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The ELI Weekly

*The Weekly Newsletter of
the English Language Institute
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Volunteer Day

Help others while helping yourself!

This Saturday, January 27th, we are holding our first **Volunteer Day** of the spring term. This is your chance to help out the community while practicing your English in a real-life environment. Below is a description of the volunteer activities going on this weekend.

We will meet at different times. Students, language assistants, teachers, and staff will meet at the NRN Garage and carpool to the different sites.

Please sign up on the Activities Board for your choice of activity by 4pm on Thursday, January 25th.

There is no cost to volunteer. Wear comfortable clothes and sneakers. You should bring water to each volunteering activity

University of Florida Performing Arts – Come and receive interactive training to be an usher for the many plays, speakers, and concerts sponsored by the University of Florida Performing Arts! We will meet at the NRN Garage at 9:45am and return around 12noon.

Haven Hospice Attic— Help organize and sell merchandise. The

Hospice Attic is a charity organization that benefits terminally ill patients. We will meet at the NRN Garage at 12:30pm and return around 4pm.

North Florida Rehab Center— Come and play Bingo and talk with senior citizens. This is a great way to practice your English and have a wonderful time!! We will meet at the NRN Garage at 12:15pm and return around 3:30pm.

St. Francis House Homeless Shelter-- Help prepare and serve meals for homeless people: bake bread, make salads, cook rice, meat, potatoes, and make gallons of juice! Help set up tables, clean up and wash dishes. Great way to practice English and meet people! Wear clothes that can get dirty. We will meet at the Norman Hall Garage at 9am and return around 1pm.

Have a great day, everyone!

Notes from the Office

- **Smoking:** We have noticed that some folks are smoking right under the “No Smoking” signs outside the Florida Room. Remember, students, that it is

state law now that not only is there no smoking inside state buildings, you must be at least 50 feet from the building to smoke at all. Please do not smoke in this area, even if you see other people doing so. Remember, you are representing not only the ELI when you're here, but you are also representing your country and affecting people's opinions of you. Smoking is permitted at the picnic tables adjacent to the small parking lot on the northeast side of Norman Hall (right across from the Credit Union).



Activities Change

Monday pool and bowling night with Carmen will now be at 5:15 instead of 4:30.

The Next Trip

Next weekend, we will be going to the neighboring town of Palatka for the **Palatka Bluegrass Festival**. Details will be on the Activities Board and in next week's *Weekly*.

Birthdays

The following are ELI Birthdays for the week of February 2-8:

Students:

February 2: Alejandro Aguayo

February 2: Carmen Colón Rivera

February 2: Miryam Cuenca Sanchez

February 5: Ramón Padilla

Staff:

February 2: Carmen Franz

Manners and Culture

Folks, once again, we have no questions. (TEACHERS!! HELLLLLP!!!) Here are questions from last semester at this time.

Q: I want to take the short term next semester and I want to stay in the US. Is this possible?

Q: How can ELI students work and still maintain their visas?

A: Both of these are the kinds of questions that you should ask of Barbara or Illy. Unfortunately, while they are excellent questions, your manners columnist isn't really

qualified to answer them. We'll leave them to the experts!

Q: I was in a public restroom recently. At that time, I could see others' feet beside me. I was a little nervous in a public restroom because I thought a restroom is the most private space. I hadn't recognized it until then, but I found the partitions didn't block the lower parts. I think Americans regard privacy as important, but why do they allow this kind of partition? I know restrooms are totally protected and blocked from others in Korea and Japan. Is there any special reason or don't Americans care about physiological things?

A: This is an interesting point. I guess the simplest answer is that it's just easier to construct the stalls in this way. Culturally speaking, men in the US, at least, do regard this kind of privacy as important; we simply don't notice the feet of the other people. If we did, it would be totally out of the question to indicate in any way that we knew who else was there; it's not like we would strike up a conversation, for example. A female colleague of mine tells me that this is somewhat different for women. She says that it is more common for women in this particular situation (especially if they do recognize the feet next to them) to speak up.

Q: Why do all the clubs close at 2am?

A: Well, the official reason is that it's supposed to get people off the streets earlier. In practice, there's a lot of debate as to just how effective this is. Some people feel that it really doesn't matter what time the bars close—you're just as likely to have drunk people on the road no matter what. Gainesville is not the only place in Florida with 2am closing times; even places as large as Orlando also do this!

Q: Why do Americans smile and say "Hi" to people they have never met and nod at each other on the road?

A: It's not all Americans. Someone from New York might ask the same question. It's really a Southern and rural thing. The culture in this part of the US dictates that we should be friendly to strangers as much as possible.

Quote of the Week

If you don't like something, change it. If you can't change it, change your attitude. Don't complain.
--Maya Angelo



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