Correction!

Busch Gardens walkover is THIS week, and the trip is NEXT week.

Last week, we reported that the walkover to the Trip Office for transportation passes for the Busch Gardens trip would be last Friday. Well, that didn’t happen. We were a week ahead of ourselves! The walkover will take place this week, on Friday, February 24th. If students want to go to Busch Gardens, they should meet at the NRN Garage to walk over to the Trip Office to buy passes. There is room for 21 students. The trip itself will take place on Saturday, March 4th. Details on the trip will be on the Activities Board and in next week’s Weekly.

Midterm Exams

This coming weekend, Saturday, February 25th, there is no scheduled ELI trip. We have this break from trips because many ELI classes will be having Midterm Exams next week, and we want to give you plenty of time to study. Our next trip, as reported in the preceding article, will be on Saturday, March 4th, to Busch Gardens in Tampa.

Notes from the Office

Student Mail—There is quite a bit of mail in the student mailbox. It’s the smoke-colored (not black, as previously reported) tray immediately to the right of the door to the ELI Main Office, Room 315. Be sure to check from time to time to see if you have anything in!

Lost and found—If you are missing any items, or if you find anything in the classroom that obviously belongs to someone, we do keep a lost and found box in the Main Office.

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. Many students are already having some issues with absence; if you’re not sure of your absences, you should check with your teachers to make sure you’re not going over the limits.

Birthdays

The following are ELI Birthdays for the week of February 24-March 2:

Students:
February 25: Juan David Ochoa
February 26: Min Kyun Han
February 26: Na Hyun Lee

Staff:
None this week!

Manners and Culture

Q: Why do American people like tattoos?
A: Like so many things, it’s a matter of fashion. It’s a current fashionable trend. Many people like them. Of course, there are still many people who don’t. Purely a matter of choice.

Q: Why is Thanksgiving Day so important to American people?
A: Most cultures have their big family holidays, and this one is ours. In this country, with so many religions and cultures mixed together, Thanksgiving is the one true feast day which is simply American. It’s just a day that’s set aside to reflect on the good things in our lives. One doesn’t have to belong to any one cultural group or religious background to enjoy it. This fact definitely shows up in our annual travel habits. More people fly, take trains or buses, or drive to be with family during this holiday than any other in the US. We even feel that it is important here at the ELI…every year, we have a Thanksgiving celebration with our ELI family, in which everyone brings some food to share, and we give thanks for all of our wonderful ELI friends.
Q: How many international students study at UF?

A: According to the UF International Center, about 2700 each year.

Q: What is the traditional food in the US?

A: This country is so large and diverse with so many cultural backgrounds and traditions that there really is no one single American food. Sure, fast food was started here, but that is only about 60 years old. We do have lots of regional cuisines. There is a tradition of wonderful seafood dishes in the Northeast, for example. In the South, we have lots of dishes that have been handed down for generations; fried chicken is pretty much a southern invention. New Orleans, Texas, San Francisco, Chicago, and New York are all famous for certain dishes that combine old and new and some international traditions. One thread that does seem pretty common in American (and in most European) cuisine is that we do seem to eat a lot of bread with our meals.

The following are 2 very closely related questions with one answer:

Q: Why do American people leave their families at 18?

Q: Why aren't American people close to their families?

A: We are close to our families. It's just that our definitions of how to show it and the things that are important to us in how we live our lives are different from many other cultures. In the American psyche, one of the principal values held is a fierce devotion to independence and individuality. This is reflected, obviously, in how we conduct our lives once it's time to leave the nest. We have a drive and a need to establish ourselves as individual contributing members of society; this means, to many of us, establishing an identity separate from our parents and from our siblings. This does not mean that we do not love these people--or that we don't want to spend time with them or be around them--just look at the airline schedules and prices on Thanksgiving (the biggest family holiday of the year). We talk to our families, share our thoughts and dreams and accomplishments, and generally have a good time with them. Just not all the time!

Q: Why do so many students make a lot of noise in the library?

A: Because there are a lot of really rude students out there. It's perfectly okay for you to ask the librarians to ask people to be quiet.

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Quote of the Week

"Real integrity is doing the right thing, knowing that nobody's going to know whether you did it or not."

--Oprah Winfrey

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English Language Institute
PO Box 117051
315 Norman Hall
Gainesville, FL 32611-7051, USA
Phone: (352) 392-2070
Fax: (352) 392-3744
Email: StudyEnglish@eli.ufl.edu
Webpage: www.eli.ufl.edu