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| Adrian Morales | | | | | | | | |
| Shinebileg Munkh-Erdene | | | | | | | | |
| Ram Ngai | | | | | | | | |
| Pablo Obando | | | | | | | | |
| Abigail Ortiz | | | | | | | | |
| Cristina Peraza-Ramirez | | | | | | | | |
| Nadya Posmachnaya | | | | | | | | |
| Pedro Ramirez | | | | | | | | |
| Marlin Reyes | | | | | | | | |



THE UNTOLD STORY OF AN IMMIGRANT

adapting to American culture after moving from Libya

photo by boshra dehry

Walking the halls, it was possible to meet people from almost every country and culture imaginable. Many are born here, growing up around the complexity of American culture, while others— not so much.

Among the many students who made the difficult trip from their countries to the U.S while they were young children was freshman Rofaida Elmezugghi.

At the age of 9, Elmezugghi and her family made the trip to Denver from their home country of Libya, leaving her extended family, friends, and everything she grew up with.

According to Elmezugghi, she and her family moved here for more educational opportunities. "My dad was a high school teacher in Libya, so he came to get his master's and doctorate," Elmezugghi said.

Though Elmezugghi's family valued education, the freshman said that understanding and participating in American culture was still difficult.

Elmezugghi said, "I COULDN'T COMMUNICATE WHEN I FIRST CAME HERE BECAUSE I COULDN'T SPEAK ENGLISH. I HAD TO FIGURE IT OUT ON MY OWN," Elmezugghi said.

Not only did learning English present a challenge, but Elmezugghi not being with her extended family, and getting used to American culture remained difficult to get used to.

Early on, Elmezugghi spotted major differences between Denver and Libya, including the amount of religions represented. "In my country it's mostly Muslim, but when you come here, there's everything," Elmezugghi said.

She noticed that being around so many different cultures came with challenges. "It was much easier to get a friend in Libya than here and I think that is because we were all mostly from the same place and had the same background," Elmezugghi said.

While finding friends with similarities was easier in Libya, in the United States, "it's a bit more challenging because not everyone is accepting and open to new culture and ideology, and there are a lot of unopen-minded people," Elmezugghi said.

Though there were many challenges to face after moving, school proved to be a welcomed change for the freshman. "I don't miss the schools, it's so strict, schools are ten times worse than ones in the U.S.," Elmezugghi said.

School also allowed the freshman to, "have friends from different ethnic groups," Elmezugghi said.

One of Elmezugghi's long time friends and neighbor, sophomore Randa Elgzi, met Elmezugghi six years ago. "She's nice, she's a great person, really smart and funny," Elgzi said.

Elgzi said that she and Elmezugghi had become extremely close over the past six years.

SIX YEARS AFTER MOVING TO THE UNITED STATES, ELMEZUGGHI IS AN ADVANCED STUDENT FLOURISHING WITH THE HELP OF HER FRIENDS AND TEACHERS. She said she plans on following in her father's footsteps, and plans on becoming a teacher in the future.

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