



The Parrot

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

Issue # 91

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From the Middle East to the Far West: Samiha Maraga

Parrot: Hello! Can you introduce yourself?

Samiha: Hello, of course. My name is Samiha Maraga. I am from Jordan. I am 44 years old. I have three children. Two study at Sacramento State University. One of my children studies in middle school. In my country I was a teacher for special children. Also, I worked for United Nations Relief and Works Agency for



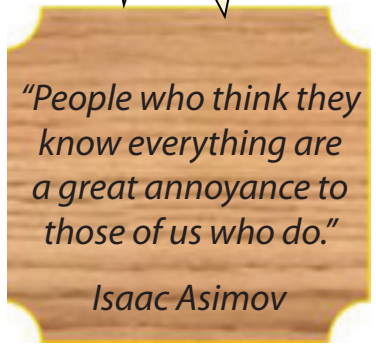
Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). My husband, Abdallah Shwaiat, was a famous actor. Before I came here to the U.S., I went to many countries: Austria, Germany, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Turkey, Greece, Italy, Palestine, France and many others. I am happy that I was able to go there.

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*Humor To
Train!* 😂

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"People who think they know everything are a great annoyance to those of us who do."

Isaac Asimov



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Missing African Parrot Returns Home After 4 Years — Speaking Spanish

When the African grey parrot Nigel flew away from home, he mimicked the crisp British accent of his owner Darren Chick. But by the time he was found four years later, he had acquired a little Spanish to add to his rep-



An African grey parrot. Another African grey parrot, Nigel, returned home after a four-year absence recently — after picking up some Spanish during his time away. (AP Photo/Brandeis University, Mike Lovett)

ertoire.

The Torrance, Calif. pet owner had long given up on seeing Nigel again — until a good Samaritan set in motion a community-wide hunt for the bird's owner.

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Student Chirpings

ARC Should Have a One -Week Break in the Fall Semester

As the old Russian saying goes, when we study, we develop ourselves; but when we stop, we are degrading. Education really plays a great role in our lives. Nowadays, there are several well-known colleges and universities in Sacramento. Of those, ARC is one of the most popular colleges, which gives students a wonderful opportunity to learn in different programs of study and which help people to find high-salaried jobs in the future. However, there is one weakness at ARC. It is my opinion that ARC should have a one-week break in the fall semester.

First, relaxation is very important for students' brains. Of course, all new information and a lot of homework are good for students because when we study, we develop ourselves, and our memories become better and better. However, our brains don't have enough time to digest all this new information in such a short period. As a result, porridge fills students' heads. You have no time to repeat previous chapters and new words, but you have to learn more and more. So, you begin to use short-term memory, and all the information that you learned before the tests, you forget after that. It's not a secret that repetition is essential in the study process. For example, if you learn new words, you need to encounter a word at least seven or ten times before you will remember it. When my husband studied at an electricians' school, he repeated all the words that he needed on the test every evening for one week before his final test. As a result, he successfully passed the test. Moreover, he remembers all these words up to this



day! It would be great if we had a one-week break in Thanksgiving holidays just only for repetition and digestion of study materials during the week. We can start the semester one week early for this genial decision. I think that a one-week break would help for digestion of all new information.

Second, an education is one of the most important aspects of our lives; however, more important than education is family and our relationships with relatives. It's really a pity that you have to do your homework while all your family has a good time together during Thanksgiving holidays. When my sister-in-law, Natalia, studied at ARC, she didn't even leave her room to say "Hi!" when we went to visit my husband's parents. She

is very responsible, so she concentrated on her studies a lot and chose education instead of being among family members. I strongly believe that if she could have had a one-week break, she would have been able to relax and spend time with us. Now I have this problem too! When my parents-in-law come to visit us, they have a good time together while I do all my homework.

Finally, a one-week break is just as necessary for ARC teachers. To be a teacher is more difficult than to be a student. They have to check tests, homework, essays of all their students, and be prepared for lessons. Sometimes they don't even have time for that. My sister-in-law, Natalia, told me that when she studied at ARC, she also had some tired teachers who didn't have time for checking stu-

dents' homework and tests. So, teachers also need to have more time during Thanksgiving holidays to spend with their families. Furthermore, it would be great that our teachers rest before finals because they need to be full of energy and less stressed. So, a one-week break will be the best solution for all these problems.

American River College is really a great college with a lot of opportunities. From my point of view, ARC would become better if it had a one-week break in the fall semester. I believe that students' knowledge will improve if there were more time to

digest all the information. Moreover, a one-week break gives students and teachers a wonderful opportunity to have a good time with their families. In addition, ARC teachers would become more productive if they had more time to check homework, to prepare for lessons, and to rest.

Olga Strizheus
ESLW50

The Black Box

"I'm dying, you must be brave my dear, and stop crying; tears are good only for women", my mother said, and she took my soft hands in hers. "But Mom, please don't leave me alone", I said. She smiled and she added, "I always will be with you. Now take this small box and keep it. It will be your talisman." After a few days, she passed away, and the small box became one of the warmest things tied to my childhood.

My box is a wooden container which is used for keeping jewelry. It consists of two main parts: a base and a lid. The base is two inches high, and three inches wide, and five inches long with four walls and four corners. It has a black color. The lid is two inches wide, and five inches long, and it's white. The lid is pointy, and it has pink roses in the middle. The surface is covered with gold flecks. When I hold it up to bright light, it looks as if the stars are sparkling in the night sky.

My box is a symbolic thing. It has a smooth feel, and the combination of a sharp earthy aroma and a damp sound makes it a sensible thing with an emotional charm. Its sight has a magical effect on me, be-

cause it reminds me of my mother when she entered my room to see me and say, "Have a good night."

If I have a problem or I'm nervous, I usually talk to my box and it calms me down. This colorful box greets me with a smile every time I enter my room.



This small box is a part of my family's heritage. It came to my grandmother from her close friend. These were years of tango and lush dresses. Then my granny and her family evacuated to another city. They were forced by a big flood that happened in my country many decades ago. After that my granny gave it to my mother for her fifteenth birthday and I hope to pass it on to my daughter one day.

In conclusion, the small wooden box is a holy thing for me because it is a spiritual way to connect me with my dead mother. It carries enjoyment and happiness to me.

Muhamed A.A.A. Haluf
ESLW50

Real Life in America

Before I came to the United States, my friends and I imagined how awesome life in America would be. "All people may look like movie actors from the movies!" "You can drive your own pretty-mini-colorful car on the road by the beautiful beach." "Lots of delicious food will be everywhere around you." However, after I came to the 'real' United States, I realized there were so many differences between my imagination and real life in the US. There are a few people who look like movie actors, but not all of them, there are many pretty and cool cars on the road, but they are not mine, and there are lots of kinds of food, but they are delicious only for Americans, not for me. There are more differences between my imagination and real life.

The first difference between my imagination and real life in the United States is there are some limitations that keep me from enjoying the freedom in America that I expected. Before I came to the United States, I dreamed of so many

good places to hang out with friends, a lot of alcohol, parties, and short trips to other cities or beaches. But in the real world, the first biggest reality that broke my dreams is the fact that I am underage in the United States. I totally didn't know that America's underage law is different from Korea's. When I heard this news for the first time and was shocked, my Korean-American friend laughed and said, "Say bye-bye to alcohol." The second biggest obstacle that blocked me from enjoying freedom is the fact that now I have a curfew. I am living with my aunt and uncle and they are worried about my safety, especially at night, so they made a curfew for me. I really understand them and am thankful that they worry about me, but sometimes when I discover there are some missed calls from Uncle at 9 p.m., I say to myself, "Say

bye-bye to Freedom!" There is another thing that I didn't know until I came here. I knew Sacramento is the capital of California so I imagined a big city like San Francisco. I should have searched more about Sacramento before coming here. Now, I know Sacramento is an excellent place to live and enjoy a peaceful life, but when I arrived here for the first time, it looked like there was no place to hang out (This was also because of my age.) and it seemed to be a really boring city. Every time I asked underage people where they usually hung out with their friends, their answers were almost the same. They laughed first, and responded, "There's no place in Sacramento."

Speaking of short trips, California is much bigger than my friends and I expected so it takes a lot of time to get to a beach. I used to have a fantasy about beaches in California, but for the reason above, I have never been there yet.

The second difference between my

imagination and real life in the United States is the food. Some English teachers of mine in Korea who come from America used to talk about the food in their country. For instance, the size of American pizza is usually two times bigger than Korea's and there is a plenty of cheese on it. They said the bread is much better than Korean bread and the hamburgers are fantastic. Other food is also really delicious and many kinds of food stores are everywhere. But if someone asks me what the hardest thing is for me about living in America, I will answer firmly that it is the food. The pizza is really bigger than Korea's but it is too salty. Now, I can eat it and enjoy it sometimes, but when I ate it for the first time, I couldn't even put one piece of it in my mouth. I just put one small piece on my tongue and spat it out right away and said, "What



is it? Is it a mass of salt?" But about the hamburgers, they are right. They are totally fantastic. Sushi is also fantastic except for its price, and Chinese food is good, too. But I still miss my country's food. There are some Korean restaurants in Sacramento but they are all terrible. If you have visited a Korean restaurant in Sacramento, you would be disappointed by Korean food. But I swear to God, real Korean food is one hundred times more delicious than what you eat here. Whenever I complained about the American food to my American friends, they said, "Why? Don't you think American food is better than your country's? There is a lot of delicious food here!" Then I always responded to them like this, "Not at all!"

The last difference between my imagination and real life in the United States is English. I had always imagined myself speaking English with Americans without any difficulty in Sacramento and I thought I could do it after one month in America. However, it was entirely the wrong idea. English is a much more difficult language than I expected, even if I live in America. In the real world, I could barely say some sentences after three months. I could barely have a 'real' talk (not just saying words!) with friends although six months had passed. I imagined myself talking to American friends in English fluently, but in the real world, I have still struggled with English,

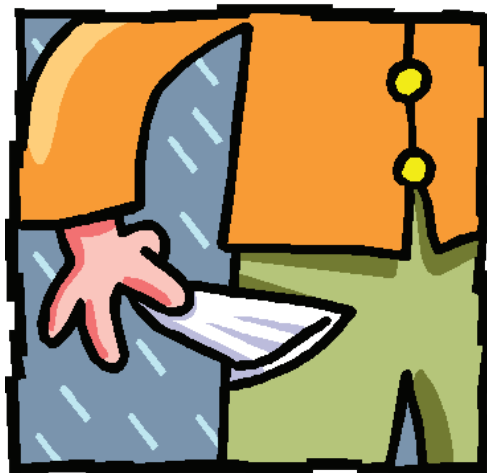
even though eight months have passed since I came to America. When I talk to my Korean-American cousin, I speak to him in Korean and he responds in English so it looks totally strange for other people. But it can't be helped because my English is still bad. I still have been dreaming that one day I can speak to him and other Korean-American friends in English fluently.

All my friends in Korea still envy me because they think an American life would be the same as life in an America movie. Whenever they ask me about life in America compared to life in a movie, I just say to come here and check it out by themselves. They are still dreaming there is a nice guy next door who says "Hi!" to me every morning and I drive every day on an empty road next to the beach with a new-cool car. However, there are just two babies in the real next door and I don't even live near the beach. But there are also several similarities between my imagination and real life in America: kind people, wonderful houses, and great nature. They are all exactly as I expected. Most Americans are even better than I thought, and I still admire pretty houses and beautiful nature while I'm passing by them in a not new-cool car.

*Seojin Tak
ESLW50*

The Benefits of Being Poor

Some people are incredibly afraid of being poor. They think that if they are poor, they will lose respect and consideration. I know one person that can't sleep at night because there is a war in his country and he has a possibility to lose his business and become poor. He is worried that he is too old to start something all over again. His daughter tells him, "My dear dada, no matter what, I will always love you and I will always support

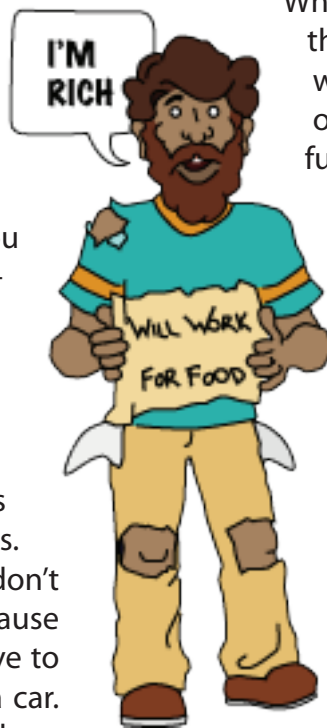


you. And maybe you won't be able to travel around the world anymore and I won't be able to buy tickets to an Elton John concert for you, but I promise that you will never be hungry or homeless." He doesn't want to listen to her. For him being poor is unacceptable. He doesn't realize that actually being poor is not so bad. I know many poor but happy people. My friend, for example, has no money for anything but paying bills, but when

she finally can afford to buy something, it's hard to find somebody happier than her. There are three reasons why being poor is not so bad.

The first advantage of being poor is that nobody will ever ask you for money. You automatically avoid an uncomfortable situation when somebody owes you money but can't return it or when you really have no money but can't refuse. I had a situation when somebody asked me for money and I had to refuse because I had no extra money. I felt very bad for the next couple of days, wondering what this person thought about me then. Another time, a friend of mine lent money to the guy that she liked and he started to avoid her because he had no money to return and no desire to explain it to her. This is real magic; you lend money and people start disappearing from your life. So the first advantage of being poor is that nobody asks you for money and nobody owes you.

The second advantage of being poor is that there is no necessity to fix things. Just imagine how cool that is! You don't have to fix anything in your house because you don't have a house. You don't have to fix your car because you don't have a car. When you have no house, you don't have to worry about buying toilet paper, cleaning supplies, furniture and electronics or paying bills for utilities and services. When you have no car, you don't have to buy new tires and parts and change oil or pay for registration, insurance and parking. When I first came to the US, I was living on two hundred dollars a month. I had only a bill for a cellphone. But if I had had no cellphone, I wouldn't have had to pay for it either. Here in America if you are poor, the government will help you. They will give you money for food, health insurance, and cash aid. I was one of those poor and happy people. I faced the first problems when I earned my first thousand. So, the second advantage of being poor



is that you don't have to fix things and pay for anything.

The third advantage of being poor is having loyal and good friends. I was talking to my friend and he told me that when he had money, he had people in his house every day. He had a lot of food and drinks at home and his wife used to like to make parties in their house very much. He thinks that because he lost his job, he has no wife, no house, and no people in the house anymore. I noticed that rich and famous people attract other people.

When I was studying in high school, a son of the mayor of our city was studying there with me. He always was in the company of other people and he always had a beautiful girl around him. He was very confident and smart. Everybody always laughed at his jokes. I was wondering if he really was that attractive and smart and that's why he had so many friends or if it was because he was a kid of wealthy parents. I know one man who met his wife many years ago in college. Back then they both had nothing and today he laughs and says, "I don't know what she saw in me, but I know for sure that she chose me not because of my money." So, the third advantage to being poor is having good friends that love you for yourself and not for your money.

There are three advantages to being poor. The first advantage of being poor is when you are poor nobody is tempted to ask you for money. The second advantage of being poor is having no troubles with paying bills and fixing things. When you have nothing, there are no worries that somebody can steal or damage something of yours. Finally, the third benefit to being poor is that you can see who really likes you and needs you.

Olena Kovalyova
ESLW50

Does He Really Need a Wig?

Baldness has been a problem for a lot of people for many years. This problem has affected men and women for centuries. However, it is more common to see how women are concerned about this problem than men are. It is normal because women always want to be pretty, but be careful if there is a worried man trying to deal with a baldness problem. There is a big danger. He might do anything to try to get back his hair. Some men try shampoos and treatments while some others try some crazy things. I know a professor who is involved in a situation like this. He is very worried about his baldness. He is wondering if he should get a wig. I think he would look weird, funny, and totally different. I firmly believe that my ESL instructor shouldn't get a wig.



The first reason why I disagree that my professor should get a wig is because he will look very weird. All his students are used to seeing him without hair. Some of them would laugh at him and he might not feel comfortable with this situation. Could you imagine him arriving at his house with his new look? I could. I believe that his puppy's hair would stick up and he would run away behind the sofa. His wife might think that somebody exchanged her husband for somebody else. Maybe she would call the police; things like this could happen! I am his student and I cannot imagine this man with a wig. In my opinion, he would look older.

The second reason why I disagree that my teacher should get a wig is because this can affect his self-esteem. Maybe he would think that he looks very handsome and young with the wig. But how about if his wife tells him that she prefers the old guy without a wig. It may affect his self-esteem because if he doesn't feel comfortable with how he looks without

hair and his wife doesn't like how he looks with a wig, he could be disappointed. However, if the professor accepts that he is bald and he doesn't look bad without hair, he will be happier. Nobody is perfect. Some people have no hair, others have a big nose, and some others have big ears. Even though almost all of us have something with which we are not comfortable, we need to learn that we are alive and healthy. My teacher needs to learn that too. If he got a wig, it might confuse him more than he is confused now.



The third reason why I disagree that my instructor should get a wig is because he can choose another option. Instead of looking for a ridiculous wig, he can go to the doctor and see if he qualifies for a hair transplant. It will be more helpful to him.

In my opinion, my professor needs to work overtime at American River College to save enough money to do the hair transplant. I know it is not easy because this treatment is so expensive but if he really wants his hair back, this is the best choice. Living with a wig on his head is not a good idea. What about if a terrible wind blows and his wig flies away? He would want to die of shame. I think that the worst thing that the guy can do is get a wig. In my opinion, if he wants hair, he needs to look at other choices. There are a lot of different options. Why should he get a wig? I do not see any necessity for that. On the contrary, he might look ridiculous and old. I think he looks very nice bald. He doesn't need hair. All his students are used to looking at him without hair. I strongly believe that the man doesn't need a wig.

*Ana Valencia
ESLW50*

The Lucky Chain

A long time ago, my family, specifically my grandmother, used to keep antique, shabby chic, and old stuff. They used to have a variety of things, such as old TVs, gramophones, old radios, very expensive vases back to the Ottoman era, and very huge, old paintings by different famous artists.

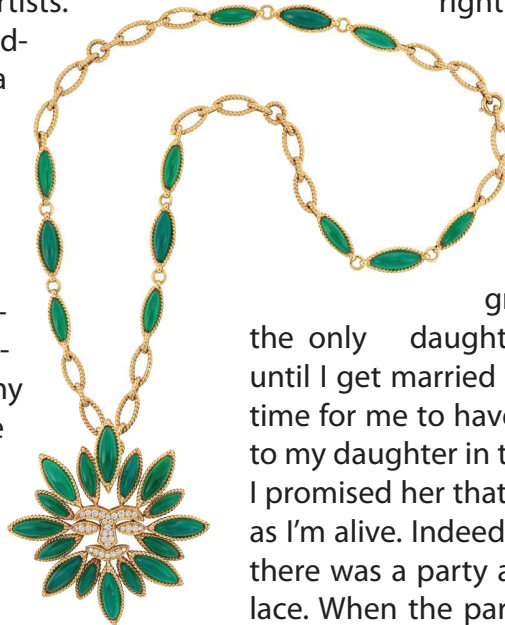
I remember when I went to my grandfather's house, I imagined I was at a museum, not a house. They used to keep all this shabby-chic stuff in a big room, organized and neat. My grandmother used to clean it every day. I always dreamed of getting something for myself to keep forever; fortunately, finally I had something that I would never take off my neck. In my family we call it, "The Lucky Chain."

The chain looks very simple. It's made of a gemstone. I'm not sure what kind it is, but it's brown and surrounded with a gold grip.

My grandmother used to wear it all the time. She always talked about it, and how it was important and precious for her. She said that her mother-in-law gave it to her on her wedding day, and told her not to take it off as long as she was alive, unless she had a daughter. She also asked her to give it to her daughter on her wedding day, too. However, my grandmother didn't give it to any of her four girls, until she made a wise decision by choosing one of her daughters to have the chance and get it.

One day my grandmother called my mom and asked her to come over for tea, and also called my aunts and asked them to be at my grandmother's house at a specific time. They all agreed. When all of us arrived at my grandmother's house, there were four small boxes on the table. We were wondering what was in them. My grandmother smiled and said, "Each of you, my dear daughters, will choose randomly a box. It's a little gift from me to remember." Everyone chose one box. My mother was the lucky daughter. My first aunt had a nice old gold ring, the

second aunt had lovely pearl earrings, the third one had a white gold bangle, and my mom had "The Lucky Chain." They all were happy at the end, especially my mom, because she had a priceless gift from her mom. Assuredly my grandmother did the right thing by making them choose their gifts.



When the time came, and I turned 18 years old, my mom gave the chain to me as a birthday gift. She didn't have to do the same thing that my grandmother did because I'm

the only daughter and she didn't want to wait until I get married because she told me that it was time for me to have it. She also asked me to give it to my daughter in the future. I was very happy, and I promised her that I would never take it off as long as I'm alive. Indeed, I have never taken it off, unless there was a party and I had to wear another necklace. When the party was over, I ran and put it on again. I feel uncomfortable not wearing it. It means everything to me.

When I look at myself in the mirror, the first thing I see is the chain. I'm afraid to lose it because it's a special gift from my mother. It also reminds me of my dear grandmother, who unfortunately passed away and this is the only memory that I have of her. I loved her so much. I appreciate that I wear her chain now. When I see the chain hanging on my chest, I smile because I remember her voice and how nice she was. I smell her best perfume that she used to wear. What also comes to mind is the sound of the old songs coming out of the old gramophone, and I imagine her sitting in her favorite chair next to the fireplace, drinking her coffee. This chain brings all the nice memories back. I wish to turn back time and have a chance to see her, and thank her for giving me the chance to have "the Lucky Chain."

*Lubna Saleh
ESLW50*

Being Deaf vs Being Blind

Most people know of blind people through school, from movies, or from TV shows more than they do of deaf people. People don't really understand deaf culture, or the idea of the deaf world because they aren't exposed to deaf culture like they are to the blind. There are several differences between being deaf and being blind: senses, communication, and the struggle of everyday life.

The first difference between the deaf and the blind are the senses because deaf people have strong visual sense while the blind focus on hearing. For deaf people who were born completely deaf, it means that they can't hear anything, but because of this the deaf are the best visually, because deaf have 180 degree peripherals that can see everything and it is easy to notice something very quickly. Everything in their lives has to be visual. On the other hand, for blind



people who were born completely blind, it means that they can't see anything, like seeing a black picture all the time, although even though they can't see, they can still focus on hearing anything like speech, noise, and music. Deaf and blind can do anything seeing and hearing people can do. They just do it without hearing and vision. For example, I was born deaf and I grew up as normally as hearing people do except I can't hear. A friend of mine who is blind grew up just as normally as I did, but without his vision instead of his hearing. It's a gift from God so there's really nothing wrong with that because I felt like if I were born hearing then my fate would be the exact opposite.

The second difference between the deaf and the blind is the way the deaf and the blind communicate. For the deaf, they use sign language to communicate with deaf people. They use their hand movements and gestures of body language to form sentences since they can't hear. They also can't talk due to deafness. Blind people are usually better at hearing than normal people would be because they can't see anything, such as pictures or colors. They use speech just

as normal people do and they are able to use a special typewriter that types in Braille. My friend works with a client who is blind and that client is very sensitive when it comes to hearing and touching and that's what makes her comfortable. My friend has to make sure her client stays close to her so she can communicate with her as well as lock arms so that the client knows it is safe. One time when her client was separated, the client would only calm down when her helper would show up close to her. When her helper approached, the client already



knew it was my friend because the client knew her helper's tone by memorizing people's voices.

The third difference between the deaf and the blind is the struggle of everyday life and all of them have their own individual experiences with what they struggle. Deaf people on a daily basis receive sympathetic looks and/or have a judgment cast upon them. For example, one of my friends applied for a job but was turned down for the position. The reasoning was because she was deaf and deaf people can't do anything. But then people who are blind tend to get a more sympathetic approach from others. I have seen the blind at my work at a home care facility. Another example is one of the clients from the home care facility is blind and up until now has been doing very well. He decided he wanted to work on his independence and leave, but the staff continued to persuade the client to stay so that they could continue to help him.

In conclusion, differences in the senses, communication, and struggle are major things that affect both lives. You can notice how big of a difference there is between being deaf and being blind, because I sure have noticed the difference. The experiences that they live through and have to go through are truly eye opening.

*Amanpreet Kaur
ESLW50*

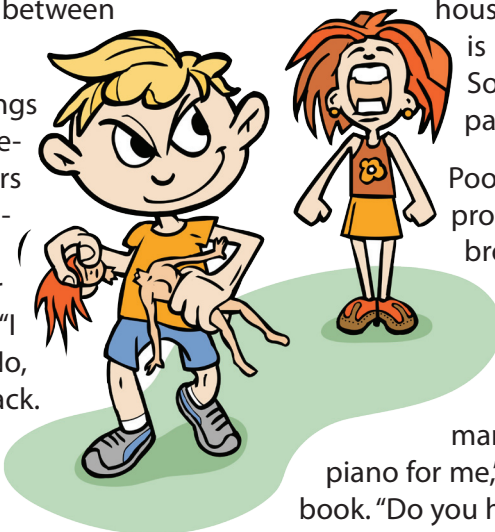
The Causes of Friction Between Siblings

In life, we have many causes of bad feelings about other people. I don't like my co-worker because she always talks loudly on the phone during work. I don't like my neighbor because he always makes loud noises early Sunday morning. I don't like some drivers because they suddenly turn without signaling. However, we don't only have bad feelings toward strangers; we also have bad feelings toward our family members too. Differences in lifestyles, favoritism, and poor communication are the causes of friction between siblings.

One cause of difficulties with siblings is not sharing the same lifestyles. I remember that when I was three years old, I had a fight with my older brother for the TV. I wanted to watch the cartoon channel, but my brother wanted to watch the sports channel. "I want to watch channel 3," I yelled. "No, I want to watch soccer," he yelled back. He tried to hide the remote control, so I couldn't get it from him. Another time, I had to argue with my sister when I was six years old. We had to share the bed, and I wanted to put my princess doll on the bed, but she wanted to put her animal dolls. The problem is the bed was too small, so it couldn't hold all of them. "We don't have enough room," I said. She cried, "I don't care. I want my dolls." My father was angry about that, so he put all of them on the floor. "No dolls are allowed on the bed," he commanded. When we all grew up, we still had different ideas about our house that we wanted to buy. I wanted a house that has two stories and a large backyard, but my sister liked a one-story house and a large front yard. So we spent a lot of time looking for a house that met our requirements. Therefore, differences in lifestyle is one of the causes of friction between siblings.

Favoritism is another reason for friction between siblings. On my fifth birthday, my mother gave me pretty shoes. I showed them to everyone in the family and believed that my mother loved me the most. However, on my sister's seventh birthday, my mother gave her a beautiful dress. I complained to mother, "It is not fair. You only gave me little shoes. Why did you give her a big dress? You love her more than me." My mother re-

plied, "No! Because your sister is older than you, I gave her a big dress. I love you all the same." One time, my brother was sick, so my mother cooked a special meal for him. I cried, "You always give him meat but not me." My mother said, "He is sick, so he needs meat. I will give some to you next time." My sister wanted a cat while I wanted a dog. We told our father what we wanted. As a result, he bought a dog for me but not a cat for my sister. He told us, "A dog can help us to protect the house and is really smart while the cat is lazy and can't do anything to help." Sometime, I have the feeling that our parents are fair and unfair to us.



Poor communication skills is another problem between siblings. My oldest brother sometime commanded us to do something for him. "Get me a cup of water," "Mop the floor", and "Throw the garbage in the trash can" were the most common commands from him. "Get the book on the piano for me," he asked me while I was reading a book. "Do you have legs?" I asked. He nodded, "Yes, what is wrong with my legs?" I said, "If so, you can go and get it for yourself." He was very angry and yelled at me, but I didn't care. One time he commanded Anna, my younger sister, "Hey, go get a beef jerky at the liquor store next door for me." "In your dreams," Anna yelled out. Not only my brother, but sometimes I, too, commanded Anna. "Go get the sunglasses in my room for me." Anna went to my room and got the sunglasses, but she wasn't happy. Most of us hate the feeling when some people give orders to us, especially when they are our siblings.

Our family has many problems. These problems can help us love each other or hate each other. We have good memories when we spend time together with our families. However, it is not always fun when we live together because different lifestyles, favoritism, and miscommunication are the causes of bad feeling between siblings. I believe these bad feelings happen to every family, not only us. When we grow up, these memories will become the best memories of our childhood.

Gum Chewing at American River College (ARC)

While most people may think of gum chewing as an innocent habit, the topic of regulating gum-chewing deserves much more attention. Gum is a soft, cohesive substance intended for chewing but not swallowing. Modern chewing gum is made out of synthetic rubber. The problem with chewing inside ARC school buildings is the inappropriate disposal of the gum by students. Most desks and chairs in my English class have chewing gum stuck beneath them. Disposing of chewing gum under desks, chairs, or tables is unsanitary and expensive to clean up and is essentially a form of littering. To solve this problem, I think ARC should ban gum chewing inside the school buildings and classrooms.



ARC should institute a policy of no gum chewing inside school buildings and classrooms except for in designated areas. With the exception of the cafeteria, each school building should post visible signs saying "No Gum Chewing" inside the building and inside each classroom. These signs should reinforce and remind the students to dispose of their gum before they enter the building. Students who violate these rules should be asked to leave the building. This policy should help ARC to keep the classroom tables, desks, and chairs free of chewing gum.

Furthermore, ARC should create a campaign to raise the awareness of students about the high cost of cleaning and the risk of exposure to disease or bacteria that could be transmitted to other people who come into contact with other peoples' gum. The awareness campaign could generate flyers and brochures to address the consequences of people improperly disposing of their chewing gum. The awareness campaign could help students to understand the cost and time that is required for the

custodial staff to clean up the mess and to understand also the types of diseases that they may inadvertently transmit to other people when they do not properly dispose of their gum.

In addition to the awareness campaign, ARC should invest in acquiring more trash cans to encourage students to properly dispose of chewing gum. ARC should strategically place the trash cans in the classrooms as well as inside and outside of school buildings. The trash cans should have open tops, making it easy for students to toss in the chewing gum. Placing several trash cans in convenient locations around school buildings should help students to properly dispose of their chewing gum.

In conclusion, by banning gum chewing inside school buildings and classrooms, ARC can potentially reduce the number of incidents by which students improperly dispose of their gum.

The posting of "No Gum Chewing" signs will remind the students to dispose of their chewing gum before they enter the school building. Moreover, the awareness campaign should raise students' knowledge of the cost and time required of the custodial staff to clean up after their chewing gum and the dangerous diseases that can potentially transmit to other people. Furthermore, increasing the number of trashcans located in convenient locations around school buildings should help students dispose of their trash in a responsible manner. I believe by implementing the three solutions detailed above at ARC, it is likely that we will have a pleasant, safe and clean environment for ARC staff and students and a reduced budget for chewing-gum cleaning.

*Helen McCormack
ESLW50*

Nestscape -- Articles from The Web

Using Humor to Boost Your Training Programs

If people believe there's something inherently funny and interesting in it for them, they're far more likely to stay tuned.

Article Author:

By Steve Kakos, Vice President, Second City Communications

What's that—nobody laughs at your training? You could have a problem on your hands.

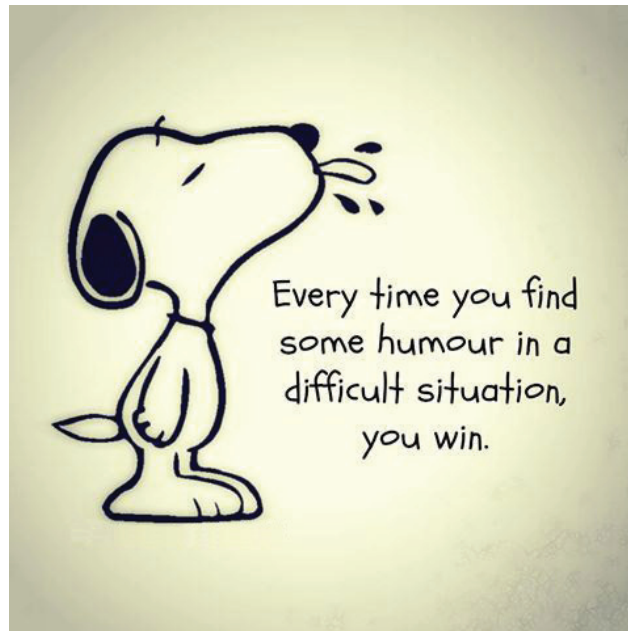
Here's why: Humor is a vital component of successful education, though you might not hear "educators" say that too often. But it's true—and I'll make the formal connection in a minute.

The opportunity for learning professionals is rich: If you embrace humor more actively, you'll engage your workforce more deeply. What's more, you'll inspire people to learn. Too often, comedy is treated as a nice to have—if it's considered at all. But humor is like salt: It's both easy for people to miss it, and to have an enhanced experience when it's there.

At Second City, after 55 years of winning audiences nightly, we have a unique perspective on the role of humor. We also educate 15,000 improv students every year and know well the possibilities that surface when education and comedy work together.

But don't just take my word for it: There's science at work here, as well, according to the American Psychological Association, which shows how humor can help facilitate improved learning.

In fact, two researchers (Jennings Bryant, Ph.D., and Dolf Zillmann, Ph.D.) studied classroom humor for decades, ultimately concluding that humor made learning more pleasurable while also enhancing attention and improving the classroom environment itself.



Bryant and Zillmann also suggest that humor is particularly effective when it plays off the knowledge of the audience rather than just being fun for fun's sake. And to take it down a peg or two: You only need to watch a Super Bowl, or experience viral social media content, to understand the powerful connections advertisers make using comedy.

Content Plus Creativity

As I write, we're focused on helping Human Resources professionals use comedy to make their learning efforts stick. As HR migrates from a backstage administrative function to a more main stage talent management one, organizations such as Google, Edward Jones, Virgin, Netflix, and Zappos realize that talent is a differentiator and the policies, procedures, and educational efforts their talent organizations creates must truly be additive to their cultures.

Second City's recent launch of RealBiz Shorts Talent reflects our belief that humor can help humanize cultures while reinforcing the myriad complex learning messages that talent management experts have to communicate within large, complex organizations.

In developing this approach, we have found it particularly helpful to team with client collaborators

also experienced in using humor for learning, such as John Kolmer, manager of Global Leadership Development at DOW, who noted that, “a few years ago we embraced using short, funny videos in our training delivery and noticed the impact immediately. Using this method of injecting humor into our learning initiatives helps wake people up and vastly increased topic retention. We were excited to think about what could be done around topics such as performance and talent management in collaboration with Second City.”

It’s this kind of approach to marrying content expertise with creativity that’s key. More than four years ago, we challenged ourselves at Second City (perhaps somewhat masochistically) to take our own educational efforts to the next level by finding the learning category for businesses that was both critically important to the organization, but woefully painful for workforce audiences. This ultimately led us to corporate ethics and compliance training.



As we explored this category more fully, and began talking to those responsible for this critical, mess-this-up-and-folks-could-go-to-jail training, we empathized with the difficulty of the task at hand and found empathy for those responsible for running these programs. Ultimately, we realized we could be part of the solution, that our unique ability to find the funny in anything coupled with the business expertise of our new compliance friends could truly work wonders. As Jerry Garcia once remarked, “somebody has to do something, and it’s just incredibly pathetic that it has to be us.” Hundreds of the world’s most ethical companies now rely on this approach to make their ethics and compliance education stick.

From an audience’s perspective, it’s easy to see why

the link between learning and comedy is so strong. **People want to play. They want an experience. They want to laugh.** If they believe there’s something inherently funny and interesting in it for them, they’re far more likely to stay tuned.

That’s especially true in our multi-screen, always-on, everything-reviewed world where simple heuristics make it easy for audiences to quickly figure out content is worth investing in before they decide to tap the screen (and harder for publishers to make something go viral that is simply flat). Take airline safety videos, as a case in point. Since the conventional approaches weren’t working, Delta, Virgin, Air New Zealand, and others now wisely play against established, boring, straight-laced conventions—knowing that any challenges associated with doing it different were preferable to being ignored.

Where to Start

Here’s how to incorporate more humor into your next learning initiative:

- **Begin with the audience in mind.** This sounds like common sense, but often it isn’t common practice. When you’re an avid learner and/or seasoned Learning and Development pro, it’s easy to develop a mentality of “of course, they’ll want to learn this.” Not true. Better to assume people are busy and operating under their own wishes, desires, and quirks. Think like a marketer. Who are they? What do they care about? It isn’t the “last mile.” It’s the first step. If they don’t care, you’re done. Period.
- **Make your approach for originating learning content collaborative and fun.** Make it a game. Play with your audience. Involve them in the process. There should be no grand reveal. There should be no guessing. You should know some-

thing will work because you've seen an example of it already. Invite their thinking and capture real-time insight into what they care about. Make this shift in originating your content and you'll be surprised you ever did it any other way.

- **Always share point of view; use humor to make it stick.** Training can't be neutral. You're always asking your audience to make a choice. So you have to stand out. Too much learning content in the world never gets put to practical use because it's too generic and easy to ignore. Hu-

mor goes along way here. It's particularly great in softening resistance to strong points of view and nurturing empathy when the audience must undergo significant change in order to progress.

In our view, it's not that learning can be entertaining, it's that it deserves to be. Let comedy serve as teacher and friend, and you will be truly inspired by where the journey can take you.

<http://trainingmag.com/using-humor-boost-your-training-programs>

Missing African Parrot Returns Home After 4 Years — Speaking Spanish

Continued from page 1

Dog-groomer Julissa Sperling came across the parrot, which had been whistling and chattering outside her front door, according to the Torrance newspaper, the Daily Breeze.

"He was the happiest bird. He was singing and talking without control. . . . He was barking like the dogs," Sperling told the Daily Breeze. I'm from Panama and he was saying, 'What happened?' in Spanish."

Sperling knew the pet must have an owner, and set out to find them. She started her search online, and found another owner, Teresa Micco, who had been searching for a similar-looking parrot.

The bird did have a microchip embedded in its leg, but when Micco checked, it wasn't her pet's.

"I felt so sorry for her, her face changed totally when she found out it wasn't hers," Sperling said.

She may have been disappointed, but Micco was also determined to find out where this parrot belonged, according to the Daily Breeze:

It turned out that no one had registered the microchip — which ironically Micco, then a vet tech, had put into the bird in 2006 — so paper sales records were traced to Animal Lovers pet store in Torrance. Surprisingly, the shop kept its old paper

records and made note of the band number that was originally on the bird's leg.

"We both kept records and we had jotted the band number on our sales slip" when the bird was sold, said Tomi Takemoto of Animal Lovers.

Two disconnected phone numbers later, Micco decided to knock on Chick's door—hoping he hadn't moved in the last four years.

"I introduced myself and said, 'Have you lost a bird?'" Micco told the Daily Breeze. "He initially said 'No' — but he thought I meant recently."

"He looked at me like I was crazy," she added.

Then Chick remembered that his African parrot had gone missing four years ago.

Micco, who is searching for her own missing grey African parrot, has facilitated reunions like this five times as she's searched for her own pet.

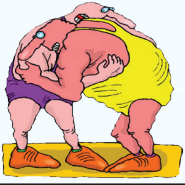
"So hopefully, that karma is going to come back," she said.

As for Nigel, the bird is reportedly settling in well.

"He's doing perfect," Chick told the Daily Breeze when the paper checked in later in the week. "It's really weird, I knew it was him from minute I saw him."

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/national/wp/2014/10/14/missing-african-parrot-returns-home-after-4-years-speaking-spanish/>

Parrot Warbling



Grappling with Grammar

Punctuation Quotation Marks

1. Use quotation marks to cite something someone said exactly. When rephrasing what someone told you, no quotation marks are needed.

EXAMPLES:

- a. *"I'm going to the store now," she said.*
- b. *Harry told me, "Don't forget your soccer jersey."*
- c. *Harry told me not to forget my soccer jersey.*

2. If quoting others within a quote, both single and double quotation marks are used to set the two separate quotations off from each other.

EXAMPLE:

'I haven't spoken to Peter for months,' Dianne said. 'The last time I spoke to him he said, "I'm going to Bahrain and won't be back for about three years"; I've heard nothing since then.'

3. You may see single or double quotation marks used to mark out idiomatic or unfamiliar expressions

EXAMPLES:

- a. *I've always thought that he was very annoying, a bit of a 'pain in the neck.'*
- b. *I'm not sure what you mean by "custodial care", but I'm sure you will explain it to me.*

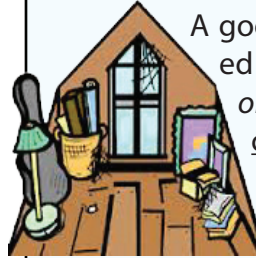
4. Quotation marks both single and double are also used for specific purposes in bibliographic references or when citing sources in academic writing. There are a number of ways of organising bibliographies which set out standard formats. Most organisations and academic institutions will prefer one of these or have their own format published in a 'style guide'.

EXAMPLE:

"The Migration Flight of the Lesser Tweazle", by Jeremy Adams, The Bird Spotter Magazine, July 2009.

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

Idiom--Attic Science Idioms



A good example of a science-oriented idiom would be to "blind someone with science" which means to confuse someone with language that is highly technical. Another would be "to have something down to a science" which means something is totally understood and managed extremely well.

<http://www.englishdaily626.com/idioms>

Beak Speak

English Pronunciation: How to Pronounce Z

Z is just like **S**, except it vibrates. Tense your tongue and as the air comes out, you should feel the vibration on your tongue and the roof of your mouth. If you do not feel that energy (which eventually will make the tongue warm), the vibration is not there. Basically, you are holding your tongue in the **S** position, but with more tension. This creates the vibration.

When S Sounds Like Z:

There is a very confusing aspect of the **S** sound in American English. **S** has more of a light **Z** sound in some common words when the **S** follows a vowel. This rule is not constant. As a good example: *is* has the **Z** sound, but *this* does not. The phonetic rule is this: if **S** follows a vowel or a voiced consonant, it sounds like **Z**. However, because there are exceptions and this rule is already a subtle one, I recommend that you simply be aware of it and listen for it. Also, begin to use it in some of the common words listed below:

is, was, his, has, rise, raise, lose, use, pose, rose, mows, flows, eyes, good-byes, confuse, those, easy, movies, says, shoes.

If you use the **Z** in a few common words, your awareness will build naturally and your ear will pick up on the sound when other people in your everyday life use it in other words. This sound is soft. As it comes at the end of the word, it is quite brief. The only real difference between this and a regular **S** is that you're vibrating the sound a little bit. Remember most Americans are unaware of this distinction.



<http://www.speakmethod.com>

Some More Parrot Fun Stuff

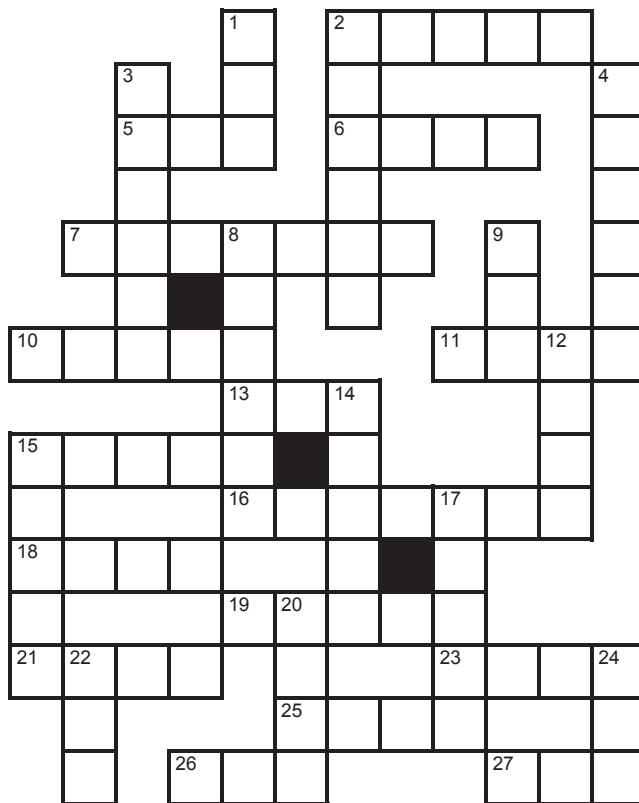
Volleyball Word Search

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid.

The remaining 39 letters spell a secret message.

G N I K C O L B V O S T G N I K I P S
 A L W S I D E O U T S R W O L E T Y B
 M R E E K C A T T A A A I I A L U O F
 E E C E A T E A M S P J P T U P M U B
 E T N V S K P M U D P E E A E R O C S
 V A E A T U S L L W R C F T A N D E M
 R O F S O O B I F O O T W O R K I L L
 E L F S P S H S D A A O S R E T T I H
 S F O I S T E S T E C R D F H O R C I
 G S I S P N H N E I H Y O E Q C A A R
 L L R T I A P R I S T R O U F P T E L
 Y L R E N S E O D L M U I R T E T A H
 C A A K Y F L A I A E C T A E T N C M
 C T L B E A P I T N K D I I E B A C L
 O R L R Y E L I D H T N I S O O I L E
 U O Y E E K O P I E D S M S C N I L N
 R P T N O N S T N E T I H E L B U O D
 T S K T S T V E R T I C A L J U M P E

APPROACH	FOOTWORK	QUICK HIT	SKY BALL
ASSIST	FORMATIONS	RALLY	SLIDE
ATTACK	FOUL	REFEREE	SPIKING
BLOCKING	GAME	ROTATION	SPORT
BUMP	HITTER	SAVE	SUBSTITUTION
CAPTAIN	KILL	SCORE	TANDEM
COACH	KNEE PADS	SERVE	TEAMS
COURT	LIBERO	SETS	TOPSPIN
DEFENCE	MATCH	SETTER	TRAJECTORY
DOUBLE HIT	OFFENCE	SHANK	VERTICAL JUMP
DUMP	PASS	SHOT	WEAK SIDE
FAULT	PLAYERS	SIDELINES	WIPE
FLOATER	POINTS	SIDE OUT	

**Down**

- 1 The opposite of in. (3)
- 2 A kind of fruit that begins with B. (6)
- 3 A synonym of afraid. (6)
- 4 The opposite of top. (6)
- 8 A season that rhymes with king. (6)
- 9 A drink that rhymes with sea. (3)
- 12 A food that rhymes with dice. (4)
- 14 Another word for big. (5)

- 15 The opposite of heavy. (5)
- 17 A kind of fruit that begins with A. (5)
- 20 The opposite of soft. (4)
- 22 A farm animal that rhymes with pen. (3)
- 24 Another word for pull. (3)

Word Skills**Across**

- 2 A place that rhymes with teach. (5)
- 5 A pet that rhymes with hat. (3)
- 6 The opposite of far. (4)
- 7 A synonym of gift. (7)
- 10 The opposite of over. (5)
- 11 A place that rhymes with arm. (4)
- 13 Another word for sick. (3)
- 15 A kind of fruit that begins with L. (5)
- 16 A synonym for trash. (7)
- 18 A farm animal that rhymes with boat. (4)
- 19 A farm animal that rhymes with sleep. (5)
- 21 The antonym of thick. (4)
- 23 The opposite of first. (4)
- 25 A type of flower that begins with R. (4)
- 26 The antonym of good. (3)
- 27 A farm animal that rhymes with wig. (3)



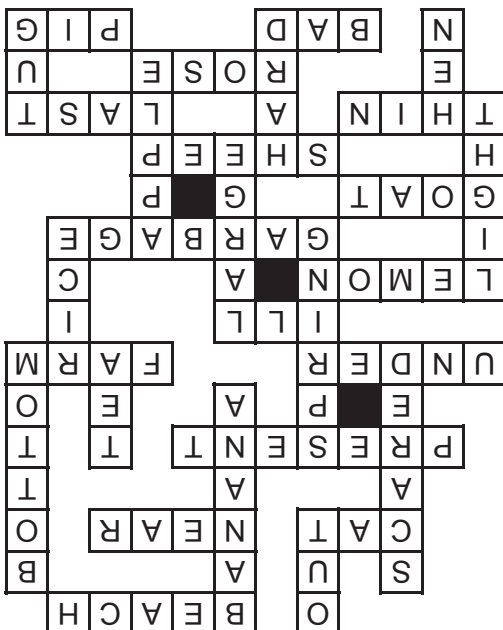
I Have to Write a Poem for Class

I have to write a poem for class
 But don't think I'll succeed,
 I know I don't know all the words
 That I am going to need.
 I cannot quite imagine
 How my poem's supposed to be

I've got a sinking feeling
 I'm not good at poetry.

My poem must have a meter
 And it also has to rhyme,
 It's due tomorrow morning...
 How I wish I had more time!
 I do not think that I can write
 A poem the way I should —
 But look...this is a poem right here,
 And it is pretty good.

Jack Prelutsky



Rigoberto's Riddles

If I drink, I die. If I eat, I am fine.
 What am I?

A fire!



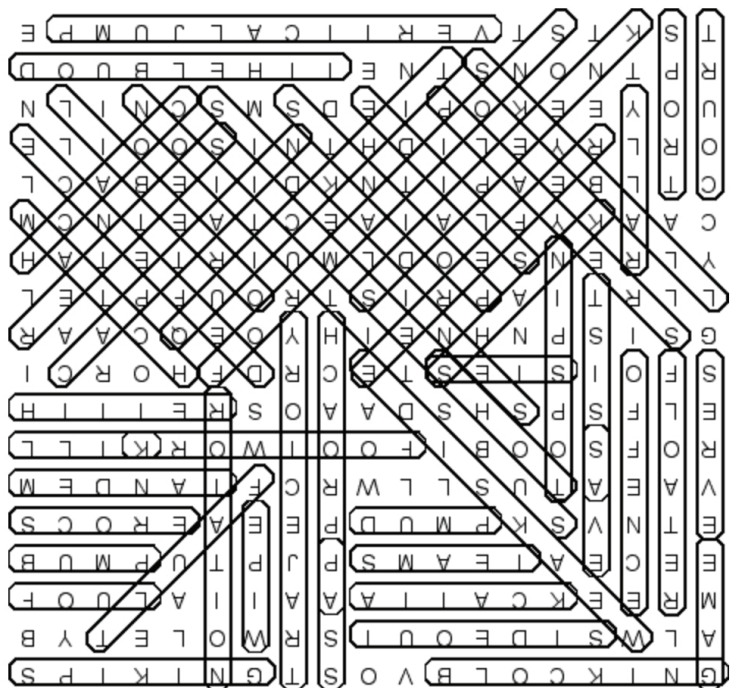
Silly Vasily's Chuckle Chamber

The Future Profession



A father is asked by his friend, "Has your son decided what he wants to be when he grows up?" "Yes, he wants to be a garbage collector," replied the boy's father.

His friend thought for a moment and responded, "That's a rather strange ambition to have for a career." "Well," said the boy's father, "he thinks that garbage collectors only work on Tuesdays!"



Granny Noetal

Dear Granny,

There isn't a lot of variety to choose from on campus when it comes to food. I was wondering if you had any recommendations of anything new I could try.

Hungry Student

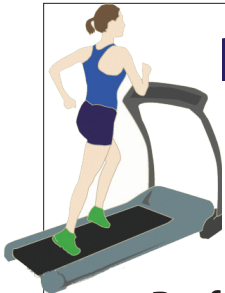
Dear Hungry Student,

Food is an essential part of a person's day, so I can see why you're getting upset that there aren't many options. There is actually a place on campus I'm almost positive you've never been to. On campus there is a student - run restaurant called The Oak Café. This restaurant has delicious food and even got 4 out of 5 stars on YELP, whatever the heck that means. The culinary



students at ARC come up with the menu, which changes weekly. People rave about the desserts especially. All the food is made from scratch and is offered at a reasonable price. I think at this age, getting in good hardy meals is such a necessity. At the Oak Cafe you can do just that! The next time you dont feel like getting in the car and driving to In-N-Out (although they have delicious hamburgers), go some place convenient on campus! Maybe even ask your crush to come! This place is a nice place to take someone on a date. Just make sure to make a reservation before going!

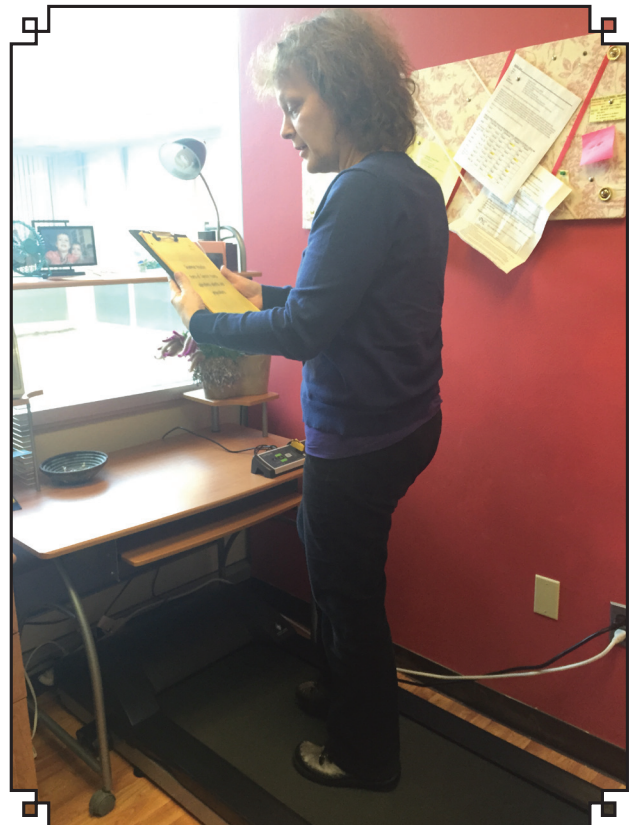
*Love,
Granny*



Ryther On The Run

Question of ESL Prof. Ryther: *Why have you adopted a treadmill?*

Professor Ryther: There are a couple of reasons I have the treadmill. One is that there is not enough time in life and sometimes you need to do two things at the same time like exercising and correcting papers and if I spend as much time exercising as I spend correcting papers, I will be in wonderful shape! The other thing I find is that I'm the kind of person that if I'm moving I think better so I actually think that I'm doing a better job correcting the papers because I'm just a very kinesthetic person, and that's it!



From the Middle East to the Far West:

Samiha Maraga

Continued from page 1

Parrot: You are very lucky! Many dream to visit at least several of these countries. Tell me more about your work for the UN.

Samiha: I served in the UN as a teacher for special needs students for four years. I trained for two years and took special courses in order to get into this job. However, I had to quit at that time due to my kids' responsibilities and needs. This job was such an amazing opportunity, which allowed me to learn a lot about special-needs kids and improve my personal skills such as patience and provide me with better skills to take care of my children at that time. If it were not for my kids and my responsibilities, I would not have quit this job at all.

Parrot: When did you come to the United States?

Samiha: I came here six years ago, in 2009.

Parrot: Did you come with your family?

Samiha: I came with my children. My husband came to the United States in 1996.

Parrot: How did you feel when you completely changed your lifestyle?

Samiha: You know, I don't feel like I changed something completely. My lovely husband and my lovely children are close to me. I don't think my life has changed. Maybe just one thing is different. It is food.. (She looks so sad)

Parrot: Oh, yes, that is true! The food here is completely different from Arabic food!!! Do you think Arabic food is better?

Samiha: Not, I don't think it is better. We are used to cooking the food by ourselves. Every meal needs to be with some vegetables.

Parrot: So I see, you like to be healthy!

Samiha: Yes!

Parrot: How about your children – was it easier for

them than for you to get used to a new life?

Samiha: I don't know! They are getting used to this country very fast! They are young and smart! The older one is sixteen and the younger one is nine. In Jordan, they had an opportunity to learn some English and it helped them a little bit.

Parrot: That is very good! What do you do when you are not in college? Do you work?

Samiha: No, I'm not working. Sometimes I work with my husband part-time. I just help him. However, my primary job is my family and my children. In addition, I am going to college and it takes almost all of my time.

Parrot: That is a very responsible job to take care of your children and raise them! Did you have a dream when you were a child? Were you able to put your dream in practice?

Samiha: I had a dream! I wanted to be a nurse when I was a child. Unfortunately, I did not have a chance to do it, because at that moment I heeded to go to Egypt to do my studying.

Parrot: I'm sorry to hear that! I hope you will have this opportunity in this country! Which one of your parents was a bigger authority for you?

Samiha: My father. He was not just my father – he was my friend; he helped me a lot in everything. He encouraged me to read a lot. He told me to do what I believed in.

Parrot: Did your parents help you in important decisions that you have made?

Samiha: Yes! They always supported me and gave me the opportunity to make decisions by myself. Now I also always ask the opinion of my husband and my children. I encourage my children to do so, but eventually everyone makes his own decision.

Parrot: Do you support your children when they want to do some radical changes in their life?

Samiha: Of course! I always support them in all aspects. My relationships with my children are like friends – not just like mother and child.

Parrot: That is so important for children! Good job. Would you prefer that your children had a different life than yours? If yes, why?

Samaha: Their choice. What they believe – they do. If my children are comfortable with something – they will do it. If they need advice – I will advise them. They tell me everything they feel.

Parrot: Because you are friends!

Samaha: Yes! If they need my help, I help them, but I do not put my nose into their personal life.

Parrot: How do you view your life in ten years?

Samaha: I do not know...

Parrot: Do you like everything as it is right now?

Samaha: No. I would like to continue my education. In addition, I know I am a good cook.

Parrot: Do you think about opening your own place with special food?

Samaha: I really want to. I hope I will do it someday – a small restaurant!

Parrot: I am sure that a lot of people from ARC would come to your restaurant! Everybody loves Arabic food, as well as me.

Samaha: I will invite you!

Parrot: Thank you very much! Also thank you very much for your time. It was very interesting to hear your story.

Samaha: It was my pleasure.

Oksana Cecan
ESLL40



The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA)



We provide assistance and protection for some 5 million registered Palestine refugees to help them achieve their full potential in human development.

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) is funded almost entirely by voluntary contributions from UN Member States. UNRWA also receives some funding from the Regular Budget of the United Nations, which is used mostly for international staffing costs.

The Agency's services encompass education, health care, relief and social services, camp infrastructure and improvement, microfinance and emergency assistance, including in times of armed conflict.

Palestine refugees

UNRWA is unique in terms of its long-standing commitment to one group of **refugees**.

It has contributed to the welfare and human development of four generations of **Palestine refugees**, defined as "persons whose normal place of residence was Palestine during the period 1 June 1946 to 15 May 1948, and who lost both home and means of livelihood as a result of the 1948 conflict." The descendants of Palestine refugee males, including legally adopted children, are also eligible for registration.

UNRWA services are available to all those living in its areas of operations who meet this definition, who are registered with the Agency and who need assistance. When the Agency began operations in 1950, it was responding to the needs of about 750,000 Palestine refugees. Today, some 5 million Palestine refugees are eligible for UNRWA services.

<http://www.unrwa.org/who-we-are>

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR THE SPRING BREAK?

(asked of ESL L320)



Lidia Becerra: *"I was thinking of taking my family to Watsonville. It's near Santa Cruz; we really like the beach. We also want to visit the Monterey Bay Aquarium."*



Yana Sukhobokova: *"I will go to San Francisco to meet my friend. He is from Ukraine, my native country. I'm going with my husband. We will hang out there with him."*



Randu Palma: *"I'm going to spend time with my kids, maybe take them to museums. I have five girls and I asked them what they wanted to do, so we are going to do lots of family stuff."*



Christine Corpuz: *"My plan is to spend time with my grandma. I want to spend time with her because she's getting older now and I want to take care of her. Also I want to spend time with my sister in Old Sacramento."*



Polina Yegorova: *"I will go on my honeymoon, maybe to Cancun in Mexico. I just want to spend time with my husband."*





Claudia Colunga: *“I’m planning to go to the beach with my family. We are going to Cabo San Lucas.”*



Elvira Bacos: *“I fell in love with this handsome guy in San Francisco. We are going to go to Paris. The weather will be nice; we are going to have a nice time.”*



Lessya Okhman: *“I don’t know yet, but I’d like to go to Yosemite National Park, I would like to see all the tall trees. I also want to see my family.”*



Roohu Rostamkhani: *“It depends if my daughter can get a Visa to the U.S. We want to do something special for her. If she can’t come, I will just walk around and go biking with my husband.”*



Andrei Bursevici: *“Probably go with my family to this park, There’s this special park that we all went to once, so I want to find that park and go there.”*



Out of the Cage

Empowering Women in Developing Countries

Thursday, March 26, 2015
12:15 pm - 1:15 pm

Global Financial Crisis, increased violence, and armed conflict reaches every corner of the world, and women are particularly vulnerable to their impact. Women comprise half of the world's population, but they make up 70% of the world's poor. Studies show that empowering women in developing nations can have a direct impact on increasing that country's economic sustainability as well as decreasing the amount of armed conflict within a country. Using her decade-long experience as an attorney specializing in international law and as the creator of Mama Willow Tree (a fair trade retailer of women produced goods) and the Founder and Executive Director of Willow Tree Roots (a nonprofit established to help women in developing nations to socioeconomic freedom), Tiffani Sharp will discuss how empowering women in developing nations can lead to an empowered and sustainable local community and a peaceful global community.

Location: Raef Hall 160

R.A.D. Presents One Book: Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers

Thursday, April 9, 2015
12:15 pm - 1:15 pm

R.A.D. Presents One Book provides students an opportunity to engage in a formal book club, in which all the students read the same book while learning valuable reading strategies. The books chosen for R.A.D. Presents One Book address topics and themes that cross the disciplines. This semester, students will read *Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers*, by Mary Roach. Roach takes us on a journey into the cadaver industry. Her approach to the subject of our bodies postmortem is accurate and often hilarious. Join the community of readers at ARC! Bring your lunch and learn how and why R.A.D. teaches a book club class.

Location: Raef Hall 160

Holocaust Remembrance Day – Let Us Never Forget!

Thursday, April 16, 2015
12:15 pm - 1:15 pm

Description: In April, 1945, 70 years ago, Allied armies liberated the concentration camps, where more than seven million innocent people, mostly Jewish, but also gypsies, Communists, Russians, Poles, homosexuals, Christians, and others were murdered. Despite the rallying cry "Never again," genocide continues in many places. Almost all of those who survived the concentration camps are now deceased; American River College lost a friend, frequent speaker, and tireless advocate Renee Tully last spring. Many hundreds of students of all ages heard Ms. Tully's story. ARC will host a family member of a survivor, who will re-tell this story that must be told, followed by a brief sharing of what we can all do to be better informed and equipped to help stop persecution of innocent people here and abroad.

Location: Raef Hall 160

Jazz Clinic

Thursday, April 16, 2015
3:00 pm

The ARC Music Department presents a Jazz clinic featuring CSUS jazz trumpet professor, Dan Jonas.

For more information, contact:

Dr. Dyne Eifertsen, 484-8676.

Location: Room 547 of the ARC Music Department.



Questions/Comments?

Student Editors: *Olga Cuzeac* and *Emma Jaques*.

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 D337 (Davies Hall), call (916) 484-8988, or e-mail Braccop@arc.losrios.edu. To see The Parrot in color go to http://www.arc.losrios.edu/Programs_of_Study/Humanities/ESL/The_Parrot.htm