

Charlottesville City Schools  
 Adult English as a Second Language Program  
 Adult Learning Center  
[www.charlottesville-esl.org](http://www.charlottesville-esl.org)

## Welcome Edition for Newcomers to Charlottesville

Welcome to Charlottesville!

This special edition of *The Multi-Cultural Brief* contains stories written by students of the ALC Newspaper Class from 2000 to 2005.

Over the summer of 2005, students went through all the back issues of the newsletter and looked for stories that might be especially helpful to newcomers to Charlottesville as they adjust to this new environment.

After we chose the stories, we found that they fell into four categories:

1. Adjusting to cultural differences and new identity in a new culture.

2. Opportunities in the area.

3. Dealing with cars and police.

4. Shopping.



The purpose of the stories is to offer you ideas, helpful information, and support as you meet this next big challenge and adventure of living in Charlottesville.

As you read these stories, you will find that some were written a while ago. Therefore, it is important that you do your own research to make sure these opportunities are still available at the times stated in the articles.

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## 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.

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# Adjusting to Cultural Differences and New Identity in a New Culture

## Culture Shock

By Laura Cafagna (Italy) Volume 2, Issue 1, October 2000

It is called "Culture Shock." Maybe you do not know what it means, but if you are a foreigner, you will immediately recognize it. It is just a way to describe the mixture of sensations, mostly negative, that most of us experience when we first move to a foreign country.

I will never forget my first month in California. It was the most miserable month of my life. Several things have changed since then, but I will never forget the sensations.

I came to the States because my husband was studying for a Ph.D. At first, we tried to live separately, but we immediately understood that that was too hard, so the only solution was for me to move. That was and still is the most painful decision of my life.

When I first came to the States, I did not speak English at all. I was afraid of everything. I shook when the phone rang, not to mention when somebody knocked at the door. My solution to the problem was to stay home, without

answering the phone or the door, and watch television. But also the television was a problem since I could not understand most of what was going on, so every day my frustration was growing bigger and bigger, and bigger.

I had a good job in Italy. I was in control of my life. My job was principally to deal with problems. Every single day, ten hours per day, I was solving problems from the simple to the most complicated, and I was pretty good at it.

Then I took an airplane, and twenty hours later I was like a five-year-old child. I was thirsty, but I could not order a glass of water. Then when I got to the airport in Chicago, the plane was late, so I wanted to call my husband, but I did not know how to use a phone or even how to ask how to use a phone.

To me, it looks like it was a hundred years ago, but it was just three years ago. Now I am again in control of my life. I do not fear the

phone, I do not fear the door, and most important of all, I do not fear the people.

How did I do it?

With a lot of determination. After the first month, I was so depressed that I could not even think, so I decided to go back to Italy. When I was there, I decided that I had to try again to make things work, and I came back with a very, very different attitude.

As soon as I got back, I started looking for English classes. With the help of my husband I found several of them, which I began taking right away. I walked to the bus station, twenty minutes or so, took the bus, and went to school. I met the most amazing people there.

Everybody knew how I was feeling, so it was very easy to make friends. Then I took computer classes, quilting, tennis, and ceramics. It was



(Continued on page 5)

# Who Am I?

By Myungjin Oh (South Korea) Volume 6, Issue 4, April-May 2005

"I'll go back to Korea! And I'll get back my job!"

Yesterday I spat it out at my husband again even though I knew it hurt him.

I used to work as a graphic designer and an instructor at a university in Korea. I had good income and was satisfied with two jobs even if it was very hard mentally and physically because I wanted to be a professor. But all of this is just "was" because my whole life has changed after marriage.



I had to come here to follow my husband. Nobody doubted it because, generally, a wife has to follow her husband to be together, especially in Korea.

I worried about changing my life. The serious problem was that my husband wants to be in the U.S. our entire lives. But I made up my mind to look on the bright side. I thought it could be a great opportunity to change my living environment — many people believe that living conditions in the U.S. are better than in Korea, especially for raising children — and to

study about my area in the U.S. The most important thing was that I could be with my husband, who had already lived in the U.S. for three years before we got married. At last, I flew in a plane, filled with anxiety, curiosity about this new world, and sorrow at parting with family and friends.

About six months have passed since I came here. Many things are different from my imagination. I had guessed that if I came to the U.S., naturally I would be able to speak English well in a short time. But I was completely wrong. Even now, I make mistakes every day using English, and sometimes I feel shame. I planned to take Ph.D. courses in the U.S., but I've lost confidence. I'm just a foolish English speaker!

Another problem is housework. I didn't do this before I got married. I believed, naively, the promise of my husband. He said to me before marriage, "If we get married, I'll do all the housework. So, never mind!" But now, he doesn't do anything, like a traditional Korean man. From time to time, it makes me angry. Housework is just woman's burden? Why do I have to cook while he enjoys watching TV? Did I come here in order to do these things? I'm angry about his unconscious mind that thinks housework is a woman's job. Sometimes we argue about

it, and he promises to keep his word, but the promise isn't kept for very long.

And the problem of money also bothers me every day. Fortunately, I didn't worry about it before I got married. But now, our income is not enough to live on because my husband is a student and I can't work in the U.S. legally. I'm officially a "needy" person! It's a totally unstable situation.

These days, once in a while I ask myself, "Why did I come here and give up my stable life? What am I doing in the U.S.? Who am I?" Whenever these things come to my mind, especially, I fight with my husband about the problem of housework. I used to blame him.

Yesterday, I shouted at him again. He said to me, "It was your choice." I lost my words. That's right. The answer was inside me. I chose him and the U.S. The most important thing was I wanted to be with him. Sometimes I forget it.

Life is a challenge. I have just started a new life. So why do I still hold to my thinking in the past?

I'm starting at "zero." It is a certain chance to make a "different me."

# You Are Living in Charlottesville

By Miao Liu (China) Volume 3, Issue 1, August 2001



To live in a small city or in a big metropolis, which would you choose?

Being brought up in a big urban environment and working in an international city, I used to lead a life in a building forest. I didn't even know how azure the sky can be, how limpid the air can be, how cheerful the chirping of birds can be, or how lovely nature can be.

During my first days in Charlottesville, I felt everything was so boring. I couldn't go shopping every day, chat with my friends, watch the latest movies, or dance at night on the weekends.

However, I changed my mind last week when my husband and I visited New York City. Of course, I was very excited to come back to a metropolis. We visited the famous buildings, went shopping, enjoyed delicious food, even the opera. But walking on the noisy Manhattan streets, being besieged by people, annoying noise, gray buildings, and unconcerned people, I began to miss something in my heart – quiet.

Frankly, what impressed me most in New York City was its Central Park. It is something like my dear Charlottesville. People can get rid of resentments and return to their Mother Nature for a little while there. Breathing the non-synthetic air, walking on the real, soft soil may be very joyful for urban people. How lucky for me and other people who live in a quiet, beautiful

small city like Charlottesville.

It can't be denied that by living in a big city people can get many more job opportunities and challenges, and experience a more rapid city pace.

At the same time, they can lose something more precious than they have. That is nature and quiet. If I hadn't been in Charlottesville, I couldn't have gotten to know the situation that an old poem describes: "Have your windows opposite the endless mountains" and "Use the forest wind to be your pillow."

If I hadn't been in Charlottesville, I would never have gotten to know the joyful moment of catching a live fish, and I wouldn't have met so many nice people. What's more, I wouldn't have gotten to know Mother Nature.

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## Culture Shock

*(Continued from page 3)*

hard at first because I could not understand the teachers, but I went to every class despite the fact that I really did not have any clue about what they were talking about.

What I want to tell you is that all of us had a bad start, but do not think that by staying home you will solve the problem. There are opportunities, like free English classes, but you have to look for them. Please do not stay home. Nobody is

going to knock at your door and offer you the solution to your problems. But there are several people ready to help you ... look for them ... give yourself a chance to be happy in this wonderful land of opportunities.

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# You Have to Have Just a Little Patience

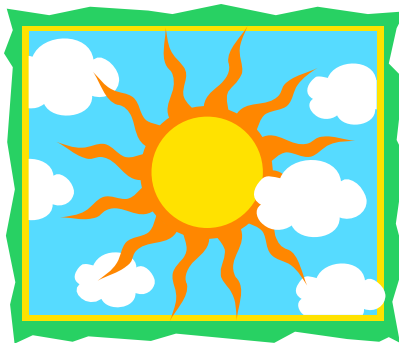
By Valaria Vasquez (Venezuela) Volume 3, Issue 1, August 2001

When I arrived in Charlottesville, I saw everything around me in a very dark and confused way, but now I am very happy to be here. I am from Venezuela, and I came here with my husband in order to improve our way of life. My husband has a nice job at UVA, and I hope to get a job very soon, too.

I think that the first week was very challenging for me because we had to share an apartment with a man we did not know. Through Venezuelan friends, we found a beautiful basement apartment for us.

Then it was very difficult to

hook up all the necessary services, like the telephone, the computer, Internet access, bank accounts, etc.



Well, in my mind it was difficult, but in reality it was not. For example, I got a little anxious because we did not have phone service for a month, and I desperately wanted to talk with my family. I used public phones

to call them, but it was very expensive.

My husband is a very patient man, and his patience was contagious. If I had tried to obtain the same services in my country, it possibly would have taken a much longer time than here. Realizing this helped me to go ahead and forget my worries.

Nowadays, I have everything that I want, and I see Charlottesville in a totally different way, like a nice small city with a lot of opportunities for a good living. So I needed just a little patience to see things clearly.

## Becoming a Cook

By Hyunah Lee (South Korea) Volume 6, Issue 4, April-May 2005



Since I came here after leaving my country, I cook every day. How incredible it is. Actually, I used to be poor at cooking.

There are some reasons for that. When I was a little girl, I didn't have to cook. All I had to do was study as a good student. My parents wanted me to concentrate on school studies. Of course, sometimes I had chances to learn cooking from my mother. But that was not my major work.

After I got married, I needed to do cooking by myself. When I got married, I was still a graduate student. I had to read a lot of articles, write critiques about them, and prepare my

thesis. Simultaneously, I was a researcher at the Institute of Economics and Management. So I worked from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day. It meant I was very busy and had no time to cook. Unwillingly, I had to depend on my mother. I lived close to my parents' house. Many Korean couples who are dual earners live like me. From time to time, we used to eat out. It was a more convenient way.

I lived that way until I came to the U.S. last December. It was

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# Helpful Tips When Moving to Charlottesville

By Grace Yang (Taiwan) Volume 3, Issue 3, December-January 2001-2002

I have been in Charlottesville for one year. All of my family enjoy American life very much. However, I, as well as my friends, really had some difficulties in the beginning. The major problem was that I could not speak and understand English well. Laws that were different from those in Taiwan and cultural bumps were other problems. The following are some examples that caused my friends or me to pay more money than necessary.

First, when you install telephone or cable, there are many options you can choose. You have to make sure what service you want. Do not say "yes" before you understand the question clearly; otherwise, you will be shocked when you receive the bills. Sometimes you can choose programs that are cheaper.

Second, you can buy your car insurance only from a few car insurance companies if you do not get a Virginia driver's license. Even if you can buy it, you have to pay a higher fee.

When you pass the two-part knowledge exam, you have to wait for 30 days before you can take the road skills test. I bought



my car insurance from the agent before I got a local driver's license. One month later, I received a note from the insurance company that told me that they would terminate my insurance one week later because I had no license. I could not help but prepare to get a local license. You can demand that your car insurance company lower your insurance fee after you get the license.

Third, you have to check your car for two stickers. One is a decal from the County of Albemarle or the City of Charlottesville, depending on where you live, and the other one is an inspection sticker. You have to renew them both

before their deadlines; otherwise, you may have to pay a fine. My friend forgot to post the decal and was fined \$25.

Fourth, do not violate the traffic rules. Especially, do not drive over the speed limit. On Route 29, many of my friends got tickets for speeding. You not only have to pay the fine (\$30 plus \$3 per mile over the speed limit), but you also get a record of violation of traffic. Your car insurance fee will increase next time. For your safety, it is wise not to speed on the highway.

If I could have spoken and understood English well and had more friends when I arrived in Charlottesville, I could have avoided getting many troubles and paying more money. Now I know a very good method to learn English – go to English as a Second Language classes. You also can know many friends from different countries. They can give you information and share some experiences with you.

# Gunshots in the Forest

By Alberto Gaona (Colombia) Volume 2, Issue 3, December 2000

I came to the U.S. just a few weeks ago. I am from Colombia, a beautiful South American country in the middle of bad times because of hard internal conflict, an armed and bloody conflict.

Here in Charlottesville, I have the good luck to be living in a country house near town. It is a quiet place, and the first Saturday I was there, I was taking a walk in the forest near my home when, suddenly, a strong shot thundered not too far from me. I decided to go back to the house. Once there, I asked one of my hosts why there were shots in the area. He told me, "Maybe someone was practicing with his gun. Hunting is a very common sport here."

Well, that made me think about hunting and the role of that practice in the areas of land I know in my country. In the last fifteen years, I've been working in a western zone of Colombia, called "Costa Pacifica" (Pacific Coast). It's a long area of dense rainforest in which live a great variety of fish, birds, reptiles, batrachians (some of them still non-classified), and many kinds of mammals, including jaguars. This land also has been inhabited by

indigenous and Afro-Colombian people for many centuries. These people have lived by fishing, collecting fruits, roots and plants from the forest, and, of course, hunting. But there, I



couldn't say hunting is a sport. Instead, hunting has been one of the ways to assure life. In their case, the death of an animal assures life because it provides complementary protein. The technologies used by the hunters have been developed over centuries, and just in a few cases involved firearms, most of the time handmade. However, surely as a result of the internal conflict in which we have been living in the last decades, the number of firearms used for hunting has grown. In the last few years, it has become easier to get modern firearms.

Their methods seem primitive compared to the sophisticated ways of hunting in the U.S. A few

days ago, after my little moment of fear, I was at one of the large markets in Charlottesville, and I saw a lot of hunting equipment: camouflage coats and pants, special bullets, gunpowder, special precision sights for firearms, different models of arrow heads, etc. I have heard that buying weapons is easy, too.

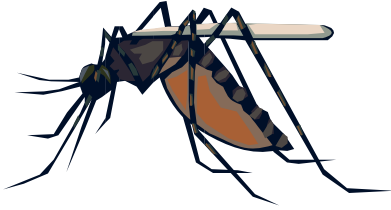
I wonder what could be the underlying reason for hunting here. I don't believe it is the necessity for protein, but maybe a certain sense of adventure and self-affirmation involved in catching a wild animal. Also, I wonder if, for some people here, having modern weapons and the sense of power it involves could seem to be more exciting than the hunt itself.

In my grandfather's time, there were conflicts in my country, as there are now, but there wasn't the number of weapons we have today. Once, my grandfather said, "When someone has a weapon, sooner or later that weapon will be used, and somebody will regret it very much." Remember the old American West? In "Western" movies we can still see those quite romantic stories about the "lonely

*(Continued on page 10)*

# Chiggers!

By Carrie Zhou (China) Volume 5, Issue 4, June-July 2004



Summer in Charlottesville is so beautiful that I couldn't help going out for fun. But troubles always come with fun.

When a friend of my husband's suggested that we go fishing, we agreed at once. We spent more than five hours around the river and had a lot of fun there. We were excited although, in the end, we went home without any fish.

Unfortunately, the trouble came the next day. We were so tired that we slept until noon. Itchiness instead of sunlight woke us up. My husband found hundreds of red spots on his legs! I also had some around my arms. We thought they were mosquito bites. My husband is sensitive to mosquitoes in summer. We tried different kinds of ointment, which were especially useful against mosquito bites. But it

seemed useless. After two days, he had to make an appointment to go see a doctor.

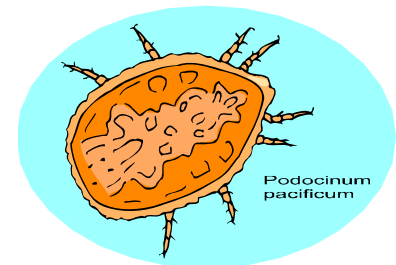
Then we learned it was "chiggers," a kind of red mite, that caused us so much trouble. They can be found in grassy fields, along lakes and streams, and even in forests.

Chiggers are so small that you cannot see them with the naked eye. But they can attach tightly onto people and animals. Once attached, they are able to pierce the skin and suck the blood, then cause itching. It will bother the host for two or three weeks.

The doctor suggested that we wear protective clothing, such as long-sleeved shirts and long pants, to reduce the incidence of chigger bites when going to the riverside or grasslands. Afterward, put all of the clothes and bags in hot water and wash them thoroughly. Take a shower as soon as possible. The chiggers may spread everywhere and can be alive for more

than one week. Remove them as quickly as possible before they settle anywhere in your house.

If you are bitten by chiggers, don't be scared. You have several choices. Go to the hospital for professional advice right away. Or you can buy medicine which is useful for chigger bites in any pharmacy store. Some



people also apply clear nail polish to the red spots, which is said to relieve the itchiness.

Now both my husband and I have recovered from the bites. We really hate chiggers, but we won't be afraid of them anymore. We know how to protect ourselves from them and how to deal with them in the future.

## Becoming a Cook

*(Continued from page 6)*  
time to become independent. First of all, I needed to learn cooking for me and my husband. When we decided to go to the U.S. last year, the first thing I did was to register for a cooking class. My sister introduced me to the class in which she already participated.

My cooking teacher was very excellent. Thanks to her, I developed an interest in cooking.

There was a new world that I didn't know before. I went to the class every Thursday. I could learn about three kinds of food at a time. Finally, I made my own recipe book. Now, I look over the recipe book every day, thinking about what to cook today. If I follow the recipe exactly, I can make very delicious food just like the food my cooking teacher made. I can scarcely believe this is what I've

done. My husband is very pleased with the fact that I can make food. These days, dinner time is the most pleasant time of day for us. I have gained confidence in my cooking ability. Now I have achieved independence from others' help. The day that I arrived in the U.S. was independence day for my life.

Editor's note: For information on cooking classes in Charlottesville, call CATEC at 973-4461.

## Gunshots in the Forest

*(Continued from page 8)*  
cowboy" fighting for a "self-made" kind of justice. Those stories tell us about places where there's no other law than guns. Well, I can assure you that that's not romantic at all. In some rural areas of my country, a man must have a gun just to protect himself.

I'm not saying that all Colombia is like the old American West, but there are places where it is, and one of the reasons is that there are too many guns and not effective laws. For instance, one organized group of people, some of them with guns, decides that the laws don't match their

real necessities (or desires) and proceeds to get what they need (or want) using their weapons. Then, another group of people, who benefit from these laws, fights against the first group, and so armed conflict grows.

War is expensive, mostly because of weapons. There are some people (and countries) who sell guns, and they are ready to do anything that can make their sales grow, including encouraging greater conflicts. In the middle of my country's little and bloody war, there are guns and weapons from many countries: Israel, East Europe, Russia, the U.S.,

and others. Most of these weapons are illegal.

Unfortunately, T.V. and movies help legitimize and romanticize violent solutions to conflicts. Their influence affects even the children. The effects of this phenomenon are not only seen in my country. The daily news shows us sad events in many places around the world, even the U.S.

Well, maybe these thoughts seem quite dramatic for many people here. We are used to thinking that bad things only happen in places far away, to far away people. In my country, the facts show that that way of thinking is wrong, and I could even say, blind.

### Massage @ Home

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Swedish and Deep Tissue Massage in your home or in mine. Call for details.



### CANCELED CLASSES

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



# American Tipping Customs

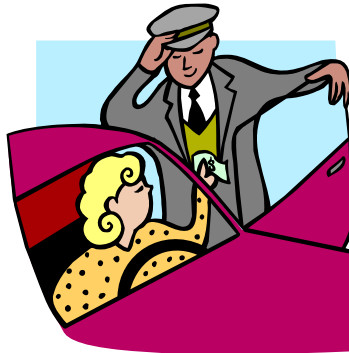
By Mie Yamashita (Japan) Volume 3, Issue 2, October-November 2001

It is common for Americans to give a tip for getting a service. But we don't have such a custom in Japan. In traveling to the U.S., most Japanese might be confused about the timing for when to give a tip, and, moreover, we don't even notice that we should give the tip at that occasion. So we sometimes misunderstand each other because of the differences of culture.

When I first went to New York with my husband, we took a taxi. The taxi driver said to us in the car, "Japanese people are too stingy to give us tips." As a Japanese person, I am ashamed that many Japanese aren't familiar with tipping in the U.S., but, listening to what he said, I felt unpleasant. Should I give him a tip as usual if I am not satisfied with the service?

I have been here for one

month. I already have had many occasions where I have had to give a tip for services. But still I don't know on which occasion I should give a tip and how much I should give.



For instance, a technician came to my apartment to activate high speed Internet last week. I thought it was customary to give a tip for his services, but he didn't seem to expect it. I know I should give a tip when I am given service in a restaurant and take a taxi. But I don't know if a worker comes to my apartment to fix the shower

or change an electric bulb if I should give a tip or how much to give them. If I buy furniture at Wal-Mart and the store clerk helps me to deliver it to my car, should I give him a tip? How much should I give? I did give him a tip, but I don't know if it was too small or too big.

We don't have such customs at all in Japan, even at the five-star hotels. Every hotel leaves a card describing the tipping policy in Japan. It says that they don't accept any tips at all. When I was a university student, I had a part-time job at a restaurant. One day, a westerner came to the restaurant and left some money as a tip. No sooner had I found it than I rushed to look for the westerner to return it.

In conclusion, there is a big difference in customs between the U.S. and Japan.

## To Tip or not to Tip? This Is the Problem

By Laura Cafagna (Italy) Volume 2, Issue 3, December 2000

How many times have you every asked yourself, "Do I have to give a tip or not?" If the answer is yes, how much should you give? I don't know about you, but I have asked myself this question hundreds of times. I am pretty sure that the answers

haven't been the same as an American would have given.

The problem started twenty minutes after we arrived in the United States. We took a taxi from the airport to the hotel, and there we knew we were supposed to give the

driver a tip, but how much? We decided to give him a couple of dollars, just as we would have done in Italy, to show him that we appreciated the service. We paid him, and he left with the unhappiest face in the

*(Continued on page 12)*

## To Tip or not to Tip? This Is the Problem

(Continued from page 11)

world. He drove for two meters, and then he came back. "You owe me two dollars for the luggage," he said. At that point, we understood that there was something wrong with our way of tipping and that we were supposed to do something different. What? We got to the hotel, and a valet helped us with the luggage. This

time, trying to learn from the experience with the taxi, we were very generous, probably too much so, judging from his smile. We were very confused. What is the right thing to do? Our experience didn't help at all since Italian people rarely tip. We give a tip just for extraordinary and unexpected services; the amounts are usually small. But do not misunderstand me. In traditional tourist places, people normally expect a tip from you.

The first thing we did the morning after was to check our guidebook to see if there was any tip about tipping. There it was among the instructions on how to use the bus and how to use a phone. The guidebook said something like, "You should tip everybody who is giving

you service about 15% of the total bill." We were fine with that, but what about when we are not paying a bill? Do we have to tip anyway? Do we have to tip the person who paints our house if we are renting and not going to pay the bill? Do we have to tip the person who packs our furniture when we move? Do we have to tip the truck driver? I wish I knew the answers to these questions, but I don't.

Every time I am pretty confident that I really understand how to do it, something else happens, and I am back to the beginning. Is there a way out? The only thing that is clear in my mind is that in general the tip is 15%, "mandatory" for waiters in restaurants and hair dressers, if they do a good job, and usually for taxi drivers. For all others, I am following my instinct.

What I recently realized is that there are several jobs in which the tip is a vital part of the salary. With this in mind, I am trying to do my best to be fair and give everybody what I think they deserve. For example, I like to leave some money for people who clean my room well when I stay at a hotel. When people do work at my home, I offer them something to eat or drink; this is my way of tipping them.

If you have the magic answer to this problem, please write in and tell us all!

### 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!

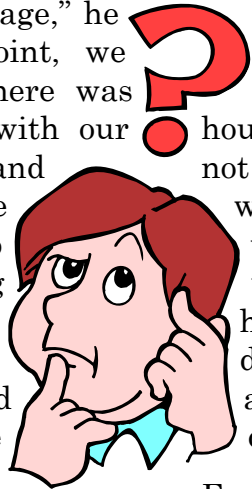
All submissions are considered. You don't have to be part of the Newspaper Class to contribute!

There are still openings in the Newspaper Class! Classes meet on **Wednesday mornings from 9:30 to 12 noon and/or on Fridays from 1:15 to 3:30 p.m.** Come as many times a week as you like.

If interested, call (434)-245-2817, or e-mail:

Susan.Erno@ccs.k12.va.us.

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



# Are You Going to Move? Find a Doctor First!

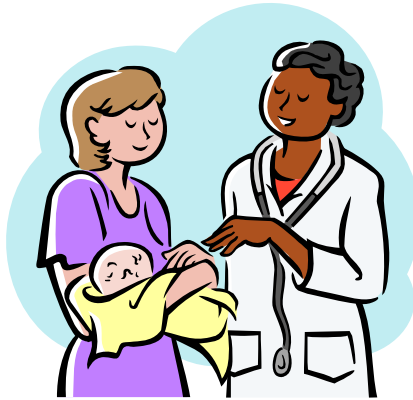
By Natalia Brylera (Russia) Volume 3, Issue 3, December-January 2001-2002

My family and I have been living in the United States of America not so long. When we first moved, I did not have any conception about medical service here. We did not hurry to buy insurance. Then, my daughter got sick. For a whole month she had an infection. Now, I have more information about the American medical system.

When my daughter, Angelina, had a very high temperature and we needed a doctor's advice, I was absolutely sure that a doctor could come to our place because in Russia it is the normal thing. My husband asked our neighbor how we could summon a doctor. He told us that doctors never come to your home, even if you feel bad. Then we asked if maybe we could call the emergency number, 911. It was a surprise for us when he told us that you can call 911 only if you think you are dying.

We drove to UVA Hospital. We did not go to the Emergency Room because a friend who is in medical school did not recommend it. We waited for one hour before some woman took us to the examining room. She weighed our daughter, took

Angelina's temperature, and showed us a room where we could wait for the doctor. After half an hour, a medical student came, asked a lot of questions, saw our daughter,



and went away.

We waited for the doctor for a half an hour more. He did not see his patient because the medical student had told him everything. His advice was to wait five days and, if nothing changed, come again. We did not have insurance, so we paid \$30 for the visit. My daughter was really tired after two hours, and we did not hear any advice. I saw that my child was sick, and I did not want to wait. I felt that it was not acceptable to wait.

Then our friends gave us the address of Prompt Care. We waited five minutes, and, after the standard procedures, a doctor saw Angelina. He was attentive and explained

everything to us. He gave us some antibiotics and wrote down his phone number, so we could call him when we needed to ask some questions.

It was very useful because, if we did not know what to do, the doctor could tell us by phone. But Prompt Care is more expensive. It cost \$55 for a visit. For me and my husband, the main thing is that Angelina will be strong and healthy. We visited Prompt Care several times, and I have a good opinion about its service and workmanship.

Now we understand more about the American medical system. My advice is to find a good doctor before something serious happens with you or your family. But there is one thing I cannot agree with the American medical system about. It is the necessity to go to the doctor's place when your child has a very high temperature.

# Barbershops in Charlottesville

By Luis Enrique Arbelaez (Colombia) Volume 3, Issue 7, June 2002



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 barbershop. 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 off one of my ears. He took only 10 minutes and afterward said, "You owe me \$9." The service was not so good. But I must recognize that my haircut 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...

## Traveling by Train

By Kazue Matsumoto (Japan) Volume 3, Issue 5, March 2002

Have you ever traveled by train? Some of my friends traveled to Florida by car during the holiday. They said that it took 14 hours from Charlottesville to Orlando and Disney World. I cannot imagine such a long drive. But many people who live in the U.S. take it for granted that they travel by car.

In my country, Japan, people prefer to use trains or an airplane rather than use a car when they travel far away. I found a report about the world's rail services in the newspaper (1/13/02 *Financial Times*). It said that Japan has the best rail service with regard to the ratio of high-speed trains, the number of passengers, and punctuality. Japanese rely

on their rail service very much. And I like to travel by train because I can enjoy relaxing, eating lunch, looking outside the window, and taking a nap on the coach. I can buy different kinds of lunch boxes at every big station, and even on the coach. There also are high-speed trains besides regular trains. We call them

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## Traveling by Train

(Continued from page 14)  
*Shinkansen*. In the *Shinkansen*, some women dress like airhostesses, walk up and down in the coaches selling lunch boxes, coffee, beer, snacks, and even souvenirs, etc. Traveling by train in Japan is really convenient.

So it was natural for me that I decided to travel to Washington, D.C. by Amtrak. First of all, I searched the Internet for the information. I found that it cost \$63 both ways from Charlottesville to

Washington, D.C., and it takes only 2 hours. I can buy the ticket by means of the Internet or at the train station. It sounded pretty nice to me.

The problem is that the train stops in Charlottesville only three times a day. Early in the morning, at 6:45 a.m., the train is supposed to leave here, and it is supposed to get back here at 1:13 p.m. and 10:07 p.m. In fact, I had to wait in the coach for one and a half hours before it left Union Station, the station in

Washington, D.C. before it returned to Charlottesville. The conductor said that the engine had some troubles, and the passengers had to wait for the engineer to come. I was very surprised to hear that and wanted more information about it. But I didn't get any other information. It seemed that other passengers took it for granted that they had to wait. At that time, I really understood why many people avoid using the train.

But to ride a train is still fun.

## Pronunciation: My Worst Nightmare

By Laura Cafagna (Italy) Volume 2, Issue 6, March 2001

I should have understood four years ago, when I first came to the United States, that it doesn't matter if you know how to write a word. You have to know how to pronounce it.

I was in a café in San Diego, and I asked, with my best smile, "An orange juice, please." At least, I thought I asked that. The waitress looked at me and said, "An orange Jewish?" And I insisted, "Yes, yes. An orange juice, please." She looked at me and said, "Why do you want an orange Jewish?" I still couldn't understand what she wanted, and I repeated, "An orange juice, please." Then I

realized what was happening, and I immediately got mad. I am sure that my way of pronouncing the word "juice" sounds as if I said "Jewish" to an American ear, but she did not have any flexibility or sensibility. Why should I ask for an orange Jewish? I then let her know that my pronunciation in Italian is better than in English, and, if she wanted, we could have a conversation in Italian. She became red as a ripe tomato, and she

apologized. I still think she was very rude.

After that, I had a lot of experiences like this one, but, to tell the truth, never so dramatic. I now classify people into two categories. Most people make a lot of effort to understand me; I have the impression that they almost read my mind. For the other people, however, it does not matter if I say the word almost perfectly; they will never understand me, just because they do not want to.

Sometimes I realize

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# Opportunities!

## What Are You Going to Do This Weekend?

By Laura Cafagna (Italy) Volume 3, Issue 7, June 2002

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 website 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: theaters, outdoor activities, movies, and music. All the information is there in front of you.

Do you know that every Fri-

day, at Charlottesville's Downtown Amphitheater between 5:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. there is a free concert (Friday's After Five)? You didn't know? Probably you didn't check out <http://www.cvilledowntown.org>

They give 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 has 4, and Charlottesville High School has 4. Would you prefer to play some baseball? McIntire 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 *Cville 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.



## Pronunciation: My Worst Nightmare

(Continued from page 15)

that I have used the wrong word. I may point to a spoon and say, "May I have that sponge?" I try to correct myself, but the person has already understood and has gone to get the spoon for me.

But some people look at me as if they are making a point not to understand me. If I have a spoon in my hand, and I am asking, "May I have a clean sponge?", it should be clear that I am asking for a clean spoon. They look at me as if I am

completely crazy and as if I should be in a psychiatric hospital instead of in a restaurant. In this case, there is no way out. I have to spell it, "s-p-o-o-n," and if I am lucky, I will get my clean spoon, or a clean sponge. You never know.

# The Charlottesville Salsa Club

By Patricia Venegas (Peru) Volume 3, Issue 3, April-May 2004

Salsa Sunday has the mission to promote understanding of and joy in social dancing, in all forms, within an inclusive community of dancers.

Salsa Sunday was founded in December 2001 as a not-for-profit organization. It is made up of volunteers helping to bring to the Charlottesville area opportunities to enjoy, learn, listen, and dance to salsa music. The club developed from a group dance class (instructed by Edwin Roa) that started to look for places to practice, and was inspired by Edwin's vision which they've incorporated into their mission.

To become a member, you can sign up at Salsa Sunday. This money is used to support the club's activities; everyone is a volunteer. The standard contribution is a one-time \$25 fee, but larger amounts are, of course, welcome. The benefit for

members is a reduced cover for Salsa Sundays (\$2 off) and the nice feeling you get for helping. Surplus proceeds are donated to charitable efforts.



During Salsa Sunday, there is no alcohol, but the sodas and water are free. Sometimes Salsa Sunday organizes events for its members and anyone else who would like to participate. For example, past excursions have included going to Washington, D.C. to enjoy salsa concerts. Salsa Sunday was originally made for

people who love salsa music, but they also teach bachata, meringue, cha-cha-cha, etc. It's unbelievable how the people from the U.S., from Europe, and from Asia learn to dance to our Latin music. More and more people come each Sunday. It's common to see new members dance awkwardly in the beginning, but at the end of a few weeks, they have improved greatly. When someone puts in effort, anything is possible.

If you are bored, sad, or you just feel like dancing, come have fun and make new friends. Salsa Sunday is made for healthy fun and amusement. Come Sundays to the Outback Lodge, 917 Preston Plaza from 8 p.m. to midnight. You will have fun at Salsa Sundays. Cover is \$5 (\$3 for members). Also, for more information, you can visit the website: [www.cvillesalsaclub.com](http://www.cvillesalsaclub.com).

## *Our Website*

Visit the website for the Adult Learning Center! There you will find 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)**

# Fishing in Virginia

By Wenxian Ji (China) Volume 6, Issue 5, August 2005

I'm very interested in fishing. You can experience the feeling of excitement when you catch a fish. You can learn to be patient when you are waiting for the fish to bite. No matter how many fish I catch, no matter how much time it takes, I enjoy the process of fishing. When I was in China, I liked to go fishing with my friends on weekends. When I came to America, I was eager to look for any opportunity to go fishing.

One day, my friend invited my family and other Chinese friends to go fishing. This was the first time I went fishing in America. My friend led us to a park; I can't remember the name, which was a one-and-a-half hour drive from Charlottesville. On the way to the park, we stopped at a super Wal-Mart. We rushed into the store and bought fishing stuff in a hurry because we wanted to save the time for fishing. We bought fishing rods, hooks, and a box of worms, plastic fish and a net on a rod. The worms and plastic fish were bait. The net on the rod was a useful tool for catching the fish. We thought that we had bought all the necessary items for fishing. But my friend, who had lived in America for a

long time, reminded us to buy a license for fishing. We were so surprised because we never needed a license for fishing in China. Each of us had to pay \$12 to buy a Virginia fishing license. We believed that we were finally ready for fishing.

When we arrived at the park, some American people were



busy fishing. One of them told us that there were many trout in the river and that they had already caught some. We loved trout more than any other fish. We hurried to whip our lines into the river, stared at the buoys and hoped to quickly catch some trout. Five minutes, ten minutes passed. The buoys were still floating on the water. One of my friends relaxed, sat down on the ground, and talked to his neighbor, an American man, who had caught two trout. The man told him lots of things about the park, the

river, and the trout. Suddenly, the man asked my friend, "Do you have licenses for trout fishing?" My friend, smiling, told him, "Yes, I have a Virginia fishing license." The man smiled and shook his head. "There should be three licenses for trout fishing in the park. One is a Virginia fishing license; one is the Park fishing license and the other one is a trout fishing license." All of us were so surprised that we needed three licenses for trout fishing. We had to put our fishing rods back into our car trunks. We also had to change our plan. The activity of fishing had to be changed to a picnic.

That was my first time to fish in America. That was the shortest time for fishing in my life. I didn't catch any fish, but I understood why I couldn't catch any trout or other good fish in China. Americans intentionally protect their natural resources through fishing licenses, etc. My first fishing experience in America gave me a good lesson. When we enjoy sharing natural resources, we mustn't forget to protect them. Our children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren can catch fish in the same river as ours.

# Volunteering at UVA Medical Center

By Jihyun Pak (South Korea) Volume 5, Issue 2, January 2004

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 (HAO) 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 a 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 a 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're over 30 and have been out of the States for a certain period 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 two 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 these diseases are contagious, you should get immunizations at them at the hospital unless you already have 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 wonder 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 two 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 them 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 about something (I can't say the 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 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 most people welcome. It is just great. Since I am a beginner, I have a very helpful trainer.

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## Volunteering at UVA Medical Center

(Continued from page 19)

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 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?

## Volunteers: Participating in Your Community

By Se-in Shin (South Korea) Volume 1, Issue 2, April 2000



Have you done something for others? At that time, what did you feel? If you are looking for different kinds of valuable activities, just knock on the door of volunteering. You don't need to worry about your ability or situation. Even if you are a foreigner, you can do it.

There are many volunteer opportunities in Charlottesville.

If you want to volunteer at UVA Medical Center, just call the Volunteer Services Department. Anytime, they will welcome you and

guide you to volunteering. You can choose the volunteer job and times you want. Just before starting to work, you have to take a TB (tuberculosis) test and a 3-hour training course. For more information, call Liz Courain with Volunteer Services at 924-5252.

United Way-Thomas Jefferson Area Volunteer Services mobilizes people and resources to meet community needs. They are committed to raising human service standards in our area. According to their information, year after year, community needs and numbers of volunteers increase. Basically, anyone can volunteer. United Way has many volunteer opportunities that will allow you to express and expand your talents and enthusiasm. You can choose

the time, day, and kind of work suitable for you. If you join them, you will meet new people, gain valuable experience, and feel more connected to our community. For more information, call Shaele McGihon, Volunteer Coordinator, at 972-1705.

Are you an advanced level ESL student or native English speaker? The Charlottesville Adult ESL Program is always looking for volunteers to help out in our classes. For more information, call 245-2817.



# Do You Know about International Offerings?

By Barbara B. Szomju (Romania) Volume 1, Issue 3, June 2000



## INTERNATIONAL CENTER

Being one of plenty of internationals in the U.S. who arrived here seven months ago or so, I dare say that for the likes of us the International Center is a convenient place from the point of view of adjusting oneself to new conditions. I urge you to look for this place. Here are some motives.

This information is the result of my interview with a few people, both coordinators and international participants.

The International Center welcomes international students, research scholars, their families, and other international visitors. Services such as arrival assistance, guest housing, and English conversation group assist internationals in becoming accustomed to living and studying in America as well as

acquainting them with the diversity of the University and Charlottesville' international community.

The Center provides opportunities for learning about the world's cultures through a variety of cultural and educational events. For example, visit local schools and community groups to share international experiences; take periodic day trips to local historical sites; attend events to sample sights, sounds and tastes of other cultures; learn to prepare ethnic foods; organize monthly cultural nights, etc. For details, contact the Center at 21 University Circle or phone 924-7983.

The informal English conversation group mentioned above holds weekly meetings all year at the International Center open to all internationals. Here is an opportunity to meet new people, make friends, discuss one's country and culture and enhance one's conversation skills.

As far as my interviewed international fellows and myself are concerned, we feel more self-confident here than other places since the group admits different people from abroad who cannot speak

English just yet. On the other hand, the conversation group gives us much more: have an hour's good mood, tell our story and travel experiences, get acquainted with American holidays, festivals and customs, present our customs, learn about stores and markets where one can buy cheaper goods, also discuss the daily routines, seasonal coming sicknesses, and even political occurrences.

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S GROUP

The International Women's Group is a volunteer organization part of the International Hospitality Program that assists international students at UVA and their families. The group is for wives of the students at UVA, but any international woman who needs friends is welcome.

The group was started to help these women practice their English skills, make friends, and learn about different cultures. The wives with young children can join a playgroup, which meets every week so the children can play and the mothers can have a chat and make friends.

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## Do You Know about International Offerings?

(Continued from page 21)

The International Women's Group organizes meetings and social events twice a month from September through May, such as musical morning, cooking

demonstration, American quilts, guided tour of the Bayly Museum, social morning at the home of Kitty Stroud, Oriental tribal and nomadic rugs, and coffee and conversation at the country

home of Sima Brown. You can join the group by calling Antoinette Gray at 971-8068 or Gill Gomaa at 973-3231.

I consider it is about time for you to decide this for yourself!

## How to Get Your Language Partner

By Kazue Matsumoto (Japan) Volume 3, Issue 3, December-January 2001-2002



It was a beautiful fall day. The sky was blue. In contrast, the trees

were red and gold. Ann and I were talking about her friend's engagement, sitting on the lawn and drinking coffees. "I was chosen as a bride's maid by my friend. We are going to select her wedding dress," she smiled. "That sounds so nice!" I said.

Ann and I are language partners. We meet once a week and have a chat about everything. For half of each meeting we speak English with each other, and the rest of the time we talk in Japanese. That is, we can exchange languages. It is a great experience for me.

I think we ESL students can take three benefits when we have language partners. First, the more we talk with our language partners, the

more we have interest in our own countries, or we can discover our own countries again because our language partners have great interest in our country or our country's culture. It happened that my Japanese acquaintance, who lived near my house, had a license as an "Ikebana" teacher, so Ann and I decided to learn it from her. "Ikebana" is Japanese flower arrangement. "Ikebana" has many rules and theories. It is an art that condenses a landscape, such as a famous Japanese garden, in a flower vase. I didn't know that until recently.

Second, we can ask our language partners about English grammar or a word's meaning or spelling whenever we want to ask, and vice versa. Usually, we often hesitate to ask native English speakers such questions because we tend to worry if they feel unpleasant being interrupted.

Third, we can get new information or new friends through our language partners. But the most important thing is that we can have language partners who can be our good friends.

How can you get your language partner? I know two ways. One way is that you can access the International Center at the University of Virginia (21 University Circle, Charlottesville, VA 22901; phone: 434-924-1488; email: [intlctr@virginia.edu](mailto:intlctr@virginia.edu)). They can match you with appropriate partners. There are some guidelines of the program. (1) You must meet with your partner at least once every two weeks. If you and your partner decide to meet more often, the International Center encourages you to do so. (2) Each partner's native language should be spoken for half of each meeting. (3) You will meet with your partner independently of the International Center,

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# Gordon Avenue Library — *She Is There*

By Eunkyung Heo (South Korea)

I have been to some libraries in Charlottesville. All libraries are good. The librarians are so kind and helpful. I like those libraries.

I especially like to go to Gordon Avenue Library. There are some reasons for this. If you have ever been to Gordon Avenue Library, you already know how gorgeous it is. It is located on a residential street, and it looks like a magnificent mansion. Because of this, at first, I nearly went past the library by mistake. The library is calm inside and out. It looks like a personal library in someone's house. When I first saw the library, I thought, "It is well suited for rereading some favorite books."

Moreover, *she* is there. Who is she? I don't even know her name. One day I borrowed *The Secret Garden* from the library. I had read it in Korean when I was a child. It had special meaning for me. I decided to try to read it again in English. But it was too hard for me. It was thick and had many adjectives that seemed almost the same to me, new vocabulary, and dialects. So I couldn't finish the book.

I borrowed another version of *The Secret Garden*. At that

time, I was looking for a "digest" version of the book, but I couldn't find it. The second book was bigger and thinner than the previous one. I couldn't finish that book either. I decided to give up reading *The Secret Garden*. I felt unwell when I put the book in the return box.



Right after that, I made up my mind to borrow two other books — *Heidi* and *Manga*. *Heidi* was also one of my favorite books. I asked a librarian, "Where can I find *Manga* and *Heidi*?" The librarian searched the computer and told me they don't have *Manga*, but if I want the book, they will inform me by mail when they get the book.

And she took me to the bookshelf to find *Heidi*. She showed *Heidi* to me. But it was thick. (Actually, I already knew where *Heidi* was. I wanted another

thinner version. That was why I asked her.) The "thick *Heidi*" made my mind heavy as the "thick *The Secret Garden*" had done. I was thankful for her help, but I was disappointed in the "thick *Heidi*." I sighed automatically. She gazed at me. So I said, "It seems very hard for me" in a low voice.

Thereupon she pulled a book from another bookshelf and said, "This is also a popular book in America." It was a "digest" version of — *The Secret Garden*! Of course, she didn't know my stories about the "thick *The Secret Garden*." It was a marvelous experience for me. She didn't know what she gave me.

I had borrowed the same titled book three times, but I could succeed to read for the first time by her kind influence.

This summer, my children and I will go to Gordon Avenue Library. I want them to have another marvelous experience there.

Editor's note: Gordon Avenue Library is located at 1500 Gordon Avenue in Charlottesville, just a few blocks from ALC.

# Reading a Children's Book

By Hyen-Chan Jeon (South Korea) Volume 4, Issue 4, June-July 2003

When I arrived in the U.S. last year, I was embarrassed that I couldn't listen to or speak to non-Koreans who speak English.



I didn't believe myself because I have studied English for 10 years and met some foreigners without trouble in my country. My reading and understanding of English did not have a lot of problems there.

But the situation here was different from my expectation. I couldn't hear or speak anything. People were never considerate of my English problem. I know there are many people who get high scores when testing for English skills and write long articles have some problems speaking English. I thought, "What is the problem?"

Now I have been struggling and concentrating on

listening and speaking. I have had many opportunities to do this. I can watch TV or videos and listen to the radio when I drive a car. Also, I can go to ESL classes and make some chances to talk with Americans. But the best thing I like is reading a book, especially children's books.

There are two reasons why I especially like children's books among the methods above.

Good sentences that express a person's insides or deepest thoughts may be found in a novel. But while reading a children's book, I found the reason why children's speaking is better than that of adults. Usually, when I read, I know the words, but without the book I cannot express my mind. So I wanted to memorize the sentences. But in a children's book, there are many simple sentences to express what happened, how to talk with friends, neighbors, and adults.

The contents of the books are the happenings and accidents of their lives. It's simple but difficult to say smoothly because we need lots of practice to be intimate. They repeat some sentences so we can get useful expressions

automatically.

Also, I can understand what children like through a book. Thus, I can share and talk about our thoughts together with my children. It's wonderful not only learning English but also going through the book with my lovely children.

I thought if I could talk and explain my situation like a book, I would never have problems living in the U.S. And then I would read a novel that describes love, life, and death.

I look forward to a day when I can talk and discuss something about life with my international friends without any trouble expressing my mind and thoughts. It will be a great time for me to know all the people who live in the world.



# Cars and Safety

## My First Car in the U.S.

By Laura Cafagna (Italy) Volume 2, Issue 2, November 2000

Have you ever tried to buy a used car in the United States? We did it last week, and it has been one of the funniest moments of my life in the States, probably comparable to the time we went to Disneyland.

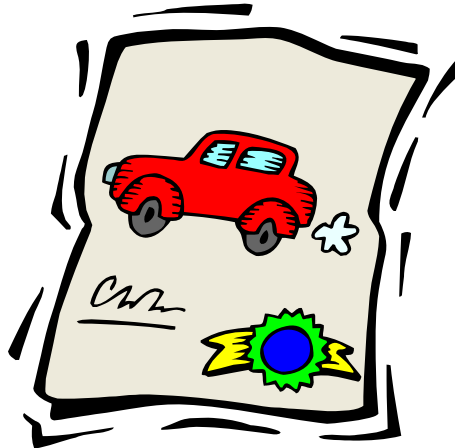
Buying a car in Italy is a lot easier. You just go to the dealer, ask the price of the car you would like, and pay for it if you decide to buy it. The function of the seller is just to convince you to buy the car, not to discuss the price.

In the States, everything is different. There are no fixed prices. It is just a negotiation.

Last Saturday at 4:35 p.m. we entered a local dealership with the intention of seeing, not buying, a car and getting an idea about prices. As soon as we entered the office, a dealer started to follow us. "Are you looking for a car?" he asked us. "Yes, we are, but we just want to have an idea of prices."

He took us outside and showed us four Corollas with a price range between \$10,000 and \$14,000. We

were surprised. "Why should we spend that money when we can buy a new car for



\$1,000 more?" we asked him. He tried to convince us that it did make a lot of sense, and we tried to convince him that it did not. After twenty minutes of this discussion, we were ready to leave.

While we were leaving, he called us back and said, "I have a red Toyota Corolla 1997, 36,000 miles, with manual shift. Would you like to see it?" We went to see the car; we really liked it. The car was what we wanted, but we did not really want to buy it. He told us the price. And just for fun because I like to negotiate prices, I started to say, "Well, it is nice but too expensive." We did not have any intention of buying a car

until the following month. I offered him a price; he offered me another. Then I started to reduce it, and he threw out another price, and I reduced it more. It was easy for me since we did not want to buy the car, so it was just fun.

After one hour the dealer was tired, and I was still having fun. At that point, the price of the car had dropped a lot, so I went completely crazy. I offered him a price that was a lot less than the starting price. I did not have anything to lose because we did not come there to buy a car.

The dealer said, "Let me ask the manager"! He came back and said, "You have a deal... The car is yours." At that point, the price of the car was so good that we could not go home without it. That night we drove home with the new car, one month in advance of our original plan, but very, very happy, and sure that we had gotten a very good deal. We hope so at least!

# Check Your Lights!

By Wanxia Wang (China) Volume 6, Issue 1, November 2004

When I got my driver's license, I was very careful and happy to drive my new car. Not for long.

I now know what it means to be a "greenhorn." A "greenhorn" is somebody who has just learned a new skill.

Even when I'm driving the speed limit, there are still some young drivers who honk their horns at me. I know they like to drive five to ten miles beyond the speed limit. They can see who is a new driver. Some people laugh at the new ones who are too nervous when they are driving. Some people have patience and are polite.

I have some other experiences of driving a car as a "greenhorn."

One day after class at ALC, I found my car wouldn't start. I tried several times but failed. Suddenly, I remembered I didn't turn off the lights when I locked the door of the car. It was beginning to get dark, and I had an appointment in a half an hour. I was so anxious. What should I do? Suddenly, I thought about my teacher, Holly. She was holding Dialogue Café in the classroom inside. Maybe she had some ideas. So I ran to Holly's class to ask for help. She introduced me to her students. "This is Wanxia. Her car doesn't start. Can anybody help her?" A student stood up to help me. Then he followed me out.

Outside, a student from another English class at the school came

to give me a hand when he saw us open the hood. None of us knew each others' names. The two students worked together without a word. After a few minutes, they used jumper cables to jumpstart my car. My car engine started. I was so



thankful to them for helping me at the critical time. Two weeks later, I discovered that one of the guys is my classmate's husband! The other guy is my new classmate!

Another time was when I was sitting in class. Jim, another teacher, came in and asked, "Did anybody who owns a Dodge not turn off the lights?" Oops, it was me! Nice people everywhere!

A week ago, I got another lesson about turning car lights off. It made me scared. When it was dark, I thought about my car on the top of a parking garage. I remembered my teacher told us to watch out because there has been a sexual predator in Charlottesville recently. I felt scared when I was walking alone in the big garage.

Meanwhile, I remembered a horrible movie ... When I got to the top of the garage, I saw that a car's headlights were on. Who was there at this time of night? I felt my hair stand on end as I approached the car. Oh! My God! It's *my* dear car! The lights are on!

I was so sad I had forgotten again, but I was so happy that the lights still worked because I had installed an excellent new battery just last week! I quickly jumped into the car and locked the door. I decided this kind of thing can never happen again.

I was so lucky. But I don't want to be a "greenhorn" anymore. I'll take care of the car more carefully. Who knows what could happen if the battery goes dead again because I forgot to turn off the lights in some strange place.

If it really happens to you, please don't worry. Calm down. Find some people who can help you. If you are a AAA (American Automobile Association) member, you can call AAA. They can come to your location in around one hour. You also can install a device inside the car that will remind you to turn off the lights. The best way is to check the lights before you leave the car. If your battery runs down easily, you should go to the auto store and check the quality of the battery. Some stores can give you a free check. Changing it in time can save you time and money, and even your life.

# Car Accident: Are You Prepared?

By Laura Cafagna (Italy) Volume 5, Issue 2, January 2004

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 insurance policy is different. You should read your own policy really carefully (in particular, the part written in very small letters!) 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 all of us should follow. First of all, you should carry your driver's license and have your insurance card with you every time you drive [Editor's note: Also, always have your car registration when you drive.] Also, you should keep in your car a notebook and a pencil (pens 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 worse, 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 okay.**



**Then check the cars for damages.**

**2. Call 911 (Police). They will send a police car or an ambulance if you need one. 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, and insurance company name and policy number/expiration date. It would be better if you could even have the driver's 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 days and even weeks after the accident!**

**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 worth of damages that you did not notice before!

# The Car Accident

By Fred Zhang (China) Volume 2, Issue 4, March 2001



Last December, I was involved in a car accident.

It was raining and dark outside, and all the cars were moving slowly, so the traffic was very heavy. After a long time of being stuck in traffic, I accelerated. Suddenly, the car in front of me stopped when I was listening to a song. So my car hit the “slow” car. Fortunately, my car and I were both not hurt. The driver of the other car was okay, too.

However, I have some advice to share with you:

- Remember to drive with single-hearted devotion wherever and whenever you drive. I am sure that I could have avoided the accident if I had driven carefully. According to some surveys (you can find them on yahoo.com or other search engines), if you smoke, drink talk with others, listen to the radio, etc., the probability of having an accident is much higher than

in the case of driving carefully.

- Don't use cell phones.
- Although you drive carefully, you cannot avoid every accident. If you are involved in an accident, don't be panic-stricken.
- Always carry your wallet with your driver's license and proof of car insurance.
- Exchange the driver's information immediately, including driver's license, home telephone numbers, the insurance companies' telephone and policy numbers, and so on. You can find all the detailed items you should exchange when you are involved in an accident on the website of DMV. And don't lose the information until you have resolved all the problems.
- Find your witnesses if you can. If a person sees an accident, they have to stop to be a witness. It is very important. They can prove the whole procedure to the insurance company or the court when asked. Do not forget to ask for your witness's contact information.

- Stop right away. Pull your car to the roadside if you can. Don't block the road or you may get a ticket. But I think you'd better confirm the responsibility before you do this because you will change the scene. You cannot prove you are right or wrong in some cases unless you have found witnesses.

- Call the police immediately. No matter how small the accident is, you should call the police.

- Call your and the other driver's insurance companies as soon as possible. They will investigate the accident after you call them.

Be honest. Neither hide any information nor fabricate stories.

Anyway, take it easy. Don't worry about it.



# If the Police Stop You

By Laura Cafagna (Italy) Volume 3, Issue 7, June 2002

If you see a blue light flashing in your car rearview 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 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 [Editor's note:



also your car registration]. Ask permission to open the glove compartment if you have to. If you cannot 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.

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## How to Get Your Language Partner

*(Continued from page 22)*

but you can attend as many of the events sponsored by the International Center as you like.

The other way I know to get a language partner is that

you can apply for language partners with a professor who teaches your own country's language at the University of Virginia. The teacher who teaches Japanese at the University introduced me to a student in her class as my

language partner. I am not sure that every teacher is willing to do the same. But I think to try it is worthwhile. Don't hesitate to have a language partner, and you must have fun with your language partner!

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# Shopping

## Downtown Mall

By Jung-Hsuan Ko (Taiwan) Volume 1, Issue 1, February 2000

In order to know more about American life, ESL (English as a Second Language) students had their first interviews on the Downtown Mall.

Most of the people there were very friendly to those students. People were very glad to have foreigners come to Charlottesville.

They also talked about how they usually have fun in their free time.

They also introduced several great restaurants and what's fun on the Downtown Mall.

By interviewing more than 20 people on the Downtown Mall, people said that they usually hang out with friends or family in their free time. Reading, watching movies, and going to nice restaurants are how most people have

fun in their free time. And some other people do sports like skiing, skating, dancing, and playing tennis.

In their opinions, the Downtown Mall is a nice place for both children and adults in Charlottesville. People can have fun in this place.

There are several good restaurants in different styles, such as Hamilton's (American), L'Aventura (Italian), NOV (French), and Bijou.

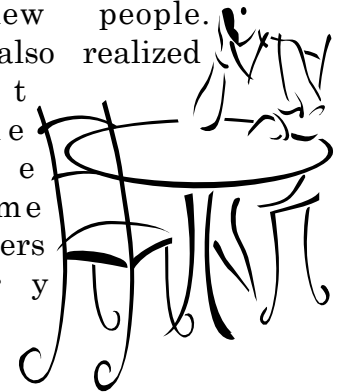
There are also some good art galleries, a variety of choices of movies, and jazz music every Thursday night at Miller's restaurant.

People said that summer is the most beautiful season on the Downtown Mall. There usually are outdoor dining

and free concerts every Friday after five o'clock [Editor's note: Friday's After Five]. People can lie on the grass, have a couple of beers, or go dancing, if you like.

The only inconvenience is the parking problem. Most people complained that it is hard to find parking spaces near the Downtown area.

After this interviewing, most students could get rid of their fears of using English to interview people. They also realized that people here welcome foreigners very much.



## The Dollar Store

By Laura Cafagna (Italy) Volume 2, Issue 2, November 2000

One of my favorite kinds of shops in the United States is the "dollar store." They have different names in different parts of the country, but they all work in the same way. All the things that are inside the shop cost \$1 plus tax. You can get the most amazing things, like beautiful candles, tools, school supplies, toys, and all the

little things that can make a small present for Thanksgiving or Christmas.

After the visit you can disagree with me, but try to go there and have fun. It is worth it!

There are two "dollar stores" in Charlottesville. One, called "Dollar Tree," is at 1928 Rio Hill Center off Route 29, and the other, called "Dollar Place," is at 330 Pantops Center.

# Where to Go for Grocery Shopping

By Miseon Lee (South Korea) Volume 3, Issue 2, October-November 2001

I have been here for three years. As a mother of a family, I have had to do grocery shopping for three years. I am not as good as Americans, but I would like to share my experience with my friends.

I usually go to Kroger, Giant, and Harris Teeter for daily needs like vegetables, dairy products, fish, and meat. I think that Kroger has very good mangoes at cheap prices and fresh green onions. Harris Teeter has very delicious strawberries and grapes. I like to go to Giant when I want to buy good fish and mussels. The mussels at Giant are always fresh and delicious.

If you want to get some special prices for members at these stores, you simply fill out the form at the Customer Service desk at any supermarket. Then you can get the membership card right away, and you can get a member price for particular products. This is very important because, if you use this member card wisely, you can save quite a lot of money. I have four member cards: Kroger, Giant, Harris Teeter, and Food Lion. Every time I go shopping, I use these member cards, and I save around \$20 each time.

If you are a mother of daughters and are very concerned about hormones in food, you can go to Whole Foods. Whole Foods has organic vegetables, meat without hormones, and milk without hormones at the same price as normal milk. Whole Foods has high quality fruits and vegetables, but the prices are a little bit higher than other places. They have good breads, too.



As a Korean, when I want to buy some oriental groceries, I go to the Charlottesville Oriental Market every Friday. If you want special vegetables, like napa, bean sprouts, Asian radishes, or Chinese chives, you should go on Friday because they provide these vegetables only on Friday. But any other things, like all kinds of Asian sauces, noodles, frozen dumplings, tofu, and Asian short rice, you can buy seven days a week.

Whenever I go to the Charlottesville Oriental Market, I stop by Four Seasons, not just because this place is right next door to the Charlottesville Oriental Market, but because they have very good local fruits and produce. I like to buy local peaches and local apples there. They are so fresh and taste so good.

The last thing I want to mention is that, if you have a large family, it is better to go to Sam's Club. Sam's Club sells everything in bulk. You cannot buy small amounts of fruit, meat, or produce. For example, you have to buy six bell peppers altogether, huge packs of meat, one large bag of Romaine lettuce, and one gallon of milk. But the price is really good. You can buy anything for two-thirds the price of what you would spend at a regular grocery market. And the quality of the products is very reliable. I like to buy salmon, mushrooms, Romaine lettuce, bell peppers, beef, and frozen shrimp at Sam's Club.

# Visit to Whole Foods

By Alexandra Mouzet (France) Volume 4, Issue 2, March-April 2003

On February 24, 2003, the Advanced ESL Class had the opportunity to visit Whole Foods Market in Charlottesville. It's an organic and natural foods supermarket. Whole Foods Market is the world's largest chain of natural and organic foods supermarkets. It was founded in 1980 in Austin, Texas. Now, the company counts more than 130 stores.

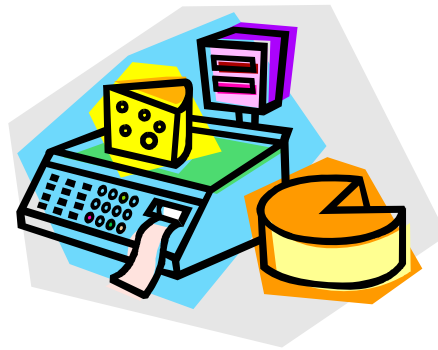
But what does "organic food" mean? It's a label which certifies that the vegetables or fruits have been grown without the used of chemical or synthetic pesticides. To produce organic vegetables, farmers must use natural manures or pesticides, like ladybugs or dirt.

At Whole Foods we were welcomed by Sandy and Steven from Customer Service. They were our guides during the two-hour visit. They tried to give us as much information as they could for giving us a good idea of what the concept of Whole Foods Market is. They certified that the food is without preservatives, artificial additives, coloring, or sweetness.

This supermarket has several departments, from the vegetables and fruits department to the health

care one, but it also includes cheese, meat, wine, and seafood departments.

I will concentrate my essay on describing two departments, the vegetables and fruits department and the cheese department. I will let you guess why I chose the second one.



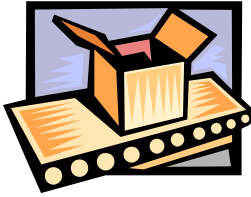
We started our visit with Jason, who is in charge of the fruits and vegetables department. He told us what an organic product is. He also explained to us how he chooses products and where they come from. For example, he works with three farmers from Virginia. Only three, because they must have the label "organic," and there are few who have it. It involves a lot of work and constraints. The fruits and vegetables come from all around the world and from each part of the U.S. So, you can find a variety of vegetables. They are fresh and well-presented. Sandy told me that they test some

products and try to introduce them into the diet of customers. Each member of the team is here to teach and advise the customer about the food, such as why it is good to eat, why it is good for your health, and how to cook it. They are very well trained about what they sell and are always available for the customer. They have a goal not only to sell quality food but also to teach the customer how to have a healthy diet.

The cheese department is famous. It has more than 250 kinds of cheese. There are goat, sheep, and cow cheeses. We had the opportunity to try goat cheese from Virginia, which was excellent. And you can believe a French expert.... But the best thing, if you love cheese and especially French cheeses, is that you can find unpasteurized cheeses.

Every student of the class had a great time at Whole Foods because they felt comfortable, and they learned a lot. And I didn't expect that. At first, I thought that visiting a supermarket would be boring. I had a great time with Sandy, who was very friendly and always ready to answer our questions,

*(Continued on page 33)*



# Buy One and Pay for Three

By Laura Cafagna (Italy) Volume 3, Issue 6, April 2002

Have you ever realized that when you go to the supermarket, you buy one product but pay for three? Yes, it's true. You pay first for the cost of the product, second for the cost of the packaging, and third for the cost of the waste disposal. In fact, between 20-60% of the cost of the product you buy is packaging cost.

In the fifteen minutes that you spend shopping, you can cause more damage than you would ever expect. Everything, and I am saying everything, comes in a box, container, or can. Why am I telling you this? Because I really feel that it is our duty to become more self-aware.

Consumption is growing and the waste with it. We really do not know what to do with all the waste we produce. Recycling centers are exploding; waste disposal centers work at full power; and even "bumping" waste between countries doesn't work any longer. That's it, we are at the limit, and it is our responsibility to take action.

I am not saying that we have to find a way to make waste disappear. Hopefully, scientists

are working on that. But we do have to try to reduce the quantity of waste we produce. Impossible? Not really. First of all, shop smart. Try to think about the environment when you shop:

- When it is possible, buy products that come without containers. Please avoid putting just one apple in a plastic bag. You do not need to do that.
- Buy products that have less packaging. A fancy box doesn't assure that the product is good!
- Buy in concentrate. Concentrate products have the same power that the diluted ones have; you just use less, and they have smaller containers.
- If you can choose glass containers, do that. It takes less power to recycle glass than it takes to recycle plastic.
- Do not buy disposable glasses, plates, silverware, etc.; try to use real ones. Everyone likes them better.
- Refuse unnecessary bags and wrapping. You can even take your own bag when you go shopping ... if you can afford to see the shocked face of the

cashier.

Then, when you are done with the use of the product you just bought, recycle, recycle, and then recycle. One minute per day can do wonders for all of us. It is so easy (and also addicting) that when you start, there is no way to stop. One minute per day is all it takes. Divide paper, glass, and plastic. Then once per week you can take them to the recycling bins.

We are very lucky in Charlottesville because there are many opportunities to recycle. My favorite? McIntire Recycling Center on McIntire Road near the Albemarle County Office Building. It is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:20 p.m., Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Sunday from 12:30 to 5:20 p.m. Can it be easier?

Remember:

- **Reduce** waste.
- **Return**, using the recycling system.
- **Re-use**: old can be good, maybe not for you, but for someone else.

The earth is already thanking you, and me, too.

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## Visit to Whole Foods Market

*(Continued from page 32)*

whatever they were.

The success of Whole Foods Market shows the new interest of Americans in healthy food

and healthier lives. The phenomenon is not only in the U.S., but also in Europe, where it started. It continues to grow. Finally, Whole Foods Market is a good place to find a specific

product, to discover new kinds of food or recipes, and to buy good quality food.

But, you have to be ready to pay the price!

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# Yard Sales

By Nathalie Huet (France) Volume 5, Issue 2, January 2004



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 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 schoolyard, 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 permit 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 by following them.

The best period for yard sales is between May and October because it's at this time 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 us to visit beautiful places and houses in and around Charlottesville. 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.



## It's Saturday Again!

By Duangporn Blazy (Thailand) Volume 3, Issue 2, October-November 2001

I bought the newspaper on Saturday morning and started to look for the Garage Sale or Yard Sale page. There were long lists of them compared to when I first looked for garage sales last April. I looked over the lists and picked out a couple of yard sales which were in the same area and the ones that listed the items I was interested in, like toys and books.

When my friends arrived, I showed them the lists of yard sales I had chosen. Then we tried to locate the sales on the map. The first garage sale we went to was a moving sale in a very nice neighborhood. We found so many interesting things, including toys, some furniture and some kitchenware. I learned that the owner was moving to another state and they would rather not bring unnecessary things with them, so they were selling them. Most things were still in good condition. I bought a huge plastic playhouse for only \$7 while a new one would cost up to \$200 at TOYS R US. I just needed to clean it. My friend got a small bike for

her son for which she paid \$3. She just needed to put air in the tires; then it would work like a new one. After that, we went to another yard sale, which was close by, but we didn't buy anything, and we decided to go home since our car was already full anyway.

Many people complain that they never get good stuff from garage sales. I think this depends on what they are looking for and what their expectation is. Keep in mind that things that people sell at garage sales are mostly things that they don't need anymore and they want to get rid of. Therefore, the condition of things really depends. But it's certain that you will never find new things just open from the box at a yard sale. So if you are looking for something that you really need and you will use for a long time, you'd better buy the new one from the shop. There is no rule for what to buy or what not to buy from garage sales. It depends on you. If it bothers you to use used items, you shouldn't buy things from yard sales. Anyway, there are some used things that you might consider from garage sales, like books or toys that you can wash.

To increase your chances of finding nice stuff, try moving

sales. You will get more selection and things in good condition that owners cannot take with them. Make sure that you are the first one to arrive at the sale because good things sell fast. A student moving sale also offers objects in good condition since the student used them for only a short period. You are likely to find more interesting things and things in good condition in a nice neighborhood. And don't be surprised that most things will cost you only a dollar because these owners hold garage sales either for fun or to get rid of things, not for profit.

To save time, plan your shopping. Look through the newspaper to get some idea about what is for sale and where the sale is. Select the sale that lists the items you are interested in. Then try to see if there is another sale in the same area or not far away. This way, you won't spend your time driving around. If you prefer to visit many sales at the same time, a "multifamily" garage sale is a sale in which a couple of families have their garage sale together. It saves you time to drive to another sale.

Have fun and good luck with your next garage sale, and don't forget to bargain!

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