

Meteorite Crash in Russia

The Biggest Oxcart

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**Constructivism and
Learning Strategies**

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COVER PAGE



This month's cover page is dedicated to Sarchí of, best known as the cradle of craft. The community of Sarchí was recently recognized for having the biggest oxcart in the world according to the Guinness Book of Records. Read more about Sarchí and its record inside this edition.

<http://www.facebook.com/utnile>

ILE UTN



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EDITORIAL

Policies and Procedure?

Every right implies a responsibility; every opportunity, an obligation; every possession, a duty.

John D. Rockefeller



The UTN, as any other institution, expects satisfactory standards of behavior, conduct and attendance from all its employees. Policies and Procedures are the strategic link between the University's Mission and Vision and its day-to-day operations and activities. They allow employees to understand their roles and responsibilities within predefined limits. Basically, policies & procedures allow the administration to guide operations without continuous administration intervention. It is the University's responsibility to communicate policies and procedures and to have them in an accessible location. On the other hand, it is the university staff's responsibility to know them and consult them when necessary. Due to lack of promotion many people do not know neither their rights nor their responsibilities. In the case of professors, a high percentage ignores many of the job tasks included in the Professor's Job Description Handbook located in <http://www.utn.ac.cr/images/pdfs/reglamentos/manual%20descriptivo%20de%20puestos%20utn%202011.pdf>. Even though professors are very professional in terms of everything related to teaching, they usually take for granted (at least they are asked to) some other responsibilities such

as: collaborating with colleagues to address teaching and research issues, planning, evaluating, and revising curricula, course content, and course materials and methods of instruction, writing compilations and materials to share them with colleagues and in this way to improve the teaching and learning process.

The XXI century brings with it a set of challenges for professors. This new paradigm demands from us, among others: a) the ability to create engaging learning environments for individuals and groups and supports learners at risk, b) the ability to work independently and with others to develop and/or adapt learning materials to help different learners achieve learning goals, c) the ability to design and develop effective curriculum. (1)

It is time for everybody, but especially for professors, to take that step further and take a more active role within the university nurturing collaboration, establishing and measuring outcomes linked to continuous improvement, encouraging innovation and creativity and exercising responsible and accountable leadership. Let's leave behind the old days when we only showed up for classes, taught and left. The University needs us and only working together we will reach our goal to become the best Costa Rican University.

Eric Herrera

(1) <http://www2.algonquincollege.com/hr/files/2011/01/Professorofthe21stCentury.pdf>



NEWS

UTN and MEP work together for new High-School

The UTN and the Department of Public Education signed up an agreement that will allow the construction of the new Technical High-School of Atenas, which will benefit around 800 students of the area. The UTN will be given in authorization a 3 hectares area located in Finca González, (part of Atenas campus), for a period of 75 years. UTN will also use the facilities in order to teach some of its courses. The signing of this agreement was in charge of the President of the Republic, Laura Chinchilla, the Minister of Education, Leonardo Garnier, and the UTN Chancellor, Marcelo Prieto.



UTN will join the Central American University Confederacy



CSUCA is an organization formed by the state universities of Central America. Its mission is to promote the development of the universities within the cooperation and the continuous work with society and the government in order to look for solutions to the different problems Central America faces and in which the universities can collaborate. This is an important step towards internationalization of the UTN takes. One more time the UTN wants to be a leader in innovation and an example for society.

Historical Resignation

Pope Benedict XVI surprised the world last February 11th by announcing he is no longer able to fulfill his duties as the head of the Catholic Church due to age and failing health, and is stepping down at the end of the month. Pope Benedict XVI will become the first pontiff in six centuries to resign. Benedict's decision sets the stage for a conclave to elect a new pope before the end of March. A papal conclave is a meeting of the College of Cardinals convened to elect a new Pope, and it is the oldest ongoing method for choosing the leader of an institution. Benedict – formerly known as Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger -- was elected pope on April 19th, 2005 in one of the fastest conclaves in modern history. He reportedly was elected after four ballots, with 84 of 115 votes. Some previous Popes who resigned were Gregory XII in 1416, St Celestine V in 1294, and Gregory VI in 1046.



(Images taken from: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pope_Benedict_XVI)

Super Bowl XLVII: Baltimore Ravens defeated San Francisco 49ers

As it always happens during the last Sunday of January or the first one of February, the National Football League (NFL) holds the most important viewed sport event of the year in the US: The Super Bowl. This year the game was played at the Mercedes-Benz Superdome in New Orleans, Louisiana, which has seen ten super bowl finals so far, on February 3rd and was watched by over 108 million people in the United States only.

Baltimore defeated San Francisco by a score of 34–31 in one of the most exciting games ever seen. Joe Flacco, Baltimore Ravens quarterback, was elected the most valuable player (MVP). He ended up completing 22 out of 33 passes for 287 yards and three touchdowns.



Some interesting details about this year's super bowl are that the two coaches are brothers: Baltimore's John Harbaugh and San Francisco's Jim Harbaugh. A thirty second spot commercial broadcasted during this game can reach \$4.000.000. Jennifer Hudson and a chorus of several students from Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, the site of the shooting on December 14, 2012, performed "America the Beautiful". Beyoncé performed in the halftime show that featured a meeting with her fellow members from Destiny's Child: Kelly Rowland and Michelle Williams. Finally, just as we have seen it in the Estadio Nacional, there was a power outage in the stadium that delayed the game for 34 minutes. Finally, because of the importance of the super bowl, the not less famous Mardi Grass carnival was changed. Parades scheduled for February 3rd and before were moved ahead one week.

Meteorite Crash in Russia

A meteor streaked across the Urals region on Friday February 15th. The meteor released several kilotons of energy above the region, the Russian Science Academy said. According to NASA, it was about 15 meters wide before it hit the atmosphere.

Amateur video footage showed a brilliant white light arcing across the sky, leaving a smoke trail, before it shattered 18 to 32 miles from the ground with a sound described as "like an earthquake and thunder together".

Meteors are small pieces of space debris -- usually parts of comets or asteroids -- that are on a collision course with the Earth. They become meteors when they enter the Earth's atmosphere. Most meteors burn up in the atmosphere, but if they survive the frictional heating and strike the surface of the Earth they are called meteorites.

Meteors typically cause sizeable sonic booms when they enter the atmosphere because they are traveling so much faster than the speed of sound. Injuries on the scale reported Friday, however, are extraordinarily rare.

Russian authorities estimate the meteor that exploded in the sky over the Ural Mountains region caused more than \$US30 million (\$A29.12 million) in damage and that 1200 people were injured, most of them by flying glass.



The meteor hit Chelyabinsk

(Information taken from: <http://www.foxnews.com/science/2013/02/15/injuries-reported-after-meteorite-falls-in-russia-ural-mountains/>
 Images taken from: <http://news.sky.com/story/1052514/meteor-team-of-20000-sent-to-ural-mountains>)

Road to Brazil 2014

This month, Costa Rica began its road to Soccer World Cup Brazil 2014. Costa Rica's first opponent was Panama, the soccer game was held at the Estadio Rommel Fernandez in Panama City on Wednesday, February 6th. The game was intense, and the 30.000 loud fans (5.000 Costa Ricans approximately) enjoyed every minute of it. Panama scored two goals during the first half of the game, where the national team looked slow, sleepy, and without clarity to attack. However, Costa Rica reacted during the second half to tie the game and rescue an important point playing as visitors. It was a suffering game for Costa Rica until a scissor kick goal from Bryan Ruiz with few minutes left allowed Costa Rica to get a 2-2 draw. Costa Rica's next rival will be The United States next March 22nd in Denver, U.S.A.



GOOD LUCK COSTA RICA!



(Pictures taken by Greivin Brenes in Panama)

THE ILE ETHOS

The Biggest Oxcart

By Izabella Zepúlveda (ILE Professor)

Costa Rica is a small country that is thinking big these days. So far, we've seen the biggest coffee basket in the world in Barva, Heredia. The world's biggest gallo pinto, the unique tico dish of rice and beans... However, one of the most interesting records we have right now is the one for the biggest oxcart in the world, located in Sarchí.

Back in the 19th century, harvested coffee beans were transported out of the hills of Sarchí on wooden carts pulled by oxen. These ox carts ("carretas" in Spanish) are still made in Sarchí where they are more of an artistic and craft, and have recently become one of the few uniquely Costa Rican handicrafts in the world. As a way to honor oxcart makers and to attract tourists, the local tourism bureau decided to build the biggest oxcart in the world, an amazing oxcart put on display in Sarchí main plaza. The 45 foot (14 meter) long 2 ton cart was recently recognized by the



Guinness Book of Records for the world's largest oxcart. The monster is 5 times a regular size oxcart and we imagined babe, Paul Bunyan's big blue ox, pulling it. Actually, it has to be pulled by a tractor.

The uniqueness of the oxcarts of Sarchí is so that UNESCO put them on its list of Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity. But if you are not much into oxcarts, artisans in Sarchí also produce beautiful wooden bowls, wooden furniture and leather goods.

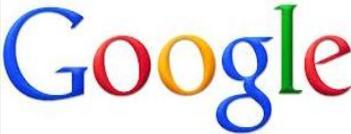
The most famous local oxcart dynasty is the Chaverrí family. This family has been making oxcarts since 1903. The first thing you see when you get to *Fábrica de Carretas Joaquín Chaverrí* is a tacky souvenir store selling oxcarts in all sizes, even one cleverly turned into a drinks cart, along with a full battery of tourist junk. Hurry through the store and come out the back and you will get to the workshop. Sarchí is a perfect place for a one-day trip where you can appreciate these beautiful oxcarts and enjoy of a cup of coffee and typical food in one of the many cafeterias around.



(Information adapted from: <http://costaricabedfinder.com/articles/view/19/ticos-think-big-bigger-biggest>)

Brand Name Etymologies

You see them everywhere and every day, but do you know what the meaning of many of the most famous brands we use and wear come from? Here we list ten of the most common brands we around.

BRAND	ORIGIN
	Derived from the coca leaves and kola nuts used as flavoring, founder John S. Pemberton changed the "K" of cola to "C" to make the name look better
	It comes from the African's spelling of rhebok, a type of antelope.
	It is shortened from service games of Japan which was founded by Marty Bromley (an American) to import pinball games to Japan for use on American military bases.
	It comes from the Latin word SONUS meaning sound, and SONNY, a slang word used by Americans to refer to a bright youngster.
	Originating from a misspelling of the word "googol", they changed the name to Google, the number one followed by one hundred zeros, which was picked to signify that the search engine wants to provide large quantities of information for people.
	The meaning of the Korean hanja word Samsung (三星) is "tristar" or "three stars". The word "three" represents something "big, numerous and powerful"; the "stars" mean eternity.
	According to Steve Jobs, Apple was so named because Jobs was coming back from an apple farm, and he was on a fruitarian diet.
	This name is actually the founder's last name: Michio Suzuki
	It stands for Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation

(Information taken from: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_company_name_etymologies)

Constructivism and Learning Strategies

by Euyenia González (ILE Professor)



In the educational field, many scholars refer to constructivism as a theory of learning. The learner is responsible of constructing his or her knowledge by applying different strategies in the classroom. Though, students cannot acquire the cultural values and expected skills by themselves. The role of the teacher in this process of self-learning and discovering is fundamental. The teachers need to develop students' thinking and knowledge by using a variety of strategies. Hence, when implementing the constructivist model, the activation of the previous knowledge, the contextualization of the topics and the collaborative work in the classroom are some of the most remarkable activities teachers must consider.

The activation of the previous knowledge is essential to adapt the objectives of the course to the students' needs. Students are required to show how much they know. This can be done through different practices and classroom activities that contribute to the students' comprehension. This activation is also done through diagnostic tests or by using simple communicative activities where the learners, individually or in groups, express different opinions. But, why is this important? Well, by activating the previous knowledge, teachers make important decisions and adjustments in regards the planning and assessment. Teachers may also determine what strengths and weaknesses the students have, so can design appropriate methodologies for the students. This is a demanding task, but definitely

indispensable in the teaching-learning process.

Moreover, contextualization means communicating ideas in one familiar way that is simple enough for the students to understand. When planning a lesson in the constructivist model, any subject matter must be related to one specific context. This helps the students to relate what they know with prior understanding. When introducing a topic in isolation, students may lose interest in the studied material since they do not experience its significance to their major. Salgado (2006) defines John Dewey's pragmatism as a teaching process that acculturates students by using authentic practices that are relevant for their culture. Dewey states that students necessarily need a familiar context to learn appropriately. Thus, to relate the contents to everyday activities is necessary in the construction of the knowledge in the constructivist model.

Finally, educational institutions are increasingly recognizing the importance of collaborative work. Gerlach, (1994) states that: "Collaborative learning is based on the idea that learning is a naturally social act in which participants talk among themselves" (p.12). Sharing ideas with their equals is more productive than working alone. Students require to have the necessary skills to interact with others effectively when solving problems or searching for solutions. Moreover, learning to respect others' opinions is mandatory to get along with peers in the working setting once they graduate.

In summary, current teaching has to include the activation of the previous knowledge, the contextualization of the topics and the collaborative work in the classroom. In that way, learners will experience a successful learning – teaching

process, in which they develop the necessary skills required to be competent professionals in the different fields.

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Conversations

by Diana Whitelaw (American Teacher Volunteer)

A frequent visitor to Costa Rica, I have always been on the lookout for a volunteer opportunity that would allow me to give back in some small way for all that I enjoy about this wonderful country. In July, I came upon the following advertisement in Atenas Today:

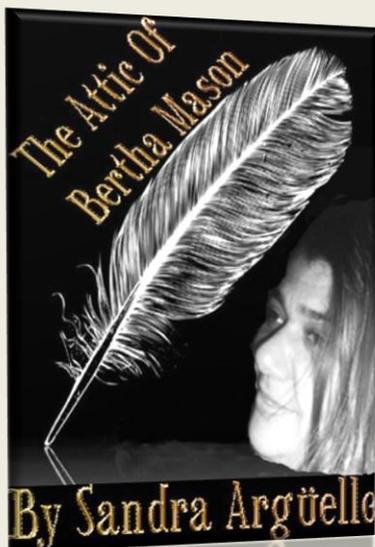
English as a Foreign Language major at Universidad Técnica Nacional, Alajuela, is seeking volunteers to become part of the English language major as guest conversational partners for students, Live an enriching cultural and friendly experience with college students learning English as a major. Please contact us at utnile@gmail.com 24355000 (ext 1248)

I emailed the University and Jose Soto, director of the program, responded immediately, informing me that he was setting up a meeting for volunteers right here in Atenas with the help of Marietta Arce. I attended the meeting with Marietta, Jose and Professor Emilena, one of the professors in the program. They were all so friendly and helpful, describing the program and answering all our questions over a delicious offering of mango/papaya fruit salad and coffee. I signed up immediately to meet with students once a week for an hour, in small groups of five students to allow for maximum participation in the conversations.



I can't tell you how much I have enjoyed this experience. If you have struggled personally with learning Spanish, you will better understand how intimidating it can be to try and converse in a foreign language, yet these students are all so eager and willing to try. In addition to attending college full or part-time, most of them also work full or part-time; some are married with children, yet they all choose to come to the University, in the little spare time they have, to participate in this volunteer program. Their English is much better than I anticipated and we had wonderfully interesting conversations about Costa Rica, the United States and England. Sadly, I had to leave Costa Rica at the end of August, but am looking forward to new conversations with students when I return in December. If you are looking for a volunteer opportunity, here is your chance.

I strongly recommend you contact Jose Soto immediately and start your conversations with these amazing students.



The Book as Art

As new technologies like Kindle become more popular, some people think the book as we know it might disappear. Buying books online has obvious advantages. It is cheaper, easier, and faster than going to the bookstore. It also contributes to reducing the cutting of trees. Still, book lovers shake with fear at the thought.

Let's face it: books are amazing. A true lover of books will tell you about that sensation when she smells through the pages of a new book, an old book...any book. Books also make promises with their smell. We are sensitive beings; we rejoice at the opportunity of exercise our right to use our senses. That gets lost with computers. Whether you try to smell the photo

of a book or a flower, what you get is the silent smell of the screen (mine is a combination of dust and cats).

With time, book covers have evolve so much that now they are even works of art. The cover of a book might not be a good indication of its content, but a skillful designer will be able to capture some of the magic of the book and so create more expectations.

Books are also collectible objects. I have to admit I am proud of my book collection. It is not huge, but it shows my taste through time. It is like a history of who I am. Whenever I look at a book, I remember the time when I bought or got it. I have books I relate to failed love stories, to afternoons with coffee, to unexpected gifts.

I hope we find a way to keep books as they are, forever.

Meet Your "Quota", or Die Trying...

By José Andrés Solano (ILE student)

She could not believe her senses. Allan, her youngest son, was just eight months old, and even when he was not "that heavy" (he is now over 6 feet and over 240 pounds. Back then, he was just a little baby), the stroller was showing lose pieces and functional issues; very unusual in such a new item. Her heart knew something was wrong, and she would find out the truth.

Allan had three older brothers, 4, 7, and 9 years old. Nice kids, anyone could easily tell they would be great men someday. It was 1989, and they could only think of having fun: Mejengas (informal soccer games), hide-and-seek sessions and marble tournaments, brought glorious days, sweet victories, and sad defeats. Whatever the case was, life could not get any better. She was pretty smart at keeping these guys busy and productive; for example, they would earn money out of house chores. This was the beginning of it all!

One important task was taking little Allan outside, so he could get his daily exposure to morning sun. The three brothers would happily volunteer to do that; she would just allow them to, probably touched and happy. Simple plan: Take little Allan in his stroller down to the town's indoor soccer court, expose him to sun for some minutes, and come back home; nothing complicated. They would always come back happy and laughing. At some point, things started looking strange in her eyes.

Of course the secret could not be kept for long and a lady neighbor told her the terrible truth: Her three older sons would get Allan off the stroller, sit him by the fence, on the floor, and would simply ride the stroller all over the court, taking turns, sometimes together, even crashing the stroller against the fences. She obviously was not happy. The good part: In

addition to being exposed to the sun, Allan would meet his “quota” of laughs seeing his brothers perform a “high-risk” act with the stroller.

She decided to ground her three sons for several weeks. No TV, no games, no rides, no marbles, no seek-and-hide, no mejengas, no “nothing”; it was misery. All I can say is that I was just 9, and really tried my best to amuse my baby brother.

Passion for Soccer

by Johanna López (ILE student)

Definitively, soccer is a passion shared by men, women, and children of all ages in Costa Rica. Sunday cannot be called Sunday if you don't hear the game transmissions in every corner of the country, and Monday is not Monday if you don't hear the comments, analysis and jokes about the game anywhere you are. There is a soccer field in every town to practice on, or an indoor 5 side football pitch and every child has the dream of becoming a professional soccer player.

Apparently, the passion for soccer in Costa Rica had its origins towards the end of the 19th century as a consequence from: the lucrative coffee trade. The wealthy families sent their children to Europe to study, mainly to England, where this sport was part of the education programs. Once they returned to the country, they started practicing it during the evenings with the uniforms and balls they brought from their trips. From that moment on, the game became so popular, that in a few years, it was practiced even by the most humble people.

Just to illustrate this, my father says that during his youth, soccer balls were made of leather and became so heavy that, when it got wet, it was almost inevitable to feel bewildered after heading it. But, if they did not have a leather ball on hand, the boys used to ask for a pork bladder in the neighborhood butcher shop so they could inflate it and in this way, they improvised a ball. Once the ball problem was solved, they played until the bladder burst. Thankfully, times have changed but passion about soccer remains the same.

Many people will agree that politics and religion are topics that can unleash passions and hatreds. In the case of Costa Rica, soccer must be included as one of them since most of the population supports and identify themselves with a team and this is even more evident when the Costa Rica soccer team plays.

LANGUAGE BITS

Here there are some examples of how to say things in different situations.

SITUATION	FORMAL	RELAXED	INFORMAL
You had planned to get married soon. It was supposed to be a secret but someone told all your co-workers. You want to know who told everyone.	Who revealed my secret?	Who let it out?	Who's the big mouth?
You recently worked on a project. You did most of the work, but someone else got the credit. You are telling a friend about it.	I did all the arduous work.	I did all the hard work.	I did all the leg work.
You have just taken a difficult exam.	The exam was complicated.	The exam was hard.	The exam was though.

What is a Cockney?

'Cockney' or 'cock's egg' was a 14th Century term applied contemptuously by rural people to native Londoners who lived rather by their wits than their muscle. In time, the term became synonymous with working class Londoners and it lost its once denigrating qualities. To most outsiders a Cockney is anyone from London itself. Today's natives of London, especially its East End use the term with pride - 'Cockney Pride'. Cockneys are well known for their eloquent wit, gift for phrase making and nicknaming. This has enriched the English tongue with new forms of speech; clichés and catchwords. Rhyming slang certainly developed as a way of obscuring the meaning of sentences to those who did not understand the slang. It remains a matter of some speculation whether this was done simply to have some linguistic fun, or whether it was developed intentionally to assist criminals.

Rhyming Slang Examples:

"Use your loaf and think next time" (loaf of bread = head)

"Are you telling porkies?" (porkies = pork pies = lies)

"Are you going to rabbit all night?" (rabbit and pork = talk)

"Did you half-inch that car?" (half-inch = pinch, meaning steal)

**PLEASE NOTE!
COCKNEY SPOKEN 'ERE
WE ACCEPT:
GODIVAS, MONKEYS, PONIES,
EDGES, CARPETS AND VISA**

(Information taken from: <http://www.cockney.co.uk/>)

HUMOR

Age Barometer

How many of these do you remember?

- Candy cigarettes
- Movies preceded by cartoons and newsreels
- Metal lunchboxes
- 45-rpm records
- Carbon paper
- Computer with floppy
- Menudo* and *Los Chicos* music
- Mompik ice cream
- Banco Anglo
- First goal of Costa Rica in World Cup
- A Todo Dar* in channel 6
- Going to a cinema out of a mall
- La Padylla* band
- Watching *Voltron*, *The Thundercasts* and *Knights of the Zodiac*
- Borden dairy products
- Five hundred colones bills
- Having a walkman or discman
- Telephone with cord and only one "ring" ringtone
- Pistachon Zig-Zag, Mafafa Musquito, Mimoso, Patas Verdes, Dr. Memelousky and the Eco-Loco
- View master
- If you remembered 0-5, you're still young.
- If you remembered 6-10, you are getting older.
- If you remembered 11-15, don't tell your age.



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thr	Fri	Sat	Sun
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

(Images taken from: <http://www.wpclipart.com/>)

Brave Captain

There was a captain sailing on the sea during a battle. His servant came up to him and the captain said, "bring me my red shirt".

So, the servant did as the captain said. After that the servant came up to the captain and said, "Why did you say bring me my red shirt?"

The captain said, "Well if i get shot they won't see the blood."

The next day the servant came up to the captain and said, "There are 50 ships on the horizon."

The captain said, "Bring me my brown pants."



A beautiful, sexy, good looking lady was sitting next to a guy in a plane..... The lady said to him ' Can you help me remove something from my breast please? 'The exciting young man replied, 'Wow! It will be my pleasure..... So what is it?' "Your eyes, idiot!"



(Jokes taken from: <http://www.sms2friends.com/funny-jokes/page/15/>)



Little Devils

The indigenous town of Curré in the Brunca Region (28 km from Palmar Sur and 32 km from Buenos Aires) was founded years ago along the Terraba River. Curré's people are of the same ethnicity as the Boruca. In the past, the Boruca were made up of a group of chiefdoms that ruled most of Costa Rica's Pacific coast, from Quepos to what is now the Panamanian border, including the Osa Peninsula. The Boruca traditionally spoke the Boruca language, which is now nearly extinct, but at school, it is still taught to the kids. Today they are trying to recover part of their identity. The indigenous Borucas of Costa Rica are still in close touch with their ancestral traditions, as expressed by their legends, dance, and crafts. They are particularly known for the "Fiesta de los Diablitos", a 3-day festival taking place from December 30th to January 2nd.

During the festivity, fights between the native Boruca indians (the devils) and the Spanish Conquistadores (the bull) are staged. The Borucas use wooden masks and drink lots of homemade chicha (chicha is a fermented alcoholic beverage, derived from maize). There are many different roles in the dance of the Juego de los Diablos, but no roles include women. This may be due to the fact that historically, Brunca women did not have much power in the organization and traditions of the community.



Picture 1



Picture2



Picture 3

(Information taken from: <http://www.travelcostarica.nu/indigenous-costa-rico>)

Pictures:

Freddy PARRALES, image 1 taken from periódico La Nación online Domingo 31 de enero de 2010

http://www.nacion.com/In_ee/2010/enero/31/aldea2245056.html

image 2 taken from <http://www.boruca.org/en/>

Edgardo González, image 3 taken from periódico La Extra online Miércoles 29 de diciembre de 2004

<http://www.diarioextra.com/2004/diciembre/29/espectaculos04.shtml>

TECHNOLOGY

Picasa



Picasa is a free image organizer and image viewer for organizing and editing digital photos, plus an integrated photo-sharing website. "Picasa" is a blend of the name of Spanish painter Pablo Picasso, the phrase mi casa (Spanish for "my house") and "pic" for pictures (personalized art). In July 2004, Google acquired Picasa from its original author and began offering it as freeware. Picasa has file importing and tracking features, as well as tags, facial recognition, and collections for further sorting. It also offers several basic photo editing functions, including color enhancement, red eye reduction, and cropping. Other features include slide shows, printing, and image timelines. Images can also be prepared for external use, such as for e-mailing or printing, by reducing file size and setting up page layouts. There is also integration with online photo printing services. Other simple editing features include adding text to the image. You can get more information and download Picasa from its official site: <http://picasa.google.com/>.

(Information taken from: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Picasa>)

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

It happened in February

IMPORTANT EVENTS

February 1st, 1884	First volume of the Oxford English Dictionary is published.
February 2 nd , 1536	Buenos Aires, Argentina, is founded by Pedro de Mendoza of Spain.
February 6 th , 1958	Eight players of Manchester United were killed in the Munich air disaster.
February 9 th , 1964	The Beatles make their first appearance on The Ed Sullivan Show, performing before a record-busting audience of 73 million viewers.
February 14 th , 1876	Alexander Graham Bell applies for a patent for the telephone, as does Elisha Gray.
February 18 th , 1930	Pluto, the ninth planet of our solar system, is discovered.
February 22 nd , 1630	Indians introduce pilgrims to popcorn, at Thanksgiving.
February 24 th , 1821	Mexico declares its independence from Spain.
February 27 th , 1827	First Mardi Gras celebration in New Orleans LA.

Famous People Born In February

PERSON	BIRTHDAY
Cristiano Ronaldo	February 5 th , 1985
Jules Verne	February 8 th , 1828
Michael Jordan	February 17 th , 1963
Nicolaus Copernicus	February 19 th , 1473
George Washington	February 22 nd , 1732
John Steinbeck	February 27 th , 1902
Elizabeth Taylor	February 27 th , 1932

International Accreditations at UTN

by Marco Araya

Trinity College London offers its second roll of international accreditations this coming December. This entity honored **Universidad Técnica Nacional, Registered Examination Center 46172**, as the only representative institution in Costa Rica to test people who want to acquire a worldwide recognition in his/her English language skills.

Each year, more than half a million applicants in Latin America are accredited by Trinity which is not only the oldest but also educational entity.

Examinations are based on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. PIT (Programa Institucional de Idiomas para el Trabajo) office provides all the information you need to register for the next examination process. Representatives will be pleased to guide aspirants through this remarkable experience: registration requisites, pre-tests, tutoring, and assertive advice. **Contact us and become a Trinity certified member. Ph: 2435-5000 ext: 1233**



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Love is not an exam to pass or fail, love is not a competition to win or lose, but love is a feeling in which you care for someone more than yourself...

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

