



The ESL Parrot

Your ARC newsletter by and for ESL, multicultural, international students, new Californians, and, well, anybody really...

Issue # 18

April 1 Edition

An Interview with The Beaver (translated into English)

Beaver: So you want me to tell you the story of my life.

Parrot: Like I said, that's what I do. I interview people. I'm a collector of lives.

Beaver: You'll need a lot of tape for my story.

Parrot: No problem. I got a bag full of tape.

Beaver: You followed me here, didn't you?

Parrot: Yeah, I suppose I did.

Parrot: What do you say we get started? What do you do?

Beaver: I'm a beaver.

Parrot: You believe this, don't you?

Beaver: Yes

Parrot: So, you're the ARC ascot! For our readers, what exactly is an ascot.?

Beaver: Not "ascot"! Mascot! A mascot is a kind of symbol, a kind of pet that a school can rally around.

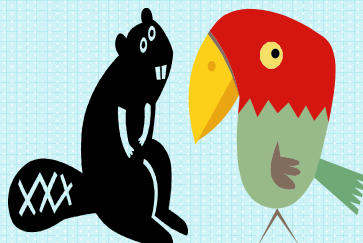
Parrot: What do you mean by rally?

Beaver: Well, you know, when times are tough, people can look to the mascot for, like, leadership.

Parrot: Do you mean mascot is like an alternative for "president"?

Beaver: Well, not exactly, but people think I'm cute and often that's what people want in a leader.

Parrot: Do you mean cute like Churchill or cute like Paris Hilton? Never mind; no answer needed. Beave, with all due respect, you're not exactly what I'd call "cute", what with those big buck teeth and that big flapping tail hanging out of your low-riding underwear.



Beaver: What? Not only am I "with it" vis a vis fashion, we beavers 've always been considered cute. Think Bucky Beaver, 50's icon, who promoted Ipana toothpaste. Kids everywhere brushed, as a result.

Parrot: 50's icon? Do you realize that was 50 years ago! Beavers are out, bud! I bet if you took a poll, not one in three people would know that you are the ARC mascot. One in two wouldn't know what a mascot is or does and 2 out of three wouldn't know a beaver from a cleaver.

Beaver: And you? You're a parrot! Look at that beak! Think you got anything on me?

Parrot: Listen, dude, you're lucky I speak Beaverese. You don't even speak English! What's up with that?

Beaver: Well, I really haven't had time.

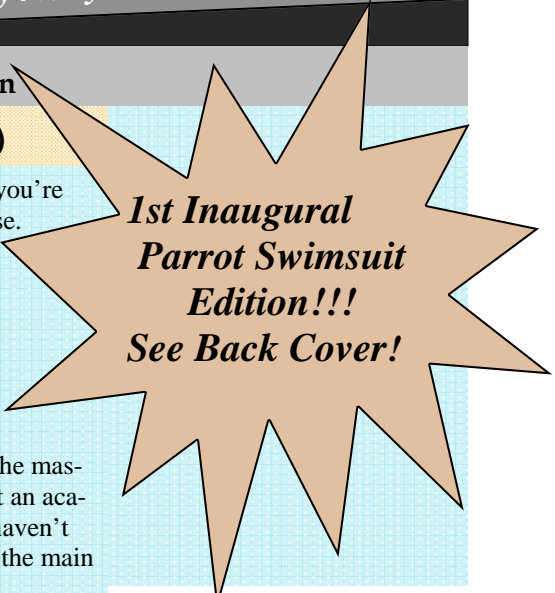
Parrot: You've been the mascot for over 50 years at an academic institution and haven't even bothered to learn the main lingo!

Beaver: Unlike parrots, I don't sit around and run my mouth. Beavers are a symbol of industriousness. I'm often off-campus consulting with the Corps of Engineers on dam-building. And I've got great fur.

Parrot: Dude, fur is out – endangered species thing – good for you actually. In any case, all well and good what you say, but don't you think you should be spending more time on campus? Look at me. I'm relatively new here, already got me a newsletter, got me a voice. I got plumage, man, I got wings, I know Johnny Depp, I got contacts all over bird world with the bird population. You're a rodent, dude, and when people hear "rodent", they think "rat." That's so not cool!

Beaver: Listen, Parrot, the rat's my cousin and if you think...

Parrot: No, you listen, my plump, water-logged friend. I know firsthand that people would like to see a new mascot, a parrot, perhaps as a symbol of



1st Inaugural Parrot Swimsuit Edition!!! See Back Cover!



ARC, and not an over-hydrated, steroid-looking lump like yourself.

Beaver: What, what makes you say that? What have you heard?

Parrot: Well, word out on the street – in the corridors and classrooms, that is – is that you're old school, set in your ways, falling all over yourself, can't see the forest for the trees, metaphorically building dams where none are needed and, I might add, literally building one where none was needed – in the racing pool next to the gym back in '87! Remember?

Continued on page 12

Student Chirpings

My Breaking Truth

(Another from a series of “breakthrough” essays from Prof. Hoggan’s class)

I will never forget one of the most significant and important days in my life. This occurred twelve years ago. On October 14, 1995 my wife and I were married. The first six months of our united life flew by as if in a dream, and we thought that the rest of our life would fly by just as fast. However, one day we faced a situation in our life upon which we disagreed.

The situation grew into a larger argument. Each of us considered ourselves right and throughout the entire day we both tried to avoid conversation. I continued with my daily business in the garage while she, my wife, continued with her daily routine around the house. At lunch we both ate in absolute silence. I did not speak a word, nor did my wife. Inside of me I constantly heard a quiet voice repeating, “You are a man, you are more mature than her, you are right.” I had a feeling of innocence and righteousness. However, somewhere deep in my heart yet another voice quietly whispered, “Don’t you love her? You are stronger while she is weak, she

needs your help in order to forgive, just say one word and everything will change.” But something held me back from asking forgiveness.

The evening was near and so was the hour at which we were to go to bed. I remember an old story someone



once told me. Two rams met face to face on a bridge. There was just enough space for one to get through and neither was willing to let the other through. In the end, they both fell into the river. I realized that because of an insignificant dispute our relationship could suffer. I understood that somebody had to take the first step and ask for forgiveness. But who?

This whole time I thought that the right way would be for the wife to be first. I remembered that very day of our wedding when we both stood in front of the whole congregation, in

church. Our pastor asked us several questions. That day, when I was filled with excitement about getting married, the thought of being responsible for my wife, my family, future kids, and the whole future in general did not cross my mind even as I said, “Yes, this is what I want and promise to do.” Now I was embarrassed by myself and understood that the time had come to prove all that I promised.

Breaking through my pride, I walked up to my wife that evening and said, “Honey, forgive me, I was wrong. As if having waited for it all day, she also said, “Honey, forgive me, I was also wrong.” My heart was filled with joy as I once again saw a smile on my wife’s face. Both smiling, we could finally sit down and have a peaceful conversation. But here is the question — what needed to be done? It seemed that the answer to this question is also straightforward. Simply telling your spouse two small words — “Forgive me.”

Pavel Senin

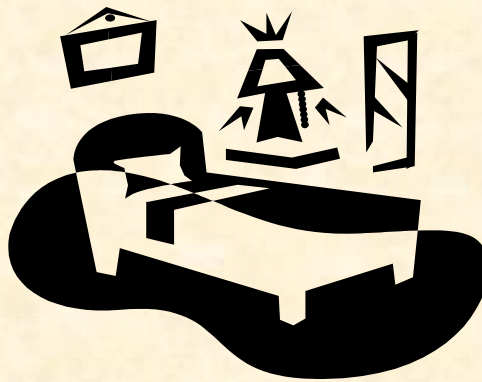
It Belongs to Me

"Are you leaving?" The question was asked with a soft voice. "Yes, I am." The answer from the other person is short but it is very clear, and it is loud enough so the person who is asking will understand. My husband is asking me when he sees me getting up from my chair. I am looking at my dog. She is getting up and picking up her toy. She is ready, and she understands what is going to happen in a moment. We are going to our special place which belongs to us, is comfortable, and is the happiest place for us.

My special place is an extra bedroom. I use it for my office. It is next to the family room. I decorated my room with my favorite colors, which are black and white, and some beautiful combinations of American and Asian decorations. For example, I have a big Chinese flowerpot full of fake flowers made of silk. I also have a big American flag is hanging behind the door. Whenever I open the door of this room, I feel like this is my world.

Next to the door, there is a white bookshelf which is always filled with all kinds of books, such as American cook books, Thai recipe books, school books, and magazines. Some books

are standing upright. Some books are lying down. Next to the bookshelf, there are two calendars hanging on the wall, side by side. One is a Thai calendar and the other is an American calendar. On those calendars I always have a red pen. I have to write down what special is coming up with our



family. In addition, I have a white table in the middle of the room. On the table, there is my family's picture in a woodcarved frame. I have my own computer as well. Next to the table, I have a T.V which is on the black T.V table. I have a lot of Thai music and Thai movies. I always watch Thai movies in this room because I don't want to bother my husband.

I always spend time in this room after I finish dinner, clean up the kitchen, and sit down in the family room with my husband for a while. This room is so comfortable for me. Everything I use and see are mine. I

can do anything I want in here. For example, I talk on the phone to my friends or my family in my native language without bothering my husband, who doesn't understand Thai.

I remember that my teacher says when you are writing your essay try to turn on music that you like. It will help you to enjoy writing. Also, it can help you get some ideas. I'm doing that now. I'm turning Thai music on very softly, and I'm writing my essay. "Yes, it works". I'm so happy, and I want to say thank you to my teacher too. This is good advice. My dog is sleeping, and she is lying beside my chair and she is snoring. I think she is as happy as I am. I'm looking at her and I feel like it doesn't matter if you are a human being or an animal. We always find a place that's so special and make ourselves happy.

Spend more time and look around you. You will find a space for yourself which is very close to you but you didn't know before. It isn't a big place and it doesn't require any money to travel to find it. A special place is just for you and your happy time.

Venus Coons, W50

Hans Christian Andersen

I remember when I was nine years old, I read "The Little Match Girl" for the first time, in Farsi, and since then, I went through Andersen's world. I believe that Andersen with his fairy tales enchants children and adults. "The Ugly Duckling," "The Little Match Girl," "Nightingale" and many other stories by Hans Christian Andersen have formed many of our childhood imaginations. These stories are very famous through the entire world and there are few people who don't know Andersen. His tales have been published in 100 languages and have been reprinted more than any work except the Bible and the works of Shakespeare. Andersen, with his fairy tales, connects to the children's world. He fortifies the children's imagination and talks by the children's language and thoughts. Andersen, with his creativity and his special talent, can be considered as a father of children's literature.

Hans Christian Andersen was born in Odense, Denmark on April 12, 1805. He was an odd, solitary child who liked to play with his puppets. Throughout his childhood, he had a passionate love for literature and he memorized entire plays by Shakespeare and he recited them using his wooden dolls as actors. In

1816, his father, who was a shoemaker, died. Since his mother was alcoholic, he worked as an apprentice for both a weaver and a tailor to support himself. When he was 14 years old, he traveled alone to the Danish capital, a two-day trip by ship. This trip was certainly the bravest and most important step of his life. He



Which is the real Andersen of fairy tales: Pamela or Hans Christian?

had dyslexia and this was a reason that his learning process had many difficulties, but he was a genius. He spoke near fluently English, Dutch, German and the Scandinavian languages. In 1829, his first short story was published and after that he published a collection of his poems.

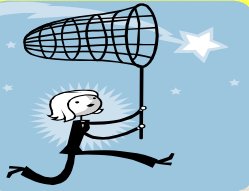
All his fairy tales create a world in our children's minds which is different than our ordinary lives, but they are based on our lives. The tones of some of his tales are sad, but they affirm the values of honesty and loyalty. His tales are full of personifications and we see more and more ani-

mals talking. In "Thumbelina," a tiny girl can go to a flower and talk to a frog and other animals. Some themes of his tales are about childhood, family, poverty, nature and selfishness.

Andersen's works are timeless. For example in "Nightingale," we read about a nightingale that sang the most beautiful songs and was famous until the king received a mechanical singing bird and everybody forgot the poor nightingale. When the king became sick, the nightingale helped him and in the end he asked the king to treat people kindly and always live in peace. This tale and others are readable forever and people always need to be kind and live in peace.

Andersen's tales are romantic, practical, sentimental, comic, and ironic. They are part of our world literature, so I prefer my son and other kids to try to be familiar with his world and read his works, which are sweet and simple. These days that technology and speed are dominant in our life our children need to know. Andersen's works are more than before because these works can take our children to a fairy world which is very safe.

Parissa Samadi



NET Escape - Articles from the net.

College Pranks

Lady Liberty Goes for a Swim

In February 1979, the Statue of Liberty appears submerged in the waters of Wisconsin's Lake Mendota. It's the brainchild of the infamous Pail & Shovel Party, a small group of (mischief-prone) undergrads running the University of Wisconsin at Madison's student government that year. As part of their election campaign, they had promised to bring Lady Liberty to Wisconsin, which they do ... sort of. The group spends three days constructing the statue of papier-mache and chicken wire. When it appears peeking up from the lake, they claim it was flown in by helicopter from NYC, but after the rope snapped, it sent her crashing through the ice. So did they make their fellow students proud? Not exactly. The P&S party used \$4,500 of student funds for the construction.



Greasing the Tracks

The night before an 1896 football game with their arch-rival Georgia Tech, a group of Auburn students set out for the local train station. To greet the arriving Tech team, the Auburn kids decide to do a particularly impressive job of the old "greasing the tracks" prank, covering the rails around the station and well down the line heading out of town. When the Tech train rolls in the next morning, it can't stop and reportedly slides for 10 miles, leaving the team and its accompanying fans well outside their intended destination. Forced to walk into town for the game, the players are so exhausted when they finally reach the field, Tech loses 45 to nothing.



Hugo N. Frye, Father of the Republican Party

Hoping to make a statement about the superficiality of politicians, a pair of Cornell students in 1930 make special plans to honor one Hugo Norris Frye, father of the Republican party, at the school's annual banquet. Problem is, he doesn't exist. ("You go and fry" — get it?) They print up letterhead for the H.N. Frye Sesquicentennial Committee and mail letters to many notable Republicans, asking that they issue statements honoring the important, if little-known, patriot on the occasion of his 150th birthday. In response, they receive several letters of glowing praise for Frye — including one from the Vice President of the United States, Charles Curtis — which they read aloud to an amused crowd at their banquet. It would have been harmless enough, but when the story landed on the front page of *The New York World*, the victims were exposed — and they weren't laughing.



The Crimson Sparks a Red Scare

A long-running rivalry between Harvard's school papers, the *Crimson* and the *Lampoon*, came to a head with this 1953 prank. *Crimson* staffers play one of their favorite pranks by stealing the *Lampoon*'s Ibis, the large bird statue perched on top of their office. But this time, they send a letter to the Soviet consul in New York to report that the editors of the *Lampoon* wish to offer the Ibis as a symbol of friendship, billing the bird as "sort of an American peace dove." The Soviets accept, and the Ibis is handed off to a confused U.N. delegate in a formal ceremony. Not wanting to be outdone, the *Lampoon* retaliates with a letter of their own. With help from then-editor John Updike, they write to Joseph McCarthy, insisting the prank clearly proves the *Crimson*'s communist leanings and calling for a full investigation.



Continued on page 8



A Fool's Dictionary

April Fool: A person successfully tricked on 1st April. **Tomfoolery:** Foolish behavior, nonsense.

Fool: A person who acts unwisely or imprudently, a stupid person, a jester/clown. One who acts in a joking/teasing way.

Fool's Cap: A cap with bells attached worn by jesters.

Act the Fool: Behave in a silly way.

Fool's Errand: A fruitless venture.

Fool's Gold: Iron pyrite, often mistaken for gold.

Fool's Paradise: Happiness founded on a illusion

Fool's Parsley: A species of hemlock resembling parsley.

Playing the Fool: To act like an idiot or foolishly.

Trompe-l'oeil: An artistic term meaning "fool the eye". A painting that simulates 3-dimensions or marble is Trompe l'oeil. There are incredible examples in the Vatican.

Foolery: Foolish behavior/a foolish act.

Foolhardy: Rashly or foolishly bold, reckless.

Fool Away: Spend frivolously and unwisely.

Motley Fool: A professional clown employed to entertain a king or nobleman in the middle ages.

Be nobody's fool: To be wise enough not to be easily deceived.

Make a fool (out) of somebody: To deceive or trick somebody, or make somebody look ridiculous.

Make a fool of yourself: To act in a foolish, ridiculous, or embarrassing way.

You Know What They Say About Fools...

It's better to keep your mouth shut and be thought a fool than to open it and leave no doubt.

Mark Twain

Let us be thankful for the fools. But for them, the rest of us could not succeed.

Mark Twain

However big the fool, there is always a bigger fool to admire him.

Nicolas Boileau-Despréaux

A fool sees not the same tree that a wise man sees.

William Blake

[Politicians] never open their mouths without subtracting from the sum of human knowledge.

Thomas Reed

A fool must now and then be right by chance.

Cowper

He who lives without folly isn't so wise as he thinks.

Franzois, Duc de La Rochefoucauld

It is better to be a fool than to be dead.

Stevenson

The ultimate result of shielding men from the effects of folly is to fill the world with fools.

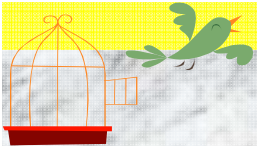
Herbert Spencer

The first of April is the day we remember what we are the other 364 days of the year.

Mark Twain

Looking foolish does the spirit good.

John Updike



Out of the Cage — Campus News

Smart Classrooms

In an effort to cut electrical costs, ARC has temporarily suspended its project to convert classrooms in Davies Hall to Smart classrooms. Electrical wiring will be pulled and rooms will be outfitted to use frying fats from the cafeteria to power computers and smart boards. In an effort at satiating a student hunger for knowledge, professors have been instructed to ask, "Would you like fries with that?" when assigning homework.



Award

The Parrot has received the prestigious Fulano Award from the National Junior and Community College English as a Second Language and English as a Foreign Language Newsletter Association (NJCCESLEFLNA) for the best English language student newsletter at a Sacramento community college campus. Parrot spokesperson C. Valenzuela says the award, a paid year's subscription to the ARC Current, came as a surprise, but as a delight. As a result, Valenzuela is postponing his decision to drop out of school and join the French Foreign Legion.



Dead Parrot Society



A new Student Association club has created a stir on campus. Called the Dead Parrot Society, it is intent on bringing about the demise of the ESL Parrot, insisting that the Parrot used the Queen's English as opposed to "Pidgin English." The editors of the Parrot, flattered by the bird reference, nonetheless, gracefully replied in an editorial that the correct term was "Pidgin English" and the Parrot is proud of its use of "Parrot English." Long live the Parrot.

Convocation

Fall of 2008 will see a change in locale and procedure for ARC's convocation. In response to a faculty survey, the cafeteria is out and the stadium parking lot is in. Tailgate parties will reign that Friday and faculty are encouraged to chill. A chili-cookoff contest will kick things off, T-shirts with "Convocation Rocks!" will be for sale, local band "Blackboard and the Glitches" will perform, and festivities will conclude with a board of trustees flag football event. All this budget permitting.



Whole Lotta Parking

President Viar yesterday announced that parking is no longer a problem. Details will be released in 2010.



New ESL Instructor

Barack Obama, if not on the political scene in the fall, has agreed to teach an ESL grammar class at ARC. His focus will be modal verbs. In addition to his popular quote "Yes, we can" he may well be teaching "Yes, we could have," "Yes we should have," and "Yes we may have done."



Silly Vasily's Chuckle Chamber

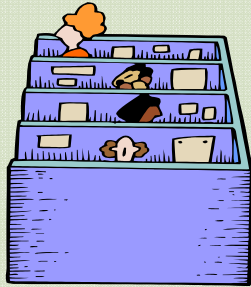


Teachers, Students - What Makes these Headlines Funny?

1. Include Your Children When Baking Cookies
2. Typhoon Rips through Cemetery; Hundreds Dead
3. Police Begin Campaign to Run Down Jaywalkers
4. Drunks Get Nine Months in Violin Case
5. Iraqi Head Seeks Arms
6. Prostitutes Appeal to Pope
7. Panda Mating Fails; Veterinarian Takes Over
8. Teacher Strikes Idle Kids
9. Clinton Wins Budget; More Lies Ahead
10. Local High School Dropouts Cut in Half
11. Miners Refuse to Work After Death
12. Juvenile Court to Try Shooting Defendant
13. Stolen Painting Found by Tree
14. Two Sisters Reunited after 18 Years in Checkout Counter
15. If Strike Isn't Settled Quickly, It May Last a While
16. Kids Make Nutritious Snacks

Merger

In a response to the rising price of olive oil, The Oak Café and the ARC Cafeteria have decided to merge. Details have yet to be agreed on but it appears both French service and cafeteria style will be out. Tables will be gone, replaced by individual cubicles complete with video screens, wifi, and voice technology. For the nostalgic and in keeping with the fusion of the two culinary traditions, each time a customer is seated, a sensor-activated voice will intone, “Will you be dining alone? ; “Hi, my name is Tiffany and I’ll be your server today”; “For here or to go?”; or other time-honored culinary utterances. Bids for a new name for this 21st century eatery are being accepted by the Campus Wellness Office. To date, the names “The Cakehole”, “Granny’s Grub Grotto, and “Dude, Food” have been proposed.



New Nest

Ground has been broken on a new building, Parrot Hall, behind the horticulture building. Plans for the building include a museum dedicated to the beloved species, a petting “zoo”, a cracker bar, and a language lab for those interested in speaking Parrotese. Squawk!



Math Curriculum Overhauled



In an effort to stay fresh and current, the Pythagoreum Theory will no longer be a theorem but will become a full-fledged rule. The name Pythagoreum will be dropped and be replaced by the name 50 Cent, to honor popular rapper and amateur math whiz 50 Cent. The ancient theorem will soon be known simply as The 50 Cent Rule. In reaction to the change, a math department faculty member was heard to have said in bewilderment, “Things just don’t add up.”

District’s Unique Funding Formula



The Astronomy Department will be experiencing a 11.1 % cut in funding for the fall semester. While some in the department swear that the change was in the stars, others claim that last year’s elimination of Pluto as a serious planet to be studied led to the drastic cut. In a similar vein, astute district fiscal officers, ever thinking, warn that similar cuts may be in the offing for Biology if certain endangered species die out, for English if “whom” and “heretofore” fall into disuse and in Fashion if skirts are shortened. Of other departments to be affected, Psychology was of two minds on the development, Paramedic saw it as an emergency situation, while Funeral Services declared it a dead issue. Philosophy, after a time, replied with a somewhat pensive,

The Parrot and Phys. Ed. Join Forces

In a joint venture of the ESL Department and the Physical Education Department, “home delivery” of The Parrot is being considered. Students can earn up to a half a unit by agreeing to walk the campus and its outlying satellite campuses with stacks of Parrots for distribution to ARC offices. Campus administrators hail the idea as a way to combine the burning of calories with the spread of literacy.



Continued from page 5

Other Well-Known Pranks

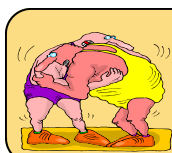
- **Left Handed Whoppers:** In 1998, Burger King ran an ad in USA Today, saying that people could get a Whopper for left-handed people whose condiments were designed to drip out of the right side. Not only did customers order the new burgers, but some specifically requested the “old”, right-handed burger.



- **Taco Liberty Bell:** In 1996, Taco Bell took out a full-page advertisement in *The New York Times* announcing that they had purchased the Liberty Bell to “reduce the country’s debt” and renamed it the “Taco Liberty Bell.” When asked about the sale, White House press secretary Mike MacCurry replied tongue-in-cheek that the Lincoln Memorial had also been sold and would henceforth be known as the Ford Lincoln Mercury Memorial.



Parrot Warbling



Grappling with Grammar

| Construction | |
|---|---|
| Formula | Verb Form |
| I don't think you should work so hard. | Use 'I don't think you should' the base form of the verb in a statement. |
| You ought to work less. | Use 'You ought to' the base form of the verb in a statement. |
| You ought not to work so hard. | Use 'You ought not to' the base form of the verb in a statement. |
| If I were you, If I were in your position, If I were in your shoes, I wouldn't work so hard. | Use 'If I were' 'you' OR 'in your position' OR 'your shoes' 'I wouldn't' OR 'I would' base form of the verb in a statement (A form of the conditional 2). |
| You had better work less. | Use 'You had better' (you'd better) the base form of the verb in a statement. |
| You shouldn't OR You should work less. | Use 'You should' OR 'You shouldn't' the base form of the verb in a statement. |
| Whatever you do, don't work so hard. | Use 'Whatever you do' the imperative. |

Idiom Attic



Feel Like a Million Dollars

I bumped into Nick at the salon yesterday. He looked great, but I noticed that he had a slight limp when he walked. I guess you didn't know that he had an operation on his knee. No, I didn't. How's he feeling? He says he's **feeling like a million dollars** now. Apparently the pain in his knee is all gone. It's good that he's **feeling so wonderful**. It must be a refreshing change not having to put up with all that discomfort.



Rigoberto's Riddles

What kind of ant can count?
An accountant

What kind of kitten works for the Red Cross?
A first-aid kit.

What kind of tie does a pig wear?
A pigsty (pig's tie).

Questions/ Comments? Please let us know what we can do to improve the "ESL Parrot" We appreciate any and all feedback you are willing to give us. Send us an e-mail, call, or just drop by Professor Bracco's office D387 (Davies Hall), call (916)

484-8988, or e-mail Braccop@arc.losrios.edu

Student editors— **Christian Valenzuela , Andrea Carrero, Natalia Arboleda, Ivy Balansag, Vi Tran**



The Talk Around the Birdbath

- Grammar classes in the ESL program may well be discontinued in the fall of 2008. Said one ESL instructor, who wished to remain anonymous, “I, for one, ain’t a big grammar fan – we doesn’t really like to teach it – and the students doesn’t care also.”
- “I’ve had it with this computer – get me a pencil and a steno-pad and I’ll show you what’s what!” echoed repeatedly at the ITC.
- “After a particularly long meeting with the board of trustees, I usually relax with a copy of The Parrot,” said to have been sighed one Friday afternoon at the office of the president.
- “I don’t give a parrot’s tail if they’re just kids. The Current and The Parrot are cutting into our readership and I want them stopped!” (Overheard outside the window of a senior editor at The Sacramento Bee).
- Reportedly witnessed at the cafeteria:
 Customer: “What’s a burrito?”
 Worker: “It’s like a Mexican perogi.”
 Customer: “What’s a perogi?”
 Worker: “It’s like a Russian burrito.”
 Customer: “Who taught you English?”
 Worker: “Bracco”
- “Badges? Badges? We don’t need no stinkin’ badges.” Uttered by members of the Los Rios Police Department as they shopped for summer whites at The Gap.



Dear Granny Noetal,

Why do we have midterm exams? It just causes me a lot of stress and anxiety because I’m a “C” student. My teacher says it’s to let me know how I’m doing. I know how I’m doing – badly.

C-Student

Dear Potential “B” Student,

Generally, midterms are given so that a student who is not “enlightened” (like yourself), perhaps a “D” student, gets the message that she needs to buckle down or get some extra



help at our ESL Center in order to be successful in her classes. Midterm time is also a time for teachers, especially teachers who are teaching the same courses, to get together and “touch base.”

They compare notes, discuss curriculum, and assess work together. One other thing: this is a great time to start

seeing yourself as a possible “B” student. Don’t settle for “C” and don’t let anxiety and nervousness cripple you. As William Tell’s son is purported to have said, “Aim high -- please.”

Granny

I don't know who's worst
 the ghouls or the fools thirst?
 The fools are right down scary
 of them I am leery.
 The ghouls you know on sight,
 the fools show only when
 they want to fight.

The fools walk around normal,
 then all of a sudden become informal.
 Out on the street
 they walk by and won't even greet.
 Might step on your toes
 or try and bloody your nose.

Out driving on the road
 they might hop across lanes
 just like a stupid toad.
 Too them it's a thrill
 But you they almost kill.
 Then here's the stinger,
 they throw you the finger.

I never seen a ghoul,
 but I have seen a fool.
 Everyday and everywhere
 they are there.
 You can't run
 you can't hide
 The only thing we can do is
 prepare for the slip and slide.

Anonymous

No Joke — Parrot Extends Invitation to the Governor!



February 26, 2008

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger,

We are ESL students at American River College in Sacramento. We publish *The Parrot*, a newsletter by and for American River's ESL and international student population. We'd like to meet with you to interview you for our newsletter. We are very interested in knowing about you and your education, especially since English is not your native language. Please let us know if you have time. We could meet at your office or, if you'd like, at ARC. Enclosed are some copies of some of our Parrots. Please address your reply to:

The Parrot- Humanities Office
4700 College Oak Drive
Sacramento, CA 95841-4286

Sincerely,
The Staff of *The Parrot*

Christian V.
Christian Valenzuela

Andres Carrero
Andrea Carrero

Natalia A. Fdz.
Natalia Arboleda

Vi Tran
Vi Tran

Ivy Balansag
Ivy Balansag



Continued from page 1

Beaver: What, what makes you say that? What have you heard?

Parrot: Well, word out on the street – in the corridors and classrooms, that is – is that you’re old school, set in your ways, falling all over yourself, can’t see the forest for the trees, metaphorically building dams where none are needed and, I might add, literally building one where none was needed – in the racing pool next to the gym back in ’87! Remember?

Beaver: Look I couldn’t help myself – I’d had too much salmon -- that was over twenty years ago – give a guy a break. I’m a changed animal.

Parrot: Look. Don’t get me wrong. You’ve served a purpose, I suppose. But times change. Animals don’t. Students are looking for new inspiration. Retire. Move to Arizona – to Hoover Dam – or, if you still want “to work” (wink-wink), think New Orleans.

Beaver: Listen, cracker-breath! I’m not going away just like that. I’m willing to meet you anytime, any place to discuss the issue in front of the students. A College-Hour venue would be perfect, perhaps hosted by one of our crack political science professors to keep it civil.

Parrot: Fine, Muskrat!

Beaver: That’s Mascot!

Parrot: Whatever. Actually, it would serve the student population well to discuss the role and responsibilities of a mascot.

Beaver: You know, Parrot, we’re both animals. Instead of us bumping heads, we should take a look at the logo on the ARC website.

Parrot: Logo? What logo?

Beaver: There’s a picture of a small oak tree. What’s that all about?

Parrot: I don’t know. It’s bad enough I’m talking to a beaver; don’t suggest I go talk to a tree.

Beaver: You think I like talking to a parrot? You’re not even from around here!

Parrot: I live here now, pal, and I’ve got my rights. I’m an animal just like you. Didn’t you say we animals are all the same?

Beaver: Let’s just get this debate thing going with an audience. We beavers are much more impressive in person than on paper.

Parrot: I think you mean “in animal”. Ha! “Impressive” and “beaver” in the same sentence -- that’s a first! Listen, thank you for coming. I know it wasn’t easy getting time off from whatever you do.

Beaver: There you go again.

The Parrot 2008 Swimsuit Edition

