



The Parrot

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

Issue # 109

Fall 2016

Entertaining Professor Haarala!

Parrot: Hello, Professor.

Erik: Hello.

Parrot: My name is Madina.

Erik: Nice to meet you, Madina. I'm Erik.

Parrot: Nice to meet you, too.

Parrot: Prof. Haarala, can you give



ESL's Prof. Haarala

us an idea of your background?

Erik: Sure. I worked in a lot of different fields before becoming an educator, including construction, the service industry, law

enforcement, and counseling. But most of my experience is in the

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Impress Your Prof!

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The Holidays are the one time you get to experience all the excitement of rush hour traffic in the mall parking lot.

Melanie White



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Sausage-wielding Protesters Attack Patrons at Vegan Cafe!

Georgia, a proud nation in the Caucasus that went to war with Russia in 2008, is no stranger to conflict. But a weekend assault by sausage-wielding attackers at a vegan cafe in central Tbilisi is fanning concerns



that a simmering culture war could be intensifying.

The attack began Sunday evening at the bohemian Kiwi Cafe a popular spot

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Student Chirpings

Firefighters in the USA and Firefighters in Mexico

Most countries have a special number to call in an emergency to ask for help. Firefighters respond to these calls all over the world, put out fires, and risk their lives to save others. They are certainly similar in some ways, but the firefighters differ in the USA and Mexico. These differences are school preparation, number of fire stations in each city, and salaries.

The first difference between firefighters in the USA and Mexico is the school preparation. What is the academic requirement to be a firefighter? According to firerescue1.com, firefighters in the USA have to at least have a high school diploma or GED certificate. Other requirements are to have EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) certification and pass all exams or tests that the fire department gives. There are also physical ability and psychological tests. On the other hand, in Mexico, it is important only to have finished their "Secundaria," which in the USA is middle school completion. People in Mexico think that it is not very important to have educated firefighters because who will need educated people to extinguish a fire? For that reason, the fire department does not give any exam before entering. The only test that the fire department gives is a CPR test. (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation). This is given when the person is already in the fire department.

Another difference is the number of fire stations for each city. The USA has a good fire station distribution. Each station is 2.5 miles away one from another. For example, Sacramento has 24 active fire stations with 2.6 miles between them. They help 469,864 people. In addition, Rocklin has 3 fire stations that are 2.5 miles distant. They help 59,738 people. In contrast, there are fewer fire stations in Mexico. For example, Mexico City has 8.85 million

people. This city has only 16 fire stations. San Luis Rio Colorado, a city of Sonora, has only 2 fire stations for 159,089 people. The distance between fire stations is important so that the firefighters can arrive very fast and help people that have a fire or other emergency in their homes.



The last difference between firefighters in the USA and Mexico is the salaries. According to worldsalaries.org, firefighters in the USA earn \$21.75 USD per hour. They work at least 40 hours each week and their annual income is \$45,250. In contrast, salaries in Mexico are really low. The salary for one firefighter in Mexico is 30 Mexican pesos,

which is equal to \$2.74 USD per hour and they work 60 hours per week. Their annual income is 5,266 Mexican pesos or \$ 34,000. People think that it is a voluntary job, but it is not actually true. I think that their lives are worth more. Firefighters must have a good salary. Anything we can pay to the firefighters is worth saving a life.

Although the firefighters in the USA and Mexico are unsung heroes, the fire department has many differences in their school preparation, numbers of stations for a city, and the pay. I believe they should be recognized for their work because they save our lives. They not only put out fires in burning houses, but also in our forests. For these reasons, firefighters around the world have to have good academic preparation, physical ability, and excellent psychological health, but all that is not enough. They also need good salaries because they put their lives at risk to save ours.

Edna J. Villegas
W310

Magic Guests in the Winter

Winter is a magical time for children all over the world. It doesn't matter whether you live in the USA, Moldova, or another country. When December comes, all children become excited. They can't wait to meet someone very fabulous and magical who comes to their homes and leaves them gifts. In the USA, children hope to meet Santa Claus, but do you know that in

Moldova children are excited to meet a completely different magical person whose name is Ded Moroz or Grandfather Frost. An interesting fact is that Santa Claus and Ded Moroz have one common goal. They come in December to bring gifts to children. This is the single significant thing that Santa Claus and Ded Moroz have in common. In fact, there are a lot of interesting differences between them.

One of the most important differences between Santa Claus and Ded Moroz is the history of their birth. Many people believe that they are the same person only dressed in different clothes. This is not true. The idea of Santa Claus originated from Saint Nicolas, who lived in the third century. He was a very kind person and always helped poor people. Later, Professor Clark Mur wrote a story where he named St. Nicolas as Santa Claus, so Santa Claus became as we know him today in

1863. Unlike Santa, Ded Moroz isn't a saint. He is the king of winter. Therefore, every year he appears in December and brings frost and snow. The tradition to celebrate Christmas and New Year with Ded Moroz started in



the 19th century. Ded Moroz became as we know him today in 1937.

The second big difference between Santa Claus and Ded Moroz is their magic outfit. Santa Claus always wears a short red coat with red pants and black shoes. He has a cap with a pom-pom, a small beard, and glasses. In addition, Santa Claus is always surrounded by

his helpers. They are small, funny, magic elves who wear green clothes. In contrast, Ded Moroz wears a long blue (but sometimes red) fur coat. We have never seen his pants, but we always see his felt boots. Ded Moroz has a warm fur cap, a very long beard, and he never uses glasses. Like Santa Claus, Ded Moroz has a helper, but it isn't an elf. It is his granddaughter. Her name is Snegurochka. She is a small, nice girl, with long braided hair. She has a white fur coat and a fur hat. She is always near Ded Moroz and she helps him in all his work.

The third significant difference between



Santa Claus and Ded Moroz is their appearance in children's houses. In the USA, every child knows that the most magical night is on December 24th. This night, Santa Claus harnesses the reindeer, takes the sleigh, and flies through the night sky from house to house where "good" children live. When he finds a house, he goes down the chimney and into the living room where he puts all his gifts in the stockings prepared for him. Then, he quietly goes back to his reindeer and flies away. Only sometimes children can see a white trail which Santa leaves in the dark sky. Compared to American children, Moldavian children have their magic night on December 31st. This night, Ded Moroz harnesses his three big white horses, takes his sleigh, and travels from house to house using the road. He never flies like Santa Claus. Ded Moroz appears somehow

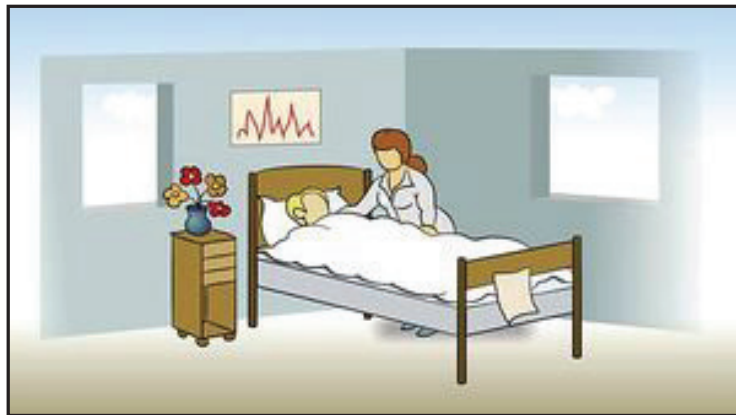
mysteriously into the homes. Nobody knows how, but they always feel that he was there. Ded Moroz puts all his gifts under the Christmas tree and then disappears the same mysterious way. Only occasionally, children can find white snow trails which Ded Moroz leaves on the floor in their houses.

As we can see, Santa Claus and Ded Moroz are very different in their history, outfit, and appearance. Despite this, they play an important role in children's lives. It doesn't matter who comes to your child, Santa Claus, Ded Moroz, or maybe both. After their visit, you can always see happiness in the eyes and smiles on the faces of your children, and what could be more valuable for the parents!

Natalia Buciatcaia
W310

When My Husband was Blessed With a New Life

It was late January and extreme winter in Pakistan. My husband, my children, and I lived with extended family: my husband's elder brother, a younger brother, their families, three younger sisters, and his mother and father. We all lived in a big house of three stories and it had eleven bedrooms. Life was going smoothly and we were really happy. My husband and his two brothers had a joint business. They had a big iron store at the main street of the city. My-father-in-law was a farmer and had many farms. Therefore, my husband used to work at both places. The village was thirty minutes away, where the farms were situated. We had to cross the thick, dark jungle to reach there. January 24, 2002, was a cold, cloudy evening. I will never forget that terrifying evening when my husband, Qamar Javaid Khan, had a horrible accident.



It was a beautiful, pleasant day as usual. My children, one son and two daughters, had come home from school. Danyal, Shanal, and Minahil were doing homework after having lunch. I was studying and helping them, too. My husband called me to say that he was coming home to go to the farms. He came and asked for a heavy jacket because of the freezing breeze outside. He was in a hurry and left for the farms. After that, I got busy preparing dinner. I cooked my husband

and children's favorite dish, "Biryani", which is made of chicken and rice and is very famous in Pakistan. I was waiting anxiously for my husband at dinner, but we received a horrible phone call at 6 o'clock from the village where the servants lived. The servant told my father-in-law, "Qamar Khan was shot by a robber." Everyone rushed to the hospital but

no one told me about the incident. I kept asking about my husband but my brother-in-law just said, "Please, pray for him." I was praying for his life. My children were frightened and scared.

After 8 o'clock, one of my brothers-in-law came home and asked me to go to the hospital. When we reached there, I started crying because my husband was unconscious and he had lost a lot of blood. Our relatives, neighbors, and friends gathered there to donate

blood. I asked the servant, "What happened?" He said that they had been coming back from the farms. When they reached the jungle, a man suddenly appeared and said, "Stop, or I will shoot." My husband just asked why and the man pulled out a gun and shot my husband in his right leg. He was a robber and grabbed my husband's motorbike. The servant ran back to the village and asked for

help. It was a small, narrow road in the jungle and cars couldn't reach there. The people put my husband in a cart and brought him to a car at the highway. Then they rushed to the hospital. After getting some treatment and a couple of pints of blood, my husband became stable, but he was badly injured. Doctors referred him to another city because they didn't have enough facilities and medical equipment to operate on him. At that time, we felt helpless, but not hopeless. It was an extremely dangerous situation because there was only a nurse in the ambulance with us. It was a sad, depressing and dark journey at midnight.

We took my husband to a bigger hospital in the state capital, Lahore, which was four hours away from our town. My father-in-law and my brother-in-law were with me in this difficult situation. My husband was there for three months. I was

there with him the whole time and never visited my home. Although I used to miss my children a lot, I didn't want to leave my husband. At that time, nothing else was important for me. The other family members often visited and replaced each other. Our children also visited us on weekends. They were really upset and kept asking, "When will papa become healthy and come back?" Our children were used to going to school with their father but now they went with their uncle. During this time,

my husband had five surgeries and seventeen pints of blood were infused. The doctors were trying to save his leg but the bleeding started again and again. One day, the doctors talked to us about amputation. They told us that if the bleeding started one more time, he couldn't survive. Thus, it was important to save his life. It was an extremely critical situation. Sometimes, I was unable to think, understand, or

speak. I couldn't bear his pain and sadness. My father-in-law, my husband, and I agreed to amputation to save his life. However, after a long struggle, the doctors saved my husband's life and leg through the blessing of God.

After six months, in July, my husband was able to walk again. It was unbelievable because I never thought that it could be possible again. Finally, my husband became healthy and my family became happy. We were thankful to Allah, and everyone who helped us in this difficult time. In fact, not only did my husband get his life back, it also was a new life for my family and me. This terrible experience taught me that we should not lose hope. We can defeat any kind of enemy with our strong will power and strong belief in Allah.

Kishwar Saeeda

W310





Benefits of the ESL Writing Program

We all know the fact that America is a country of immigrants. So many people come to the USA every year with the hope to find better conditions of life. It's very important for the immigrants to find a way to support their families. However, it's also important for them to get a good education in order to find a well-paid job in the future. That's why there are a lot of schools where immigrants can learn English and get a profession. American River College is one of these schools. The main distinctive feature of ARC is having a wonderful ESL center with amazing teachers. I especially love the ESL writing program. It has so many advantages and it taught me a lot.

The first thing I have learned from the ESL program is how to write a good, well-organized essays. Currently I'm enrolled in W50 class, and during this semester I've learned a lot. Our professor teaches us how to support our ideas with many details and real-life examples. This method makes every essay special and more interesting for readers. At the same time our teacher uses his favorite phrase "Keep it simple, student", whose abbreviation looks like KISS. I think that it's a very interesting and good way to catch a student's attention. This phrase means that we don't have to work too hard while writing our essay. We should enjoy it. Moreover, using real-life examples helps us to attract the reader. It really works. Since the beginning of the semester, I have read a lot of my classmates' essays. I must admit that reading essays with details and examples I liked more.

This means, my dear reader, that if you're going to take a writing class, you had better use this advice to succeed and get a good grade.

The second important thing that I have learned from my ESL writing course is how to express my ideas in a foreign language correctly. This



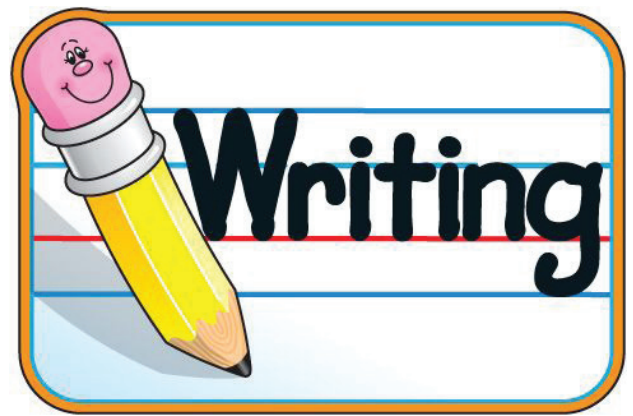
semester we wrote a lot of journals. For me, it's a great practice exercise. It helps me to organize my ideas and make good sentences. In addition, this semester I'm also enrolled in ESL Reading 310 class. Every test we have to write a summary from an article. I noticed how useful and helpful my W50 class is for me. I'm doing very well in R310 and I think this is because of the skills I got in my writing class. It's not hard for me to summarize these articles. I'm so grateful to the teacher for giving me the knowledge. Furthermore, ARC's ESL writing program helps me to improve

my speaking skills and pronunciation. I'm studying with people all over the world. Of course they don't speak my native language, so I have to talk to them only in English. It makes me try again and again to explain something, but I feel that it works and I'm getting better at this. For instance, a couple of days ago, I went to the bank to resolve some issues. I noticed how easily I could explain my situation. The worker understood me from the first time. I was so proud of myself.

The most important thing that the ESL writing program gave me is confidence in myself. Before W50 I took W40 class. Of course, W40 was easier. I got an A with little effort. In W40 class it was easy for me to write an essay and get a good grade. My W40 teacher always cheered me on by writing comments after my essays. "You are so ready for W50!", were her words. Of course it was very pleasant for me. I thought that all ESL classes were going to be so easy-going. However, when I first came to W50, I was really surprised. It turned out that I don't know so many things and I have to work harder. It seemed that the level was too high for me. Moreover, I had some problems with writing in-class essays. I didn't have enough time to develop them and check my spelling errors. Well... this is also happening right now, as usual. However, the first time it really upset me because I didn't expect such troubles. As time went by, I understood that it's very important not to give up and have faith in yourself. Now I feel stronger and I know I'll succeed in my ESL classes because our college gives us all the opportunities.

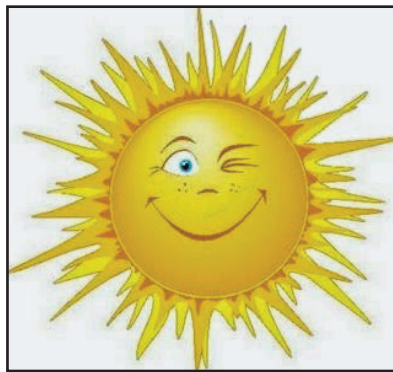
To sum up, ARC's ESL writing program is a great place where students can always get support and help. During this year I have learned so many things from the writing program: how to write a good essay, how to explain my ideas in a foreign language correctly, and how to be confident in yourself. I'm sure that the ESL program will help many students learn English and achieve their goals in life as well.

Arina Romanciuc
W50



The Good Effects of Drought

Over the years, drought has been a worldwide problem. Nowadays, people all over the world are more and more concerned about drought. It has many harmful effects on plants, animals, and people. Scientists have been looking for ways to solve this problem. Governments around the world ask their people to save water. However, have you ever thought of the positive effects of drought? There are actually several good effects of drought in the world.



One good effect of drought is fewer mosquitoes. A lot of mosquitoes live and fly in warm rainy seasons. Even if not all species of mosquitoes are blood suckers, we see them as harmful insects. We

know them as blood-eating insects that transmit dangerous diseases from one person to another. Adult females lay their eggs in stagnant water such as temporary rain puddles and near the water edge of lakes or creeks, etc. In water, mosquito eggs hatch into larvae, and then become pupae. After a while, pupae change into adult mosquitoes. In lakes, for example, larvae and pupae are eaten by small fish, so not all pupae become adult mosquitoes. Drought leads to a lack of rain. Consequently, rain puddles, in which mosquito larvae can develop safely, aren't formed and the mosquito population decreases even more.

Another good effect of drought is on the season when cereal crops like wheat have to be



gathered. When wheat is ready to be gathered, a sunny and rainless sky is the best weather. If this season is rainy, wheat will become moldy and sprout prematurely. As a result, neither people nor animals want to eat such wheat. It will be good only for throwing away. For example, in Moldova, wheat is gathered in July. It covers a big territory in many areas of the country. However, just a few combine harvesters remained in Moldova after the fall of the Soviet Union. Thus, farmers work very hard for days and nights to finish gathering wheat with those combines before the rain begins. In the past, July was called "hot oven month" because in that time, July was hot and without precipitation, but now we have different weather in this month. No one is sure when the rain will start. For this reason, drought is good weather for gathering wheat.

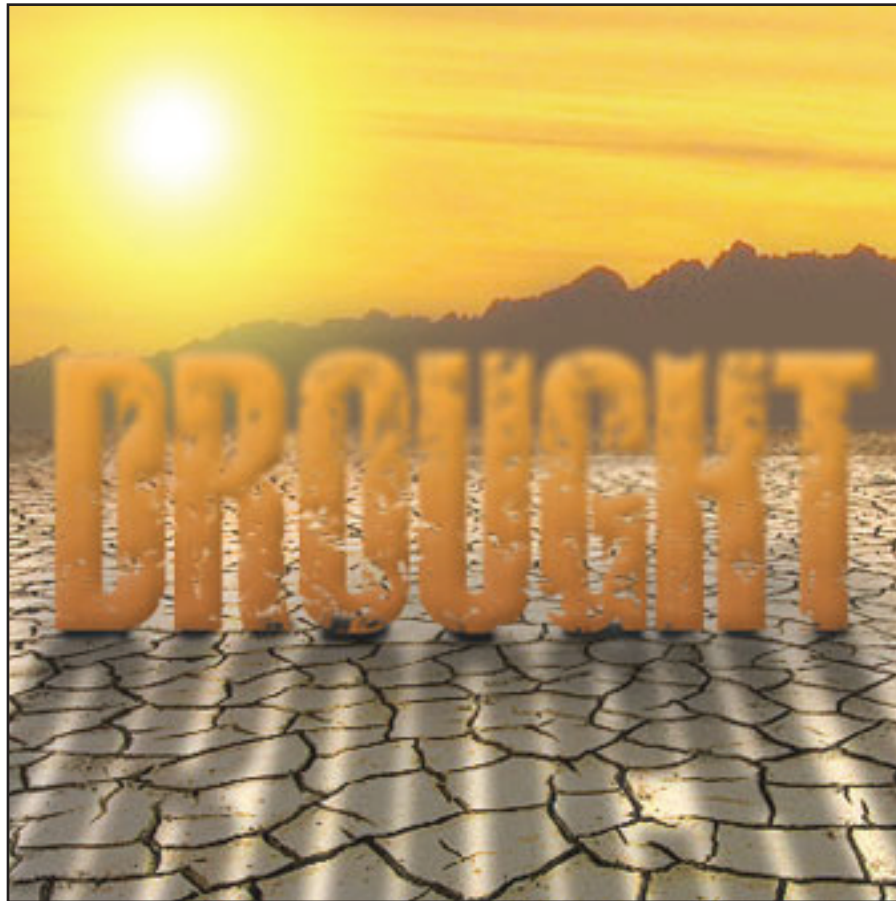
Finally, drought doesn't lead to mud on the roads in less economically developed countries. For instance, Moldova has many villages where roads aren't asphalted or paved. Thus, after rain, roads look like big puddles full of water and mud. Even if after a while water drains, mud remains. In the cold season, which is from mid-September to mid-April, those roads don't dry. They become frozen for a month or two in the winter. However, they look as terrible and bumpy as they were with mud. They have two deep trenches that were made by car wheels and

deep holes everywhere made by people or cows. When you go through those frozen roads, you have to be very careful, especially at night, because they are like roads full of big, deep pots. When the roads are muddy you have to be careful, too, because you can end up without your rubber boots, which can stick in the mud. In the summer, farmers who have

tractors smooth the roads, and if there is a drought, they stay flat longer. Therefore, drought has a good effect on muddy roads.

To summarize, there are a number of positive effects of drought in all countries of the world. Not only does drought have good effects on reduction of mosquitoes, it also has positive effects on muddy and bumpy village

roads in countries with lower economic development. Farmers are happy to have dry weather while they are gathering wheat or other grains. It is nice to know that a huge global problem doesn't have just bad effects. Even if drought has some good effects, we have to understand that water is the most monumental resource in the world. Thus, we must save it.



Silvia Tacu
W310



My Kindest Favor

One summer, when I was in Iraq, I moved to another city with my family. It was four years ago. At first it was wonderful. We loved our new house. It was a nice neighborhood, quiet, few people lived there. People were nice to us. The only thing I did not like about that neighborhood was the house next door to our house. The house was creepy and old-fashioned. I hated it. After a while, I met an old lady who lived in that house. It was my first time helping someone and doing a big favor for them. I was so happy to help her. I will never forget when I did a favor for an elderly lady.

One day, I heard voices in that house. I did not know if there was someone living there. I was curious to know if someone lived there. I went to my father and told him, "I am thinking about visiting the house next door to see if there is anyone there." My father said, "Well, if you want to .Go ahead. Just be careful." I knocked on the door with cookies in my hand. I was scared. I did not know what was coming next. I heard voices coming out of the house again. I was not sure if I wanted to go back home or wait until someone opened the door. I was young and I used to get scared of the smallest things. Then I opened the door and saw a small cat sitting on a chair. I went to the cat. An old woman came toward me. She said, "What are you doing here?" I looked at her. She was in a wheel chair. She looked lovely but ill too. I responded, "I moved here with my family. I came to say hi and I brought you cookies my mother made." Then I said, "My name is Betul." After that she said her name was Suzin. After this day, I visited her every day. She was nice.

Suzin lived by herself. She did not have someone to look after her. One day, I was doing my

homework. I smelled something burning. I thought it was my dad cooking but it was not him. I went running to Suzin's house. I took her out of her house by her wheelchair. People went to put out the fire. We took her to the hospital. My heart was beating so fast. I did not want to lose her. I loved her so much. She was like the grandmother that I never had. Suzin was fine. She had only minor injuries.

I thought of something to help Suzin. I wanted to help her but I did not know how. I did not want her to get hurt again. I went to my parents and told them, "I wish if you will let me ask Suzin to live with us." My mother said, "But it is a big responsibility. We might not be able to commit to it." I got discouraged and said, "But, mom, she is my friend and I want to help." Then my father said, "If she lived by herself for a long time, I think she can live with us." After a long conversation, my family agreed. I went to Suzin and told her I wanted her to live with us. She was so happy to move in with my family. She never felt alone with my family.



In conclusion, Suzin did not have to live by herself anymore. She did not have to take care of herself. I always helped her and looked after her. She was nice, funny, and lovely. This was my first and biggest favor I did for someone. I helped her to get out of the fire and invited her to live with my family. I am so happy I could change someone's life and make it better. I feel proud of doing this favor. Who knows, maybe in the future I would need someone to help me. In Iraq we have a saying that life is a circle and whatever you do will come back to you. I would love to do this favor again but I have not met the person yet. I will never forget it.

Betul Yousif
W50



Nestscape -- Articles from The Web

Continued from page 1

for foreigners and Georgians alike - when, witnesses say, more than a dozen men carrying slabs of meat on skewers suddenly showed up and began pelting patrons with grilled meat, sausages and fish.

Witnesses writing on social media said that customers at the cafe, who were watching an animated science fiction sitcom called Rick and Morty, felt intimidated by the men, who refused to leave. The cafe referred to the attackers, some of whom wore sausages around their necks, as anti-vegan "extremists."

"A group of people who prepared an anti-vegan provocative action, entered and started to be violent," said a post on the cafe's Facebook page. "They pulled out some grilled meat, sausages, fish and started eating them and throwing them at us, and finally they started to smoke." It added, "They were just trying to provoke our friends and disrespect us."

The cafe said that it called police, but that the assailants fled and no one was arrested.

Who is behind the attacks remains unclear, and analysts cautioned it was too early to say whether the incident was a violent prank, a revolt against veganism or part of a nationalist attack against the



freewheeling Western liberal values epitomised by the cafe.

But the cafe said in a statement that the same group

of men had come to the neighbourhood last month at night and asked a "friend in the next shop" if members of the gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender community hung out at the cafe.

That has led some analysts to suggest that the attack should be seen against the backdrop of a continuing cultural battle as the country, a former Soviet republic long pulled between East and West, seeks to draw closer to the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, even as some conservative forces push back at perceived encroaching liberalism.

Three years ago a gay pride march in Tbilisi, the capital, was disrupted after protesters, including Orthodox priests, interrupted the event.

"We don't need Sodom and Gomorrah," read some signs, and some protesters wielded stinging nettles.

"We have been seeing in Georgia, the growth of nationalists - fanned by Russia - who are questioning foreign Western values such as gay marriage or gay rights being imposed on the country," said Giorgi Gogia, the south Caucasus director at Human Rights Watch in Tbilisi. "A majority of the country are pro-EU and pro-NATO. But Georgia remains a conservative country, the Georgian Orthodox church is very influential, and there is pushback against foreign influence." He added, "The Kiwi Cafe attracts hipsters, gays, people who are different, and they symbolise liberal Western values."

The country's governing Georgian Dream coalition, which supports closer ties with the West, has recently moved to define marriage in the country's Constitution exclusively as a union of a man and a woman, a move that Gogia said was calculated to appeal to more conservative voters ahead of parliamentary elections in October.

At the same time, under pressure from the EU, Georgia has adopted anti-discrimination laws that explicitly forbid the discrimination against people based on sexual orientation.

Georgia celebrated its independence day Thursday, a few days before the cafe attack. A group of na-

tionalists was seen on the streets of Tbilisi, chanting, "Georgians for Georgia." For some, the scene recalled the ethnic enmities that were stirred after Georgia declared independence from Russia in 1991.

Throughout Europe, vegan cafes have become synonymous with the counterculture. In April, riot police were called in to break up a crowd of aubergine and avocado lovers as several hundred hungry hipsters converged for the opening of the Dandy Diner, a vegan restaurant in Berlin.

The Kiwi Cafe said it remained committed to equal-

ity for all.

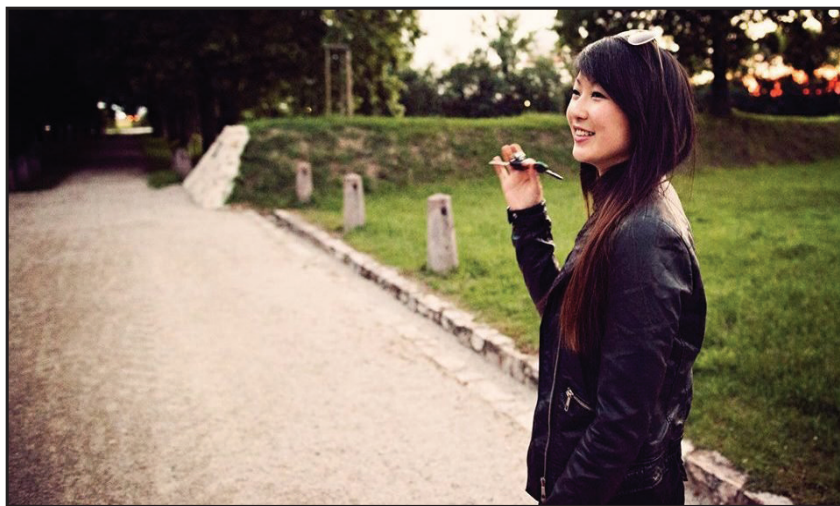
"In spite of the situation and everyday negative attitude to us and other people, who visit us, cafe is continuing to work and is ready to accept all customers regardless of nationality, race, appearance, age, gender, sexual orientation, religious views, etc.," its Facebook page said. "Equality is the most important thing for us. Animal liberation! Human liberation!"

<http://www.smh.com.au/world/sausagewielding-protesters-attack-patrons-at-vegan-cafe-20160531-gp8mm2.html>

Slovakia's Migrants Keep A Low Profile In A Country Wary Of Outsiders

The small eastern European nation of Slovakia has not exactly welcomed migrants.

The prime minister, Robert Fico, opposes refugees under a European relocation plan and has even linked migration to terrorism. In one town, Gabčíkovo, 97 percent of residents voted against accepting refugees.



Claudia Tran, 21, was born and raised in Slovakia to Vietnamese immigrants. "People here are still really surprised if I speak Slovak with them," she says. "Because the assumption is, you don't look Slovak, you aren't Slovak."

But a tiny migrant community has quietly lived and worked in Slovakia for decades, largely by staying under the radar.

"We keep to ourselves," says Nguyen Kien Trung, 32, who was born in Vietnam and now lives in Bratislava. "We don't talk about our businesses. We don't

talk about ourselves, our traditions."

We're driving along a street in a warehouse district of the Slovak capital, Bratislava, that's lined with Vietnamese businesses and an unpretentious restaurant that specializes in the Vietnamese noodle soup called pho.

He helps run the family textile business that's on this street. His family has

imported and sold Vietnamese-made clothes in Slovakia for 18 years.

We pull up at the family warehouse on a Sunday. His aunt and uncle are working and greet us in Vietnamese. Inside, the warehouse is filled with colorful sweaters and pajamas, mostly for women and



children.

“The Slovak people perceive us as very, very hard-working people,” he says. “We practically don’t have holidays.”

Few Immigrants

His parents came to Slovakia about 30 years ago, when it was still part of Czechoslovakia. Like others from North Vietnam, they found opportunities in communist Eastern Europe. They did face racism and violence in some countries. But some established themselves as successful market vendors who especially flourished after the fall of communism.

About 300,000 Vietnamese, most of them from the north, now live in various Eastern European countries, mainly Russia and the Czech Republic.

Only 3,000 to 5,000 live in Slovakia, which gained independence in 1993 and where just a little over 1 percent of the population is foreign born.

I meet Claudia Tran, a 21-year-old university student who also manages a nonprofit, at a hipster cafe in a cobblestoned section of old Bratislava. She was born and raised in Slovakia to Vietnamese parents who came to Eastern Europe as top-notch students on university scholarships.

“And that’s why my dad ended up in Poland and my mom ended up in Slovakia,” she said. “They’re both engineers.”

They couldn’t find work in their field in Slovakia, where they settled. “They sell clothing for children,” Tran says.

Second-generation Vietnamese have better job opportunities, especially in Bratislava.

“Everyone in Bratislava has seen at least one Asian in the city,” she says. “But if I compare it to Vienna, which is a short train ride away and a huge multicultural city, there’s a big difference.”

In Bratislava, many Slovaks speak to her in English or assume she’s a tourist. And they stare.

“I don’t know if they stare because I’m a woman or is it because I’m an Asian,” she says. “But still, they stare.”

She’s having hot chocolate with Lani Willmar, a 22-year-old university student from Corona, Calif. Willmar’s parents fled South Vietnam by boat and came as refugees to the U.S.

Willmar is in Slovakia on a Fulbright, teaching English to Slovaks. One recent lesson was about multiculturalism, which every student in her class opposed.

“And I talked about how the U.S. is a multicultural society,” she says. “And, yes, there are problems, yes there’s racism, but it doesn’t mean that you should write off multiculturalism completely. Because if that were the case, I wouldn’t be (in the United States), and my family wouldn’t be there, and life would be



Nguyen Kien Trung, 32, stands inside his family’s clothing warehouse in Bratislava. “It’s a declining business, so we have to think out our future,” he says. “I think I and other young Vietnamese have a good chance at finding work at a Slovak company. We speak the language. We know the culture.”



very different.”

'Quiet' Migrants

Retired embryologist Eva Kellerova, like many Slovaks, is quick to point out that Slovakia — and Europe — are not like America. She's aware of the Vietnamese community in Slovakia but says “they came quietly,” unlike the migrants now arriving in Europe.

She says her heart breaks watching TV footage of what looks like miles of exhausted families trudging through the mud and cold.

“But the situation is chaotic,” she says. “I don't think so many people can ever fit in here.”

Her granddaughter, Daniela Kellerova, 23, translates. Slovakia recently allowed a small group of Iraqi

Christians to resettle here but remains opposed to Muslim refugees.

“Slovaks are having an existential crisis,” she says. “They worry that people will come here and build mosques and change life as they know it.”

Daniela, like many bright young Slovaks, is studying abroad, in Scotland, and does not plan to come home anytime soon.

She's part of the brain drain that's turning Slovakia into an aging society — a society that might benefit from an infusion of immigrants.

<http://www.npr.org/sections/parallels/2016/01/05/462053044/slovakias-migrants-keep-a-low-profile-in-a-country-wary-of-outsiders>

The Parrot! Read by Simply Everybody!





Eat the World!

The Parrot represents students of many hues and sounds --- no news there. Indeed, birds of a feather flock together, right? They also eat together. The Parrot is proud to present Parrot fodder from around the world in this and subsequent issues. Squawk!

What is an Easy-to-Follow Recipe for Reindeer Cake Pops?

Ingredients

150g chocolate cake

25g soft butter

50g icing sugar

25g plain chocolate

100g milk chocolate

small pretzels, broken into large 'antler' shape pieces

8 small jelly sweets, red chocolate beans or Smarties

2 tbsp royal icing coloured black or purchased black writing icing



Equipment

8 cake pop sticks and a polystyrene block to stand up the cake pops

Method

1- Crumble the cake into fine crumbs using your hands or in a food processor. Put into a bowl. In another bowl, beat together the butter and icing sugar until creamy.

2- Melt the plain chocolate in the microwave or in a bowl over a pan of barely simmering water. Add the melted chocolate to the butter mixture and combine well. Add this to the cake crumbs and mix thoroughly

using your hands, until it sticks together. Divide the mixture into eight and shape each one into a smooth ball. Insert a cake pop stick, place on a tray lined with baking parchment and chill for at least 2 hours.

3- Melt the milk chocolate in the microwave or in a bowl over a pan of barely simmering water. Take a cake pop and dip in the chocolate. Shake gently until the excess has drained off. Push into a polystyrene block.

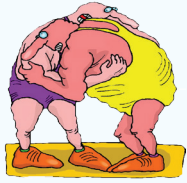
4- Make two holes in the top of the head and insert a pretzel 'antler' in each one. Press a sweetie nose onto the front and hold for a few seconds until attached. Repeat with all the other cake pops. Leave to set for about 20 mins and then using black icing, pipe on eyes and a mouth.

<http://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/reindeer-cake-pops>





Parrot Warbling



Grappling with Grammar

Grammar Ellipses

An ellipsis (plural: ellipses) is a punctuation mark consisting of three dots.

Use an ellipsis when omitting a word, phrase, line, paragraph, or more from a quoted passage. Ellipses save space or remove material that is less relevant.

Example:

“Today, after hours of careful thought, we vetoed the bill.”

With ellipsis: “Today ... we vetoed the bill.”

Although ellipses are used in many ways, the three-dot method is the simplest. Newspapers, magazines, and books of fiction and nonfiction use various approaches that they find suitable.

Rule 1. Many writers use an ellipsis whether the omission occurs at the beginning of a sentence, in the middle of a sentence, or between sentences.

Example: “... [A]fter hours of careful thought, we vetoed the bill.”

Rule 2. Ellipses can express hesitation, changes of mood, suspense, or thoughts trailing off. Writers also use ellipses to indicate a pause or wavering in an otherwise straightforward sentence.

Examples:

I don't know ... I'm not sure.

Pride is one thing, but what happens if she ...?

He said, “I ... really don't ... understand this.”

<http://www.grammarbook.com/punctuation/ellipses.asp>

Idiom--Attic

(To be) Up in the air



It means that these things are uncertain or unsure; definite plans have not been made yet.

Ex: Nothing is finalized about our moving to a new city. things are sort of up in the air right now.

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

Beak Speak Ellipsis



Sometimes native English speakers will entirely drop the sound of an unstressed syllable altogether, and not just reduce the pronunciation to the schwa sound. This is called an ellipsis.

Ex:

**probably - (prob-a-bly), (prob-bly).
general (gen-e-ral), (gen-ral).
business (bus-i-ness), (bus-ness).**

An ellipsis can also occur (usually in very casual speak) when native speakers drop the beginning of a word that has a schwa sound in it.

Ex:

1- (**remember**, ‘**mem-ber**)

Remember when we went to the beach last year?

2- (**another**, ‘**nother**)

Another drink, Mr. Thompson?

3- (**about**, ‘**bout**)

How **about** going to the movies tonight?

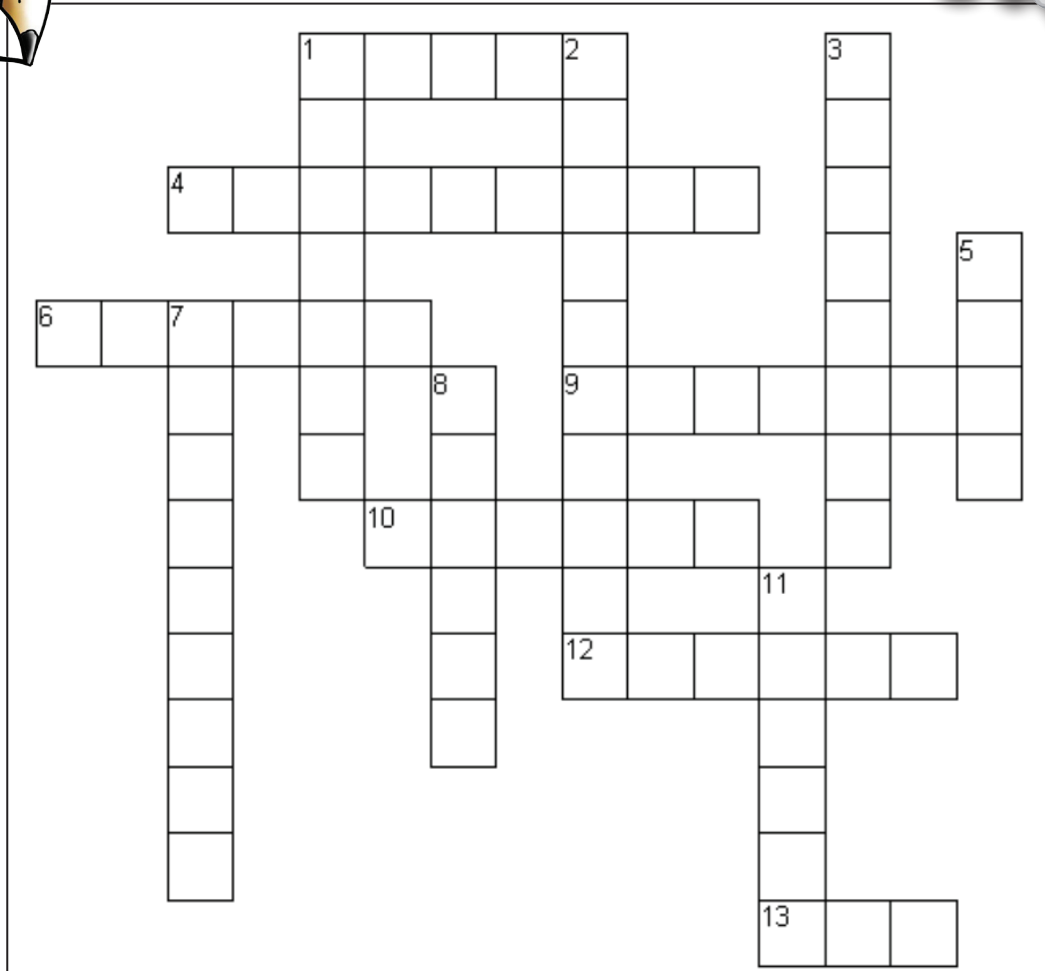


<http://pronunciationtips.com/syllables/>



Some More Parrot Fun Stuff

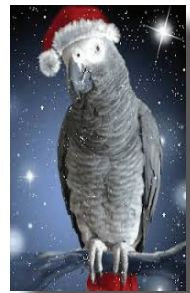
Christmas



<u>Across</u>	<u>Down</u>
<p>1) People send these to each other</p> <p>4) Used to decorate the tree</p> <p>6) Special Christmas songs</p> <p>9) Santa enters the house through this</p> <p>10) Circular decoration for the front door</p> <p>12) Santa's means of transport</p> <p>13) Seasonal colour</p>	<p>1) Lights made from wax</p> <p>2) He brings presents to children</p> <p>3) What people exchange at Christmas</p> <p>5) Favourite gifts for children</p> <p>7) They pull Santa's vehicle</p> <p>8) Traditionally eaten at Christmas</p> <p>11) Christmas season</p>



Say Hello Around the World



AHN NYEONG HA SE YO
(Korean)
ALOHA (Hawaiian)
BOM DIA (Portuguese)
BON GIORNO (Italian)
BONJOUR (French)
CHAO (Vietnamese)
DIA DUIT (Irish)

DOBRY RANO (Czech)
GOEDENDAG (Dutch)
GUTEN TAG (German)
HEJ (Swedish)
HOLA (Spanish)
KONNICHIIWA (Japanese)
JAMBO (Swahili)
MARHABAH (Arabic)

NAMASTE (Hindi)
NI HAO (Chinese)
SALAM (Arabic)
SHALOM (Hebrew)
SZIA (Hungarian)
YIA SOU (Greek)
ZDRAVSTVUIITE (Russian)





Parrot Poetry



December Celebrations

Every year at just this time,
 In cold and dark December,
 Families around the world
 All gather to remember,
 With presents and with parties,
 With feasting and with fun,
 Customs and traditions
 for people old and young.
 So every year, around the world
 In all lands and nations,
 People of all ages love
 December celebrations!

by Helen H. Moore

Rigoberto's Riddles

How can you make 7 even?



Remove the 's' from 'seven' to make it even;

Silly Vasily's Chuckle Chamber

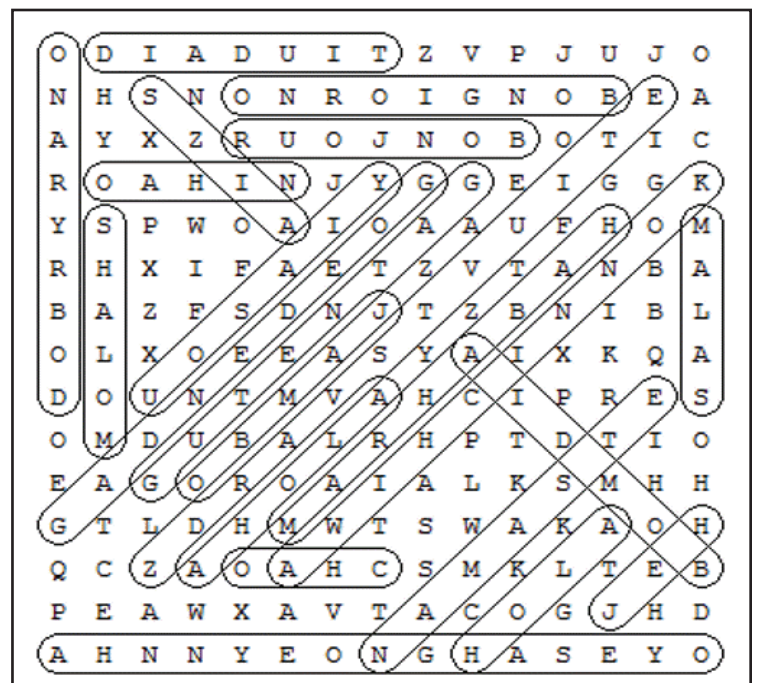
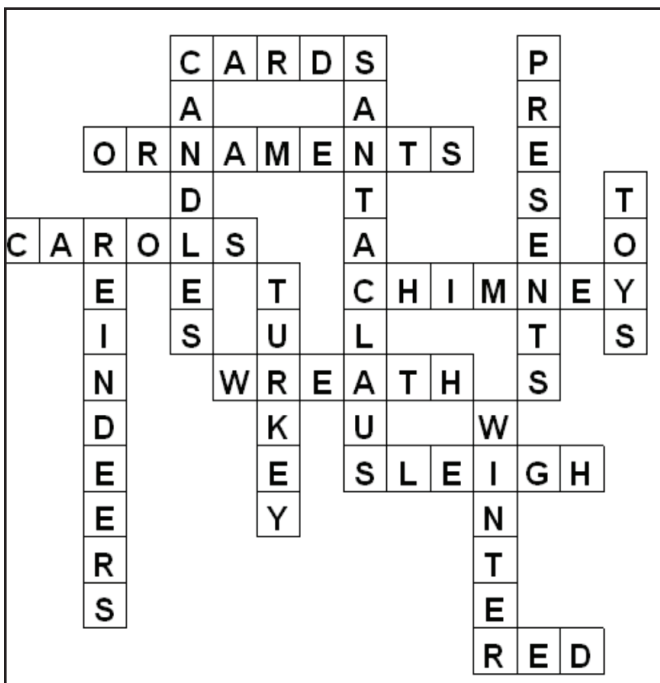


It was Christmas and the judge was in a merry mood as he asked the prisoner, "What are you charged with?"

"Doing my Christmas shopping early," replied the defendant.

"That's no offense," said the judge. "How early were you doing this shopping?"

"Before the store opened," countered the prisoner.



Granny Noetal

Dear Granny Noetal,

I'm an ESL student and have taken a lot of classes with a lot of teachers. Every teacher has a different policy about taking photos in class. Some teachers let you photograph the whiteboard and other teachers don't. Students sometimes want to photograph tests after they take them so that they can learn from the test but teachers don't allow that. Why is everything different?

Ona Bilde

Dear Ona,

I've talked to teachers about this. I also read some writing on-line in response to your question. Taking a photo of notes on a board is certainly a lot quicker than writing everything down. On the other



hand, the act of writing notes (in your new language) might have a positive effect on spelling, handwriting, etc. I'm not sure and haven't seen any studies on this. I know one teacher in a listening/speaking class who tries not to write anything on the board and who constantly reminds students that she will not do so, with the understanding that students will learn to use their ears more if they are not copying off the board. After all, she claims, most people are visual learners. On the other hand, I've read that allowing students to use their phones saves time. Some teachers, in an effort to promote class cohesiveness, allow one student to take a photo and network with others in the class. Therefore, Ona, I would say that this is a great question that probably can elicit a variety of opinions. ESL teachers, what do you think?

Granny

Interview with Erik

Continued from page 1

entertainment industry.

Parrot: Really? Can you give more information about that?

Erik: Sure. I first worked as a DJ before moving on to event promotion and production. My specialty was doing laser shows for concerts and corporate events.

Parrot: That's interesting. Did you do anything people might recognize?

Erik: Possibly. The company I worked for provided lasers and special effects for a wide variety of artists like Aerosmith, Metallica, Jennifer Lopez, and Kanye West. We also did corporate events for companies like Wells Fargo, Lexus, and Sony.

Parrot: Wow! That sounds exciting! Did you get to meet any famous people?

Erik: Well, not as many as you'd think. I was a laser

operator and safety officer, so I spent most of my time backstage making sure we were operating safely. I guess my best experience was hanging out with the Black Eyed Peas before they went on stage at a concert in LA. They were really down to earth.

Parrot: Okay. So, why did you quit that job?

Erik: Mmm...good question. I've always wanted to have a job where I could help people. In entertainment, I was helping people have a good time, but it wasn't my party—I was just the help. It felt kind of shallow after a while.

Parrot: Oh, I see. So, now you're a teacher.

Erik: Yup.

Parrot: That's my next question. You're a relatively new ESL professor at ARC. How did you decide to become an ESL instructor?

Erik: Uh, it's kind of a long story, but here's the short version. After working in entertainment for



over 15 years, I was a little burned out. I had always wanted to travel and live abroad, so I moved to Mexico and studied Spanish there for two years before moving to Brazil. During my travels, I realized my teachers had a fun job and were really helping people. So, when I returned to the US, I began exploring language teaching options.

Parrot: What are three tips you can give students of the English language?

Erik: Well, let's see. Here's my top three: set reasonable goals, hang out with people who speak the language well, and use the language frequently outside of school. While school is helpful, it is no substitute for interacting with people in English in real-world contexts.

Parrot: What's the hardest part about teaching ESL?

Erik: The teaching part is easy. I love interacting with students in the classroom. I guess the hardest part would be providing feedback and grading, especially for writing classes.

Parrot: Yeah, that's true. Writing is hard.

Erik: Yes, it is.

Parrot: So, what's the most fun?

Erik: Meeting new people and getting to know them. There is so much diversity in our student population, and getting to know students is like a free ticket to exploring new cultures, ideas, and ways of thinking.

Parrot: If you had to change professions, what would you do?

Erik: I'm not sure. I feel like I took the long road to discover my passion, and it is difficult to imagine letting it go to do something else. I guess if I had to, I would probably look into administration. I would definitely try to stay at ARC because I really value the community here.

Parrot: What's the craziest thing you've ever done?

Erik: Well, I guess walking away from a successful career and moving to a country where I didn't know anyone was pretty wild. Most of my friends and family thought I was crazy at the time, especially because I left at the peak of my career. While the whole process of living abroad and then returning to the US to find a new path was a bit crazy, I grew from it, so I guess it was the good kind of crazy!

Parrot: Yeah. Last question. What's the best piece of advice you've ever received?

Erik: Hmm, that's a hard one. Although I'm not married, my mother gave me this gem: love ebbs and flows. If you truly love your partner but fall out of love with them, the trick is to stick around long enough to fall back in.

Parrot: Good one. Thank you very much for sharing your story.

Erik: You're very welcome. Thanks for taking the time to interview me.

Parroteer: Madina Jumoniyoza





10 Ways to Impress Your Professor



1. Be early



2. Make eye contact during class.

3. Ask follow-up questions

4. Take advantage of office hours

5. When you must miss a class, e-mail the professor

6. Proofread your work

7. Thank the professor for a partic-

ularly interesting class

8. Take advantage of optional study sessions, reading, and other “extras”

9. Smile and greet your professors by name outside class

10. Show how you feel by how you look





What are your plans for the Christmas vacation?



For my Christmas vacation, I am going to my native country to visit my grandparents and my cousins and my aunts and my uncles.

Bao Dong



For my Christmas plan, I am going to Viet Nam to visit my family for a month.

Kham Mai

I will probably be working during Christmas vacation; aside from that, I might just stay home and be with family. That's just about it. That is my plan is for Christmas vacation -- working, school and going home (smile).

Daniel



I am going out of town and going to parties for my Christmas vacation with my friends.

Cerine



My Christmas vacation, I am going stay at home and I plan on doing a lot of cooking and my family should be coming down, so that should be an exciting time for me .

Yasmin Abner





I am very boring (smile) I am going to stay home with my family. I may visit some friends and maybe have a little Christmas party, but otherwise I'm just going totay home (smile). Daniel Eddy, Brandon Eddy

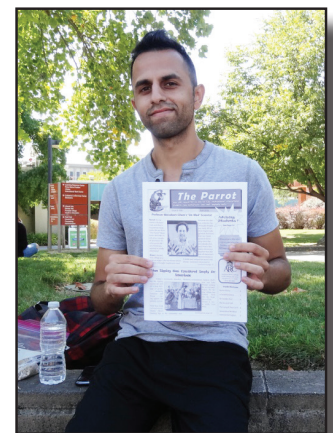


I am planing to go to Hawaii, probably visit the island of Maui with my boyfriend and probably my brother. Nikki



To be honest, I haven't made plans. My family doesn't celebrate Christmas. So I haven't really decided. Maybe take vacation somewhere.

Ace



I know I do different things every year. For instance last year, I went to Hawaii for Christmas. It was fun, and then the year before that, I mainly just stayed home with my family. So this year will be something different, I guess.

Sara Morairty



Out of the Cage

Free Meditation Class

Tuesday, December 6 & 13 2016
From 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Meditation is a natural and rewarding practice. It gives direct, intuitive experience of higher realities, and is the cornerstone of many spiritual teachings. It brings balance, rest, and a growing inner peace. Whether you are interested in managing stress or in exploring the spiritual side of meditation, all are welcome. The meditation will start with a short lesson or review of basic but very effective meditation techniques, followed by a prayer, some chanting (devotional singing), and then the meditation. The meditation is open to all faiths and spiritual practices. Chairs are provided or you may bring your own meditation cushion.

Location: Sunlight of the Spirit Books & Gifts
2314 J Street

A Modern Prejudice

Thursday, December 8 2016
From 12:15pm – 1:15pm

Implicit bias refers to the attitudes or stereotypes that affect our understanding, actions, and decisions in an unconscious manner. These biases, which encompass both favorable and unfavorable assessments, are activated involuntarily and without an individual's awareness or intentional control. Everyone is susceptible to implicit biases. These associations are generally believed to develop over the course of a lifetime beginning at a very early age through exposure to direct and indirect messages. Implicit bias can be unlearned and de-biased. Do you think you have prejudice? Come to this College Hour event prepared to engage in a discussion about implicit bias, its origins, and explore the effects of implicit bias in our day to day lives.

Location: Raef Hall 160

Free Hart: Line Dancing Lessons

Thursday, December 8 2016
From 8:15 am - 9:00 am

Do you know the difference between a Grapevine and a Weave step? Our new Beginning Line Dancing class held Thursdays, 8:15 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. beginning March 10th is designed to serve as an introduction to the basic line dancing steps, terminology and techniques needed to join our lively group of dancers. Participants may then join the 9:00 a.m. Intermediate Line Dancing class so they can apply what they've learned. Free! Ongoing. No registration necessary.

Location: Hart Senior Center 915 27th Street

Free Fridays at The Yoga Seed

Friday, December 9 & 23 2016
From 12:30 – 1 PM & 6:30 – 7:30 PM

Does your mind and body need a tune up? Join The Yoga Seed every Friday for Free Yoga Fridays. Beginners welcome. Mats and props available for use.



Location: The Yoga Seed School 1518 Del Paso Blvd.

Questions/Comments?

Student Editors: **Elaf Khafaja & Betul Yousif**

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

