

# THE NEW COURIER

Nº8 October 2004

Institut d'Estudis Nord-Americans

Monthly Publication

## Welcome to the Institute of North- American Studies

Do you speak English? Don't worry, because you've chosen the best way to learn English. At the IEN we have the best teachers and we have the best methods at our disposal to help you reach a level that will allow you develop in your work and your

academic environments. We have extensive experience in English language teaching.

Since 1951, the Institute of North American Studies (IEN), a private non-profit organization has taught

English and promoted cultural exchange between Spain and North America. This academic year, share the thrill of learning and experiencing English as you participate in all of the classes and activities we have to offer.



FALL 04 Advertising Campaign. 160 Buses driving around the city and 150 poster ads in Subway Stations

### INDEX Pg.2 ACADEMIC

#### INFORMATION

What's new?

ADULT PROGRAM:

1. Literature program
2. Curso de danza

JUNIOR TEEN PROGRAM

BUSINESS PROGRAM

MICHIGAN PROFICIENCY

### Pg.2 FILM CLUB

October calendar

### Pg.2 FESTIVAL INTERNACIONAL DE CINEMA I DRETS HUMANS

### Pg.2 JUBILEE JAZZ CLUB

October Calendar

### Pg.3 HALLOWEEN

### Pg.3 ENTREVISTA A JUDIT MOYA

### Pg.4 TEACHER'S PROFILE

Catherine Bergeron

### Pg.4 EN RECUERDO AL DOCTOR JOAN ORÓ

### Pg.4 OCTOBER ACTIVITIES

•More than 50 years of experience teaching English as a foreign language.

•All teachers are qualified native speakers with Master's Degrees from American universities or equivalent teaching certification.

•Our teaching method is based on dynamic interaction between the teacher and students to provide the

## THE IEN ADVANTAGES

most direct, effective and fun way to learn English.

•Official Certificates and documentation of our student's level of English.

•University Credits for English classes taken at the IEN.

•Classes for all ages and professions.

•Flexible hours with classes in the morning, afternoon and evening including intensive and regular trimester courses.

•If you are a new student, we welcome you and hope that the path you

have chosen with us will provide an unforgettable and positive learning experience. If you are a returning student, we would like to thank you for your continued patronage.

•To assist students, both new and continuing, in their pursuit of English, here is a brief introduction to our programs, and to the supplementary services we offer.



## ACADEMIC INFORMATION

### Academic Director

Silvia Cardús

### Adult Program

Additional help and advice about which program is right for you  
Mary Meisenholder, Program Head  
Monica Tacón, Coordinator  
First floor

### Professional English

English in the professional and business world  
Darcy Zinn, Coordinator  
Third floor

### English Challenge

English through multimedia programs  
Vincent Dams, Coordinator  
Stephen Gudgel, Teacher  
Ground floor

### Junior/Teen Program

Children ages 3 - 17 learning to communicate and understand the English-speaking world  
May Miralles, Program Head  
Elizabeth Gómez, Coordinator  
Second floor

### FALL TRIMESTER

#### What's new?

A reduction in the number of students per class

This new trimester, we have reduced the number of students per class to be able to give more personalized attention to and better follow-up on each student's learning. The maximum number of students per class has been lowered by up to 15%.

### ADULT PROGRAM

#### Literature Course

This 10-week, 30-hour course in literature in English is intended for advanced and proficiency-level E2 students — especially teachers of EFL. One week is devoted to each reading — approximately 10 pages to be read at home. Although narrative fiction is the predominant form studied, some poetry and nonfiction are included. Class time consists basically of a pre-reading

introduction to the author and a post-reading discussion of the piece — sometimes enhanced by an audio recording. Accompanying each reading are discussion questions, a glossary of new words with brief definition, a vocabulary exercise, an optional writing assignment, and a bibliography for further reading. The main course objectives are twofold: 1) to arouse interest in the message and work of each writer, and 2) to think critically. The secondary objective is to build passive vocabulary and become aware of certain style patterns.

### DANCE COURSE: LINDY HOP

Learn Lyndy Hop, the original Swing Dance from the 30's and the 40's

After last year's success, the IEN has decided to continue offering this new course which combines Lyndy Hop classes, original 30's and 40's swing dance classes and English. It's the best way to practice your English speaking if you like to dance. You can go on with your normal English classes and use this to reinforce your listening skills outside the classroom in a fun and entertaining way. You don't need a dance partner for the classes, but if you have one, don't worry if your English levels aren't the same. All participants from basic to advance levels are welcome.

### JUNIOR TEEN PROGRAM

The Junior/Teen program has been restructured. From the pre-intermediate levels on, the Junior/Teen classes now have a level schedule similar to the one in the Adult program. Also the total hours per level will be compatible with the Adult program. The objective of these changes is to give the Junior/Teen students in these modules the same level as adults in order to facilitate the transition of these students into the Adult program in cases where

this applies.

### BUSINESS PROGRAM

Remember that we have both an 'in house' and an 'in-company' Business English program. If you're interested in knowing more about these programs, consult a flyer from the reception desk or go to the Professional English Program on the third floor.

### TRANSLATION SERVICE

We offer translation of general or technical documents into or from English, Spanish and Catalan.  
First Floor

### MICHIGAN PROFICIENCY

The ECPE (Examination for the Certificate of Proficiency in English) is the official proficiency in English Exam offered by the University of Michigan. A proficiency level in English is considered to be equal to that of a native speaker and is the required level for students seeking to attend an English speaking university. You will be able to take the ECPE in the month of November at the IEN.

Information about the ECPE Exam, test registration, exam dates and price will be announced in November

### DO YOU WANT TO PREPARE FOR THE MICHIGAN PROFICIENCY??

The IEN offers a special preparatory course for students who want to take the Michigan Proficiency (ECPE). This course is a 5-week intensive (6 hours a week) which runs from October 6th to November 7th. The course is open to students who have finished Advanced 4.

## FILM CLUB

This Month we celebrate Halloween



October 20th at 7:00p.m.

**EVIL DEAD**  
Dir. Sam Raimi



October 27th at 7:00p.m.

**THE LEGEND OF THE HELL HOUSE**  
Dir. John Hough

Free! Wednesday, October 13th, at 7:00 PM, IEN Theater  
Wednesday, October 20th, at 7:00 PM, IEN Theater

## FESTIVAL INTERNACIONAL DE CINEMA I DRETS HUMANS

### UNA FUERZA MÁS PODEROSA I TROUGH THE WIRE

14 octubre a les 17h | 18 octubre a les 19:30h

### UNA FUERZA MÁS PODEROSA II FROM DARKNESS

14 octubre a les 19:30h | 18 octubre a les 17h

### UNA FUERZA MÁS PODEROSA III UNDERGROUND

15 octubre a les 17h | 22 octubre a les 19:30h

### GOOD BYE HUNGARIA

15 octubre a les 19:30h | 22 octubre a les 17h

## LIBRARY



The library at the Institute of North American Studies is the only public library in Spain specializing in the United States and US literature. Located in the Institute's annex, the library holds a major collection of over 10,000 volumes, along with an extensive video library.

In the library you will find a wide range of information on literature, economics, sociology, history, politics, and the arts in America.

You will also be able to consult almanacs, directories, encyclopedias, dictionaries, and publishing indexes from the US. There are numerous periodicals and reference materials ideal for anyone interested in finding out about current events in the US or in reading US news reports of world events. This important source of information also includes a lending service for members. You will find newspapers, magazines, directories,

and other resources that will allow you to stay in touch with what's happening in the US. To help you find the item you are looking for, the Library uses the latest computer search methods.

The use material in the library is free to everyone. To check out material that can be checked out, there is an annual membership fee of 14 € for IEN students and 50 € annual fee for the general public.

## Jubilee Jazz Club

The Jubilee Jazz Club is a jazz music group that organizes concerts, lecture cycles with a music listening component, and films at the IEN. They usually give two free programs a month. You're all invited to come. We hope to see you there!

This month we're having:

### October Calendar

October 14<sup>th</sup>

FILM SHORTS:  
STEVE LACY: LIFT THE BANDSTAND  
Directed by Peter Bull (1985)

October 25<sup>th</sup>

JAZZ SERIES:  
RAY CHARLES

Free! Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> October 31h  
and Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM, IEN  
Conference Room



## INTERVIEW WITH JUDIT MOYA



JUDIT MOYA  
Head of the Academic Advising Office  
and the IEN Library

**1. How long have you been working at the IEN?**  
I started working at the IEN in 1993. At first, it was a provisional post, thanks to a grant offered by the Education Department of the United States government. Later, I went on to become part of the IEN staff in 1996.

**2. What services do you offer in the Library and in the Advisor's Office?**  
Both the Library and the Advisor's Office are centers specialized in US life, culture and education. The library service is focused on documentation and information on subjects related to US life and customs. In the advisor's office, we offer academic orientation services. These services are aimed at students who wish to study languages or work on an undergraduate or graduate degree in the US. We can assist them in processing as well as in supplying specialized information on university admission requirements, exams, letters of recommendation and other areas related to applying to a US educational institution.

**3. Can you tell us something funny that has happened in your job?**

Over the years, a lot of funny things have happened. For example, there was a man who collected autographs of famous people and for years he was coming here asking the library to help him find these people's addresses so that he could ask them for an autographed picture. Then, in the advisor's office we had some unusual tasks where we've had to look for programs that combined English classes with dance or theater classes, or with unpaid on-job training programs in areas like communications, marketing or law.

**4. In light of the fact that the US presidential election is approaching, could you talk to us a bit about that? What are the most frequent questions they ask you about it?**

The most typical question is about the use of the donkey and the elephant as party symbols.

**5. In general, what are the questions they most frequently ask you in your job?**

The most frequent questions asked in the library are about everyday life, customs, education, politics, history, celebrations, cultural differences (like conversion of measurements and temperature), tourism, art and music.



## About the Donkey and Elephant Symbols

From Capitol Questions with Ilona Nickels, C-SPAN Resident Congressional Scholar, [www.c-span.org](http://www.c-span.org)

They didn't pick these labels – they got stuck with them! Their origin as symbols for the parties is attributed to a political cartoonist, Thomas Nast, who used the donkey and the elephant in cartoons drawn for Harper's Weekly in the 1870s. Why Nast chose the donkey and the elephant is a pretty complicated story.

One version traces it to the "Central Park Menagerie Scare of 1874," a hoax foisted on its readers by the New York Herald newspaper. The Herald ran a deliberately false story about animals breaking out of the zoo and foraging for food throughout Central Park. Around the same time, the Herald was running a series of editorials against a 3rd term for President Ulysses S. Grant, calling the possibility "Caesarism." Nast combined these two elements together for the first time in an 1874 cartoon for Harper's Weekly. He had a donkey disguised as a lion trying to scare away the animals in a forest. The donkey was a symbol for the New York Herald; the lion-skin costume was a

symbol for a scare tactic (the paper crying wolf with "Caesarism"), and the animals in the forest were the symbol for the newspaper's hoax about zoo animals in Central Park.

One of the animals frightened by the donkey's roar of Caesarism was an elephant – a symbol for Republican voters, who were abandoning President Grant, and in Nast's view, about to fall into the Democrats' trap. Other cartoonists of the time picked up the idea of the timid elephant representing Republicans, and that symbol for the party became widely recognized and accepted by the general public.

Although Nast's original interpretation used the donkey to stand in for a Democrat-leaning newspaper scaring away Republican voters, his cartoon showing a duplicitous donkey attacking a weak-minded elephant, became a handy symbol for other cartoonists wanting to represent Democrats attacking Republicans. Popular recognition of the image overrode the party's own wishes – the

Democratic party has never officially adopted the donkey as its emblem, but came to accept the reality that the symbol had stuck.

Another explanation for the donkey as political symbol stems from the 1828 presidential campaign – during which Andrew Jackson was labeled a "jackass," for his populist views. Jackson proudly seized the label and began using donkeys on his campaign posters. During his presidency, cartoonists sometimes used the donkey to illustrate President Jackson's stubbornness on certain issues. After Jackson, the donkey symbol largely faded, to be revived again by Thomas Nast in his 1870s cartoons.

Over time, Republicans came to view the elephant emblem as a sign of strength and intelligence, while their opponents portrayed it as a timid and clumsy behemoth. Democrats seized the "jackass" label, and transformed it into a clever and courageous donkey.

As is still true today, it's all in the spin!

# HALLOWEEN

The word "Halloween", actually has its origins in the Catholic church. It comes from a corrupted contraction of All Hallows Eve. November 1, "All Hollows Day" (or "All Saints Day"), is a Catholic day of observance in honor of saints. However, in the 5th century BC, in Celtic Ireland, summer officially ended on October 31st. The holiday was called Samhain (sow-en), the Celtic New Year.

## HISTORY

October 31st was the eve of the Celtic new year. The Celts were the ancestors of the present-day Irish, Welsh and Scottish people. On this day, ghosts walked and mingled with the living, or so the Celts thought. The townspeople baked food all that day and when night fell they dressed up and tried to resemble the souls of the dead. Hoping that the ghosts would leave peacefully before midnight of the new year the people carried the food to the edge of town and left it for them.

Much later, when Christianity spread throughout Ireland and October 31st was no longer the last day of the year, Halloween became a celebration mostly for children. "Ghosts" went from door to door asking for treats, or else a trick would be played on the owners of the house. When millions of Irish people immigrated to the United States in the 1840s the tradition came with them.

## SYMBOLS OF HALLOWEEN

Halloween originated as a celebration connected with evil spirits. Witches flying on broomsticks with black cats, ghosts, goblins and skeletons have all evolved as symbols of Halloween. They are popular trick-or-treat costumes and decorations for greeting cards and windows. Black is one of the traditional Halloween colors, probably because Halloween festivals and traditions took place at night. In the weeks before October 31, Americans decorate windows of houses and schools with silhouettes of witches and black cats.

Pumpkins are also a symbol of Halloween. The pumpkin is an orange-colored squash, and orange has become the other traditional Halloween color.

## HALLOWEEN TREATS



### POPCORN BALLS

Combine 1 cup of corn syrup, a teaspoon of vinegar and 1 teaspoon of salt in a saucepan. Heat to 250 degrees Fahrenheit, or until a small spoonful of the mixture forms a hard ball when dropped into water. Remove from heat and add 1 teaspoon of vanilla. Put warm popped corn in a large greased bowl. Slowly pour the syrup over the popcorn, tossing with a greased fork until mixed thoroughly. Be careful, it's hot! When it's cool enough to handle, butter your hands and shape popped corn into 3-inch balls. Place on waxed paper until cool and no longer sticky. Then wrap in waxed paper.



### DRIED PUMPKIN SEEDS

After carving your pumpkin, separate the pulp from the seeds. Rinse the seeds and spread them out to dry. The next day, add enough melted butter or margarine to coat each seed. Spread the seeds onto a cookie sheet and bake for 20 minutes in a 300 degree oven or until they are slightly brown.



## TEACHER'S PROFILE

This month we've talked with Catherine Bergeron



### Where were you born?

Well, actually, my family was living in France near the Swiss border, back then, so I was born in Geneva, Switzerland... but I'm not Swiss! We moved to San Francisco, California when I was 3 and I spent the next 20-odd years there, so it's my true hometown.

### 2. What is your city like?

San Francisco is, without a doubt, one of the coolest cities in the world. It really does have all those hills that you see in the movies, it's right on the bay, and there's some great architecture, too, so it's really beautiful. Culturally speaking, the best thing about it is the ethnic diversity. We have huge Asian and Latin American communities, as well as smaller immigrant groups from just about anywhere you can imagine — Russians, Italians, and Irish, for example.

### 3. If you were to prepare a trip to your city for someone, what would you recommend visiting?

If you go to San Francisco, don't miss the Cliff House, a big restaurant overlooking the Pacific Ocean; a trip up to the Carnelian Room, which is a bar at the top of one of our highest skyscrapers; and a tour of Pacific Heights, the really wealthy neighborhood with huge, elegant houses and breathtaking views of the bay.

### 4. Why did you decide to leave the US and move to Barcelona?

I was planning to teach in the public school system in San Francisco, and Spanish would have been extremely useful for that. The idea was to perfect my college Spanish. I had been planning to move to Madrid, and one night, on a whim, I said, "Forget Madrid! ... Barcelona!" Thank God! I came with the intention of staying for a year, but just a couple of weeks after arriving I knew that that wasn't going to be enough. This was back in 1995 and I've got no plans to move back to the U.S. I go every

couple of years on vacation and that's plenty!

### 5. What do you like best and least about Barcelona?

Barcelona is a great city for so many reasons, but if I'm going to mention just one, I'd say that Barcelona strikes the perfect balance between North and South. The weather, the food and the Spanish influence (Castilian and Andalusian, I mean in this context) on the one hand, mixed with the Catalan work ethic on the other -- that's what makes Barcelona such a wonderful place. But I do have my pet peeves. My biggest is the lack of customer service. So often, in supermarkets and in other shops and businesses, you never get the basic courtesy -- "Hello", a little eye contact, "Thanks, come again" -- that are just second nature for people in the U.S. Oh, yes! And almost nobody asks me where I'm from! That drives me crazy! Upon hearing the silly accent, aren't people even curious? That said, I must add that I love it here and that some of my best friends are Catalans.

### 6. This month we're celebrating Halloween. What does this holiday mean to you? How do you celebrate it in the US? Do you celebrate it here?

When I was a kid, Halloween was a big deal for me. My mom used to sew beautiful costumes for me. One year she made a satin rainbow for me, which I wore across my chest, paired with a special hat that converted my head into the sun! Every year, we would get together in a big group of kids and go "trick or treating" -- we would go door to door asking for candy. Here in Barcelona, I never done much to celebrate Halloween, but now that I have a kid of my own (our son Leo was born last year), I'll have to haul out the sewing machine and see what I can put together for him. The way I see it, Halloween is a neat holiday because it's more about creativity and self expression than just about shopping and eating.

### SOURCES

[www.usis.usemb.se/holidays/celebrate/halloween.html](http://www.usis.usemb.se/holidays/celebrate/halloween.html),  
[www.wilstar.com/holidays/halloween.html](http://www.wilstar.com/holidays/halloween.html), [www.benjerry.com/halloween](http://www.benjerry.com/halloween),  
[www.sxc.hu](http://www.sxc.hu), [www.c-span.org/questions/week174.htm](http://www.c-span.org/questions/week174.htm)



## In Memory of Dr. Joan Oró

On September 2, scientist Dr. Joan Oró died. His ties to the Institute go back to the 1950's when he asked the IEN for information on how to go to complete his education in the United States. Since that time, he

has been grateful to the Institute. In May 2001 he gave the lecture "Origen de la vida a la Terra I l'Exploració de l'Espai", and in November 2001, he honored us with his presentation of his biography at our center (see photo).



## October Activities

20 Wednesday	7:00 PM	FILM CLUB EVIL DEAD Directed by Sam Raimi	Theater
14 Thursday	7:00 PM	JUBILEE JAZZ CLUB Film Shorts	Conference Room
21 Thursday	22:30 PM	DINNER IN ENGLISH	Restaurant
27 Wednesday	7:00 PM	FILM CLUB THE LEGEND OF THE HELL HOUSE Directed by John Hough	Theater
28 Thursday	7:00 PM	JUBILEE JAZZ CLUB Jazz Series: Ray Charles	Conference Room
28 Thursday	22:30 PM	BASIC DINNER (Approximately 15€)	Restaurant el Mussol

### MONTHLY REGULAR EVENTS

Twice a month at 7:00 PM	FILM CLUB in the IEN Theater. American Independents
Every other Thursday at 8:00 PM	JUBILEE JAZZ CLUB Concerts and lectures.
Once a month at 10:30 PM	BASIC DINNER (for Basic 1 through Pre-Intermediate 2)
Once a month at 10:30 PM	DINNER IN ENGLISH (all other levels) Practice your English in a natural setting while you eat, drink, and socialize with IEN teachers and fellow students!

\*Tickets are available at the reception desk (approximately 20.00).