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The ELI Weekly

The Weekly Newsletter of
the English Language Institute
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Afternoon Downtown

Come out and see some of what Gainesville has to offer!

This Saturday, January 20th, join ELI students and LAs for an afternoon downtown. See a movie, chat over coffee, play games, and explore historic downtown Gainesville!

Our itinerary is as follows:

2:30 p.m. "Shut Up and Sing" documentary at the Hippodrome State Theatre.



The documentary shows the relationship between media, politics, and entertainment in the United States inspired by the controversial Dixie Chicks. It was voted Best Documentary by the Boston Society of Film Critics Awards.

To go to the movie, meet at the Norman Garage at 1:30 p.m., and we will drive over. The cost is \$5.00 with a UF-ID

3:45 p.m. Coffee, Chocolate, and Games at Maude's

Chat about the movie and practice your English at a Gainesville favorite, Maude's Classic Café. Order a cup of coffee, enjoy some fabulous dessert, and play some popular games. Explore downtown Gainesville and enjoy the unique atmosphere.

Notes from the Office

- **Immunizations**-Don't forget; we must have proof of your immunizations for you to be allowed to attend classes. The deadline this semester is Friday, January 26th. We often have quite a few students who are very surprised to be pulled out of classes at this particular time for this particular reason. Don't be one of them!
- **Class Attendance**-Remember, your attendance is very, very important. Your teachers are taking note of both your absences and your tardies in every class every day.
- **Student Mailbox**-Don't forget to check the student mailbox in the main office from time to time. There is mail for some returning students already.

Computer Accounts/IDs/Trip Passes



This Friday afternoon, we will walk you over to purchase your UF

Gator 1 ID and get your UF computer accounts. You will need to bring \$15 for the ID, your ELI Tuition Receipt with your ID# on it (you may take your receipt to Sonja in the ELI Main Office to get your ID number), and a photo ID, such as your passport or a driver's license. We will meet at the Norman Hall Garage at 12:50pm and walk over.

Also at this time, we will be doing our walkover to purchase transportation passes for the Kenney Space Center Trip. We will buy our van tickets for Kennedy Space Center (January 27th). The cost to ride in the van is \$25 and there are only 13 spaces! The van must be FULL for the trip to happen. You must sign up for the van before Friday at 12:00 p.m. to go. Bring your UF-ID and proof of insurance.

The Next Trip

Next weekend, we will be going to

Kennedy Space Center.

Details will be on the Activities Board and in next week's *Weekly*. Also, there will be a Volunteer Seminar next week.



Birthdays

The following are ELI birthdays from Jan 19-25:

Students:

January 22: Hani Alotaibi

January 23: Ibrahim Alamir

January 23: Yen Chieh Chu

Staff:

None this week!

Happy Birthday to one and all!

ELI Countries Represented

The following is a list of ELI Countries represented by our students, listed by the country or area you put down when you signed in:

Brazil	Kuwait
Burkina Faso	Niger
China	Puerto Rico
Colombia	Peru
Ecuador	Saudi Arabia
France	Spain
Honduras	Taiwan
Japan	Turkey
Korea	USA
	Venezuela

Manners and Culture

We could use some questions, everyone! Teachers, it's a great idea to have students write down a few as a small project; and students, if you have anything that you would like to ask about, don't be shy! Just write down your questions and give them to your teacher, or just walk into the ELI Main Office, 315, and place it in my mailbox—the teacher box marked **ALLEN**. Meanwhile, recently, several students have inquired about tipping rules. So, we're running our traditional beginning-of-the-semester column on tipping:

When do you tip? Well, most often, you tip for services received. The origin of the word "tip" is something that is not 100% certain, but the most common story is that it comes from the acronym To Insure Prompt Service. There are many situations where tipping is expected, but there are some that you might think require tipping that don't. The following is a pretty good indicator--though not a totally exhaustive list--of when and where and how much you should tip:

Hairdressers and Nail Sculptors: 15 to 20% of the total bill

Hotels: Bellhops, \$1 per bag; \$5 minimum total; Concierge, \$5 to \$10 for special services; Maids, for long stays, \$1 per person per night, at the end of stay; Room Service, 15% of total-sometimes already added in bill (check!)

Parking: Valet parking at a hotel or restaurant, \$2. Note that many people now tip both dropping off and picking up.

Pizza Delivery: \$1 per pizza

Restaurants: 15 to 20% of the total bill; more if the service was particularly memorable or if you have many special requests which are promptly and cheerfully honored. Tipping in restaurants is particularly important here in the US; servers in restaurants have a minimum wage of only \$2.13 an hour—only about 40% of the national minimum wage.

Taxis: \$1 minimum, 15% on fares over \$8. Drivers in large cities expect 20%.

Additionally, in some places, there will be people who help you outside with your purchases (as in the grocery store). With a particularly helpful person or a particularly large order, you may offer a tip of a dollar or two—but if you see a sign inside the store (once again, as in many grocery stores), that employees are not allowed to accept tips, don't offer. Another note to remember about tipping is that when you are part of a large party in a restaurant and you are splitting the bill, make sure that you calculate and include the tip in the amount you contribute to the total amount paid; this is a common error which often shortchanges the service person. Some restaurants nowadays automatically include a 15% gratuity in the bill for large groups.

Quote of the Week

Tradition is a guide and not a jailer.

--W. Somerset Maugham



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