



The Parrot

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

Issue # 22

Fall 2008

Understanding Physics Prof. Loucks — No Quantum Leap Needed!

Doing nothing is very hard to do...you never know when you're finished.

Leslie Nielsen

I would like to start with a little bit an overview of who Stuart Loucks is.

Who Stuart Loucks is? Lets see, well of course you know I teach physics here, and I teach astronomy here, and I really enjoy that a lot, and I really enjoy working at ARC; its a very good place to be, and I really like that. I've been here for eight-and-a- half years now almost—wow that's a lot of time — and I've been teaching overall for about 15 years. I taught one year of high school at Los Angeles High School, and that was a little rough; it was the inner city, and it was just a difficult place to teach, but I actually had some really good students and I had some really good classes; but it was also a difficult time. I was there the year of the — you may

not remember this, but there were some riots in LA in 1991 — and I was there the year of the riots and my high school was in that area where the riots were taking place. Anyway, so then I went to Washington state for 3 years and I taught at the community college up



there, and then I came back down to northern California and taught in the Bay Area for 4 years, and then I came here. I'm a Christian and that's kind of unusual, I think, maybe in the sciences or it's not so common. I attend church here in town, and I'm very committed to that. I'm a father of 4 and I've been married to Jennifer, my wife, for almost 19 years, The children's ages range from ages

3 to 15, two boys and two girls, and they're a lot of fun; they keep me very busy. Do I talk about them a lot? In class, oh yeah, I probably do. They occupy a very large part of my life right now. So, lets see what else? I like to try to play guitar. I'm not very good but I like to try, and I like to do photography and there again I'm not very good but I like to try.

Why did you choose physics as a major?

Oh, well, when I started out I was very good at math in high school, and I didn't even know if I wanted to go to college, but everyone told me I should go to college and be an engineering major because I was good at math. However, I actually took a year off and I didn't want to go to college right away — I wasn't that interested — but I actually wanted to go into landscape design and that kind of thing, and so I worked at a plant nursery,

Extra! Parrot Chooses Surprise Running Mate !!

See page 7



American River College
4700 College Oak Drive
Sacramento, CA95841

and I worked with a landscaping company for a while.

That's a big difference between physics and landscaping!

That's right.

How did you relate those?

I don't know; they are pretty different! The thing is I really like being outside; I really like working with plants. I love plants and I love flowers and things like that, but I realized that to do that for a living — it was very hard, physical work. So I thought, well, my brain is

Continues on last page

Flappin' his Wings: Yuriy, a Paramedic Student

I'd like to ask you a couple of questions about your personal and academic experience. You are one of the brightest students in the ESLL-320 class. How do you think this class benefits your education?

I think it benefits it a lot because I practiced a lot in oral skills. I think it's the most important for us who studied English as a second language because reading is easier - we can read, we can understand what to speak. It is hard to pronounce these words because of different accents and different letters that we have in our language, so I think it's the most important skills we have to learn.

Where were you born and when did you come to California?

I was born in Ukraine and I came here three and a half years ago in winter, so I've been living here for more than three years.

What do you think the strengths of Ukrainian education are?

Actually, the most important strength that I noticed is math education, because I was in Ukraine and I studied it in seventh and eighth grades – I had algebra and geometry. When I came here, I didn't know English very well. But I got an A in algebra and geometry, because I learned all this in Ukraine. I think it's helped a lot. Actually, I think school in Ukraine is harder than

here because we had a lot of subjects at the same time, and school was longer than here, so I think it's harder than here.

What were your favorite classes that you took at the ARC?

Actually I didn't take a lot of classes because it is my first semester here, but I liked nutrition class because it was interesting. I was familiar with some things, so

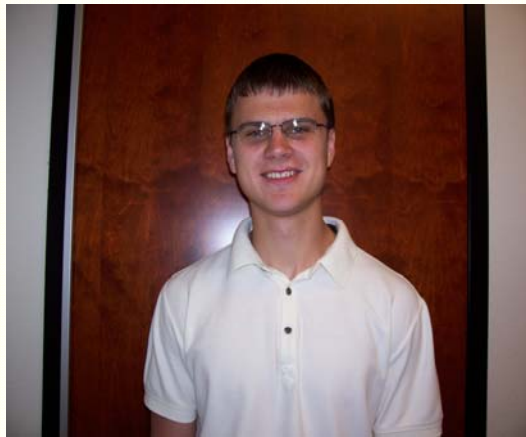
it was good for me. It was a good class for me. I didn't have a lot of choices – it's my first semester.

Why did you decide to join the paramedic training program?

I think that people have to select a profession that is useful for the residents of their city and state. Being a paramedic is one of the most valuable professions. I like to help people.

How do you imagine yourself in five years?

Actually, I don't know exactly, but I think I'll be working somewhere, like nursing or paramedics, and maybe I'll go to medical school or something like that, but I'm not sure 100% exactly.



I Know What I Did Last Summer!

The first question our son had for my husband and me when we met in the Windhoek, Namibia airport in July was, “Did you bring it?” After eight months with the Peace Corps in this southern African country, all he wanted was his favorite food: a grilled stuffed burrito from Taco Bell. Being good parents, we had bought one just before leaving the U.S. and hidden it in our luggage. Thus, we began a one month, 7000 kilometer journey through Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Botswana.

The first part of the journey was all about animals: zebra, giraffe, lion, wildebeest, kudu, oryx, springbok, lion, cheetah, leopard, jackal, hippo, rhino, warthog, and hundreds of elephants. We even slept in a floating tent on the Okavango river and heard hippos bellowing near us in the night – not a pleasant sound. Since it was winter there, we enjoyed eating dinner near a fire and having a hot water bottle in our beds under our thick blankets. One of the highlights was

experiencing the sights, sounds, and mist of Victoria Falls – we got soaked but loved every minute of it. Another highlight was climbing sand dunes in Sossusvlei, one of the oldest deserts of the world.



The second part of the journey was all about volunteering. Our son is a Peace Corps volunteer in Information Technology for the Ministry of Youth. Jacob teaches computer classes as well as troubleshoots for computer labs in schools in the Luderitz area. Usually that means killing viruses, setting up networks or installing software, but one time all the hard drives were stolen from every computer in a secondary school lab. That was a problem Jacob found a little tough to fix.

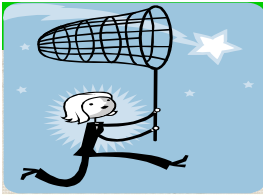
We also volunteered while we

were there by giving a two week teacher training workshop under the Ministry of Education’s Teacher Resource Center. For many years, the language of instruction for schools in Namibia was Afrikaans. Then seven years ago, English became the official language. Many teachers struggled to teach in English while students struggled to listen to lectures and take exams in English. As ESL instructors at ARC and FLC, we were able to offer tips and methods to improve English use by teachers and students. We left our son to finish his two-year commitment in Namibia and returned to Sacramento in time to start a new school year. Guess where we went to eat first – Taco Bell!



Burrito Happy !

Professor Denise Sauer



NET Escape - Articles from the net.

October in History

- 1** The Television series "The Twilight Zone" premiered (1959)
- Walt Disney World opened in Orlando, Florida (1971)
- 2** Peanuts comic strip by Charles Schultz first appeared in newspapers (1950)
- 3** Frank Robinson becomes major leagues baseball's first black manager for the Cleveland Indians. (1974)
- 5** The World Series was broadcast on radio for the first time (1921)
- 6** Thomas Edison showed the 1st motion picture (1889)
- 6** The first Physician's Assistants graduate from Duke University (1967)
- 9** The general public was first admitted into the Washington Monument.
- 11** Space Shuttle Challenger astronaut Kathryn Sullivan became the first American woman to walk in space. (1984)
- 12** The very first Oktoberfest is held in Munich, Bavaria, Germany (1810)
- 13** The U.S. Continental Navy was created.
- 14** Martin Luther King Jr. was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize (1964)
- 15** "I Love Lucy" premiered on television. (1951)
- U.S. Department of Transportation was created (1966)
- 16** Marie Antoinette was guillotined for treason. (1793)
- 16** Cuban Missile crisis begins. (1962)
- 17** Mobster Al Capone was convicted of income tax evasion. (1931)
- 19** The Senate passed a bill making Martin Luther King's Birthday a national holiday. (1983)
- 19** The Revolutionary War ended. (1781)
- 21** Thomas Edison invented the incandescent electric lamp. (1879)
- 23** 25,000 women marched in New York City demanding the right to vote. (1915)
- 24** The United Nations came into existence. (1945)
- 24** Anna Edison Taylor is the first person to survive going over Niagara Falls in a barrel. (1901)
- 25** U.S. forces invade Grenada. (1983)
- 26** The Erie Canal opens, connecting Lake Erie to the Hudson River. (1825)
- 26** The "Gunfight at the OK Corral" occurs. Wyatt Earp, his two brothers, and "Doc" Holliday have a shootout with the Ike Clanton Gang. (1881)
- 26** The Erie Canal opens. (1825)
- 27** President Theodore Roosevelt's birthday. (1858)
- The "Teddy bear" was named after him.
- 28** France presented the U.S. with the Statute of Liberty. (1886)
- 28** The Gateway Arch in St. Louis is completed. (1965)
- 29** The New York Stock Exchange crashed on what came to be known as "Black Tuesday", starting the Great Depression (1929)
- 31** Magician Harry Houdini dies from complications of a ruptured appendix. (1926)
- 31** Indian Prime Minister Indira Ghandi was assassinated. (1984)

Some Hecka Cool Holidays for October

Bald and Free Day

When : Always October 7th (or the 14th ???)

Bald and Free Day honors those of us with a beautiful, shiny top. You don't have to be bald to celebrate this day. But, it helps. People who are married to, or related to a bald headed person can celebrate with the honoree.



Enough with the bald jokes. There will be zero tolerance for them today. Rather, today is a day to cherish and appreciate the

freedom that comes with being bald. While the rest of us are spending money on hair cuts, hair shampoo, hair sprays, combs, and such, the bald guys is smiling as he saves money and time.

Upon becoming a lucky bald guy, you are finally freed of the worry and fret that other guys have as they wonder for years:

- "Will I lose my hair?"
- Is my hair turning grey?

Better still, bald guys are much happier. In addition to saving money on haircuts and hair accessories, they never had a "bad hair day." So, if you are bald, enjoy your freedom as you celebrate *Bald and Free Day*.

International Sceptics Day

When : January 13th or October 13th

International Sceptics Day is the perfect day for you...the "doubting Thomas". Perhaps the earth isn't really round!? Maybe, the sky isn't truly blue!? Does he (she) really love me!?These are the words and questions of the classical skeptic.



By definition, a skeptic is a person who questions or doubts facts and theories. He, or she, is a misbeliever. A skeptic does not accept the "Given". If you are inclined to doubt things that you see or hear, then *International Sceptics Day* is for you.

If you practice a little, I'm sure we can make a good skeptic out of you. Go ahead, give it a try. And, what better day to practice skepticism, than *International Sceptics Day*?

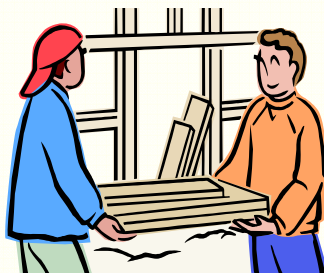
Origin of International Sceptics Day:

We suspect that a real skeptic created this day. And, they did so by first creating doubt about the date to celebrate this special day. We found three dates: January 13th, October 13th, and the first Friday of the year. While Friday the 13th sounds intriguing, we have our doubts..... We encourage you to celebrate skeptics and skeptical behavior on all three dates!

Make a Difference Day

When: The fourth Saturday in October

Initiated in 1990, this is a national day for the devoted to help others by doing volunteer work in the community. The activity can be almost anything. Millions of Americans participate in community improvement projects. It takes the form of cleanup, fix up, painting, and repair in poorer neighborhoods, parks and municipal facilities. It doesn't matter what project you take on. It doesn't matter whether you help a non-profit organization, the community, your town,



nursing home, a church, a food kitchen, or any other group in need. What matters is that you participate.

Make a commitment to help others for just one day. Make a difference on *Make a Difference Day!*

Did You Know? Each year on Make a Difference Day, ex-President Jimmie Carter gets out his hammer and saw, and helps to build or rebuild housing in underprivileged areas. There is not better example of people helping others than this!

Parrot Warbling



Nouns that can be Countable and Uncountable

Sometimes, the same noun can be countable *and* uncountable, often with a change of meaning.

Countable		Uncountable
There are two hairs in my coffee!	hair	I don't have much hair.
There are two lights in our bedroom.	light	Close the curtain. There's too much light!
Shhhhh! I thought I heard a noise.	noise	It's difficult to work when there is too much noise.
Have you got a paper to read? (= newspaper)	paper	I want to draw a picture. Have you got some paper?
Our house has seven rooms.	room	Is there room for me to sit here?
We had a great time at the party.	time	Have you got time for a coffee?
<i>Macbeth</i> is one of Shakespeare's greatest works.	work	I have no money. I need work!



Rigoberto's Riddles

What's black and white and red all over?

- An embarrassed skunk.
- A sunburned penguin

Give me food, and I will live; give me water, and I will die. What am I?

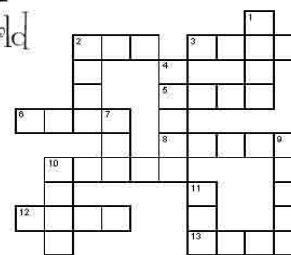
- Fire

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) (916) 484-8988 Student editors— **Christian Valenzuela**, **Natalia Arboleda**, **Ivy Balansag**.



Verbs I

Boggle's World



Across

2. ___ down your book.
3. I ___ books at night.
5. I like to ___ my bicycle.
6. I am going to ___ a cake.
8. ___ up.
10. Let's ___ a movie.
12. I want to ___ soccer.
13. I ___ the bus to school.



Down

1. I ___ up at 6 AM.
2. ___ up your book.
4. I ___ my teeth everyday.
7. I ___ pizza every tuesday.
9. I ___ my car to work.
10. I ___ to school.
11. ___ down.



www.bogglesworld.esl

Idiom-Attic



Fishy

When the security guard saw a light in the store after closing hours, it seemed to him that there was something *fishy* going on. He called the central office and explained to his superior that he thought something **strange and suspicious** was occurring.

Silly Vasily's Chuckle Chamber

1. Two muffins are in the oven. One says to the other "God, it's hot in here." The other one replies "Oh no... It's a talking muffin"



2. A horse goes into a bar and the bartender says, "Hey buddy, why the long face?"

Public Service Announcement

Newsbrief: AP (Associated Parrot)

In a news release yesterday, The Parrot (the bird, not the newsletter) revealed his surprise choice for vice presidential running mate: The ARC Beaver.

Though the two have had a rather bumpy relation-



ship over the years (see the April 1 2008 issue of The Parrot), The Parrot (the bird, not the newsletter) expressed complete satisfaction with his choice. Pundits claim that The Parrot (the bird, not the newsletter) was looking for someone who would not overshadow him, who would be colorless, and who would not have had a long record of accomplishment. The Parrot (the bird, not the newsletter) claimed simply that The Beaver was the right animal for the job. In the opinion of some, The Beaver, despite its lethargy and rather lackluster record of public service, has a bucktoothed grin that would win many votes. The Beaver himself, in a puzzling off-the-paddle quip, declared that the only difference between him and a pit bull was lipstick.

Daaye

*Every afternoon
At sunset, when everybody rushed home
"Daaye," our janitor
Free of everyday work
Wore his only old, grey, and faded suit
Sprinkled water on the brick floor of our
front door*

*Daaye took a piece of cardboard
And with a limp went to put it on the stony
step
Behind the heavy brown door
Which was opened to the street
That piece of cardboard was his mat
Where he could sit, watch, and discover new
things*

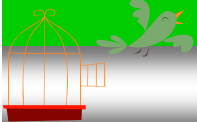
*He liked to watch his special show
People who were coming and going
Many different cars that were passing on the
street
The blinking neon lights of stores
The greetings of the corner grocer
And the loud voice of the lemonade vendor*

*Sitting and watching the street
Drowning in his dreams
Was part of his routine
And sometimes taking a small nap
Made him refreshed and ready for the night
When he listened to the radio's night story
And had his cardamom tea with sugar candy*

*Sometimes as a child
I tiptoed behind him
And put my hands on his eyes
He touched my fingers
And told me, I know who you are
Come and sit here my dear*

*Now, years and years after that time
Sometimes, I close my eyes
And sit near him and watch his sight
Enjoying myself in my dreams
Just like Daaye's routine*

Parisa Samadi



Out of The Cage

On — Campus

David & Goliath in the Amazon Thursday, September 25, 2008

12:15 pm - 1:15 pm



Join Academy Award-nominated and Emmy-winning documentary film maker Larry Lansburgh for this compelling presentation "Dream People of the Amazon." Larry's presentation focuses on the

Achuar, indigenous people who live in a part of the Amazon rain forest that has hardly changed in a thousand years. To defend their right to live as their ancestors did in an unspoiled part of the greatest rain forest on Earth, the Achuar have developed ingenious and effective strategies to deal with the modern world.

Location: Raef Hall 160 ARC

Off — Campus

The Red Baron Ball Saturday, September 27, 2008

6:00pm - 11:00pm

Euro Sunday is excited to announce the First Annual Red Baron Ball benefiting the Sacramento Child Advocates (SCA). The evening is scheduled to take place Saturday, September 27th, 2008.



Location: Aerospace Museum of California 3200 Freedom Park Drive, McClellan, CA 95652

Caution! Service Animals Working on Campus: A Guide to Guide Dogs and Animal Companions at ARC Thursday, October 9, 2008

12:15 pm - 1:15 pm

Please join students, their dogs, and staff with dogs-in-training for an informative session that explains what these valuable dogs do, how they are trained and how the campus community can help those who have helping dogs.



Location: Raef Hall 160 ARC

Carcinoid Cancer Support Group Saturday, October 4, 2008

1:00pm - 4:00pm



This new support group provides awareness, education and support for carcinoid cancer patients, their family, friends and caregivers.

Location: Kaiser Permanent Medical Center 1600 Eureka Road, Roseville, CA 95661

The Scream Extreme Haunted House Friday, Oct 3, 2008

7:00pm - 11:00pm

Voted "#1 in Sacramento" by KOVR, Channel 13 News, The Scream Extreme is an intense, high startle, in-your-face, PG-13-rated Haunted Attraction.



Location: Scandia Family Fun Center 5070 Hillsdale Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95842 (916) 331-5757

Event Web Site: <http://www.screamtonight.com>

Maintaining Your F-1 Status October 10, 2008

1:00pm – 2:00pm

Maintaining Your F-1 Status Workshop.

Location: Orientation Room in Student Services Building, ARC

More On — Campus Events

Transfer Day
Wednesday, October 15, 2008
 9:30 am - 1:30 pm

Representatives from four-year colleges and universities will be on campus to answer student questions about admissions, majors, and more.

Location: Library Quad. ARC



Gear-Up for the General Election
Thursday, October 16, 2008
 12:15 pm - 1:15 pm



Are you ready for the general election November 4, 2008? Join the Political Science Department to get informed and get out to vote!

Got Needs ?

Granny Noetal

Dear Granny,

I see lots of ARC sweatshirts at the bookstore but none with a picture of the ARC mascot, the Beaver. Why is that? Do you think there will also be shirts with The Parrot on them?

Dear Shirtless,

Good question. My fashion sense tells me that these shirts, especially one with a Parrot, will soon be all the rage. In my day, all the cute guys wore Nehru jackets and beads. But sweatshirts featuring ARC symbols should become a big hit. What do you think, bookstore?



Shirtless in Sacramento

Granny

Ask the College Nurse: Cindy Watson

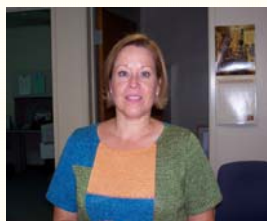
Question: I am new to American River College, and I am wondering what services are available in the ARC Health Services Office.

Answer: ARC Health Services is a nurse-directed center, which means that services are provided by Public Health Nurses. While the nurses cannot make medical diagnoses or prescribe treatment, they may assess health-related problems, provide illness or wellness information and education, and make referrals to physicians, health agencies, or other resources as needed.

ARC students and employees may also get immunizations and TB tests, flu shots, temporary disabled parking permits, smoking cessation counseling, blood

Enfermisa Fulana

pressure screening, and first aid care from Health Services. Every Thursday and every other Friday, reproductive health services are available, including pregnancy testing, STD testing (rapid HIV, gonorrhea, and Chlamydia), emergency contraception, and birth control (condoms, pills, patch, ring, and depo shot).



We are also pleased to let everyone know that we now have a lactation room available for breast feeding or pumping.

All services except for TB testing and immunizations are free. Be sure to check our web page at www.arc.losrios.edu/~health for office hours, schedules of when various services are provided, to contact us, or just to get more information!

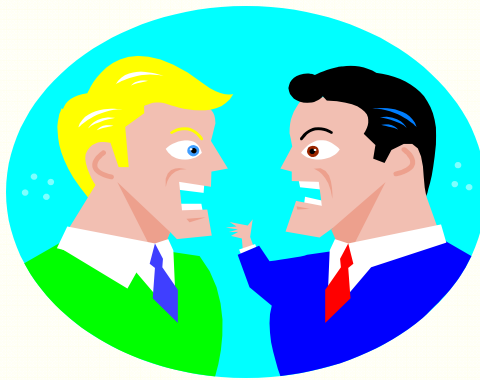
Student Chirpings

Friction Between Students and Teachers

When people start to do something together, they always have friction. At the beginning, it is always a hard time to understand each other. Students and teachers spend a lot of time together. It's impossible not to have friction among them. There are several reasons why students and teachers have friction. They are too much homework, the organization of lessons, and different understanding of the subjects.

The first reason why students and teachers have friction is that teachers give too much homework. I'm a student at ARC and I have four classes and I know how much homework the teachers give. I think it is the same for everyone. Teachers give homework because they want us to study and because it is their job. Students think, "Don't teachers understand that life is interesting, that we have families and

friends, that we are always busy?" Teachers think, "These students come to school to study. It's not a kindergarten. They are adult. Our job is to teach them and their job is to study. It's not our job to take



care of their children and their busy lives." Students who have three classes or more usually run out of time; therefore, when these students come to class and don't have their homework ready, teachers get angry and students become upset and nervous. This is just the beginning of disagreement.

The second cause of friction between students and teachers is class organization, in other words, how teachers explain their subjects.

Sometimes I feel like lessons last such a long time and sometimes it's like just starts and finishes. If the teacher explains very well and sees that students understand the lesson, everyone feels comfortable. When the teacher is not able to explain his lesson clearly, students don't understand and the lesson becomes so boring. If it continues from lesson to lesson, no one will be satisfied by the end of the semester. Once I had a class in which I was bored all semester because that class wasn't my level and the teacher wasn't clear in her explanations. By the end, I felt like I had wasted my time.

The last reason why teachers and students have friction is because of different understanding of the subjects. Teachers know their subjects very well. In contrast, students are just starting to learn and everything is new for them. I don't

know something and other know it. They lose their tempers. They think that everyone should know what they know. When I teach my children to do something, I explain everything to them, step by step. However, they don't do exactly as I teach them. For me, it seems so easy, but for them it's hard. It's the

same in school. Teachers teach us, but our development is not high. We are not able to assimilate everything we hear or try. What is easy for teachers is hard for students. It causes misunderstandings.

It seems like school life is so difficult. It is not really true. Because of too much homework, or-

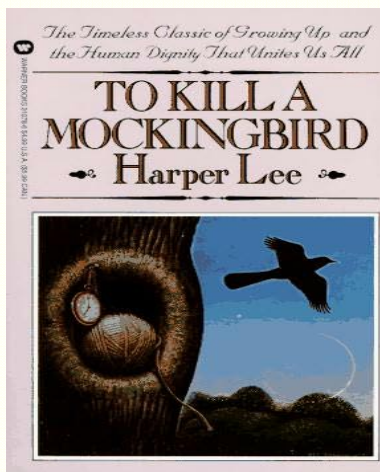
ganization of the class, and different understanding students and teachers have friction. However, we learn a lot when we study. Teachers help us to reach our goals and we should be thankful to them.

Olga Kononeko W50

A Book Review

To Kill a Mockingbird is a coming-of-age story of Scout Finch and her brother, Jem in 1930's Alabama. The summer when Scout is six and Jem was ten, they meet Dill, a little boy who spends the summer with his aunt, who lives next door to the Finches. There is also a recluse named Boo Radley who lives in the neighborhood. Jem and Dill become obsessed with getting to know him. However, these brushes with the neighborhood "ghost" result in a tentative friendship over time and soon the Finch children realize that Boo Radley deserves to live in peace, so they leave him alone. Scout and Jem's father, Atticus, is a respected lawyer. He takes on a case that pits innocent, black Tom Robinson against two dishonest white peo-

ple, one of whom is Bob Ewell. Atticus knows that he will lose, but he is determined to stand for his principles. The innocent man, Tom Robinson, gets convicted because of his race.



Tom Robinson goes to jail and he is later shot for trying to escape.

After that, life returns to normal. But, on Halloween night on their way home from a pageant, Jem and Scout are attacked by Bob Ewell in the

darkness. Bob Ewell, who is still harbored presentment, breaks Jem's arm very badly. At that moment the recluse Boo Radley comes to the rescue, and after that is never seen again. Through the events of those two years, Scout learns that no matter their differences or peculiarities, the people of the world and of Maycomb Country are all people. She realizes that once you get to know them, most people are good and kind no matter what they seem like on the outside.

That is why I like this book. It provides a very important message or lesson on how to treat people and deal with our differences.

With help from:

<http://www.bookrags.com/>

Svetlana Yakimyuk R340

My Higher Education in Ukraine

It is very common in Slavic society that parents force children to go to university even if they don't want to. It even happened to me. I remember that time when my parents for three months tried to send me to the university.

When I was 22 years old, I lived with my parents. I had my own small business and I really enjoyed doing this. I had a truck, and I worked every day and sometimes night. I was happy because I was going to get married. But my parents still didn't know about it. They had their own plans for me. My father was a teacher of physics, and he also wanted to see me as teacher too; therefore, it wasn't in my plans to be a teacher. I really hated this job at that time.

I was at home and was fixing my car in the garage. My father came to me and started to talk to me about my future. He told me that I had to go to the university and get a teacher's degree. But I

wasn't happy to hear that. I told him that I didn't want to study at all. My father was angry to hear my response. He told me that he had a good opportunity to place me into the university because he had a friend in that university. He could



do this for my father. But I told him "NO". I didn't want to change my future for the university life.

One month later my father came over to my bedroom and told me that I had tests in one month, so I had one month to study. I still didn't want to study in any place and I told this to my father. My father got out from my room and told me "one month". His voice was very loud and I knew that he was really seri-

ous, but I didn't care about this. All that month, I worked as always and met with my girlfriend. I didn't study at all. As a result, I completely failed those tests, but I wasn't afraid. I remember that day when I came home with my girlfriend. I told my father about the tests, about my business, and about my plans for the future. I told him that we were going to get married as soon as possible. At first my father was angry about my tests and university, but then he decided to let me do what I wanted to do.

It was an interesting story from my life. I remember that time and smile. It was really serious at that time. Now my father and I understand that I was right because we both live in the United States. In my opinion, parents always want a better life for their children. That is why they make us go to the university. But sometimes children have a better idea for their lives.

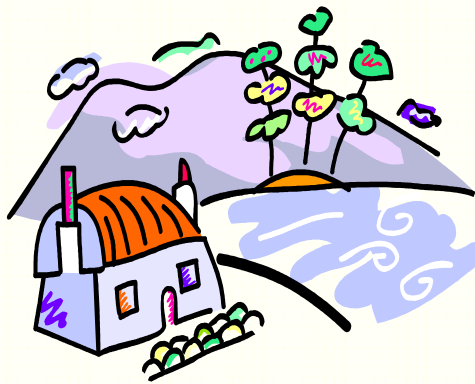
Summer Cottage

Every person in this world dreams to have a place where he or she can relax from everyday problems. Almost all people are individual in their preferences. Some of them prefer to relax in common places like gyms, restaurants or even bars. Others prefer comfortable sofas in front of the TV, but when I need some rest, I look for a quiet, peaceful place, somewhere outside. One of my favorite places was my summer cottage in Kazakhstan.

My summer cottage was a wonderful place. There was a lake near it where we were swimming everyday. It was not a big lake but it had very pure and crystal water. My brother liked to swim from one end of the lake to another. When the sun was setting, we liked to make a fire near the lake. My brother was playing guitar and we were singing songs. It was one of the most beautiful times in my whole entire life. To get to that lake, first, we had to go through a small forest. This forest was separating this lake from our cottage. Usually, we were playing different games in that forest. It was a very quiet place where birds were singing their beautiful songs. Also we were picking the mushrooms and later were cleaning them and cook-

ing soups from them. I will never be able to forget that time.

The most beautiful season in that place was spring. Everything was blossoming at this time. About three to four miles from our cottage were small mountains. During this time, mountains looked like they were covered with a snow-white cover because there were many



beautiful white snowdrops. We liked to open windows every night because when you wake up early in the morning, you can smell the scent of the flowers and hot dry grass from the mountains. You could also feel the light wind that blow and the breeze of the lake. On the second floor of our cottage, we had one room with three windows. From the first window you can see the small forest and behind it the beauty of the lake. From another window you can see the mountains and light fog above them. And from the third one you can see our garden where we

had many different flowers and trees. This was my favorite room where I liked to spend my free time from work. I enjoyed everything that was around our cottage and our cottage by itself.

We also had a small field on the fourth side of our cottage. It was on the left of the garden. We planted many different vegetables like potatoes, carrots, beets, cabbage, tomatoes, cucumbers, onions, and garlic. We also had apple trees, and many different berries such as blueberries, raspberries, strawberries, and red currants. We liked to eat fruits and vegetables when it was time for it.

I loved to be there even if I had to work in the field and take care of all our plants. The work on the field for me was like exercise. This place was the only one where I could totally relax and forget about all every day problems. I will never be able to forget that place, even now that I live in America, the greatest country in the world. I still remember that place and hope that I will find a similar place here in America. But for now, my summer cottage still remains a great place where people can relax.

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pretty good so I started college, and I started in engineering but I didn't really like my engineering classes that much. They just weren't that interesting, but my physics class I really liked, so I went to a community college in San Diego County, Palomar Community College, and then I transferred to UCLA as a physics major. I changed my major at that time to physics from — I think it was probably mechanical engineering at the time. I finished school at UCLA. I got my master's degree there and my teacher's credential.

What is your experience with ESL students?

Actually, I've not had any experience outside my own classroom, nothing special on the side or anything other than I've had many ESL students in my classes, and I've had really good experiences with a lot of them. I really enjoy talking to them and finding out where they are from, a little bit about their background, finding out how they ended up coming to the USA so, yeah, that's been a really nice part of teaching because you meet all kinds of people, a lot of people who are very different.

Is there somebody special that you remember?

Let's see, who do I remember special? I had a student whose name was Ann. Her native language was French but she was from Rwanda in Africa. But I may be mistaken. I don't know

if she was an ESL student at ARC. I've had a lot of really good experiences with ESL students. I really enjoy them because you get a lot of interesting people who, you know, they have to work very hard to get here. Maybe their parents didn't even go to college — that kind of thing. I can tell you of another student that was ESL, but I'm not positive. I'm trying to remember what country she's from. What was so special about her? Well, she just was one of the hardest working, most determined people I've ever met, and she came into my class, and it was a physics class, and it's probably the hardest physics class that we teach here, Physics 421, and she wasn't doing well at the beginning of the class, and she came and we talked about her test and she was about to drop the class. I encouraged her to keep working at it. I thought that if she stayed in the class that she had a chance of doing better, that she was not very far from getting a better grade. Anyway she stuck with it and she worked harder than almost anyone I've ever seen, and she was very successful. She did very well, and so she is quite a success story. She's a tutor at Mesa now.

What kind of advice can you give to the ESL students to improve their English skills?

Watch a lot of TV? I don't know if I have any good advice for ESL students because I only know one language and so what I have actually heard is that watching a lot of TV is

good. It can also have a bad effect because you learn all the language in its general spoken form. It's not written, you know, so, as far as conversational English ... the main thing, I think, is work hard to attain your goals and just keep working. You can say my advice to ESL students would be you can work hard and watch a lot of TV; seriously, I think there are times when you get discouraged, because it's very hard, and there are things that just seem sometimes insurmountable; you're trying and you don't seem to get any better. The one thing I would say is not to give up, don't feel like you can't do it, don't give up, keep working at it because you can do it, but you can't give up. That's my advice (sometimes it's hard to keep on going, but you are here — you have to). It's not comfortable. For example, like on my guitar, I'm not very good but I try to practice every day because I know that if I practice every day, I will get better, and sometimes from one day to the next, I feel like I'm not getting any better, and sometimes I feel like I'm getting worse and it is very frustrating, but I know if I practice every day, I will get better over time. It is just I have to endure and keep going so maybe that's better advice than my first one.

OK, Mr. Loucks, thank you very much.

You're welcome.