

Language barrier

Teachers must learn English or stay out of the classroom

Many professors and teaching graduate students at the University have been heard to complain about the average freshman's inability to read and write English. While this much-vaunted inability on the part of students to use their native language is indeed lamentable, it is of far greater consequence when a teacher can not be understood by a class of English speaking students.

Unfortunately, there are many teachers on this campus, graduate students and professors alike, who are not capable of expressing themselves clearly in English. While these scholars may possess an awesome command of their respective fields, they are not fit to be teachers — nor should they be expected to teach — until they are reasonably comfortable with the language which will be used in their classrooms.

As is the case with many common student complaints, the griping and grumbling about unintelligible teachers seldom reaches the ears of those who are in a position to do anything about the problem. Students complain to one another, but neglect to call the situation to the attention of either the teacher in question or the department offering the course. To the extent that they take neither of these steps, students are guilty of contributing to the dilemma.

The University, however, also fails to act at the proper time or to the appropriate degree. In the case of foreign graduate students, a language competency test must be passed at some point in their career at the University for them to receive their degrees. This test is not designed to evaluate clarity of speech or ability to articulate an idea, it merely tests comprehension of English. Under current University policy, it is possible for a graduate student to teach before having passed even this test of comprehensibility.

In the case of professors, no such effort to assure even comprehensible ability is made. Presumably, the University would not hire anyone for a teaching position who lacks the necessary linguistic skill. This is apparently not University policy, however, for every day on this campus hundreds of students are impeded in their efforts to learn by inarticulate and unintelligible teachers.

If new teachers of both graduate and professorial rank were required to take an oral expression test before being given teaching responsibility, many of the current problems could be eliminated. Teaching is a sufficiently difficult and complex art to master without the imposition of a language barrier between the student and teacher.

Carter Campaign Buttons..



Letters to the Editor

Simplistic solution

A recent NBC news show, Prime Time Saturday, broadcast a report on the lack of intelligence in today's U.S. Armed Forces. As a 1973-74 member of the volunteer Air Force, I can vouch for the accuracy of their report.

During the Viet Nam conflict, many young men enlisted in the Air Force to avoid the infantry. With the end of the conflict, they were eventually replaced by young men having no substantial reasons for enlisting. They were not enlisting to avoid the draft or to obtain a high paying job. Nor were they joining to receive the G.I. Bill educational benefits, which were phased out on Jan. 2, 1977. If the military offers no incentives, it cannot attract quality employees.

The growing array of sophisticated, electronic weapons systems requires intelligent operators. With few knowledge in their operation, it is useless to develop and deploy new weapons systems.

The solutions to this basic problem are few. We can increase the military pay scale as an incentive to enlist. However, this would require an increase in taxes. Another solution would be to re-instate the draft. This would give the military the broad cross sections of intelligence and culture, which is desperately needed.

The U.S. Armed Forces should represent the class and cultural differences in America today. A military of disadvantaged, lower class mercenaries can not serve this country effectively. The draft offers a simplistic solution to this urgent problem.

Timothy M. Suket, 5th pre-law
March 15

Watch the game

I decided to get into the Penn State School Spirit for a change, so I went over to watch the cheerleading tryouts. The enthusiasm and energy of the students trying out was contagious, and I found myself drawn into the selection excitement. But when the names of those selected were called, I was totally confused. Is it that I have no concept of what qualities make a good cheerleader (I think not) or is it too difficult for the judges to make objective selections because of their social ties?

I would be very interested in seeing the tally sheets posted for the 122 women and 28 men involved. This would serve as a guide for those interested in trying out again next year, as well as provided a greater incentive for objectivity in judging cheerleaders.

If the judging discrepancy does indeed stem from the pressures of friendships, why not choose an impartial group of judges? I'm not sure how objective any judging system can be, but I know one thing: this one needs improvement. As I saw qualified girls and guys out to favor the less talented, I felt denied the opportunity to see my school well represented. Guess I'll just have to learn to watch the football game.

Marguerite Suarez, 3rd-business administration
March 20

Rape prevention

In reference to the editorial regarding night mix-ups, it was stated that apathy was one of the reasons why the night map turned into a chaotic episode. Unfortunately I agree that rape prevention does take second place to many things, but that this is the fault of the administration as well as the students.

The administration, not wanting to give itself bad publicity, has not made the incidence of rape well known when it has occurred. Students having an urban background are possibly more aware and more realistic about the necessary precautions they must take.

Conversely, those students with rural backgrounds don't have the same fears and are subsequently more relaxed toward the issue. Rather than merely advising the Resident Assistants to call emergency house meetings after a rape has occurred, and organizing rape prevention discussions, which many students fail to attend, the administration should take a firm stand.

Mandatory rape prevention programs, for all new incoming students, both men and women should be held. If freshman testing had been made mandatory for administrative purposes, why not have mandatory rape prevention programs for students, who would inevitably benefit from them?

Nancy Hoffman, 3rd-liberal arts
March 19

No more Gaff

For the past six and a half months we have been avid patrons of Shandygaff Oldies Nights on Monday and Thursday night. Thursday nights have always been "zoo night" — the place is packed. Monday nights used to be somewhat

quieter until lately, when they too have been packed. The Shandygaff has been advertising what goes on each night of the week on the local radio. Monday nights are advertised as original golden oldies night when "happy hour prices abound all night long."

This past Monday the prices were not happy hour prices. We confronted one of the bartenders about the regular prices and he really wouldn't say why they advertised one thing and charged another.

In addition the cover charge (until recently there was none) is erratic. It changes throughout the night. One night we arrived at 9 p.m. and paid \$1 cover. Friends arrived a half hour later and paid 50 cents. This inconsistency has occurred several times.

We're two of the many who are tired of being ripped off by false advertising and unpredictable charges. Perhaps we'll patronize other bars Monday nights. Monday nights used to be good at the Gaff.

Grace Pohl, 12th-management
Pete Walton, 12th-mechanical engineering
March 19

It still hurts

The good news is there is a new, enthusiastic Daily Collegian staff and they have chosen to give the Native American Program at Penn State some recognition. The recognition gives an awareness of an ongoing program at Penn State that has existed about 10 years with over 100 American Indian graduate students. Few students, staff or faculty have been aware of the program or the impact it has had on Indian education. At the national level, many of the administrators are graduates of the Penn State Native American Program.

Now for the bad news. Last fall our program members wrote several letters and met with several Collegian staff members, Student Affairs personnel and other interested individuals about the stereotypes that were being reinforced in the Collegian on a continuing basis over several months. We suggested then that some sort of policy or training was necessary to sensitize the Collegian staff to minorities and in our case specifically to American Indians, since this concern has been a recurring problem over the years.

Well, once again a new staff and the same problems. The article was well done and informative, but the illustration negated the article and, as they say, a picture is worth a

thousand words. So we come out on the short end again. The picture depicts morose (eyes closed, mouths drooping) Indian students with large noses and feathers. It is exactly this type of journalism that promotes negative stereotypes of Indian students. With a little insight and sensitivity, the persons responsible should have realized it would have been much better to present the article without illustration. Even though I am sure no harm was intended, it still hurts our people and culture.

Larry Gorsepe, Doctoral Candidate
Educational Administration, Native American
Graduate Program
March 18

Should be proud

Randolph Caldwell, in response to your letter to the editor of March 11, I'd just like to say, I agree! Being a citizen of the United States is something of which every one of us should be proud. Not only for reasons which you state in your letter, such as multitudes of freedoms, but also for the heritage which has been passed down to us. Our forefathers didn't start this great country of ours in two days, they fought six hard, long years to even attain that freedom.

Then, after they started it, their government went through a series of changes until a government which worked well was formed. Now we have a well-structured governmental system and this system needs protection. So the leaders of our country are asking us, the future leaders, to help by serving in the armed forces. I'd say that for the amount of things which are ours simply because we were born here, we owe our country that time. And, for those who feel they don't owe this country anything I repeat what Randolph said, "... stay wherever you go, please don't come back to America, you aren't welcome here."

Suzanne Boyce, 3rd-liberal arts
March 17

Open diplomacy

This letter is in response to a plea made on the Larry King show on March 11 by the Graves family, whose relative is a hostage in Tehran, Iran, asking for an impartial investigation into the allegations that the Carter Administration is using the hostage problem for personal political purposes. In order that justice in this situation should be impartial and free from political taint in this sensitive political year, I propose that the following procedure be implemented. I define justice as fairness.

Congress should pass a resolution asking for each Justice of the Supreme Court to write to a university of their choice and ask the faculty to choose one of its members to act on a commission to investigate every aspect of the Iranian hostage situation. The commission would have the power to subpoena all individuals and papers, including presidential papers, CIA documents, papers of all secretaries of state since 1950, etc., that could shed light on the subject. The commission alone would have the power to determine which session would be open or closed, and how long and thorough the investigation would be.

In order to insure complete impartiality, Congress would pass a law prohibiting any individual in or out of government from contacting any member of the commission or their families for the purpose of influencing the work of the commission. A mandatory jail sentence of five years would be imposed upon anyone so convicted.

When the commission has written its report, it should specify an exact time and date when it would be released. The report should be released to the general public at the same time it is released to the White House, CIA, State Department and the Congress, so that there of the report by prior denial or self-seeking interpretation. Instead of the secrecy that has been employed

By LOORRAINE CAPRA
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

Because of an error by Undergraduate Student Government members, a USG Senate candidate was campaigning in the wrong area.

Bruce Krechmer, a fraternity resident, said he was told by USG members that he could run for one of the town senate seats. However, candidates can only run in their residential area, and Krechmer should have been running for one of the two fraternity seats.

When Krechmer applied for his candidacy the USG members present also violated election rules by not giving Krechmer a copy of the elections code. Elections Commissioner Robert Fallon discovered the errors Saturday and called a meeting of the elections court. The court, composed of USG President Hal Shaffer, Interfraternity Council President Marty Baker and Panhellenic Council President Cathy Reynolds, voted not to allow Krechmer to run for a town seat.

Shaffer said the decision was based "on the number of people in each district at this University."

Krechmer said he will not run for a

fraternity seat and will appeal the decision to the USG Supreme Court.

"Everything I've done and learned in this election has been based on town work," he said. "The 114 signatures on my petition to enter were from town, not fraternities."

Krechmer also said he spent \$10 on flyers announcing his candidacy for town senator. He can ask the USG Senate to reimburse him for the money.

Andy Weintraub, Krechmer's roommate, is to represent Krechmer in the appeal to the supreme court. He said he will ask for a stay in the decision, allowing Krechmer to run for town senator, until the election is over.

The supreme court will probably hear Krechmer's case this week. Weintraub, a candidate for USG vice president, said Krechmer's case has nothing to do with his own campaign.

"I'm not doing it for political reasons," he said. "I'm doing it because Bruce is my roommate and he had no one else to go to."

Fallon said he takes full responsibility for the incident and will testify at the hearing on Krechmer's behalf.

To date, 10 candidates are running for

the 16 seats in town; five for two seats in fraternities; four for two seats in Centre Halls; two for one seat in Nittany; one for two seats in each of East 1 and 2 and West Halls; and two for each of two seats in East of Pollock and North Halls.

Fallon said he urges students who did not apply to do so before the election.

"In areas where the races are tight, a strong write-in campaign could garner enough votes to win over the declared candidates," he said.

"Write-in candidates don't have to contact USG and fill out applications, but it might be a good idea if they contact us so that we can look for their names when we count the votes," Fallon said.

Presidential and vice presidential candidates can spend up to \$350 on their campaigns, he said. Kennedy-Leitch have spent \$21.72, Kreta-Cobb have spent \$137.16, Pritchard-Nesky have spent \$243.29 and Reeves-Calkins have spent \$328.81.

Fallon said Healey-Weintraub declared their expenditures differently than the other candidates. Of all of the

supplies they have bought, Healey

declared \$90.49 as the amount that he has used in his campaign to date.

"That's perfectly legal because the rules of the elections code are open to interpretation," Fallon said.

The code offers general guidelines but does not provide an incentive for the candidates to engage in fair play, he said.

"If you tried to get a case against a candidate, it would take longer than the elections take and you really couldn't do anything," he said.

According to the code, candidates must submit a \$25 deposit when they apply, to be used in case of violations. Fallon said the deposit is not necessary.

"It just ensures that we get the money if there are any violations," he said. "My idea is to have the candidates sign a contract ensuring fair play, and if there is an infraction we can renege the contract."

The 16 town senate seats should be distributed to provide boundaries for each senator, he said.

"If those things were encouraged, there would be a more fair type of campaigning," Fallon said.

Oswald stays in hospital after chest pains develop

University President John W. Oswald remained in satisfactory condition last night at the Hershey Medical Center, where he was admitted after experiencing chest pains early Saturday morning.

Oswald, 62, was taken to the center at 1:28 a.m. Saturday after developing a deep muscle pain in his left chest area. He was staying at the Host Inn of Harrisburg and was to attend Saturday's session of the University Board of Trustees at the Capitol Campus.

Oswald was stricken with a heart attack June 16, 1971 — about one year after he began his duties as president. Cervo said Oswald will remain in the medical center several days for observation and testing.

University Provost Edward D. Eddyassumed Oswald's role during the trustee meeting on Saturday.

Arthur F. Cervo, director of

\$250 photograph missing

University Police Services reported the theft of a \$250 photograph from the HUB ground floor on Saturday morning.

Five chairs in the lobby of Lyons Hall were reported missing Saturday morning. University police said. The value of the awards is \$250.

—by Suzanne Klineinst

Error causes campaign mix-up

By LOORRAINE CAPRA
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