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17 November 2009 CLArion

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2. Presidential Language Trivia
3. They Also Know Chinese
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5. What Is In Those Foster-Grants
6. Film Update
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 CLArion Editor

(U//~~FOUO~~) 1. There hasn't been a CLArion for a while--this is because I've been away on TDY, etc. Now I'm back and expect to put it out pretty regularly (as before). Mea culpa (Latin for "my mistake" or something similar in meaning).

(U) 2. Jay Leno used to run bits on the Tonight Show showing President George W. Bush (43rd President, 2001-2009) being rather proficient in Spanish, i.e., speaking it with confidence, while messing up simple English/inventing words. The bits were based on actual footage and were not staged.

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(U) 3. The following notables learned Chinese (or are/were at least proficient in it): Timothy Geitner, Richard Thomas ("John Boy" Walton), Steve Allen, New York Mets pitcher Ron Darling. This is not a complete list.

(U//~~REL~~) 4. There will be a FANX2 Bookswap on Wednesday 2 December in  from 1200 to 1600. Since we haven't had one here (at FANX 2) for awhile, it is time therefore to correct the oversight. Bookswaps are for dropping off foreign language-related books that you don't want and picking up ones that you do--free of charge. POCs are

(U//~~REL~~) 5: (Editor's Note: The following item is courtesy of )  
 There is a photo but that is not included.)

(U) Eyeglasses provide more than vision correction. Most eyewear improves vision or cuts through solar glare, but a new gadget from Japan may soon sharpen linguistic skills and cut down language barriers. High-tech company NEC has come up with a device that it says will allow users to communicate with people of different languages. Shaped like a pair of eye-glasses, but without the lenses, the computer-assisted Tele Scouter would use an imaging device to project almost real-time translations directly onto the user's retina. The text -- provided instantly through voice recognition and translation programs -- would effectively provide movie-like subtitles during a conversation between two people wearing the glasses. This could also be used for talks involving confidential information negating the need for a human translator. Each user's spoken words would be picked up by a microphone, translated, and be instantly available for the counterpart in both visual text and as audio delivered through headphones. Users can still see their conversation partner's face because the text is projected onto only part of the retina -- the first time such technology is used in a commercial product, according to NEC. NEC says the device can also have other uses aside from translation. For example, it could be useful for

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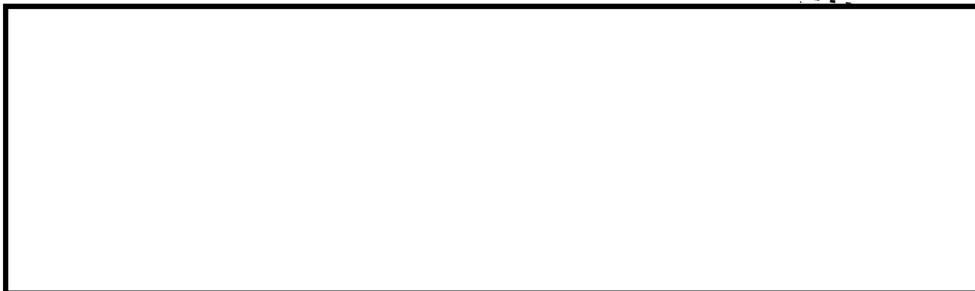
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salespeople if it is linked with a camera, face-recognition software and a store's client database by instantly providing them with a customer's purchase history. The model for sales staff and for translations is to be launched in 2011.

(//~~FOUO~~) 6. The film "Mr Vampire" (Chinese-Mandarin) has been rescheduled for this Friday, 20 Nov, at 1100 in 2B4118-1. This is part of the recent film festival but could not be showed because of equipment failure.

(~~C~~//REL) 7. CLA Elections are on-going thru 30 November -- [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] are running the show -- if you need a ballot (or want to know who is running) - let them know.



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