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The ELI Weekly

*The Weekly Newsletter of
the English Language Institute
Volume 103, Issue 3
May 25, 2007*



Volunteer Day

Help others while helping yourself!

This Saturday, May 26th, we are holding our first **Volunteer Day** of the summer 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, May 24th.

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

Jungle Friends— Rescued monkeys which used to be pets or were used in animal testing live here. We will help clean up and build their homes. We will meet at the NRN Garage at 9:15am and return around 2pm.

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 2:45pm and return around 4:45pm.

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 9:15am and return around 2pm.

Have a great day, everyone!

Note from our Recruiter

A note from our Recruiter, Lia Brenneman:

Free English Lessons! Get online at <http://partners.versation.com/florida/alumni/index.php> for English lessons in American slang, idioms and music. These cool lessons have pictures, sound files, reading passages and multiple-choice tests for students to practice comprehension.

Also on that site, make sure to sign up as Alumni so your friends from all

over the world can see your profile. You may also want to become an Ambassador, so future students from your country can contact you.

And finally, while you are on that site, look at the great ELI photos on the Photo Gallery. You may see yourself there! If you have good photos you'd like to share, please email them to lia@ufl.edu.

Check it out!

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).

- **Memorial Day Holiday:** Next Monday, May 28th is a US Holiday! There will be no classes here at the ELI and the office will be closed. Also, there will be no RTS bus service.

The Next Trip

Next weekend, we will be going to Tampa to **Busch Gardens**. Since there is a van trip, you must purchase your transportation pass at The Outfitter at the Reitz Union by this Friday, May 25th. We will only be able to go if we have a full van. Details about the trip will be on the Activities Board and in next week's *Weekly*.



Birthdays

The following are ELI Birthdays for the week of May 25-31:

Students:
May 28: Dong Jin Choi

May 29: Turki Bauazeed
May 31: Turki Al Beqami

Staff:
May 31: Billy Welch

Manners and Culture

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

Q: Why don't the people work in gas stations?

A: I'm guessing that you are wondering why almost all of our gasoline is self-serve these days. It's cheaper. If we don't have to pay extra people to pump the gas, then the gas can be sold for less. Most people in the US seemed, when the concept was first introduced, to prefer to pump their own gas rather than to pay more for the gas.

Q: Why do American people talk so loud on their cell phones in public?

A: Mercifully, it's not all of us. Those that do are rude, plain and simple. Unfortunately, we have a lot of really rude and thoughtless people roaming around these days.

Q: Why do people in the US like to suntan?

A: Because there are a lot of idiots who are slaves to fashion over health, and it's still considered by some people to be fashionable. Experts warn that there is no such thing as "safe" tanning, period. Tanning itself is actually a representation of damage to the skin. People hate listening to experts.

Q: Why do Americans use so many plastic bags in the supermarket?

A: They're more convenient and easy to carry. Thankfully, we do have a choice; we can request paper bags. Also, many supermarkets have recycling bins for used plastic bags. Personally, I do use the plastic ones (I live in a 2nd floor apartment—it's MUCH easier to carry them up the stairs!), but I always take them back to the store on my next visit and put them in the recycling bin.

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 Angelou



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