

No shows

Too many students stayed home on election day

Considering the differences between the candidates and the importance of Tuesday's general election, student turnout was far too low.

Voter turnout in the eight student precincts was only 63 percent. While this is a tremendous increase over a 30 percent turnout in 1978, it does not compare to the 79 percent turnout for the 1976 presidential election.

Although student turnout was better than the national average of 52 percent, there is still no excuse for such apathy. The national average has also slipped from the '76 turnout of 54 percent.

Think about it: Almost half of the registered voters in this country chose not to go to the polls Tuesday. So less than 26 percent of the Americans registered actually voted for Ronald Reagan. And the percentage of Americans supporting Reagan drops even more if you take into account the millions of unregistered citizens.

It is frightening that those who did not vote, rather than those who did, may have actually

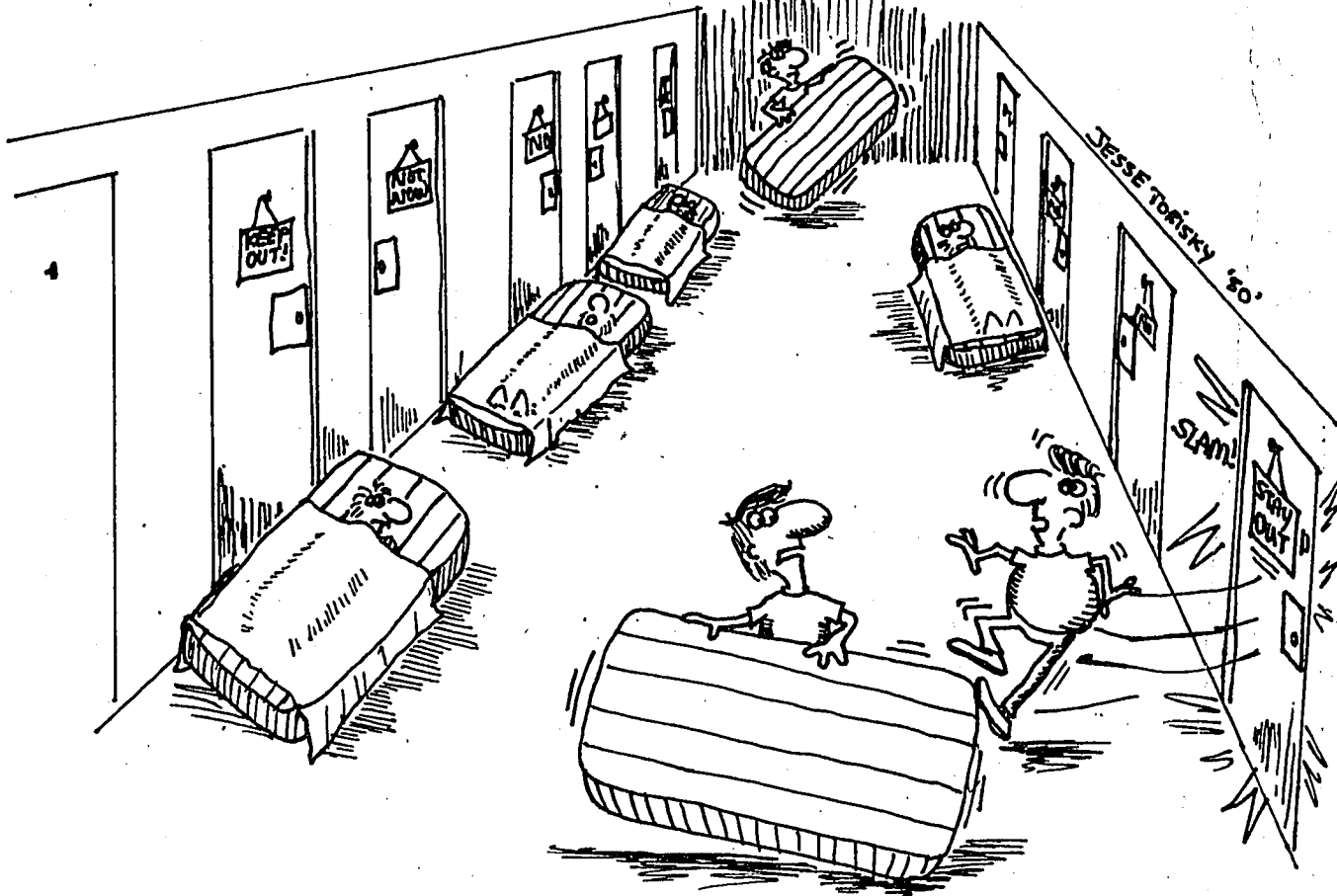
determined the outcome of this election. Every one of us will be affected for years to come by the actions of the new president.

He will be commander in chief of the armed forces, decide the fate of most bills passed by Congress and appoint Supreme Court justices who serve for life.

As holder of the highest elected office in the country, he represents the United States to its allies and its adversaries, sets its military, economic and foreign policy goals, and ultimately affects the lives of its citizens and the future of the world itself.

To have only half of the registered voters help choose the president is unforgivable. While each of us will enjoy the benefits or suffer the consequences of the president's decisions, it seems students are always the first and most vehement critics when a president makes a mistake.

The first place to voice discontent with any elected official is in the voting booth, and students who stay home on Election Day have no right to complain later.



"TAKE A NUMBER!"

Letters to the Editor

Positive solutions

I am writing in response to the anti-right-to-life advertisement that appeared in the Oct. 27 issue of The Daily Collegian. The members of the National Organization for Women who are responsible for the ad seem to be grossly misinformed in several areas. I would like to take this opportunity to enlighten them and set the record straight for readers.

First, right-to-life people do not want to see women become pregnant when they have been raped, when they are 12 years old or when they will die giving birth.

Second, there are two possible victims of incest and rape: the woman and the innocent child who may be conceived by these illicit acts.

Third, members of right-to-life organizations are not opposed to a woman exercising "reproductive freedom" or "being in charge of her own body," provided she understands that this freedom does not include the "right to choose" to kill another human being.

I would like to point out that abortion does not solve the problems of rape victims (often it compounds them), and it does not prevent birth defects (as is often implied in pro-choice literature). Abortion merely provides a quick, cheap, but at best cosmetic cover-up for some of the most difficult issues all of us will have to confront.

I urge the membership of NOW to investigate the reasons behind the right-to-life stances on abortion, and hope they will realize that their monies are best spent on seeking and promoting positive solutions to the problems of society as a whole and of women in particular.

Arthur Siminik, Vice President, Penn State Students for Life
Oct. 28

Right to Life?

I have always held an aversion to the anti-abortion groups calling themselves the "Right to Life" people.

Life amendment

Pro-lifers are watching with deep concern the recent rise of fascism that is showing a revival both in the United States and abroad.

The underlying ideology of fascism seems to be that some human beings are inferior either by virtue of race (black, hispanic, etc.) or by religion (Catholic, Jewish, etc.), and they should therefore be eliminated.

Both the Ku Klux Klan and the Nazi Party, whose philosophies threaten the lives of those whom they label as "socially expendable," are experiencing a growth in membership and activity that is frightening to those of us who remember the horrors of the past.

Citizens Concerned for Human Life believes every human life is sacred from the moment of conception until natural death and should be protected by both the government and society in general.

We, therefore, condemn all ideologies that threaten the life of any human being, regardless of age, residence, race, religion or sex. We reaffirm our support for the protection of all human life.

We call upon every citizen to reject the mentality that condemns to death those whom the strong label as "unwanted," "socially expendable" or "inconvenient."

Kathryn J. Johnson, 3th-business administration
Oct. 28

Semester change issue demands critical study

By DAVID T. WILSON
Professor and chairman of marketing

The proposed change to a semester system raises many questions that demand answers. Both faculty and students need to be better informed.

Students should ask their professors and college administrators the following questions:

1. How will the change alter the professor's course?
2. Is there significant educational merit to the change?
3. Will the number and variety of course offerings increase or decrease?
4. How many courses per semester will be required for graduation?
5. Is a 15-week semester required to make up a failed course?
6. Will the semester system extend the academic year and reduce the duration of summer employment?
7. Will university students be at a disadvantage in the summer job market?

Faculty should ask their department chairmen and college administrators:

1. How will my load be adjusted during a conversion period to provide time for course and curriculum design?

Collegian forum

These and many other questions need to be answered before we make the change to the semester system. On the surface, the semester system offers no compelling academic advantages to the students or faculty.

Please do not let this major change happen without full and rational consideration by all of the academic community.

Our task, as members of the academic community, is to discuss and debate the issues in a rational manner. This means we need to be involved and demand information.

We all live with change and realize that change can be both good and bad. It is incumbent upon those who would change the system to provide solid evidence and arguments illustrating how the University community will be significantly improved by the change.

Statements of faith, that all will be well, are not acceptable when changes of this magnitude are being proposed.

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World reactions are a mixture

By United Press International
Ronald Reagan's sweeping election victory plunged the world into political reappraisal yesterday and the initial reaction was guarded, reflecting concern over some of his campaign promises and doubts about his foreign policy expertise.

China made no secret of its disappointment, the Soviets sent mixed signals and a warning on SALT and Iran said the election would not affect the hostage crisis.

While major allies withheld official comment beyond congratulations to the president-elect, according to "form" privately their reactions were mixed and tinged with doubts of whether America becomes more or less isolationist under GOP stewardship.

The only nations openly greeting Reagan's election with relief were rightists in Latin America and Asia, whose regimes have been sweating under the heat of President Carter's human rights campaign.

In Western Europe, hopes that Reagan will infuse a new sense of leadership into the flagging alliance were tempered by fears that he understands little of East-West and economic issues and is not predisposed toward détente.

In the Middle East, both Israeli and Arab officials saw Reagan's victory as being to Israel's advantage. Camp David was Carter's biggest foreign policy triumph and Egyptians asked whether Reagan would have the same interest in continuing the process.

The Soviet Union hinted it could reach either way in a commentary pledging to pursue "good relations" with Washington, but stressing the extent to which this depends on ratification of the SALT II treaty criticized by Reagan.

Analysis also noted Reagan's election may not be welcomed by the deeply conservative Soviet leadership, which seems to prefer conservative American presidents. For them, President Carter was an unreliable partner. Richard Nixon was not.

Among America's NATO allies, whose governments are preoccupied by security issues, politicians found themselves caught between a desire to see a stronger America capable of checking Soviet ambitions and their fears of a return to confrontation politics. The French reaction typified this ambivalence.

Michel Poniatowski, a close adviser to President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, said he felt "a reaction of relief." The United States, he said, "lost these last few years a great deal of its power, becoming an increasing imbalance to the detriment of the United States vis-a-vis the Soviet Union."

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The election of Republican presidential candidate Ronald Reagan sparked both favorable and negative reactions yesterday from various governments around the world.

Majority of students favors coed housing

By KAREN MCHAMMAN
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

Approximately 97.7 percent of 8,785 residence hall students responded favorably to the idea of a coed housing living option on campus, according to a survey sponsored by the Association of Residence Hall Students.

ARHS Vice President Mary Ann Deno said 7,033 residents or 79 percent of the residents surveyed also said they would choose the coed living option if it were offered.

Deno said one interesting result of the survey was that the interest houses and security floors expressed a very favorable reaction to the coed housing proposal.

"I believe this is because in each of these areas, the students have a very special living environment, and they realize the importance of offering another option to single sex dorms," Deno said.

Deno said these results will be included in a proposal from ARHS to University President John W. Oswald. The proposal will include facts from the survey, an ARHS overview of the situation and a feasibility study, she said.

In other business, ARHS President Fran Kenawell said ARHS has secured a lawyer to fight for the security deposits lost by residents of Laurel Glen apartments when the complex announced bankruptcy last year.

Cost of the seven-daytrip is \$195 per four-person room and \$185 per six-person room. Buses will leave from campus Saturday, Feb. 28 and return Saturday, March 7.

Some area wells dry, but no drought conditions yet

Although many private wells in Centre County are going dry, University Park has not yet been hard-hit by drought conditions, the University's director of maintenance and operations said.

"I don't foresee problems with a water shortage on campus, although I cannot second guess the amount of rainfall in the future," Ralph Speer said.

University water supplies are not at a critical level compared to the eastern part of the state, but Speer said they are being monitored carefully to insure adequate reserves.

Several area communities are requesting voluntary conservation efforts, but Speer said the deep wells used on campus should provide enough water for the University. About 2.25 million gallons are pumped into three water tanks on campus for reserve pressure in the event there are unusual

demands on the campus supply, he said. "Unusually high water usage sometimes indicates a leak in the piping system or water mains," Speer said.

Mike Seidel (graduate meteorology), an assistant in the University's Weather Tower, said Centre County is moderately dry, but not as bad as the eastern part of the state.

The "rainfall" in the area for October was almost normal — 2.81 inches, as compared to an expected average of 2.90 inches," Seidel said.

Actual precipitation for 1980 at University Park through October is recorded at 24.58 inches, compared to average precipitation levels for the area that are averaged at 32.26, Seidel said.

The total precipitation deficit for the 10 months is 8.28 inches.

—Joyce Venezia

ARHS funds attorney for Laurel Glen suit

By KAREN KONSKI
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

Harrisburg attorney Lawrence Frank has been hired by the Organization for Town Independent Students (OTIS) and the Association of Residence Hall Students to represent the tenants of the former Laurel Glen apartments in their fight for the return of withheld security deposits.

ARHS President Fran Kenawell said his organization is supplying funding for the lawyer.

"Anything that concerns OTIS either directly or indirectly concerns our campus students," Kenawell said. "It was just as much our concern as OTIS's."

Although both OTIS and ARHS receive funds from Associated Student Activities, these funds are restricted and cannot be used to hire a lawyer, Kenawell said.

However, through functions such as student moves and campus pinball machines, ARHS has some unrestricted funds that will be used to pay the lawyer's fee, Kenawell said.

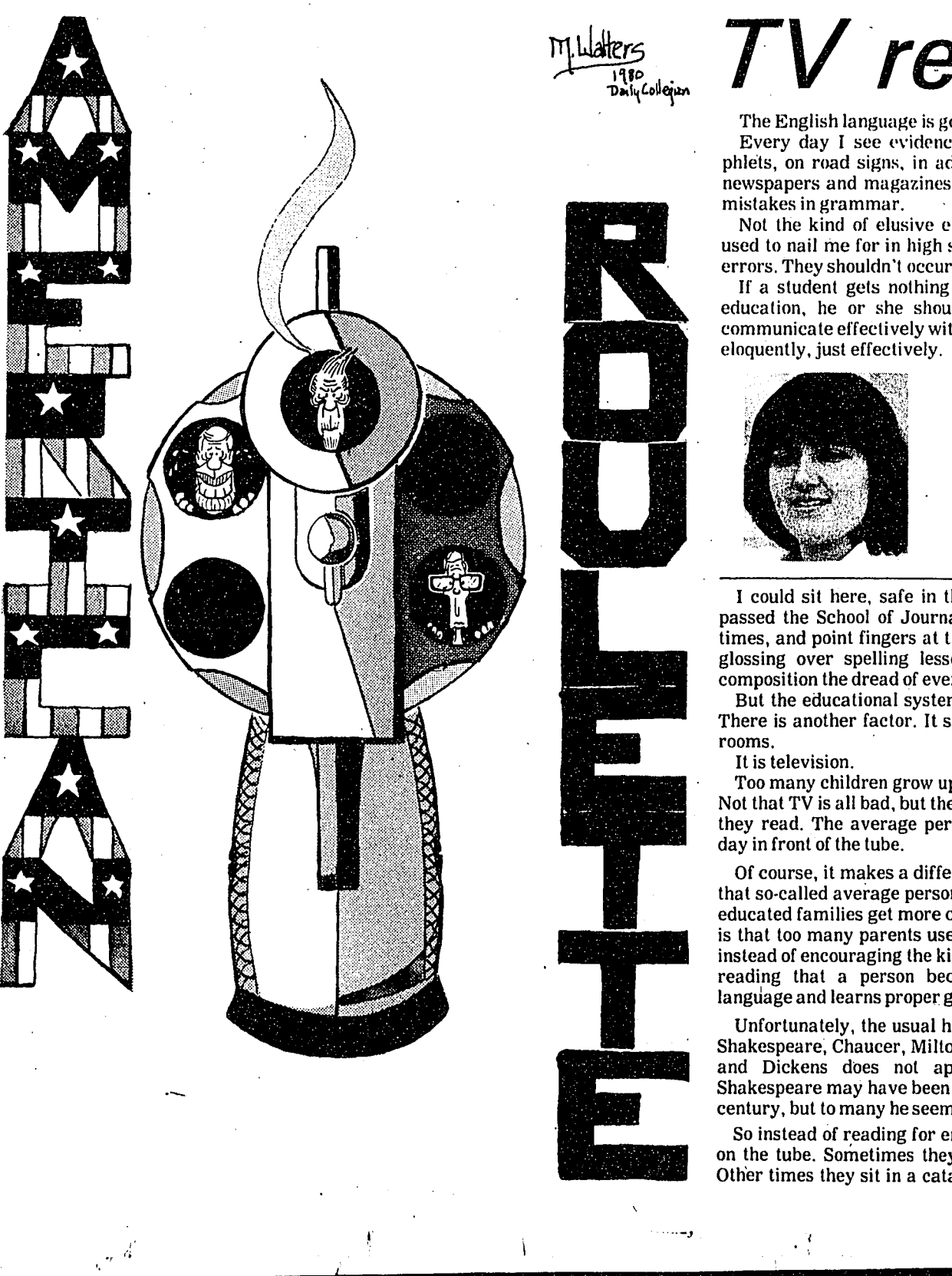
OTIS and ARHS missed the Oct. 23 court deadline to supply more documentation because their original attorney was ill. The security deposits have been in contention since Laurel Glen declared bankruptcy in 1976.

OTIS President Bob Karp said Frank explained the situation to the court and explained that OTIS will still represent the tenants.

Karp said Frank was recommended to him by an area attorney. He said OTIS and ARHS hired Frank because of the intricacy of bankruptcy laws, and because of the convenience of having a lawyer in Harrisburg where all the records are.

When Laurel Glen went bankrupt four years ago, tenants' security deposits were not returned.

Home Savings Bank of Upstate New York, part owner of the complex, disputed the ruling, saying the \$10,000 should be used to pay the bankrupt company's debts.



TV replaces need for reading

The English language is going downhill fast. Every day I see evidence of the demise. In pamphlets, on road signs, in advertisements and even in newspapers and magazines, I see spelling errors and mistakes in grammar.

Not the kind of elusive errors my English teacher used to nail me for in high school — these are blatant errors. They shouldn't occur.

If a student gets nothing else out of a high school education, he or she should at least learn how to communicate effectively with the rest of the world. Not ineffectively, just effectively.

I could sit here, safe in the knowledge that I have passed the School of Journalism language test three times, and point fingers at the educational system for glossing over spelling and making English composition the dread of every student.

But the educational system is only partly to blame. There is another factor. It sits in most people's living rooms.

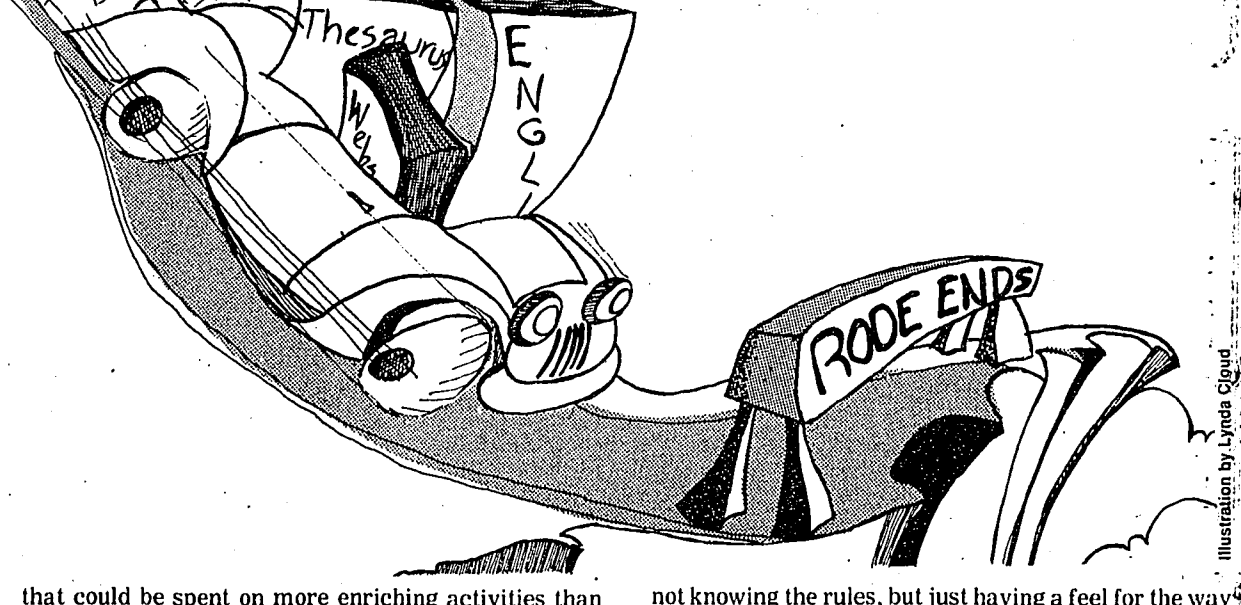
It is television.

Too many children grow up sitting in front of the TV. Not that TV is all bad, but the more kids watch, the less they read. The average person spends three hours a day in front of the tube.

Of course, it makes a difference what kind of person that so-called average person is. Children from better-educated families get more out of TV. But the problem is that too many parents use the tube as a babysitter, instead of encouraging the kid to read. And it is only by reading that a person becomes familiar with the language and learns proper grammar and spelling.

Unfortunately, the usual high school English fare of Shakespeare, Chaucer, Milton, Hemingway, Steinbeck and Dickens does not appeal to most students. Shakespeare has been out of TV. But the problem is that too many parents use the tube as a babysitter, instead of encouraging the kid to read. And it is only by reading that a person becomes familiar with the language and learns proper grammar and spelling.

So instead of reading for entertainment, people turn on the tube. Sometimes they get something out of it. Other times they sit in a catatonic state, wasting time



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