



The Parrot

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

Issue # 21

Fall 2008

Chatting with 3 International Students: Army Vets!

"I told the doctor I broke my leg in two places. He told me to quit going to those places."

Henny Youngman

Anna: Hi, my name is Anna Kim and I'm here to interview you guys. Tell us a little bit about yourself please.

Harry: I'm Harry. Nice to meet you Anna.

Anna: Nice to meet you.

Harry: I'm handsome and I'm smart. Kidding. I'm humorous and nice. How about you, Yoon?

Yoon: Ok. My name is Yoon. I'm an ESL student. I have been here almost two years. I just finished two semesters here and now I'm trying to get extra credit.

Weerasak: Um.. my name is Weerasak and my nick name is VIKI. I'm from Thailand. I'm mixed nationality Thailand, China, and Japan. I mean my father is Chinese and my mother is Japanese and I was born in Thailand. I've been here for 3 and a half years.

Anna: So Weerasak is from Thailand. How about you guys? Where are you from?

Harry: Yoon and I am from Korea. But as you can see, I look Japanese.

Anna: Harry, how long have you been here?

Harry: Almost one year. Here it is s so-o boring.



From left to right: Harry, Yoon, Weerasak.

Yoon: Why?

Harry: Why? Because of the hot weather and no entertainment. I just enjoy drinking every night.

Anna: Do you like drinking, Yoon?

Yoon: Not really.

Anna: How about you, Weerasak~?

Weerasak: I don't like drinking.

Yoon: Have you ever been drunk? Can you drink? Actually you are under 21.

Weerasak: Actually I can in my country. I can. But not here. Anyway I don't like it.

Anna: Have you ever asked your father to buy beer or something? How can you buy liquor?

Weerasak: No, I've never bought it here.

Yoon: How about cigarettes?

Weerasak: I already quit.

Yoon: Which means you did, right?

Anna: You used to smoke right?

Weerasak: Yeah.

Anna: How old are you?

Weerasak: 20

Anna: How about you guys?

Yoon: I'm 26.

Harry: I'm 27. Pretty old.

Anna: What do you think about ARC here, Yoon?

Extra! Parrot throws hat in ring !!!

See page 14



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

Yoon: It's a very nice place. Good weather, beautiful campus. But what I don't like is the library is always closed early.

Anna: Yeah. It isn't even open on Sunday. What classes are you taking now, Weerasak?

Weerasak: Just ESL.

Anna: Just ESL? Do you like those classes?

Weerasak: Yeah, I do. I'm taking writing and listening classes.

Anna: Good. What about you guys, Yoon and Harry?

Yoon: I'm taking listening and grammar classes. Those are pretty good. I mean they are helpful for studying English.

Continues on page 13

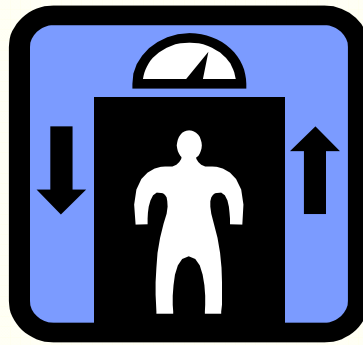
Student Chirpings

An Elevator

An elevator is a machine in a building that takes people one level to another. It is very common in America. But, it was very new and so strange to one in my country, Vietnam, in Southeast Asia.

This elevator story became the funny story. This story happened in Saigon City. This is a true story that I saw. In 1975 when the Communist army took over South Vietnam, Hoi Chi Minh's soldiers walked around the streets of Saigon City. Everything there was very strange to them. They just came here from North Vietnam, which was very

different from South Vietnam. They looked carefully at everything they saw. When they came to a high



building on Tran Hung Dao Street, they walked to the room with an elevator. They didn't know how only one man would go in but five minutes later two women would come out. Because they only saw the elevator as only one small room

with just one door. Sometimes an old man went in, and then a young woman came out. They didn't know it was an elevator. They called it a "change person machine". They thought that it could change a man into a woman or old man into a young man.

This is a true story. I saw it. The time passed over 30 years. My country couldn't develop because these people have controlled everything in my country. It was very terrible!!..

Hung Nguyen R50

My Funny Story

When I was still in the Philippines, we sponsored an event at my church. We did this event three nights and two days. Every 30 minutes, we had to go in a room and pray. My two friends went to this room to pray. When they prayed and sang, my other friend sang differently, so the other friend laughed really so hard, and she wet her

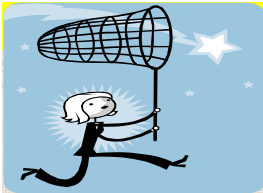
pants. Her pants were soaked. She had to go home and change her



clothes. My other funny story is when I was still new in this country. My mom, my dad, and I, every

morning, always walked for exercise. When we were about to go out from our house, my mom told me, "How come it's so dark outside?" She thought that it was going to rain. I told her that it was so dark because she was wearing dark glasses. She forgot that she was wearing sunglasses.

Alma L. Buenaventura R50



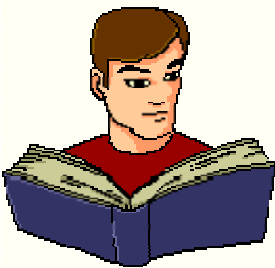
NET Escape - Articles from the net.

Some Hecka Cool Holidays for September

Read a Book Day

When: September 6th

Read a Book Day is today. Take time out of your busy life, and relax with a good book. Cozy up on a chair,



indoors or out. It doesn't matter where you read that book, as long as you can do so in a comfortable manner. If you doze off along the way, we won't tell anyone. Reading is a great lifetime

hobby. It offers so many positive attributes. It's relaxing and therapeutic. It's educational. Its entertaining. And, a whole lot of other good things, too. If you have young children, or elderly people in your home, take the time to read a book to them today. It is a wonderful time to bond with them and it creates pleasant, lasting memories.

When: September 13th

Positive Thinking Day is all about attitude.... a positive attitude. It's a lot like the ant, when faced with moving a rubber tree plant, he thought, "I think I can". With that in mind, I just know that everything will go fine from this day forward. The power of positive thinking is absolutely astounding. Medical research confirms that a positive attitude works wonders at fighting disease and ailments, from the common cold to cancer. People with an "I think I can" attitude are far more likely to succeed at work, and in accomplishing every goal they set in life.



Today's Quote: "It takes just a moment to change your attitude. And, in that quick moment, you can change your entire day." - - Author Unknown

Have a happy *Positive Thinking Day!* We just know you're going to have a spectacular day.

Origin of Positive Thinking Day:

We have not found the creator of this special day.....yet. But, do you know what I'm thinking? I'm pretty positive that we will soon find the creator of *Positive Thinking Day!*

No News Is Good News Day

When: September 11th

Turn off all news broadcasts. Today is *No News Is Good News Day*. We all could use a little good news. No radio broadcasts. No television newscasts. And, heaven forbid...avoid the newspaper at all costs. Your local fish wrapper is always filled with bad news. The news media thrives on bad news. Take a day off from all the bad news. Happy *No News Is Good News Day!*

Origin of No News Is Good News Day:

We found no factual information about this special day. It did not take us long to figure out why the lack of information about this special day. You'd think this special day is truly newsworthy. But, the creator felt that no news is good news. Recognizing this "Catch 22," he (or she) remained silent about his creation.

Citizenship Day

When: Always September 17th

Citizenship Day celebrates being a citizen of the United States of America. This special day is for all citizens, both native-born, and those who chose to become Americans. It is a day to be proud to be an American. It is a day to appreciate being a citizen of this country and the rights and freedoms it brings. We suggest



American citizens never take for granted the rights, freedoms, and privileges afforded us, as citizens of the United States of America. We suggest today, and every day, you express your citizenship in some way. It's the sum of all of the actions and deeds by famous and "ordinary" citizens that makes this country so great.

To each and every American citizen, we wish you a very *Happy Citizenship Day!*

Origin of Citizenship Day:

On February 29, 1952, President Harry Truman signed a bill establishing Citizenship Day on September 17 of each year. The roots of this holiday go back to *I Am an American Day*, which was established in 1940 by Congress as the third Sunday in May. This day was moved and renamed Citizenship Day to coincide with the signing of the U.S. Constitution on September 17, 1787.

Ask a Stupid Question Day

When : September 28th, sometimes celebrated on the last school day of September.

Ask a Stupid Question Day is your opportunity to speak up, and to ask all those questions you were afraid to ask. All those questions that you thought were too



stupid or dumb to ask, have been piling up all year long. C'mon, give it a try! Nobody will laugh.....we hope.

This may be a stupid question, but I will ask it anyway..... Teachers say there is no such thing as a stupid question. Or, that no question is too stupid to ask. If this is true, then why do your classmates laugh when you ask a question? Yes, kids can be cruel. But, if you have a question, there's no better place to ask than in the classroom.

Origin of "Ask a Stupid Question Day":

The roots of this special day go back to the 1980's. At the time, there was a movement by teachers to try to get kids to ask more questions in the classroom. Kids sometimes hold back, fearing their question is stupid, and asking it will result in ridicule. Teachers created this day on September 28. If it fell on a weekend, they would celebrate it on the last day of the month.

Presidential Race!!

Words to Help You in Reading

- **ballot** - a list of people trying to get elected
- **campaign** - when people act together to try to get a candidate elected to a job
- **caucus** - a meeting that happens in some states to choose candidates for the political party's convention (only members of the political party can go to these meetings)
- **convention** - meeting where a political party chooses their candidate
- **debate** - a formal meeting where the candidates discuss and argue about the things that they think are important in our country
- **Democrat** - someone who belongs to the Democratic Party
- **Democratic Party** - one of the two major political parties in the U.S.
- **election** - when people choose the person they want to do the job
- **electoral votes** - the number of votes each state has (based on the number of people who live in that state)
- **oath** - a promise
- **polling location** - place where people vote
- **primary** - an election that happens in some states to choose candidates for the political party's convention (only members of the party can vote in these elections)
- **political party** - people who have similar interests, beliefs, and goals about the things that are important to our country
- **Republican** - someone who belong to the Republican Party
- **Republican Party** - one of the two major political parties in the U.S.
- **running mate** - a candidate who is running with another candidate

The Job

Requirements:

- Must be at least 35 years old.
- Citizen of the United States.
- Lived in the United States for at least 14 years.



Time of Employment:

- 4 years, possibility of a second 4 years

Salary

- \$400,000 plus
- \$50,000 expenses
- \$40,000 transportation
- Free housing and meals

Responsibilities

- Chooses cabinet members
- Commands all of our military
- Meets with leaders of foreign countries
- Make treaties with foreign countries
- Appoint judges and ambassadors
- Proposes laws
- Signs bills into law and vetoes bills
- Protects the laws of the United States
- Pardons criminals
- Reports to Congress once a year

Lost Parrot Gives Vet Its Name and Address

When Yosuke the parrot flew out of his cage and got lost, he did exactly what he had been taught -- recite his name and address to a stranger willing to help. Police rescued the African grey parrot two weeks ago from a neighbor's roof in the city of Nagareyama, near Tokyo. After spending a night at the station, he was transferred to a nearby veterinary hospital while police searched for clues, local policeman Shinjiro Uemura said. He kept mum with the cops, but

began chatting after a few days with the vet. "I'm Mr. Yosuke Nakamura," the bird told the



veterinarian, according to Uemura. The parrot also provided his full home address, down to the street number, and even entertained the hospital staff by

singing songs. "We checked the address, and what do you know, a Nakamura family really lived there. So we told them we've found Yosuke," Uemura said. The Nakamura family told police they had been teaching the bird its name and address for about two years. But Yosuke apparently wasn't keen on opening up to police officials. "I tried to be friendly and talked to him, but he completely ignored me," Uemura said.

cnn.com 2008

Discuss these English bloopers with your teacher. Why are they funny?

- Breeding a dog in the city is very difficult.
- We put the meat in the freezer after we came home from chopping.
- She likes to wash TV when she gets home.
- My cousin is having four cats.
- The police use their powder to treat people badly.
- Family values are falling apart because parents are spitting up.
- Maybe I can find a bitter job.
- She asked for Wednesdays off to saw her psychiatrist.
- He was bland so he couldn't see me.
- Americans wear snickers all the time, even at work.
- The police didn't punish me because I was a miner.
- After her shower, she gets dressing in her jeans.
- In the army, I had to pluck potatoes.
- You must be as brave as a loin.
- After my father hit my boyfriend, we didn't see ourselves anymore.
- He had to go to the hospital for some testes



Parrot Warbling



Idiom Attic



Go to the Dogs

Have you seen their house lately? It's really *gone to the dogs*.

It's true that it has *become run-down and in serious need of repair*, but I'm sure that it can be fixed up to look like new.

I guess with a little carpentry work and some paint it could look pretty decent.

Use of Comparative Adjectives

We use comparative adjectives when talking about 2 things (not 3 or 10 or 1,000,000 things, only 2 things). Often, the comparative adjective is followed by "than". Look at these examples:

- John is 1m80. He is tall. But Chris is 1m85. He is **taller** than John.
- America is big. But Russia is **bigger**.
- I want to have a **more powerful** computer.
- Is French **more difficult** than English?

If we talk about the two planets Earth and Mars, we can compare them as shown in the table below:

	Earth	Mars	
Diameter (km)	12,760	6,790	Mars is smaller than Earth.
Distance from Sun (million km)	150	228	Mars is more distant from the Sun.
Length of day (hours)	24	25	A day on Mars is slightly longer than a day on Earth.
Moons	1	2	Mars has more moons than Earth.
Surface temperature (°C)	22	-23	Mars is colder than Earth.

Although we use comparative adjectives when talking about **two** things (not three or more things), in fact one or both of the things may be a group of things.

Mt Everest is higher than all other mountains.

Here, we are talking about hundreds of mountains, but we are still comparing one thing (Mt Everest) to one other thing (all other mountains).

Rigoberto's Riddles

What do you get when you cross Sponge-Bob with Albert Einstein?

SpongeBob Smarty Pants

How could a cowboy ride into town on Friday, stay two days, and ride out on Friday?

His horse is named Friday

What do you call a fish without an eye?

A fsh



Questions/ Comments?



Please let us know what we can do to improve the "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 Brac-cop@arc.losrios.edu

Student editors— **Christian Valenzuela , Natalia Arboleda, Ivy Balansag**

More Student Chirpings

Cross-Cultural Communication Barriers

Communication is commonly defined as the act of sending messages whether verbally or not. It is a well-known fact that we, as human beings, cannot live without transmitting our thoughts, feelings or ideas to others. In fact, communication skills play such an important role in people's lives that we won't be able to achieve any kind of success without making use of them. Nowadays, when interaction of people with different nationalities and cultural backgrounds is increasing, people are facing barriers that keep them from reaching a reciprocal understanding. In the article entitled "Intercultural Communication Stumbling Blocks" by LaRay M. Barna, the author points out that those obstacles range from the misunderstandings in language to high anxiety. From my point of view, the author is right in her points because of the following reasons.

First of all, Barna states that in a cross-cultural group of people the differences concerning language can lead to misinterpretations, but also nonverbal ways of expression such as signs and symbols can cause communication barriers among them. Also,

Barna says that "The reason the problem is 'worse' is that each thinks he understands." From my experiences at my old job and school, I would say that these points are very true. When I came to this country and started working at a restaurant, I often had problems with the customers for the reason that I used to say "What do



you want?" since that it was the closest translation that I could find for "Que desea?" in Spanish, which really means "What would you like?" in English. I never thought that saying that to an English-speaking customer was discourteous. Moreover, on certain occasions when I was in high school, one of my friends asked a Romanian girl who had just come from her country if they could meet at the cafeteria to have lunch together. The girl nodded her head and my friend

thought that she said yes, but when he went to meet the girl he couldn't find her, so we realized that in her culture nodding was a negative answer.

In addition, the author makes a good point when including stereotyping and the tendency to evaluate as "stumbling blocks" in communication. Since it is part of human nature to make assumptions about anything, certain groups of people very often make generalizations about the others. These preconceptions are wrong and, as the author states, they "interfere with the objective viewing of stimuli." For instance, I know many Americans who consider that all the people who believe in Islam or come from a middle-east country are connected with some terrorist organization. Not only that, they tend to judge Islam as an evil religion. Obviously, this is not true, but this stereotype of Islamic people and the judgment of their religious believe could make Americans stay away from them and the communication between these two cultures would be affected. As a more personal illustration, I very often experience stereotyping. Most of

the time that somebody hears me speaking Spanish, that person usually thinks that I'm an illegal alien who came from a small, poor Mexican town.

Finally, the last point in which I agree with Barna is the one about high anxiety. Like the author, I also believe that a cross-cultural experience can be very stressful. In fact, I consider that high anxiety is the biggest "stumbling block" in communication among people with diverse lan-

guages and cultural backgrounds because it keeps them from breaking the communication ice. For instance, I know many international students who avoid working in groups for the reason that they are so worried that the others would laugh at them because of their bad English. I, myself, experienced high anxiety during my first days of college.

To conclude, communication plays a vital role in people's lives.

However, it is ironic that in these days

when interaction among individuals with different nationalities and languages is increasing, people are finding obstacles that keep them from understanding each other. Those obstacles vary from language to high anxiety. Fortunately, they can be overcome if we make an effort to comprehend each other without taking a judging attitude.

Christian Valenzuela W340

A Book Review

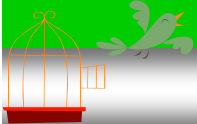
I read Anne of Green Gables by L.M. Montgomery. This book is about a woman, Marilla Cuthbert, and her brother Matthew Cuthbert, who had planned to adopt a boy to help them out around their farm, Green Gables. But the orphanage makes a mistake and sends a girl instead of a boy. The girl's name is Anne Shirley and she is a very talkative eleven-year-old. Anne has a small, white freckled face with big green eyes and two long red braids. I was very impressed by this orphan girl Anne. She was very determined to do her best in school. She got to Queen's Academy to study for a teacher's

license and she finished two years in one year and she won the Avery Scholarship. She kept a secret about what kept her studying. Her rivalry with Gilbert Blythe helped



her work hard and steadily. After graduating from Queen's Academy, Anne became good friends with Gilbert. They needed to catch up after five years of not talking. I recommend this book to everybody

because this story is about an orphan girl, Anne Shirley, who finally finds herself a home that she had wished for all her life. She learns to love and to be loved by people who provide everything for a happy life. Anne was a very good person and she pays back these strangers who adopted her. When Matthew died and Marilla started to lose her vision, Anne decided to stay at home and start to teach at a local school and take care of Marilla and save the Green Gables farm from being sold. She was always a happy and delightful young lady.



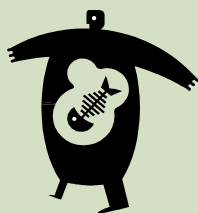
Out of The Cage

Off — Campus and On — Campus

Free Workshop-Natural Solutions to Digestive Disorders

Wednesday, August 27, 2008
7:00pm - 8:00pm

“Alternative Approaches to Preventing and Handling Common Digestive Disorders” Do you wonder what’s wrong? Find out... SEATING IS LIMITED-CALL 916-903-8815!



Location: Peak Performance Wellness Center 8580 Elk Ridge Way, Elk Grove, CA 95624 (916) 903-8815

Summer fest Beer, Wine, & Art Festival

Saturday, September 6, 2008
1:00pm – 5:00pm

Summer Fest will feature our area local Breweries, Wineries, Restaurants, Artists, and Live music. Located along the scenic Sacramento River in Miller Park on Saturday, Sept. 6, 2008.



Location: Miller Park 2790 Marina View Way, Sacramento, CA 95818

The Changing Roles of Women in the World — ARC

Thursday, September 11, 2008
12:15 pm - 1:15 pm



Please join Dr. Soheir Stolba in a presentation of the changing role of women in the world. Dr. Stolba will present her current field research results.

Location: Raef Hall 160



Sacramento Valley AIDS Run/Walk

Sunday, September 14, 2008
7:30am - 11:00am

The SVARW will take place on Sept. 14th at the West Steps of the State Capitol. The only AIDS Run in Northern CA! All proceeds will go to local HIV/AIDS service organizations.



Location: West Steps, State Capitol

10th and L Streets, Sacramento, CA 95814

Movie in 3-D: Adventures in Wild California (Documentary)

Filmmaker Greg MacGillivray captures snowboarders, sky-surfers and others in the state's rugged terrain. Every day, 41 minutes long.

Web Site: <http://wildca.com>



Location: Esquire IMAX Theatre (1211 K St, Sacramento, CA 95814)

In between 1:00pm – 4:00pm

Sacramento Old City Association (SOCA) Annual Home Tour

Sunday, September 21, 2008

SOCA's Annual Home Tour will be on Sunday, September 21 (10:00 am-4:00 pm), featuring old and new residences in the historic Winn Park and Capitol Avenue neighborhoods

Location: Winn Park Historic District, N Street, Sacramento, CA, 94207



Summer Travel Blog – Croatia



July 14

We arrive at the village of Bacina, a small place nestled on a lake and built into and around large rocks. An agricultural area, it must be a hard place for farmers to eke out a living. Inquiries reveal that, indeed, our friend Helen's grandfather came from this village, but it's not exactly clear who the man was, as there were several men of the same first and last name who emigrated to America at about the same time. In the meantime, our guest-house proprietor laughingly swears that I look like a Bogunovic, the people who live on the other side of the lake (movie-star-types, I assume.) I take it in stride, knowing that my roots are Italian and Irish but also knowing that bald men or fashionably scalped men (I am the former) look alike everywhere.



July 17

I've never been on a cruise before, but I conveniently imagine that the overnight ferry sailing from World Heritage site Dubrovnik to Rijeka is a cruise for which I have paid a handsome fee. There are no starched napkins or starched crew welcoming us aboard, no idle rich with idle poodles that I can see, and no list of activities and feeding times, but there is water, lots of it, in Croatian blue, and a coastline dotted with small islands and villages with castles dating back to Medieval times. I eye my fellow passengers. Whereas others may wonder about their lives, where they are from, and what they do, I simply envision them reading Parrots when they tire of the coastal vistas and wonder why I failed to sneak a few hundred past issues of The Parrot into the country. Next time...

July 20

"Sobe? Sobe?" As a tourist during high season, if you are

alighting from an inter-city bus or ferry, these are the first words you will hear. While most visitors to America could joke that the sounds heard on first arriving on US shores are "liberty or death", "cash or credit", "paper or plastic" (are we not a country of choice?), the first words heard in coastal Croatia during high season are inquiries as to if you need a room. Indeed, if you haven't used the Internet to book a room prior to your arrival, the small grandmother in front of you intoning "sobe" every 1.5 seconds is the person you wish to follow. In this case, the elderly generation is not familiar with English. I have to admit I have a small international cranium disconnect for a moment when first approached, as "sobe" is stored in my brain as "buckwheat noodles" in Japanese, although I don't speak Japanese. As much as I love noodles, I hope that the grandmother is offering a room; noodles I'll

worry about later. In fact, rooms and apartments are plentiful, clean, and quite comfortable. If you follow the nice woman, and upon reaching the premises, there is usually a grandson or granddaughter who can break into MTV English, who can say "Deal? Or no deal?", and who can tell you where all the hot clubs are, even though what you'd really prefer is a hot bath. In any case, if you don't have a grandmother (or a room), the Pied Piper effect may kick in and you and a busload of tourists can take charming photos of yourselves, luggage in hand, following the Croatian grandmother through the winding streets. If you have a grandmother or are a grandmother or have a room already booked, you may not be in need of this service.

July 22

Guidebooks say there are "au naturel" beaches, nude beaches, in Croatia, but I haven't come across any. I am giving this subject some thought. (*continued pg. 12*)

If someone is not nude on a beach, does the beach lose its “street cred” (beach cred) as a nude beach? I’m also thinking of that idea of a forest with a tree falling and no one hears the sound, then maybe it didn’t happen? If it’s a nude beach and a bikini top falls and no one like me is there to witness the top falling, did it really happen? More importantly, if I go to a one of these beaches will I seem out of place in my cargo shorts and polo shirt? In any case, I now suspect that nude beaches in Croatia are by invitation only – you know – for the slim and trim and un-weathered. Perhaps those officious, fully-clothed border people size you up, stealthily hand you a map, directions, and baby oil if you are among the chosen. To others, like myself, they say, “Welcome to Croatia. Mind the burning sun. Keep your clothes on.” Hmm? Is this friendly piece of advice really a subliminal message, a way of preserving the reputation and integrity and beauty of their nude beaches? I’m off to the mirror to give it some more thought.

July 24

Split, Croatia’s third largest city, sees us driving through the old town looking for the address of an apartment we booked. Of course, as it turns out, the address is not that of the apartment itself but of someone who is there to lead us to the apartment. This is not unusual in European cities. Sitting on the steps like kids in the summer with nothing to do, we are greeted by a Croatian whirlwind named Yelena, who in this case defies the stereotype for her young age because her English is not quite there. However, what she lacks in grammar and vocabulary she makes up for in enthusiasm and toilet paper. I first spotted Yelena an hour before on a hilly street as we made our way through the neighborhood near the port. A tall woman, she stood out



Mexican kids reading “The Parrot” at the Marco Polo airport in Venice, Italy

because of her ill-fitting too-short shorts and demonstrative gesturing, her hands also grasping a long, leather strap (for dogs?) and a Costco-size package of toilet paper. Odd, I thought – perhaps it’s some variation of our pooper-scooper. So, when Yelena turns up to be the “guide” to our apartment, I am not totally surprised. After all, an overseas adventure should always be replete with memorable characters but usually they’re older, the passage of time having helped to shape eccentricities, ticks, and strange quirks. So Yelena is one of a kind. The apartment is nice; after all, she

says so herself: “It’s beautiful – I believe me. Toilet paper?” Say it three times fast and you have Yelena. Of course, with the intensity and sincerity of that sales pitch and the abundance of toilet paper, there is no way we are not staying there.

July 26

Kotar, a small town on the bay in neighboring Montenegro, has an incredibly vertical stone fort (or fortress – is that like waiter and waitress?) overlooking the town, a stronghold that requires a one-hour climb by moderately out-of-shape tourists to reach the protection of its highest walls. Halfway up the steps, I start thinking not about the beleaguered townspeople scurrying up these steps with their belongings to escape the onslaught of pirates attacking from the sea but of the pirates themselves, months at sea with no land legs. I imagine them halfway up the mountain in hot pursuit and then slowing to a halt, gasping for breath, inner thighs burning, turning to each other in old Piratese (sounding rather like Italian), “Shivero il mio timberi, mateo; (Shiver me timbers, matey); “Questo upsy dupsy e una bichera” (This climb’s a bitch!). I imagine the marauders giving up, turning around, jumping back on their ships and sailing away. I imagine also modern cruise ship tourists doing the same, but perhaps without the “shiver me timbers.”

Luap Carbco

Continued from first page

Harry: My ESL class is only listening. Like other ESL classes, it has lots of homework but you should try it. It's not wasting time.

Anna: Ok.. Let's change the subject. Have you guys ever joined the army before?

Yoon: Yeah. I finished it.

Harry: Me, too. You know what? Every Korean young man has to go in the army. But sometimes a few people avoid serving in the military because of their fathers who have lots of money.

Weerasak: You mean the guy who doesn't want to join the army can pay to avoid it? So actually you don't have to go if you have money.

Yoon: No, actually It's illegal.

Anna: Kind of "under the table", you know.

Weerasak: In my country it's simple. I mean if you don't want, you can go to school instead of the army.

Anna: So did you go to an "army school"?

Weerasak: Yeah, I did.

Anna: How long were you there?

Weerasak: Three years. I just went to the army school once a week. And the other days, I went to the regular school for studying. I mean real high school.

Anna: That's not bad.

Weerasak: It's bad because I had to cut my hair.

Anna: Did you learn something? Or did you do something?

Weerasak: I learned to protect myself. You know in war the enemy will try to kill me so that I have to protect myself and kill them; otherwise I'll die. So I learned how to fight against the enemy.

Yoon: What about guns? Have you ever shot a gun?

Weerasak: Yeah, just targets.

Anna: How about you, Yoon?

Yoon: I did. I really enjoyed it.

Harry: How many times did you get training for shooting guns?

Yoon: Almost once a week. We had to practice.

Anna: How about you, Harry?

Harry: I just had one time during my military service. Because my job was driving a car or truck. I drove and fixed and cleaned cars the whole day instead of training. Actually that's my training.

Anna: I see. How about you, Yoon?

Yoon: I was in the Command Post. We called it CP. There, I helped officers. For example, I helped them make a training schedule or helped them train soldiers easily.

Anna: So how old were you?

Yoon: I was 21.

Weerasak: I was 15.

Yoon: It's so young! Is it usual? Going to the army at that age?

Weerasak: Real army? No. it's like 25

years old. But I don't have to go now, because I already took the army school.

Anna: So, Weerasak took the class for 3 years. How about you guys?

Harry: Two years and 2 month. Actually it was a very hard time for me.

Anna: Why? Why was that hard?

Harry: You know, in the army the most important thing is RANK. So if you get an order, you have to do it. There is no exception.

Anna: What if you don't do it?

Yoon: It's going to make a big trouble. Maybe you could be hit or bullied.

Anna: Did you have a girlfriend when you were in the army?

Harry: Yes, I had.

Yoon: Did she wait until you finished your service?

Harry: No, she just had waited for one year, and then she cheated on me. At that time I had a very hard time because of this. So when I had furlough, I tried to meet her but I couldn't. Because she was busy meeting a new guy. However, now I'm fine.

Anna: Yoon, do you have any good memory from the service?

Yoon: Actually I had many things. I really enjoyed serving military service. I cannot get those experiences in normal life like shooting guns. But it was a long time ago; like 6 years ago.

Anna: Ok. How about you, Harry?

Harry: I have good thing and bad things. The good thing was

I met one of my friends who also was serving the service. We could meet each other three or four times a year. And bad thing was my fellow soldier committed suicide.

Anna: Why? What happened?

Harry: In the army, if you make some mistakes it really make you nervous and stresses you. He made several mistakes in

a month. It was not serious, and we understood about those mistakes. But when he was on furlough, he jumped from the top of the apartment building. When I heard that, I just cried.

Anna: I'm sorry to hear that. How about you, Weerasak?

Weerasak: I remember the last day of the

army school. At that time, we went to somewhere like camping. It was fun. You know it was like real war. And I painted my face with black and white.

Yoon: Do you have more questions, Anna?

Anna: No. That's it. Thank you guys.

By Anna Kim

Public Service Announcement

In a surprise announcement, The Parrot, the bird, not the newsletter, has declared his candidacy for president of the United States of America.

“Until now, Squawk! , my focus has only been on



unseating and replacing our long-under-serving, incumbent mascot at ARC, The Beaver. He's been decried as “old” and “out-of-touch”, and also, in his own way, “inexperienced,” and “elitist”. In looking at the

two presidential candidates, I realize that these are the same terms used to refer to the Democratic and Republican contenders. This led me to believe that I, Squawk! , needed to spread my wings and offer the citizenry, not only of American River College, but of the country, fresh leadership with keen instincts. I'm presenting myself as an alternative, a unique candidate subject to no special interests, a candidate who accepts no money for campaigning, a candidate who will refrain from kissing babies, a candidate who has no baggage, and a candidate who will, Squawk!, truly value education. I am confident that in today's world, neither my gender, my color, my feathers, nor my age will be held against me.

Granny Noetal

Dear Granny,

I read somewhere that taking a nap in the afternoon is a good thing, good for the health. I'm on campus all day. Where's a good place to take a nap?



served some students in easy chairs in the library taking quick “catnaps”.

When the weather is nice, students often find a comfortable tree near the horticulture classrooms and

Dormio Schlafsack

Dear Dormio,

In English we sometimes say “getting 40 winks” for taking a nap. In my many years at ARC, I've seen students resting in many places. I've ob-

plant themselves underneath for a short time. Finally, I have it on good authority that in the back of Bracco's R320 afternoon class there are many napping stu-

Granny

Silly Vasily's Chuckle Chamber



Shall I tell you the joke about the butter ?

You'd better not, I might spread it.

What is a waste of time?

Telling a hair-raising story to a bald man

What did the mayonnaise say to the fridge?

Close the door please. I'm dressing.

Editor's Note: Tiffani Sharp, is a graduate of the University of the Pacific's McGeorge School of Law where, in addition to obtaining her law degree, she obtained a legal specialization in international law. She's a practicing Sacramento immigration attorney and will be a contributing columnist to The Parrot, answering questions related to US immigration law. For questions for Tiffani, contact The Parrot at braccop@arc.losrios.edu. Tiffani's business e-mail, fax, and telephone can be found below.

I came to the United States on a fiancé visa, but my boyfriend and I have decided not to get married. What will happen to my immigration status?

When you enter the United States as the fiancé of a United States citizen, you must marry the person within 90 days of your arrival. In addition, you **must** marry the same person who applied for your fiancé visa allowing you to come to the United States. In other words, you cannot come to the United States as the fiancé of one person and then marry someone else and apply to get your permanent resident card (or "green card") from that marriage. If you do not marry the person who applied for you to come on the fiancé visa, then you must depart the United States within 90 days of your arrival.

Not marrying the person who applied for your fiancé visa and remaining in the United States presents very significant immigration problems. First, you will not be able to obtain your permanent resident card in the future unless you first leave the United States and then try to re-enter. But, if you leave the United States after being here on an expired visa (or illegally) for more than 6 months, you will not be able to re-enter the United States for a period of 3

years unless you obtain a very difficult waiver from Immigration. If you leave the United States after being here on an expired visa (or illegally) for more than one year, you will not be able to re-enter the United States for a period of 10 years unless you, again, obtain a very difficult waiver from Immigration.



A typical scenario is as follows: Maria enters the United States on a fiancé visa, but after spending time with the United States citizen, Pete, Maria decides that she does not want to marry Pete. They never marry and Maria remains in the United States anyway. Several years later, Maria meets the man of her dreams, Oscar, and he is a United States citi-

zen. They get married and she applies with Immigration to become a permanent resident based on that marriage.

Result: Immigration must deny her case as she originally entered the United States by promising to marry Pete and, when she did not marry Pete, she failed to depart the United States before 6 months. Not only will Immigration deny her case, but they will place her into federal Removal Proceedings (deportation) and seek to have her removed (deported) from the country. Currently, there is no remedy available to allow her to stay, so she must leave. And it will be difficult for her to return to the United States, unless she obtains the difficult waiver, since she has been in the United States more than one year.

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International Student Orientation

Welcome to American River College!!!

Meet other International Students!
Meet the International Student Advisor!
Meet the International Student Counselors!



The Orientation Presentations and Activities will include information on:

- Immigration Regulations
- F-1 Visa Procedures & Responsibilities
- Employment Requirements & Opportunities
 - Student Services and Activities
 - ARC Health Center Services
- International Academic Counseling Services
 - Career Center Services
- Community Organization Services

International Student Orientation

~THE SPOT~

Located in the portables near Davies Hall

Friday- August 29, 2008
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.



YOUR ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY!!!

*If you have class during this time, please show your instructor this flyer,
or get a letter from your International Student Office.*

For more information, call: 916-484-8774