

Highlights

- Hiking
- Birthdays
- Notes from the Office
- Manners

The ELI Weekly

*The Weekly Newsletter of
the English Language Institute
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Hiking on Paynes Prairie *Enjoy the great Florida outdoors*

This Saturday, February 11th, we will be going hiking on Paynes Prairie, a beautiful 21,000 acre nature preserve located only about 15 minutes south of Gainesville. The prairie is covered by open fields, wet prairie land, pine flat woods, and oak hammocks. It's a great place to see wildlife, including wild horses, buffalo, alligators, otters, osprey and even bald eagles. There is an observation tower and there are many trails for hiking and biking. This is a wonderful opportunity to get to see the "real" Florida. You can choose to hike or mountain bike along the trails.

We will meet at the Norman Hall Garage at 10:30am. We will return to Gainesville around 1pm, depending on how long each carload chooses to hike or bike. This is a carpool trip, so you must sign up on the Activities Board by 4pm on Thursday, February 9th. If it is raining on Saturday, call 392-3354, ext. 230, after 9am to see if the trip has been cancelled. The cost to enter the parking area is \$4 per car (about \$1 per person). You should bring a backpack with you containing:

1. **WATER**-YOU MUST BRING WATER TO GO ON THIS TRIP!
2. Sunscreen
3. A bag lunch (no coolers). There is no food available at the Prairie.

4. Wear tennis shoes and older clothing appropriate to the weather.

Volunteering Opportunity

Folks, we have a great opportunity for you to be able to use your English along with your native language to help people in real trouble. The VA Hospital's emergency room is asking for people to volunteer to serve as translators for patients whose English is not strong enough to communicate what is wrong or to understand doctors' instructions. If you are interested in being on call to help out, see Troy or Noreen in the CIP Office, Room 318.

Notes from the Office

- **Insurance**—We still have a few folks who haven't brought in their proof of insurance. From this point forward, students, when we pull you from class to provide proof, you will not be allowed to go back to class until you bring it in. You will also be counted absent from class. Make sure we have it!
- **Immunizations**—Don't forget; we must have proof of your immunizations for you to be allowed to attend classes. Please don't get

caught unaware; if we don't have them, we must pull you from classes, and you will not be permitted to return until you have all your immunizations. As with insurance above, you will be counted as absent from class. The deadline this semester is Friday, February 10th.

- **Class Attendance**—Remember, your attendance is very, very important. Your teachers are taking note of both your absences and your tardies in every class every day.
- **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. 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).

The Next Trip

Next weekend, we will be here in Gainesville for fun in the great indoors at **Skate Station Funworks**. Details will be on the Activities Board and in next week's *Weekly*.

Birthdays

The following are ELI Birthdays for the week of February 10-16:

Students:

February 13: Erick Talamilla

February 14: Mi Sun Yun

February 16: Amar Sharawi

Staff:

None this week!

Manners and Culture

Q: How can I tell a classmate that they don't smell very good?

A: The unfortunate answer is, you can't. There's not any way to do it in which isn't insulting—and this seems to be true of most cultures. But we here at the Manners Column can address it for you—sort of. The fact of the matter is, in some cultures, the use of anti-perspirants, or even deodorants, isn't common or even particularly thought about. Here in the United States, as in many other cultures, it is not only common, but actually almost universal. Those who don't use such products do stand out. This is not a judgment call—and we are not suggesting that anyone *must* use

deodorant. But everyone should be aware that not using it will get one noticed. And possibly talked about.

Q: Why do so many UF students wear sandals to school?

A: Fashion. A number of years ago, an ELI student actually wrote me a question asking why so many UF students wore athletic shoes. Fashions change.

Q: Why do Americans not know a lot about other countries?

A: Hmm...well, some of us like to try to keep up! However, the answer to your question is mainly one of economics and size. A lot of Americans are never really exposed to information about other countries because there's not that much that forces them to be. Sure, whenever we have conflicts with another country, we hear about it. But the US is such an overwhelmingly large and complex country that our news and our educational system tends to center more on, well, the US. Of course, there are many of us who see a lot of value in knowing about other countries and other cultures. We can all hope that there will be more of us in the future!

Q: Why do Americans prefer big cars?

A: More than anything else at this point, it's years of cheap, plentiful gasoline. We're already seeing a tendency away from this trend as we once again see the finite nature of the resource.

Q: Why is the dime smaller than the penny?

A: A long time ago, the penny was made of copper and the dime was made of silver. At that time, the penny contained approximately one cent's worth of copper and the dime contained approximately 10 cents' worth of silver. Even though today the coins aren't really worth very much as scrap metal, we never changed the sizes even though we changed the composition.

Q: Why are some products sold on campus more expensive than products sold off campus?

A: Simple economics. We will usually pay more for convenience.

Quote of the Week

My philosophy is that not only are you responsible for your life, but doing the best at this moment puts you in the best place for the next moment.

—Oprah Winfrey



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