



The Parrot

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

Issue # 99 Spring 2016



Parisa Samadi: From ESL Student to ESL Teacher

Parrot: Good morning! How are you today?

Parisa: I am great, thank you.

Parrot: We met last semester and by chance, I discovered that you have a really interesting background and story. Besides that, you have many accomplishments! May I ask you some questions?



Prof. Samedi

Parisa: Of course!

Parrot: To begin with, tell me where you are originally from.

Parisa: I am from Iran. I grew up in a city located on the border between Iraq and Iran, Kerman-shah.

Parrot: That means you speak Arabic beside Persian!

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Massachusetts 'Pastafarian' Wins Right to Wear Colander on Her Head in License Photo

At least *this* battle for the separation of church and state is a pretty light-hearted one.

Are you familiar with the Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster? They're a satirical religion whose ad-



herents refer to themselves as Pastafarians and base all their iconography around pasta.

And one of them, Lowell, Massachusetts, resident Lindsay Miller

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Student Chirpings

Last Day At A Job

I couldn't believe it was the last day at my job. I had never been more sad. I had just spent 10 wonderful years as a teacher assistant in the physics department at Mosul University in my country, Iraq. I was very proud when I taught students physics and helped them to understand the lesson, but I had to leave Iraq, so I gave up my job. I will never forget that day when I left my job.

It was an early morning in June, 2012. I felt a little depressed. I spoke and asked myself many questions. How could I leave my job? My husband noticed me when I was speaking to myself. He tried to encourage me and told me, "We are not safe in Iraq and are supposed to have a safe place." I prepared myself to go to the university because I had to teach the last lesson and to return many books to the library. When I drove my car to the university, my eyes were filled with tears.

I went to the physics department in the science college. I thought to myself that even before I left this place, I already felt homesick for my job, but I couldn't do anything. However, I went to my room to check my e-mails and to prepare my books to give the last lesson. I looked at my watch and it was 3:30, so I had to go to the physics lab. When I entered the lab, the stu-

dents surprised me with balloons and a banner they made with their handprints. All the students started singing with excitement and they gave me beautiful gifts. It was the most beautiful surprise I had ever seen. I had a nice time with my students, but I had other work to do.



After I finished my lesson, I had to see my boss at work. I went to the boss' office to finish all my work in the college and to give him some application forms which he asked of me. I entered his office, and he was very sad because I would be leaving them. My boss told me, "Maral, you were a very good teacher. I will never forget you". After these words, I started crying, but at that time, I also felt happy because everyone in my job loved me.

Now, I'm in a different place. I'm a student and don't have a job, but I feel comfortable because my husband and kids are safe. I will always remember my job, and all the memories of my last job are firmly planted in my mind, and I can't forget, but I can only hope that one day I will be able to find a good job like my last job.

Maral Isteefo
ESL W310

Like a River

Life is like a river. It just flows and goes, without an instant of immovability, but it's really generous. Sometimes it gives some opportunities to take and we have to be aware. Life did that to me and I took it unsought. I touched this feeling just by some gallons of paint and two brushes, which made me proud of myself and have this feeling as a memento forever.

Maybe ten years ago, on a summer evening

of 2005, in Ahvaz, Iran, where I grew up, I went to see my grandparents after work. They had seven children and thirteen grandchildren, but I was something special for them. My grandfather was a good farmer but he was retired and my grandmother was a housewife. They were old and my grandmother was always sick. She had to take so much medicine every day. I loved them so much, as they did me.

That evening I ate one of my grandmother's

delicious dishes called “kotlet” which is made of meat, potato, onion, and spices. Those are simple ingredients to mix and cook but grandmothers have their own secrets to make food, and she knew it, so whenever I was there she made some great food like that.

That night when I was full of good things in my stomach and mind, I lay down on the ground and looked at the ceiling and thought to myself, what can I do for them to make them happy and to forget some of their hardships? Suddenly something went through my mind: “I can paint. I can paint this house for them. I can use white for the walls and light brown for the cornices and use khaki for the window bars.” I was drowning in those sorts of thoughts when I heard my grandmother’s voice, “Reza, do you want some tea? Don’t lie down on the cold ground; it makes you sick. I jumped up and turned my head toward them. She was standing at the kitchen door frame and my grandfather was sitting next to that wall. I said, “I want to paint this house. It’s not looking good. Look. There are some holes here and there, and even some spots over there. I can do it, can’t I? Do you agree?”

I first had eye contact with her. I saw happiness in her eyes, and then my grandfather said, “You know it takes time, and you work and it’s a big house and you are alone and ...” I interrupted him and replied, “Don’t worry, have you ever heard me promise something and then I fail? I promise I can.” After this I felt enough agreement and started.

Exactly two days later, I started to work on the house. I sent my grandparents to our home and called my cousin Kousha, who had been like a brother to me. I asked him to come and help me to collect the stuff. We removed everything such as carpets (Iranians mostly use carpets instead of parquet), and moved furniture to one big room, and then I went to a paint shop to get the materials.

I remember that one of those days that I was painting the house, I heard someone open the main door and come in. I was expecting anybody except my Uncle Houshang. He was angry. I usually called him just Houshang, not Uncle Houshang, to joke with him

and this made him upset because he is almost twenty years older than me and he wanted me to add the word “uncle” when I spoke to him. That is culture! Anyway, I said, “What’s up, Houshang? Is everything ok?” He answered bitterly, “How do you expect me to be OK with this business that you’re running for us?” I grinned and said, “What’s the news for today, Houshang?” He replied, “Nothing important other than staying away from work and being your servant!” I realized he was angry because my grandfather ordered him to bring

some food and drink. I understood it was time to change my language and said, “Oh, thank you Uncle Houshang; you are one of the best uncles in the world. You know how much I like you and appreciate your favor. I really needed it, Uncle Houshang.” Respectfully. That was good enough to make him happy and forget being my servant.



I also gave him a list of supplies I needed.

I can’t really remember but after four or five days, I finished the painting. My mother, my aunt, my sister and Kousha helped me to put back the furniture and furnishings. When we were done, the house was totally different, very beautiful and nice. That was the time to bring our grandparents to the new house we made, and I can’t forget how satisfied and glad they were, especially my grandmother.

I was working during the very hot days (almost 110 degrees) but it was worth it. I had to do it in addition to my own job, but it was worth it. It was difficult for me at that age, but it was worth it because she is gone now. She had cancer and I lost my grandmother, but at least I have saved some happy memories of her for myself.

Now, I am proud of myself that I did it because life is like a river. It comes and brings good opportunities and takes it away to make memory.

I love you, grandmother.

Reza Janaki Eilagh
ESL W50

Help Me, Please

There are many students who find out in the middle of the semester their grades are going down. This problem happens a lot even with hardworking students. It is not easy to maintain a good grade. Students may get busy and their grades go down. Sometimes one quiz could affect the whole grade. There are three solutions for students to fix their grades if they realize their grades are going down in the middle of the semester.

The first solution to the problem is students can ask the instructor for extra credit assignments.

It could help to make students get a better grade. This kind of work shows the instructor that the students understood the assignment and they deserve a better grade. It is a good way to make the students practice more. When I first came to the U.S, I did not turn in all my work for my health class in high school. I

had a lot of problems understanding my assignments. After the first half of the semester, I worked hard and I did a lot of extra credit assignments to make my grade good enough. It was a great opportunity for me to fix my grades because when I was in Iraq, we did not have extra credit to raise our grades and to make them better. My friend, in the first half of the semester, got a C but then she realized it could affect her studies. She asked her teacher how to raise her grade and the teacher gave her extra credit assignments to work on. To fix a grade in the middle of the semester by taking extra credit assignments is a really handy thing.

The second solution to the problem is to put forth more effort. Students have to give themselves a chance and put in more effort and time in their classes to make progress in their grades. Sometimes students have to try harder to get the grade they want. Giving up on themselves is the

worst enemy for students. For example, my brother got a bad grade in the middle of the semester. He worked harder and asked more questions and made notes. In the end of the semester he got A. He did not give up. He found his problem and fixed it and got a better grade. When I was in Iraq, getting a good grade was a big thing. We had a lot of classes in one day and a lot of homework. Furthermore, books in Iraq are more complicated and have a lot of information to memorize. It was the middle of the semester and I had already missed a lot but

I spent more time to understand the assignments. At the end of the semester, I fixed my grade.

The third solution to the problem is students can get help from outside the class. There are a lot of resources to help students. Students can get help from a friend or watch YouTube videos to help them or search online. It could really help the students and give them a clear explanation. A video could have better examples

and clear ideas, which helps the students to understand to get a better grade. For example, my cousin had problems with her math teacher. He did not explain well and he made difficult tests. She started to watch videos that math teachers made. She said it helped her a lot to do better on her tests. That was one of the resources that help students to do better.

In conclusion, students who find that their grades are going down in the middle of the semester could ask for extra credit or try harder or get help. Many students have the same problem and it is not easy to overcome. Grades are easy to fix with some time and effort. Students have to be aware of their work and they should think that it is not all that they could do.



Betul Yousif
ESL W50

Tooth Fairy Vs. "Ratoncito" (Little Mouse)

When you lost your first tooth, what did you find under your pillow: a coin or a gift? The Tooth Fairy is a very well-known character that collects kids teeth in the United States. However, most Spanish-speaking countries have a different character that collects teeth. Little Mouse is not magical but has another purpose when he collects a tooth. He is known as "Ratoncito" which means "Little Mouse." There are many differences with these two characters and perhaps a few similarities.

One of the differences between the Tooth Fairy and Ratoncito is that they collect lost teeth for different purposes. The story that I know is that the Tooth Fairy collects a tooth and stores it because every tooth holds all the childhood memories from each child. Therefore, it helps them remember what they have forgotten. Meanwhile, others say that the Tooth Fairy uses her magic to turn the tooth into something useful. However, in the Ratoncito story, there is no magic. Little Mouse gets the teeth because he uses them for elderly mice who lost their teeth. The story says that Ratoncito used to live in a dental office, and he learned how to fix teeth. When Little Mouse learned, all of the mice wanted to get their teeth fixed by him. Though they both collect teeth, they have different purposes.

Another difference between the Tooth Fairy and Ratoncito is that their characters are different. The Tooth Fairy is a magical fairy that lives in the woods. She looks like a person but is very tiny. She also flies with her magical wings, and that is how she gets into every house to collect the teeth. She also has other fairies that

help her do her job. However, Ratoncito is not magical. Although he does the same job that the Tooth Fairy does, he has other ways to get to every child's house. Ratoncito cannot go into their house until everyone is asleep because there are a lot of people and cats around that can see him. Thus, he has to wait until midnight, then he climbs up the window and collects the tooth, then places it inside his little bag, and finally he leaves a coin underneath the pillow. Most Spanish-speaking countries use coins more than bills. Ratoncito could leave up to two coins, enough to buy candy but the Tooth Fairy could leave from three dollars to five. It also depends on the family.

In conclusion, the Tooth Fairy and Ratoncito have the same purpose for all the kids, which is to help them to not be afraid of losing a tooth. When they lose one, they will be rewarded. Therefore, having a character like the Tooth Fairy and Ratoncito also help children have confidence in themselves.



Ratoncito

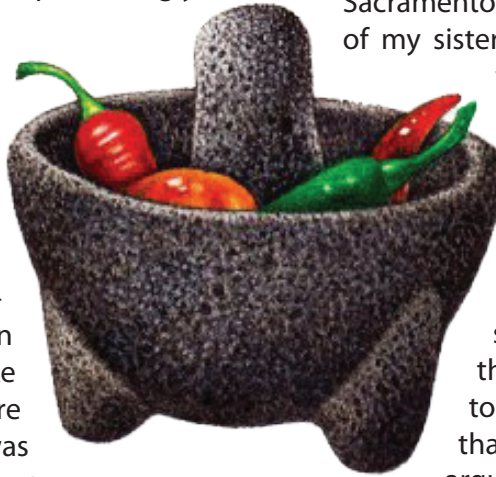
Karen Adams
ESL W310

My Simple “Molcajete”

A simple object could be ugly, but at the same time could be very precious and meaningful for our family. This ugly object is a “molcajete”, which belonged to my great grandmother. She used it to make homemade salsa by hand because back then she didn't have a blender. My great grandfather made the molcajete by hand because they couldn't afford to buy one. That's why it was just a very simple and ugly molcajete.

A molcajete is a round black stone with a hole in the middle, kind of like a bowl, and another piece of stone that is held with one hand to mash the tomatoes and other ingredients. In my country, Mexico, people have been using it for many years to make homemade salsa before there were blenders because it was the only thing available. Nowadays, people are still using it because the salsa has a lot more flavor and tastes much better if it is handmade. The first time that I remember seeing one was when I was about seven years old. It didn't have a good finish at all because it was very heavy and rough and it had a very uneven top, but it was there on my grandmother's kitchen table for a very long time.

The smell in that old kitchen at lunch time when they were roasting the tomatoes and the red peppers was something like burnt but good. Then my grandmother put the tomatoes and peppers in the molcajete with the hot steam and she would mash garlic and all the ingredients to make delicious, fresh salsa. We used



to have with it fresh homemade tortillas every day for lunch. Sometimes my older sister, my younger sister and I used to sit around the table fighting because we all wanted the leftover salsa in the molcajete. I would jump onto the table to get it first.

Years later, all my sisters and I grew up and made our lives far away from each other. I moved to Sacramento and my older sister to Texas; only one of my sisters got married in Mexico. It was not until March, 1985 when my grandmother passed away, that I went back to Mexico and saw the molcajete sitting under a nice big lemon tree. Nobody had taken care of it. It looked so sad under that tree after all those years in the kitchen. It was replaced by a blender. I asked my sister if anybody was using it, and she said that nobody wanted it anymore. I decided to take it with me, but it was not until then that everybody wanted the molcajete. We all argued about who would be the one to keep the molcajete. Unfortunately, it wasn't me; that made me sad.

How can I forget this molcajete that is so meaningful to me? I have wonderful memories of my childhood at my grandmother's house with all the family. I still can picture my grandmother and my mother when they were making fresh salsa every day in that ugly, but precious molcajete in that old kitchen. Why are some objects that we had for some time in our families so meaningful to us?

Ofelia Garcia
ESL W50

The Solutions to the Problem of not Having Enough Money to Pay the Bills

Nowadays, people have many priorities to take care of, especially when they have their own families. They might worry about their children's well-being in term of education or finance. They have to provide everything for their family's needs, and all of those cost a certain amount of money. Sometimes people are not able to pay their bills on time because they don't have

enough money. Some of them have help from parents or relative but most people don't because they don't want to rely on others. How can they solve the problem? Fortunately, there are three solutions to people's financial problems that can help them have enough money to pay the bills. These solutions are cutting down expenditures, selling stuff in the house that they

don't use, and ,finally, finding a second job.

The first solution to the problem of not having enough money to pay the bills is cutting back some expenditures. People can spend less money on groceries by checking what is left in the fridge before buying. They can save money by turning off the lights when not in use. People can also cut off the home phone line because they have cellular phones these days. In addition, they can spend time with their family at home on the weekend, and they don't need to eat out or go to a movie theater. Instead, they can watch movies on Netflix. For example, my husband and I used to eat out every weekend, but when we bought our new house, we started cooking at home. It helps us save money for electricity bills, gas bills, and water bills. My mom, who lives in Vietnam, used to go shopping all the time. She said, "I love hanging out with my friends and going shopping but the family business is not good right now, so I have to save money to pay all the bills. I force myself to stop shopping". Thus if people don't save enough money to take care of their bills, cutting down expenditures can help them improve their financial situations.

Another solution to people's financial problems is to sell stuff which people don't use anymore. A lot of old clothes or old furniture are often put in the garage. They become a shelter for spiders and insects. Instead, people can sell them to make extra money and clean up the house. It might not make much money but it will help them to pay for gasoline or car insurance. If people have some jewelry which they never wear, they can also consider selling them as long as that jewelry is not of sentimental value. For instance, my friend who is a single mom has to take care of her two children. She usually doesn't have enough money to buy things or pay bills. Her income is barely enough for food and rent. Therefore, she sold her necklace and old clothes to solve the problem. She said she was happy and relieved because with that money she could survive a few more months.

The third and perhaps best solution to not hav-

ing enough money to pay the bills is to find a second job. Many people in the U.S. have good jobs, but not all of them. A majority of low-income families don't have enough money. They always suffer at the end of the month. In fact, lots of companies hire their employees for fewer days and longer hours, but people can find a part-time job beside their main job. Even if they are stay-at-home-dads or stay-at-home-moms, they may be able to find some jobs which require them to work on a computer, such as doing surveys or writing blogs



to make extra money. For example, my cousin works for the State of California on a four-ten-schedule. It means she works four days per week for ten hours a day. Based on that, she still has a lot of free time. She also just got married and bought a house, so she needs extra money to pay the bills. Her expenses increased from two thousand dollars to five thousand dollars per month. She was so worried and suffered, living from pay check to pay check a few months ago. Therefore, my husband suggested that she find a second job similar to her current job. Her family income can now cover all the bills. People who have free time can consider finding second jobs because it doesn't just help make extra money, it also helps people have savings.

In conclusion, having a financial problem is very stressful. It will cause a lot of issues. However, if people have a plan to lessen the problem, they will be fine. Some solutions which people can find include cutting down expenditures, selling old clothes or furniture that they don't use, and finally finding a second job. If they do all these, chances are they will have enough money to take care of all their bills and make their lives better. Overall, to avoid the problem, people should save money for their future as much as possible, in case some day they need it.

*Dao "Jenny" Nghiem
ESL W50*

Three Categories of Bad Habits

“How funny looking she is!” Rehana Bhabhi was taunting one of my sisters-in-law at a birthday party. Rehana Bhabhi is also my sister-in-law. She is my husband’s brother’s wife. She is used to making fun of other people. We have different types of relatives in our lives. Every day we meet different people with different habits. People with good habits always make a positive influence on our minds. On the other hand, the people who have different kinds of bad habits always hurt others. Actually they don’t consider their behavior as a bad habit. Some people admit their bad habits but they cannot quit them. Some people try to leave their bad habits and they succeed in quitting them.

You can divide these behaviors into different categories. There are three categories of bad habits found in different people: habits not considered as bad habits, habits not quit easily, and habits which can be withdrawn.

One type of bad habits is that habits people don’t think are bad, like backbiting, irritating others, and hurting someone. It is very common, people back biting others in their absence. Usually in parties the people who leave earlier are target of others’ criticism. As I earlier said about Rehana Bhabhi, she makes fun of other people’s dress. My cousin Shaheen find faults in my cooking and hurts me. When she says, “You don’t know how to cook perfect Biryani”, I just agree with her and cannot say anything. Instead, everyone really likes my Biryani. My husband’s sister Sofia cannot live without insulting others. It is her hobby to irritate her bald brother-in-law in family gatherings. The poor guy, Sajeel, keep smiling, ignoring her taunts. Such a category of bad habits would be practiced because they are not considered as bad habits.

The second category of bad habits is habits not quit easily, like smoking, drinking, and gambling.

Everyone knows these habits are so bad for someone’s health and wealth. It is really difficult for those people who are addicted to these habits. My cousin’s son, Zeeshan, started smoking at a very young age. Now he became a chain smoker eventhough he is just twenty-five years old. He tried a couple of times to stop smoking but failed. Another example is my brother-in-law, Kaka, who is addicted to alcohol. He tried many times to leave this bad habit but he could not do this. Doctors warned him that his lungs are affected. There is also another important reason; alcohol is not permitted in Islam. Even though he has many restrictions, he is unable to avoid alcohol.

One of my friends, Pinky, who is also taking ESL classes, has a husband, Nitaish, who is used to gambling. He lost his money more than five times but he did not want to quit this bad habit. My friend left her house a couple of times to teach him a lesson but in vain. People are badly involved in this



category of bad habits.

The third type of bad habits is habits people can withdraw from some bad habits are easier to leave: keeping bad company, sleeping late at night, staying out of the house at night. Some people can leave these kinds of habits if they want. My brother, Safder, in Pakistan, kept bad company when he was in high school. He flunked his classes and failed in grade 9. After my father’s death, he realized his fault and became a nice boy. Now he is Wing Commander in the Pakistan Air Force. In addition, my younger sister Majida was a night owl. She used to sleep at 2 am. After getting married she had to change herself because her husband did not like to sleep late. Now my sister always sleeps at 7 pm. Another example is my niece, who is living in Pakistan. Her husband liked to stay out of the house at night. He stayed out till four or five in the morning. He played cards and chess

with his friends daily. Consequently, my niece fought him every night. After the birth of their second child, he became responsible. Now he comes home after his work and they live happily. This category of bad habits is also found in many people. It is easier to change these bad habits.

In the end, we all are human beings and none of us is perfect. Everyone has good and bad habits. Good habits make our lives happier and healthier. On the other hand, bad habits affect our lives in

many ways. Everyone should try to quit their bad habits, although it takes strong will power and determination. The great step of changing habits will change our lives. It will not only bring happiness to our lives, it will also bring pleasures to others.

Kishwar Seeda
ESL W50

A Gift From God

On the earth, there are good and helpful people who always have good advice for others. They like to help others with all that they can: good advice, food, clothes, and a roof above their heads. They are always surrounded by friends, and that makes them happy and fulfilled.

I remember a nice, beautiful, smart, little girl like an angel, whose name was Gabriela. I called her a "gift from God." When I met her, she was 6-years-old, like my son Andrei. She was enrolled in his class. Later I found out that she was living with her poor relatives near my house. I was shocked to hear of her incredible life story. Her mother was killed by her father in the train station. Gabriela saw all that happen. That image remains in her innocent mind even today. I tried as much as I could to help her, to be there when she needed me. I knew she was a special child, a special student from my son's class. So I invited her to my home after school to have lunch together, to help her with homework. I always encouraged her to study more and to read interesting books. My son Andrei was also happy to play with Gabi, to share different things with her, even his chocolate. We all loved her so much, and she loved us. We spent a lot of time together



and I was delighted when I saw her happy when she laughed or sat at the table with my whole family. Every evening she went home with tears in her eyes. We were sorry for her when she

heard that we would move to the U.S.A. She was sad and she asked me to take her to America. I didn't have another choice. Maybe in the future we will be able to bring her here. We now keep in touch. We have talked on the phone, we have seen her on Facebook and last year, before Christmas, we sent her a big package with American toys and clothes.

I'm always happy when I help other people. It gives me a great feeling and more confidence in myself and other people. Gabriela remains for me, "a gift from God."



Simona Sigartau
ESL W30

Typing Assignments at the College Level

Nowadays most of the teachers at the college level are requiring students to type their assignments. Typing assignments is a very helpful tool for students at the college level, even when some of them don't see it in this way. A few years ago when I was in college in Mexico, the computer boom started. So many of the students at the college level in Mexico didn't know how to use a computer, but most of the students spent some of their free time to learn how to use it. In addition, 12 years ago the Mexican government made mandatory computer classes at elementary school and high school. Currently, all students in Mexico are learning how to use a computer as a tool for their assignments. Thanks to this, I have learned how to use a computer to do my homework since I was 11. A few years later, when I went to college in Mexico for the first time, I realized that teachers were requiring students to type all their assignments. This was very helpful because students spent less time to correct their mistakes, and it was easier to ask teachers for help via email. Students had only to send an email to the teacher with the file attached to the email. So, when I came here to the United States and started to attend ARC, I realized that many teachers didn't require students to type all their assignments. From then until now, I kept wondering why this happens in a developing country like Mexico, and not in a developed country like the United States. Because of this, I strongly agree with the idea that teachers at the college level should be able to require students to type all their assignments.



The first reason why teachers at the college level should be able to require students to type all their assignments is that in this way assignments look more formal. Students at the college level should start thinking more professionally than they thought in high school. They are attending a higher level, which deserves all their respect and enthusiasm. Students at the college level should stop thinking like teenagers and start thinking like adults. Typing their assignments is a good way to do this. Assignments at the college level should be very formal. This shows students' professionalism. At the college level all the assignments are very important, so students should take their assignments more seriously. For example, you

as a college student, don't you feel better handing in a beautiful and clean, typed assignment instead of a dirty handwritten one? Yes, college students usually feel proud of themselves when their assignments are clean, clear, and typed. In addition, a typed assignment is easier to read than a handwritten one. This will help teachers and students because it will be easier for teachers to understand the content of their students' assignments. This will help improve students' grades. For example, when I read my classmates' essays; it is hard to understand their handwriting. Because of this, it is hard to understand what students want to communicate through their essays. Students' grades will improve a lot if their assignments are typed.

Another reason for allowing teachers at the college level to require students to type all their assignments is that all assignments are not just to learn but to practice for work in real life. It's a fact that college is not only to teach students but to prepare them for the work place. Because of this, there is no better place to make mistakes in typing their assignments than in college. If students don't know how to use the computer, typing all their assignments is a good way to learn how to use it. I had a friend older than me. When she was in college, computers weren't so popular, so she didn't learn how to use one. However, she started to work in a big company during the computer boom. She didn't know how to use a computer, and this was why she lost her first job. Nowadays we live in a globalized world dominated by computers, so it's imperative that students learn how to use them. Students can make mistakes in their assignments if they don't know how to type them in a correct way, but they cannot make mistakes at work. This could mean the end of their careers. To prevent this from happening, students should be able to type whatever they are asked for, so starting to type their assignments is good practice.

A final and extremely important reason for typing is that students can see their improvement better when they type their assignments. The assignments are clearer when they are typed instead of handwritten, so it's easier to comprehend their content. Students can focus better on their mistakes when their assignments are typed. In addition, computers are useful tools which help

students to improve their spelling because computers are capable of marking spelling mistakes. This makes assignments have no spelling mistakes. A college student should avoid these types of mistakes. Computers also give students the advantage of allowing them to make corrections on their assignments easily and quickly. If your teacher finds a mistake on your assignment, and you have it typed on your computer, it will be extremely easy to make the necessary corrections to your assignment.

Typing assignments has a lot of benefits, not only for teachers at the time of checking assignments but for students who improve their technique at the time of typing their assignments. Currently, too many college stu-

dents don't type their assignments because they don't know how to use the appropriate software to do it. Students excuse themselves by saying they do not have a computer, but this isn't a problem because public libraries have computers where students can type their assignments. Teachers at the college level should be able to require students to type all their assignments because in this way students will improve their skills for the work place.

Graciela Lopez
ESL W50

Lesson on the Bus

Reminiscing about the past, I can't forget the event that happened when I was twelve years old in my country Taiwan. Not until then did I know the importance of yielding seats. Though it was over, I can still feel the ripples of the event spread across my heart.

One day, I was exhausted on the bus due to heavy basketball training lessons. Out of desire, I was searching for a seat desperately in order to take a nap. However, life is not a bed of roses. Every seat was occupied except one priority seat. Since I was really tired, I quickly walked toward the seat and seated myself. When I began to feel sleepy, I noticed an old man with a crutch, dragging his feet back and forth all of a sudden.

It seemed like he was more suitable for the priority seat than I was. "Should I yield my seat?" the question kept haunting me whenever I wanted to close my eyes. Finally, I made a terrible decision which was sitting still throughout my ride and letting the poor old man alone.

The next day, I went to the school basketball team as usual. Unfortunately, I bumped into my teammate in the mid air. What was worse, when I fell down to the ground, the feeling of acute pain crept all over my left leg. Instantly, my teammates sent me to the health center and I knew clearly in my mind that I had

to depend on auxiliary equipment for a long time.

Absolutely, life wasn't easy on crutches. On the bus, it was still crowded and all the ordinary seats were occupied. Abruptly, an idea flashed into my mind. "Now that I am badly injured, I am rightful to use the priority seats." I elbowed my way through the priority seat as fast as I could, only to realize that a healthy, young man was sitting, listening to music with his eyes closed. At that very moment, I was immersed in the feeling of regret and sorrow because I did nearly the same thing to the old man yesterday.

In the end, I didn't ask the young man to get up for me. Nevertheless, since I recovered, I have never ever occupied the priority seat again. Furthermore, I would yield my seat immediately as soon as I saw people in need on the bus from then on. It really is a wonderful experience to some degree and I think I not only turned a new leaf of life but also tasted the sweetness of helping others.

Johnny Wang
ESL W310

Editor's Note: This essay is reprinted from Parrot 97 because of our linking the name "China" to Taiwan. Our apologies to Johnny!



Nestscape -- Articles from The Web

For Immigrants, America Is Still More Welcoming Than Europe

The United States has some of the most hostile policies toward an immigrant population found in the developed world.

Start with the special police forces dedicated to persecuting and deporting over a quarter of the nation's immigrants, the estimated 11 million who entered the country without authorization. Then there is the lack of labor laws to shield them from wage theft and perilous jobs.

And don't get me started on America's stingy social insurance: even legal permanent residents are barred from a host of government programs, including Medicaid, food stamps and other welfare programs.

So why is it that immigrants in the United States — including those here illegally — have managed to integrate far more successfully into the American economy and social fabric than foreigners arriving to the relatively coddled states of the European Union, where they often enjoy access right away to a panoply of rights and benefits?

The difference is worth pondering.

There is no question that citizens across the West are gripped by anxiety about immigration. It entwines a fear of imported terrorism with the older xenophobia of natives threatened by ethnic diversity.

But closing the door to Muslims or building a wall across the southern border, Donald Trump notwithstanding, is not going to stop the many immigrants from impoverished fringes of the globe from continuing to make their way toward the wealthy and relatively secure societies of Europe and the United States.

Contrasting the experiences in Europe and the United States could help us better enable immigrants and

their descendants to find their identities and flourish in the new world in which they live. And it will improve the prospects for greater economic growth and less strife for the rest of us.

The very notion of integration is nebulous of course. By some standards one could say immigrants to the United States integrate poorly. Rates of naturalization are low. Less-educated immigrants often work for very low wages. Immigrant poverty rates are substantially higher in the United States than in the European Union.

Yet progress is evident. Reporting among some of the poorest illegal immigrants toiling on America's farms and construction sites, I have encountered a sense of achievement and possibility that belies their harsh living conditions. It contrasts markedly with the sense of exclusion and alienation reported from immigrant enclaves across Europe.

A report released in September by the National

Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine noted that more immigrants buy into the American dream than do native-born Americans: 70 percent believe their children will be better off than themselves, up from 60 percent 20 years ago. Among American-born parents, only 50 percent believe that.

In fact, the children of the least-educated immigrants are much better educated than their parents. They find much better jobs.

"Current immigrants and their descendants are integrating into U.S. society," the report concluded. "Integration increases over time, with immigrants becoming more like the native-born with more time in the country, and with the second and third generations becoming more like other native-born Americans than their parents were."



Migrants were escorted to a registration center by the German police after crossing the Austrian-German border at Wegscheid, Germany, in October. Credit Michael Dalder/Reuters

Richard Alba and Nancy Foner, sociologists at the City University of New York, just published the book "Strangers No More," (Princeton University Press). They compare the challenges facing low-status immigrants in North America and Western Europe. In the end, they do not make a definitive call on which experience is better.

"There are complex arrays of similarities and differences," Professor Alba told me.

Still, they identify unique hurdles in the way of immigrants that make it difficult for those coming from outside the European Union to get ahead in Europe.

Among the most notable is clearly Europe's segmented labor market, difficult for newcomers to crack. In the United States, less-educated immigrants may work for little pay. But the vast majority of them work. The employment rate of immigrants is higher than that of natives. In Europe it is lower.

A report about the integration of immigrants issued over the summer by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development noted that more than a fifth of Europe's immigrants from outside the European Union were unemployed, about double the rate of European Union citizens.

One in four of the economically active is out of work in France and one in three in Belgium and Sweden. And these poor employment prospects persist down the generations. Youth joblessness among the European-born children of immigrants is almost 50 percent higher than for those with native-born parents.

Employment is not the only barrier. Children from less-educated immigrant families are much less likely to succeed at school in Europe than the sons and daughters of natives, and much more likely to end up marginalized: out of school and out of work. Immigrants feel discriminated against more often in Europe. Perceived discrimination is particularly acute among the European-born children of immigrants, who in several countries still do not qualify for automatic citizenship.

As Professor Foner put it: "The United States does a better job at accepting immigrants as Americans in the making."

To be sure, immigrants make up a smaller share of the population of the United States than they do of the populations of immigrant havens like Australia, New Zealand and Canada. Still, that share is considerably larger than that of ethnically distinct immigrants from outside the bloc who live in the European Union nations.

And yet, across most of Europe, voters want to limit immigration. Majorities in many European countries see immigrants as an economic burden and as people who refuse to assimilate. For all the hatred of immigrants stirred up by Mr. Trump and other Republican hopefuls, most Americans — 63 percent in 2014, according to the National Academies report — still believe immigration is a good thing. Majorities across the political spectrum favor granting illegal immigrants a path toward legal status.

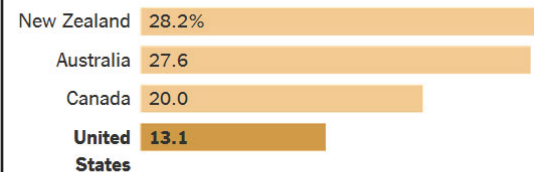
The United States is a nation of hyphenated identities. Europe's nation-states, deeply rooted in history, are not.

The most common criticism of this sort of analysis is that it misses the role of religion. Most immigrants

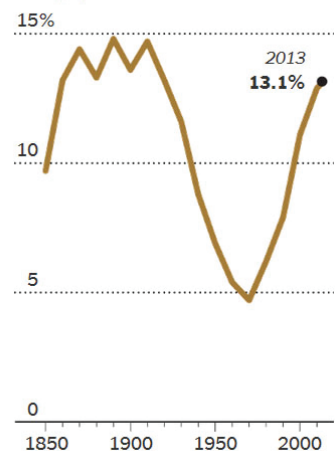
Immigrants in Our Midst

Europe has fewer foreign-born residents than the United States, or other countries like Canada or Australia.

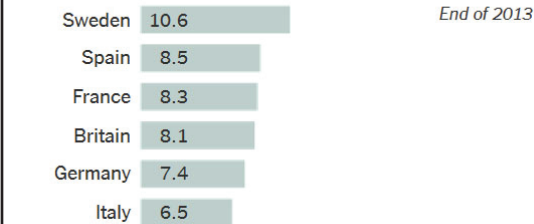
Share of the population born outside of the country 2013



Foreign-born, as a share of total U.S. population since 1850



Share of the population born outside of the European Union



Sources: O.E.C.D.; Eurostat; "The Integration of Immigrants Into American Society," National Academies Press, 2015
By The New York Times

in the United States are Christian. In Europe they are mostly Muslim. Europeans' hostility is often justified by arguing that Islam is incompatible with values inherent to Europe's liberal democracies.

Professors Foner and Alba suggest this incompatibility has perhaps less to do with Muslim intransigence than with the European insistence that immigrants adopt a narrow set of behaviors, including Christian traditions and, importantly, secular values.

In the United States, they write, "to be religious is to be in sync with mainstream norms." Many Americans have more trouble accepting atheists than Muslims. In Europe, by contrast, "claims based on religion have much less acceptance and legitimacy."

In June, President Obama hosted a Ramadan Iftar meal at the White House. In France, public schools still serve fish on Fridays. In some schools, the choice for Muslim children is pork or nothing.

"Muslims feel they have a secondary status in these societies," Ms. Foner told me.

The American approach to immigration, of course, could improve enormously. Ending the active persecution and deportation of 11 million living illegally in the

United States would vastly improve not only their own odds of success, but those of their 4.5 million American-born children — citizens all — as well.

But in this moment in which bigotry and hatred flow so freely from the campaign stump, the most critical insight might be to understand the value of America's traditionally more open and welcoming approach.

The anti-immigrant reaction to the terrorist attacks in Paris is already delivering electoral success to the xenophobic National Front in France. Mr. Trump has a substantial following, but he lacks a political party behind him and is a long way from gaining a similar victory.

And let's hope it stays that way. Erecting walls would blunt one of the United States' most powerful tools of social cohesion and economic progress. It would produce a society less able to accept, mold and succeed from the many immigrants in our midst.

http://www.nytimes.com/2015/12/09/business/international/for-immigrants-america-is-still-more-welcoming-than-europe.html?_r=0

Massachusetts 'Pastafarian' Wins Right to Wear Colander on Her Head in License Photo

Continued from page 1

recently gal battle her to traditional ian colan-covering driver's photo.

The Massachusetts Registrar Motor Vehicles typically doesn't allow people to wear hats or head coverings in their license photos, but the American Humanist Association filed an appeal on Miller's behalf.



won a leto allow wear the Pastafarder head in her license

s a c h u - istry of hicles typi-

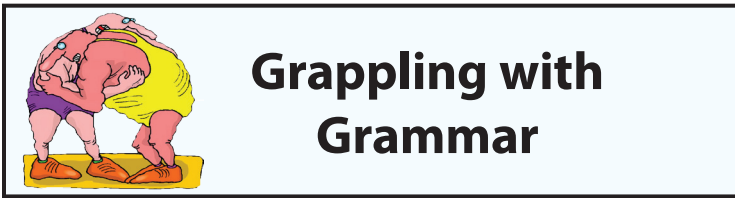
Lawyer Patty DeJuneas said that Pastafarianism is a "secular religion that uses parody to make its point," according to Mashable.

"As a member of the Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster, I feel delighted that my Pastafarianism has been respected by the Massachusetts RMV," Miller told CBS Boston. "While I don't think the government can involve itself in matters of religion, I do hope this decision encourages my fellow Pastafarian Atheists to come out and express themselves as I have."

Who would've thought our personal motto of "in carbs we trust" would come to have actual legal precedent at some point?

<http://www.people.com/article/pastafarian-wins-right-wear-colander-dmv-photo>

Parrot Warbling



Grappling with Grammar

Compound nouns

Words can be combined to form compound nouns. Compound nouns often have a meaning that is different, or more specific, than the two separate words.

First part: type or purpose	Second part: what or who	Compound noun
police	man	policeman
boy	friend	boyfriend
fish	tank	water tank
dining	table	dining-table

The elements in a compound noun are very diverse parts of speech.

Compound elements	Examples
noun + noun	bedroom water tank
noun + verb	rainfall haircut
noun + adverb	hanger-on passer-by
verb + noun	washing machine driving licence
verb + adverb	lookout take-off
adverb + noun	onlooker bystander
adjective + verb	dry-cleaning public speaking
adjective + noun	greenhouse software
adverb + verb	output overthrow

http://www.edufind.com/english/grammar/pre_determiners.php

Idiom--Attic

Raining cats and dogs



We Brits are known for our obsession with the weather, so we couldn't omit a rain-related idiom from this list. It's "raining cats and dogs" when it's raining particularly heavily.

Beak Speak

Reductions of 'of':

There are **three** changes that can occur with the word 'of'.

A. The 'o' in **of** is often pronounced using the schwa sound- uh.

some of becomes some uh

He likes **some of** the books becomes

He likes **some uh** the books.



B. If a vowel follows 'of' it is often pronounced with a schwa + v (uhv)

most of becomes most uhv

Most of all, you can't drink becomes

Most uhv all, you can't drink.

C. If the sound of the letter before 'of' is a 't' there is a flap in addition to the reduction.

out of becomes oud dah

He's **out of** money becomes

He's **oud dah** money

<http://pronunciationtips.com/sound->

Some More Parrot Fun Stuff



Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid.
The remaining letters spell a popular Valentine's Day item.

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

ADMIRER
 ADORE
 AFFECTION
 ATTRACTION
 BEAU
 BELOVED
 BOYFRIEND
 CANDLES
 CANDY
 CHOCOLATES
 COU-
 PLE

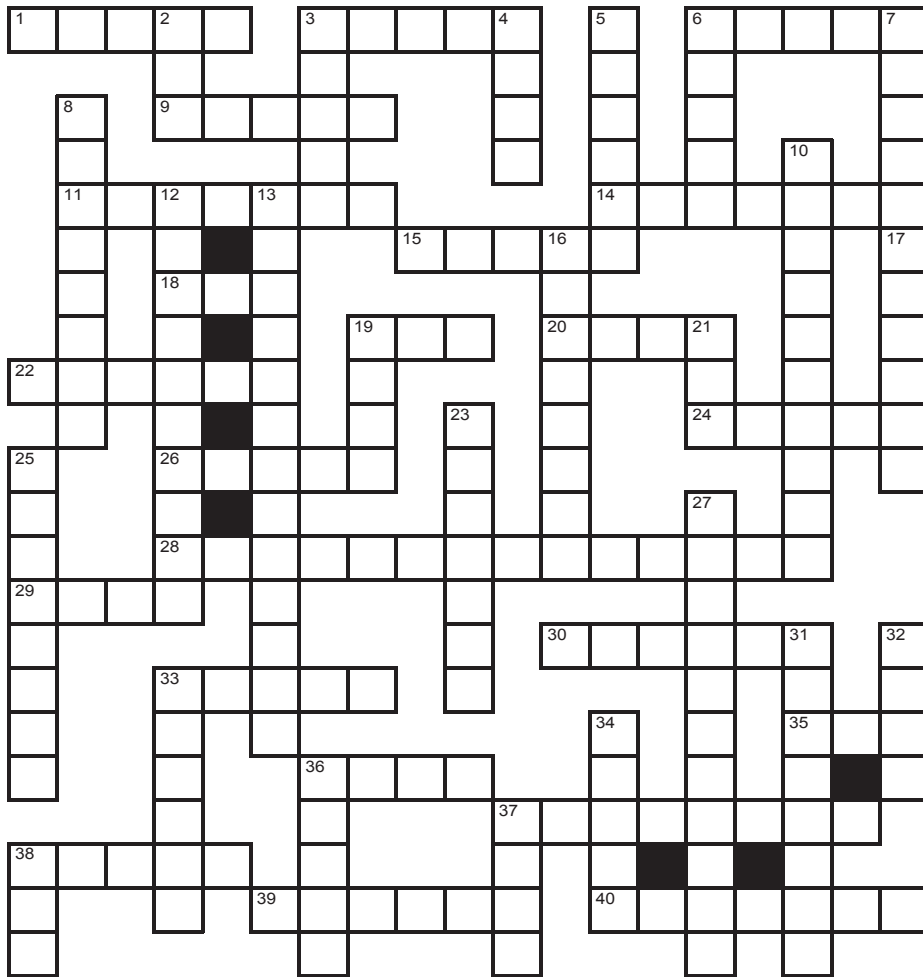
CRUSH
 CUPID
 DARLING
 DATE
 DEAR
 DEVOTION
 FANCY
 FEBRUARY
 FLAME
 FLOWERS
 FONDNESS

FOREVER
 FRIENDSHIP
 GIFT
 GIRLFRIEND
 HEARTS
 JEWELRY
 LIKE
 LOVEBIRDS
 LOVERS
 PARTNER
 PROPOSAL

RELATIONSHIP
 RESTAURANT
 ROMANCE
 ROSES
 SENTIMENT
 SUITOR
 SWEETHEART



Crossword



Things That...

Across

- 1 A place where kids make sandcastles.
- 3 A thing that people use to draw straight lines.
- 6 A person who makes cookies and cakes.
- 9 Someone who flies airplanes.
- 11 A thing that people use to find north.
- 14 A time when people go to the beach.
- 15 The time of day when the stars come out.
- 18 A thing that people drive.
- 19 An insect that makes honey.
- 20 Something people use to travel on water.
- 22 A place where people study.
- 24 A person who assists a doctor.
- 26 A thing that people use to tell the time.
- 28 A scientist who studies dinosaurs.
- 29 A place where people live.
- 30 A place where people can see old things and learn history.
- 33 A mammal that lives in the ocean.
- 35 An animal that gives us milk.
- 36 A part of a plant that makes new plants.
- 37 A time when people eat cake and get presents.
- 38 An animal that gives us wool.
- 39 A person who cures sick people.
- 40 The time of day when people eat dinner.



Down

- 2 A thing that people use to drink coffee.
- 3 A part of a plant that gathers water.
- 4 Something people use to clean up leaves.
- 5 A person who draws pictures.
- 6 Something that people use to sweep.
- 7 A thing that you wear on your finger.
- 8 A thing that you wear on your neck.
- 10 A place where people order food.
- 12 A thing that people use to see tiny things like cells.
- 13 A day when people play tricks on each other.
- 16 A place where people go when they are sick.
- 17 A person who grows crops.
- 19 A place where people save money.
- 21 Something that people use to fry things.
- 23 A person who fixes teeth.
- 25 A place in a home where brush their teeth and wash their faces.
- 27 Someone who puts out fires.
- 31 A person who fixes cars.
- 32 The time of day when the sun rises.
- 33 Someone who serves food in a restaurant.
- 34 An animal that people ride.
- 36 A thing that people use to eat soup.
- 37 An animal that can fly.
- 38 A thing that people use to cut wood.

|f | were...

|f | were a key, | would lock you;
 |f | lightning, then, | would shock you;
 |f | were a pier, | would dock you;
 |f | had a band, | would rock you.

|f | were a spoon, | would feed you;
 |f | were a house, | would deed you;
 On Valentine's Day, | must plead you,
 Valentine, | really need you!



By Joanna Fuchs

Rigoberto's Riddles

What room can no one enter?

A mushroom.



Silly Vasily's Chuckle Chamber

The Woman of His Dreams



A young man called his mother and announced excitedly that he had just met the woman of his dreams. Now what should he do?

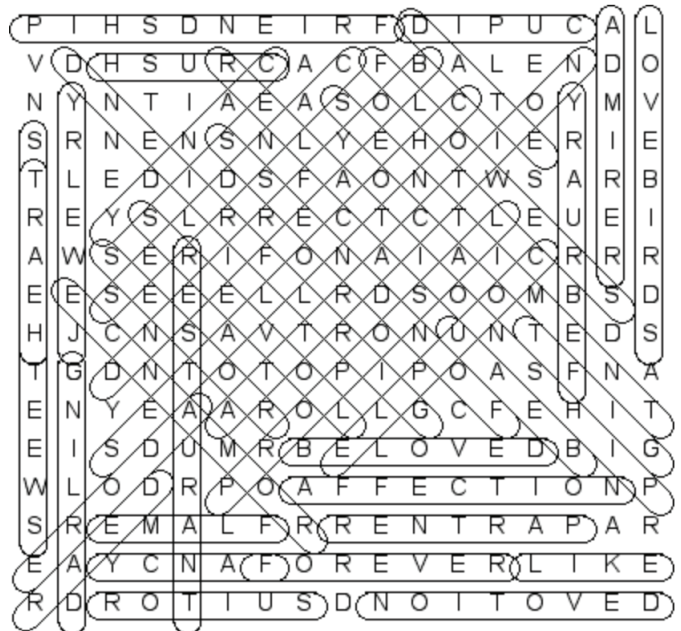
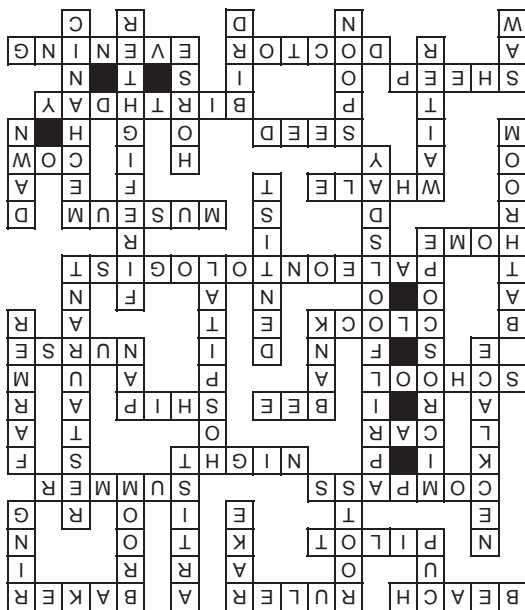
His mother had an idea: "Why don't you send her flowers, and on the card invite her to your place for a home-cooked meal?"

He thought this was a great strategy and arranged a date for a week later. His mother called the day after the big date to see how things had gone.

"The evening was a disaster," he moaned.

"Why, didn't she come over?" asked his mother.

"Oh, she came over, but she refused to cook."



Granny Noetal

Dear Granny Noetal,

What do you think about the new no-smoking rule on campus? What will happen to students if they get caught smoking? Another question: is it just tobacco or marijuana too?

Emma Paninigarilyo

Dear Emma,

Those are some good questions! First of all, I support the no-smoking rule. It's healthier for all of us. When I was young, I both chewed tobacco and smoked cigars. In those days, we didn't know any better. Now we



know tobacco kills. How our campus will enforce this I am not sure. It might take patience and discussion with offenders. As far as marijuana, that's included. I haven't had time to think more about your questions but I believe I will ask our administrators when I have some more time. In the meantime, go to this ARC site to read for yourself.

<http://www.arc.losrios.edu/Documents/AboutARC/ARCEnvironmentalStandard-2015FINAL.pdf>

Thanks for writing and have a good semester!

Granny

Interview with Parisa

Continued from page 1

Parisa: Hmm, I don't say that I can speak Arabic, but I have some familiarity with this language. In ESL lab, sometimes when the students have difficulties understanding the vocabulary and they need more clarification, I can use my knowledge of Arabic.

Parrot: How long did you live in your country?

Parisa: I lived there for 39 years.

Parrot: So when did you come to the United States?

Parisa: I came here with my husband and my son in 2002.

Parrot: Do you have a degree from your country? Did you work there?

Parisa: Yes, I have a degree in medical science lab technology and I worked at hospitals and clinics for a couple of years, but later I left my work and studied French.

Parrot: Really, you switched to a different field, why?

Parisa: Yes. Before having my son, I decided to change my work because I wanted to spend all my time with my child, and since I loved studying language and writing, I decided to study the French language.

Parrot: Did you study alone?!

Parisa: No. I went to the university and studied French through the translation approach.

Parrot: What did you do after that?

Parisa: After that, I translated articles and stories for magazines and newspapers from home.

Parrot: What did you translate?

Parisa: I translated many things, but my favorite one was one of the works of a famous nineteenth-century French author Guy de Maupassant for a magazine. I also translated a book about the environment which was published too.

Parrot: Interesting!!! Now, and as far as I know, you are working as an instructional assistant in the ESL

lab and you are teaching first-year students at Sacramento State University. Am I right?

Parisa: Yeah. I am working at the ESL lab, and this semester, for the first time, I am teaching composition to freshmen multilingual students at Sac State.

Parrot: So how did you get to this level?

Parisa: When I arrived in the U.S, I started from the very, very beginning. From adult school to American River College, and then I transferred to Sacramento State University. I completed my bachelor's degree, and this semester I will get my masters in English (TESOL).

Parrot: Congratulations! You give us a lot of motivation!

Parisa: Thank you! I believe that if you just keep going and working hard, you will see good results!

Parrot: What do you like most about your current job and why do you like it?

Parisa: I really enjoy helping our students learn English. I believe it is important to start from the fundamentals and work your way up. I like my job also because I am learning every minute. There is always a new surprise and new thing that I can discover.

Parrot: Let us talk about students. What is your advice for them? In your opinion, how can they pass or overcome obstacles which may stand in their way? All of us know that life is not easy.

Parisa: I think the most important thing I would tell students is to not give up. It is also important to work hard. Learning a language is a big challenge and it takes a lot of time and effort, but you don't have to face it alone! Ask for help when you need it from professors, the lab, and friends.

Parrot: Since you are working in the ESL lab now, you tell me how the lab is important for students?

Parisa: The lab is a great place for students to not only practice and learn important language skills, but also to feel like a community. Everyone there understands the difficulties of learning English and

we try to work together to make the process a little easier.

Parrot: How do you organize your time? Could you give me an example?

Parisa: My days are very, very busy. I try to plan things out on a calendar and prioritize more important and time-consuming things such as preparing assignments and grading papers these days. Additionally I have to cook, clean, and shop.

Parrot: What are you most proud of?

Parisa: I'd like to say that I'm extremely proud of all students who work hard and succeed in learning. On a personal level, I am also very proud of my son.

Parrot: Let us get back to your life. Have you traveled before?

Parisa: Yes

Parrot: What countries have you visited?

Parisa: I have visited France, Italy, Canada, Portugal, and Spain.

Parrot: Wow, so where would you like to spend your next vacation?

Parisa: Hmm. I love to travel to any new places, but my son and I always talk about traveling to Ireland. Perhaps that's the next vacation destination.

Parrot: I heard that you have some accomplishments; could you tell me what these are?

Parisa: I don't know about accomplishments. I was selected as student of the year in 2011 by the American River College English Department. Last semester, my research project at Sac State got a student and faculty award.

Parrot: I have heard that you have published something? Am I right?

Parisa: Some of my poetry, essays, and short stories have been published in The Parrot, the American River Review, Calaveras Station, the Sacramento Anthology of Poetry, and recently my translation

of a poetry book has been published by Ad-Lumen press. Its name is Face-to-Face with Dreams.

Parrot: So after all of these, what is your next goal?

Parisa: I would like to continue teaching English, particularly to ESL students. I would like to teach more and more classes and develop more curriculum designed to help students learn quickly and efficiently.

Parrot: What do you do when you have free time? Or let me be more specific, what are your hobbies?

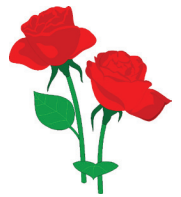
Parisa: I love reading, cooking, crocheting, and sewing. But more importantly, I love spending time with my family and drinking tea with them.

Parrot: Do you have any additional information that you would like to share?

Parisa: I would like to tell our students to go and get help from all supportive services at this college. Also, I would like to take the opportunity to thank all my teachers in the ESL department, the ESL lab, and in the English department, who always supported me and encouraged me.

Parrot: I would like to thank you for your time and sharing your experiences. I really appreciate it.

Parisa: It was a pleasure!

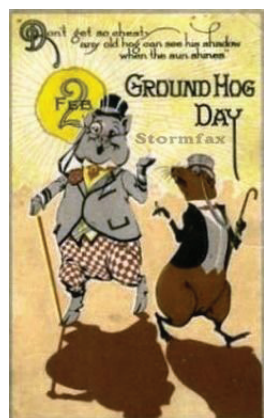


Groundhog Day

In 1723, the Delaware Indians settled Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania as a campsite halfway between the Allegheny and the Susquehanna Rivers. The town is 90 miles northeast of Pittsburgh, at the intersection of Route 36 and Route 119. The Delawares considered groundhogs honorable ancestors. According to the original creation beliefs of the Delaware Indians, their forebears began life as animals in “Mother Earth” and emerged centuries later to hunt and live as men.

The name Punxsutawney comes from the Indian name for the location

“ponksad-uteney” which means “the town of the sandflies.” The name woodchuck comes from the Indian legend of “Wojak,



the groundhog” considered by them to be their ancestral grandfather.

When German settlers arrived in the 1700s, they brought a tradition known as Candlemas Day, which has an early origin in the pagan celebration of Imbolc. It came at the mid-point between the Winter Solstice and the Spring Equinox. Superstition held that if the

weather was fair, the second half of Winter would be stormy and cold. For the early Christians in Europe, it was the custom on Candlemas Day for clergy to bless candles and distribute them to the people in the dark of Winter. A lighted candle was placed in each window of the home. The day’s weather continued to be important. If the sun came out February 2, halfway between Winter and Spring, it meant six more weeks of wintry weather.



The earliest American reference to Groundhog Day can be found at the Pennsylvania Dutch Folklore Center at Franklin and Marshall College:

February 4, 1841 - from Morgantown, Berks County (Pennsylvania) storekeeper James Morris’ diary...”Last Tuesday, the 2nd, was Candlemas day, the day on which, according to the Germans, the Groundhog peeps out of his winter quarters and if he sees his shadow he pops back for another six weeks nap, but if the day be cloudy he remains out, as the weather is to be moderate.”

According to the old English saying:
If Candlemas be fair and bright,

Winter has another flight.

If Candlemas brings clouds and rain,

Winter will not come again.

From Scotland:

If Candlemas Day is bright and clear,

There'll be two winters in the year.

From Germany:

For as the sun shines on Candlemas Day,

So far will the snow swirl until May.

For as the snow blows on Candlemas Day,

So far will the sun shine before May.



And from America:

If the sun shines on
Groundhog Day;

Half the fuel and half
the hay.

If the sun made an ap-
pearance on Candle-
mas Day, an animal

would cast a shadow, thus predicting six more weeks of Winter. Germans watched a badger for the shadow. In Pennsylvania, the groundhog, upon waking from mid-Winter hibernation, was selected as the replacement.

Pennsylvania's official celebration of Groundhog Day began on February 2nd, 1886 with a proclamation in The Punxsutawney Spirit by the newspaper's editor, Clymer Freas: "Today is groundhog day and up to the time of going to press the beast has not seen its shadow." The groundhog was given the name "Punxsutawney Phil, Seer of Seers, Sage of Sages, Prognosticator of Prognosticators, and Weather Prophet Extraordinary" and his hometown thus called the "Weather Capital of the World." His debut performance: no shadow - early Spring.

The legendary first trip to Gobbler's Knob was made the following year.

Since the 1993 release of the film Groundhog Day, starring Bill Murray as a TV weatherman (who wakes up and it's Groundhog Day over and over again!) and Andie MacDowell as his puzzled producer, attendance at the real event has expanded. In 1997, there were 35,000 visitors in Punxsutawney, five times the Jefferson County town's 6,700 population.

The Groundhog Day festivities on February 2, 1992 were joined by Bill Murray studying for his role in the movie. Then, Columbia Pictures set out to recreate the Punxsutawney Groundhog Day down to the smallest detail. There were, however, many changes made.

Columbia Pictures decided to film the movie in a location more accessible to a major metropolitan center. The highways in and around Punxsutawney were few, so Woodstock, Illinois was chosen as the site. Unfortunately, Woodstock's landscape doesn't have Pennsylvania's scenic rolling hills. Nevertheless, adjustments were made for the production. The actual Gobbler's Knob is a wooded hill with a beautiful view; the Gobbler's Knob in the movie is moved to the town square. The Punxsutawney Gobbler's Knob was recreated to scale in Woodstock's town square based on detailed notes and videos the crew made on its visit to Punxsutawney. [Photo: © Columbia Pictures]

The movie's script was changed to include the elaborate ceremony of the Inner Circle on Groundhog Day. The original groundhog cast for the movie was considered to be too small.

Some of the store names in Punxsutawney were used in the movie, such as The Smart Shop and Stewart's Drug Store. Punxsutawney's police cars were also recreated for the movie. The groundhog-head trash cans and Groundhog Festival flags that line the streets of Punxsutawney were displayed. Folks traveling to Punxsutawney to see the "Punxsutawney" they saw in the movie wonder why it looks "so different, yet seems so similar." The groundhog, also known as a woodchuck (*Marmota monax*), is a member of the squirrel family. Groundhogs in the wild eat succulent green plants, such as dandelion, clover, and grasses.

According to handlers John Griffiths and Ben Hughes, Phil weighs 15 pounds and thrives on dog food and ice cream in his climate-controlled home at the Punxsutawney Library.

Up on Gobbler's Knob, Phil is placed in a heated burrow underneath a simulated tree stump on stage before being pulled out at 7:25 a.m. to make his prediction.

<http://www.stormfax.com/ghogday.htm>

STARTING THIS SEMESTER, THERE IS NO SMOKING ON THE CAMPIIS

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THIS?

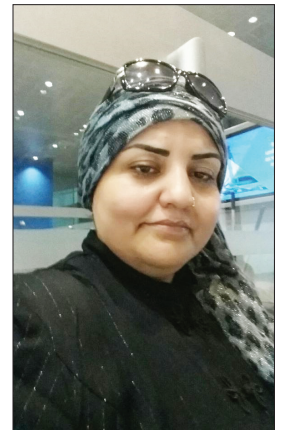


Keila Molina

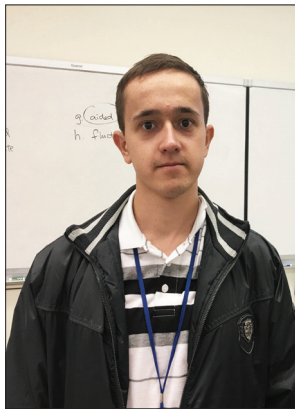
"Yeah, I think it's better because sometimes I'll walk around campus and there's smoking and I don't like to smell it. It might be bad for those who smoke, but for me it's fine."



Mahjabeen Zazai



"I am not a smoker and I will be happy about it; however, there should be a specific place for smokers to smoke in their break time or in between their classes. I know that smokers can't quit smoking, so college authorities need to think about it and find a

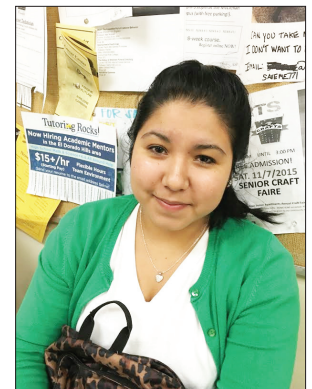


Vykhovanets Iaroslav



"I like the idea of no smoking on campus because I am not a smoker and people who don't smoke don't feel comfortable when they smell it, but I think one or two more areas should be specified for those who smoke since they have an addiction and they like to smoke from time to time."

Stephanie Saldana



"I think it's a good thing we don't have any smoking on campus and it's good for everyone to be in a healthy environment because it's going to help a lot of people with some health problems. I believe it's a good thing."



Khalid Isaac



"Smoking is not good for health and because I am not a smoker and I don't like the smell of smoke, I am happy for this decision."



Out of the Cage

Fighting to Feel Normal

Thursday, February 4, 2016
12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.

Devin Johnson was on his way to his first professional MMA fight when, while sparring in the octagon with a trainer, he suffered a critical spinal cord injury leaving him paralyzed from the waist down. Devin now attends ARC. He is on a new path to discover his purpose as he embarks on the next phase of his life's journey. A young fighter's career is over before it even started. With MMA's popularity growing exponentially in the last 10 years, Devin's injury begs the question, what can be done to prevent accidents like his in the future? And, most importantly, what next for Devin Johnson?

Location: Raef Hall 160

Drug Culture of the 19th Century

Thursday, February 18, 2016
10 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Did you know that heroin was once sold over the counter, without a prescription? Or that babies were given heroin for pain relief and issues with sleep? Did you know the President Lincoln's wife Mary was addicted to laudanum (a form of morphine) as were many of our most important leaders and artists throughout history? Enjoy this lively presentation on the ever-evolving understanding of "illicit" or "healthy" drugs.

Location: Raef Hall 160

Celebrating Rosa Parks' Life and Legacy

Thursday, February 11, 2016
12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.

Join us in celebration of African American History Month and Rosa Parks Day in California. History Professors Camille Leonhardt and Abigail Feely will reflect on Rosa Parks' life and legacy, focusing on interpretations of her role in the Civil Rights movement. By refusing to move to the back of the bus, Parks provided the spark igniting the Montgomery Bus Boycott of 1955-56. This year-long boycott propelled Martin Luther King to a prominent position of leadership in the modern civil rights movement. Let's celebrate Rosa Parks and the many others whose non-violent acts of protest would lead a future President Kennedy to say: "It is in the American tradition to stand up for one's rights, even if the new way to stand up for one's rights is to sit down."

Location: Raef Hall 160

Creative Connections: Celia Herrera Rod-rigues

Thursday, February 25, 2016
12:25 p.m. – 1:25 p.m.

Celia Herrera Rodriguez is a painter and installation and performance artist, originally from Sacramento. She teaches Xicana Indigena art theory, history, and practice (Chicano Studies, UC Berkeley and Diversity Studies, California College for the Arts). Her work is permanently housed in a number of private and public collections, including the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe and the Gorman Museum of UC Davis. She has exhibited her work and performed at locations throughout the world. In recent years, she has also worked as a conceptual, set, and costume designer. In November 2015 at San Francisco's Mission Cultural Center, she co-curated "The Bones of Our Ancestors: Endurance and Survival Beyond Serra's Mission(s)" which featured bold works to present an indigenous response to the aftermath of Serra's mission building and to call attention to the continued persistence of indigenous peoples across the Americas. The exhibition spanned photography, installation, animation, painting, print work, and a mural.

Location: Student Center Community Rooms



Questions/Comments?

Student Editor: **Elaf Khafaja.**

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