



¿Parlez vous espagnol...?

Learn a new language — without getting graded

J'suis tres — Estoy muy confusado Let me try this again. I'm very confused. After years of speaking one language, I'm suddenly becoming trilingual. Or, at least I'm trying. I'm taking Spanish classes during the day and French classes at night. And, between classes, I speak English — I think. To avoid further confusion, I've decided, "Ix-nay on the Pig Latin."



ROBERT VASQUEZ
Columnist

Now, there are only two possible reasons why people would take two language classes at once:

1. Because they're on drugs and were suffering a really bad trip when registering for classes.

2. Because they have no choice. Because their backs are to the wall and graduation day is approaching ever nearer and the only way to get it all done is to do it all at once.

Now, the last time I checked, I was drug free (except for Cokes, candies and the occasional shot of Pepsi). Yessiree, this body's as clean as the President's. I don't inhale, either.

But I am forced to the wall. I've got a full load in the fall and this summer is the only time I have to get my language requirement out of the way. Many of my friends assume that I already know Spanish. They take one look at me and, before I say one word, they already know that:

I speak Spanish
I was born and raised a good Catholic boy, and then I joined a gang and roamed the streets at night searching for trouble but would gladly settle for a nice, shiny hub-cap.

It's amazing. The people who make these assumptions have such a strong sense of perception, such an uncanny ability to penetrate to the core of a person's soul without even talking to him. Of course, they're wrong, but I don't tell them that. It might confuse them.

I'm trying to learn French because I'll be studying in France this fall. From what I hear, the French are not par-

ticularly friendly to those who come to their land with that lost look in their eyes, clueless on how to ask, "Which way to the men's room?" I, for one, have no intention of wandering around the Louvre, eyes crossed and legs weak, hoping to find the door that says, "Le wee-wee." I will ask for directions, like a civilized person. And then I'll run like a banshee directly to my appointed destination.

Now, with all the vowels and consonants and grammatical rules-which-don't-apply crowding in my head, one would think that my stress level would be as high as, say, a kite. Or as high as Hillary the day she was inaugurated.

But I'm not stressed. Not about French, anyway. The French class I'm taking has no tests, no homework, and no bad grades. What a deal! It's the kind of class I've dreamed about since I was in first grade, when I used to stare out the window at all the kids at recess playing, while Ms. Mayhew rambled on about zebras and xylophones.

Finally, I've found the perfect set up, classes with something to learn and no responsibility. I'm taking my French course through the MSC University PLUS program. Though I had seen the flyers and heard of the program, I never understood what University PLUS had to offer.

Now I know. The program is set up as a leisure activities program (that means you might actually enjoy it) for anyone interested in learning without paying thousands of dollars in tuition fees or staying up late cramming for exams. University PLUS offers instruction on anything from martial arts to skydiving, wine tasting to hand quilting.

And yes, they even teach different languages: from French to German to Russian to sign language. (No Pig Latin classes, though, due to the extreme difficulty and general lack of interest. Isk-tay, isk-tay.) But, there are more than 120 classes offered each semester for anyone who wants to learn something different without overloading an already-full study schedule.

Studying two languages at once would scare most people. But not me. I love it. Now, when a Frenchman asks if I know French, I can proudly say, "Si, señor."

Vasquez is a senior journalism major

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The Battalion



100 years at Texas A&M

EDITORIAL

Future investment SSC will net long-term payoff

Last Thursday's 280-150 House vote to kill funding for the Superconducting Super Collider shows a lack of foresight and understanding of the magnitude of the project. The overwhelming number against the collider in the House sends the wrong message to the Senate where the fate of the program now rests.

Research projects such as the collider are investments in the future. First the equipment and labs must be set up for the scientists to use.

The 54-mile oval atom smasher will allow physicists to probe the basic structure of matter on a new level. New advances in physics and medicine are likely to come from research done with the super collider.

Even in its development stage, benefits of the collider can be seen. Research on the high-powered magnets needed by the collider has provided information that will lower the costs of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), a procedure used to detect cancer and other ailments.

The discoveries could lower the

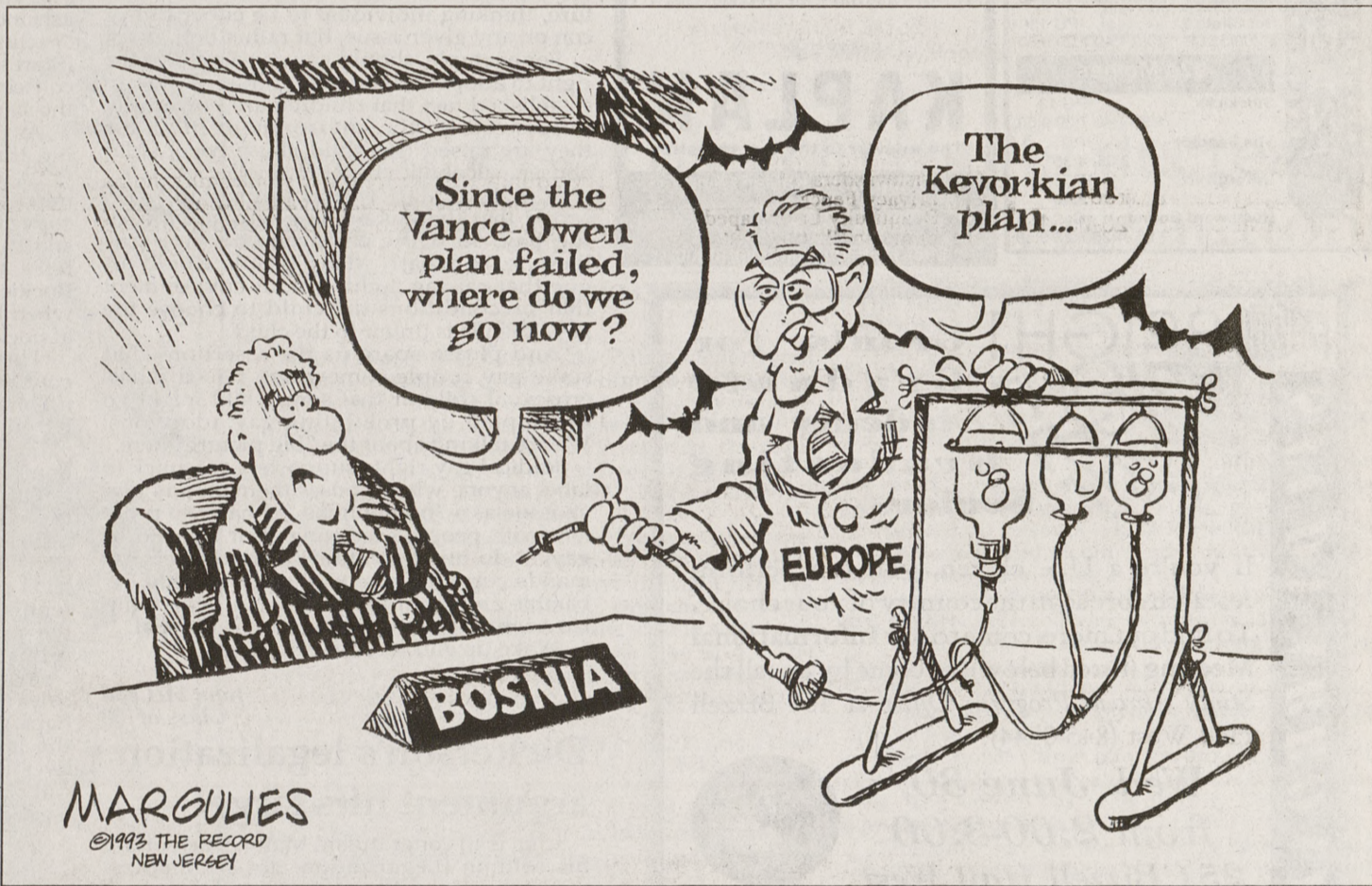
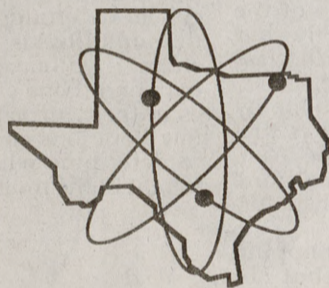
costs of a MRI scan from over \$1,000 to about \$200.

If the collider is canceled, over \$8 billion in future government contracts and 7,000 potential jobs will be lost. Cancellation will result in 3,000 immediate layoffs and huge penalties for breakoffs in over \$1 billion invested in over 50,000 contracts already awarded in 48 states.

At the 16,000-acre site in Waxahachie, cancellation would necessitate the sealing of three magnet delivery shafts, each 240 feet deep with an elliptical mouth 60 feet long and 30 feet wide.

Ten miles of tunnel would have to be shored up and sealed.

The Senate needs to make a commitment to the future and continue through with a project that is already showing results in its infant stage. With layoffs, shutdown costs and most importantly the loss of possible discoveries, the cost of a decision to cancel the collider could end up being higher than the cost of constructing it.



MARGULIES
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NEW JERSEY

We cannot apologize for speaking out against practices that the Bible clearly declares to be unrighteous, wicked and degrading to individuals and human society (Romans 1).

But at the same time AMCF has consistently proclaimed the biblical message that all men — not just homosexuals — have sinned in some way and need to be restored to God through Christ.

AMCF would probably also oppose official recognition of an Aggie marijuana smokers club or a streakers club for the same reasons that we opposed GSSO.

AMCF and Great Commission Ministries are both large, widely respected evangelical Christian organizations. We hope to continue our tradition of providing biblically based training and fellowship for Aggies as we have for thousands of others since 1977.

Rodger Lewis
Class of '76
Faculty Advisor to A&M Christian Fellowship
KAMU-TV Program Director

Tenure qualifications must include research

The recent article on the tenure system can be a good springboard for discussion. First, at a land grant university, research is supposed to be more important than at other schools. Second, traditionally in our society, the person who pays the piper calls the tune.

Since outside research is paying the bulk of A&M's budget, research is going to take priority.

If you feel that education of students is important, for crying out loud put the squeeze on those schmucks in the state legislature to provide adequate funding so faculty are not required to cover their own salaries with outside research funding.

As for the specific case mentioned in the article, a faculty in which one of every four members and most of the graduate students are female can hardly be called androcentric, and the fact that the vote against Dr. Stock's tenure was 12-0 speaks for itself.

I suspect she had some important deficiencies that the article failed to mention.

Daniel K. Miller
Department of Vet Pathobiology

Stock's attitude led to tenure denial

I can't say that I am an authority on A&M's tenure system, but I can say that there must be much more to Dr. Wendy Stock's objections.

I can't believe that she is complaining. She can't really think that this had much to do with the number of publications that she had. She had to know that her ultra-liberal attitude would lead to this.

To give her due credit, she is knowledgeable, and for that matter may be one of the up and coming experts in

her field, but it seems to me that she lacks something in her style of teaching.

I took Human Sexuality from Dr. Stock last spring. Only one word comes to mind if you ask me to describe her: Femi-Nazi. Though I was taking Human Sexuality, I felt as if I were taking Male Bashing 101.

I'm not sure how much the department weighs student evaluations, but I would like to think that they are at least considered. Her peers voted her out 12-0.

Hello, that's unanimous! Dr. Stock needs to realize, she treats people with conservative ideals with the same closed mind she accuses us of having.

The psychology department, on the whole, has a great faculty. Hail the tenure system at Texas A&M!

Christopher Calhoun
Class of '93

COLLEGE STATION, TX
JUNE 29
1993
MAIL CALL

Dickerson mistaken in cult reference

The June 16 Batt contained another distorted reference to A&M Christian Fellowship and Great Commission Students by sophomore columnist Matt Dickerson. I have been the faculty advisor to the Texas A&M Student Organization since 1980 and offer your readers some more accurate information.

Great Commission Students is not new, nor has it ever been, "widely recognized" as a cult — at least not in the usual sense of the word cult. The research and comments by the Cult Awareness Network (CAN), the organization that Dickerson and other anti-evangelical-Christian writers love to quote, is highly suspect.

It makes sweeping generalizations based on isolated incidents. At various times CAN has also listed prominent Christian denominational churches and highly respected Christian movements as "cults."

Another author actually commended Great Commission for steps taken to investigate and correct all reported

leadership weaknesses, most of which occurred more than 15 years ago.

The Texas A&M Student Organization name has changed for the sake of clarity — not subterfuge as Dickerson and his Touchstone associates imply. The original name of OASIS was changed to A&M Christian Fellowship because OASIS didn't convey the purpose or nature of the group.

Many Aggies had no idea what the term "Great Commission" meant and after a couple of years of having to explain the name the A&M group returned to the easily understood name A&M Christian Fellowship (AMCF).

Dickerson may consider his own actions "gay bashing," and that label is indeed being put on virtually anyone who disagrees with the homosexual agenda at Texas A&M or elsewhere.

We did strongly support the University position that recognizing the Gay Students Services Organization would officially condone immoral, and at the time illegal, activity among students. But AMCF, like most other Christian organizations, has had no intent to harm individuals as the term "gay bashing" suggests.

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