

Charlottesville City Schools  
 Adult English as a Second Language Program

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## Volunteering at UVA Medical Center

By Jihyun Pak (Korea)

Are you interested in volunteering? Probably there are various kinds of volunteers at different places.

I'd like to share information about volunteering at UVA medical center.

First, You should contact the Hospital Auxiliary Office at 924-5231 and talk with the director. Since we're foreigners, there may be a face-to-face interview with the director to determine what would be the most suitable job for you. Or you can ask for the job you have in mind. There are many, many jobs even in one hospital.

Before you start, there are few steps you have to go through – orientation, a free TB test and getting a photo ID.

At the orientation, I was the only foreigner. There were 10-11 people. Most were retired and had been volunteering for long time.

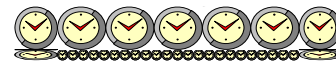
So, at first I was a little afraid. But now I'm glad I did it.

There isn't any particular order for these steps. But I want to talk about the free TB test, because it takes more than a week to get that done. If you've over 30 and have been out of the States for a certain period

*(Continued on page 3)*



# Calendar News



## January/2004

## February/2004

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29						

- January 1: New Year's Day.
- **January 12: Class Begins.**
- January 19: Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday.  
No Class.
- **February 16: Presidents Day**
- Sunday Salsa: **Charlottesville Salsa Club** ([www.cvillesalsaclub.com](http://www.cvillesalsaclub.com)) sponsors a weekly opportunity to learn and practice Salsa and other dances in a smoke-free nightclub atmosphere. **Special: Advanced Salsa Workshops by Edwin Roa 6:45-7:45, \$10.** Then Edwin will give a

**beginner's salsa lesson at 8.** Edwin gives a very energetic group session that gives you a cardiovascular workout too! His lesson is included with the regular admission fee. DJ's music begins after the lessons and is 85% salsa mixed with other Latin styles. Complimentary water and sodas. The Outback Lodge, 917 Preston Ave. 8-12:00 p.m. \$5.00 (members \$3.00). 979-7211. [Sundaysalsa@cvillesalsaclub.com](mailto:Sundaysalsa@cvillesalsaclub.com).

### 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 multi-cultural 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.

**SNOW DAYS**  
**For information about whether classes are canceled due to inclement weather, call 245-2401, or watch Channel 29 News.**



Leslie A. Furlong, Editor  
 Younghee Kim, Assistant Editor and Layout

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## Volunteering at UVA Medical Center

(Continued from page 1)

of time, you need to get a TB test, and it has to be done twice. Once you get the first shot, you come back to the office (Employee Health Center) for a reading 2 days later. A week from the first shot, you do the same procedure over again. Also, you have to answer questions about immunizations: Hepatitis B, Rubella and Mumps. Whooping Cough, Chicken Pox, etc. Since they are contagious, you could get them at the hospital unless you had all those shots. At the orientation, you'll hear about precautions you should take at work. And you visit the Badge Office and get a picture ID. After that, you can start volunteering whenever you want.

If you wander about parking, there is a parking

garage adjacent to the hospital. You bring the ticket to the HAO and they will validate it.

I started my volunteering 2 weeks ago. I start at 1:30 and finish around 3:40. I do flower delivery. At first, I thought it would be easy. But it's not. My major problem is



memorizing rooms. I'm sure it will take time for me to know it by heart. And I have to smile all the time, so I will be able to make patients feel cheerful.

Once I get in the room, I have to talk something (I can't talk same thing over and over, besides, I face different situations.) And one more thing, the cart is huge, and sometimes the elevator door closes on it. But I think the flower delivery is the best job of all. I see all kinds of flowers and flower arrangements. I can't

help but feel cheerful as soon as I see those beautiful flowers. I carry wonderful fragrances everywhere and probably I am the only person who most people welcome. It is just great. Since I am a beginner, I have a very helpful trainer. Her name is Olive. She's been doing this for many years and she helps me a lot. I learn many useful things for flower delivery from her. She and I are working together until I feel comfortable with doing this alone.

It's amazing that there are so many people volunteering and they seem to do it naturally. People actually give up a part of their life to do something for totally unrelated people. That's really a great thing to do. I have thought that people are getting more selfish including me. But there are still many good people in this world. Besides, how could this society go wrong with these wonderful volunteers?

## Who said losing a Game Is OK?

By Jihyun Pak (Korea)

"Losing a game is OK." That is what I used to say to my kids. Yuhp! "Sometimes you win, sometimes you lose. That's what games are for, and that's the way of life. That is totally true and I think nobody can deny it. But I am not going to say that anybody anymore quite a while.

My son, Austin has a soccer game every Saturday. He

practices twice a week. Most of all, he really likes soccer, and he puts great efforts into it. To tell the truth, I don't think I am a great fan of soccer. Only because of Austin, I watch soccer games at least two times a week. (My husband goes to practice Thursdays.)

Watching practice games is fun. Every Saturday morning, however, has

turned out to be a nightmare to me since the third game. Austin has lost three games in a row. Of course, I say, "That was a great game and you did a good job. I'm sure you will get to win next game." Austin seems calm and peaceful. Once he comes back home, he is busy playing outside. Although he has some things to do, I just let him play. I don't want to

(Continued on page 4)



# How Much Does a Smile Cost?

By Laura Cafagna (Italy)

I can't help noticing

how people smile less and less every day. "Smile-less" people are everywhere in schools, in grocery stores, in post offices, and even in gyms.

Yesterday I went to my gym. I opened the door and a person was running on the treadmill. I smiled, as I always do and greeted him with a "Good Morning". He looked at me with a sad face and then looked down at his feet.

I am not asking for much a simple "Hi" would have worked. This was just the start of the day. Then at the cafeteria I met another "Smile-less person," then another in class, and then at the grocery store another.

Why do people not smile any longer? I know that life is hard, but it is hard for all of us. It doesn't help also to make other people's lives miserable. A smile can change my day, and I hope it

can change yours, too. I like to smile. I can be really serious, but humor is an essential part of me. Life is hard, especially for people like us who live outside of their country, "forced" to live in a culture that challenges us every day. But we can make it a little bit better with some humor.

Last year I took a well being class at PVCC (Piedmont Virginia Community College).

"Bring into your life a little bit of humors and you will soon see that life gets a little bit better every day."

The teacher wanted us to have a "Humor Library" to go back to during blue days (days in which you feel sad and depressed). At first I thought it was really a bizarre idea, but then I started my own library, and I fell in love with the idea. The rule is simple. Your personal library should have something that makes you laugh, like a tape of your

favorite comedy or a copy of your favorite comic book, or even a funny advertisement. Your imagination is the only limit.

Of course, your library can be in English or in your native language. It just has to make you laugh! In my library I have at least 50 "Golden Girls" episodes. I love this sit-com, and it makes my laugh! I start my day watching the Golden Girls; they make my day. I have seen the episodes so many times that I don't even have to watch the television, It is the sounds of the voices of Dorothy, Blanch, Sofia and Rose that make me laugh. They are so funny! If you want to see them, Channel 30 "Lifetime" reruns episodes every day at 9 am, 12 pm, and 6 pm .I hope you enjoy them as much as I do!

My point? It is very, very simple. Bring into your life a little bit of humors and you will soon see that life gets a little bit better every day. Just give it a try. How much does a smile cost?

## Who said losing a Game Is OK?

(Continued from page 3)

hurt his feelings. Then I realize something very funny. That is I, myself, so mad about the games. After each game, I tell myself. "The game should be in the

evening, not in the morning. Even if Austin loses the game again, there's no need to worry about the rest of the day. I can just go to bed and fall asleep."

Yesterday, his team lost the game again, big time. I

couldn't get over it and comfort him. And I swore to myself that I would never let him join a soccer team next season!!

\* **Editor's note:** Last Saturday Austin's team finally won big time, the score 5 to zero.

## “Black Friday”

By Berrak Yilmaz (Turkey)

If you do not celebrate Thanksgiving in the United States, surely you do not have any idea about “Black Friday”.

Thanksgiving celebration is the fourth Thursday of November and the day after Thanksgiving is generally known as “Black Friday”.

The origin of Black Friday comes from the shift to profitability during the holiday season. Once upon a time accounting records were kept by hand and red indicated loss and black indicated profit.

*“Black Friday was when retailers went from being unprofitable or ‘in the red’ to being profitable or ‘in the black’.”* ([http://retailindustry.about.com/library/terms/b/bld\\_black\\_friday.htm](http://retailindustry.about.com/library/terms/b/bld_black_friday.htm))

*“Black Friday is the major shopping day of the United States. On this day, consumers begin Christmas*

*shopping. It is the biggest day for many retailers.”* ([http://retailindustry.about.com/library/terms/b/bld\\_black\\_friday.htm](http://retailindustry.about.com/library/terms/b/bld_black_friday.htm))

Since many shopping centers reduce the prices sharply, people wake up very early, and they go to the shopping centers to join a long queue to buy something really cheap.

To tell the truth, as of two weeks ago, I had no idea about Black Friday. When I heard that it is a common tradition, and that people get up very early just to go shopping, I thought it was illogical and a little crazy. However, this thought lasted only until I saw the reduced prices.

I got up very late on Black Friday morning. When we glanced at the mail-box, we found some store circulars showing the discounts. The prices were unbelievable. That’s why we left home to go shopping as soon as



possible. When we reached the shopping center, the best deal had already gone. The deep discounts were between 6:00 am and 11:00 am, and the best deals were in this period (They are called “early bird deal”). I succeeded in buying a CD player the price of which was reduced by 60 percent. Now I know why people go shopping so early. I wish I had known the meaning of Black Friday before.

And if you say it is worth getting up early and shopping in a center full of people, gather all store circulars, plan your itinerary the day before Black Friday, and of course do not forget to set your clock very early.

## Our New Website

Visit the new website for the Adult Learning Center! Includes there you will see current and back issues of the Multi-Cultural Brief, the latest schedule of classes, and much, much more!

[www.charlottesville-esl.org](http://www.charlottesville-esl.org)

# Yard Sales

By Nathalie Huet (France)



Literally, “yard sales” means you sell things in your own yard. In real life, you really sell things like clothes, toys, tools, furniture, everything you want, in your garden, in your backyard, in front of your house, in your own house, in your

basement, wherever you want.

For us, French, it was very amazing. In fact, in France, we have sales like this. But they take place in a big field or in a school yard, or even in a parking lot, but never in your own house. And the first time we had to go inside an American house, we didn’t dare for fear of disturbing them. But they received us with a smile.

## But, what’s a yard sale?

There are different sales. You have “yard sales/garage sales” and you have “moving sales”.

The first permits people to sell things they don’t want anymore.

The second happen when people move to another state or country. Given that the country is so vast, when you have to move, you often have many miles to drive. So you take with you only things you need. And you sell all the others. It was at these moving sales that we found the most furniture for our house.

## How to find a yard sale?

First, you just need to check the announcements in the newspapers. For me, the Daily Progress was the most useful.

Then you can see signs on the roadsides. These signs give you the address of the yard sale and, sometimes, they help you to find it just following them.

The best period for the yard sales is between May and October because it’s at this moment you find the most. So it’s the most interesting.

If you want to make the best deal, you need to get up and go there very early in the morning because the best deals are always done before 9.00 a.m.

For us, it was a very interesting experience because it permitted to us to visit Charlottesville across beautiful places and houses. And, of course, you can meet American people who simply talk to you. I think it’s a very special thing in the U.S.

## ***Want to Contribute to the Multi-Cultural Brief?***

Do you have a story, an opinion, a skill you want to tell people about, a recipe, a good idea, a complaint, or a response to what you learned here?

Share it with others!

All submissions are considered. You don’t have to be part of the Newspaper Class to contribute!

There are still openings in the Newspaper Class! Classes meet every **Monday from 10:00 to 12:30 p.m.**

If interested, call (434)-245-2817, or e-mail: [Susan.Erno@ccs.k12.va.us](mailto:Susan.Erno@ccs.k12.va.us).

To receive the *Multi-Cultural Brief*, visit our new location at 1000 Preston Avenue, Suite D.

# Where is my friend's house? – A movie Review

By Younghee Kim (Korea)

*Where is My Friend's House?*

This is movie from Iran. When I watched this movie, I felt like Ahmed. Let us suppose that I am Ahmed who star in this movie.

My name is Ahmed. I live in Koker, a northern Iranian village.

In my elementary school, my friend, Nematzadeh, receives a scolding from the teacher because he didn't do his homework in the designated "homework notebook".

In the evening, I go home. Ah!!! I took home Nematzadeh's notebook by mistake. I must return the notebook. I know if he doesn't do homework in the notebook, he will be expelled from school or will be punished because of my mistake. But I don't know where he lives. I just know his village, Poshteh. It is my neighbor village.

I run to Poshteh, and I ask many people. Nobody knows Nematzadeh's house. I wander about the village. I feel fretful. I return to Koker. By chance, I see a craftsman, maybe, Nematzadeh's father. I follow him. I lose track of him. Finally, I reach Nematzadeh's house. But it is not my friend's house; it is another Nematzadeh's house.

It is getting dark so soon. Fortunately, I meet an elderly

window maker who knows Nematzadeh's house. He is the only person who listens to what I am saying carefully. He leads me to Nematzadeh's house. But,, The house is the same house I just went to.

I return home droopingly with the notebook. My mom had asked me to buy some bread. I didn't buy it. I am very tired and hungry. My parents are concerned that I haven't done my homework. I struggled to find Nematzadeh's house all day but I couldn't return his

"I can see the purity of children's hearts and the adult world from children's eyes. The movie made me feel purified."

notebook.  
What can I do?

At school the next morning... At the time for checking homework, Nematzadeh feel like crying. Ahmed is late.

What do you think will happen next? What do you think Ahmed was doing last night?

Here is THE answer. Watch this movie for yourself!



## Interesting Point :

There are no special sets, special effects, or computer graphics. There is no professional actor/actress. This movie is set in a real village, Koker, is located in northern Iran. The cast consists of real people who live in Koker.

The movie is a story about children with pure and clear eyes, simple but beautiful.

I can see the purity of children's hearts and the adult world from children's eyes. The movie made me feel purified.

I love this story because the children don't complain. I think kids have a natural mind.

## Dress Rehearsal? What's that?

By Jihyun Pak (Korea)



"Mom, Angela told me to be at the rehearsal 39 minutes early."

"Then why did she e-mail me that the time would be 7:00 to 7:30? Call and ask her."

Stephanie called Angela and checked it out. Angela is the director of senior flute choir of youth. "See? I told you. I have to be there by 6:30." I told her that there was nothing to lose for making everything certain.

Then I looked at the clock and said. "We need to hurry up. Finish your dinner and go change your clothes."

Stephanie asked me why she had to change her clothes.

"Because, because it's the dress rehearsal!"

Isn't she supposed to get dressed and do the rehearsal like the real concert? Then I wasn't sure about this. I insisted Stephanie look it up

in the dictionary even though she said she didn't need to dress up. She did what I said and read its meaning out loud. "Final rehearsal before the performance." It said nothing about dressing for the rehearsal. OK, the dictionary said so, then it couldn't be more accurate.

But I still wasn't quite sure. What if everyone got dressed up except my daughter? It would be really embarrassing.

"OK, Steph, Call Angela again and make sure that if you don't need a dress for this."

She was paint enough to do what I said. And there she goes again, "I told you, mom!!!"

I started to laugh. I know many difficult words. Dress?" I know that word for sure. "Rehearsal?" Of course, I know that, too. It's piece of

cake. But once those words got together, I was totally lost. Isn't it funny? Two simple, easy words make me the person with no common sense. (This is so humiliating.)

Hewh~! That was a close call. What if Stephanie was the only one who dresses up for

"It's piece of cake. But once those words got together, I was totally lost. Isn't it funny? Two simple, easy words make me the person with no common sense."

the rehearsal? Me? I was embarrassed, all right? But it happened at home; no one will ever know that except Angela and you, or the whole WAHS (Western

Albemarle High

School); Stephanie has been making fun of me and telling all her friends about this ever since.

Since this story, I have learned that long ago people did dress up for a dress rehearsal, but today at least for a concert, people don't do that any more.

## Indian Summer

By Nathalie Huet (France)

In France, we have a singer, Hoe DASSIN, who sang:

*"We'll go where you want,  
when you want...  
With Indian Summer colors."*

But, for us, it's only a beautiful expression we don't

know the real meaning, because we don't really have this.

So what is Indian summer? This expression refers to a period of fine weather, which appears during the cold season just after first frost.

We speak about Indian Summer when:

- The period of exceptionally hot weather follows a frost period,
- The weather us generally sunny,

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# The Gap between 'Our Mom' and 'My Mom'

By Younghee Kim (Korea)

Do you think we have to understand a culture to learn a language?

My neighbor's daughter is a cute 9-year old Korean girl. She speaks both Korean and English well. But I found she uses English expressions when she speaks Korean. When she talks about her mother in Korean, she says, "Where is my mom?", "My mom likes ...", "My mom has...". It is a very strange expression. In Korean the word order of sentences is different from English.

The usual order is subject, object, and verb. The structure, however, is not a big problem for the little girl. She can use an inverted sentence. The strange thing is the 'my mom' part. Korean people don't say 'my mom'.

We use 'our mom' instead of 'my mom'. I questioned her, "Why do you use 'my mom'?" You should say 'our mom'". She said, "But I don't have any brothers or sisters". "No matter if you are an only child, you should say that", I said. She looked at me with doubt, "Well, It's ridiculous". Maybe she is right. As a matter of fact, I never thought about 'our mom' before.

"Culture melts into Language and language melts into culture."

Korean people prefer 'our' to 'my' when we speak. We like to say 'our mom, our house, our school, our country': even, 'our husband'. I frequently use 'our husband'.

I think it is a habit of Korean language and also culture.

Historically, It has been important to do things together in Korea. All languages have different words to include their culture. Culture melts into Language and language melts into culture.

She doesn't understand Korean culture very much because she never visited Korea. It seems that she hasn't overcome the gap between 'our mom' and 'my mom'. The gap is caused by cultural difference.

I hope more and more she will understand Korean culture. Also, I hope I will know many things about American culture because I don't want to speak strange Korean expressions in English when I meet American people.

## Indian Summer (Continued from page 8)

- There's no or just a little rain,
- The winds are light and with varying directions,
- There can be a little morning fog,
- The night temperatures are near the averages,
- The daytime temperatures are higher than the averages,
- These conditions must continue for 3 days at least.

So, usually, it's really the

case in Charlottesville and it's really pleasant. It's another thing I like about life in Charlottesville! And sometimes, there can be several Indian Summers in the same year. These years are described as "lucky".

But, even if everybody likes fine weather, there's always a downside, and more.. in the big cities.

In the urban concentrations, the weather conditions creating an Indian summer form a real invisible barrier. Actually, the lack of wind and the inversion of the

temperatures keep the atmospheric pollutants from dispersing. Consequently, the pollution can reach its maximum in October.

There can be another disasters consequence of this period of mild weather and no wind. It's the threat of forest fires. They are increased by the fact that the ground is dried up by the summer heat, and it (the ground) is covered with fall leaves which are very dry, too. You have one example with what is happening now in California, near Los Angeles.

# Car Accident: are you prepared?

By Laura Cafagna (Italy)

I do not want to bring bad luck to any of us, but I think that everybody should have a clear idea of what to do in the unfortunate case that a car accident happens. Before even starting, you should know that every policy is different. You should read your own policy really carefully (in particular the part written in very small characters!) or call the insurance office to make sure you understand what to do in case of an accident.

These are some general rules that I think any of us should follow. First of all, you should carry your drive license and have your insurance card with you every time you drive. Also, you should keep in your car a notebook and a pencil (pens do have the tendency not to write if it is too cold or if they haven't been used for a while), and possibly keep a camera in your car, too. You will need them in case of an accident. Remember: no matter how big the accident is you need to stay calm and never, never argue with the other driver or worth with the police officer (remember he/she is there to help you!).

“Remember: no matter how big the accident is **you need to stay calm and never, never argue with the other driver** or worth with the police officer (remember he/she is there to help you!).”

In the unfortunate case of an accident:

- 1) Make sure that all the people in your car and in the other car are ok. Then check the cars for damages.**
- 2) Call 911 ( Police). They will send a police car or an ambulance if you need one (ambulances are free in Charlottesville!). The police are going to write a report that is very important in big accidents but**

**essential if there are people injured.**

- 3) Make sure that you take the other driver's: Name, telephone number, license plate number, Insurance**

**Company name, and Policy number/ expiration date**

**It would be better if you could even have the drive license number and the car type with model and color.**

- 4) If you have witnesses ask their name and phone number even if the accident doesn't look very bad and the other driver looks like a nice and cooperative person! You never know what can happen!**

- 5) Take pictures if you have a camera. As many as you can!**

- 6) If you are in an accident, especially if you were hit in the rear go immediately to see your doctor! In most cases whiplash appears day and even week after the accident!**

- 7) Call your insurance company if you haven't done it yet.**

I hope you will never have to use this information, but, remember, this is only general information. Read your policy and make sure that they do not have an “accident special procedure”.

It is better to know this kind of information before the accident, never after! Even if the accident doesn't look bad and there is no obvious damage, always, always get the other person's name and phone number and the license plate number. You do not want to go home and discover 500 dollars worth of damages that you did not notice before!



## International Health Fair

On December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2003, the Charlottesville City Schools Adult Education Program hosted its first International Health Fair at the Adult Learning Center. There were two sessions, one during the day and one in the evening, each for one hour; at least forty students attended the Fair. Posters of student research on health and civics topics conducted over the course of the Fall Session were posted up and down the hall.

There were also several presentations by students, faculty of the Adult Learning Center, and local health care providers in the Charlottesville community. Myoung Ja Kwon, a student from South Korea, demonstrated the use of moxibustion and Soogi Chim (hand acupuncture). Dorita Wood, an ABE instructor at the Adult Learning Center, had a display on breast health awareness. And Sally Bloche, an ABE student, demonstrated her display on organs of the body.

Also present were representatives from the Thomas Jefferson Health District (the Health Department), who offered flu shots to all

students who wanted one. Juliane Milborne of the International Family Medicine Clinic offered blood pressure checks. Surya Lipscombe of Body, Mind, Spirit, and Jim Gordon, one of the ESL instructors at the Adult Learning Center, offered chair massages and were busy from the moment the Fair began until it ended. There were also representatives from the United Way and the Shelter for Help in Emergency (SHE) who talked with students about their organizations. Whole Foods donated literature on healthy food and two gift baskets which were most appreciated.

Overall, the first International Health Fair was a big success. It was an opportunity for students to demonstrate what they have learned over the Fall Session about health and civics; it was an opportunity for local health care providers to offer services and to share information with students; and it was an opportunity for all students who attend the Adult Learning Center to meet and socialize, share good food, and learn from each other.



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