

the daily **PESECTC1** collegian

# Dialects affect learning

### By DIANE MASTRULI **Daily Collegian Staff Writer**

M. Dupuis, associate professor of education said.

inferior and less intelligent," Dupuis said. "This, in ment interviews. turn, causes interference with the learning process." statewide have begun participating in programs to help articulate among teachers, believed that the black child Dupuis said by the time blacks enter junior high teachers develop a more accepting attitude when they needed lots of dialects to make it in the world - not just school, most are able to comprehend and use standard are dealing with black children who speak a dialect the one they are taught at home," Dupuis said. English. However, she said, effective teaching pracwhich differs from the middle-class white dialect spo- In teaching black students standard white English, tices and proper attitudes about language and culture ken by most teachers

them and to help all students reach their full notentials," Dupuis said.

his infancy and the only one used at home and in his said. neighborhood — the child will not talk or write voluntarily in class. Dupuis said.

must encourage interaction. "The goal should be to help teachers understand

es." she said Valley Junior High School and at some Harrisburg ' certain situations.' schools

backgrounds to read and speak better.

"For instance, a child whose language is sprinkled successful in dealing with the dominant middle-class said. with "ain'ts" causes some teachers to regard him as culture in situations outside of school, such as employ-

The College of Education and education departments discovered that black teachers, who are the most education will cause a split in the family.

tion is the right language to use," Dupuis said. "The real skill of the teacher, therefore, is not in correcting their students," Dupuis said.

For example, if a teacher criticizes a student's 'wrong' responses, but in creating situations in which

"He will clam up," Dupuis explained," and this is "informal rap sessions, Dupuis said. However, a teacher what you don't want to have happen. In education, you must tell a student he used the incorrect dialect if he uses the same grammar in a term paper.

"Black English should not be replaced," Dupuis what language is and to also teach them to identify the said. "A dialect is a sign of belonging, a part of group Ann Arbor. Michigan. difference between dialect problems and real mistak- membership, and to take it from a child would be to deprive him of his own culture, his own roots. This is Dupuis and Eunice N. Askov, professor of education, why we encourage the teaching of a second dialect, an co-directed a Content Area Reading Project at Penns alternate dialect, to be used for certain purposes, in

For one year, they conducted workshops to instruct dard English is not easy, she said. A student must want Dupuis said it is important to treat children equally teachers how to properly teach kids from different to change and, just as importantly, he or she must be - which means overlooking these differences in diencouraged by his parents.

"It was most important to teach the instructors to Encouragement from his or her parents cannot be accept that the student's language is an important part assured, Dupuis said. Parents who want their child to do A student who regularly uses black dialectwill usual- of his culture - not worse, just different," Dupuis said. better than they did in life will support their learning ly be discriminated against by his or her teachers, Mary However, Dupuis said, it is important for black another dialect. However, those black parents hostile to speakers to learn standard English so they can be the white society will not accept such learning, Dupuis

"Those parents who want their children to remain living at home forever won't approve of their children "From our research conducted in Harrisburg, we learning standard English because they fear such an

the best approach is to talk about the appropriateness which are now being taught to education majors as a "Teachers need to be aware of the diversity of and unappropriateness of their dialects, she said. regular part of the secondary education program — child can walk backward or count to five, children basic communication skills, background, cultural variables and language bases "The real purpose of language is to communicate, could enable black children to overcome earlier the not always simple tasks, Cartwright self-care and grooming, motor coordinafound in their classrooms in order to react positively to and the language which best accomplishes communica- problems of dealing with standard English in schools. Ideally, teachers should speak the same dialect as

"If they can be bi-dialectal, and move their students language - the only language he has known throughout the student is induced to respond appropriately," she with them as the opportunities arise - from a dialect spoken by a minority to one spoken by the majority --Teachers can do this by allowing the black child to then they may be able to achieve the transfer without use his dialect in the halls, on the playground, or during making students feel rejected or that their own home language is inadequate," Dupuis said.

> Research on this problem has been conducted for 20 years, she said. However, she said action has only just recently been taken because of a recent court ruling in

In the case, a black couple charged that their children were not being taught in black dialect. In his opinion, the judge said teachers should not be required to teach black dialect, but they should understand the difference between standard English and black dialect However, motivating a black student to learn stan- and must be sensitive in determining their usages.



## Kids kick TV habit

David Kahn adopted a trombone as it." a new close friend after dumping a Pencz confessed, "I couldn't get companion he once spent 10 hours a away from it. My homework wasn't day with - television. He says he getting done. I just forgot about all doesn't miss TV.

And Monica Pencz, also 11, doesn't The psychology program operates spend five hours a day in front of the on a "point system" that rewards television anymore. Her grades are children for staying away from telebetter, she plays basketball and is vision. Points are lost for each show seeing friends more often.

other children kicked the TV habit friends, playing games, exercising, with a five-week psychology course or doing homework and household aiming at developing "an interest in chores. activities outside TV." said Patty Rebek, director of the DePaul Uni-

versity program. By the end of the course, children should be watching no more than two hours of television on weekdays earned a new bicycle, a trip to the and three hours on weekends. Kahn \_ circus, and now he gets 25 cents for and Pencz were among the first

graduates this month. any show." His mother, Florence child "withdrawn. They do not de-Kahn, said, "anytime he walked by velop initiative because it's such a the set it had to be turned on — it had passive activity.

CHICAGO (AP) — Eleven-year-old to be on even if he wasn't watching

my friends.'

watched, and gained for other activ-These sixth graders and dozens of ities, such as reading, seeing

> Accumulated non-television points go toward a treat — a bigger allowance, an outing, sports equipment or entertainmen

By not watching television, David every 100 points he earns.

Children often watch television to "Once I got hooked on it, I couldn't escape problems, Rebek said. Exget off," Kahn said. "I just watched cessive watching, she says, makes a

## Students given skills tests Program measures reading, writing, speaking abilities

By PAMELA MACLEOD **Daily Collegian Staff Write** Education majors at the University

rigorously in basic skills, said Mary M. education program.

Dupuis and her collegues are experideficiencies early and correct them, or guage usage, ability to motivate, route the students into a different are a of delivery, and overall impression, she

are basic tools in education that are for statistical reliability before it was extremely hard to measure in prospec- used to evaluate the speeches. tive teachers Dupuis said the tests administered as a

toward gauging teacher competence be- well according to test results. fore graduates enter the classroom. "It's part of a curriculum in effect for over a year now." Dupuis said.

Last year, more than 40 University secondary education majors, most of whom will graduate this term, were the first participants in tests specifically designed to measure their reading, speaking and writing skills, she said. Since then, a second cycle of testing

has been completed and a third cycle is being performed now. The tests are continually being developed and refined by been the same for the first three cycles. "Our intent is for students to demonstrate mastery of specific skill areas before they graduate and are certified to

teach," she said. The reading measurements devised for the students involve a widely-known standard test - the Nelson-Denny combined with an exam gauging how

well students understand concepts and points made in professional journals. "Both sets of results were encouraging," Dupuis said. "On the widely used

standardized test, our students' average score was close to the 60th percentile." The 50th percentile is the midway point in the Nelson-Denny test with half doing better and half worse on the national esults, she said.

correct, " Dupuis said. Dupuis, associate professor of education The speaking test involved evaluating and coordinator of the secondary teacher videotapes of formal speaking perfor- have demonstrated a real change," he objective. mances by 43 students. Criteria included organization and de-

She said reading, writing and speaking A rating scale was devised and tested

Sandra L. Snyder, a research assistant who developed the scale, said the Univer- is whether children learn when these part of the program should go a long way sity's prospective teachers speak quite Seven of 43 students, she said, were screened out for further diagnosis and instruction in oral communication skills. The rest turned in acceptable perfor-

> Short essays by the 43 students were evaluated through a method developed at the University which includes, among other measurements, some use of Col lege Entrance Examination Board composition criteria

"Only four of the 43 samples were rated unacceptably low," said Edward faculty members, but basically have R. Fagan, professor of language education. He said another eight papers contained enough technical errors to be marginal 'Obviously, counseling and remedial

> work was recommended for those 12 students." he said. Fagan said the students with deficien-

> cies were referred to the Reading and Writing Center on campus. He said overall the program now has 101 students, of which 10 to 15 percent are

receiving help at the clinic. "The students are aided in any problem areas they may have," he said. "Some are only having problems in one

area while others are having difficulties in all areas. He said others who fared poorly on the tests decided to enter another field.

"We lost some along the way," Fagan

interaction

n the senior vear

to be very successful.

## learning problems **By KATHY GOOD**

**Jotty Giraffe Helps** 

REMOVES UNTIED

PUTS THINGS IN AND

OUT OF CONTAINERS

PUSHES TOY

CUTA

SAYS "TWO, THREE" UNDER AND IN

"People become interested in the pro-

gram by seeing it in magazines, or com

Cartwright said the program is not just

tion, and problem solving.

As a part of the project.

students Frances M. Hunt and Elizabeth

Children and instructors both receive

Very young children perform simple

UNDERSTANDS

SENTENCES LONGER

WALKS BACKWARD

THE STACKSLTNO

Daily Collegian Staff Writer Johnny is five years old, and about to enter his first kindergarten class. His parents are concerned about how he will relate to his schoolmates, because he has a problem. He just can't seem to keep up with neighborhood children while playing tag or dodge ball. The Higher Competencies for Young

Children program, developed at the University, can solve this hypothetical situation and other real problems parents of young children face everyday concerning kids' learning abilities. As many as 60,000 Pennsylvania preschoolers have minor physical and learn-

ing sdsabilities that go untreated, says a U.S. Department of Welfare report. The report says subtle problems in language progression, social and emotionsal disorders, and other factors delaving normal development afflict up to 8 percent of children form birth to age 5 in

Using HICOMP's 20-minute testing method, schools can determine if kids from birth to five years have these disabilities. Once the source of the problem is found, proper treatment can be assigned. "The earlier testing begins the better is the general rule, but with cautions-"said Dr. Carol A. Cartwright, professor of curriculum and intruction. "Parents often go off the deep end if they see any little difference between their child and someone else's of the same age.

the state.

tests '

"Children who need help in infancy are "Jotty Giraffe," used in a University very obvious," Cartwright said, "since developed educational program, helps they were most likely born with the diagnose children's disabilities. defect. Some are often tricky to detect, such as hearing, for example. Nothing structors different shows up until the child ap- effectively. proaches school and begins failing

ing to our presentations."Cartwright Cartwright said the test can be administered at community centers and shop- said. "After every meeting we get a ing malls as well as in schools. If the flurry of requests for more information." test diagnoses a problem, the child is HICOMP is used in more than 50 prescheduled for an in-depth test at home. schools throughout America, but only as Parents can work along with teachers an institution sees fit. Cartwright said in solving their children's developmental the project is so comprehensive that " difficulties, Cartwright said. Along with teachers can pick up on different aspects other literature, each parent keeps a according to their needs.

chart called "Jotty Giraffe," which measures accomplishments at home. Re- a diagnostic tool, and actually is used to corded on it are the dates at which the teach handicapped and non-handicapped Research for HICOME years ago, under the direction of Dr.

John T. Neisworth, professor of special Llewellyn designed a training program education. He, along with various stu- that uses modern learning theories to dents, Cartwright said, spent the first help children achieve specific deven three years developing a curriculum opmental goals. suitable for testing Working with a University sponsored

continuous reinforcement, and find thta preschool class, they created a diversi- learning is fun, too. fied system of tests for different age groups, categorizing them into four dotasks like answering the question, "How nains: problem solving, communication big are you?" or turning the pages of a skills, motor development and social

Further work by Cartwright and Indi-

difficult vidual and Family Studies Professor A 4-year-old must use a pair of tweez-Donald L. Peters enabled the program to ers to pick a yellow button from a pile of be packaged and sent out to educators colored ones. The child uses communicaduring the next three years. This "Out- tion skills to understand the task, probreach" phase entailed going to schools, lem-solving skills to find the right button, Air Force bases and Head Start pro- and motor skills to pick up the button with the tweezers. grams across the country, teaching in-

Tasks

many chose other areas.

Dupuis said the reading, writing and considered reliable indicators of whether students know their skills.

"Devising effective measurements is time-consuming," Dupuis said. "Great care must be taken to ensure statistical teachers teach.'

"On our own test, which measured said, "we have a fairly high attrition plied some funds to the program to help vocabulary, data interpretation and dif- rate, but that's good. The students didn't with further testing and research. ferent comprehension levels, the stu- flunk and they weren't forced out of the He said independent studies by the and around the country should be tested dents' average was just over 82 percent program — they were counseled and state department, members of the University faculty and others seem to indi-"The students that have stayed with us cate the program is fullfilling its

"We are a pioneer in this program," Fagan said. "It's the Pennsylvania Dementing with a program designed to spot velopment, adaptation to audience, lan- speaking measurements must still be partment of Education's idea that we retested and refined before they are should be a model program." Fagan said the only similar program that he knows of was developed at the

Unviersity of Georgia. But, he said, Georgia's testing is done after the students graduate and it uses an reliablility because the ultimate question informal "pencil and paper" method. Fagan said he thinks the program will be copied by other universities and insti-

'We have a fairly high attrition rate, but that's good. The students didn't flunk and they weren't forced out of the program – they were counseled and many chose other fields.'

-Edward R. Fagan, professor of language

The University's revised curriculum. skills, also focuses on getting prospective program. teachers more time in the classroom with field experiences added in the sophomore and junior years as well as the traditional student teaching experience

Dupuis said teachers would have more time for field experience if education term system to a semester system. Fagan said so far the program seems

"We've had people come in from the who are supporting wholeheartedly." He said the department has even sup- further recognition

education.

tutions and he said the faculty has addition to emphasizing mastery of ready received many inquires about the Dupuis said," It's going along better than we every could have imagined.

Somewhere over 80 percent of the stulents in each cycle have demonstrated mnetence in all areas. Dupuis said the results frrm the first

majors are required to take a 5-year and second cycles of testing will be program because of the switch from a presented next month at a conference of the International Reading Association

She said the association has expressed interest in the testing and she said the Pennsylvania Department of Education presentation will be a good opportunity for the University program to receive

### New tests detect Auction sells bikes, beds, boards The most memorable items sold were But bicycles attracted the majority of the bikes to add to the Eco-Action Unit

**By KAIA K. SMITH** Daily Collegian Staff Writer

- abandoned bicycles and University beds Surplus and Salvage Center in State and color were up for sale. W.E. Burget, surprised at how many people were bidand trucks were typical of the items College, bought the end zone and press director of purchases at the University, ding for used, rusty, often broken bicyavailable at the University's annual sal- box boards for \$600. vage auction Friday.
- except for the used fleet automobiles. \$10,000, including \$2,000 in metal. One grumbling customer said the cars Other merchandise sold included old did not sell well because the University University dining facility machines, IBM

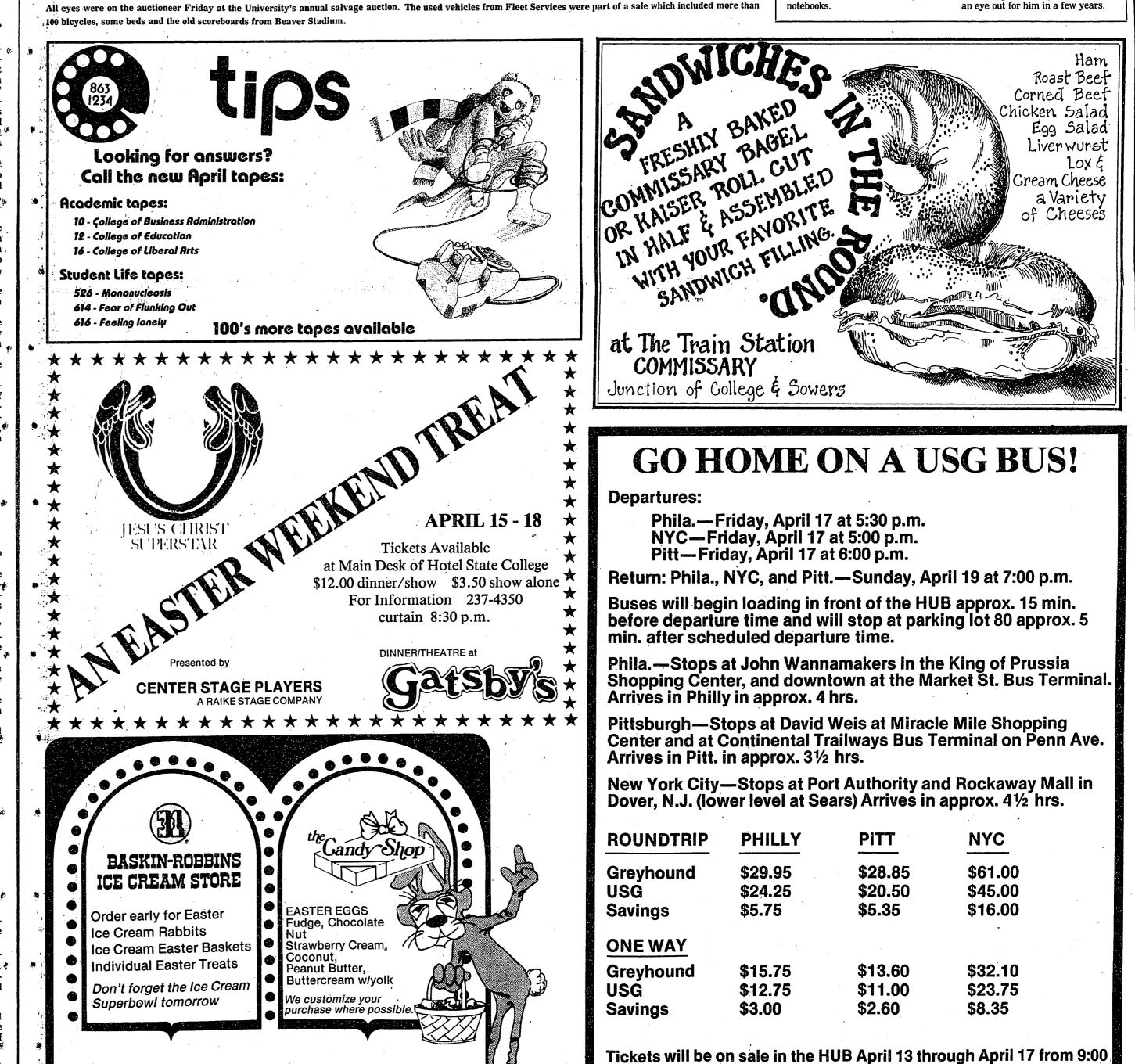
the old Beaver Stadium scoreboards. the crowd during the afternoon.

"Old Beaver Stadium scoreboards, Carl Temple, owner of Ed's Discount About 115 bikes of every shape, size campus last year. Voicheck said he was said University Police Services collects cles. He said he plans to use the metal from abandoned bicycles throughout the year A large crowd turned out and bought the structures for construction. Temple and puts them in storage until the owners "I've seen bikes go for more than the up most of the second-hand goods - estimated the value of the scoreboards at claim them. If, after one year, the bikes go for new," Voicheck said. "A lot o are not claimed, the police give them to people don't know what they're buying.'

the University to auction. Stan Voicheck, owner of the Strada thought bike bids were too high. Several



358 East College Avenue 352





versity bikes that he donated to th

Voicheck wasn't the only person who





to merit recognition as a contributor to a college newspaper. "I've been drawing for as long back as I can remember," he said. "One day I was drawing and the idea just came up." It was Heitmann's 15-

year-old brother, Noel, who encouraged him to try to get his work in th Collegian. His cartoon is now printed in the paper twice each week. Heitmann said he comes up with most of the ideas and captions, but he

sometimes gets help from his family. His father, George Heitmann, professor of business administration, sometimes helps with ideas. "Doonesbury and Norm are two of

my favorite comics," Heitmann said. Some of his ideas come from reading other cartoons, and this influence produces ideas witty enough to be amusing to college students.

Heitmann gets encouragement from home and expressed a distinct interest in continuing his cartoons once he gets out of school. But for now, he said he is content with his art classes at school and doodling in his Peter Heitmann

said he is looking forward t taking some art classes in high school and developing his interests. Heitmann, who draws from his head as well as from observation, basically works with pencils and likes drawing trees, birds and other outdoor of

"I want to try new things with art," Heitmann said. "Having something in the Collegian is great.

Heitmann certainly has an advantage over many college students. He already has experience with work he is interested in. That's something many University students would like to have when they graduate --- practical experience. Knowing that Peter Heitmann can produce this kind of work at age 13, it may be wise to keep an eve out for him in a few years.

UNDTRIP	PHILLY	PITT	NYC
eyhound	\$29.95	\$28.85	\$61.00
Ğ	\$24.25	\$20.50	\$45.00
vings	\$5.75	\$5.35	\$16.00
IE WAY	· · ·		•
eyhound	\$15.75	\$13.60	\$32.10
Ġ	\$12.75	\$11.00	\$23.75
vings	\$3.00	\$2.60	\$8.35

a.m. to 3:00 p.m. NSK