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The ELI Weekly

*The Weekly Newsletter of
the English Language Institute
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Tubing on the Ichetucknee *Outdoor Fun*

Take part in a unique Gainesville summertime tradition!! Float down the beautiful, crystal clear water of the Ichetucknee River while you relax in an inner tube. Enjoy the Florida sunshine, the cool water and the company of your ELI family!!

When: Saturday, September 20th. Meet at NRN Garage at 10am. Each car will decide its own return time, probably around 3:00pm. Sign up on the activities board by 4pm, Thursday, September 18th.

Cost: The entrance fee is \$5.00 for each car. Also bring about \$7 to rent an inner tube. **Bring Cash.**

What to Bring: Bring lunch, snacks, or money for lunch, your bathing suit, and sunscreen.

New Rooms

Hi Everyone,

If you were here before the semester began, you might remember that tropical storm Fay passed through Gainesville. Unfortunately, at that time, a lot of offices and rooms in New Norman Hall (near the parking garage) were flooded. Now, they

have discovered mold in those rooms and need to relocate a lot of people. In order to help find space for these people, we need to move all of our classes out of 341, 341A, and 341B. This means that almost every class will have a new room assignment. Unfortunately, this also means these rooms will no longer be available for prayer. Now, the only room for prayer will be room 309 from 12:50 until 1:50. There is also a daily prayer room available on the ground floor of Library West. The new rooms we are using are in different places in Norman Hall. This means classes will meet some days in one location and other days in another location. I realize this will cause confusion for a few days, so I appreciate your patience with the situation. If you have any questions, please ask me!

Have a wonderful week!
Megan

Notes from the Office

- **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.

ELI T-Shirts

Don't forget, everyone (students, teachers, and staff alike!), we are selling ELI T-Shirts for only \$10 (exact change only). To purchase yours, just see Sonja in the main office any day before 1:30pm. Get yours today!

The Next Trip

Next weekend, we will be here in Gainesville for Rock Climbing at Lake Wauburg. Details will be on the Activities Board and in Next Week's *Weekly*.

Birthdays

The following are ELI Birthdays for the week of September 19-25:

Students:

September 19: Deulre Min
September 21: Chao-ruì Chen
September 23: Sohyun Kim
September 23: Yeon Hee Roh
September 24: Hsu-Wei Huang
September 24: Jinsang Hwang

Staff:
September 25: Megan Chandler!

Happy Birthday, one and all!

Manners and Culture

Q: Why do Americans like fast food so much?

A: Convenience, mostly. That, and the culture of the car that we've built our country around. It's much easier to pull through that drive-through window sometimes than it is to make the effort to fix a meal when you get home.

Q: Why is public transportation poor in most American cities?

A: With the exception of the very large cities in the Northeast and Upper Midwest (which for the most part have excellent transportation systems), our cities are very young. They didn't really grow to be large until after the invention of the automobile. And in some cities that had streetcars at the turn of the 19th into the 20th century, it was actually cheaper to build roads than to maintain the streetcars at that time. So, our cities grew up around the use of the automobile, and the vast distances were easiest to cross by

superhighway once that was established. Now, we are discovering the need to change the system!

Q: Are there class distinctions in American society?

A: Sure. They're based mainly on socioeconomic status, though, and not by birth. Money does stratify us, but we also have a very, very large middle class.

Q: What is the meaning of the Thanksgiving Holiday?

A: Just what the name says, basically. It's a day that we set aside to express our appreciation for all the people in our lives and all the things that we have to be thankful for. Thanksgiving is the universal family holiday in the US, as it doesn't have specific ties to any one particular religion or belief system.

Q: Do Americans like to go shopping with friends?

A: I would have to say that that's an individual taste question. Sure, some do, but it's likely more to depend on whether or not a person really likes to go shopping at all. Some people do, and some people don't.

Grammar

Q: What are the meanings of "get"? I'm confused because there seem to be so many!

A: No doubt. This is one of those little words that serves a multitude of purposes—most of them conversational, as in, they're too informal for academic writing. "Get" has two main uses. One is in the sense of "receive or obtain", as in, "I'm getting a new car today." The other is in the sense of "become or change into", as in, "We're all getting older."

Q: When can we place an infinitive after an adjective?

A: There is a special case called an adjective complement. This is when the infinitive completes the idea of the adjective. Usually, these are with verbs of emotion or mental state, where the infinitive explains what's causing the state, as in, "I'm really happy to meet you," or "I'm surprised to hear that."

Quote of the Week

I'd rather be a failure at something I love than a success at something I hate.

--George Burns

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