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The ELI Weekly

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Canoeing on the Santa Fe River

Outdoor fun!

This Saturday, February 28th, The ELI is going canoeing on the Santa Fe River! We will rent canoes and float down the river for approximately 2 hours. Along the way we can see several of Florida's famous springs, as well as lots of birds and wildlife!

WHEN: Saturday, February 28th. Meet at Norman Hall Garage at 9:30 AM. We will likely return to Gainesville around 3:00 PM.

COST: The cost for renting a canoe for the trip will be **\$14 per person**.

WHAT TO BRING: You should wear a bathing suit and shoes that can get wet. Bring a picnic lunch and **water!!!** You will not be able to take this on the river, but you can keep it in the car. Do not bring any valuables that could get lost in the river. If you bring a camera, be sure to put it in a sealed plastic bag so it won't get wet. Also, bring sunscreen and a towel!

The Next Trip

Next week, on Saturday, March 7th, it will be the beginning of Spring Break, so we have no scheduled trip. Our next trip will be the **Midterm Picnic**, which is also the **Welcome Picnic** for our incoming B-Term students. It will

be held on the second Saturday of Spring Break, March 14th. Details will be on the Activities Board and in next week's *Weekly*.

Notes from the Office

- **Spring Break:** There will be no ELI classes during the week of March 9th to 13th. Regular classes will resume on March 16th. **Please remember that Friday, March 6th and Monday, March 16th are regular class days.**
- **Lost and Found:** If you should lose something in the classrooms or elsewhere at the ELI, do come and check to see if it has been turned in in the Main Office, Room 315. Also, if you find something in the classrooms that got left behind, this is the place to bring it!

Birthdays

The following are ELI birthdays from February 27-March 5:

Students:
None this week!

Staff:

February 28: Chelsea Braden

February 28: Sneha Patel

March 3: Barbara Earp

Happy Birthday, one and all!

Manners and Culture

Q: What is the origin of Mardi Gras? Why don't the Americans celebrate Carnival?

A: We do. Mardi Gras carries the same origins as Carnival. In New Orleans, we have our largest version, but there are a lot of cities around the US with similar celebrations. It follows Catholic tradition of partying and eating in the days before Lent, which is a essentially a period of giving up excesses and addictions. Mardi Gras literally means "Fat Tuesday".

Q: Is there a time when Americans leave the home with no help from the parents? When?

A: It's a common misconception that parents somehow throw their kids out automatically at 18 and tell them to sink or swim. It's very much a matter of individual families. In the US, independence in all forms is a cornerstone of our culture, but that doesn't mean that all support is just

automatically cut off at some magical point or age. Heck, I'm 45 and my parents STILL help me out sometimes just because they want to! Some families are more connected than others, but our personal identity is also very important to us.

Q: Why does the girl's family pay for the wedding?

A: Tradition. Weddings in the US still have more older forms of etiquette attached to them than most any other social function.

Grammar

Q: Can I omit the auxiliary verb (do, does, did) in a wh- question?

A: No. If there is no form of "to be" or some other auxiliary or modal, you need it. That being said, there are dialects of American English that do sometimes omit it, but in the standard use, it's necessary.

Q: What does the future perfect express?

A: That one action will be completed before a fixed point or another action in the future.

Q: What's the difference between "too many" and "so many"?

A: "Too" is an expression that means there is an excess beyond what is tolerable. It's generally considered a

negative expression. "So" in this context means "very". It just means that there is more than expected, but it's still on the good side of the line of tolerance. This usage of "so" is only conversational, and it should never be used in formal writing.

Quote of the Week

I believed and I still believe that every moment is there to be savored and to be improved upon and invested with humor and with beauty and solemnity. We don't ever get to skip a single part and sort of fast forward to the life still to come.

Garrison Keillor