

# Multi-Cultural Brief



Charlottesville City Schools  
Adult English as a Second Language Program

Volume 3 Issue 7

June 2002

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### ESL Bookmarks Make a Great Gift!

ESL Bookmarks are still on sale at the Charlottesville Adult Education Office! For only a \$5 donation, you can have 14 unique bookmarks, beautifully illustrated and printed by Marjorie Sargent and Angela Silverstar. Each bookmark has a phrase written by members of the ESL Newspaper Class on the importance of writing. The bookmarks provide a wonderful way to support Charlottesville Adult Education and a great gift for all! Call (434) 245-2817.

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# The History of Jefferson School

By Wakana Kodama

Jefferson School will close this coming July. Now, it is time we learned its long history and its roles for city residents. Do you know how long the history of Jefferson School is? It was opened in the latter half of the 19th century, after the Civil War, and has always experienced surprising hardships.

Anna Gardener, who was one of the important people who opened Jefferson School, came to Charlottesville in 1865, after the Civil War. She had been opposed to slavery and longed to give good education to African-American people. To educate black people was illegal before the Civil War, and most of them were illiterate. She believed education would help them lead happier lives.

Ms. Gardener had big problems in establishing Jefferson School. At first, many local white residents were against her. They didn't want blacks to come to this area because they were prejudiced even though slavery had already been abolished. Then, she also had difficulty finding teachers who would teach blacks with a low salary. She made every effort to overcome these problems, and she was able to open Jefferson School at last. The school was in a different place from where it is today.

In 1869, all children in the state of Virginia had the right to free public education because of the new amendment to the Constitution. In other words, all black children also had the right to go to school. It would seem that Jefferson School had no more difficulty to survive. However, in fact the hardship wasn't yet over. The school board used to give enough money to white schools; however, black schools were given very low budgets. Students were taking classes without adequate supplies and textbooks.

In spite of insufficient budgets, Jefferson School

continued to grow. The population of Charlottesville had increased by the 1880's. Of course, the number of children had also increased and they needed more schools. Then, the city built a new building for a black elementary school in 1884. That was the very building that stands on 4th Street today. In 1926, the building was extended to the present size. They opened high school classes without adequate supplies and textbooks.

In 1965, after the Civil Rights Act of 1964, both black and white children began attending junior high school classes together. Later, adult education classes, English as a Second Language classes, and a preschool started in succession at Jefferson School.



The above is the history of our school. We are deeply moved by how it has survived for more than one hundred years, and proud of having classes in such a historical building. For foreigners, this school has been important because this building was our place to learn English and for us to come together. It has been a place in which people from all over the world have been able to share their experiences, happiness, and ways in which to join the Charlottesville community. We are sorry that it needs to close. Now the building needs to be renovated. We'll tell our school, "Thank you, Jefferson School! We hope to be part of you again."

## Attention ESL Students!

**This fall Charlottesville Adult Education classes will be moving to a new location. All students will receive the Fall Schedule by mail in August. Others may call (434) 245-2817 to request a schedule.**

# ESL Classes at Jefferson School

By Luis Enrique Arbelaez

My friends ask me about the ESL School. I study English as a Second language at Jefferson School, which is one of Charlottesville's city schools. My classmates are from many different parts of the world. There are people from many countries. Some of them are Mexico, Tibet, Russia, Turkey, Morocco, Japan, Romania, Germany, El Salvador, Chile, Korea, China, Togo, Benin, and Colombia, the country where I am from.

It is wonderful, the variety and diversity of cultures in ESL school. For example, the teacher brought to class a document about recycling that was available in six different common languages (Spanish, Russian, Bosnian, Somali, Vietnamese, and Hmong) and only two of the twelve students (from Chile and Colombia) found our languages in it. When I observe dictionaries of my classmates, I can see strange symbols that represent letters or words in their languages. When I get confused or sad because I don't understand English, I think about the fact that it is more difficult for these people because Spanish and English at least use similar letters.

In my class, there are Tibetan Buddhist monks, political refugees, physicians, engineers, dentists, non-professional people, immigrants, businessmen, house keepers, and others. Each person has their own interesting story.

My teachers are very good and polite with their students. They not only teach English; one can feel their affection and support. The main topic in the class has been health; nevertheless, each person has many opportunities to also speak about their ideas, culture, and country. The teachers promote these opportunities in class and schedule different events where this can happen.

I have learned important things in my classes, not only English. For example, when I arrived in the

U.S., I was all thumbs because I don't speak English well. I have noticed that at offices, buses, and many other places there is specialized attention given to handicapped persons, but not to people who don't speak the local language. Nevertheless, newcomers don't speak or listen to English well. Later, in class, my teacher spoke about this problem of communication and our Civil Rights. I was surprised

when I learned that health care facilities that receive federal funds must have translation services for people who do not speak English well.

The ESL School is in the same building as the Pre-School, so it is possible to see posters with drawings, colors, pictures, children's books, and children everywhere. When I come to the ESL School, I feel like a child again, and a big happiness invades all my body and mind.

***It is wonderful  
the variety and  
diversity of  
cultures in ESL  
school.***

## Mission Statement

The *Multi-Cultural Brief* is an ESL newsletter created by students who want to improve their English and is produced as part of a newspaper class offered through the Charlottesville Adult Education program. Its purpose is to provide students with an opportunity to

- share their experiences of being from another country
- offer multicultural perspectives on life in Charlottesville
- help inform people who are new to Charlottesville of issues and opportunities around town
- build a bridge of communication between the ESL population and Americans living in the Charlottesville community.

## Survey

In April 2002, students and staff of the Charlottesville Adult Education Program at Jefferson School were surveyed for their opinions regarding the ideal classroom space and program location. Seventy students completed the survey: 34 ABE/GED students and 36 ESL students. Eight out of eleven instructors also completed surveys.

### Student Responses:

### Teacher Responses:

#### 1. What is important to you in a location?

##### Check all that apply:

- Near public transportation: 37 (53%)
- Free parking: 48 (68%)
- Near the Downtown Mall/Main Street :  
27 (38%)
- Anywhere in Charlottesville is okay:  
28 (40%)
- All classes and office in same location:  
40 (57%)
- Classes at different locations throughout  
the city: 2 (2.8%)

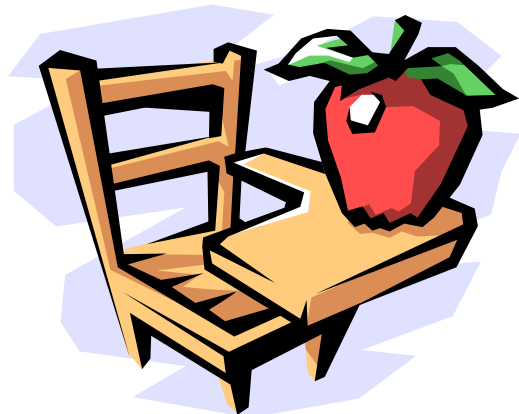
#### 2. What is important to you in a classroom?

- School-type desks and chairs: 24 (34%)
- Tables: 29 (41%)
- Movable desks or tables: 39 (56%)
- Chalkboard/whiteboard: 49 (70%)
- Easel with flipchart paper: 12 (17%)
- Computers: 42 (60%)
- Books, etc. for student use in the room:  
59 (84%)
- Other: library for adults: 10 (14%)  
cafeteria/lounge: 10 (14%)

1. Most teachers want free parking (7 out of 8) and to have classes and the office at the same location (6 out of 8).

#### 2. What teachers want in a classroom:

- Chalkboard or whiteboard rather than an easel (8 out of 8)
- Books, etc., in the room for student use (7 out of 8)
- Access to copier (7 out of 8)
- Movable desks or tables (6 out of 8)
- Computers (6 out of 8)
- Place to store materials (6 out of 8)
- Access to planning space with a telephone and computer (6 out of 8)
- Access to VCR/monitor (5 out of 8)



**Find the Word** answers to puzzle on page 16: 1. Afghanistan; 2. Africa; 3. America; 4. Asia; 5. Charlottesville; 6. Canada; 7. Chile; 8. China; 9. Colombia; 10. Earth; 11. El Salvador; 12. ESL; 13. Europe; 14. Germany; 15. Italy; 16. Japan; 17. Jefferson; 18. Korea; 19. Mexico; 20. Morocco; 21. Romania; 22. Russia; 23. School; 24. Tibet; 25. Togo; 26. Turkey; 27. USA; 28. Virginia; 29. Burma; 30. Ukraine; 31. Yugoslavia.

# What Are You Going to Do this Weekend?

By Laura Cafagna

The question on Friday is always the same: "What are you going to do for the weekend?" The answer most of the time is the same: "I don't know."

If you think that Charlottesville does not have much to offer, you have to revise your opinion. There are many things to do in Charlottesville, but to find them requires a little extra work. The internet is, as always, our best friend in this. My favorite web site is <http://monticello.avenue.org>. They have a fantastic calendar in which you just choose a day, and all that is available in Charlottesville and the vicinity comes out: theatres, outdoor activities, movies, and music. All the information is there in front of you.

Do you know that every Friday, starting April 26th at Charlottesville's Downtown Amphitheatre between 5:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m., there is a free concert? You didn't know? Probably you didn't check out <http://www.cvilledowntown.org>. They give you all that is going on in downtown Charlottesville.

Do you like to play tennis like I do? Free tennis

courts are waiting for you: for example, **Pen Park** has 8 courts, **Tonsler Park** 4, and **Charlottesville High School** 4. Would you prefer to play some baseball? **McIntyre Park** has a baseball field. Feel like walking? **Ivy Creek Natural Area** and **Mint Springs Park** have fantastic trails.

Tired? Go to a movie; [www.hollywood.com](http://www.hollywood.com) will tell you the show time.

You don't have access to the internet? Just get the **C'ville weekly newspaper**. This is a fantastic source of information about what to do in Charlottesville. It is free, and it is available everywhere, in front of restaurants, shops, banks, and libraries.

Charlottesville has an amazing variety of **restaurants**, starting with Japanese and finishing with steak houses. Do not feel like spending money for that? Just invite friends over! It is always nice, and, if you ask them, they might be willing to share the cooking with you.

Remember, everybody is looking for something to



## Calendar News



- Jun 3: **Summer Term** begins at Jefferson School
- Jun 24-Jul 6: **Blue Ridge ESL Summer Camp**. Call 977-7988
- Jul 4: **Independence Day**
- Jul 6: **Blue Ridge ESL International Festival**, Covenant School, 11-2:30. Call 977-7988
- Jul 12: **Summer Term ends** at Jefferson School
- Every Wed: **Toddler Time**, Virginia Discovery Museum, ages 2-5, 10:30-11 a.m.
- Wed, Jun 19-Jul 24: **Music at Twilight**, Ash Lawn-Highland, 8 p.m., children welcome, admission charged. Call 293-4500
- Every Wed: **Latin Nightclub Dancing**, New Dance Space on Downtown Mall, 105 N. 1st St., 8:45 to 10:00 p.m., \$10/person. Contact: Edwin O. Roa (804)295-7103, edwinart@yahoo.com.
- Every Fri: **Fridays After Five**, Downtown Mall, 5:30-8:30 p.m., free
- Sunday Salsa: **Charlottesville Salsa Club** at the Down Under Dance Club at the Outback Lodge in Preston Plaza on Preston Ave., 7:00 to 11:00 p.m., \$5/person (\$2 for members), non-smoking. Club members will share basic dance steps with newcomers! Call 979-7211.

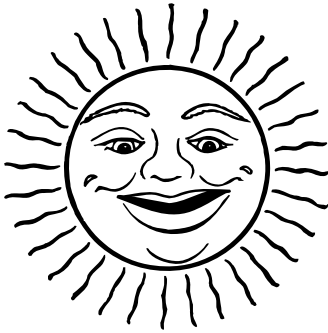


## Bored During the Summer Holidays?

By Daniela Weberling

School is almost over, kids get excited, and the best part is just around the corner – at least for school-age kids – three months of summer vacation. Wow, how exciting and fun. For three months you don't have to get up early, trying to catch the school bus and doing homework. Three months to relax, go on vacation and hanging out with friends.

But this time mean fun for everyone. Some parents have to work and aren't able to spend time with their kids or go on vacation. Some others might not have enough money or want their little ones to do something different this summer. But what can you do?

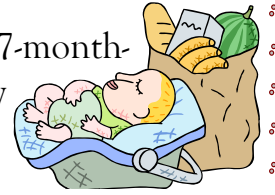


There are different things going on in and around Charlottesville. A few of these you can read about in this issue. For other ones, check out the internet at <http://monticello.avenue.org>. There are also **summer camps** offered if you like your kids to meet new friends and do something different this year. The **Blue Ridge ESL Council** offers 2 one-week sessions. Call 434-977-7988 for further information. But this isn't the only camp. Different other ones can be found around Charlottesville and every other place in the U.S. Check the internet at [www.alltheweb.com](http://www.alltheweb.com) and look for summer camps. It's amazing how many you can find. And if you as the parent would like to take some classes this summer, it's possible, too. The **Charlottesville Adult Education** program offers classes for GED and English as a Second Language at Jefferson School. Just call 434-245-2817 and ask for further information.

Don't say again, "I don't know what to do during the summer holidays."

## Childcare Needed

Someone to care for 7-month-old boy approximately 16 hours a week.



Love and joy required. Call Debbie and Aaron, 295-7857.

## Remember Erfurt\*

By Daniela Weberling

*You have been a normal, social, shy boy,  
Everybody said.*

*No one can understand your action,  
Everybody said.*

*You shot 16 people and yourself,  
Everybody said.*

*Why did you do this,  
Everybody asked.*

*Why did you walk into the school,  
Everybody asked.*

*Why did you murder your teachers,  
Everybody asked.*

*Maybe you were mad,  
Everybody guessed.*

*Maybe 'cause you failed your tests,  
Everybody guessed.*

*Does this give a reason to act like you did?*

*You leave us questions without  
answers.*

*You leave us crying and praying.  
Flowers, candles, silence, grief.*

*Everyone remembers.*



\*In memory of the tragedy that happened in Germany on April 26th, 2002.

## Personal Finance in the U.S.

By Iris Ji

Have you ever been puzzled about how to manage your own money? Did you ever take time to investigate all the investing instruments you can make use of? Which suits you better, depositing, insurance, stocks, mutual funds, bonds, etc., considering both profitability and safety?

Do you want to make a personal finance plan to manage your own portfolio to beat inflation and taxes? Here is an article about personal finance using the banking system in the U.S.

Banks are the financial institution most affinitive to everyday lives of Americans. Chartered by federal or state governments, they usually provide most or all of the following functions. They accept deposits, and pay interest on them; make loans; collect checks and certify depositor's checks; issue credit cards; and so on.

Interest accrues at a relatively stable but low rate in deposit accounts. However, it might be the most secure method to keep your money. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) insures all kinds of deposits in its member banks in the U.S. When any bank claims bankruptcy, depositors with less than \$100,000 deserve compensation from FDIC. However, those with deposits above this amount will have to wait until the bank sells off its properties and take their money back accordingly. Generally, when bankruptcy occurs at a bank, other banks or consortia will merge with it. Individual depositors won't suffer a lot from it. Of course, another benefit of keeping money by saving instruments is the liquidity. Demand deposit (current deposit) is an account, which can be drawn upon on demand without any prior notice. Fixed deposit (time deposit) is an account for a fixed term with the understanding that the customer can withdraw only by giving advanced notice; there is usually an early withdrawal penalty.

You many have lots of options to deposit your money

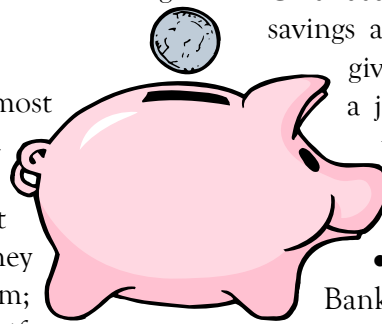
to maximize profitability and flexibility:

- **Checking accounts** allow you to withdraw money at any time by writing checks. Although there are dozens of different names, basically they can be classified as interest-bearing accounts and interest-free accounts. Interest-bearing accounts offer the lowest rates around.
- **Certificates of Deposit (CDs)** always have given terms from three months up to five years or more. CDs usually offer a higher rate than ordinary savings accounts. And if you have more than a given amount, say \$100,000, you can ask for a jumbo CD that pays you even higher in return. Make sure to find out if the rate is fixed or variable, and how often the interest compounds.
- **Money Market Accounts (MMA):** Banks usually offer MMAs that invest in high-quality short-term loans to government agencies or corporations. MMA rates are also competent compared to those of CDs. Moreover, you may withdraw money at any time without any penalty. But MMAs always require you to maintain a high minimum balance (otherwise, monthly service fees are charged), and limit your check writing.

Interest rates and policies vary from one bank to another. Generally, small banks usually have better offers in this regard. Hit [www.bankrate.com](http://www.bankrate.com) and check it out.

Of course, interest rates are not the only thing you should take into consideration. It might be confusing, but banks can quote rates that compound daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly, or yearly. The final return may come out completely different even with the same alleged interest rate. Annual Percentage Yield (APY), which indicates the actual yield in your account, is the only thing that is calculated in the same way everywhere. Make sure you have compared the same thing before you make a decision.

Keep in mind that higher interest rates may be  
*Continued on page 9*



## ***Personal Finance in the U.S.***

Continued from page 8

accompanied by higher charges, including all service fees, account fees and ATM fees, and by extra requirements, such as minimum balance or other limits. Therefore, higher rates don't definitely mean more benefits to you. However, does a high interest rate so-called "free-checking" sound appealing to you? There is no "free lunch." You have to figure out how much in hidden fees they will probably charge you, e.g., low-balance penalty, returned check fees, etc. According to a recent survey, the average amount that an account holder must maintain to avoid fees on interest-bearing accounts is greater than \$2,000 a month; thus, he/she loses corresponding purchasing power or opportunity for other investments with higher returns.



There are lots of things to think about. Of course, you can ask for a better offer than you are entitled to, such as waivers of fees or restrictions, and higher interest rates, if you maintain a big amount of deposit in your bank, or have other relationships with it. Anyway, saving is not a good choice if you are pursuing profitability. It just provides you a safe place to keep your dollars, or plenty of cash on hand in case of potential purchases you'll make.

A number of competitors also offer similar accounts with banking services. The most common ones are credit union accounts, mutual fund company money market funds, and brokerage cash-management accounts. Credit unions are non-profit, member-owned corporations whose members share something in common, such as college alumni associations, communities, labor unions, etc. Since credit unions return profits to their members, interest rates tend to be higher than commercial banks, while fees tend to be lower. But they may offer less variety of services, and more restricted access to ATMs. Deposits in credit union accounts are insured up to \$100,000 by the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund. Money market accounts offered by mutual fund companies are much like MMAs in banks mentioned

above. However, they tend to have even higher yields, but they are not insured by the FDIC. Cash-management accounts (CMAs) offered by brokerages, originally to meet the demand of both discretionary income to income to invest and a liquid bank-like account, also have higher yields than regular bank account and lower overdraft charges while giving you the privileges of checking and debit or credit cards. Cash up to \$100,000 in CMAs is protected by Securities Investor Protection Corp.

**Credit cards:** Individuals can not only save money at the bank, but also borrow from it. Using a credit card is the most popular practice. But keep an eye on it. Don't judge a credit card just by its APR. Anyone who overlooks its rules will be punished quickly.

It is common to purchase by a credit card, but cash advances, interests of which are similar to those of late payments, are very expensive.

The grace period of a credit card is a time frame in which you pay off your balance and are not charged anything on the purchases. According to [www.cardweb.com](http://www.cardweb.com), the average grace period is shortened to around 20 days from the historic 30 days, and some cards even have no grace periods. If you make a late payment or exceed the credit limit, you'll be charged onerous fees induced by your misdemeanors. And another result is that your interest rate will soar and all the attractive and generous terms will no longer be available to you. That means, once you fail to pay the bill on time, a penalty interest will apply to you, and you have to kiss the lovely zero percent APR good-bye. And what is even worse, your other credit card companies will also impose punishment on you regardless of whether you have missed payments on them or not. Even if you do everything properly, don't count too much on the attractive rates offered, because any credit card company can legally change its interest rate any time it wants and provide you only a 15-day notice.

*Continued on page 10*

# Yellow Bikes

By Luis Enrique Arbelaez

I arrived in Charlottesville after Spring Break, and the city was isolated. I like many things about the lifestyle in Charlottesville. The first days, I walked a lot between my house and the school and downtown. Later, I learned to use the bus service, and I was impressed with it. The bus service was very good, with many routes and one of them free. Besides, UVA offers bus service, and this is free. But, often the bus was empty, and I was the only passenger. I thought about this, and I concluded that maybe it is not efficient.

I saw some Yellow Bikes at the bus stop, and I didn't understand this service. I read the advertisement, and it said, "Free Yellow Bikes" and contained the rules and disclaimer. I had much curiosity, but I didn't touch the bikes because I thought that it was possible that I didn't understand well afterward maybe a policeman would get me for taking the Yellow Bike. But, I found more Yellow Bikes in other places, and finally I decided to use them.

I was very happy, and I thought, "It's fantastic!" "It's wonderful!" My Yellow Bike wasn't new, but it was in good condition. Now, I could go to my house in only a few minutes and explore the city using Yellow Bikes. Now, I wouldn't need to walk or wait for the bus for a long time. With my Yellow Bike, all was near to me. In a few minutes, I could get to any place in the city very easily.

For the Charlottesville government, it must be easy and cheap to offer Yellow Bikes to the public, and the environmental impact is low. Besides, it is healthy and help people avoid frequent use of their cars. I spoke about this service to everyone in the U.S. and in my country, Colombia. I told them about it, and I classified it "as an intelligent decision for personal transport with a low environmental impact for short trips." Many people were surprised by this.

But 4 weeks later, the bikes disappeared! I have

searched for them a lot, but I haven't been able to find them again. Not even one! I only enjoyed the Yellow Bikes for a few days.... Where are the Yellow Bikes?

I asked myself what happened to them. How many Yellow Bikes are there in Charlottesville? I remember that I used the #44, #48, and other Yellow Bikes.

Maybe there just are not enough of them. Now bus stops don't have any public bikes, and places for Yellow Bikes remain empty all the time.

I would like to speak with somebody responsible for this service and ask, "Where are the Yellow Bikes?"




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## Personal Finance in the U.S.

Continued from page 9

Nevertheless, make sure that you understand the method for how the balance is calculated. First, the adjusted balance method is the most friendly, by which interest is charged on the account balance remaining after payments and credits within the billing cycle. Second, the average daily balance method charges based on the average balance during the billing cycle. Last, two-cycle billing method is what you have to pay attention to; its average daily balance is computed using both purchase amount during the billing cycle as well as that from the month before (according to money.cnn.com). That means even if you pay off everything for last month and buy nothing with the credit card this month, you still have interest to pay. It's sneaky.

A good credit history is also very important to get a loan when you need it. Besides, loan borrowers have to have a high income to qualify. It is almost impossible to get a loan for a family that can barely make ends meet, because banks are not charities after all.

# If the Police Stop You

By Laura Cafagna



If you see a blue light flashing in your car rear-view mirror, chances are that the police are trying to stop you. Do not panic. But there are things that you must know before meeting your first police officer.

Again, do not panic. Pull off or to the side of the street as soon as you can without risking having an accident. It is not a good idea to cause an accident while the police are stopping you. Put both your hands on the top of the steering wheel. Very important, do not reach for your wallet, and do not reach for the glove compartment because the police might think you are reaching for a gun. The police officer will give you time to find your wallet later.

Take a long breath and wait. It is going to take a couple of minutes for the police officer to reach your car. When the police officer is in front of your car mirror and can see that you are not dangerous and can see your hands, you can lower your window. The officer is going to ask you for your driver's license and your car insurance. Ask permission to open the glove compartment if you have to. If you can not understand, let him/her know that your English is not perfect and you did not understand. Stay calm and try to answer all the questions he/she asks you. It is better to say, "Could you please repeat?" than say something wrong. Hopefully, it is going to be over soon.

I have been stopped two times in the five years that I have been in the United States, and both times, the officers wanted to make me notice that I was not doing the appropriate thing. Neither time did they give me a ticket. Once, I was stopped because I was driving too close to the sidewalk; the officer just told me that and let me go. And the second time, I was driving 30 miles per hour when the speed limit was 25 miles per hour.

So you see, police in the United States care about us. Police in the U.S. sometimes stop you just to

educate you. Also, if you have a problem, ask them. They are willing to help you. Believe me, this would never happen to you in Italy. Police in Italy do not stop you to educate you. When they stop you, you are sure to get a ticket.

No matter how inconvenient, it is important to remember that police officers are risking their lives to protect us and our safety.

## Cities within the City

By Luis Enrique Arbelaez



The first days in Charlottesville I only walked, so my travels were very limited. Nevertheless, I could see every place with great detail. I stopped in front of every business, monument, and advertisement. I was able to admire the environment of the city carefully. One of the things that I most enjoyed was to see squirrels playing everywhere.

Later, I learned to use the bus service. I expanded my trips and explored a more ample zone of the city. However, I had a lower knowledge about the details of the different paths because I only stopped near to the bus stop. The city looked different, and places that I went so often when I walked now seemed distant. Then I forgot the squirrels and their playfulness.

Now, I use a bike. It permits me to have a middle perspective between the bus and walking. Now, I can observe some details along the way while covering a large part of the city. Again, the city looks different. With the bike I can see many squirrels everywhere, but this time (unfortunately) I find them dead, killed in the street. The first morning that I used the bike, I thought that the previous night had been especially deadly, but this image has been repeated every day.

The same thing can be perceived in different forms depending on the observer's point of view. Squirrels can be beautiful and playful animals, or a little mortuary tapestry on the street or yet again a strange and insignificant noise under the wheels of a car.

## Competition or Cooperation

By Miao Liu

Some people say that the best preparation for life is learning to be cooperative; others take the opposite view and say that learning to be competitive is the best preparation. After watching a basketball game, I took my opinion that cooperation is much more important than competition.

Last week, my favorite basketball team, the 76ers, was beaten by the Celtics and lost their last chance to win the National Basketball Association (NBA) play-off games. It is no doubt that their core player – Allen Iverson – is so outstanding and scored 31 points for his team. But, don't forget that the whole society is based on the relationship of cooperation. You can hardly find anything accomplished by one person. Especially in a basketball game. As the other core player, Snow, didn't play well and the whole team lacked effective strategies and cooperation, who would say the team can be the winner?



On the other hand, competition is a good thing. It stimulates people to give off all abilities. Without competition, we cannot enjoy such a wonderful game, and human beings cannot advance so quickly. But in my opinion, the Celtics won the game relying not on competition but on cooperation. While watching the game, I had a feeling that the 76ers played only using Iverson and Snow; the other players hardly touched the ball. But every player of the Celtics shot from different places, passed the ball from one to the other who held the better position. Paul Pierce netted a career play-off high of 46 points for his team. He was as lucky as he was because of his co-players. From the game, we can see, members' cooperation greatly upheld the whole team's competition. Without good cooperation, a former MVP cannot lead his team to success.

Competition and cooperation are both important. For me, the best preparation for life is learning to be cooperative.

## My Pets

By Ivona Crsti

I was seven years old when I received my first dog. It was so small. Not only because of its age (2 months), but also because of its breed. It was Pekinese. I was excited, and I liked it immediately. We became good friends, and we played together. It was a smart idea to give a child a dog that age. I became, I hope, more responsible. I had to take care of something. Maybe, this way, I understood better the responsibility my parents had.

There were many difficult moments in my dog's life. She became older and older, and she became like an old person. She needed more help and attention. Finally she died when she was 17 years old. Then I decided to not have any other dog again in my life. But I forgot soon. Now we have three dogs. They live with my parents in an apartment. We began with two small dogs, a brother and a sister. We couldn't separate them. Later, we found a dog in the street. It was raining very hard, and he was so wet. We took him into our house and finally we couldn't make him leave.

It is a little difficult with three dogs, but at the same time it is very fun. It is also nice to see that they have their rules. The street dog doesn't have permission to enter the living room. He is only allowed to stay in the hall or in the kitchen. And this is not because of us, but because of the other dogs. They are "the owners" and don't allow him to enter their area. If he does, there are big problems.

Maybe not everybody understands us. But I think that only those who have pets can understand what you feel when you have to take care of a little soul. Possibly you can say that you have the same feeling when you have a child. It's very similar.



## Wedding Choices for Japanese Couples

By Wakana Kodama

Can you imagine couples who hold their wedding ceremonies in foreign countries even if they have no relative or no friend there? In Japan, recently more and more couples choose to go abroad to have their ceremonies. We call these "overseas weddings." The most popular place is Hawaii. Guam and Australia are also famous for overseas weddings. Some couples go as far as a cathedral in France, an old castle in Germany, or the chapel at UVA!



stay there for some days after the ceremony as their honeymoon. They can do the wedding and honeymoon at the same time.

We are happy to have many choices about wedding ceremonies. If we want to have ceremonies with many friends celebrating with us, we can choose a wedding in Japan. If we are not good at organizing big parties, we can choose an overseas wedding. We can do as we like!

Of course, many couples still have their weddings in Japan. Here is one of the typical wedding procedures. At first, a couple has a ceremony in a chapel, with a western white wedding dress. That chapel is attached to a hotel and built only for such a ceremony. They invite only their family, relatives, and close friends. Next, they move to a banquet room in the same hotel to have a big party. Other invited guests join there. The number of guests is about 80, on average. They enjoy looking at the bride and groom dressed in beautiful clothes, talking with other guests, eating scrumptious dishes and drinking beer or wine. Some guests might sing using karaoke. Others might make speeches for this new couple. It continues for about two and a half hours. At last, each guest receives some presents. Baked cake and some tableware are typical combinations. Then, all of the guests leave, and the couple and their parents stand at the door and wave good-bye.

How about overseas weddings? A couple invites only their parents and siblings. They have a ceremony in a chapel in the Christian style. After that, they all go to a restaurant and enjoy dishes together. It is very simple.

Do you know why more and more Japanese couples choose overseas weddings? Some of them feel a traditional wedding is too formal and commercial. Some of them don't like having a big party and prefer a small intimate ceremony. Others go overseas and

### On Love and Marriage

By Kumiko Hirawa

For me, love is something which brings energy.

Before now, I fell in love with many men. All this love brought me nice energy, memories. And whenever I was unlucky in love, I grew. I don't think only marriage is the goal of love.

Some people say that people may change after marriage. I agree, and for me, it is okay if my partner changes. But if we don't like the change, we can choose to no longer be married. I think if we have children, we shouldn't divorce because it will make the children sad. After they grow up, we can divorce.

Sometimes being a single parent is hard. And for the children, it may not be good.



I think everybody can do anything. So we can choose if we marry or not, and we can choose divorce. But if we divorce, we must think about the family.

I believe after marriage, we can enjoy our lives.

## The Life of an *Au Pair* – Charlottesville, I'm Coming

By Daniela Weberling

**Editor's note:** This is Part Three in a series that began in the January 2002 issue and continued in the March 2002 issue.

Are you already curious about how my story goes on? Or don't you even know about it? Well, let me give you a little reminder to refresh your memories.



I was on my way to work as an *au pair* in an American family living here in Charlottesville. For those of you who still don't know what the word

"*au pair*" means, just think of a nanny – that's me. I was on my way to meet my new family who would pick me up at the Charlottesville/Albemarle airport.

I was curious what it would be like to see them and if I would recognize them. So I was sitting in a small propeller airplane from New York to Charlottesville with all kinds of thoughts in my mind. Will I understand them; how will the house and my room look; what will the neighborhood be like; am I really ready for this, to look after two boys for 12 months?

But as so often happens, you have all different thoughts popping in your mind, and at the end nothing is like you thought it would be. So it was, after a calm, but still scary flight, because I'm not used to these small airplanes where you are able to see the earth underneath you the whole time, I arrived in Charlottesville, seeing two people waving as I left the plane. Did they mean me, or did I just wish they did? But yes, they did. P.J., my host-dad, and Luke, the youngest, welcomed me, asking how my flight had been and falling into small talk about the weather and how everything was and how I was doing. Together we went to pick up my two

suitcases, all I brought to live on for one year abroad, and drove to my new home. There, my host-mom, Jennifer, and her mom were waiting to see me. They offered me dinner and told me that Joshua, the oldest, would be home tomorrow night, and that he had been at a summer camp near Williamsburg. I was exhausted and excited at the same time, but also thankful for the friendly and warm atmosphere I had stepped into. The thing I really wanted to do was to see my room. It looked a way smaller than the one I left behind me back in Germany, but it was bright, and I had permission to move any furniture I wanted and decorate everything as I wished and liked to make myself feel at home.

So I did. Unpacking my suitcases, filling up the walk-in closet with my wardrobe, something I still wonder about and love, hanging up pictures from my home, my family and friends, setting up my stuffed animals (leftovers from my early childhood), and all of a sudden this room didn't look strange or unfamiliar at all. It was mine, and I felt really comfortable, ready to spend my first night....



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# My First Travel by Plane

By Philomene Amari Dogble

The Bible says: “Everything is good for those who love God.” I am from a poor family, but I became a teacher in 1978. I lived quietly and in peace until 1993 when I was obliged to leave and become a refugee with my husband because of troubles in my country, Togo. I was in Ghana for eight years. The 6th of June 2001 was like a dream for me because I traveled by plane from Ghana to America through the program of Joint Voluntary Agency (JVA) and the International Organization of Migration (IOM). Imagine my fears because it was my first time traveling by plane, and I felt so much joy because I knew that another door was opening for me. The flight was overnight with stops in Nigeria, Stuttgart, Chicago, Washington, D.C., and finally Charlottesville.

I am glad to share with you my travels from Washington, D.C., to Charlottesville. From Ghana to Washington, I traveled with other Togolese families. Here we separated and family took another plane to their final destination. After some formalities, a train transported us to our plane. It was a small plane, not comfortable like the first I took. I got on board and in a few minutes, it flew off to Charlottesville. The journey was not as long, but scary and uncomfortable with noises and bumps. I was very worried. From the plane I saw the countryside. It was very pretty because it was in the night.

The plane landed. I got off with my husband. It was early in the morning. We knew that somebody would meet us. We went into the welcome entrance and saw a nice lady who smiled and called us by our names:

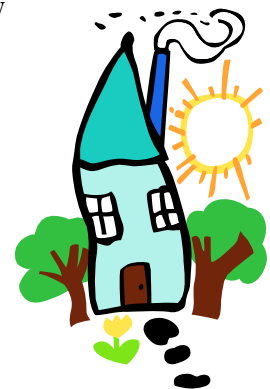
“Victor! Amari! I am Julie. I’m glad to meet you.” I was glad, too. She took my bag and asked, “Is this all you have?”

She put our luggage in the back of her car and drove us to our new home (she had prepared it for us). She opened the door and said, “This is your apartment.” She gave the key to my husband and an appointment for the morning. There was a basket full of all we would need for the beginning and some food in the fridge. I went for a walk around the apartment. I saw a mattress in the bedroom. Full of joy, I jumped on it and said, “I thank you, Lord: you delivered us.” During the travel I was hungry, but I couldn’t eat because of my joy. I was also tired. I laid down but I couldn’t sleep. I saw my life as it moved from the first day through the night. “God, you are wonderful,” I repeated.

In the morning, we heard knocking on the door. It was Julie. She took us to International Rescue Committee (IRC) for a presentation and other formalities with our caseworker.

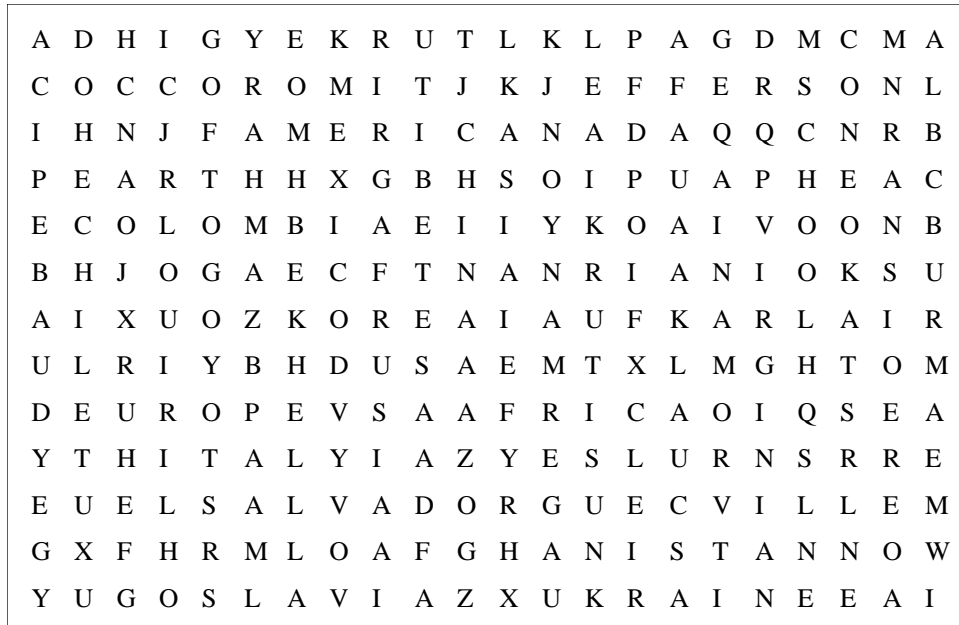
She gave much more information about our life in America and other things we would need. I wanted to thank her one more time. She took care of us and continues to do so. Thank you so much, Julie.

This was the beginning of my American life. I am so happy to share this story with you.



# Find the Word: ESL at Jefferson School

By Luis Enrique Arbelaez



Write the words that these statements refer to. Then find the words hidden in the box above. (Answers are on page 5.)

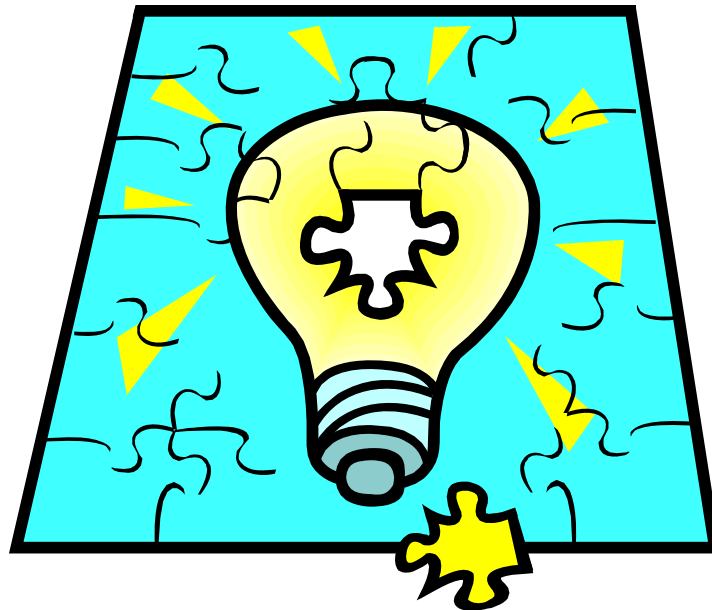
1. Pashto and Dari (Afghan Persian) are the official languages of this country: \_\_\_\_\_
2. In this continent there have been found the oldest human remains: \_\_\_\_\_
3. This continent was discovered by Christopher Columbus: \_\_\_\_\_
4. This is the biggest continent in the world: \_\_\_\_\_
5. This is a beautiful city in Virginia and is where Jefferson School is located: \_\_\_\_\_
6. This country is between Alaska and the rest of the continent: \_\_\_\_\_
7. This country has produced the Nobel Prize-winning poets Gabriela Mistral and Pablo Neruda: \_\_\_\_\_
8. This country has the highest number of inhabitants in the world: \_\_\_\_\_

Continued on page 17

### Find the Word: ESL at Jefferson School

Continued from page 16

9. This is the only South American country with coasts on both the Pacific and Caribbean Oceans: \_\_\_\_\_
10. This is the only planet in which it is known that life exists: \_\_\_\_\_
11. This is the smallest country in Central America: \_\_\_\_\_
12. This is the abbreviation for English as a Second Language: \_\_\_\_\_
13. This continent was the center of the Renaissance and the culture of the western world: \_\_\_\_\_
14. This country was divided after World War II and reunified in 1989: \_\_\_\_\_
15. The capital of this European country was the center of a powerful empire that dominated the world for 10 centuries: \_\_\_\_\_
16. The highest mountain of this country is Mount Fuji: \_\_\_\_\_
17. This is the name of the school in which Charlottesville ESL classes are held: \_\_\_\_\_
18. In 1988, the capital of this country hosted the Olympic Games: \_\_\_\_\_
19. This country is the land of the Aztecs: \_\_\_\_\_
20. This African country is separated from Spain by the Mediterranean Sea: \_\_\_\_\_
21. In this country is Transylvania: \_\_\_\_\_
22. This country was the center of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republic: \_\_\_\_\_
23. This is the place in which children study: \_\_\_\_\_
24. This is the land where the Dalai Lama is from: \_\_\_\_\_
25. This is the African country which is between Benin and Ghana: \_\_\_\_\_
26. This country was the center of the Ottoman Empire: \_\_\_\_\_
27. This is the land of freedom: \_\_\_\_\_
28. This state and Maryland gave the land to build Washington, D.C.: \_\_\_\_\_
29. This is where Aung San Suu Kyi, the Nobel Peace Prize winner, is from: \_\_\_\_\_
30. This is the land where the Chernobyl disaster occurred: \_\_\_\_\_
31. Bosnia and Croatia used to be part of this former country: \_\_\_\_\_



## Barbershops in Charlottesville

By Luis Enrique Arbelaez



Generally I have my hair cut every month. By the middle of April, it was time to do it again. This would be my first time in Charlottesville. I don't take special care with my hair, and I use a simple style, so I didn't spend a lot of time choosing a barbershop. One day when I finished my English class, I saw a barbershop and went in. I sat down and waited while the barber finished with the other person.

I observed the place. It looked dirty and disorganized. The barber used a damp, dirty towel. In the barbershop there was a TV, and the barber was concentrating intently, watching the news while he used a sharp razor to shave his client. I thought, "Oh no, this is not for me!" And I decided to leave right away. The barber did not even notice when I left.

Near to my house I found another barber shop. This time I was the only client. The barber began the service. The place was better (not much). After the barber put the cape on me, he turned on his television and began to cut my hair. Now he was absolutely concentrating ... on the TV game! He used his electric hair cutter quickly (using only his touch and memory). Later he used his scissors. I was completely surprised and very worried. I thought this guy at any moment could cut one of my ears.... He took only 10 minutes and afterward said, "You owe \$9." The service was not so good. But I must recognize that my hair cut was acceptable (I think so!)

I used to receive excellent service in my country, Colombia, in the barbershop. The barber takes enough time and uses new equipment, good products, and speaks with his client. Also, everything is very clean, and the price is the equivalent of \$2. But, I am here, and now my hair is long again....

## Classified Advertisements

By Miao Liu

A newspaper consists of many topics such as sports, current events, business and entertainment. Which one is your favorite? I like to read classified advertisements the most.

Classified advertisements offer us so much information, both directly and indirectly. Do you want a new car? Please check your local newspaper first. Need a job? Help-wanted ads may give you a hand. This is direct information. If someone observes classifieds for a long time, without learning any current events he or she can still draw a conclusion about the situation of the whole society. It is obvious that in a period of economic depression, companies reduce the number of their employees. As a result, the advertisements for employment decline. At the same time, many people have to sell their cars, real estate, and stocks. Without a job, people cannot afford these things. Otherwise, we might find a totally different situation. In prosperous times, ads might include non-essential items, such as beautiful antiques.

I bought my first car with the help of the classifieds in the newspaper. It offered the latest and broadest local information. Usually, a nice car is sold on a first-come-first-served basis. The earlier you get the information, the bigger opportunity you have. So I got up very early to read the advertisements. My mind spurred me on, "Hurry up, your car is waiting for you!" I got up, put on my jogging shoes, breathed the cold but fresh dawn air, and ran to the store or vending machine. When I touched the newspaper, I was so happy and excited! Thanks to the classifieds, I bought a satisfactory car. On another occasion, I got a job offer with the help of advertisements, but that is another story.

From then on, classified advertisements became my favorite part of the newspaper. I have a habit of reading the car advertisements, and I believe the classifieds will bring my first house to me someday.

