



The ESL Parrot

Your ARC newsletter for and by ESL students

Issue # 12

April 01/2007

Judging ARC's New ESL Professor: Simon Cowell -- An Interview

So, how long have you been teaching?

Well, it seems like all my life. Growing up in England, I often told my classmates what to do, when to do it, why, etc. Very teacher-like, I was. I believe they benefited from that.

Do you?

Yes, absolutely. On top of that, I always considered myself a good judge of character. I have this understanding of people and compassion, as well, that will really serve me well as an ESL instructor.

I see. Well, Simon, tell us: What makes you well suited to teach English as a Second Language?

Well, first off, I'd be the only one in the ESL department that actually speaks bloody English as it should be spoken! I speak the Queen's English, not some cheap knock-off dialect as if I were a Minnesota barman, a NY garbage man, or a Stanford graduate. Have you ever heard some of these professors speak? It's enough to make me want to listen to a Paula Abdul album.

Ah hem... So, Simon, I see you're going out of your way to ingratiate yourself! Indeed, what has the reaction been to your hiring?

To date, not many people know that I've been hired. The ESL department, in all fairness to them, has been ever so nice in making me feel welcome, although I've yet to set foot on campus. I understand I will be

having my own office somewhere near the stadium -- I'm a huge football fan -- English, of course -- so that sounds quite right. Then, one or two of the professors, unabashed fans of American Idol, have e-mailed me that they're prepared to show me around the town, see the sights, etc. Very well-intentioned lads, perhaps a bit on the unsophisticated side -- as



if I'd like to go to the Railroad Museum and a place called Chucky Cheese! Ha, ha. You know, I have lived in LA for the past six years!

Simon, what experience do you have in the ESL field?

Experience? You know, if you think about American Idol, it's all about the American Dream! Experience isn't what counts! It's the "yo" factor, putting your own stamp on the tried and true, pursuing your dream despite an onslaught of mean-spirited criticism and self-serving remarks.

So, you have no experience?

Well, no.

Don't you think your new ESL colleagues, all of whom have

labored for years, attended the very best schools, and studied the very best of methodologies will see you as a bit of an upstart, an opportunist, a fraud, a charlatan, a jerk, an evil presence?

Ouch! You know, I like your style! What a vocabulary, what a way with words -- you almost sound Canadian! American Idol is looking for people like you!

Let's not change the subject. What classes will you be teaching?

I'll be concentrating exclusively on listening/speaking classes. (I'm really not very keen on the reading/writing thing) As you might imagine, there will be a lot of singing in class, not unlike the attached photo of me teaching

young African youngsters, "God Save the Queen". I will be grading fairly and squarely in the American Idol tradition. Winners -- I mean those who pass (my class will be called "American Idle" -- quite clever, don't you think?) -- will undoubtedly get a crack at doing play-by-play at ARC cricket matches.

Uh, Simon, we don't do cricket at ARC. Listen, any future you can share with our readers?

Well, a lot of my Hollywood friends have also expressed an interest in dabbling in the education field -- after all, how hard could it be? So, I might spend office hours on my mobile

The great thing in this world is not so much where you stand, as in what direction you are moving.

Oliver Wendell Holmes



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phone, recruiting some of my mates -- Davie Beckham, Lily Allen, Sir Tony Hopkins, Helen Mirren --- who might get a kick out of doing what the ESL teachers do -- you know, open the book, point to the page, assign the homework, and ask the poor buggers to spit it back out. Again, we're not talking rocket science here... And, of course, I will continue with American Idol.

Simon, are you sure they've put your office at the stadium and not at a satellite campus, say, in Placerville? In any case, Simon, any last questions for or about ARC?

I understand there will be a compressed schedule -- I really must plead ignorance here -- is this some sort of American colonial thing?

Perhaps, Simon, perhaps...

Student Chirpings

An Easy Way For Those Who Want To Break Up With A Boyfriend

Are you tired of your boyfriend? Don't you think it is time to make changes in your life? There is an easy way to do that, and force your boyfriend to leave you alone. If you follow these three simple steps, you can be sure he will leave you first, and you won't blame yourself for breaking your friendship up!

If so many people think that "The way to a man's heart is through his stomach", it means there is some truth, and people have reason to say something like that, so we can understand that the function of the stomach has a big role in the man's life. That's why your first step should be to find out what food he dislikes most of all, and make it each time he comes over to you. Believe me, he will escape from your "romantic" dinners as from disasters.

For example, if my boyfriend had often made chicken noodle soup for me, which I hate more than anything else, I would have avoided not only eating these dinners or lunches, but meeting with him too. I knew a man who left his wife because she couldn't cook well. He had found another woman who was a good cook. For him it was more important to be well-fed, and there are a lot of men like him. As you can see, it is very important for the man to have a good meal. If it isn't, he will look around to find better than you. This is what you

want, isn't it? Now you have more available time to make your life more interesting.

Another fact about men is that they hate to go shopping and spend money, and this weakness of men will work well for us too. Our friend's house was a field of war after she went shopping. At first her boyfriend let her go shopping alone, but soon he changed his mind because each time she went shopping, she left half of his salary in a store.



That's why he decided to go with his girlfriend because he wanted to limit shopping hours. He thought that if his girlfriend had limited shopping time, he would save a bit of money. In addition, when she asked about something she wanted to buy, he found many bad things to say about the item. But the lady was much more stubborn, and finally her boyfriend left her with all her purchases.

Now she is free to control her shopping hours and buy anything she needs. So the second step is to ask him to go shopping with you often. Try to extend your shop-

ping hours. He doesn't care about what you are buying, if it fits you, how you look in it, does he? He will pray for you to finally finish your shopping. This shopping experience will bore him, and your meetings will become occasional.

Finally, we are at the end of our plan. The third step, which makes the breaking-up process quick, is praising your boyfriend's friend. That's it. His patience will be over. He will become jealous. He will think that you are interested in his friend, and something is wrong there if you notice his friend and praise him. He will begin to doubt you, and then think that you aren't worthy of his love and attention. In his opinion, being with you is wasting his time because you aren't serious, and he was mistaken in his choice. After this, he will be looking for another girlfriend, which is usual for men, and you will finally get the freedom for which you waited so long and worked so hard.

All these steps will make the breaking-up process work for you, and you can enjoy having freedom. This way has another advantage too. You will break up with your boyfriend without scandals and fighting, and your conscience won't bother you for breaking up with your boyfriend first!

By Rima Alekyan
ESLW 50

Parrot Warblings

Speak Like a Parrot

Saying the alphabet vowels

Letter

a
e
i



Letter

o
u



The two vowels rule

When there are two vowel letters in a word:

1. The first vowel says its alphabet name.
2. The second vowel is silent.

The rule is true for many words:

cake tea ice cone cube

The One vowel rule

When there is only one vowel letter in a word (in strong syllables)

1. The vowel letter does NOT say its alphabet name.
2. The vowel letter says its RELATIVE sound.

This rule is true for many words.

hat bed his hot bus



add fuel to the fire

- to make a problem worse, to make an angry person angrier
"The company added fuel to the fire when they criticized the angry workers."

against the clock

- to be in a hurry to do something before a particular time
"We worked against the clock to finish the project."

ahead of the game

- to do more than necessary
"We worked hard all week in order to be ahead of the game on Monday morning."

ESL WEB LINKS

You can practice the modal auxiliaries that you already know "Can and could"

http://www.englishclub.com/grammar/verbs-modals_can_quiz.htm



You can practice other modal auxiliaries that you know. You should check how much you know about them.

http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/cgi-shl/quiz.pl/modal_quiz.htm

Modals. Part 2

What are "modal auxiliary verbs"?

They are verbs which 'help' other verbs to express a meaning: it is important to realize that "modal verbs" have no meaning by themselves. A modal verb such as *would* has several varying functions; it can be used, for example, to help verbs express ideas about the past, the present and the future. It is therefore wrong to simply believe that "*would* is the past of *will*": it is many other things.

A few basic grammatical rules applying to modal verbs

* Modal verbs are NEVER used with other auxiliary verbs such as *do*, *does*, *did* etc. The negative is formed simply by adding "not" after the verb; questions are formed by inversion of the verb and subject:

You should not do that.

Could you pick me up when I've finished?

* Modal verbs NEVER change form: you can never add an "-s" or "-ed", for example.

* Modal verbs are NEVER followed by *to*, with the exception of *ought to*.

What sort of meanings do modals give to other verbs?

The meanings are usually connected with ideas of DOUBT, CERTAINTY, POSSIBILITY and PROBABILITY, OBLIGATION and PERMISSION (or lack of these). You will see that they are not used to talk about things that definitely exist, or events that definitely happened. These meanings are sometimes divided into two groups:
DEGREES OF CERTAINTY: certainty; probability; possibility; impossibility
OBLIGATION/FREEDOM TO ACT: permission, lack of permission; ability; obligation.

Dear Granny,

A number of my ESL student friends have called me a “whiner” because I’m always complaining about things at ARC. At first, (because they have accents) I thought they were calling me a “winner” so I felt pretty good about myself. Now I realize it’s not cool to complain so much. One of my friends said that if I really had complaints that I should write to you because you have a lot of connections and have a lot of influence. Is that true?

A.Weiner

Dear A. Weiner

You flatter me. Yes, I know a few important people here at the college and yes, it’s true that I work out at the same gym as Governor Schwarzenegger. That doesn’t guarantee, however, that I can “pull strings.” Nonetheless, students, if you have a few complaints about our lovely institution, write me. It’s always good to express yourself in writing, especially when you need “to get something off your chest” (As Arnie always says when he’s bench pressing). By the way, students, I’m pretty good with this idiom thing, don’t you think?

Granny

Dear Granny,

Spring break is coming up and I just saw this 60’s movie called something like “Beach Blanket Bingo Bongo”. From that movie, I have understood that in America I’m supposed to go to a beach, wear a bikini, and, for a week, look at boys surfing, singing, and playing guitars. I actually have a lot of homework (Mr. Bracco’s class) and don’t like sand. Is there an alternative?

Confused

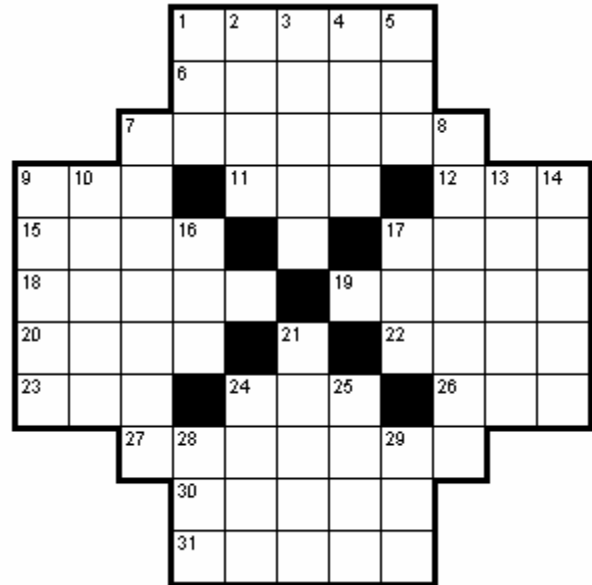
Dear Confused,

In my day, as a young college student in the 1930’s, we only took time during the spring break to plant vegetables. The only boys I looked at wore coveralls and were my brothers. Don’t feel the need to go to the beach. I’d hang out here at ARC. Get here early, bring the Bracco homework, and enjoy most any parking spot you’d like for a week. That kind of asphalt heaven beats a sandy beach any day!

Granny



X-World



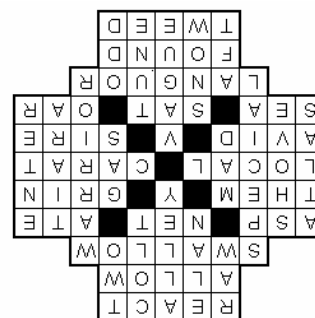
Across

- 1. Respond (5)
- 6. Permit (5)
- 7. Long-winged songbird (7)
- 9. Small snake (3)
- 11. Mesh (3)
- 12. Consumed (3)
- 15. Those people (4)
- 17. Smile (4)
- 18. Limited anesthetic (5)
- 19. Unit of weight for precious stones (5)
- 20. Zealous (4)
- 22. Father (4)
- 23. Expanse of water (3)
- 24. Was seated (3)
- 26. Paddle (3)
- 27. Lassitude (7)
- 30. Discovered (5)
- 31. Thick woolen fabric (5)

Down

- 1. Uncooked (3)
- 2. Panache (4)
- 3. Narrow street (5)
- 4. Young horse (4)
- 5. Deuce (3)
- 7. Particular (7)
- 8. Soldier (7)
- 9. Book of maps (5)
- 10. Jostle (5)
- 13. Crown-like headdress (5)
- 14. Go in (5)
- 16. Insane (3)
- 17. Fuel (3)
- 21. Undefined (5)
- 24. Precipitation (4)
- 25. Melody (4)
- 28. To the rear of a ship (3)
- 29. Singular (3)

X-WORD ANSWER



More Student Chirpings

My First Teacher

I have met many good teachers in my life, but now I want to tell you about my first teacher. Then, at the beginning of my life, my first teacher was really the best teacher for me. I met her when I was seven years old. Her name was Albina Sergeevna. She was a young woman with red hair and blue eyes. She was tall and beautiful. Besides, she could play the guitar and sing very well. I fell in love with her at once, when my parents took me to her. Albina Sergeevna asked me my name, but I was very shy by nature, and I replied to her quietly. I think she didn't hear my answer. Even though I loved her, the first month of school was like a torture for me because of my character. When I grew up I understood how much strength and wisdom she needed to help me. She was very patient and kind to me. For example, every pupil had to stand up and go to the blackboard to write the lesson, when the teacher chose someone. She saw that I almost lost consciousness at the blackboard and I couldn't recite the lesson, even though I was always ready for classes. She never asked me to go to the blackboard in the first grade; instead, she allowed me to give

answers from my seat. I was always adding something to the answers of other pupils and she gave me credit for that. This lasted during the first grade, but she was a wise teacher, and she wanted me to conquer my shyness. In the second grade Albina Sergeevna began calling me to the blackboard, at first only for helping her with something, and only when I was not afraid to stand before pupils anymore did she call me to the blackboard to perform my task. She taught us for four years and after that she left for a big city and I didn't see her anymore. I appreciate her very much for her kindness, patience and understanding. I don't know where she is or how she is, but I remember her and thank the Lord that she was in my life.

By Larysa Tsurska
Spring 2007 W-50

The Best Teacher I Have Ever Had

During my childhood I have had many teachers. There is one teacher that sticks in my mind. Her name is Ms. Wagoner. She taught the third grade. She had long brown hair. I liked her very much. I liked the way she motivated me to do my work. She wanted me to become success-

ful in life. She was always there when I needed help with my school work. She wanted me to get good grades in school. She encouraged me to read and study hard. She would always stay after school to see that the work I did was done right. She was the best teacher I have ever had in my life. She gave me a positive attitude about school. Her reinforcement to me was positive in my life. That was the greatest thing any teacher could ever do for their students to become successful. She also saw that my English skills were improving. She took time to help me do my work.

By doing what she did, she brought the best out in me. I wanted to learn and become successful. I would have a better future. It is important for students to know that there is a teacher that cares about them. We would live in a better world if teachers cared. We would have fewer kids doing crime, committing violence and murder. We wouldn't have to place kids in prison. They would get some education instead. To this day, I think the best teacher I ever had was Ms. Wagoner.

W50 Spring 2007
By Pairee Srichan

PARROT ESSAY CONTEST

Prizes for levels W30, W40, W50, W310, and W320
(Cheesecakes from Prof. Hoggan?)

"Mistakes People Make About My Culture" (or country)

Submit your essays to your writing teacher or to Prof. Bracco at
braccop@arc.losrios.edu or Office D387
Deadline April 20

Essays should be typed if possible.



Announcement: To Get the Schedule you Want:

- Make an appointment with a counselor NOW to plan for Summer or Fall
 - April 1, go on line, fill out the Supplemental Data Form
- Beginning April 12, go on line to check for their enrollment appointment time
 - Priority 1 (for continuing students) starts April 30 through May 13
 (For your information: those who are on special programs such as EOP & S have a different priority period)
 - Class schedules will be available on line around April 1
 - they can start checking their Spring grades on line June 3, 2007
- Once Spring grades are posted, they can get pre-requisite verification forms from counselors, if they want to avoid the long lines once Fall starts.



OUT OF THE CAGE

Wednesday, April 11, 2007 [[Career Center](#)]
2:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Resume Development Workshop

Your resume reflects your uniqueness. This workshop focuses on the physical appearance of a resume, including different types of formats and the kinds of information that should be included. Tips on writing an effective cover letter to send with your resume and formatting scanner-friendly resumes will also be discussed.

Tuesday, April 10, 2007
[[Career Center](#)] 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Scholarship Search Workshop

This workshop offers many resources available for students interested in applying for scholarships. Learn the various avenues in which to search for scholarships.

Wednesday, April 18, 2007
[[Career Center](#)] 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Interview Success Workshop

This workshop includes information on researching the organization, reviewing anticipated questions, specific strategies, assessing your skills, making a professional presentation, and body language and presentation.

Wednesday, April 25, 2007
[[Music Event](#)] 6:00 pm ARC

Concert Band

Join us for an evening of instrumental band music.

Admission is free to this concert, which will be held in room 512 of the music department portables.

For more information, contact Dyne Eifertsen at 484-8676.

Thursday, April 19, 2007

[[College Hour](#)] 12:25 pm - 1:20 pm

Design 4 Life

Patricia Moore, an internationally renowned gerontologist and designer, will talk about creating environments designed for people of all ages and levels of ability. From 1979–82, Ms. Moore traveled throughout the US and Canada disguised as an eighty-year-old woman, documenting the experience in terms of people, products, and environments. ARC World News featured Ms. Moore as one of 50 Americans defining the new millennium. Ms. Moore will also be introducing a new Design 4 Life certificate program at ARC.

Thursday, April 26, 2007

[[Music Event](#)] 12:20 pm ARC

Applied Music Student Recital

The ARC Music Department is proud to present our Applied Music Students in recital, beginning at 12:20pm in room 512 of the music department portables.

Admission is free to this event.

ARC News: a Birdseye View

Kompreni ?

The ESL Department of ARC will be changing its mission in the fall semester of 2007. The term ESL will remain, but in response to repeated student outbursts in class of, "It's Greek to me, Teacher," the teaching of English will be abandoned. ESL will now stand for Esperanto as a Second Language and instructors will immediately switch to the teaching of Esperanto for credit. Native speakers of Esperanto are urged to contact ESL Department Co-Chair John Gamber (in writing) for possible work. No phone calls (yet) please...

Fatten Up

This summer, in an effort to help ESL students learn the names of their professors, ARC's Cafeteria staff will brainstorm the naming of signature dishes after ESL instructors. Initial suggestions include a hamburger, the "Gamburger" (Prof. Gamber), a grill platter, "Reed-Feed" (Prof. Reed), Pasta Pezone (Prof. Pezone), a vegetable sidedish, Broccoli a la Bracco (Prof. Bracco), and a beef dish, Rau Cow, (Prof. Rau). Students are encouraged to submit ideas.

Text Message

Starting in the fall of 2007, the ARC Bookstore, in an effort to promote "study-reading", will initiate its campaign, "Make Your Next Book a Textbook". Students who buy 25 textbooks will get one free. Students who are able to carry all 25 books out of the bookstore at one time without falling, without incurring bone breaks, and/or without suffering permanent nerve damage to hands or fingers will enjoy the added benefit of having at least one book read to them aloud by a reading teacher of their choice during the semester of purchase. For further details, check the first page of the summer catalog, which can be purchased at the bookstore.

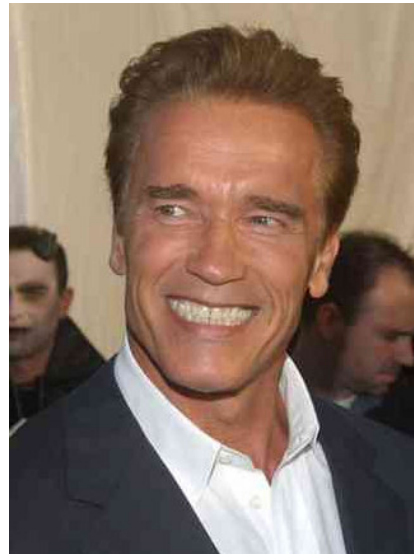
Got Paint?

Parking Lot parking will change as of April 1, 2008. Red cars will park in Lot A, blue cars in Lot B, black cars in Lot C, and white cars in Lot D. Students and staff are expected to get paint jobs if necessary to conform to the new color-coded system. Campus parking experts believe the new system will help motorists find their cars, at least initially.

"Like 'Ja, Dawg"

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger is said to have registered for summer school at ARC in a German class. Parrot sources assert that the "Governator" is alarmed that

his Austrian accent and vocabulary is being unduly influenced by the surfer lifestyle in California. In his own words, Schwarzenegger exclaimed, "Ja, dude, I'm like totally NOT down with my new accent and I'm like really stoked about school visiting at AR. I will just like shout "cowabunga." When asked, German Prof. Patrick Hoggan seemed confident that the restoration of Gov. Schwarzenegger's Austrian accent is within reason, with both tongue weights and lip-stretching as time-tested techniques. Re-tooling Arnie's vocabulary to conform to contemporary Aus-German will be another matter.



Zzzz's for D's

In the spring of 2008, the ARC library will be expanded to house a semester-long, two-hour class called "Sleeping Lounge," in which students fall asleep for the duration of the class. Hard, wooden, Davies-Hall-type chairs and desks will be provided and taped lectures from ARC professors piped in to ensure an environment appropriate for gradual nodding out and worry-free dozing. Certain requirements must be met because space will be limited. Students are encouraged to request letters of recommendation from their professors and, if possible, photos of prior classroom sleeping experience. School administrators admit that the Sleeping Lounge class will not necessarily end the practice of falling asleep in actual classes, but it will provide a controlled environment for students to *slowly* practice nodding out while appearing to be awake, a recognized college survival technique. Students unable to sleep within 2 minutes will be dropped from the class. Certificates of achievement from the Sleeping Lounge class will be available at the end of the semester.

April Fool's Day or All Fool's Day occurs annually on April 1. The day is generally observed by playing a practical joke on a "victim" who soon becomes known as an *April Fool*.

Unlike most of the other non-foolish holidays, the history of April Fool's Day, sometimes called All Fool's Day, is not totally clear. There really wasn't a "first April Fool's Day" that can be pinpointed on the calendar. Some believe it sort of evolved simultaneously in several cultures at the same time, from celebrations involving the first day of spring.

The closest point in time that can be identified as the beginning of this tradition was in 1582, in France. Prior to that year, the new year was celebrated for eight days, beginning on March 25. The celebration culminated on April 1. With the reform of the calendar under Charles IX, the Gregorian Calendar was introduced, and New Year's Day was moved to January 1.

However, communications being what they were in the days when news traveled by foot, many people did not receive the news for several years. Others, the more obstinate crowd, refused to accept the new calendar and continued to celebrate the new year on April 1. These backward



folk were labeled as "fools" by the general populace. They were subject to some ridicule, and were often sent on "fools errands" or were made the butt of other practical jokes.

This harassment evolved, over time, into a tradition of prank-playing on the first day of April. The tradition eventually spread to England and Scotland in the eighteenth century. It was later introduced to the American colonies of both the English and French. April Fool's Day thus developed into an international fun fest, so to speak, with different nationalities specializing in their own brand of humor at the expense of their friends and families.

In Scotland, for example, April Fool's Day is actually celebrated for two days. The second day is devoted to pranks involving the posterior region of the body. It is called Taily Day. The origin of the "kick me" sign can be traced to this observance.

Mexico's counterpart of April Fool's Day is actually observed on December 28. Originally, the day was a sad remembrance of the slaughter of the innocent children by King

Herod. It eventually evolved into a lighter commemoration involving pranks and trickery.

Pranks performed on April Fool's Day range from the simple, (such as saying, "Your shoe's untied!)", to the elaborate. Setting a roommate's alarm clock back an hour is a common gag. Whatever the prank, the trickster usually ends it by yelling to his victim, "April Fool!"

Practical jokes are a common practice on April Fool's Day. Sometimes, elaborate practical jokes are played on friends or relatives that last the entire day. The news media even gets involved. For

instance, a British short film once shown on April Fool's Day was a fairly detailed documentary about "spaghetti farmers" and how they harvest their crop from the spaghetti trees.

April Fool's Day is a "for-fun-only" observance. Nobody is expected to buy gifts or to take their "significant other" out to eat in a fancy restaurant. Nobody gets off work or school. It's simply a fun little holiday, but a holiday on which one must remain forever vigilant, for he may be the next April Fool!

<http://wilstar.com/holidays/aprilfool.htm>
<http://www3.kumc.edu/diversity/other/aprifoel.htm>

