all the work she is doing. At the same time Alexey has to check in with the US embassy. He went to see if he could get in early, but got a phone number to call to check it out. Also, Victoria specifically set her phone up for international service. No bars. Chris did not. Four bars.

We ate lunch at a cactus place. It was pretty good. Then we went looking for alcohol. Supposedly both that and propylene glycol are easy to get here, no luck so far. For supper we went looking for a specific restaurant that was mentioned in the guide book. After much walking, failure. So we stopped in a little restaurant. We went inside, but some patrons were smoking. Victoria motioned for us to get outside, but the proprietor asked if we didn't want the other patrons to smoke, we motioned no, and he asked them to stop! They did! No worries! Amazing. One of the guys got a little drunk, and the other sang us a lot of songs. Victoria likes live music, so all was well!



Security System



Apparently a junior college for astrophysicists and a keen way to keep people from taking your spot.



Part of Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador





An inspirational photo in the Universidad



Photo about town





Pictures from around town. Note the terrible smog. It's the worst I've ever encountered.



Views from around town. Huge agaves and palms in a round about.





The second university: Universidad San Francisco de Quito, just inside the front gates.



Another vista for the University.





Changing a light bulb. Not for me!



Victoria and her suitors.