

ELNA NEWSLETTER

News of the Language Problem and the Progress of the International Language Movement.
A Service of the Esperanto League for North America, Box 275, Fox Lake, IL 60020, U.S.A.

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SCANDALOUS

is the word for the linguistic anarchy in the world today. The world is being brought ever closer together by the advances in the technology of communication and transportation. Practically instantaneous communication between opposite sides of the globe is now possible. A human being can now be physically transported to even the most distant parts of the earth in less than 15 hours. Commercial airline tours around the world in a week are now commonplace. Yet no one language is understood by more than one out of four human beings living at the present time.

Ironically, the solution to this most basic problem of a common language for the entire human race was devised about 85 years ago, about the time technical means of communication and transportation began their amazingly fast advances. The solution is Esperanto, the language logically and deliberately constructed for international use and introduced to the world in 1887. Its rules of grammar have no exceptions, it is easy to pronounce, its spelling is completely phonetic and its vocabulary is simplified by a system of prefixes and suffixes. Compared to any of the national languages, it is very easy to learn, and—unlike the national languages—it has no political connotations. Today, Esperanto is spoken in every country of the world, has been learned by millions of people and has proven itself as a complete means of verbal communication by almost constant use in almost every conceivable context for almost a century. It stands ready to fill the role of the truly universal language spoken fluently by all intelligent people in addition to their national languages—a role the continuing advances of modern communication and transportation technology demand be filled soon.

Making Americans aware of Esperanto and its unique qualities is a primary goal of the Esperanto League for North America.

SHOCKING

was the news received by Esperantists in the United States last summer that the William Schulzes had

announced their decision to retire from the operation of the Esperanto Information Center at the end of this year. The outlook for the Esperanto movement in the United States has been brightened, however, by the announcement that an ELNA Central Office will be established in Burlingame, California, to take over the functions to be vacated by the Schulzes and to provide ELNA with a permanent headquarters. The director of the new central office will be Karl Pov, who will initially work under the guidance of Bill and Cathy Schulze. The new central office will be specially funded, and those desiring to make contributions toward this fund should send them to the treasurer of ELNA, Mrs. Peggy Linker, 1414 Monroe Street, Walla Walla, Washington 99362.

INFLATION AND DOLLAR DEVALUATION

are resulting in increases of membership dues for Esperanto organizations all over the world.

The 1974 ELNA dues are: ordinary membership, \$10; family, \$15; supporting, \$25; patron, \$50; life, \$200; student, \$5; and emeritus, \$5. They should be sent to Mrs. Peggy Linker, ELNA Treasurer, 1414 Monroe Street, Walla Walla, Washington 99362. Included in the membership dues for a new member is a subscription to an Esperanto magazine chosen by the member from several published in Europe or Asia.

The 1974 dues schedule for the Universal Esperanto Association, the largest of the worldwide Esperanto organizations, is as follows: standard membership with yearbook and a subscription to the monthly magazine *Esperanto*, \$14; membership with yearbook only, \$7; sustaining membership, \$21; youth member with yearbook, \$3.50; youth member with yearbook and *Esperanto*, \$10.50. The yearbook contains names and addresses of UEA delegates throughout the world who have volunteered to serve members. Payment of UEA dues (but not ELNA dues) should be made to the chief delegate of the UEA in the United States, Armin Doneis, P.O. Box 105, Pharr, Texas 78577. Life membership in the UEA will cost only \$186 until the end of 1973; thereafter, it will cost almost \$300.

THE 1973 ELNA CONGRESS

will be held in the Allerton Hotel, Chicago, Illinois, from Thursday evening, December 27, through Saturday, December 29. The congress will begin with a get-acquainted meeting and a distribution of 1972-3 reports from 7 P.M. to 10 P.M. A business meeting will take place from nine to 11:30 the morning of the 28th and will be followed by a seminar from 1:30 to four that afternoon. At seven that evening, the members of the congress are invited to attend the annual Zamenhof Banquet of the Esperanto Society of Chicago to honor the inventor of Esperanto. Another seminar will be held from nine to 11 the morning of the 29th, and the congress will close with a business meeting from one to three that afternoon.

The Modern Language Association will be meeting in Chicago on the same dates, but its sessions will not be open to members of ELNA unless they are also members of MLA (as many are). However, some of the MLA participants will address the ELNA Congress, among them experts in the field of interlinguistics. Edmund Brent, Duncan Charters, Richard Wood, Carlton Carroll, Pierre Ullman and Margaret Hagler are among those who may take part in some of the ELNA as well as the MLA sessions.

The registration fee for the ELNA Congress is \$5. The cost of the Zamenhof Banquet is \$6 per person. A registration form for both has been printed for your convenience on page 7 of the October **ELNA-Bulteno** (the Esperanto-language organ of ELNA). If you wish, you may register by sending your check for \$11 together with the words "ELNA Congress and Zamenhof Banquet" to Mr. R. Kent Jones, 3318 North Lake Shore Drive, No. 801, Chicago, IL 60657.

Rooms at the Allerton range in price from \$13.50 a day when occupied by one person to \$25.00 when occupied by three people. You may make room reservations by contacting the hotel directly (be sure you mention you are part of the ELNA Congress) or through Mr. Jones.

ESPERANTISTOJ ESPERAS POR SUKCESO

is the title of an article that appeared in an October 10 and 11 supplement to the Chicago **Sun-Times**, a giant among Chicago's newspapers and considered by many to be Chicago's best. The article reports that according to R. Kent Jones, president of the Chicago Esperanto Society, Esperanto's lack of acceptance stems from countries not recognizing its importance. A portion of the article reads as follows:

"Jones equates Esperanto's problem with the delayed acceptance of the metric system of measurement. 'It took 86 years before the metric system was accepted in France, its native land,' Jones said. 'The United Nations has not shown much support for us but it spent more than \$23 million last year for translation. We're prolonging a system that just should not exist.'

"The 'system' Jones meant is the traditional learning of languages for each foreign country. Jones said Esperanto would drastically cut down the 'wasted time' spent on learning the some 3,000 different languages that now exist."

The article concludes by quoting Sinjoro Jones as saying that "It's hard to predict when we'll get enough support, enough funds to carry everything out. You tell me when everyone's patience is at an end and I'll tell you when Esperanto begins."

MARIO PEI,

the world-famous linguist and author of numerous books including **Talking Your Way Around the World**, speculates in an article in the September 2, 1973, **Los Angeles Times** on whether the recent drastic drop in college language course enrollments is due to growing isolationism. Then he lists some suggested remedies.

Suggestion No. 1 is a required introductory course dealing with the world's main languages in terms of how many people speak each language, where they are located, and to what extent we are doing and probably will do business with them. This would enable the student to decide on the basis of his career plans which, if any, of the languages he wants to learn.

"Suggestion No. 2 is that the entering freshmen be given a required course in a constructed language like Esperanto, which is far easier than any national tongue by reason of a grammatical structure that can be learned in a couple of hours, ease of spelling and pronunciation, and an international vocabulary. This would familiarize the student with the idea of another language besides his own while minimizing the initial difficulties. Then he could pass on to one of the national languages. He would also gain the bonus of acquiring an international language that is widespread and already has millions of users all over the globe."

The third suggestion is that the student be required to take a course in the people, culture and country or countries where the language he has chosen is used before being made to decide whether he

wants to go on with the study of the language itself. The fourth suggestion, if adopted, would replace literary materials in every second-year language course with newspapers and magazines presenting current topics and written in the language as currently used.

"FOREIGN LANGUAGE LEARNING FOR BUSINESS"

is the title of an article by Russell W. McBride in the August, 1973, issue of *Training in Business and Industry*. The article describes some of the things a U.S. company learned about language training while trying to improve the foreign language fluency of its marketing personnel. The initial effort consisted of providing the students with self-study materials that included cassette recordings. After three to four months, the students' interest and participation in studying the languages began to slow down, as was evidenced by late lesson completions and declining use of lesson materials. "This pattern developed despite the fact that they seemed to get started well and made good progress for a period. It also appeared to occur without regard to the amount of progress they had been making in the course up to that point." Interest was rearoused largely by the use of live tutors (both on-site and available by telephone) who could immediately answer questions related to the lessons.

Near the conclusion of this article, its author states, "Tough as it may have been for our executives or managers (and us) to accept (and despite what glowing advertisements may claim), it needs to be recognized and emphasized that there is no royal road to language learning. No matter how convenient and effective this or any language learning system can try to be, it takes continuous and regular effort on the trainee's part for learning to occur. Frequent interruptions in the study pattern...not only frustrate the learning, but also serve to significantly lengthen the learning period."

LEARNING ESPERANTO REQUIRES EFFORT, but only a fraction of the effort required to learn any national language. Many students will be able to master Esperanto in four months or less of concentrated study using the cassette course in Esperanto authored by William Auld, a poet and editor of high repute in the Esperanto world. Titled "A First Course in Esperanto," it consists of six cassettes, a course manual and two additional books about

Esperanto. Priced at \$35.00 postpaid, it comes with a 30-day, money-back guarantee. The cassettes give you the purest Esperanto pronunciation, which you will be able to practice with your local Esperanto group. (A list of some of these groups and their addresses appears in the December edition of the Esperanto-language **ELNA-Bulteno**.) Order "A First Course in Esperanto" by William Auld from the Esperanto League for North America, 6451 Barnaby Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20015.

CHANNING L. BETE, SR.,

publisher of the *ABC's of Esperanto*, *About Esperanto* and *A First Course in Esperanto* by William Auld, died of a heart attack on August 18th. Mr. Bete, founder of the Channing L. Bete Company, Inc., a publisher of many educational materials, became seriously interested in Esperanto in 1970 and took a course in the language taught by Mr. Auld at San Francisco State College. His passing is a serious loss for the Esperanto movement.

THE OLDEST LIVING ELNA MEMBER

is **Lehman Wendell**, author, photographer and retired Minneapolis dentist who in four years will be embarking on his second century. Doktoro Wendell learned Esperanto some 70 years ago and has been active in the Esperanto movement ever since.

After graduating from college in the Middle West, he worked until the First World War as a chemist in the flour mills of the Pacific Northwest. Then, as he was approaching 40, he decided to make a complete switch of careers and enrolled in the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry. This was followed by a career of nearly 50 years both as a dentist in private practice in Minneapolis and as a distinguished member of the University of Minnesota faculty, where he gained renown for his skill and conscientiousness as a teacher. He also wrote a column entitled "Lehman Drops" for a professional magazine. After retiring from dentistry, he began devoting more of his time to writing and photography and soon became the published author of a book illustrated with his own photographs.

In what most men consider middle age—at a time in life when they are beginning to look forward to retirement—Lehman, who previously had considered himself a confirmed bachelor, found the right girl—a youthful woman—and began to raise a family. Today he has adult grandchildren.

In the late 1960s, he was corresponding with Esperantists in Madagascar with regard to his inter-

est in the fossilized eggs of a bird that had become extinct there some 400 years ago. Today he is corresponding on other scientific topics with Esperantists in Eastern Europe.

Always youthful in outlook, active in mind, universal in interests, unhampered by the fear of failure that inhibits most other men, successful in all his undertakings, a speaker of Esperanto when it was in its infancy, he is a reminder of the fact that Esperanto was invented within the lifetime of men who are still among us.

THE WIDE RANGE OF INTERESTS

among Esperantists is illustrated by the articles appearing in current issues of Esperanto magazines. Here, translated into English, are only a few of the titles:

From *Scienca Revuo*, published in Belgrade: "Aspects of River Pollution" by I. Seceleanu; "Determination of the Position of Stars Usable for the Stellar Guidance of Rockets Under Launch Conditions" by A. Heck; "Why Do Mother and Fetus Not Reject One Another?" by C. Meto.

From *Biblia Revuo*, published in Ravenna: "Terminology for Biblical Studies" by G. Rust.

From *Fokuso*, published in Gothenburg: "New Biological Nomenclature" by E. Vilborg.

From *Oomoto*, published in Kameoka: "The Japanese and the Jews" by T. Nakamura.

From *Homo kaj Kosmo*, published in Zagreb: "Does the Earth Actually Have Three Moons?" by G. Kren.

From *Sennacieca Revuo*, published in Paris: "Charles Reade, Novelist, Dramatist, Journalist" by M. Boulton.

ESPERANTO LANGUAGE MAGAZINE

subscriptions are excellent birthday or seasonal gifts, reminds R. Kent Jones, manager of the Esperanto Language Service Company. For a price list of 78 Esperanto periodicals from 26 countries, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the Esperanto Language Service Company, 3318 North Lake Shore Drive, No. 801, Chicago, Illinois 60657.

THE IDEAL COMPUTER LANGUAGE

could be one based on Esperanto, according to an article in the November 1 *Heroldo de Esperanto*, a biweekly newspaper published in Belgium. Such a programming language is now available from a company called INFELOR in Budapest (no more detailed address is given). "If," the article states, "Esperanto is proven to be better suited for the computer than the unplanned languages, the international language will be victorious" (in its efforts to be adopted as the single language used in an international computerized information retrieval system).

REMEMBER

that individual membership in the Esperanto League for North America for the calendar year 1974 is \$10. Please send your check now—while you're thinking about it—to Mrs. Peggy Linker, ELNA Treasurer, 1414 Monroe Street, Walla Walla, Washington 99362.

BONVOLU SKRIBI VIAJN PLENDOJN

pri ĉi tiu numero de la Newsletter krajone en la jenan spacon: □ kaj sendi al la redaktoro, Richard T. Sandberg, P.O.Box 275, Fox Lake, Illinois 60020. Nepre skribu legeblece!

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