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The ELI Weekly

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Homecoming Parade

Go Gators!

Homecoming is the weekend when current and former UF students celebrate the Gators with a parade, a giant pep rally, and the Homecoming game, of course! The University of Florida's **Homecoming Parade** is the *largest student run parade in the United States!* It will have floats, bands, decorated vehicles and representatives from UF and Gainesville. Homecoming draws over 150,000 people every year and is broadcasted live on television. This truly is a part of US culture!

The ELI will go as a group to see the parade. It is a great chance to spend a morning with friends and to show your support for UF.

When: The parade is at noon on Friday, October 17th but *we will meet at the Matherly main entrance at 11:30am and we will walk to our spot together.* The parade will draw thousands of people, so we need to get there early to be able to see!

What To Bring: The most important thing are your orange and blue Gator clothes! You should also bring a blanket or folding chair to sit on, sunscreen if it's sunny, or an umbrella if it's raining. Also, you can bring snacks and drinks or money to buy food and drinks.

Gator Growl

What is the world's largest pep rally? UF's Gator Growl is! It will be October 17th. This is not an official ELI activity but it is great

experience! A ticket is required for entry, so you **MUST** buy your ticket beforehand. If you're interested in attending, make sure to buy your ticket with friends because the seats are assigned. Gates open at 6:00 pm and Gator Growl will start at 7:00 pm.

Go to www.gatorgrowl.org for more information.

The Next Trip

Next weekend is the **Midterm and Welcome B Picnic**. Details will be on the Activities Board and in next week's *Weekly*.

Notes from the Office

Trash: Please note, the floor of the bathroom is not a trash can. Please put your trash in the trash can!

Student Voices: If you haven't already, send your submissions to Melina at mpjimenez@ufl.edu for *Student Voices*. The last day is November 14th.

Homecoming Holiday: Friday, October 17th, is Homecoming. There will be no ELI classes and the ELI Main Office will be closed on Friday.

Holidays and RTS Bus Service: There is reduced or no campus service on these days: October 17 (Friday, Homecoming) November 11 (Monday, Veterans' Day)

November 24 through the 28 (Thanksgiving week, Monday thru Friday)
December 15, 2014 - January 4, 2015 (End-of-year Break)

These changes can be accessed on the RTS website www.go-rts.com

I-20s: If you're leaving the country for the Thanksgiving or End-of-year breaks, have your I-20 signed in the ELI Main Office (Matherly 223).

Go to class!
Speak English!
Participate in activities!

Guest Column

This week we have a special column from a student, Pablo Echevarria.

A letter from a depressed and lonely Hispanic student

When you think about Hispanics, you think that we are some very happy and low-stress people right? Well, we are people like everyone: we worry, we have sorrows, we cry for sadness, and we can feel lonely. You might think "How? If you are always in groups?"

A lot of Hispanics are always in groups, but here at the ELI everyone wants to learn English; therefore we shouldn't speak our languages all the time. As for me when I see a partner who doesn't speak Spanish or

who just wants to speak English like I do, we speak English.

People from all around the world... we are here to speak English!!! Not Spanish, nor Chinese, nor Arabic, nor anything else other than English.

It's OK to speak your mother tongue once in a while, but remember, why are you here if you don't practice your English? You may think, "I'm not hurting anybody by speaking my native language" but if you are my partner... you are. Have you heard that language is the worldwide barrier? Language is a bigger barrier than the Great Wall of China or the Wall of Berlin. This big barrier makes us feel that we don't belong where we are... that no one wants to be with us... or that simply we want to ignore the other people that don't speak our mother tongue.

I've felt that a lot of time here; it is one of the main reasons of my depression... I feel alone, thrown apart, like a pariah. I miss everything in my hometown: my family, my friends, my home, my girlfriend... everything. And these language barriers that some people build here just make it worse.

This might be rude, but sometimes I think that if you wanted to speak your language 24/7, you should have stayed in your country. No hard feelings, dude, but it's the cruel and cold truth. You are here to speak English. Don't waste your time and money if you won't speak English.

If you would like to write a guest column, please send me an email at mpjimenez@ufl.edu.

Manners and Culture

Q: Can I invite my friend to a party that I've been invited to?

A: It depends what kind of party this is. If it's a small gathering, you should ask the host first. If you heard about it from a friend who heard about it from a friend and so on, it's probably ok to invite all your friends too. But it's best to check first.

Q: If I want to have a party at my apartment, should I invite my neighbor?

A: In general, Americans tend not to socialize with their neighbors, especially if they don't know them very well. You could invite them to the party, but you don't have to. If you expect a large, noisy crowd late at night, you should let your neighbors know as a courtesy.

Q: As an Arabic woman, when I cook, is it okay to give my neighbors a taste of the food even if we don't know each other?

A: This question is related to the previous one. While you could offer your neighbors some food, it would probably be considered out of the ordinary. However, it all depends on your neighbors. Some people would love to make new friends this way and others just want to be left alone.

Grammar

Q: What's the difference between slang and idioms?

A: Slang words or phrases are new and fairly temporary in the language. They are very

informal and may only be used by some speakers. Idioms are set phrases that mean something different from the individual words in the phrase. They are also forms that have been accepted as part of the language and are used by a wider variety of people. Look at the following examples concerning money.

Slang: cheddah, cheese, bread, paper, mullah, greenbacks, dough, lettuce

Idiom: Bringing home the bacon, make a living, hand to mouth, hit the jackpot

Q: Do I have to learn spoken colloquial expressions? They confuse me.

A: It depends mostly on why you're learning the language. If you plan to sit in your room alone and do nothing but read textbooks, you can probably get away without learning the spoken language and the slang and colloquial expressions. And, this is certainly true if you don't plan to study here in the US or have much interaction with native speakers of English. But in everyday use, including in professors' lectures, in newspaper and magazine articles, and in almost all social interactions you have with native speakers, slang and idiom and colloquial English will be necessary parts of your daily communication.

Quote of the Week

There are short-cuts to happiness, and dancing is one of them.

Vicki Baum

UF English Language Institute
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

English Language Institute

PO Box 117051

315 Norman Hall

Gainesville, FL 32611-7051, USA

Phone: (352) 392-2070

Fax: (352) 392-3744

StudyEnglish@eli.ufl.edu

www.eli.ufl.edu

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