



The Parrot

Your ARC newsletter by and for ESL, multicultural, international students, new Californians, and, well, anybody really...

Issue # 77

Spring 2014

Quads on the Quad! Turkish Delight

Parrot: The present day is very exciting because we are interviewing three brothers of quadruplets and they are going to tell us about their life as quadruplets. First of all, thank you very much for this interview. First, can you please spell your name for us?



Parrot: What is the name of your other brother?

Quads: Serton Usamaz.

Parrot: Thank you. Which country were you born in and how many years ago?

Quads: We were born in Istanbul, Turkey. 18 years ago.

Quads: Berk, Atalay, and Orcun Usanmaz.

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College Backfire!

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"And now, we welcome the new year, full of things that have never been."

Rainer Maria Rilker



American River College
4700 College Oak Drive
Sacramento, CA 95841
(916) 484-8001

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Where Do 'Hoodlums' Come From? San Francisco

The unexpected story of how the "young men and lads" who "commit acts of violence and mischief" came to be known as hoodlums. The term was first widely used in the 1870s in San Francisco, where gangs often targeted Chinese immigrants.



Singer Chris Brown was in the news last week after being accused of punching a fan outside a Washington, D.C., hotel. Police later identified the al-

leged victim as 20-year-old Parker Isaac Adams. Brown maintains it was his bodyguard who threw the punch and only after Adams tried to board the singer's tour bus. Adams' uncle came to his defense after the incident, insisting to reporters that his nephew wasn't a troublemaker.

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Student Chirpings

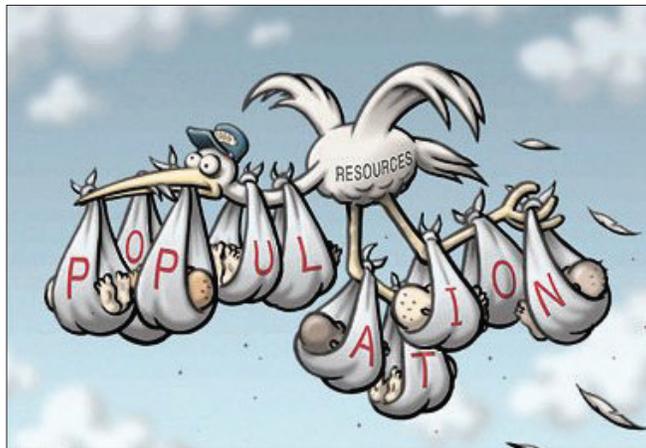
Solving my City's Overpopulation Problem

When I was in my country, China, I lived in the fourth developed city, Foshan. The economy there was thriving, but the city was crowded. There were lots of people everywhere, such as at bus stops and subway stations. It was hard to get a seat whenever I took a bus or subway. The streets and the shopping stores were full of people, especially during holidays or weekends. The sidewalks seemed too narrow for the large crowd, and the shopping stores had many long waiting lines. In addition, there was a suffocating housing density in the city. Only a few people lived in big houses. Most of the people lived in apartments with many other people, and each home was separated by a wall that was very thin, which caused poor sound insulation. In some ways, it affected personal privacy because sometimes each family could clearly hear each other's conversations. In order to prevent these problems of overcrowding in the city, it is crucial that sound solutions are sought and implemented.

In my opinion, several possible solutions to the overpopulation problem in my city are to restrict the non-native population and to offer better conditions to native residents, to provide sex education for adolescents, and to provide family planning.

To solve the overpopulation problem, one solution is to restrict the foreign population from entering the city and to offer better conditions to native residents. Every year, many people from other places would prefer to go to Foshan for their jobs and education because of the wide opportunities. In order to survive in the new city, many new people become very competitive. Some of them would commit crimes. Some of them would study hard and work hard, and they would soon find good jobs every-

where, and buy new houses. It creates a lot of pressure on the city. Therefore, our government needs to limit the chances for foreign people to enter the city by limiting the number of residence permits for the new population and limiting the right for them to work and have educational opportunities. At the same time, the government should help the native residents notice they have to gain their skills and knowledge for the economy of the city. To improve the economy of the city, it is better to offer more international exchange programs for education and business so that we can learn more new things and technologies. In addition, we should have better



work opportunities and environment so that we can be more efficient. It is an effective solution to limit the incoming population, and to offer better conditions to the native residents in order to increase their efficiency for the economy.

The second solution is to provide sex education for adolescents. Recently, many teenage pregnancy cases

appear in the city. Pregnancy often happens even during their school periods. Many of the teenagers have to drop out of school to raise their children. Teenage pregnancy also causes the population to grow faster than before. To provide sex education, schools should focus more on teaching students ethics, how to prevent pregnancy, and how to develop a better personality to have a better spiritual wellness and therefore to know how to make friends. Good ethics can help students to recognize and respect themselves.

The most important solution to the overpopulation problem is to provide family planning. The government should lengthen the legal age to at least 22

for marriage. It will help to decrease the amount of population growth every year. Every couple should also just have one child unless their child is disabled. Depending on the family income, there is a special rule: If the family's income is very high, they can have more children. Lower-income families not have a second child because the economic pressure is very high in Foshan City. If a lower-income family has a second child, the government should charge them three to six times more tax. I saw one of my friend's relatives from another city controlled by the family planning rule, and it is effective for the population in their city because it keeps them working harder

for living and makes them realize how important the overpopulation issue is. I believe that the family planning policy will have a significant result for the overpopulation in my city.

There is no doubt that overpopulation is a big problem in Foshan. To control the population, rely on different forces such as the government, school, and residents to achieve the goal. Solving this problem will also provide a better economic environment for our city in comparison with others.

Shengmei Liang
ESLW50

Almost Dark Christmas

People are excited when a special day is coming. Christmas isn't an exception. Everybody knows that this moment is to reflect and think about positive feelings and situations. We remember how difficult the whole year has been. Unfortunately, we can't predict the future, so Christmas may be terrible or negative. I have never forgotten a Christmas when I planned to make an important and surprising event.

In the year 2000, I was working for an electronics company. I was happy about Christmas. All my friends were talking and planning many celebrations for this special holiday. The environment in the company was excellent. Our boss gave us extra money because we were working hard. A couple of days before the holiday while we were working, I saw that my best friend was sad and tired. I knew when he had problems. Afterward, when we finished our lunch time, my best friend went to the boss' office. I didn't know why, but when he was going up the stairs, he had a terrible accident. He fell down and broke his right leg and arm. Immediately, my friends and I went there to help him. We were shocked about the bad situation. Then, my boss called the ambulance and the paramedic took my friend to the hospital nearby.

Christmas became dark for us. We investigated my friend's personal problems and we found terrible news.

He had diabetes, so he had physical problems and got stress. After that, when the doctor checked my friend, the doctor explained that my best friend had had a heart attack when he walked up the stairs. We were so surprised about that. We asked the doctor if my best friend should stay in the hospital on Christmas and he answered us, "for sure".



When I knew my best friend had to stay in the hospital on this holiday, I planned to make a little celebration at the hospital. I explained it to my friends at the company and together we planned the party. We asked in the hospital about permission to do it, and we were allowed to. When Christmas came, friends, family, and relatives met in the hospital to start the celebration. Everybody brought presents, food, drinks, and decorations. My best friend was happy and felt like he was at home. He was surprised by this time.

Finally, we reflect about life. Life is important and has many valuable moments. I understood that we have to enjoy life every moment as if it is the last. In difficult moments, we look and find the most important friends, family, and God.

Jose Garcia
ESLW50

An Excellent Choice for Teenagers

"I want to get a part-time job", I told my mom when I was a high school student. My first part-time job was as a cashier at McDonald's near my home in Taiwan. When I told my mom I wanted to get a part-time job, she disagreed with my idea because she thought that I was supposed to focus on my school work, and I didn't need to earn my pocket money. Although I agreed with her opinion, I still wanted to get a part-time job because I wanted to have experience. I was curious about a job, and I wanted to experience the feeling of a job. Therefore, I still chose what I wanted to do, and finally, I got my first part-time job. Some people may think that teenagers shouldn't be permitted to work while they are in high school. However, I strongly disagree with the idea that teenagers shouldn't be permitted to work while they are in high school for three reasons.

Firstly, teenagers will establish different social relationships if they are permitted to work while they are in high school. The environment at a school is very different from at working places. A working environment is more complex than at schools. There are different types of people between work places and schools. Work places have more independent and different age people so that teenagers can establish social relationships of wide ranges. For example, when I worked at McDonald's, I made many friends who were very different from my classmates at school. Some co-workers were mothers, and a co-worker had his own business before he worked at the fast-food store. They had different stories and experiences to share with me. Another example was my sister. She worked at school when she was a high school student. She made a good friend there. Her friend shared some stock information with her. My sister started to learn how to buy stocks, and she bought the stock of the Apple Company. She earned a little bit of money and she felt very happy. They are in contact with each other now and exchange financial information although they are of different ages.

Secondly, teenagers can earn their pocket money if they are permitted to work while they are in high school. For example, although I had enough pocket money, I still wanted to have more money. When I started my first

part-time job, I started to treasure and save my pocket money. When I saved more and more money, I felt a lot of achievement. Another example was my classmate in high school. She had never felt that her pocket money was enough because she wanted to buy a lot of CDs. She got a weekend job at a CD store, and then she was able to enjoy music and earn her pocket money at the same time.

Lastly, teenagers can get work experience if they are permitted to work while they are in high school. Sometimes we learn techniques from work places instead from schools. We learn how to handle an emergency situation, or how to organize and plan many things from working.



For example, my friend worked at a steak restaurant. She learned how to arrange order lists when many customers ordered their meals at the same time. The job didn't require a special skill, but she needed to learn how to arrange the orders and improve her logic. Some schools expect students to have work experience when the students want to apply to and enter into the schools. When my friend wanted to apply to a university in the United States, he offered his record as a volunteer in the US to the university. The record helped him to have more of a chance to enter the school than other students who didn't have any work ex-

perience. My friend volunteered at a school and taught children English there. Because the children had escaped from their countries, they had never learned English. My friend had never known that so many children needed help in the United States until he volunteered there.

In conclusion, I disagree that teenagers shouldn't be permitted to work while they are in high school. If students are not permitted to work while they are in high school, they will lose many chances to experience +real society. They have a right to learn experiences, to earn their pocket money, and to establish various social relationships. If you don't want your children to be losers, you should give them chances to work while they are in high school.

Poya Fu (Dana)
ESLW50

My “Comfy” Balcony

What do you like to do after a long day? Many people like to relax in a park or pool. Some people like to work out or watch a movie. In my family, everybody likes to sit and watch movies. However, I prefer to sit on my sweet balcony and drink my special black tea. Nothing is important for me when I am tired except a cup of tea in a calm and quiet place. I think my balcony is the best place for doing my favorite things like listening to music, reading a novel, and drinking my favorite tea when I am tired. I'll never forget the first time that I relaxed on my balcony after a day of moving.

On the first day of August, 2013 we moved into our new apartment in Citrus Heights. It is a very flourishing complex. My apartment is located in the center of the area, near the pool and gym. I always choose an apartment that has a balcony because I should have a place to breathe and take care of my flowers. My new balcony was very cute. I put my table and chairs and flower pots on the balcony. It was so nice.



We had a long busy day. We had to move a lot of furniture, clothes, electronic devices, and dishes. My husband was very tired. He had to go to the old house, collect our possessions and bring them to the new apartment five or six times. I stayed in the new one to organize our belongings. My friends were supposed to be there to help, but they could not come. Therefore, we had to finish by ourselves.

After six hours of work, we were extremely tired. My husband was very tired. He took a deep breath for a few minutes after moving the sofa. My husband said, “We can’t do anything else before we relax for one hour”. I made black tea, which is our favorite. He set the chairs and table on the balcony. Our home was disorganized, but now we had a small organized place to relax. We sat in the comfortable chairs and

breathed in the fresh air. You could feel the smell of both the flowers and tea. It was so good after a long hard day. I closed my eyes for a minute and listened to the wind and birds sound. The tree leaves shook and the bird sang. The tea smelled good too. We talked about the new apartment and design. We sat there about one hour, but it was enough for me to recharge my energy.

Every evening after a long busy day I make a sweet black tea and sit in my comfortable red fabric chair. It is the best time of day for me. We have a small silver metal table and two red chairs. Our balcony is very small and sweet. It is about six square feet but I feel it is amazing.

My balcony is surrounded by trees. We have a big oak in front of my balcony. Sometimes the leaves blow onto the balcony floor. I usually spend time to organize and design my flower pots. My flowers are so beautiful and fresh. We have two red roses that we hang from the ceiling. They always have small buds.

Red is my favorite color for flowers so I have three red geraniums also. The smell is like a good perfume; it is as if you are in a big garden with trees and flowers. Finally I have some bamboo plants and bonsai plants that I love. I like flowers so much.

In short, I always look forward to the time that I can sit on my balcony and drink tea. I always go there when it’s rainy, windy or sunny day. I like to spend my time there when I’m depressed, sad, upset or happy and the weekend that I have writing essays! It helps me to find a good subject for my essays. I like my comfy balcony so much. It is an amazing place to spend time when I need relaxation. I hope everyone will have a place like this in their lives, because we all need this in this “machinery” life.

Nasim Ashratirad
ESLW50

My Grandparents' House

Everybody has their own memories from their childhood. They can be different but we still remember them forever. I will always remember my visits to my grandparents' house with good feelings.

From my early childhood in Ukraine, I remember trips to my grandparents' house. Every year my mom and I went to my grandparents' by train. They lived two hundred kilometers from us. Their village is located near Mount Lisaya and the name of the village is the same. My village, located north of my grandparents' village, is Kochubeevskoe. With every visit, I was excited because I saw my grandmother and relatives. My grandparents had ten children and my mom was the oldest child. Throughout her childhood, she helped her mother and always tried to come for every holiday. Every school break my mother left me at my grandparents' house. This house I miss the most from my childhood. Most of my memories from my childhood are tied to this house.

My grandparents' house was different from others. It looked interesting because it was divided into two parts. One was smaller than the other. The smaller was built many years earlier and the other was added later. The



house had two entrances and two gates. That is very rare in my country Russia. Behind the house was a big backyard with many trees around the perimeter. To the right of the house there was a well. Behind the house was another building with three sections. The first was a storage for canned food. The second held food for the animals, and the third was a chicken coop. The first two sections were connected to the main house with a roof and walls. This became a hall between both buildings.

This house I'll remember forever. I remember the feeling of the cold, crisp air during winter mornings. The grandchildren, aunts, and uncles often visited them, and we spent happy times together. I liked the taste of fresh water from the well. My grandmothers' homemade "pelmeni" (dumplings) and freshly made crepes with raspberry jam from her garden were my favorite.

In conclusion, my grandparents' house left me with memories that I will care about all my life. My grandparents no longer have this house, but I miss it very much.

Marina Ermakova
ESLW50

Who Are We?

Who are we on this earth: owners or just guests? On the answer to this question depends our future and the future of our children. We are here for a short period of time, and I think we have to try very hard not to destroy this world, but make it better. We have to think that all of us are visiting a very generous and very respectable host. We need to be polite, not only to this "host" but also to each other in this big ceremony that is called life. We must take "from the table" just what we need. We shouldn't ruin the place we are invited to. From time to time the "host"



needs our help, and it is our responsibility not to turn away from those problems. This help could be big, such as saving a whole population of a rare species, or really small, such as cleaning up after ourselves. I think that if everyone thinks this way, we can make our world better, and our children will say thank you to us and to this generous "host".

Andrey Federov
ESLW50

Nestscape -- Articles from The Web

Why Focusing Too Narrowly in College Could Backfire

Students are told learn the subjects that will best land them a job when they graduate. But that could be the worst thing they could do

A job after graduation. It's what all parents want for their kids. So, what's the smartest way to invest tuition dollars to make that happen? The question is more complicated, and more pressing, than ever. The economy is still shaky, and many graduating students are unable to find jobs that pay well, if they can find jobs at all. The result is that parents guiding their children through the college-application process—and college itself—have to be something like venture capitalists. They have to think through the potential returns from different paths, and pick the one that has the best chance of paying off.

For many parents and students, the most-lucrative path seems obvious: be practical. The public and private sectors are urging kids to abandon the liberal arts, and study fields where the job market is hot right now. Schools, are responding with new, sized courses that promise to teach skills that students will need on the job. A degree in hospital financing? Casino management? Pharmaceutical marketing? Little wonder that business majors outnumber liberal-arts majors in the U.S. by two-to-one, and the trend is for even more focused programs targeted to niches in the labor market.

It all makes sense. Except for one thing: It probably won't work. The trouble is that nobody can predict where the jobs will be—not the employers, not the schools, not the government officials who are making such loud calls for vocational training. The economy is simply too fickle to guess way ahead of time, and any number of other changes could roil things as well. Choosing the wrong path could make things worse, not better.

So, how should the venture-capitalist parents proceed? What should they weigh as they decide where to put

their limited capital to get the biggest bang? Here are some things to consider.

Does the Product Get Out the Door?

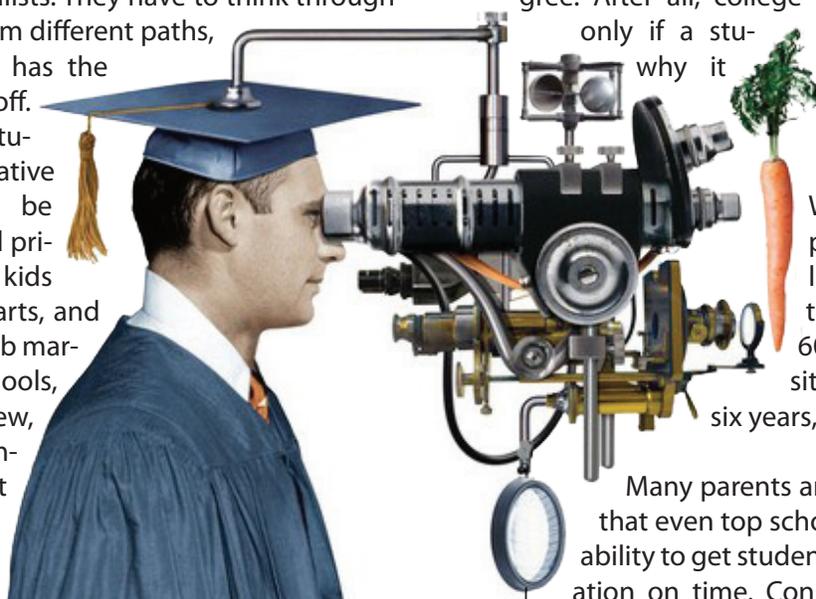
You can pick the perfect school in terms of courses and location and price and ambience. But none of it does a student any good if he or she doesn't end up with a degree. After all, college improves job prospects only if a student graduates. That is why it is crucial to scrutinize the graduation rates at various schools.

What's more, it is also important to look at how long it takes students to graduate. Only about 60% of Division 1 university students graduate in six years, for example.

Many parents and students don't realize that even top schools differ greatly in their ability to get students out the door to graduation on time. Consider the difference between an elite private university like Stanford University and an elite public university like the University of California, Berkeley. My colleague Robert Zemsky found that the private school has a much wider array of support services—counseling, tutoring and so forth—that vastly improve the odds that a student will actually graduate, and will do so in four years. An expensive, private school may end up being cheaper if a student doesn't have to be there as long.

Probably the most important statistics to scrutinize are job-placement rates for graduates, but they are often hard to get and easy to fudge. Are we measuring jobs at graduation, or within a year after? Do internships count as a "job"?

Statistics about starting salaries, to judge the quality of



those jobs, can be even more elusive. In the absence of good data, visit the school's career center and see which employers are actually interviewing students and for what jobs.

Parents and students should push to require schools to post graduation rates, job-placement rates and other information on the outcomes for their graduates—especially considering how many students are now using government-backed loans to pay for their education. It is not in the public interest for students to use public funds for vocational degrees that don't have a good chance of paying off.

Today's Jobs Aren't Necessarily Tomorrow's

The trend toward specialized, vocational degrees is understandable, with an increasing number of companies grumbling that graduates aren't coming out of school qualified to work.

But guessing about what will be hot tomorrow based on what's hot today is often a fool's errand.

The problem is that the job market can change rapidly for unforeseeable reasons. Today, we frequently hear that computers and information technology are and will be the hot fields, but both have gone from boom to bust over time. Students poured into IT programs in the late 1990s, responding to the Silicon Valley boom, only to graduate after 2001 into the tech bust.

Changes in regulations, meanwhile, can rapidly create and kill fields. For instance, the Sarbanes-Oxley Act amped up the demand for accountants. Emerging technologies can be just as disruptive—applicant-tracking software eliminates jobs in recruiting, while cellphones create programming jobs in mobile technology. Developments like these are almost impossible to anticipate.

It gets even more complicated than that. Let's say governments and colleges could tell what the demand would be for a particular occupation years out. The problem for someone making an investment in that occupation is that everyone else has the same information. That means students will rush to train in that field, the supply of potential workers goes up, and the jobs are no longer so attractive.

Consider an email that Texas A&M University sent to this year's class of incoming petroleum engineers, the hottest

job in the U.S. in terms of starting wages.

The message reminded students that the job market for engineers has always been competitive and cyclical, and warned, "Recent data suggests that some concern about the sustainability of the entry-level job market during a time of explosive growth in the number of students studying petroleum engineering in U.S. universities may be prudent."

Unfortunately, that kind of caution isn't common. Schools want to get as many applicants as possible, and to get the best ones to attend. Showing parents and students all the caveats that go with the impressions they create about future jobs may conflict with those interests.

The Danger of Specialization

Another important caveat that doesn't get discussed much: It may be worse to have the wrong career focus in college than having no career focus—because skills for one career often can't be used elsewhere.

Let's say a student spends four years learning to market pharmaceuticals. But what can he or she do with that degree if the drug companies aren't hiring? The skills don't transfer easily anyplace else.

That may even be true within a field. Anthony Carnevale, of Georgetown's Center on Education and the Workforce, calculates that the unemployment rate among recent IT graduates at the moment is actually twice that of theater majors. Despite the constant complaints from IT employers about skill shortages, only certain skills within IT are hot at the moment, such as those associated with mobile communications.

Focusing on a very specific field also means that you miss out on courses that might broaden your abilities. Courses that teach, say, hospitality management or sports medicine may crowd out a logic class that can help students learn to improve their reasoning or an English class that sharpens their writing. Both of those skills can help in any field, unlike the narrowly focused ones.

Beyond those concerns, a narrow educational focus forces students to pick a career at age 17, before they know much of anything about their interests and abilities. And if they choose incorrectly, it can be very difficult for them to start over once they're older.

Researchers Eric A. Hanushek, Ludger Woessmann and Lei Zhang find that more vocationally focused education in high school appears to limit adaptability to changing labor markets later in life. The same thing may be true in college.

All that said, practical degrees do have value. But they're not nearly as valuable as boosters say.

Yes, in some fields, like engineering, the only way in is with a specialized degree. Other things being equal, students with one of these degrees will have an easier time getting their first job in the field than students with liberal-arts degrees. After the first job, though, it is not clear how much advantage that practical degree has.

Certainly, some matter in part because they are prestigious—such as a Wharton M.B.A.—but for those that aren't prestigious, and where the degree isn't required or common, a degree may not matter at all.

Also consider that what companies really want hires to have is actual work experience. If they have a choice between hiring someone fresh out of a hospitality-degree program or someone who doesn't have that degree but who has run a restaurant, they will choose the latter.

The Way Forward

So, what are the practical lessons for the venture-investor parent and their child?

Students that go the practical route should delay choosing majors and specialized courses as long as possible, so that there is likely to be a better match between course work and employer interests. Students can rely on real-time information from the career office to gauge demand. Because of the need to adjust, it also helps to be at a school where switching majors is easy. Small programs with limited resources mean that students may have to stay more than four years to get all the courses that are required for a new major.

Naturally, it is good to know the job-placement rates for graduates. But as we've seen, those numbers may not be available. So, beyond visiting the school's career center, they should see what ties the school has to employers and what its reputation is in their child's prospective industry.

If specialized education seems too limited or risky, there is

another path to consider, one that often gets short shrift these days: go to college to get a well-rounded education and worry about the job market after graduation.

It may seem impractical, given the state of the economy and the scramble for jobs that many liberal-arts graduates face. But remember that work experience is what really is important to employers—and graduates without vocational training can now get that experience from a number of programs.

Bootcamp Education's DevBootcamp provides an experience that mimics a real job. Participants learn by working on real projects, and the company helps them build leads to employers. General Assembly offers hands-on learning and partners with companies to develop curriculum and create hiring relationships for graduates.

Education providers like Dartmouth's Tuck Business School are also getting into the act. Tuck has a nondegree certificate Business Bridge program aimed at juniors, seniors and recent graduates in a nonbusiness degree of study. The program offers a general management curriculum as well as career development to enter the job market.

More people than parents should pay attention to this shift toward vocational college degrees. A lot of taxpayer money supports these programs, and in states like Texas, the pressure is on to steer even more students toward them. It is an expensive and inefficient way to provide the practical skills that employers want for the first job out of school, though, as well as being a big, risky bet for parents to underwrite.

There should be better alternatives. One might be for employers to rethink whether they could go back to providing some of the initial training and work experience college grads used to get in entry-level jobs a generation ago.

Dr. Cappelli is the George W. Taylor Professor of Management and Director of the Center for Human Resources at the Wharton School and Professor of Education. He can be reached at reports@wsj.com.

<http://bambooinnovator.com/2013/11/11/why-focusing-too-narrowly-in-college-could-backfire-students-are-told-learn-the-subjects-that-will-best-land-them-a-job-when-they-graduate-but-that-could-be-the-worst-thing-they-could-do/>

Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday -- January 21st



Occupation: Civil Rights Leader

Born: January 15, 1929 in Atlanta, GA

Died: April 4, 1968 in Memphis, TN

Best known for: His "I Have a Dream" speech

Biography:

Martin Luther King Jr. was a civil rights activist in the 1950s and 1960s. He led non-violent protests to fight for the rights of all people including African Americans. He hoped that America and the world could become a color-blind society where race would not impact a person's civil rights. He is considered one of the great orators of modern times and his speeches still inspire many to this day.

Where did Martin grow up?

Martin Luther King Jr. was born in Atlanta, GA on January 15, 1929. He went to Booker T. Washington High School. He was so smart that he skipped two grades in high school and started his college education at Morehouse College at the young age of fifteen. After getting his degree in sociology from Morehouse, Martin got a divinity degree from Crozer Seminary and then got his doctor's degree in theology from Boston University.

Martin's dad was a preacher which inspired Martin to pursue the ministry as well. He had a younger brother and an older sister. In 1953 he married Coretta Scott. Later they would have four children Yolanda, Martin, Dexter, and Bernice.

How did he get involved in civil rights?

In his first major civil rights action, Martin Luther King Jr.

led the Montgomery Bus Boycott. This started when Rosa Parks refused to move to give up her seat on a bus to a white man. As a result, Martin led a boycott of the public transportation system. The boycott lasted for over a year. It was very tense at times. Martin was arrested and his house was bombed, but in the end he prevailed and segregation on the Montgomery busses ended.

When did King give his famous "I Have a Dream" speech?

In 1963 Martin Luther King, Jr. helped to organize the famous March on Washington. Over 250,000 people attended this march in an effort to show the importance of civil rights legislation. Some of the issues the march hoped to accomplish included an end to segregation in public schools, protection from police abuse, and to get laws preventing discrimination in employment.

It was at this march where Martin gave his "I have a Dream" speech. This speech has become one of the most famous speeches in history. The march and Martin's speech were a success. The Civil Rights Act was passed a year later in 1964.

How did he die?

Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated on April 4, 1968 in Memphis, TN. He was shot by James Earl Ray while standing on the balcony of his hotel.

Fun Facts about Martin Luther King Jr.

- King was the youngest person to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964.
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day is a national holiday.
- At the Atlanta premier of the movie *Gone with the Wind*, Martin sang with his church choir.
- One of his main influences was Mohandas Gandhi who taught protesting in a non-violent manner.
- He was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal and the Presidential Medal of Freedom.
- The name on his original birth certificate is Michael King. This was a mistake, however. He was supposed to be named after his father who was named for the leader of the Christian reformation movement, Martin Luther.

http://www.ducksters.com/biography/martin_luther_king_jr.php

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your ESL courses.



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- future education,
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There are three ESL certificates available:

Certificate Level	Units	Required Courses:			
Intermediate Proficiency	16	G50 or higher	L50 or higher	W50 or higher	R50 or higher
Advanced Proficiency	16	G320	L320	W320 or higher	R320 or higher
Advanced-High Proficiency	15-16	G320 or L320	ESL 350	W340	R340

- * You may earn more than one certificate.
- * Courses can count twice for different certificate levels.

From Zahra Rahmat, who's joining the U.S. Army as a Farsi Interpreter:

Question: Why did you decide to ask for an ESL Certificate?

Answer: Because I think it helps me to find a job, and that is also good for my résumé. It has a good feeling when I finished something. For students who learn English as a second language, it shows us when we passed a step.



"Do you not be happy with me as the translator of the books of you?"

Parrot Warbling



Grappling with Grammar

The 'Zero' Conditional

Form

In 'zero' conditional sentences, the tense in both parts of the sentence is **the simple present**:

'IF' CLAUSE
(CONDITION)

If + simple present

*If you heat ice
If it rains*

MAIN CLAUSE
(RESULT)

simple present

*it melts.
you get wet.*

NOTE: *The order of the clauses is not fixed - the 'if' clause can be first or second:*

Examples : *Ice melts if you heat it.
You get wet if it rains.*

Function

In these sentences, the time is now or always and the situation is real and possible. They are used to make statements about the real world, and often refer to general truths, such as scientific facts

Examples: *If you freeze water, it becomes a solid.
Plants die if they don't get enough water.
If my husband has a cold, I usually catch it.*

This structure is often used to give instructions, using **the imperative** in the main clause:

Examples: *If Bill phones, tell him to meet me at the cinema.
Ask Pete if you're not sure what to do.*

http://www.edufind.com/english/grammar/if_conditional2.php

Idiom--Attic

(As) Ripe as a cherry

Rodney was taking a stroll when he came upon a nice big plate of fresh cherries. "I don't know where those cherries came from," he burped, "but I could see that they were as ripe as a cherry, so I ate them." He burped again. "Besides, I wanted to see if it's true that fruit said to be (as) ripe as a cherry is really fully mature and ready to eat." Having said that, Rodney slid away. To a hungry bird, he probably looked ripe as a cherry himself!



<http://www.englishdaily626.com/idioms>

Beak Speak

Learn English Pronunciation

Pronunciation can be a tricky matter when it comes to the English language. Unlike with languages like Hindi and Tamil, letters in English take on multiple phonetic forms (think of the a in 'can' and the a in 'war'); thus, the concept of pronouncing a word the way it is spelled does not apply. This is partly the result of derivation; English is a derivative language. It means that many of its words and phrases have been borrowed from other languages (*cafe, boutique, cocoa*).



The unpredictability that results from being a derivative language, makes pronunciation in English difficult to master. A written course is possibly the least helpful way to go about it. It is through continued contact with English speakers and practice that one's pronunciation improves. Watching English-language films, TV shows, and news channels is also very useful. Both methods, however, require conscious effort. One must pay close attention while conversing with someone who is fluent and while watching English-language film or TV productions, and through practice, make correct-sounding speech a matter of habit.

There are, however, some guidelines that we can provide on pronunciation that should help in giving you an idea of the contours of spoken English:

Regarding Consonants

B -- Usually pronounced like the 'b' in 'big'. However, in words ending with '-mb', such as *comb, plumb, numb, bomb, etc*, the 'b' is silent.

C -- Usually pronounced like 'k', as in 'cat'. However, 'c' takes on the sound of 's' when it precedes 'e', 'i' or 'y', as in *ceiling, cistern, cynic, etc*.

Continued in Parrot 78

<http://www.englishleap.com>

Some More Parrot Fun Stuff

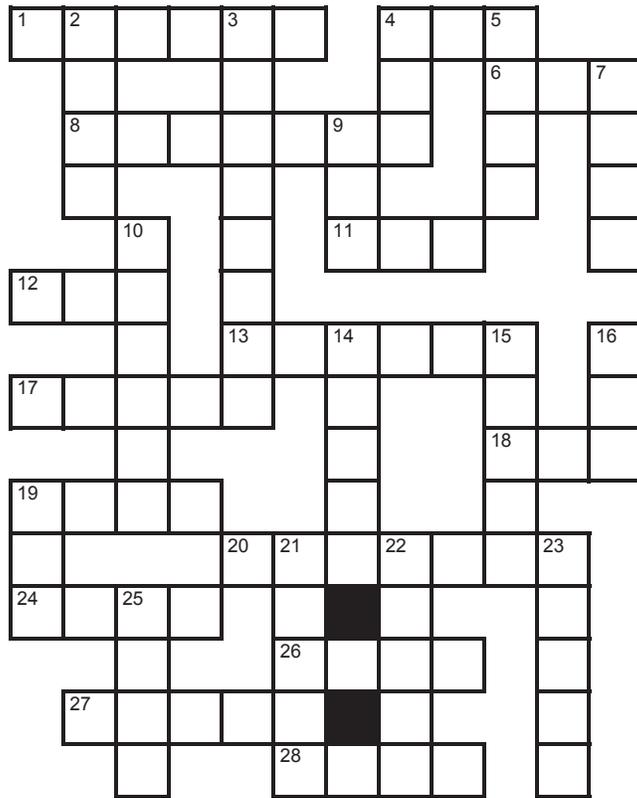
Shakespeare: Macbeth Wordsearch

Find and circle all of the words relating to Macbeth that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a secret message - a quotation from Macbeth.



ANGUS	CUMBERLAND	HECATE	PORTER
APPARITIONS	DAGGER	INVERNESS	PROPHECY
BANQUO	DOCTOR	IRELAND	QUEEN REGICIDE
BIRNAM WOOD	DONALBAIN	LADY MACBETH	ROSS
BLOOD	DUNCAN	LADY MACDUFF	SCONE
CAITHNESS	DUNSINANE	LENNOX	SCOTLAND
CAPTAIN	ENGLAND	MACBETH	SEYTON
CASTLE	FLEANCE	MADNESS	SIWARD
CAULDRON	GENTLEWOMAN	MALCOLM	SLEEPWALKING
CAWDOR	GLAMIS	MENTEITH	SOLILOQUY
COLMEKILL	GUILT	MURDERERS	THANE
CONSCIENCE	HEATH	NORWAY	WEIRD SISTERS

Crossword



Down

- 2 A type of flower that begins with R.
 3 A kind of fish that begins with G.
 4 A farm animal that rhymes with wow.
 5 The antonym of thick.
 7 The opposite of far.
 9 The opposite of young.
 10 A kind of fruit that begins with B.

- 14 Another word for home.
 15 A kind of fruit that begins with L.
 16 The antonym of good.
 19 The opposite of high.
 21 The opposite of wrong.
 22 The antonym of big.
 23 A synonym of sleepy.
 25 The antonym of fast.

Word Skills

Across

- 1 A type of fruit that begins with O.
 4 A pet that rhymes with hat.
 6 A farm animal that rhymes with pen.
 8 The opposite of deep.
 11 A pet that rhymes with log.
 12 A drink that rhymes with sea.
 13 A place that rhymes with pool.
 17 A place that rhymes with teach.
 18 Another word for angry.
 19 Another word for jump.
 20 A synonym of gift.
 24 The opposite of east.
 26 A farm animal that rhymes with boat.
 27 The opposite of north.
 28 Another word for speak.



Dreams

Hold fast to dreams

For if dreams die

Life is a broken-winged bird

That cannot fly.

Hold fast to dreams

For when dreams go

Life is a barren field

Frozen with snow.

by Langston Hughes (1902-1967)



Rigoberto's Riddles

If a farmer has 5 haystacks in one field and 4 haystacks in the other field, how many haystacks would he have if he combined them all in another field?

Answer: One. If he combines all of his haystacks, they all become one big one.

Silly Vasily's Chuckle Chamber

Elephant:

The class teacher asks students to name an animal that begins with an "E".

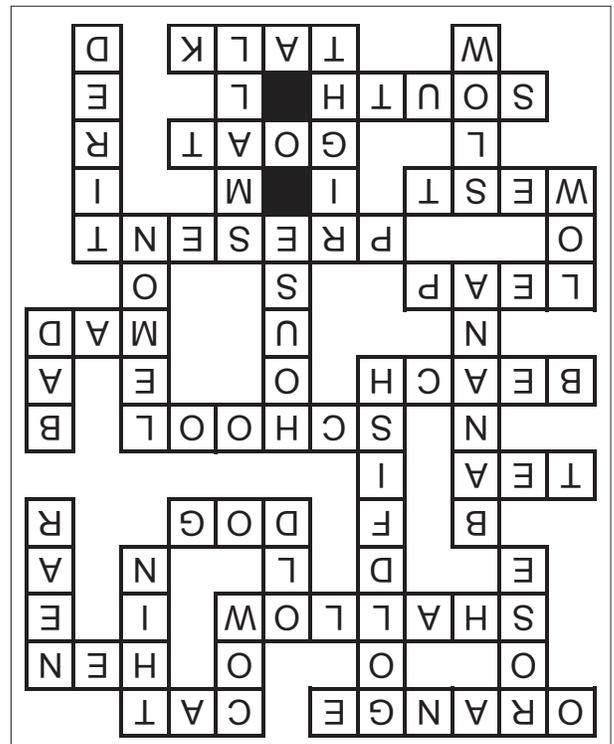
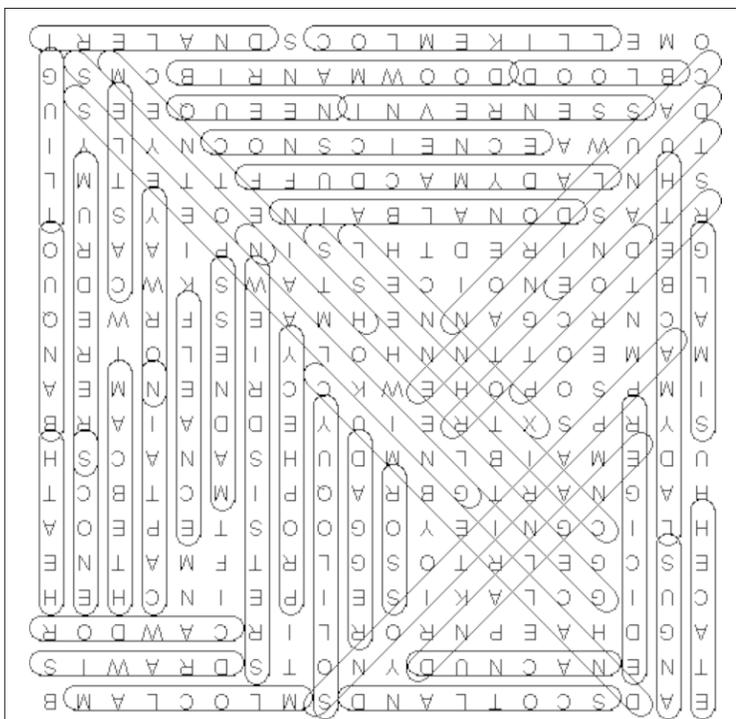
One boy says, "Elephant."

Then the teacher asks for an animal that begins with a "T".

The same boy says, "Two elephants."

The teacher sends the boy out of the class for bad behavior. After that she asks for an animal beginning with "M".

The boy shouts from the other side of the wall: "Maybe an elephant!"



Where Do 'Hoodlums' Come From? San Francisco

Continued from page 1.

"Parker's not some kind of hoodlum," Creighton Adams told the AP.

Hoodlum is a word that's been used for about 140 years to describe what Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines as "a tough and violent criminal" or "a young ruffian."

The exact etymology of hoodlum is unknown, but references to "hoodlums" roaming the streets of San Francisco first surfaced in the media in 1871. An article in the Cincinnati Commercial that year made reference to a young man who moved to the city to "escape the bullying of the San Francisco 'hoodlums.'"

On June 9, 1871, a cigar store owner named Ah Lee was beaten to death outside his store by a gang of young hoodlums, one of whom was only 14.

San Francisco's then-police chief Patrick Crowley took note of the gangs forming in the city in his 1872 annual report, noting: "There is one evil which I mention with regret ... it is the disposition on the part of many young men and lads to commit acts of violence and mischief."

Chinese workers were a frequent target of the "young men and lads" that Crowley mentioned. Chinese immigrants began to settle in the United States in the mid-19th century due to the California gold rush and the construction of the first transcontinental railroad. (By 1860, 6 percent of San Francisco's residents were of Chinese descent. Between 1869 and 1876, an average of 15,000 new Chinese workers arrived each year.)

It wasn't until an article in an 1875 issue of the magazine Scribner's Monthly that the word entered the mainstream. Writing about the gangs of young white men who were terrorizing certain San Fran-

cisco neighborhoods in his piece "The City of the Golden Gate," journalist Samuel Williams described them as follows:

"The Hoodlum is a distinctive San Francisco product. ... He drinks, gambles, steals, runs after lewd women, and sets buildings on fire. One of his chief diversions, when he is in a more pleasant mood, is stoning Chinaman. That the Hoodlum appeared only three or four years ago is somewhat alarming."

In his 1877 book *The Chinese in America*, Otis Gibson went into further detail about the ways a "San Francisco hoodlum" would harass the Chinese

"They follow the Chinaman through the streets, howling and screaming after him to frighten him. They catch hold of his cue, and pull him from the wagon. They throw brickbats and missiles at him."



Anti-Chinese violence reached its peak in 1877, with the San Francisco riots of that year. Four Chinese were killed and more than \$100,000 worth of property was damaged.

Five years after the riot, the Chinese Exclusion Act was signed into law. (The act severely restricted the immigration of Chinese to the United States for a decade. The restrictions were later made permanent before being repealed in the 1940s.) The New York Times attributed congressional passage of the bill to Democrats and Republicans competing for California votes: "The plain truth is that a violent and discourteous act was demanded by the hoodlum sentiment of the Pacific coast, and this demand has been listened to."

A resolution regretting passage of the Chinese Exclusion Act was approved last year by the United States House of Representatives. The resolution was introduced by Judy Chu, the first Chinese-American woman elected to Congress.

<http://m.npr.org/news/U.S./243262138>

Granny Noetal

Dear Granny Noetal,

I failed an ESL reading class last semester. I worked hard to read everything the teacher assigned and attended most of my classes but I didn't do well on the tests. I really think there was too much homework. I work 25 hours a week and have three children but the class was too much for me. I like the teacher and want to take the class again. Some of my friends said I should take the class again with the same teacher if possible but other friends said I am crazy to take it again with the same teacher. What do you think?

Ashamed and Confused

Dear Ashamed and Confused,

First of all, you signed your name "Ashamed and Confused". I'm glad you've written me if you are confused but please don't be ashamed! Everyone has a little setback in life – failing a class, failing a test, having a poor job interview, producing a poor Parrot, etc. I failed a class in college but I know exactly why. It was simple. I was young and a "party animal" --- and didn't study! I learned my lesson but it was painful. However, there are sometimes reasons for our failures that we don't truly understand.

You have three children and work twenty-five hours a week. That is a lot for anyone, even if you are a superman or superwoman. What seemed like too much homework



might just have been too much homework for you and your schedule. Teachers say that if you have four hours of class per week, you should count on doing eight hours of homework per week for that class. Did you leave time for that? Are you planning to work fewer hours this semester?

Now, what are the advantages of taking the same teacher (and the same text, I presume)? You like the teacher – that's a plus. If you feel comfortable learning from someone, it helps. Secondly, you are familiar with the book. A second go-through should help you understand even more. What are the advantages of taking the same course but with a different teacher? Sometimes, a different teacher may have a different approach or different method of teaching that may help you understand or a different text or (!) less homework (!). (The last thought is often very appealing to students.)

There is one last idea to consider. Have you spoken to your teacher to get some specific feedback about in what aspect of reading you need help? Would work in the ESL Center help you? Would having a tutor help you? Consider all three suggestions. They may be a key to you getting more out of your effort. Good luck and be positive. It takes some of us longer to learn a language than it takes others. Did I tell you that the course I failed was English? Look at me now – writing for a living!

Granny

Four Time Management Musts

1. Respect Your Classes!

Take your classes seriously. Over 90% of first-year students report having to work harder than expected to meet the demands of this instructors. Allow time in your schedule to fully prepare for tests and assignments.

2. Define and Chase Your Goals!

Narrow your sights, define your goals, and set specific steps toward reaching them. Then, chase them with everything you have!

3. Sacrifice Now, Rewards Later!

Instead of giving in to your present "wants," pursue the things that you need to do for long term success. Of all the skills which college teaches you, the pursuit of delayed rewards is perhaps the most important.

4. Set Time & Social Boundaries!

Set time boundaries by placing walls around a specific block of time for a specific purpose. Set social boundaries by not allowing people to intrude upon those designated blocks of time.

<http://studentsuccess.utk.edu/support/tips/tips-time.shtml>

Quads on the Quad!

Continued from page 1.

Parrot: Could you describe your country in a few words for us?

Quads: It is beautiful, popular, touristic and fun. It is crowded and full of life.

Parrot: How long have you been in the United States? In Sacramento? Why did you come to this country?

Quads: We moved to America 12 years ago and lived in San Francisco. Then, we moved with our family to Sacramento seven years ago. We came to settle here because of the family.

Parrot: Do you like Sacramento? Why?

Quads: Not really, but we made some friends here, so it is OK.

Parrot: Tell us about the surprise for your mother when the doctor told her that she would have four babies. How did it change life for your parents?

Quads: They were shocked because they wanted just twins. Later there were three and a few days before we were born we were four. Big surprise.

Parrot: Do you wish you were born without your brothers?

Quads: No.

Parrot: Do you have other brothers besides you four?

Quads: No.

Parrot: Do you want to have children? What would happen if one of you also had quads?

Quads: We do not think about having children. That would be crazy and I could not imagine it. We don't want any kids at this moment; we want to enjoy life for a while.

Parrot: Tell me about the differences between each of you. Who's the smart one, the grumpy one, lucky one with the girls, the messy one?

Quads: Seraton is the smart one -- he's at UC Davis, Berk is the athlete and good with the girls, Orcon is a very hard worker, he loves money, Atalay is the comedian, the funny one.

Parrot: We heard you were on TV in your country. How did you start to be part of a show?

Quads: We were the first male quads in Turkey, so people found that interesting.

Parrot: What kind of program was it? Which characters did you play there? How long were you on the show?

Quads: It was a show similar to Modern Family. It was a family show and we worked there for 5 years.

Parrot: Any other experiences in the "entertainment business"?

Quads: Berk was a model. We want to have careers in modeling and acting.

Parrot: About decisions. Do you make decisions together? Or does one choose and the other brothers follow him? How do you do that?

Quads: All of us together.

Parrot: You spend a lot of time together. What do you talk about?

Quads: Girls and sports. But, mostly girls.

Parrot: We know that you share clothes. Do you share something else? Your cellphones, jobs, cars, bedrooms, college careers, musical tastes?

Quads: We share everything; we are brothers, the same blood.

Parrot: Do you have scholarships at ARC? How many units are you taking this quarter? What are these?

Quads: Yes, we have. We are taking 12 units: ESLL 40, ESLR 40 and other one.

Parrot: Are you currently in a club at ARC?

Quads: No.

Parrot: You work together? so what are the good things about working together as brothers? what are the bad things?

Quads: It's fun and easy. No bad things.

Parrot: In five years, where do you want to be? Will you be together or have separate lives? What are you doing now to get that?

Quads: Nothing, probably together.

Parrot: If you had a million dollars and only 20 days more of life, what would you do?

Atalay: I would travel around the world: Hawaii and the Bahamas are the main points of interest.

Berk: Parties every day without consequences, spectacular and unimaginable parties.

Orcon: Give everything to the people who need it, donate it.

Quads: But maybe we would travel together around the world and party all day and night, and have fun with all the cute and sexy girls.

Parrot: What do you like to do for fun currently? How do you have fun?

Quads: Soccer, the gym, working out, sports, parties with friends.

Parrot: Anything else you want to add for our readers to know about you?

Quads: That's all.

Parrot: Thank you for your time, guys.

Quads: You're welcome.

Itzin Alpizar and Dayra Delphin.
ESL L40

Interesting Facts About Quadruplets



- The state with the highest population of quadruplets is New York, followed by New Jersey and Pennsylvania
- There are about 3500 sets of quadruplets worldwide; only 60 or so are identical or monozygotic.
- Parents of quadruplets will change close to 30,000 diapers before their kids are potty trained.
- The most premature surviving quads were born in 1997 at 25 weeks, 1 day.
- The incidence of quadruplet birth rose more than 400% in the last quarter of the 20th century, but rates have declined somewhat in the years since 2000.
- Banner Good Samaritan Hospital in Arizona is believed to have delivered the most sets of quadruplets, about 75 sets.

<http://multiples.about.com/od/quadruplets/a/quadruplets.htm>

Out of the Cage

Reception for Award Winners!

Thursday, January 30, 2014
12:15 pm - 1:15 pm

Celebrate excellence on campus with us at a reception in honor of several ARC award winners. This year's winners include the recipient of the ARC Patrons Chair Faculty Award and Honorarium; the recipient of the Patrons Meritorious Service Award for Classified Staff; the recipient of the Classified Person of the Year Award; the recipient of the Ken Deibert Adjunct Faculty Award, presented by the ARC Academic Senate; and the recipient of the ITAP Teaching Award.

Location: CTL Conference Room

UC Davis Rep Visits

Monday, February 3, 2014
9:00 am - 4:00 am

9 a.m. - 10 a.m. DI; 10 a.m. - 12 MESA; 1 p.m. DI; 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. appointments Call the Transfer Center for an appointment 916-484-8685.

Study Abroad!

Thursday, February 6, 2014
12:15 pm - 1:15 pm

Description: ARC Professors Bill Wrightson and Mark Stewart will discuss opportunities to study abroad this summer in London, England and Florence, Italy. The presentation will highlight the nature and cost of the program, including images of apartments, museums, day trips, as well as details about side trips to Rome (Florence program) and Stonehenge (London program). Information about the academic courses in the two programs will also be covered. Other district faculty may talk about full semester study abroad programs. This opportunity is open to anyone 18 or older.

Location: Raef Hall 160

Athletic Events

Tuesday, February 4, 2014

Men's Basketball

5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

ARC vs. Cosumnes River College

Women's Basketball

7:30 pm - 9:30 pm

ARC vs. Cosumnes River College

Questions/Comments?



Student Editors: Olga Cuzeac and Christian Valenzuela

Please let us know what we can do to improve "The Parrot." We appreciate any and all feedback you are willing to give us. Send us an e-mail, call, or just drop by Professor Bracco's office D337 (Davies Hall), call (916) 484-8988, or e-mail Braccop@arc.losrios.edu. To see The Parrot in color go to http://www.arc.losrios.edu/Programs_of_Study/Humanities/ESL/The_Parrot.htm