

The Voice



October 2006

The American Society of Jalisco

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Please contact editor if you would like to receive *The Voice* by email.

US Elections: Your Vote Counts!

The following letter is the reply I received from US the Vice Consul in Guadalajara in response to my inquiry about voting in the upcoming USA elections. If you have any questions about voting, please call one of the numbers listed below. (Emphasis mine.)

Dear Ms. Wootton:

Thank you for your email. I have recently transferred over to the American Citizen Services Office and have also assumed the position of Voting Assistance Officer.

Here at the consulate we can assist American citizens with any questions they may have about the voter registration process as well as absentee voting. We also assist by notarizing any required documents for voter registration and voting at no cost to the voter. U.S. Government regulations also allow us to send absentee ballots back to the U.S. by diplomatic pouch, again at no cost to the voter.

The primary resource that we use and promote to all interested citizens is the website of the **Federal Voting Assistance Program - www.fvap.gov**. This program was organized to implement the **Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act**. The website also contains information about the latest developments in some states allowing absentee voting by email and fax.

We recommend that any interested citizen visit this website since requirements and deadlines vary by state. If a U.S. citizen in our consular district does not have access to or familiarity with the internet, they can visit the consulate for assistance. Many states have registration deadlines ranging from the first week of October to the latter part of October; however, some

states have no registration deadlines. **Deadlines for the return of ballots for the November 7th General Election also vary by state, but generally range from NOV 6 - 20.** All of this information, plus state-specific registration information is available at the FVAP website.

While the state government website of any U.S. citizen's official residence is the best place to start for information about the various candidates for office, there are several private, non-profit organizations that also assist voters with this kind of information. A link on the FVAP site contains hyperlinks to some of these organizations -

<http://www.fvap.gov/links/ocitlinks.html>.

Again, thank you for your interest and your assistance in promoting voter registration and absentee voting. Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Johnathan Hilton
Vice Consul
American Citizen Services
US Consulate General - Guadalajara,
Mexico
011-52-33-3268-2100 ext. 2244 (office)
011-52-33-3825-1951 (fax)



Flu Shots

On Thursday, October 19, Dr. Avril Forsyth will be at the AmSoc clubhouse to administer Flu shots. Please sign up ahead of time as Dr. Forsyth needs to know how much vaccine to purchase. Sign-up sheets are available at the front desk, or you may phone in to place your name on the list. **3121-2395**

Note:

Daylight Saving time ends Sunday, October 29. Don't forget to put your clocks back one hour.

Halloween Costume Party

Saturday, October 28

Doors open at 12 noon

Lunch served at 1:30 PM

Prizes for best costumes

Tickets: \$90 if purchased before Oct 27
or \$110 at the door.

Random Rant

Have you noticed how incompetent many everyday products are these days? Not just little things like the can opener that doesn't open, or a package that needs a blow torch to get at the contents, but things you pay a lot of money for.

Take for instance the stroller—a light, useful way of transporting a baby. Why is that 90% of them are built so that the child is facing forward where he can be blasted by the rain and wind blowing directly into his face, or blinded by the glare of the sun? He is facing away from his mother, and to an infant, what he can't see is not there. All he can see are the massive, looming figures of strangers advancing on him. His mother can't see him either; for all she knows, he could be choking. Imagine how much more secure the child would feel if he were facing backwards so that he could see his mother and have her body sheltering him from the weather.

And how about leaf blowers? They don't pick up a single leaf, they only blow them from one place to another—unless it's raining, in which case the leaves just sit where they are—although the intrepid operator still goes on blowing. They fill the air with noxious fumes and a mind-bending racket. They blow up clouds of dust, leaf molds, pollens, powdered excrement, and other decaying matter for passersby to breathe, a nightmare for allergy sufferers. They serve no useful purpose beyond satisfying some macho need of the operator.

Sliding glass patio doors are another example of the lack of thought that goes into products. The moving part of the door nearly always slides along the outside of the window so that they are difficult, if not impossible, to secure against forced entry if you want to leave them open a crack. Somewhere in the world, (I think it's California) they make patio doors that slide along the track *inside* the window and can be secured by simply laying a broomstick in the track to prevent them being opened from the outside. Why is this such a difficult concept?

Then there are the thousands of kitchens that have only a single light in the center of the ceiling, so that wherever you work, you cast a shadow on your work area and can't see what you are doing.

Perhaps the worst example I've come across in recent years is the laundry tub that is an integral part of most Mexican homes. It consists of one deep sink that can be filled with water, but has no hole for drainage, and a more shallow sink with a drain but no water tap. The only function I can think of, and for which it seems ideally suited, is a breeding pond for mosquitoes.

It's as if the designers never give a thought to the how these things will be used, and rarely test them themselves. It would cost nothing extra to do it properly, so one has to wonder why they don't give it a try. As for leaf blowers, give 'em a rake! (VW)



Quotes

I have heard many argument which influenced my opinion, but never one which influenced my vote.

Sir James Fergusson

The reasonable man adapts himself to the world: the unreasonable one persists in trying to adapt the world to himself. Therefore, all progress depends on the unreasonable man.

George Bernard Shaw

Stupid people stories

Source: www.ahajokes.com

IDIOTS & RETAIL

I was signing the receipt for my credit card purchase when the clerk noticed that I had never signed my name on the back of the credit card. She informed me that she could not complete the transaction unless the card was signed. When I asked why, she explained that it was necessary to compare the signature on the credit card with the signature I just signed on the receipt. So I signed the credit card in front of her. She carefully compared that signature to the one I signed on the receipt. As luck would have it, they matched.

IDIOTS & GEOGRAPHY

After interviewing a particularly short-spoken job candidate, I described the person to my boss as rather monosyllabic. My boss said, "Really? Where is Monosyllabia?". Thinking that he was just kidding, I played along and said that it was just south of Elbonia. He replied, "Oh, you mean over by Croatia?"

IDIOTS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

I live in a semi-rural area. We recently had a new neighbor call the local township administrative office to request the removal of the Deer Crossing sign on our road. The reason: Many deer were being hit by cars and he no longer wanted them to cross there.

IDIOTS & COMPUTERS

My neighbor works in the operations department in the central office of a large bank. Employees in the field call him when they have problems with their computers. One night he got a call from a woman in one of the branch banks who had this question: "I've got smoke coming from the back of my terminal. Do you guys have a fire downtown?"

AN IDIOT'S IDIOT

Police in Radnor, Pennsylvania, interrogated a suspect by placing a metal colander on his head and connecting it with wires to a photocopy machine. The message "He's lying" was placed in the copier, and police pressed the copy button each time they thought the suspect wasn't telling the truth. Believing the "lie detector" was working, the suspect confessed. Inventions



Recipe of the Month

Shepherds Pie

Ingredients

425gr. (about 1lb) lean ground beef
Small onion
1/2 - 1 cup of beef gravy
Salt and pepper to taste
2 cups mashed potatoes.

Method

Cook ground beef and finely chopped onion in frying pan on top of stove. Drain off excess fat. Add gravy and seasoning (meat mixture should be moist but not sloppy). Place in a deep pie dish or casserole. Spread mashed potatoes over the meat mixture, using the back of a fork to smooth it. Bake in a medium oven (around 200°C) until potato crust is lightly browned. Makes 4 - 5 servings.

Variations

Add diced carrots, mushrooms and/or peas to the meat mix. Mix ½ cup of grated Cheddar or Manchega cheese into the mashed potato topping.



Inventions:

The Answering Machine

According to "Adventures in Cybersound" Valdemar Poulsen, the Danish telephone engineer and inventor, patented what he called a telegraphone in 1898. The telegraphone was the first practical apparatus for magnetic sound recording and reproduction. It was an ingenious apparatus for recording telephone conversations. It recorded, on a wire, the varying magnetic fields produced by a sound. The

magnetized wire could then be used to play back the sound.

First Automatic Answering Machine

Mr. Willy Müller invented the first automatic answering machine in 1935. This answering machine was a three-foot-tall machine popular with Orthodox Jews who were forbidden to answer the phone on the Sabbath.

Ansafone - Answering Machine

The Ansafone, created by inventor Dr. Kazuo Hashimoto for Phonetel, was the first answering machine sold in the USA, beginning in 1960. (Source: <http://inventors.about.com/library/>)



Notices & Announcements

The Memorial Society

Information desk open Mondays at AmSoc from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Enrollment: AmSoc Members: \$250 pesos
Non-Members; \$300 pesos

Costs of Services:

Donation of remains to Med School \$400 US
Cremation: \$500 US

Funeral Home: Capillas San Miguel

Notary: Ruben Alberto Santana

AmSoc Representative: Chuck Parsons

The Memorial Society needs volunteers to work the information desk on Mondays.

AA Meetings at AmSoc

AA meetings are held in the Parrot Cage on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 6:00 pm.

Apts. For Rent

1BR apartments, furnished or unfurnished, Las Fuentes (nr. American Legion). In quiet compound with beautiful garden. \$3000 pesos/mo. Call Guillermo Pulos (33) 3631-1576 for more information. Speaks English.

Apartment Rental Agency

Sra Silvia Soto de P.

Tel: 3121-5139 or 40

Agent for apartment rentals near AmSoc. No English.

The Voice by email

If you would like to receive the Voice by email, please send your request to this address:

la.inglesa@gmail.com

OCTOBER CALENDAR

<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>
2 Aerobics 9:00 Lunch 12:30	3	4 Aerobics 9:00	5 Lunch 12:30 Games 1:00 – 4:00	6 Aerobics 9:00 Social Friday 7:00
9 Aerobics 9:00 Lunch 12:30	10	11 Board Meeting 10:30! Aerobics 9:00	12 Lunch 12:30 Games 1:00 – 4:00	13 Aerobics 9:00 Social Friday 7:00
16 Aerobics 9:00 Lunch 12:30	17	18 Aerobics 9:00	19 Lunch 12:30 Games 1:00 – 4:00	20 Aerobics 9:00 Social Friday 7:00
23 Aerobics 9:00 Lunch 12:30	24	25 Aerobics 9:00	26 Lunch 12:30 Games 1:00 – 4:00	27 Aerobics 9:00 Social Friday 7:00
<i>October 28 Halloween Costume Party 12:00 noon</i>				
30 Aerobics 9:00 Lunch 12:30	31			