



# THE ESL PARROT

Issue 8

Fall 2006

## *Interviewing Professor John Hess, English Dept.*

*Professor Hess, how did you decide to be part of The International Student Club?*

I have always had an interest in the world, and people of the world. People have different cultures, different languages; it was always an interest for me, so it seemed like it would be an obvious place to get to know people from around world by joining the International Club. So I started with first going to the meetings about 10 years ago, and then became the faculty advisor here 6 years ago.

*What kind of activities does the International Student Club have?*

We go to different restaurants to have different food from different places. We go on camping trips to Santa Cruz . We have done that in May the last 2 years. Probably we are going to go this year also. We try to meet at club members' houses to watch movies. Ah! ... Sometimes we go bowling on "game night" or we play international games. We also do fashion shows where people dress up in clothes from different countries. We do lots of different things just to try to make it a fun way

to experience lots of cultures.

*What do you like the most about working with international students?*

Energy, fun, different perspectives, all the different



students. Meeting students every year — that's what I like most about it.

*What kind of difficulties do you have while working with international students?*

Turnover every 2 years. Students leave, new students come, and sometimes it is so hard to be consistent with the same students every year. Getting students interested in becoming members of the club is also difficult. Every

year we have to work really hard to bring new people into the club.

*How would students benefit by becoming members of the International Club?*

Students benefit from membership in the club by practicing English language skills, meeting people and making friends from other cultures, participating in fun events, and being able to list a club affiliation on college applications.

*Do you have any future projects for international students?*

We do want to get involved in a charity this year. We are planning on raising money for Heifer International. We want to raise enough money to buy a water buffalo and a flock of ducks.

*How can students join the International Students Club?*

Students who want to join the ARC International Club can call John Hess at 484-8627 or drop by his office,

You don't get to choose how you're going to die, or when. You can decide how you're going to live now.

[Baez, Joan](#)



American River College  
4700 College Oak Drive  
Sacramento, CA 95841  
(916) 484-8011

Davies Hall 378. Interested students could also join us for our meetings Thursdays from 11-12:00 in the Library Quad

*Do you have any advice for international students?*

Yes, make as many friends as you can with people of cultures other than your own so you can speak English as much as possible. Speaking as an English professor, that way you can speak more English and become acquainted with other cultures, not just American culture.

Alyn Davutoglu  
International student from Turkey

# Student Chirpings

## A Mistake Of Childhood

My sister Angelina and I look like each other. The only difference between our appearances is our characters are different, and she is lighter than me. This kind of similarity caused confusion in people who didn't know us well. When I was living in Mexico at the age of ten years, my sister Angelina, who was a couple of years older than me, stole oranges from an old lady's tree. It was me who faced the consequences. All the confusion started when the old lady confused me with my sister Angelina.

My sister Angelina liked oranges a lot. She was kind of picky about them. She liked big and juicy oranges only. In Cotija, a little village where we grew up, just a few people had orange trees. The good orange trees were about 10 miles from our village by walking, in Villa de Oro, at the old and deaf lady's house. My sister liked the oranges from the lady's tree so much that one day at noon she decided to go to the lady's house and politely ask her for oranges. The lady was a greedy person and she didn't give oranges to my sister. Her excuse was that the oranges weren't good to eat, which was a lie. My sister didn't want to go home without oranges, since her purpose was to come home with oranges from the lady. Angelina hid behind the lady's house and waited for the lady to go inside the house, so that she could steal oranges from the tree, which in fact, my sister did. While my sister was cutting oranges from the tree, the lady came and caught my sister! My sister started running away from the lady, who was cursing and throwing rocks at her. A good thing is that she didn't hurt my sister.

I always liked to go with my mother everywhere she used to go. One day, about a month after my sister went to the lady's house, my mother asked me to go to Villa de Oro with her. My mother and the old lady used to be friends when they were children. So, on our way back, my mother decided to stop by the old lady's just to say hi to her. Once we got into the house, without greeting my mother and me, the lady just said to my mother, "Teresa,

I am glad to see you. I have something to tell you about this little girl." Without wasting any time, she told my mother that I had gone to her house just to steal oranges. My mother's reaction was to spank me in front of the lady. My mother spanked me so hard that I started crying badly. At that moment, I told my mother that it wasn't me who stole the oranges. Neither my mother nor the lady believed me. Without waiting for my mother, I just decided to walk back home by myself.

My sister Angelina was getting ready to go out with her friend. When she saw me coming home crying, she asked me what was going on. I told her what had happened, and she got angry at the lady. Right after I told her what happened, she walked to the



lady's house and told the truth to my mother, who was still at the old lady's house. After my sister confessed the truth, my mother spanked her, too. While my mother was spanking my sister, the old lady had sympathy for us and apologized for the confusion. She said she really didn't know which of us stole the oranges; all she knew was that one of my mother's daughters stole the oranges. At that time, I didn't care about the lady's apology. I felt so bad that I wanted to be rude to the lady. My sister's reaction was to yell at

the lady and call her "greedy lady". Between the confession and the apologies, the lady offered oranges to my sister and me. Plus she told us that we were welcome to go to her house any time we wanted and cut oranges whenever we wanted. However, we didn't care about the lady's apology and we just stayed home. My sister and I didn't go back to the lady's house until our anger against the lady went away.

A few days after the confusion, the lady came to our house and apologized again for what she'd told my mother. She told us that she made a big mistake by telling my mother instead of talking to us in a good way first. She added that she learned not to be a "drama queen" for simple things that have less value than a relationship between people. She promised to us that an accident like that would never occur again. Despite that, my sister and I didn't believe her. All we did was pretend that everything was forgiven. However, my sister and I learned that it is no good to steal, not even a fruit, because any kind of stealing can cause bad consequences and mistakes among people.

Dora De Rios – ESL W50

## Parrot Warblings

### ESL WEB LINKS

<http://www.usingenglish.com>

<http://www.eslpages.com/>



These web pages provide ESL students a variety of resources to help them improve their English skills

### Speak Like a Parrot

#### How to Improve Your Pronunciation

Pronouncing **every** word correctly leads to poor pronunciation! Good pronunciation comes from stressing the right words - this is because English is a **time-stressed** language.

#### Tips:

- Remember that non-stressed words and syllables are often "swallowed" in English.
- Always focus on pronouncing stressed words well, non-stressed words can be glided over.
- Don't focus on pronouncing each word. Focus on the stressed words in each sentence.

REMEMBER: Fluency in English is accuracy with good pronunciation - not speed.

### Seven Secrets to Learn English

Secret #6: 30 MINUTES A DAY BETTER THAN 3.5 HOURS A WEEK

In fact, 30 minutes of English study once a day is better than 5 \*hours\* once a week! Study regularly! Study often!

LITTLE + OFTEN is better than LOT + SOMETIMES.

It's easier, too. You can easily find 30 minutes each day. How? You can get up 30 minutes earlier. Or have a shorter lunch break. Fix a particular time every day - and keep it!



## Grappling with Grammar : Mass and Count Nouns



### Count Nouns

Count nouns are nouns that can be quantified or counted with a number.

A few examples:

- \***Names of persons, animals, plants, insects, and their parts:** a boy, a kitten, a rose, an ear, three boys, seven kittens, twelve roses, two ears
- \***Objects with a definite shape:** a building, a balloon, a house, an octopus, four buildings, six balloons, four houses, two octopi
- \***Units of measurement and words of classification:** a gram, a pound, a piece, a lump, an item, a bit, a family, a state, a language, a phrase, a word
- \***Some abstract words:** a hindrance, a scheme, an idea, a plan, a taboo, a rest

### Tests for Count Nouns:

- Count nouns can be quantified by a number.
- They have singular and plural forms.
- They can use a, an, or one as a modifier.
- They can use "many" as a modifier.

### Mass Nouns

Mass nouns are uncountable by a number. Mass nouns are quantified by a word that signifies amount.

A few examples:

- \***Materials, food, metals, and natural qualities:** bread, cotton, wood, lightness, adolescence
- \***Names of liquids, gases, and substances made of many small particles:** cappuccino, oil, smoke, oxygen, rice, sugar, salt, cement, gravel
- \***Names of languages:** English, Spanish, French, Latin, Sanskrit, Chinese
- \***Most gerunds:** looking, listening, swimming, running, anticipating

### Tests for Mass Nouns:

- Mass nouns are quantified by an amount rather than a number.
- They have only one form (singular).
- They cannot have "a," "an," or "one" before them as modifiers.
- They can use "much" as a modifier



## Out of the Cage

### Transfer Day

An opportunity for ARC students to meet with over 60 representatives from CSU, UC, private and out-of-state colleges. Representatives will explain their programs and services and have handouts available to pick up.

Location: Library Quad.

Date: October 10 from 9:30 am – 1:30 pm

### Interview Information & Techniques

This workshop includes: Researching the organization; reviewing the anticipated questions; making a professional presentation; and body language and presentation. Register for this one-hour workshop is offered by ARC's Career Center, located in the Student Services building, by calling 484-8492. Workshops are free.

Date: October 10, from 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm

#### Questions / Comments?

*Please let us know what we can do to improve "The ESL 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 D387 (at Davis Hall) braccop@arc.losrios.edu (916) 484-8988*

### Sexual Assault Prevention Workshop

Learn simple techniques to help keep yourself safe.

Location: Raef Hall, Room 160

Date: October 10, from 9:30 am – 1:30 pm

### ARC Music Department Benefit Concert

The American River College Music Department sponsors a benefit concert featuring the Kairos Quartet's new CD release "Riverrun." The Kairos Quartet consists of Steve Lishman-saxophones, Dyne Eifertsen-trombone/didjeridu, Matt Robinson-bass, and Alex Jenkins-tabla/percussion.



All profits will benefit the ARC music department. The concert will be held on Sunday, October 15 at 3:00 pm in room 512 of the ARC Music Dept. portables. Admission for the concert is \$20-General and \$18-Student/Senior and includes a CD.

Call Dyne Eifertsen at 484-8676 for more information.

Thursday September 7, 2006 during the College Hour, I went to an event called the "Ukrainian Ensemble of Classical Music." It was sponsored by the American River College Chamber Orchestra and the Center of Teaching and Learning. I was amazed how beautiful this singing sounded. Being of Eastern European heritage myself, I was expecting typical Ukrainian music. However, it was classical music interpreted by a Ukrainian ensemble, which was amazing. Some of the instruments that were used during the performance were bandura, flute, violin, viola and cello. The ensemble originally started as a church ensemble and later they started performing for the audiences. Aleksandra Sokolov, one of the performers, mentioned that they had even performed concerts in Chicago. A major contributor to this event happening was Mr. Oliynyk, whose wife plays the bandura in the ensemble. The bandura, according to Mr. Oliynyk, is an old, traditional Ukrainian instrument. Its sound, in combination with other instruments, creates a very beautiful music. I really enjoyed listening to this wonderful music. If someone is interested in purchasing the CD or inviting them for an event, you may do so by contacting Lesia at (916) 812-2258.

Aliona Burcatoia  
Parrot Bulldog



**Word Search**  
**Confusing Words**

T	C	O	O	P	Y	T	K	I	L	A	U	Q	O
L	I	L	W	E	R	E	R	X	R	C	D	A	E
O	C	O	O	E	S	I	Y	E	X	C	E	P	T
O	R	H	S	T	E	W	T	M	E	E	S	G	C
S	B	S	O	H	H	A	H	S	S	P	E	B	W
E	E	H	T	S	L	E	O	E	D	T	R	V	C
D	L	O	S	S	E	L	S	W	R	X	T	C	H
S	P	D	C	L	O	T	H	S	J	E	A	U	O
A	M	C	E	R	T	A	I	N	O	F	Q	R	O
C	D	D	E	F	F	E	C	T	U	T	U	T	S
V	D	V	J	N	L	A	T	T	E	R	I	A	E
L	O	N	I	F	T	H	E	R	E	W	T	I	G
W	E	A	R	C	A	F	F	E	C	T	E	N	V
Q	U	I	E	T	E	S	N	A	D	V	I	S	E

Advice	Chose	Loss
Advise	Clothes	Quite
Except	Cloths	Quiet
Accept	Desert	There
Affect	Dessert	Their
Effect	Later	Where
Certain	Latter	Were
Curtain	Loose	Wear
Choose	Lose	



**Wear one's heart on one's sleeve**

*Meaning:*  
Show emotions or feelings openly.  
If you **wear your heart on your sleeve**, you openly express your feelings or emotions to others.

*Example:*  
A: How did the interview go? Did he tell you what problems he has?  
B: No, it was very difficult to make him open his heart and tell me his true feelings.  
He's not a kind of guy who **wears his heart on his sleeve**.

Be careful when you talk to her. Never **wear your heart on your sleeve**.

Dear Granny Noetal,

Sometimes my teacher (he/she will remain nameless) postpones our tests at the last minute because he/she runs out of time. Some students like this, but I don't because I've studied for the test and am ready. What do you think about this?



Dear "Testy",

I've got lots of ideas but let's take it to the students. OK, students, not all of you, do you agree with your professor postponing the test at the last minute?

Granny

Testy Student

**Vocabulary**

- Across
- 2 having little thickness form one side of a surface to the other.
  - 3 to practice a sport or make music with an instrument.
  - 5 to put, bring, fasten or connect together.
- Down
- 1 to be victorious in a competition.
  - 2 a natural ability or aptitude.
  - 4 academic year.
  - 6 to carry on one's person as a covering or ornament.

## Memories of the Chernobyl Catastrophe Twenty Years Ago

“For five days we didn’t know about this accident. But some people guessed something happened because they felt very tired and sick. Some people asked questions at a TV station. They asked what happened. But there were no answers. After a few days, Polish TV said, ‘The Chernobyl reactor exploded.’ After that, people didn’t believe any information. People knew no one would say the truth.”

Lyudmila Lubko  
W50

“We lived in Estonia when the accident at Chernobyl occurred. It was spring and our best friend Victor was working in his garden. Victor was a strong and wise man. He was only 47 years old. The day was sunny. Suddenly, the weather changed. It started to rain. Victor came home. He had a headache. Victor died after six months. The doctors said, “He died because of the Chernobyl catastrophe.”

Valentina Pellya W50

Chernobyl , April 1986...

“My adult life had just begun when it happened. At the end of April 1986, my husband and I celebrated our first wedding anniversary far away from that place. Then the whole country celebrated the May holidays. The TV showed the May Day Parade in the Main Squares of the Soviet Union. In my recollection, only in the middle of May some information about the Chernobyl tragedy was released to the public. It was simply awful not to say anything to people, not to warn people about the danger, about the high level of radiation that spread not only in Pripjat’, but also in big surrounding territories. This tragedy has touched my heart deeply and left unpleasant recollections. I felt fear and pain. We were worried about our relatives. They lived in those places which were poisoned. A few months after that, we visited them. Outwardly, there was nothing changed. Only a big monitor appeared on the main building of my hometown that showed the level of radiation. I also remember that our presents for our parents were small devices for measuring radiation. Until today, in my hometown

every citizen receives extra money that people call “groboviye”, which means money for your coffin or grave.”

Olga Gavryush ESL 320

“Because I was a child at the time of that awful event, I was unable to fully comprehend the extent and the nature of the Chernobyl plant explosion. I only remember the fear that comes from not knowing what to expect and what to do. Many people in my neighborhood were trying to keep dust to a minimum by wetting things down; the streets in downtown were washed by big water trucks. My parents told me that water would help keep the radiation levels down. For days I was told to cover my head so that radiation wouldn’t “fall” on my head. I just remember standing in my front yard looking up in the sky and waiting for that big black cloud—but it never came. I did not realize it at the time, but the cloud had already come and was invisible. I was terrified of not knowing what will happen next but my parents told us that everything would be fine and God would always take care of us. They were right! I am glad to be where I am now, because many people living in areas surrounding Chernobyl had a much tougher experience.”

Liliya Dorofeyev  
Humanities Area Clerk

“I was a student at a German university at the time of the Chernobyl disaster. I remember well a campus gathering in which an expert alerted the student crowd as to what a dangerous cloud from the east could mean for Western Europe. He cautioned us as to what we should or should not do with regard to daily routines. For some reason, what stands out in my mind is the sight of a young, long-haired student in glasses asking how much of a cup of yogurt he could eat each day, this after being warned about the ingestion of dairy products. It drew a few hoots from the crowd, maybe because he was so zeroed in on his yogurt, the small picture, and not on far greater implications.”

Paul Bracco  
Professor, ESL

## Tail Feathers

### Brief History of Sweetest day

Observed the 3rd Saturday in the month of October, Sweetest Day observance originated in Cleveland in 1922. Herbert Birch Kingston, a philanthropist and candy company employee wanted to bring happiness into the lives of orphans, shut-ins, and others who were forgotten. With the help of friends, he began to distribute candy and small gifts to the underprivileged.

On the first Sweetest Day, movie star Ann Pennington presented 2,200 Cleveland newspaper boys with boxes of candy to

express gratitude for their service to the public.

Another popular movie star, Theda Bara, distributed 10,000



boxes of candy to people in Cleveland hospitals and also gave candy to all who came to watch her film in a

local theater.

Primarily a regional observance celebrated in the Great Lakes

region and the Northeast, Sweetest Day is gradually spreading

to other areas of the country. People tend to take the Sweetest Day tradition with them when they move. Ohio is the top state for Sweetest Day sales, followed by Michigan and Illinois. Texas, California and Florida are among the top 10 states in sales.



### Silly Vasily's Chuckle Chamber



"You're on a high-protein diet, so I decided you'd be the person most qualified to beef up our marketing program, cut out the pork from our budget, and keep track of fishy activities in the office."

Over the years, Sweetest Day has evolved into a time to express romantic love and also to show appreciation to friends.

<http://www.theromantic.com/sweetestday.htm>

## More Student Chirpings

### Constitution Day

Thursday, **September 14, 2006**, during College Hour, there was a gathering for the commemoration of the constitution of the United States of America on so-called "Constitution Day." The event was sponsored by the Political Science Department and by the Center of Teaching and Learning. The speakers were political science professor Tabares and history professor Bethel. They went over five concepts of the Constitution of the United States. First was the concept of delegation of powers and how we, in theory, as voters delegate power to congress. The next concept was the idea of popular sovereignty, in other words, the right to

rule ourselves.

Professor Bethel used a sports analogy and the idea that as rules of a sport change, politics and the laws change as well. It is the idea that the rules are changed by demand and what people want. Also mentioned was the historical recognition of women as a minority having the right to vote. Another concept that was mentioned was the idea of limited government and an earlier philosophy, that "government is the best which governs least", which was used before the Great Depression influenced economic policy-making. It was mentioned how the policy-makers changed their decisions after

the Depression and abandoned the laissez faire philosophy. In addition, the idea of who should have more power, the individual or the government, was discussed during the presentation. After some questions, it was concluded that the laws have both a conceptual and applied basis, and it is important for the government to find a balance when applying power over individuals. Finally, the distribution of power among local, state, and national levels and the importance this makes during elections was addressed.

Aliona Burcatoia  
Parrot Bulldog