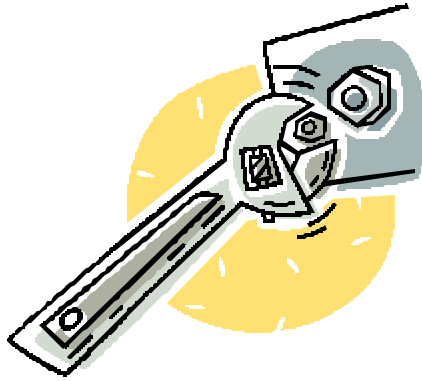


www.aatia.org

# The Letter

of the Austin Area Translators  
and Interpreters Association

July 2004



July 10 meeting

## Nuts and Bolts of Self-Employed Translating

HOW DO I FIND NEW CLIENTS? Should I present myself as an individual practitioner or as a small, specialized company? Should I get a Yellow Pages ad? Where can I find cheap reliable server space for my website?

The July meeting program will feature an interactive panel presentation by a group of AATIA veterans on these and other questions that confront self-employed translators and interpreters. The program will also include a discussion of essential dictionaries and other references for T & I practitioners.

So, make a list of your top 5 "must have" reference works for your language combination(s) and bring it, along with your questions and insights on the nuts and bolts of self-employed translating, to share with your colleagues at the July 10th meeting. See you there! ★

See page 6 for  
preliminary program  
of AATIA-HITA  
Regional Conference

## Board focuses on regional conference

A FULL AGENDA for the June AATIA Board of Directors meeting was dominated by discussions of the Regional Conference to be held July 30–31 [see page 6 for the preliminary program].

An array of interesting topics presented by highly qualified professionals will be offered at the conference cosponsored by AATIA and the Houston Interpreters and Translators Association (HITA). Volunteers who give 4-8 hours of their time toward the conference will be eligible for a registration fee discount. For more information contact Esther Díaz at [president@aatia.org](mailto:president@aatia.org) or Anita Stauber Berthold at [communications@aatia.org](mailto:communications@aatia.org).

Exhibitors may still reserve space by contacting Janet Peirce at (512) 868-5654 or [secretary@aatia.org](mailto:secretary@aatia.org). Those interested in partially or fully sponsoring a refreshment break contact Laurel Treviño at [laurelatm@hotmail.com](mailto:laurelatm@hotmail.com).

Other highlights of the board meeting included the following:

- AATIA now has a colorful burgundy table cloth/runner printed with the AATIA logo to be used on the AATIA table at conferences and other events.
- New T-shirts will be available at the next general membership meeting. We now offer attractive T-shirts in both black and white, as well as ladies "scoopneck" shirts.
- AATIA is looking for a few good men and women who are interested in on-the-job training and donating their time and energies as members of a Web Team to help maintain the website.
- The Board approved the 2004 budget prepared by Finance Director Howard Simms.

- Membership Director Hank Phillips is conducting a membership drive to recruit translators and interpreters in Arkansas, Louisiana, and Oklahoma.
- At this time, AATIA has 187 members which include 3 corporate members.
- By the next general membership Meeting in July, we will have copies of the new AATIA membership directory/phone book which is intended for the convenience and use of members.
- Attractive new name badges will be available at the next general membership meeting in July.
- If you are an active AATIA member and still haven't joined the listserv, please contact Anita Stauber Berthold at [abert@austin.rr.com](mailto:abert@austin.rr.com).
- Soon AATIA will have its own official stationery printed on parchment paper.

—Janet Peirce, Secretary ★

## Nominations due for 2005 Board

PREPARATIONS ARE UNDERWAY for the September election of the 2005 AATIA Board of Directors. Elected candidates will take office in January 2005.

Marian Schwartz will chair the Nominating Committee for the election. AATIA members who are willing to serve on the committee, run for office, or nominate a candidate should contact her at (512) 442-5100 or [schwartzm@sbcglobal.net](mailto:schwartzm@sbcglobal.net) or Secretary Janet Peirce at (512) 868-5654 or [jpeirce@cox-internet.com](mailto:jpeirce@cox-internet.com).

Candidates must be active AATIA members in good standing. The deadline for submitting nominations is Saturday, August 7, 2004. ★

## Austin Area Translators & Interpreters Association

### Board of Directors

PRESIDENT Esther Díaz v & f 312-1599  
 president@aatia.org  
 SECRETARY Janet K. Peirce v 868-5654  
 secretary@aatia.org  
 DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS Anita Stauber  
 Berthold v & f 527-9380 communications@aatia.org  
 DIRECTOR OF FINANCE Howard Simms v 452-4700  
 finance@aatia.org  
 DIRECTOR OF MEMBERSHIP J. Henry Phillips  
 v 834-1941 f 834-0070 membership@aatia.org  
 DIRECTOR OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT Laura  
 Vlasman v 891-9207 f 891-9208 prodev@aatia.org

### The AATIA Letter

EDITOR R. Michael Conner v 474-7012 f 474-2895  
 editor@aatia.org  
 PRODUCTION Howard Simms v 452-4700  
 Howard.Simms@gte.net & Merry Wheaton v 451-4772  
 f 451-1935 mcwheaton@austin.rr.com  
 DISTRIBUTION Efrat Schwartz v 282-1951 f 233-1019  
 efrat@austin.rr.com

### Coordinators

ADVERTISING Laurel Treviño v & f 394-0420  
 ATA CERTIFICATION Laura Vlasman v 891-9207  
 f 891-9208 prodev@aatia.org  
 COMPUTERS Frank Dietz v 491-6069 f 491-6086  
 fdietz@rocketmail.com  
 DATABASE Laszlo Eosze v 254-542-5090  
 leosze@hotmail.com  
 HOSPITALITY Sirikarn Peters 512-310-1821  
 siri@sirikarn-thai.com  
 INTERPRETATION Cristina Helmerichs D. v 452-5895  
 helmerichsc@netscape.net  
 LITERARY Marian Schwartz v & f 442-5100  
 schwartzm@sbcglobal.net  
 MEDICAL AND COMMUNITY INTERPRETING  
 Esther Díaz v & f 312-1599 mediaz@austin.rr.com  
 NEW MEMBERS Esther Díaz v & f 312-1599  
 mediaz@austin.rr.com  
 REFERRALS Steve Zaveloff v 219-7142 f 707-988-8694  
 zaveloff@earthlink.net & Merry Wheaton v 451-4772  
 f 451-1935 mcwheaton@austin.rr.com  
 RUSSIAN Jane Chamberlain v 453-1486 candide@io.com  
 SPANISH Marta & Michael Blumenthal v & f 295-3141  
 mblumenthal@austin.rr.com  
 WEBSITE R. Michael Conner v 474-7012 f 474-2895  
 editor@aatia.org  
 Voicemail Elisabeth Joffrain v 282-1198 f 280-3359  
 joffrain@flash.net  
 Workshops Laura Vlasman v 891-9207 f 891-9208 pro-  
 dev@aatia.org

### May meeting reviewed Interpreting made simple

PROSPECTIVE AND PRACTICING interpreters at the May AATIA general meeting enjoyed discussions led by Esther Díaz on medical interpreting, Maurine McLean on federal court interpreter certification, Sofía León on Texas state court licensing for interpreters, and Cristina Helmerichs D. on the NAJIT exam.

#### Medical interpretation

Esther Díaz explained that no national certification for medical interpreters now exists and only two states have such certification. Massachusetts requires certification for emergency room interpreters, and Washington state requires it in health and human

services agencies. Iowa and Indiana have passed legislation, but do not yet have a certification exam. Massachusetts and California are piloting a test for medical interpreters based on standards of practice developed by each state's medical interpreter organization, and the National Council on Interpreting in Health Care (NCIHC) is working toward national standards and eventual certification.

After studying existing codes and conducting a nationwide survey, NHC established a code of ethics. It is now developing uniform standards of practice. NCIHC has surveyed all over the globe and is now conducting six focus groups around the country for interpreters working with people with limited English proficiency. Because NCIHC is striving to develop standards

for all languages and ethnic groups, it is creating its own standards rather than adopting ones already in use which do not necessarily fit with non-Western languages. After compiling focus group data, NCIHC will develop draft standards and send them to health care interpreters across the nation. After receiving feedback, NCIHC will make changes to the document and hopes to have a final document by mid-2005.

The third step is to train and actually test medical interpreters. If funding is available, this will begin after national standards are accepted. In the meantime, Díaz suggested that those interested in this field visit the NCIHC website [www.ncihc.org](http://www.ncihc.org), get a head start on medical interpreter training, and attend AATIA Interpreter Special Interest Group meetings on the second

Saturday of even numbered months from 10 am–noon.

### **Federal court interpreter certification**

Maurine McLean discussed the federal court interpreter certification test and ways to prepare for it. She said that certification is required for interpreting in federal court, where many cases deal with immigration, drugs, weapons, and interstate crimes. The test has written and oral components.

The 2.5-hour written exam is offered only in even numbered years. It tests reading comprehension, sentence completion, synonyms, and grammar in both languages. The test is offered in English-Spanish, English-Haitian Creole, and English-Navajo pairs.

To prepare for the written exam, McLean suggested searching the internet for “FCICE” to obtain a self-assessment of readiness for the exam, as well as sample tests. McLean recommended several techniques for federal exam preparation, including practice on other standardized tests, e.g., for the GRE or LSAT, studying Latin and Greek roots, purchasing flash cards of current slang terms, studying in both languages, forming a study group, and mining the public library for helpful resources such as books on tape or old LSAT tests.

The oral exam is offered in odd numbered years only to those who have passed the written part and tests simultaneous and consecutive interpreting skills. Interpreters must demonstrate their ability to sight translate and perform consecutive and simultaneous interpretation in both languages. In the consecutive portion a recording of a court proceeding is played for applicants to interpret. They may ask for only one repetition, which the proctor will read from a script. The simultaneous portion consists of a twelve-minute non-stop recording of a court proceeding. Both interpreting tests are recorded and sent for grading.

McLean offered several ways to prepare for the oral exam, including recording yourself as you perform simultaneous interpretation, developing

note-taking skills, and visualizing what is being said. She also mentioned the course offered by the National Center for Interpretation at the University of Arizona, which she described as “boot camp” for federal court interpreters.

Visit their website at

**www.nci.arizona.edu.**

McLean also suggested other techniques to improve overall test-taking and memory abilities, such as fighting test anxiety by timing yourself on practice exams, building self-confidence, playing games that require concentration and memorization, memorizing song lyrics, or playing a solitary sport that requires concentration. She advised asking other interpreters for their practice materials, visiting **http://nolo.com/** for books on civil and criminal law in everyday terms, and asking lawyers for old documents to review in order to become familiar with legal terminology.

### **Texas court certification**

Sofía León described the exam offered by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulations for court interpreters and discussed its history. Formerly, Texas did not require certification of court interpreters. Many received licenses to interpret in state court without being tested. Now the Texas written exam tests proficiency in English, court-related terms, ethics, and professional conduct. The oral exam tests sight translation and consecutive and simultaneous interpreting skills. The written test has 156 items: 56 on court or legal terminology and 25 on ethics and professional conduct. The sight translation and consecutive interpretation tests are both timed. The oral test is offered in Arabic, Cantonese, Haitian-Creole, Hmong, Korean, Laotian, Mandarin, Polish, Russian, Spanish and Vietnamese.

The exam has a \$175 application fee, an additional \$100 fee for the written portion, and \$300 for the oral portion. Like the federal exam, applicants must pass the written section to be eligible for the oral section, which is tape recorded and sent for evaluation. Unlike the federal exam, however, the

written section of the state test is only in English. Consequently, anyone who passes either the federal or NAJIT exams or one offered by other member states of the National Center for State Courts Consortium automatically qualifies for a Texas license and only has to pay an annual fee to keep the license current. More information and examples test can be viewed at **www.license.state.tx.us**, following links for “licensed court interpreters.”

### **NAJIT examination**

Cristina Helmerichs D., current president of the National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators (NAJIT), spoke about her association’s interpreter certification. A national professional organization, NAJIT sets its own standards for court interpreters and tests its own members. One may be a full member of NAJIT without taking the test or getting any credential. Go to **www.najit.org** for information, as well as a link to testing.

The NAJIT test is unique because it includes a written component that only targets legal terminology and tests abilities in both directions. Currently it is only offered in Spanish-English. The written test is offered three times year for a fee of \$275. The oral test has the same fee, but is offered twice a year. The test covers criminal and civil court terminology, but applicants can take dictionaries and glossaries to the exam. The English-to-Spanish section usually tests the interpreter’s knowledge of the vernacular, while the Spanish-to-English section usually contains more legal terminology. Both oral and written sections test the applicant’s idiomatic knowledge of both languages.

Helmerichs mentioned several ways to prepare for the NAJIT exam. Besides its summer course, the University of Arizona offers “interpre-tapes” for skills practice. Source Language Solutions offers interpreter training, and a variety of tools are available through ACEBO, as well as **www.eberkana.com**. She also suggested practice on timed tests, such the GRE practice test for language.

— Tricia Yacovone ★

# The Fountain of Youth

by Tony Beckwith ©2004  
www.tonybeckwith.com

IF I TELL YOU THAT I'VE DISCOVERED the Fountain of Youth, you might dismiss me as just another dreamer. But I think I can explain what I mean, if you'll listen.

Many years ago, in the beautiful seaside city of Montevideo, a group of children grew up in a small community. After spending their formative years together at school many departed, for dozens of different reasons, and scattered across the face of the earth. Bit by bit they drifted farther and farther away and lost touch with each other. I was one of those children. Recently, prompted by advancing age and assisted by the magic of email, we found each other again and organized a reunion at our alma mater. What a homecoming that was! Now, having reestablished contact with those who were once my extended family, I have been exploring half-forgotten memories with these old friends, sometimes with surprising results.

The 18th of July is Independence Day in Uruguay. Last year on that date, a number of us circulated the words to the national anthem we used to sing on special occasions, and exchanged recollections of our rehearsals. With each email received, another image was added to the mosaic of memories that was forming in my mind. Bit by bit the scene reemerged from the mists of oblivion: I remembered the music teacher coaxing patriotic notes from the tired old upright piano, and my classmates' faces bathed in light from the glass ceiling above us. I could see the dust particles swirling in the air, and pictured myself standing on a wooden bench in the back row. The familiar fragrance of the assembly hall, which doubled as the gymnasium, filled my head, and all at once I was overcome with emotion as it all

flooded back – the thrill of the high notes the girls sang, the excitement of the stirring chorus, the exhilaration of losing myself in the roar of the choir. I was there! Transported to a moment far away and long ago that in my mind was more vivid than a video.

As I replayed this memory, I noticed that I felt pleasantly soothed. My muscles and my mind had released whatever tension they'd been struggling with, and my horizons appeared to have expanded. Possibilities seemed endless and the



world sat more lightly on my shoulders. What was going on?

The national anthem came to an end, and as I climbed down from the bench, I saw her. I had actually seen her before, frequently in fact, but at that moment it was as if she were appearing to me for the very first time. The soft light from above fell upon her, illuminating her face, and suddenly there was no one in the hall but the two of us. She smiled at me, then turned and walked away. My heart pounded in my chest and I was unable to move. With all the certainty of my thirteen years I knew that, for the first time in my life, I was in love. And I knew exactly what I must do.

Every society has its codes of courtship, and at that school there was an established procedure for informing that special someone that they had

conquered your heart. In retrospect I'd have to agree that our method lacked the romance of, say, serenading your beloved from beneath a balcony, but it was our way and we saw nothing wrong with it at the time. Our system was simple: we used bus tickets. When the five or six digits on a bus ticket added up to twenty-one, that slip of paper was considered the equivalent of a Valentine card that said, "I love you." There were other denominations as well, of course; other numbers that signified other things, some of which we barely understood. Those tickets, surreptitiously shown to close friends, were seldom if ever actually used. But a twenty-one ticket, as precious as a four leaf clover and about as hard to find, represented pure and innocent puppy love. Smitten ones would never approach the object of their affection directly, but would entrust the ticket to faithful intermediaries. In my own case, discretion prevents me from revealing any more details about my first foray into the complex realm of love. Chivalry in short pants may seem laughable to some, but only a rogue would trifle with a lady's reputation.

As I drifted out of this extended day dream, back into my real world, I realized that I felt better than I had in years, awash in a peaceful sense of well-being. I felt refreshed and invigorated and, yes, younger. It occurred to me that reliving pleasant memories of our youth nurtures us and somehow negates the physical toll taken by time—with no side effects. Could it be that the Fountain of Youth is in the well of nostalgia? Maybe you should find out for yourself. Are you ready? Just relax. Let your mind wander freely. Think back to the time when . . . yes, that's the ticket. ★

# Home networking

by Frank Dietz © 2004  
www.frankdietz.com

IF YOU, LIKE MILLIONS OF OTHERS in this country, access the Internet via a broadband connection (DSL or cable), it might make sense for you to create a home network.

Windows XP has made it relatively easy to set up a small network (go to Start/ Settings/ Control Panel/ Network Connections and select "Create a home or small office network"), and prices for networking hardware have come down considerably.

You might ask yourself why you should do this, if you managed quite well without a network so far. The main advantages are the ability to share a broadband connection without additional monthly costs (though you will have some outlays for hardware), and the ability to transfer files between computers. The latter allows for effortless backups—just copy files from computer A to a shared folder on computer B at the end of the workday. A network also extends the usefulness of an older computer, which could serve as an emergency workstation in case your new one malfunctions.

There are two basic forms of networking to consider: wired and wireless (or a combination of the both). Wired networks are cheap to set up, offer a high data transfer rate, good reliability and security. The drawback is having to run wires through a house, particularly in a two-story house. Wireless networks are easy to install and offer you the flexibility of sitting out on the deck or balcony with your laptop, sipping a beverage of choice while you answer your e-mail. Drawbacks are higher hardware costs, possible radio interference from other

devices, problems due to the building's structure and layout, and security issues (remember, you are broadcasting data via radio). Some manufacturers of wireless networking equipment also still have quality

is available at [www.atpm.com/network/setup/airport.html](http://www.atpm.com/network/setup/airport.html). In the following I will focus on wireless networks.

Assuming that you already have one computer equipped with a broadband connection, you will need a wireless router and a wireless PC card (for laptops) or USB (for laptops or desktops) or PCI adapter (for desktops) for each additional computer you want to connect. Most wireless routers I have seen also include several wired ports, so that you can connect computers close to the router via a network cable. Leading equipment manufacturers are Linksys, Netgear, D-Link, Belkin, and Microsoft. I would recommend buying all the equipment from one manufacturer.

You also have to decide which wireless standard is right for you: 802.11a, 802.11b, or 802.11g. For home users, the decision lies between the "b" standard (cheaper, lower speed) and the "g" standard (more expensive, higher speed). A useful chart about these standards can be found at [www.linksys.com/edu/wirelessstandards.asp](http://www.linksys.com/edu/wirelessstandards.asp).

Now all that is left is to install the wireless router, run some setup software, plug in the cables for the wired computers, hook up or install the adapters for the wireless computers, and connect to the Internet (you might want to deactivate your firewall during the installation process). A comparison of various 802.11g systems, their ease of setup and connection speed can be found at [www.pcworld.com/reviews/article/0,aid,112866,00.asp](http://www.pcworld.com/reviews/article/0,aid,112866,00.asp). ★



control problems, according to an article at [www.pcworld.com/reviews/article/0,aid,112467,00.asp](http://www.pcworld.com/reviews/article/0,aid,112467,00.asp). A set of useful articles on wired and wireless networking under Windows XP can be found at [www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/homenetworking/](http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/homenetworking/). A discussion of wireless networking for the Macintosh

## Preliminary Program

### Regional Conference on Translation and Interpretation Topics

#### July 30- August 1, 2004

#### Friday, July 30, 2004

7:30–8:30 a.m.  
Registration and continental breakfast

8:30–9:00 a.m.  
Opening Session

9:00 a.m.–12:15  
Spanish Grammar Workshop—Feria  
de gerundios  
Silvia Peña-Alfaro

9:00–10:30 a.m.  
Diagnostic Imaging Studies of the  
Spine  
Michael Blumenthal

10:30 a.m.–10:45 a.m. Break

10:45 a.m.–12:15 p.m.  
Healthcare Interpreting  
Esther Diaz, moderator; Edgardo  
Garcia and Maureen Scharton,  
panelists

12:15–1:30 p.m. Lunch

1:30–4:30 p.m.  
Spanish Grammar Workshop—Los  
caprichos del subjuntivo  
Silvia Peña-Alfaro

3:00–3:15 p.m. Break

1:30–4:30 p.m.  
Court Interpreting Workshop—Legal  
Terms and Concepts for Court  
Interpreters  
Albert Bork, Cristina Helmerichs,  
Steven Mines

#### Saturday, July 31, 2004

8:00–8:45 a.m.  
Continental breakfast

8:45 a.m.–12:00 noon  
Conference Interpretation  
Workshop—The Recent European  
Union-Latin America Summit in  
Guadalajara: An Example of High-  
level Diplomatic Interpreting and  
Conference Organization  
Georganne Weller

8:45–10:15 a.m.  
The Localization of Computer and  
Video Games  
Frank Dietz

10:15 a.m.–10:30 a.m. Break

10:30 a.m.–12:00 noon  
Literary Translation  
Message in a Bottle Translators

12:00 noon–1:00 p.m. Lunch

1:00–2:30 p.m.  
Tools of the Trade—Tips and Tools  
for Translation and Software  
Localization  
Christoph Niedermair

1:00–2:30 p.m.  
Organizational meetings for  
Texas Association of Medical  
Interpreters (TAMI) and Texas  
Association of Court Interpreters and  
Translators (TACIT)

2:30–3:00 p.m.  
Networking break/Time to visit  
exhibits

3:00–4:30 p.m.  
Telephone Interpreting  
Odile Legeay

3:00–4:30 p.m.  
English Grammar & Style Workshop  
Marian Schwartz

#### Sunday, August 1, 2004

8:30 a.m.–12:00 noon  
ATA Certification Examination Sitting



**Register before July 9th to take advantage of the early-bird discount.**

**See complete details and latest info at [www.aatia.org](http://www.aatia.org).**

## AATIA workshop preps candidates for ATA certification exam

THE RECENT AATIA-SPONSORED WORKSHOP on ATA certification drew a total of 13 participants from all over Texas. Using materials produced by the ATA Certification Committee, presenter Esther Diaz provided a thorough explanation of the certification program and testing procedure, including tips for candidates and real-life examples from past exams. Sample exam passages were distributed at the end of the workshop for participants to take home and use for practice.

Two ATA certification exam sittings will be held in Texas this summer, one in Austin on August 1, the other in Houston on August 14. The Austin sitting will coincide with the AATIA/HITA Regional Conference on Translation and Interpretation Topics scheduled for July 29-August 1 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Austin [see above].

Anyone interested in sitting for the exam should contact ATA right away. In addition to meeting the eligibility requirements, candidates must join ATA and register for the exam at least four weeks prior to a sitting date. Find more information and registration materials at [www.atanet.org/accred.htm](http://www.atanet.org/accred.htm). ★

## Stupid Interpreter Tricks VII Escape from Los Fresnos

© 2004 by J Henry Phillips

THE PRISON CAMP was only a few miles behind me when I hit the brakes and pulled into a moist driveway. Like a cloud fallen from the sky onto the muddy South Texas coastal plain, a thick mist had engulfed the car, fogging the windshield to near opacity. After a couple of swipes, the paper towel dropped from my hand as I made out the outline of a glistening slimy monster—a snail the size of an

Fresnos Service Processing Center. Closing the trunk on your briefcase, the cabbie tells you it's a 40-minute drive to the detention center. If pressed for details, he smiles toothily and tells you the one-way fare is only \$52—and that smile fades quickly if you point to the posted \$70 round-trip fare schedule. Their route takes you East from the airport, curving South along narrow country roads with no signs and plenty of potholes. Taking the same route twice would be a barbarous breach of Valley cabbie ethics. Unfortunately for the interpreter scheduled for a 9 a.m. hearing, Harlingen cabdrivers are ethically bound never to take less than

the Valley Brewery on the south; for the ladies, it's a big green sign that says South Padre Island. Take the next exit, under the freeway, and due east on 100. The detention center is way past Los Fresnos. You'll see a water tower off to the right, then a stop light strung over the road where you make a hairpin turn to the north.

The signs say Laguna Vista, and sure enough you'll pass a golf course and development subdivision. After several miles, a procession of green signs on the right announces BAYVIEW 13, SAN BENITO 19, US IMMIGRATION SERVICE PROCESSING CENTER. That's where you turn. It looks like a road to nowhere, but farther down the narrow side road you'll come to an Immigration Service sign someone blasted with a load of buckshot. To get back, you can follow the same route backwards—which will take you right past a concrete snail standing 9 feet tall among brightly painted cement fishes. Otherwise you can put Lewis and Clark in their place by finding the northern route back to the airport (good luck!).

Finding the main courthouse on Jackson is child's play by comparison. Take Aviation Drive south and it turns into Ed Carey Drive (Loop 499). Turn west (right) on East Harrison Ave. and follow it all the way down to 1st Street or 2nd Street (whichever lets you turn north/right). Jackson itself as a picturesque one-way street lined with palmetto palms. Next to the door of the Executive Office of Immigration Review courthouse is a tree covered in springtime with white blossoms—with no giant snails anywhere in evidence. ★



Map to detention center

elephant was oozing straight toward me!

The nightmare had started with a phone call, a run to the airport, a connecting flight in Houston, and finally the warm, nighttime air of the Lower Rio Grande Valley. The poster showing taxi fare schedules to places of interest was missing from the baggage claim area. It was only a few miles to the La Quinta Inn facing Highway 83, a little south and west of downtown Harlingen—but little change came back from that \$20 bill. A Mafia, I chuckled to myself, as I rolled my bag to the room. By mid-morning it would no longer seem a joke.

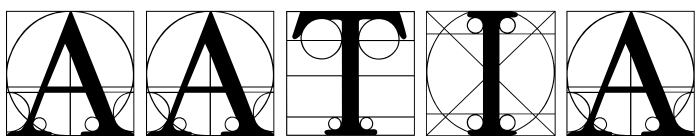
Usually an interpreter shows up at the Harlingen Airport around 11 a.m. or noon—with no time to spare before a one o'clock hearing at the Los

an hour to pick up a morning fare at a hotel.

After hearing the same voices answer at several phone numbers it will dawn on you that there are only about a dozen cabs in the entire town, migrating as if by instinct to the airport every morning. In a sleepy border town, if you are on foot and have to be somewhere by nine, you're dead meat. It takes about ten minutes to sprint from the LaQuinta across the HEB parking lot to the Enterprise offices, and as long again to rent a car. Much easier to rent the car at the airport and drive straight out the main road, Ed Carey, to the highway. Head Southwest on Highway 83, give it the gas and watch for your landmarks: for the guys, that's



Main courthouse



**Austin Area Translators & Interpreters Association**  
PO Box 13331 ★ Austin, TX 78711-3331 ★ 512-707-3900  
[www.aatia.org](http://www.aatia.org)



*AATIA holds meetings at the Austin History Center, 9th & Guadalupe, unless otherwise indicated. Visitors are welcome.*

#### **EVENTS IN AUSTIN**

July 8–11 ATA Translation Company Division Conference  
July 10 10 a.m. SpanSIG meeting  
1–4 p.m. AATIA member meeting  
July 30–August 1 Regional Conference on T/I issues  
Aug 14 10–12 noon. MCISIG meeting  
Aug 14 1–4 p.m. AATIA board meeting  
Sep 11 SpanSIG meeting and AATIA member meeting

#### **BEYOND AUSTIN**

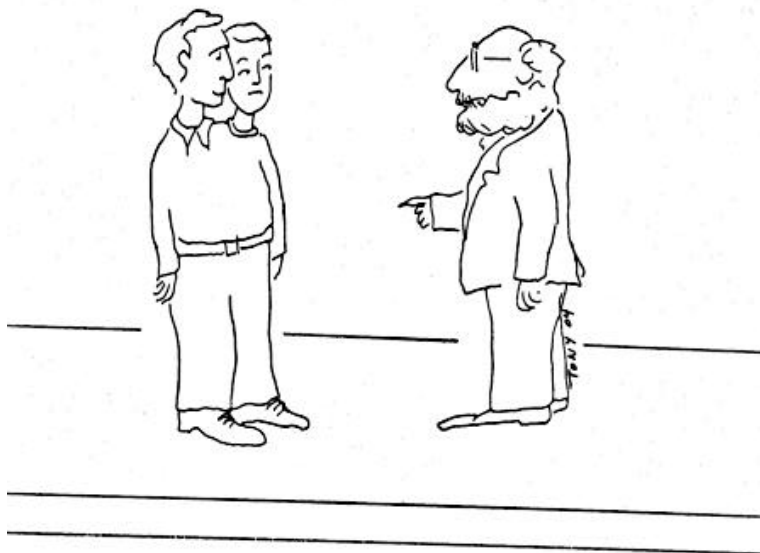
Oct 13–16 **Toronto, Canada.** 45th Annual Conference of the American Translators Association.

## **Recommended surfing**

CALLED THE ONLINE MAGAZINE for international literature, Words Without Borders publishes stories, poems, and essays by foreign authors translated into English—a rare opportunity to get a non-American perspective on things, given that so little of these kinds of works get published in the U.S. through traditional channels. Find it at [wordswithoutborders.org](http://wordswithoutborders.org) ★

## **MCISIG now ISIG**

APPROXIMATELY 30 PEOPLE attended the first meeting of the new Interpreting Special Interest Group (formerly the Medical and Community Interpreter's SIG) on June 19, 2004 which focused on sharing glossaries and planning topics for future discussion. ★



Oh yes, definitely—much better than one!