



# The ESL Parrot

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

Issue # 20

Spring 2008

## Interviewing Angeles Barrios

### **So tell us about yourself.**

I was born in a small town in San Luis Potosi, Mexico. Its name is Tanchachin. It is located in a zone called Huasteca, which forms part of the eastern Sierra Madre Mountain range. When I was sixteen years old, I had to move from my hometown to another city because there were not any high-level education schools. I went to college and after five years I got my degree in law. My first job as a lawyer was working in civil, family, criminal and bankruptcy areas and recovering loans made to individuals by the banks. After that, I worked as an associate warden in a Maximum Security Mexican Federal Prison. In my country there are just three of them which are designed to house members of the drug cartels, violent prisoners, or prisoners who might threaten the security of the guards or other prisoners. Even

when most of the inmates have almost life sentences, there is still an attempt at their rehabilitation. I really loved this job. My job schedule was always busy and I had to work overtime almost



every day. Sometimes I had to spend the whole week at work. My responsibilities were to supervise the inmates' legal situation such as a custodial sentence, split sentences, criminal records, parole, probation, fines and release. I quit that job because I had to move to this country with my husband. I have been living here for three years. I love Sacramento. This is my favorite place to live. My

hobbies are to read, watch movies and take walks by the American River bike trail. I'm taking ESL classes at this college and I am also attending an adult school.

### **What encouraged you to study law?**

My father was the one who encouraged me to study law. He did not have a law degree but he was always helping people who had legal problems, and he always succeeded.

### **Why did you decide to come to the United States?**

I decided to come here because my husband was living here, and even though I had a very good job and salary in my native country, my family was more important than that.

### **Was it hard for you to adapt to the American culture?**

It was hard for me to adapt because I did not

*"I speak twelve languages. English is the bestest."*

Stefan Bergman



American River College  
4700 College Oak Drive  
Sacramento, CA95841  
(916) 484-8011

know any English.

### **What's been the hardest part of learning a new language?**

The hardest part for me is spelling and pronunciation. First of all English has an enormous vocabulary, its spelling system is completely different from its pronunciation and there are many tricky little rules that make it even harder.

### **What things did you have to change in order to adapt to the American life style?**

The first thing I had to do was to stop watching

*Continues on last page*

# Student Chirpings

## Differences Between Ukrainian Customer Service and American Customer Service

My parents had lived in the US about 3 years and then came to Ukraine to visit me and their newborn granddaughter, Anna. Once, my mother came back from our new fancy supermarket in tears. "What happened?" I asked her. "Your salespersons are ugly; they shouted at me. They didn't let me even take a close look at what I was going to buy. They didn't even put my purchases in a bag!" I couldn't understand her hysterics then. It was common service in our stores. She might have forgotten that. Only when I came to the USA, did I understand her feeling because I saw what huge differences there are between customer service in Ukraine and customer service in the USA. I was nicely surprised when I saw what customer service really is.

The first difference between Ukrainian customer service and American service is attitude to customers. Americans salespersons and managers always smile at clients and treat them politely and respectfully. But Ukrainian salespersons usually look at you like you owe them thousands of dollars and have come to borrow again! While American sales-clerks always try to help you find what you need and are interested that you'd be satisfied with service, Ukrainian salespeople don't care about you at all. Very often they don't even look at you when you come in. That's why even now I am a little bit confused when salespersons try to talk

to me or help me. A "Sorry to bother you!" appears on my face.

Another big difference between customer service in the two countries is respecting the rights of customers. American customer service offers return service and warranty for every



product. You can return anything to the store which is not suitable for you or not in good condition. However in Ukraine, when you want to return even awful smelling meat, you must be ready for a battle. I remember when I bought a box of expensive black chocolate candies for my wedding party in Ukraine. After I opened the box, I saw that the candies were covered with a white thin layer. I brought it back and asked for my money back. But the cashier with an angry voice said, "You might have never seen the chocolate before. It is in good condition!" I asked about seeing the manager, but instead I saw a big, bold, young security guy. He said with an intimidating intonation, "If I open a box of the same candy and it looks like what you have, you will eat two of them right away!" I took my candy home and threw it in

the garbage can.

In addition, American customer service includes a lot of different features to attract customers such as rebates, holiday sales, discount cards, and discount coupons. My sister, for example, always collects discount coupons from the "Sacramento Bee" and saves about \$100 on grocery shopping every month. In contrast, only some expensive fashion clothes stores have that kind of feature in Ukraine. Unlike American grocery stores, in Ukrainian stores there are no sales on food and drink. Also there is one more stunning gimmick in American stores, about which I didn't even hear in Ukraine. It is sales adjustment. Once I bought a leather jacket for \$150. When I came next time to the store, these kind of jackets cost \$80. I was really upset. But my friends told me that I can bring the receipt to customer service and get the difference between the old and new prices if I bought it not longer than month earlier. I really got it.

As you can see, it is very difficult not to notice astonishing differences between American customer service and Ukrainian customer service. Polite treatment of customers, respect for rights, and a lot of attractive "come-ons" make all kinds of shopping pleasant. Truly, the bad Ukrainian customer service is one of the reasons why I don't want to return to Ukraine.

## A Big Giver

Ring.....Ring" Thai Basil Cafe May I help you? This conversation always starts around eleven o'clock in the morning. Thai Basil Cafe is the name of the Thai restaurant in which I am working right now. Every day, when the open sign turns on, the radio plays music, and all the ceiling lights are on, people will know that we are open. We always get busy from that point on. On the weekday lunch shift, there are two servers and a busser working together. While I am taking order at the customer table, the other server is answering the phone. The front door of the restaurant is opening. One lady is standing at the door and waiting for us to seat her. She looks special to me. She is an old lady who has a dark skin color but she has blond hair. She is looking around the restaurant and she is acting like she is in a hurry. I have never seen her before. I want to know who she is so, I go to say hi to her and try to help her

"Hi. How are you?" I am asking her. "I am fine" she is answering me right away. She wants a table just for herself. I seat her and put the menu on the table for her. She looks confused, so I am standing beside her and help her with the menu. I am explaining very slowly and hope she understands before she orders her food. She opens her wallet to check her money to see if she has enough money to pay for her food and tip to a server. Then she orders only dessert for her lunch. I am feeling so bad. I feel sorry for her. I think maybe she doesn't have money to buy her lunch but I am not going to

say anything. I take her order and start to walk away from her." Excuse me" she is calling me. "Could you please tell me what I ordered? This question is reminding me of when I worked at a Senior living facility in Washington. I come to her and tell her again. I am very busy but I keep an eye on the lady at all time. Then I see she is get-



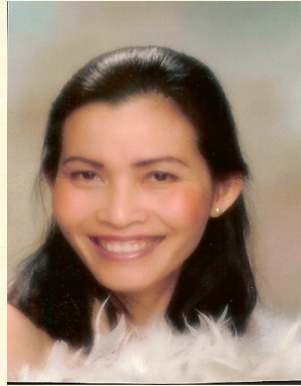
ting up and looks for help. I go back to her table and talk to her. She tells me something just comes into her mind. She needs to go back home as soon as she can. I have to put her order in a "to go" box for her. She gives me money to pay for her dessert and 50c for tip. I say thank you and I hope that she can find the way to go back to her home. After that day, I always hope to see her again and I always ask my co-worker about her. Unfortunately, no one has seen her again. Later that day, I am cleaning up the counter and I am ready to go home. I am taking off my apron when I hear someone say "Excuse me." I remember that voice so well. I am turning around and facing that person." she is here," I tell myself. I almost run to hug her and tell her how much I am glad to see her today but I don't do that. I am looking at her and I can see what her eyes are telling

me. She doesn't remember me. She asks me what kind of sandwich I have today. People around us are looking at us and I know what they are thinking. They are thinking about the lady. They think that lady is crazy to want to buy a sandwich in a Thai restaurant. I don't think like they do. I look at her and tell her." We are sorry. Today we are out of bread, so we can't make any sandwich". She understands and lets me order one thing for her. Again, she opens her wallet, checks her money, and gives me a 50c tip. I don't want her money but I don't want to hurt her feelings either. I only say thank you and take her money. This time, I put her order in a to-go box because she is going to change her mind and tell me that she has something to do again. I give her the food. She is looking at me and says, "Do you know what is in the box? I tell all my co-workers about her and how to take care of her if I am not here when she comes.

She starts to come to the restaurant more often and orders food that we don't have such as pizza, hamburger, and doughnuts. We understand her and take care of her so well no matter how busy we are. We know someday in the future we are going to be like her or maybe worse. Special care should always be given to a special person. It doesn't matter if that person is going to understand or that person is going to remember or not. The giver is always happy to give and remember forever.

## The School in Vietnam

My name is Phuong Cao. I am a student at American River College now. I remember in 1985 I stopped school and bought something such as books, notebooks, and uniform. The school didn't have finances. It was very small and old. The walls and the ceiling were made from coconut trees. The floor was the ground. The school had four classrooms. One classroom had about twenty desks. One desk had four or five seats. It had a small board but it didn't have a TV or clock. They used the sun. They knew what time school started and what time it finished. A day had two times to study. Morning was from 8-11 a.m. and afternoon was from 1-4. It didn't have a parking lot and school bus because they



didn't have cars. Some teachers and students came from rich families so they had bicycles but I didn't. I walked to school. The street (ground) had many bumps. Winter time was wet and dirty. Most people went barefoot. From home to school was 15 miles. It was very difficult for me to go to school.

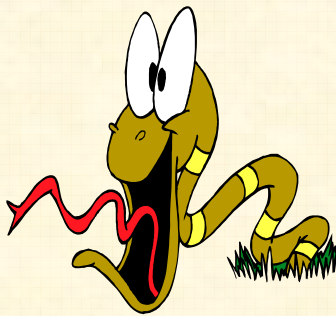
America is civilization, comfortable, riches and well-developed, but Vietnam isn't comfortable because it is poor

and very small. Between America and Vietnam, I like American school. It helps my development to study English. I can contact American people when they speak to me. I can understand it.

Phuong Cao W20

## A Scary Tail

When I was a child my parents always reminded me to beware of snakes because if they would bite you, you would die. One day my friend and I went outside to play. We both got big sticks and big weeds to make a toy. We got the weeds tied to the sticks and pretended that it was a horse. The stick was the body and the weeds were the tail. We rode our toy horse and had a lot of fun. After a little while we decided to go fishing in a pond near our houses. We knew that somewhere in that pond there was a turtle. We never saw a turtle before and were really scared of it because our friend told us that a turtle has almost the same kind of head as a snake. We thought that if it had the same kind of head as a snake, if it bit you, you would die. We went into



the pond with our toys. When I was in the water, the tail of the toy didn't bother me because it floated on top of the water but when we went out of the water, the tail hit me on my leg and the cold water stung me. I got really scared and began to run away very fast because I thought that it was a turtle biting my leg. While I was running, the tail was hitting my legs. I started screaming very loudly but my friend was standing by the pond and laughing so hard that he had to hold his stomach. When I got tired of running and screaming, I stopped. I looked down and recognized that it was only the tail of my toy. I was very happy when I found out that the scary turtle was my toy's tail and that I could still live.

Natalia Stuzhuk R50

# Parrot Warbling



## English Preposition Rule

There is one very simple rule about prepositions. And, unlike most rules, this rule has no exceptions.

### Rule

A preposition is followed by a "noun". It is never followed by a verb.

By "noun" we include:

- **noun** (dog, money, love)
- **proper noun (name)** (Bangkok, Mary)
- **pronoun** (you, him, us)
- **noun group** (my first job)
- **gerund** (swimming)

A preposition cannot be followed by a verb. If we want to follow a preposition by a verb, we must use the "-ing" form which is really a gerund or verb in noun form.

**Quick Quiz:** In the following sentences, why is "to" followed by a verb? That should be impossible, according to the above rule:

- I would like to go now.
- She used to smoke.

Here are some examples:

Subject + verb	preposition	"noun"
The food is	on	the table.
She lives	in	Japan.
Tara is looking	for	you.
The letter is	under	your blue book.
Pascal is used	to	English people.
She isn't used	to	working.
I ate	before	coming.

## Idiom Attic



### Smell a Rat

How come the front door is open? Didn't you close it before we went shopping? I'm sure I did. I can't understand it. Frankly, I **smell a rat**.

Me, too. I'm **convinced that something is definitely wrong** here. We'd better call the police.

## Rigoberto's Riddles

**What kind of cheese is made backwards?**

*Edam cheese*

**What city has no people?**

*Electri-city*

**Why was the baby ant confused?**

*All of his uncles were ants.*

**What do you call a song about a car?**

*A car-tune*



**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 Bracco@arc.losrios.edu



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



# Out of the Cage

**Saturday, May 10, 2008**

[Theatre Event]

11:00 am The Frog Princess



Bring the kids to see this 1 hour children's show of a Russian folktale: A queen sends her three princes out to find their wives, and one returns with a frog. See what happens as they learn to look beyond surface appearance to ability and love.

Tickets are available at the door. Performances at 11am and 1pm.

**Monday, May 12, 2008**

[Career Center]

2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

**Internships: A way to your Career Workshop**  
Did you know that nearly 58% of students who had an internship with a company were offered full-time jobs by that same company? And did you know that employers would prefer to hire a student with experience through internships than a student with a degree alone? This workshop explains why internships are such an important step towards your career. The workshop will also explain how to get an internship through the Co-op Work Experience & Internship Program. Open to all majors, don't miss it!

\* Facilitated by the Cooperative Work Experience & Internship Office

**Wednesday, May 14, 2008**

[Music Event]

8:00 pm

ARC Orchestra Concert

The ARC Chamber Orchestra, directed by Dr. Steven Thompson and Gerald Lopes, will present a concert of symphonic music.

The concert will be held in the ARC Theater at 8:00PM.

For more information, contact Dr. Steven Thompson at 484-8368.



**Saturday, May 17, 2008**

[All-Campus Event]

7:30 pm

**Spring Dance Concert**  
American River College Dance presents the Spring Dance Concert.

The Dance Company and guest artists from the dance community will perform at 7:30 p.m. on May 16 and 17, in the ARC Theatre.

Admission is \$5.00 at the door only. For more information call 484-8321.



## Study English in the air-conditioned comfort of the Learning Resource Center from June 23rd – July 31st!

The ESL Center will offer all of its regular modules:  
Conversation Skills    Reading & Vocabulary Workbooks  
Grammar & Writing    English on the Computer

Register for Summer 2008 in any open section of ESL 97:  
14180    14183    14186    14189



- To enroll, you must qualify for ESL 30 level courses (or above).
- Register for as little as .5 unit or for as many as 3 units.
- Earn credit by completing attendance requirements and assigned work. It is possible to start late or finish early.

Times are flexible: You can come during any open hours on Monday through Thursday from 8:00am – 2:00pm

**Come visit the ESL Center for more information or help with registration!**

# INTERNATIONAL LIFE



On Friday April 18, 2008, the International Student Department hosted a campus event called the Spring International Expo 2008. This multicultural event was a great success and an appropriate launch for celebrating Multicultural Week at ARC. This event entailed a variety of venues such as Country Display Tables, Cultural Attire and Fashion, and Cultural Performances by our enthusiastic international students and domestic students at ARC. The students prepared very elaborate and informational display tables of Vietnam, Colombia, Britain, Latin America, Germany, South Korea, Brazil, Greece, Russia, and Nigeria. A popular table was the British display table, where Linda, Arrhen, and Susan served British Tea and other tasty British snacks.

By Malik, Jamil

# INTERNATIONAL LIFE

Students also shared beautiful cultural attire and fashion from India, Africa, Vietnam, Taiwan, Tanzania, Sri Lanka, Armenia, and Cambodia. One of our International Students in the ARC Fashion Design Program, Enkmaa, showcased several of her beautiful creations inspired by her Mongolian background. The audience voted for Mr. ARC International (David- Tanzania) and Ms. ARC International (Tien- Vietnam), who were awarded \$50 ARC Bookstore Gift Certificates.





## *ESL Students and Their Success at the ARC Multicultural Fair*

The ESL students brought cultural diversity to ARC as they participated in the ARC Multicultural Fair on April 29<sup>th</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup>. Their cultural displays, music, and singing received great attention from the fairgoers. Also, the ESL students served ethnic food (Chinese, Columbian, Mexican, Thai, Russian, and Ukrainian) that truly pleased the fairgoers. Indeed, the ESL students had a remarkable success at the fair!



Anatoliy Khashchuk's performance was the highlight of the Multicultural Fair, and the ESL group was excited to be in this picture with him and Dean of Humanities, Dr. Lisa Lawrenson (second from left).



ESL students served a variety of ethnic food and sold all of it in only one hour.



Ping (Zoe) Liu's Chinese cultural display was one of the most popular attractions at the Multicultural Fair.



Posing for the Parrot: "Say Squawk!"

# INTERNATIONAL LIFE



**Our students also prepared and practiced for the amazing performances that entertained the audience. We had Bolormaa (Mongolia) and Satomi (Japan), musicians who played elegantly on the violin and piano while people ate dinner. Rucha (India) and her friends performed a traditional Indian dance, while Bisi, Basola, and Bankie (Nigeria) sang a traditional Nigerian song. The CSUS African Student Association also performed an enchanting cultural dance, followed by our ARC Dance Club and their performance of hip-hop and break dancing. Rainie (China), Alina (Romania), and Than & Tien (Vietnam) sang lovely songs in their respective languages. The performances also featured a Colombian couple who play professional traditional music with a variety of instruments.**



# INTERNATIONAL LIFE

Many of our campus departments and community businesses donated over 2 dozen different raffle items, which were raffled out throughout the evening. The Spring International Expo 2008 was a wonderful educational, entertaining, and fun campus event! Definitely something to look forward to each semester!



# Ready for The Holidays?

## Frog Jumping Day

**When:** May 13th

*Frog Jumping Day* is a great day to jump like a frog. Or, is today intended to jump "over" a frog? Either way, today is a fun day. But, is this truly the reason for this day? Read on.....



The roots of Frog Jumping Day go back to Mark Twain's first short story. It was first published in 1865 as "Jim Smiley and His Jumping Frog". Later, he published it as "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County". It is also known under a third title "The Notorious Jumping Frog of Calaveras County".

While we have discovered many links and references to *Frog Jumping Day* evolving from this Mark Twain short story, we have yet to discover the reason for this particular date. May 13th is neither the date of Mark Twain's birth, nor his death.

How is the best way to celebrate *Frog Jumping Day*?

- Read Mark Twain's story "Jim Smiley and His Jumping Frog"
- Also, we don't think Mark Twain would mind if you jumped like a frog or jumped a frog today.

## National Bike to Work Day

**When:** Always the third Friday in May  
*National Bike to Work Day* is a great opportunity to get some exercise, and to save gas.

Here is what *National Bike to Work Day* is all about. This information is straight from the League of American Bicyclists.....

National Bike Month was started by the League. 2006 marks the 50th anniversary. The event was timed to coincide with the arrival of warmer weather. It has inspired countless bike rides, safety inspections, commuter challenges, ribbon-cuttings, "share the road" promotions, and other varied celebrations of bicycling in communities across the nation.

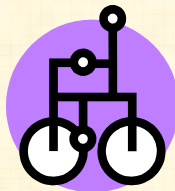
One of the most popular activities in Bike Month, is encouraging people to bicycle to work and forsake their motor vehicles for just one day. Bike to Work Week is the third week in May, and the third Friday in May is designated as National Bike to Work Day.

The League was founded as the League of American Wheelmen in 1880. Bicyclists, known then as "wheelmen", were challenged by rutted roads of gravel and dirt, and faced antagonism from horsemen, wagon drivers, and pedestrians.

### Origin of National Bike to Work Day:

League of American Bicyclists create National Bike Month, Week, and Day. For more information, visit the [League of American Bicyclists website](#).

We did not find any documentation confirming this to be a "National" day by either an congressional records or a presidential proclamation.



## Dance Like a Chicken Day

**When:** May 14th



*Dance Like a Chicken Day* is for those who like to do the "Chicken Dance". All 'ya gotta do is dance like a chicken. While any dance song

will do, there's no dance like the Chicken dance.

It's tradition at every wedding reception to play and to dance the Chicken Dance. It gets people of all ages up dancing and mingling. It puts a smile on everyone's face. The Chicken Dance is not limited to weddings. It is also played at other social events where there is a band and dancing.

The only problem is that events are way too frequent for a chicken dance lover. Therefore, today exists to provide you with another opportunity to dance like a chicken. So, don't pass up this priceless opportunity.

**Origin of Dance Like a Chicken Day:** Our research did not find the creator, or the origin of this day. We did uncover the origin of the Chicken Dance song. It was originally titled "Der Ententanz" (The Duck Dance). It was created by Swiss accordion player Werner Thomas of Davos, Switzerland. Thomas created it in the 1950's. Over the years, it quickly became popular, especially at weddings

## Be a Millionaire Day

**When:** May 20th

*Be a Millionaire Day* is a day everyone wants to enjoy. Everyone wants to enjoy today as a member of the millionaire club.

Okay, so a million bucks ain't what it used to be. But, it is still a lot of money. I have no doubt everyone reading this would like to join the Millionaire's Club. Then, after reaching it, you can work on your qualifications for the Billionaire's Club.

If you are a millionaire, savor and enjoy the day. If not, we offer a number of ways to participate in *Be a Millionaire Day*:

- Review your investments. Look for ways to improve them.
- Review your investment portfolio with a trusted investment or financial planner.
- Increase your deposits to your savings accounts.
- Start or add to your 401K. This is always a good starting point.
- Review your spending. Many Millionaires get there by a combination hard work, sound investment, and frugal spending.
- Go to a casino.



When all else fails, buy a lottery ticket....just one.

**Thought for today:** " All I ask is for a chance to prove that money doesn't buy happiness". Author unknown.

# More Student Chirpings

## English — I'm All Choked Up!

When I was 15 years old, I saw a newspaper article with a story. A boy in China was studying English, but had nobody to study with. He was a good student in school. He learned some new words. One day, he was eating food at the table with his family for supper. When his father told him how about study, he said OK. His father asked him, "Are you full? He said in English, "Yes". His father didn't understand English but he was upset and raised his hand to hit the boy.



The son was shocked why his father wanted to hit him. Mother said, "What happened?" Your son would let me die! The boy apologized to his dad, "Don't worry about that; I'm just practicing my English." The "yes" meant correct. The sound of the word "yes" in Chinese means to choke on one's food. His father and mother laughed about this "yes". It made me laugh, too.

June Sun R50

## Binoculars

This is a real story about me. When I was 10 years old, I had friend named Natalia. Natalia was my best friend. We liked to play different games and much more. Once, Natalia told me, "My father is a hunter and he has real binoculars.

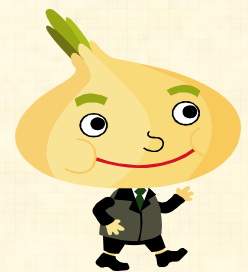


Sometimes my father gives me the binoculars to look around." Also she told me, "Once I climbed a tree and I saw everything really close!" I thought that I wanted to look through the binoculars, too, and asked Natalia for the binoculars too. When I took the binoculars, I was so glad that I held real binoculars. I decided to look through the binoculars at the road and went to the curb of the road, where there weren't any cars. I began to look around, but suddenly I saw a big truck coming straight at me! Then I saw the biggest headlights, and the biggest tires ever! I was shocked! I left dizzy, and I fell down. Then, I heard my friend Natalia laughing at me! I opened my eyes and saw that I was alive and healthy. The big truck was very far from us. I began laughing too. I was laughing for a really long time and, I didn't want to look in the binoculars anymore.

Ina Zubko R50

## So Funny You'll Cry: An "A-Peeling" Moment

One day I visited my sister. She lived in our village, (apartments). While I talked to her, our children played together. Later, she asked me, "Do you want to hear a funny story?" She started to laugh. I did not understand what kind of story she wanted to tell me. She told me, "You will believe my son is very smart," and started to explain.



"Yesterday, I was in my room on the second floor. I told Bogdan, who is 8 years old, "Go to the kitchen and peel a few onions, and so he went."

When I came to the kitchen, I did not understand what was happening. Bogdan was wearing a pair of big safety glasses and peeling onions. He was like a frog. I started to laugh and asked him, "Why are you wearing those glasses and where did you find them?" He answered me, "I know where I found them. It is secret." I am wearing them because I don't want to cry, and continued peeling the onions.

Bogdan's aunt R50

## Helpful Son

My sister, Diana, has 5 children: 3 boys and 2 girls. The oldest boy is 7 and the next daughter is 5 years old. They are resourceful and smart. Also they observe how and what their parents do and try to help them. Their father often takes his sons with him to work in their garden, in their garage, or anywhere it is possible for them to be with their father. They like to be with him and pretend they do something important for their parents.



But they like to do something for their parents when their parents aren't watching them.

This happened two years ago. Their father wasn't at home. Their mom asked her oldest son to

bring something in from outside. When he went into the yard, he saw a bottle of soda. He remembered how his father took a container of gasoline and poured it into the gas tank of the car. He thought about it and immediately planned to fill the tank. He went back in the house quietly and went into the bathroom and filled the bottle with water and then ran outside. He unscrewed the lid of the tank and poured in his "gasoline". He came back to mom and told her about his help!

Once when he was 4, he also "fixed" the headlight on the car with a hammer. Now he is a good helper for his father. (We think).

Liubov Trifan R50

## A Midsummer Nights Dream?

There are five children in my family. I am the oldest of my two brothers and two sisters. When we were kids, we used to play together, eat together, and go out together. We all shared the same room, too. In the Philippines, most people only have two or three-bedroom houses. At that time, we only had two bedrooms, one for my mom and dad and one for the kids. So we had two bunk beds in the other room, which was enough for four of us before my youngest sister was born.

One summer time, we went to the beach. We all had so much fun with other kids. We ate barbecue, rice, and desserts. We played a lot and drank a lot. None of us wanted to go home yet, but we had a long way to drive home, so we had to leave.



We arrived home late and tired that night, so we all went straight to bed. We all fell sound asleep in just a matter of seconds. But I had this dream that we were still at the beach, playing, and I was still enjoying the water at the ocean when I suddenly woke up and felt my face was all wet. I then realized that my sister, who was sleeping on the upper part of the bunk bed, had wet her bed while she was asleep and it had soaked through the bed and dripped down onto my face!

The next morning, when my parent asked us, I told them about my dream and my sister said that she was having the same dream. We all laughed loudly, and my sister made us promise not to tell anyone.

Angelina Crudo R50

*Continued from first page*

Spanish TV programs and force myself to speak more English. I think the only way you can know and become accustomed to the American culture and life style is by learning English.

***Do you enjoy being at ARC? Why?***

Yes, I really enjoy being a student at ARC because I have very good teachers and all the staff is very nice.

***Are there any changes you'd like to see on campus or on your job?***

Yes, some of the classrooms where I take my classes still have chalkboards. I think that is not healthy and hygienic for my teachers and classmates because most of the times when they have to use the chalk, particles of it fall on their

clothing as a consequence their clothes get dirty. Furthermore, even when the main ingredients of chalk dust are considered to be non-toxic, chalk dust can accumulate in the respiratory system and it can create long-term health problems due to overexposure. Moreover, it can cause some problems for people with chronic breathing issues such as asthma. For that reason, I think it would be much better if the classrooms had only marker boards instead of chalkboards.

***Briefly describe an average day for yourself at ARC.***

I take my Grammar 320 class from 10:15 A.M to 12:00 P.M. After that, I go to the ESL Learning Center and spend between two and two and a half hours there. I take my ESLW 310 class from 5:00 to 7:00.

After that, I take my ESLR 310 class from 7:15 to 9:00.

***Would you say being on the cover of the parrot is the highlight of your life or were there other big moments? Describe.***

I cannot say no, because in the United States this is my first highlight. But, I did have some highlights in my native country. One of them happened when I was in high school I was elected queen of the school and I was interviewed by the local newspaper.

***What future plans do you have?***

First of all, I am planning to get my US citizenship. After that I would like to get my degree in law here in the United States and get a job in the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

## Granny Noetal

**Dear Granny,**

My teacher warned our class that if we are on the waiting list for this fall's classes, we should be careful and consider taking classes at the Natomas campus. I was 12<sup>th</sup> last semester on a waiting list and still got signed in to class. Why should I worry?

**Alfredo E. Numano**

**Dear Alfredo,**

I asked John Gamber of our ESL Department and this is what he said:

"It used to be that students who didn't get into a course on our ARC campus had about a week to find a

section at the Natomas Center on Del Paso Avenue.

However, this fall the classes will start the same day as classes on the main campus. To make matters scar-

ier, the tight budget this year means that any sections that are not already fairly full on the first day of class will be cut.

This means that waiting for a seat to open on campus may leave a lot of students with no section at all. If you are lower than third or fourth on a waiting list for a main-campus section, sign up for a Natomas section."

So, Alfredo, register early and find a place. If not, worry!

**Granny**

