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The ELI Weekly

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Busch Gardens

Theme Park Fun!

Busch Gardens is a theme park in Tampa. It is famous for its roller coasters and its wild animals. Among the roller coasters is "Sheikra", which has two 90 degree angle drops making it the first coaster of its kind in the Americas and only the third in the world. This is one of the most popular trips of the semester, don't buy your bus pass early!

For more information visit their website at www.buschgardens.com

When: Saturday, February 22nd. We will meet at the Norman Hall garage at 9:00am. The park will be open until 7:00pm. Depending on the group decision, we may return to Gainesville as late as 9:00pm. We will go rain or shine.

Transportation: This is a bus trip so you must purchase a pass from the CIP.

Cost: To ride the bus, go to Norman 318 between 9:00am and 12:30pm Monday through Thursday to reserve your spot with \$20 exact change in cash and your Gator 1 card. The bus passes do not include the price of admission to Busch Gardens. Busch Gardens admission tickets for Florida residents are \$92. **Bring your Gator 1 card or Florida driver's license to prove that you are a Florida resident.** Also bring money for food and souvenirs.

You can buy your admission ticket to Busch Gardens now and use it as many times as you want until December 31, 2014.

The Next Trip

Next weekend, on Saturday, March 1st, we will not have a weekend activity since it is the beginning of Spring Break. The following weekend, March 8th, we will have the Midterm Picnic to welcome the Spring B students. Details will be on the Activities Board and in next week's *Weekly*.

Class Changes

We're sorry we had to make so many class changes when Jim, the teacher left. We know this was inconvenient for everyone. However, all student-requested class changes are over, so it is not possible to ask to move to a different level or a different classroom anymore.

Talent Show

A lot of people have already signed up to be in the ELI Talent Show. If you signed up, please confirm your act and the group members with Jessica or Nate. If you haven't signed up, find a group of friends and sign up! We're looking for more group acts. Remember that you need a sponsor to participate (a teacher or Language Assistant). There will be a Talent Show Information Meeting after Spring Break.

If you are making a video, sign up on the video list. Please note, the videos will be due on April 1st to Nate or Melina.

If you are an artist and would like to display your work at the Show, sign up on the artist list.

Staff out

Daryl: Daryl will be out from February 18 to February 27. He will be happy to help you when he returns. If you have an emergency, you can make an appointment with Emily in Norman 316.

Patti: Patti will be out from February 17 to February 20. If you have an emergency, you can talk to Megan in Norman 315.

Notes from the Office

Absences: Remember that your teachers must count your absences, regardless of the reason. If you are going to be absent, even if for a national holiday in your country, talk to your teachers early so you can arrange to make up any missed work. If you already have a lot of absences, you should **not** miss class.

Immunizations & Insurance: Remember that you will not be allowed to attend class until you take care of your immunizations. A day missed because of immunizations is still a day missed.

Sickness: Remember to sneeze and cough into your elbow. If you sneeze into your hand and then shake hands with your classmates or teacher, you could spread your sickness to them.

Travel and I-20s: If you plan to travel outside the country during Spring Break, you will need to get your I-20 signed in the ELI Main Office before you go, in order to ensure that you will be able to return to the US when the break is over!

Manners and Culture

Q: Why is not illegal to buy a gun in the US?

A: Why isn't it illegal to buy a gun in the US? When the country was first founded, the writers of the Constitution included the right to carry a gun as one of the rights that Americans should have.

Q: What do Americans do after retirement?

A: Lots of different things. Some people travel, some play a lot of golf, some rest, and some go to live at Disney World. With the current economy, however, many retirees have had to get part-time or even full-time jobs, or move in with their children.

Q: What is Presidents' Day?

A: It's a combined holiday, actually. We used to have holidays for George Washington's birthday and Abraham Lincoln's birthday. These two are generally considered to be our greatest presidents. Both birthdays are in February, so the federal government decided that it was a good idea to make the Monday between them into a holiday to make a long weekend. However, UF and ELI students still have/ had class on Monday!

Grammar

Q: Can I omit the auxiliary verb (do, does, did) in a wh- question?

A: No. If there is no form of "to be" or some other auxiliary or modal, you need it.

There are varieties of American English that do sometimes omit it, but in the standard use, it's necessary.

Standard English: Where are you at?

Non-standard variety: Where you at?

Q: What's the difference between until and 'til?

A: It's the same word, just shortened. We use the short form usually in conversation. We use the full word in formal writing or formal speech. Interestingly, there is also a newer written form of 'til that is becoming more acceptable: *till*.

Conversational: I have to stay 'til 4pm.

Academic: I have to stay until 4pm.

Quote of the Week

The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.

Eleanor Roosevelt



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