

## Swahili: The Culture Of Man Through Language

University Park, Pa. — The course may be Swahili, but don't be surprised if the final exam comes out in Chinese, Arabic or Serbo-Croatian.

That's how it is with the fascinating new linguistics program now being offered as part of the anthropology curriculum at The Pennsylvania State University.

Using Swahili as their base, the students focus not so much on the idea of learning to speak a language, but rather determining what language has to say about the culture which speaks it.

"What we're really trying to do is dissect language like a biologist dissects a frog," explains Dr. Ann Browning, assistant professor of linguistics with the Department of Anthropology and director of the new course.

"By examining the structure of the Swahili language and seeing its similarities and differences with English we hope to teach our students to learn any language."

To find out how successful she's been, Dr. Browning gives her final exam in anything but Swahili. For one student it may be Chinese, for another Serbo-Croatian, for yet another Arabic, just so long as it is not a language they already know.

"The test determines if their study of Swahili has given them any insight into the similarities and peculiarities of various languages that they can apply in analyzing the structure of other languages."

As an example, Dr. Browning points to the sentence: "I have five toes on my foot." In Swahili such a sentence is ambiguous because they use the same word for both leg and foot and the translation could also mean "I have five toes on my leg."

Yet, in other areas, Swahili is more precise than English. "Take the verb 'is,'" says Dr. Browning. "In the English language there is only one is, while in Swahili there are two. 'Ako' is the word used when 'is' refers to location like 'John is in the house.' But the word 'ni' repre-

sents the 'is' in the sentence 'John is a boy.'"

Ideally, information such as this will help anthropology students no matter where they go.

"Suppose a student finds himself on a project in Peru," theorizes Dr. Browning. "If he's taken our course in Swahili, he'll be aware that the language there may also have more than one word for what we know as a verb 'is' and be on the look out for it. The theories and analyses he develops from his studies of Swahili can be tried out on any language in the hope of gaining a better knowledge of the culture of the people who speak that language."

According to Dr. Browning, Swahili was selected for two reasons — one, because Africa, so much in the news these days, is one of the major archaeological and anthropological centers of the world, and two, because a graduate instructor who speaks the language of Swahili, was available to help teach the course.

As an offshoot of the new linguistics course, the graduate instructor, John Murungi, is planning another program for the Spring Term dealing with the philosophical aspects of the Swahili culture.

Next year, Dr. Browning hopes to do the same with another language, perhaps Quechua, the language of the Indians in the highlands of Peru.

### LOOK FOR

APRIL 11-12

Eastern Inter-campus League competition at Berks Campus.

APRIL 13

Mother-Daughter Tea

APRIL 15

S. G. A. Elections.

The most likely place to find a helping hand is at the end of your own arm.

## DAYCAMP LIFE

By John Estock

He was asked to write an article and seeking a topic, asked God's chosen representative-on-earth, Mr. Aurand. The prof, checking through his huge inventory of four topics, suggested he could write about the university or specifically, Highacres. He knew that it's rehashing the same worn-out topic and that one shouldn't knock a good thing, the good thing being VA benefits and the money-saving characteristics of this campus. And, anyway life in a daycamp isn't bad. No, really it isn't.

But when he finished his service to God and country, after three years with his mind lying dormant under a one each, olive green, utility cap, size 7½, he decided to make an attempt to resuscitate his inactive brain. And in this society, college is where this feat can be undertaken. So the kid enrolls in the great Penn State, in an attempt to learn, to find something to fill the convolutions in his virgin brain. But after a year he's learned to be a great (maybe not very great) mechanic with words and letters, yet he feels he's gained nothing. Perhaps he hasn't worked hard enough, but working hard is against his religion (i. e., Slothism).

The daycampers come every day and trudge through the campus playing their games and following orders, down to the letter. They seemed concerned with some silly two or three digit number but not with what IT'S all about. The kid is disillusioned, his idealistic foresight saw a university as the coffee house crowd talking concepts and abstracts; politics, war, and peace; God, life, and death; and possibly even Dylan vs. Donovan vs. Ochs. But the daycampers talk straight reality, and the kid knows that reality is only sometimes good for kicks, but you shouldn't let it get you down.

After the above incomprehensible paragraphs, he finally comes to point and asks and answers

the immaterial question, "Why is Highacres a daycamp?" To use the words of that great professor, Erwin Corey, "That is a two-part question. The first question, 'Why?,' has plagued philosophers and intellectuals throughout the ages and I neither have the intelligence nor the time to effect an answer." And the second part, "Is Highacres a daycamp?" Yes, and you'd better believe it, Baby.

(This is not an attempt to communicate, but an attempt to irritate. Under irritation, apathy cannot exist).

## INSIGHT

By Neil Savitch

### TEMPORARY INSANITY

(Part 1 of a 5 part selection)  
From social drinking  
To intoxication  
You prove the actions  
As indications.

Take your bottle  
Say a cupful  
To set your mind  
As loosely ruled.

Drink it down  
Do not tarry  
Take a refill  
So you won't worry.

Take another  
Just to be safe  
In escape from reality  
You must cut red tape.

You know the limit  
Which you must pass  
You can't be excluded  
So you must work fast.

Drink to psychosis  
Though temporary  
You have to escape  
From life's reality.