

# esperanto USA

The ELNA Newsletter: News of the language problem and Esperanto as a possible solution ☆ 2/1997

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## *Ek al komuna laboro!*

After a too long period during which our newsletter was hardly seen by our shrinking membership, it won't be easy to regain the lost members and their confidence in our organization and in its newsletter. It would be impossible for one person — the editor — to regain what was lost, therefore we need to work together. Together we can bring this newsletter to the level it deserves — the highest.

Consequently I urge every and all of our members to reach for their writing tools and start writing and sending in their long-awaited contributions. I specially request all editors of Esperanto periodicals published throughout the U.S. to please send regularly copies of their publications to ELNA's C.O. They are a much needed source of information about Esperanto activities at local level for both the C.O. and the editor of this newsletter.

As the newsletter of the national Esperanto organization in the U.S., *Esperanto USA* will concentrate mostly on the following topics, in no particular order: Esperanto activity in the U.S. and neighboring countries; activities of U.S. Esperantists at all levels, from local to international; Esperanto events that could have an impact upon the U.S. Esperanto movement and its members, and from which we can learn how to

improve ourselves and the movement to which we belong; language problems and Esperanto as a possible solution; Esperanto teaching issues here and elsewhere.

I will request regular contributions from the members of the Board as well as from the C.O., and from ELNA members who have attended Esperanto events worth our attention. Book and periodical reviews will appear regularly

beside news about our members and information from our clubs.

Since *Esperanto USA* is a newsletter, essays, news and information will have priority over literary works, which we will consider for an eventual literary supplement (although not this year).

Your suggestions and comments about the immediate future of this newsletter are much welcome. On

them depends not only the newsletter itself, but also the welfare of the organization that publishes it. Ek al skribiloj, do!

Ionel ONET

We are profoundly indebted to Phil Brewer (Champaign IL) and Mark Lambert (Des Moines IA) and many others for their contribution to this issue.



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The opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors, and don't necessarily represent the point of view of ELNA or its newsletter/La opinioj esprimataj en ĉi novajletero apartenas al la aŭtoroj, kaj ne nepre prezentas la vidpunkton de ELNA aŭ ties novajletero.

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Deadline for the next issue/Limdato por la sekva numero: 28.11.1997.

## Sez the Prez:

### Saluton ĉiuj!

ELNA has been busy since you last received an *EsperantoUSA*. We've had a very successful Landa Kongreso, a JES (Junulara Esperantista Semajnfino) convention, and we've created a new e-mail "mini-bulletin" for members and non-members.

We have also decided that volunteer editors for *EsperantoUSA* just have not been adequate. Although their work has been excellent, their responsibilities in the outside world keep interfering and making it difficult to produce the newsletter regularly. We have therefore contracted with **Ionel Oneț** for the next year's worth of this newsletter, and we have high hopes that it will appear as regularly as *Esperanto* verbs conjugate.

A few notes on this year's LK. Our national convention took place in San Francisco. The location was the conference center of the University of San Francisco, once a Catholic women's college, and a remarkably beautiful location. We could see much of the city from this hilltop, including the Golden Gate Bridge.

I've been to many of our national conventions, and sometimes they have been good, and sometimes they have been... well... booooooring! But this one was outstanding. And not just because of Steve "Bucknaked" Belant's remarkable performance in the Oratory contest. **Orlando Raola** led a vigorous discussion of the Convention theme, "Esperanto: Village or Continent?" (People took every possible combination of positions, including "kaj-kajistoj" and "nek-nekistoj"! ) **Gary Grady's** magic tricks ("Mi ne povas hudi... sed la belulino povas hudini.") And **Bill Harmon**, who is leaving the Board after many years of service, received a long standing ovation when we presented him with a plaque in honor of his work.

We elected four new Board members: **Anna Bennett** (Treasurer), **Mike Donohoo**, **Grant Goodall**, and **Reg**

**Jaderstrom**. Their terms run until mid-2000. And the Convention unanimously voted **Eugene H. Thompson** an Honorary Member for his many years of support.

Other news: ELNA has new membership categories and options. You can now support ELNA with a Patron membership. A supporting membership is twice the basic dues, and a Patron will support ELNA with three times the basic dues. If you wish, you can also pay for multiple years at one time (avoiding possible future dues increases and saving wear and tear on your checkbook). Of course, the usual membership categories will still be available and the rates have not changed.

The JES convention in May was great. (And for those of you who were there... Pep-ludilo is fine.) I met many young Esperantists, including the President of the Washington local group, **Tim Ryan**, who has long produced a fine local newsletter.

And as always, our thanks and an Ege Bone! to various people:

» **Dr. Gertrude Novak**, who spent a week in Denver helping teach and set up a new local group. Dr. Novak's work will be the model for "Strike Teams" that the Board has funded for the next fiscal year.

» **Stanley Neil Glass**, who donated to the CO a Macintosh Performa 6200 with CD, 40MB of RAM, 1GB of disk space, Esperanto fonts, ClarisWorks, Canvas, Nisus, and more.

» **Joseph Truong** and **Daniel Cuthbert**, for putting together an outstanding JES! T97.

» **Orlando Raola** and **Aleksandr Shlyafar**, for putting together an excellent Landa Kongreso; and **David** and **Becky Harris**, for the Hospitality Room there. And **Steve "Bucknaked" Belant** for his unforgettable entry in the Oratory Contest!

» **Maya Kennedy** for a letter cogently supporting Esperanto in the *Mensa Bulletin*.

Thank you all!

David WOLFF, President

## *Kiel klarigi nian aferon?*

[La plej ofta demando al esperantistoj de neesperantistoj estas "Kio estas Esperanto?" En tiu ĉi artikolo, juna ĉikaga esperantisto skizas strategion por doni kiel eble plej bonan impreson al la publiko, kiam prezentigas demandoj pri la celoj kaj deveno de Esperanto.]

On the internet, in areas known as newsgroups, each of which revolves around a certain theme, there frequently appear messages from newcomers who ask the most basic questions about the topic. Whenever these questions address knowledge that would be common to anyone who knows anything about the topic, the response is never the simple answer, the response is, "Consult the FAQ."

A FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) is a compilation of those basic questions, with answers. They serve as a beginner's guide or overview to the topic in question. Similarly, Esperantists on a daily basis are asked over and over again the basic question, "What is Esperanto?" Rather than viewing this as a chore, every Esperantist should assume the role of an ambassador and view this as an opportunity to make a new friend of Esperanto. Moreover, giving the right response is crucial to creating a good public image for our cause.

However, one shouldn't oversell Esperanto. The wrong response would be "It's the most wonderful thing in the universe, you should run out and learn it right away." What you must realize is that the first step in any movement is to raise awareness of the problem. Once a person has an idea of the language problem, then that person can later be motivated to move to the next level, which is taking steps to solve the problem. When someone asks the question, you have that person's attention for anywhere from 5 to 10 seconds. Therefore it is necessary to provide an answer that is as concise as possible, yet sticks in the person's memory. Then, when the person has his or her next encounter with Esperanto, there is a greater possibility that they will move to the next level of action.

There are several things that must be conveyed when providing an answer to the question. You must let them know that Esperanto is a language, and that it is an international language. Expand on this by clarifying that the idea is that people from all different language backgrounds can just learn one easy language. You must punctuate the response by asserting that this is not a ridiculous concept, and that the goals of the movement are attainable. So a possible response is, "It is a language, which was made up about 100 years ago, and is going to be the language for

all international communication." This addresses all of the major points, as well as noting that Esperanto is a planned language, and that it has more than a century of history behind it.

It has been documented that the response to this is generally negative. For us in the U.S., we have to confront the general belief that this role is already fulfilled by English, and many will follow up by saying so. It's not tough to smash this notion, by simply yet politely laughing it off by saying "If it were only that easy..." or something similar (you would know best with each individual person). You can explain that while English is certainly, at this stage in history, one of the most valuable languages to know for traveling and doing business, it is certainly not an easy language to learn, and that a hundred years ago, the "international language" was French and before that, Latin. But tread lightly around this question, because Americans do not like to think that English is in anyway endangered.

Obviously Esperanto is not going to replace English, or any language for that matter. Say that in many respects Esperanto is like the metric system, standard international music notation or standardized international time zones, although concede that the parallel is not perfect, if you must.

Partly because the word "Esperanto" is similar to the widely-known Spanish word for hope, *esperanza*, it is frequently necessary to explain that Esperanto is in fact not Spanish. To do this, you can explain that the sound system is based on Italian, which is similar to Spanish. This is an oversimplification, but remember that in the days before the phonograph, Zamenhof suggested Italian as a model for the pronunciation of Esperanto. The issue of the origin of Esperanto is likely to arise in questions such as "is that based on Portuguese and German?" or whatever language they think it sounds like. The key point to address is that Esperanto is based on many languages, with the idea that it be as easy as possible for everybody to learn. (Although stated like that it is another harmless oversimplification). A good illustration of this is the fact that every word is pronounced as it is spelled.

In addressing the ease with which Esperanto can be learned, don't exaggerate. Some polyglots have been able to learn Esperanto in a few hours. But most Americans are not polyglots. Here, it would be good to say how you learned Esperanto, or relate some of the more typical stories. Most people who learn Esperanto do so without a teacher, on their own and in their spare time. Two months' time is enough to gain a good degree of useable fluency, although one probably

would not be able to tell someone in Esperanto how to take apart an engine. If you are talking to a person who has studied a foreign language in high school, you can point out that students of Esperanto do not waste their time learning the kinds of irregularities that are present in national languages.

Many people simply won't accept Esperanto or its ideas. Don't waste your time trying to convince someone who totally opposes it. Accept that you will just disagree, and move on. (Unless of course you know the person well and like to argue in complete futility.) But there are those people who will think that the idea is simply brilliant, or will at least be warm to it. For example, I once talked about Esperanto with a friend who had the previous evening had a drunken conversation with colleagues, none of whom had ever heard of Esperanto, in which they all agreed that it would be a good idea if someone just made up a language to solve the language problem. Or it may be the case that the person in question has talked to someone about Esperanto before and, after reflection, came to fully agree with the idea. When someone is that open-minded, you can tell them that such a fantasy is a reality even now, by explaining about the Universala Kongreso, the Delegita Reto, and the Pasporta Servo. You can illustrate further by saying that there are even children who grew up speaking Esperanto.

There is a myriad of possible follow-up questions, which could range from "Does Esperanto have punctuation marks?" to "Isn't that all pure empiricism by virtue of its method excluding metaphysics?" Answer questions to the best of your ability, and where you don't know the answer, say so. Say something in Esperanto if asked. (Perhaps the Pledge of Allegiance or the numbers to ten). But remember what the goal is, and that is that the person should walk away knowing that Esperanto is a distinct, living language destined to become the language for all international communication.

Once someone is warmed up, you can invite them to an Esperanto meeting in your area, or direct them to Esperanto resources. Esperanto textbooks (usually *Teach Yourself*) can frequently be found at supermarket-sized bookstores (Barnes and Noble, Border's, Media Play, etc.). You can also direct them to Esperanto resources on the internet. But try to answer all the easy questions before they ask the newsgroups.

Christopher ZERVIC (Buffalo Grove IL)

## Three Errors of the Esperanto Culture

I think that the Esperanto culture has failed to recognize three important problems.

The first problem is not recognizing the mistranslation of *lingvo arta*, the term the initiator, Zamenhof, used to describe Esperanto. The term is usually translated in English and many other languages as "artificial language" which implies something inferior and unnatural. *Lingvo arta* really means a language which is truly a work of art, a language which is much better than a language, like English, which was created in a piecemeal random fashion by amateurs over many years.

The term artificial or unnatural is wrong and misleading. We are really talking about a language that was initiated by one man, compared to a language that was initiated by many people.

Yes even these purely descriptive terms mislead to some extent. Although Esperanto was initiated by one man, Zamenhof, most of the words in the Esperanto vocabulary were added after Zamenhof's death.

Surprisingly you can also say that English was initiated by one man. When the Norman, William the Conqueror, invaded and occupied England in 1066, he and his invading nobles decided to try to make the natives abandon their native Saxon and speak only French. Written Saxon was abandoned; all significant writing was done in French (or Latin). Within two or three generations the poor common people spoke various pidgin mixtures of more French words than Saxon. Although rudiments of Saxon grammar remained, Saxon itself became a dead language.

In the 14th century, a man who spoke one of the pidgin mixtures became king. The people, led by Geoffrey Chaucer, began to write the "king's English". In contrast to the peaceful, scholarly birth of Esperanto, English was born in oppression and confusion.

The second problem is the almost total ignoring by the Esperanto culture of the cost of the widespread teaching of the intercultural language. If even 10% of

the students of the world were taught Esperanto, the cost would be in the billions. Who would pay for this, and more importantly, what would the world and its people gain by such a tremendous effort?

You can say that Esperanto would replace much of the teaching of other languages in the schools of the world. Therefore there would not be a big increase in teaching costs. But that only applies to countries which widely teach foreign languages. In North America where foreign language teaching is very limited, the increase in costs would be very high.

The result of widespread teaching is that most educated people would be able to easily converse with one another no matter where they were or who they were with. This is a great mental and spiritual advantage. But although that would help in commerce and tourism, it is not easy to translate this advantage into dollars.

The third problem is that Esperanto speakers have failed to latch on to the idea that probably the most urgent and practical use of Esperanto would initially be as the neutral working language for UN peace-keeping and rescue forces. Some Esperanto speakers may be unhappy with the idea that the language designed for peace would be used in international armed forces to keep the peace, but that may be the easiest path to success.

Since Esperanto can be learned in 1/3 the time needed for Spanish and 1/10 that for most other languages (including English), it is tailor-made for this role. All that is necessary is to have the UN agree to set up a standing peace-keeping force and be willing to choose the best working language as determined by fair and just field tests. I don't think that is too much to hope for early in the next century.

Joe GAMBLE (Portland OR)

[Before I suggest Mr. Gamble to try to persuade the world police (i.e. USA), whose language is used by most of the UN peace-keeping troops, to adopt Esperanto as their working language, I would like to ask him what does he mean by "North America" in the text above.—ed.]

## A Perfect Language?

"Perfect" is one of those deep words which cause all of us great confusion, because its meaning is so slippery and various. Remember that its etymology shows its roots in *per* (through or thorough) + *factum* (past participle of *facio* [to do]) → thoroughly done. For Aristotle, the concept was simple and reflected a craftsman's art: a chair is perfect when it is thoroughly done. For Plato and Christians, of course, it is much more complex, and means entirely without fault or sin: being in accordance with an ideal.

Regarding planned languages, many users tend to be Aristotelian, and simply enjoy using a planned language that is thoroughly done, which the maker has finished polishing and released for worldwide distribution. Others are Platonic and search for a flawless language completely in accordance with some ideal of language. They also tend to constantly tinker with a language project, rather than using a language. They cannot understand why their explanations of the sins and faults of various modes of speech are either ignored or responded to with irritation. Imagine being repeatedly told that the chair you are sitting in is not a perfect chair, that you are using a less-than-perfect computer, or not living a perfect life. Yes, some even drone on about the imperfections of (un)planned languages. This is irritating, and misses the point. A chair which is thoroughly done is useful when you want to sit; and a language which is thoroughly done is useful when you wish to communicate with somebody. There is little point to striving for a transcendental perfection.

Yet there is no lack of language projects which have just this goal! Not only are there hundreds of people who endlessly praise their suggested "improvements" to Esperanto, but there are even projects for new "more perfect" languages which appear every year.

Umberto Eco wrote a charming book on this theme: "The Search for the Perfect Language". He places these linguistic tinkerers in a long line of folks trying to counteract the effects of the Tower of Babel!

There are, of course, a few kooks [extremists?] who believe that this is the ideal goal of Esperanto—to be the perfect language which re-unites humanity in a spiritual unity unknown since the time before the Almighty punished the offspring of Noah who dared build the Tower. Most Esperantists are not kooks: they have simply discovered that using a planned language somehow enriches their life or captures their fancy.

Miko SLOPER (Berkeley CA)

## *New Passport. Available Soon!*

### UEA subtenas nian Pasporton

Dum la UK en Adelajdo, la estraro de UEA konsentis aŭspicii la ELNA-projekton krei videon por instrui Esperanton. "Pasporto al la Tuta Mondo" fariĝos parto de la Kampanjo 2000 de UEA por krei taŭgajn instrumaterialojn por la nova jarcento. Inter aliaj helpoj, UEA subvenciis ĝin per aljuĝo de la plej granda aktuala monpremio "Saliko" je 20,000 nederlandaj guldenoj. Ĝi ankaŭ ricevis 3000 germanajn markojn de la Fondajo FAME. Do la familio Bonvolo fariĝas eĉ pli internacia. Ape-ros interesa intervjuo kun Paul Gubbins, la scenaristo, pri lia metodo kaj la enhavo de "Pasporto" en la oktobra numero de *Esperanto*. Tie li klarigos ke kvankam "Pasporto" celas komencantojn, ĝi distros eĉ spertajn Esperantistojn. Li deziras ke ĉiu spektu ĝin kiel televidan serion kaj identiĝu kun la roluloj. Li emfazas ke ĉi tiu laboro estas la plej ambicia dramprojekto iam ajn entreprenita en Esperantio!



### Kiel ĝi malsimilas al Mazi?

Ĝi uzas vivantajn esperantistajn geaktorojn anstataŭ desegnaĵojn. Krome ĝi celas pli aĝajn lernantojn, kursanojn; kaj, eĉ pli grave, ĝi enkondukas ilin ne nur en la lingvon, sed ankaŭ en la Esperantan kulturon. Pro la fakto ke la dramo estas tute originala, ni nature enkondukas nian kulturon. La ĝisfunde strukturita kaj zorge prilaborita lerno-

sistemo konvinkos profesiajn instruistojn kaj fakulojn, ke ankaŭ esperantistoj kapablas krei, ne nur adapti, taŭgajn instrumaterialojn. La aktoroj bone prononcas, sed iliaj malfortaj naciaj akĉentoj montras ke Esperanto estas tute komprenebla malgraŭ la veraj akĉentoj kiuj ekzistas en la mondo.

### Kiuj estas la geaktoroj?

Patro – Miko Sloper (Usono)  
Patrino – Leonora Torres (Meksikio)  
Filino – Ĵenja Korp (Usono)  
Filino – Mingchi Chien (Ĉinio/Usono)  
Filo – Stephen Boddington (Britio)  
Gasto – Gi Menahem (Usono)  
Raportisto – Katsunori Syozi (Japanio)  
Butikistino – Vesna Roguluja Heyman (Kroatio/Usono)  
Detektivo – Steve Wagenseller (Usono)  
(Vidu la unuajn tri en la foto)

### Kiel aspektos la videokurso?

La videokurso konsistos el 15 kolorplenaj horduonaj lecionoj, en rekta metodo por ke ili estu uzablaj ie ajn en la mondo. La lecionoj havas pretertempan econ, tiel ke ili povu esti uzataj sensaĝe dum multaj jaroj. La amuza intrigo havas daŭran historion, kiu tenos viva la intereson de la studentoj. La rakonto progresas "sap-opere" kaj enhavos "hokojn" kiuj instigos al pli da lernado. La lecionaro uzas fotojn, mapojn,

desegnaĵojn, ekzercojn paroligajn kaj gramatikajn. Laborkajero en Esperanto kaj naciaj lingvoj estos verkita por akompani la videon.

### Kiam ĝi pretos por uzo?

La unuaj 4 lecionoj jam filmiĝis kaj nun redaktiĝas. La plano estas ke la unuaj 4 estu pretaj por individua uzo je la komenco de 1998. Sed televizia dis-

sendo devos atendi ĝis ni kolektos sufiĉe da mono por fini la tutan projekton. Laŭ nia plano, ni filmos 5 pliajn lecionojn somere de 1998 kaj la lastajn 6 somere de 1999. Intertempe, la unuaj 4 uzeblis por klasoj aŭ kluboj.



### Ni bezonas vian helpon

Ni uzas profesiajn ekipaĵojn, fotistojn kaj reĝisorojn kaj multajn dediĉitajn esperantistojn. Pro la senpaga laboro de la esperantistoj, ni povas produkti la lecionojn por po \$20,000—entute \$300,000. Ni devas tuj kolekti sufiĉe da mono por filmi la venontan someron. Antaŭmendoj estas bonvenaj: \$85 por la unuaj 4 lecionoj, aŭ \$300 por la 15 lecionoj. La mono por antaŭmendoj multe helpas, sed ne sufiĉas. Por plendifinanci la tutan projekton (el kiu tiras profiton nek ELNA, nek la kunlaborantaro) necesas peti la helpon de mecenatoj, ĉu individuaj, ĉu grupaj. Memoru ke ankoraŭ restas parto de la dekmil-dolara instiga donaco de anonimulo, el kiu ELNA duobligos individuajn donacojn ĝis la \$10,000 estos elĉerpitaj. La nomoj de tiuj, kiuj pli profunde helpas al la Familio Bonvolo per donacoj de \$500 aŭ pli, menciigis fine de leciono. Antaŭmendojn kaj donacojn bonvole sendu al: ELNA – Video-Projekto, P.O. Box 1129, El Cerrito CA 94530, aŭ al UEA-konto *nmvm-n*. Se vi havas ideojn pri fontoj de mono, bonvolu kontakti la produktanton – [lusiharmon@aol.com](mailto:lusiharmon@aol.com).

Lusi HARMON (Oakland CA)

D. Gary Grady tute pravus (*Esperanto USA* 1/1997), ke ni bezonas pli zorgeme rigardi nian mesaĝon. Kvankam ni ne forgesu nian revon pri pli paca mondo (fakte, ni daŭre forte laboru por pli konkrete viviĝi tiun revon en nia agado), estus necese pripensi ankaŭ aliajn strategiojn. Nia plej forta avantaĝo estas manko de granda denaska klaso, kiu "nature" superas tiujn kiuj ĵus eklernis la lingvon. En preskaŭ ĉiuj aliaj lingvoj, ekzistas homoj kiuj rajtas diri, ke ili parolas iun lingvon pli bone ol aliaj ĉar tiu estas ilia denaska lingvo. Iu, kiu iam hontiĝis kiam denaskulo iom sarkasme aŭ ride devis korekti lin aŭ ŝin, certe pli bone komprenas tiun koncepton. Cetere, ni memoru ankaŭ la gravecon de tio, kion ni faras post kiam iu interesiĝas pri Esperanto. Ne indas multe reklami Esperanton se oni fakte havas nenion konkretan, eĉ regione, por oferti. Pli danĝera ol perdita intereso estas perdita entuziasmo. Por iom kuraĝigi pli kreivajn ideojn kaj respondojn, kion vi farus se Esperanto estus ne lingvo sed, ekzemple, universitato? Ekzistas facilaj paraleloj inter la du (ekz., ambaŭ instruas) tamen ekzistas aliaj ideoj. Ekzemple, en universitatoj oni devas tre zorgeme kaj atente kontroli la liston de studentoj kiuj interesiĝas (aparte kiam ne estas multe da ili). Oni devas tre zorgeme reklami al specifaj aŭdiencoj diversajn mesaĝojn pri kial ĝi estas preferinda lernejo. Esperable ĉi tiu cerbludo kunportas freŝajn konceptojn en la movadon.

Laste, mi ŝatus publike danki al la Esperanto-Societo de Washington, DC, kiu ludis tre gravan rolon en la organizado de la ĉi-jara Junulara Esperantista Semajnfino de USEJ. Sen la helpo de ESW certe la organizado fariĝus tre malfacila. Jam venas entuziasmo de la Esperanto-Societo de Chicago, kiu kunlaboros kun Christopher Zervic por organizi JES-on ankaŭ tie. Ke ĉi tiu regiona kunlaboro por junuloj daŭru!

Joseph TRUONG (Lancaster PA)

## Esperanto and Foreign Language Education

Every year approx. \$2 billion are spent in the U.S. for the teaching of foreign languages in our elementary schools. This figure refers to teaching foreign languages to English speaking young people. (The approx. \$10 billion spent on bilingual education are not considered here.) What are we getting for our money?

We need only to consider the foreign language skills of our adults in order to assess the results. Which of them can speak the foreign language they studied? My observations are that the only ones who have succeeded are those who studied intensively elsewhere, or who lived among the speakers of the language. That couldn't be more than one percent of our native born citizens. All that money for this meager result!

Despite declarations that foreign languages are important, it is apparent that they are not seriously taught. Oh, the teachers are zealous—but they know that they are programmed to fail. Few students study more than two years. But even four years of high school French are insufficient to produce usable proficiency. The graduate may have a succession of A's on the report card, but the ability to converse on an adult level is lacking.

It seems to me that, in addition to the insufficiency of course duration mentioned above, schools short-change children by delay. Neuroscience now confirms that the 14 year old brain is decidedly less capable of language acquisition than is the 8 year old brain. A serious program to achieve foreign language proficiency must not wait until the child is over-age. So why do our elementary schools avoid teaching foreign languages? I surmise that there are three chief reasons.

The first is that the policy makers are those same monolingual adults who either failed to gain usable proficiency as a student or didn't study a foreign language at all. Their esteem for foreign language skills probably is insufficient to inspire spending in this specialty. We need to help them understand that the overall

cognitive abilities of students are greatly improved by skill in a second language.

A second reason is the practical difficulty of paying for a 6 or 8 year sequence of effective foreign language instruction. Where will the salary money come from? Many elementary schools have difficulty affording even basic school supplies.

A third reason is decisional paralysis due to genuine puzzlement. Which language or languages should be taught? The matter of language choice is both intellectual and political. Spanish for compatibility with neighbors? Japanese for a future career there? Russian in anticipation of a diplomatic career? Others? How should parents decide? How can Esperanto help?

It can provide good solutions for the problems of money and of language choice. Esperanto can relatively quickly be learned by the existing elementary school teachers. No new budget money is necessary for hiring additional teachers.

Esperanto permits the choice of a particular ethnic language to be made later. Its generalized nature makes it ideal as a base for future intensive study of any ethnic language, including English. Two years of Esperanto provide the equivalent of the first two years of these languages. Thus 4 years of high school foreign language study can produce 6 years worth of skill. No longer is it necessary to lock the elementary child in to any particular foreign language. Esperanto can serve as the foundation for all.

In summary, teaching Esperanto early in elementary school can transform our chronically failing foreign language programs into successes. ELNA members should bring these facts to the attention of their local elementary schools. The 46 page booklet, *The Esperanto Language in Elementary Schools* (\$5 from ELNA), may be helpful with its quotations from linguists and school teachers.

Kent JONES (Chicago IL)  
Commissioner for Education, ELNA



## Esperanto in the Media

*The Oxford Dictionary of the World* by David Munro (Oxford University Press, 1996) states (p. 204) that "Its words are based mainly on roots commonly found in Romance and other European languages, and while it has the advantage of grammatical regularity and ease of pronunciation it retains the structure of these languages, which makes Esperanto no easier than any other European language for a speaker whose native tongue falls outside this group." We would like to know what our Asian samideanoj have to say about this statement.

This column has mentioned before that a New York watchmaker changed its name to "Movado". Movado has many models of watches. The latest is called "Vizio." The watch was advertised recently in the *New York Times* magazine. The ad states: "Vizio means 'vision' in the international language of Esperanto." [*New York Times*, Nov 24 1996].

*Wired* magazine has again mentioned Esperanto. In discussing a new international standard format for libraries that share electronic bibliographical records, the magazine calls it an "Esperanto interface." Following that, the article talks about Esperanto directly, mentioning a website on which you can view highlights from "Angoro, the first horror movie in Esperanto." The article mentions that the website "also reveals the tenacious demands of demonstrators in England to make Esperanto the official language of the European Union." The website address is: <http://www.filmlinc.com> [*Wired*, Dec 1996].

The British magazine *The Economist* (Dec 21 1996) contained an article extolling English as the international language. The article, entitled "The coming global tongue," took a gratuitous slap at Esperanto. ELNA Commissioner for Education R. Kent Jones shot out a letter pointing out the fallacies in article, and the advantages of Esperanto over English as the international tongue. The magazine ran his letter (Jan 18 1997), but edited out all references to Esperanto!

*Washington Post* columnist William Raspberry wrote recently about the

challenges of teaching inner-city youth. Raspberry opines that one of the problems is a belief that teaching approaches that work for experts will work for non-expert teachers: "I think that, while a few teachers with special skills and interests (in linguistics, for instance) may be able to work wonders with Ebonics or Esperanto or Latin, for most the attempt is likely to be a disaster." [*Charlotte Observer*, Feb 1, 1997]

The Library of Congress's magazine *Civilization* recently published a letter by Dr. E. James Lieberman of the Esperantic Studies Foundation. Lieberman's letter was in response to an article by David Crystal entitled "Vanishing Languages." Lieberman argues that "Esperanto explicitly recognizes the tendency of powerful languages to subordinate less powerful ones. Providing a neutral, workable second language for everyone takes nothing away from lesser-known mother tongues; the same cannot be said for the impact of English." [*Civilization*, Apr-May 1997].

ELNA member Mark Lambert (Des Moines IA) had a letter to the editor published in the *Des Moines Register* recently, in response to a series of articles about teaching foreign languages in Iowa schools. Said he: "The articles missed one important point, however. There are more than 6,000 languages on this planet. Learning one or two other languages is to be encouraged, but in the long run it will do little to solve the world communication problem. Fortunately, there is a solution: the international language Esperanto." [*Des Moines Register*, May 5, 1997].

A lengthy article about Esperanto by Robert J. Coontz, Jr. in the bimonthly *Muse* (Aug 1997) generated a letter from a 12-year old girl in the October issue of the same magazine.

Under the title "Say What?", *LA Weekly* published in August 1997 a one-page article by Scott S. Smith about the language Babel in L.A. The author (a former ELNA member) dedicated a whole paragraph to Esperanto.

A short report by Reuter's about the 82nd Universala Kongreso in Adelaide,

Australia appeared in several newspapers throughout the country, e.g. *San Jose Mercury News*, *The New York Times International*.

A letter about Esperanto by ELNA member Dorothy Holland (Santa Barbara CA) appeared in *Santa Barbara News-Press* and in *The Independent* on Aug 21, 1997.

The *Mensa Bulletin* (Sep 1997) published more than 2 pages of letters dealing with language issues. Among them, one by ELNA member Maya Kennedy (Pacifica CA) in support of Esperanto, and two by "senmensanoj" against our language.

*The Washington Times' Insight* published on Sep 29 1997 a two-page article about Esperanto by Leslie Alan Horvitz, which is, by far, the most positive material about Esperanto lately published in the U.S.

An Esperanto ad will run for a whole year in the bimonthly *Children's Advocate* published in Oakland CA.

Katie Couric and Al Roker from the *Today* show were hosting the Tournament of Roses Parade. When Al Roker announced that one of the floats was a replica of the ships that patrolled the California coast a hundreds years ago, he tried to say "one hundred years" in halting Spanish. Couric remarked about the lack of clarity, Roker replied, "Well, that was Esperanto." [Seen on television by Gary Miller].

A reader who recently saw an old rerun of the futuristic cartoon series *The Jetsons* reports on a scene in an episode: The Jetsons took a long trip across the solar system to see a circus. There, the owner of a trained-flea act sold them his fleas. George Jetson picked the fleas up and heard them making some noises. He knew they were trying to talk to him, but he couldn't understand what they were saying. George turned to his son, Elroy, and said, "You're the one taking Esperanto lessons—you talk to them!" Elroy was able to translate for the fleas!

On Oct 24th the feature film *Gattaca* will premiere throughout the U.S. Esperanto is used as one of the languages of the public address system in the space station sequences.

## Language & Language Problems

Linguists from around the world have been flocking to New Guinea in a race against time, to study language diversity and attempt to save or at least to catalog dying languages. The island currently boasts 1,300 separate languages, about one-fifth of the world's languages. Linguists currently working on the island include, among others, representatives of UNESCO's Endangered Language Project, Tokyo University, and U.S. missionaries determined to translate the Bible into the world's lesser-spoken tongues. The missionary group reports they have translated the Bible into 94 New Guinea languages, and they are working on 185 more. The Associated Press reports that seven New Guinea languages are "isolates," meaning that they have no relationship to any other known language. New Guinea's linguistic diversity includes the languages with fewest basic sounds (Rotokas, with 13) and the most basic sounds (Yele, with 96) of any language the world. Like minority languages around the world, many of New Guinea's languages, too, are dying. 117 of the languages have fewer than 100 speakers. The official language of Papua New Guinea (whose government controls about one-half of the island of New Guinea) is English. [*Mainichi Daily News*, Jun 13 1996].

South Africa continues to struggle with language issues. There are 11 official languages in South Africa. All government documents are supposed to be available in all 11 languages, but this has not occurred. Members of Parliament can opine in any of the official languages. English is the dominant language, and Afrikaans is a close second. The Dutch derivative Afrikaans was the language of the nation's rulers during apartheid, and is still used on street signs, by law enforcement and in the court system. The National Party has accused the Mandela government of conducting "language terrorism" against Afrikaans. After English and Afrikaans, Zulu and Xhosa are the next largest languages. Native speakers of Zulu and Xhosa were discriminated against during apartheid, but now these two languages are being taught at some mainly white

schools. Language issues have become such a concern that the government recently held a summit to try to develop a "national language plan" that would please everyone. [*Japan Times*, Jul 2 1996].

Eighteen countries recently accused the U.N. of increasingly favoring English and French at the expense of the other four "official" languages of the U.N. The other official U.N. languages are Arabic, Chinese, Russian and Spanish. The letter demands that the U.N. ensure equal treatment of all six official tongues. The letter implied that English, in particular, was dominating other languages, leading down a pathway toward "a virtually monolingual United Nations." [*Japan Times*, Jul 28, 1996].

Quebec's revival of a law requiring that store signs be predominately in French has created another backlash. Pro-English-language activist Howard Galganov is apparently leading boycotts against stores that obey the law and display French-dominant signs, and he is attempting to get Wall Street investors to boycott Quebec companies as well. [*Mainichi Daily News*, Aug 16, 1996].

The tax assessor in Madison County AL, is being sued by Julio and Carmen Telleria. It seems that in order to apply for a property tax exemption, the Tellerias (who don't speak English) had to take an oath. Tax Assessor Wayland Cooley would not let them take the oath in Spanish through an interpreter. Then, according to the lawsuit, the couple offered to state the words of the oath in English. Cooley reportedly refused that request, saying that the oath would be meaningless because the Tellerias wouldn't know what they were saying. The lawsuit accuses Cooley of erecting an "insurmountable barrier" to the couple's ability to get their tax exemption. [*The Birmingham News*, Jan 4 1997].

Language authority and author David Crystal's article "Vanishing Languages" appeared recently in *Civilization* magazine. The article discussed the impending demise of many of the world's less-spoken languages, due to domination by more-spoken languages, including English. [*Civilization*, Feb-Mar 1997].

Speaking of domination, the European organization The Society for Threatened Peoples recently released its study of Europe's minority languages. The group identified 48 minority languages within the European Union, and concluded that 23 have either "limited capacity for survival" or no "vital force" to guarantee their survival. The group reports that the Frisian and Saterland Frisian languages (spoken in northwest Germany's coastal regions) are imminently in danger of extinction. [*The Week in Germany*, Apr 18 1997].

A new organization called the Language Rights Project has been formed in California to provide legal assistance to persons who have been discriminated against based on language. The Project maintains a Language Rights Line to provide counseling and other assistance. [From their press release, Apr 1997].

Here's some more ammunition for your arguments with those people who insist, "But English is the international language!" Once again, a government is taking action to limit the use of English. A new law in Turkey requires that business names in English are prohibited—businesses must now have names in Turkish. Broadcasters are also prohibited from using English words; penalty for violators is banishment from the airwaves. [*Reason*, Jun 1997].

In a letter published in *National Geographic* (Sep 1997) Tarun Roy (Chester VA) points out that "Only a negligible 5 percent of the Indian population speaks English. Hindi is understood and used for communication by almost 65 percent of the total population. Learning Hindi along with one's own regional vernacular is considered the literacy passport in India." Where are the myths? Where is reality?

The situation isn't better in the neighboring Pakistan where "More than 50 languages are spoken, mirroring the nation's ethnic diversity. To unify the country, the government has tried to encourage the use of Urdu, the national language, but only 8 percent of Pakistanis consider Urdu their primary language." (*National Geographic*, Oct 1997)



## *From the Central Office*

### **What I did last summer**

For me this past summer was another period of experiencing the depth of Esperanto culture while enriching some friendships and making new friends. It still amazes me how profoundly Esperanto is growing in importance in my life and the lives of so many others throughout the world!

### **Courses at SFSU**

The Esperanto summer season began in mid-June, when the students arrived for the San Francisco State University Esperanto intensive courses. Although attendance was somewhat low this year, the quality of students was impressive. I had the honour to help some of them get settled, buy textbooks and learn a few songs. Later I even got to lead an Independence Day excursion: a walk across the Golden Gate Bridge from San Francisco to Sausalito.

### **A new passport**

During the SFSU courses, I also played a large role in ELNA's video project, which was being filmed at the same time. I am quite happy to report that the filming is going along quite smoothly and that the results make me proud to be involved. This is likely the largest single undertaking ever attempted in Esperanto, both in terms of money and collective human energy expended. I play the part of Georgo Bonvolo, a forgetful philosopher who means well, but sometimes is tripped up by his own plans. My fellow family members and various other roles are played by a delightfully international group of actors. Leonora Torres from Mexico plays my wife, Filisa, a practical woman who manages a career as a dancer as well as the Bonvolo household. Our two daughters Helena and Jolanda are played by Jennifer Korp, a multi-talented student at Principia College in Illinois, and by Mingchi Chien, an Esperanto teacher from Shanghai, China, now residing in Oakland CA. Stephen Boddington from England plays my non-stop athletic son, Karlo. Guy Menahem of Florida appears as a shepherd from New Zealand who carries a sheep in his backpack. Katsunori Syozi of Japan portrays a radio reporter hard at work chasing after the news in Esperanto. The

eccentric shopkeeper is brought to the screen by Vesna Roguluja Heyman, late of Croatia, now living in Oakland CA. Steven Wagenseller, who plays the silly bumbling detective, lives in Hawaii. So the series features actors from China, Croatia, England, Japan, Mexico, and the U.S. We have all had a lot of fun making the series so far; and we hope that you will sense the fun when you see it. Although the series targets beginning students to intermediate Esperantists, it ought to be amusing to the most advanced masters of the language. Coming soon to a TV screen near you! See related article in this issue for details about ordering.

### **A convention at home...**

Hard on the heels of the SFSU course and the video filming, the ELNA convention met in San Francisco. With no time to recover from the exhaustion inherent to the hectic schedule of the preceding three weeks, I launched into the various roles required of me as Director and as member of the Loka Kongresa Komitato. We had a lively and unusually pleasurable convention: even the famous San Francisco fog cooperated by mostly staying away from the kongresejo. The overall feel of the convention was richly international, for there were quite a few participants from other countries who stayed on after the SFSU classes, or stopped in en route to Australia for the UK.

### **... and another in Italy**

Just a few days after the convention, I flew to Italy to take part in the Internacia Junulara Kongreso in the famous pilgrims' town, Assisi. The only other ELNA member at the IJK was Daniel Cuthbert, president of our youth organization USEJ. It is a shame that all the rest of you missed this great event. We saw a full-length (three hours) musical play about the life of St. Francis, which a local theater troupe had translated into Esperanto! There was a wide series of presentations about ecological issues, for the theme was "Man: part of Nature or above Nature?". The hot weather moved many people to throw water balloons, shoot water pistols and even toss bucketsfull of the refreshing stuff. Many excursions led to the old town of Assisi and many other nearby ancient hilltowns. The cultural evenings were rich

and varied, including a concert (with sing-alongs!) by my favorite Esperanto music-group, Kajto.

### **...still digging Italy!**

The little village of Blera, located just seventy kilometers north of Rome, hosted a work brigade of Esperantists. So I joined forces with thirty-four other volunteers to dig out and clean up a series of Etruscan tombs which are the village's archeological showpieces. Other brigadists came from Croatia, Russia, Israel, Poland, Lithuania, Italy, Ireland, Belgium, Spain, Uzbekistan and the Netherlands. We worked every day from eight til noon, then feasted and drank local wine. After a generous siesta, we headed out on hikes and caravanning excursions to various local sites. I still dream of shovelling dirt from ancient crypts and washing the ancestral dust from my mouth with some of Dionysos's finest.

### **Next summer's events**

I hope that many of you decide to go to Rijeka, Croatia next summer, for the 1998 IJK. A seaside resort town ought to create a fun fun FUN atmosphere for this excellent hybrid of party and convention. And the Croatians have planned another event before the IJK, which will be a simple beach-resort party (Marfesto) that will last four days! I cannot say whether the intent is to drain the participants of their desire to party before the convention in order to help them settle down to do some thoughtful work during the official meetings, or if they intend to whet the appetite for partying in order to raise the level of manic indulgence. But either way, it will be a pair of events not to be missed. All prices in Croatia are low enough to guarantee that there will be an abundance of East Europeans, and likely even a good representation from Asia. Be there!

Unfortunately, there will be a conflict of conventions, for the UK in Montpellier (see last page for details) is scheduled at just the same time as the Croatian pre-IJK Marfesto. But this is the delicious problem which our European samideanoj must regularly face: too many Esperanto events! Ah, if we could only have such a problem here in the United States! Perhaps some day....

Miko SLOPER, Director

## Recenze

[Prioritaton havas ĉi-rubrike recenzoj pri libroj disvendataj de la Libroservo de ELNA.]

**Aforismoj kaj tekstoj de Constantin Brâncuși.** Kolektis: Constantin ZĂRNESCU. Esperantigis: Ionel ONEȚ. Berkeley: Eldonejo Bero, 1994. 35p. 280x105. broŝurita. ISBN 1-882251-10-5. Ĉe ELNA: kodo: AFO001; prezoj: \$5.00 (nemembroj)/\$4.75 (ELNA-membroj).

Kiuj rumanioj estas la plej konataj inter usonanoj? Ŝajne, en la jena ordo, (1) Dracula, (2) Comănești, (3) Năstase, (4) Ceaușescu, (5) Ionesco. Kaj la sesa, eble en iu kaverno de la menso: Brâncuși.

Constantin Brâncuși (1876-1957), faman modernan skulptiston, oni eventuale konsideras franco, pro ties longdaŭra vivado en tiu lando. (Li hejmiĝis en Parizo jam en 1904.) Sed li fakte estis filo de Rumanio, fierata eĉ de la idiosinkrazie fifama Ceaușescu mem.

Certe eĉ relative analfabetaj sciantoj pri arto iam vidis fotojn de Brâncuși-verkaĵoj kiaj **La Kiso**, **Birdo en spaco** ktp. Nun tiuj homoj kaj la arte pli kleraj havas ŝancon gustumi la vortojn kaj ideojn de tiu gravulo de la frua 20a jarcento.

Kolektinto Zărnescu prezentis en 1980 la rumanlingvan originalon de ĉi tiu verko. Li kunprezentas al ni en 1994, pere de antaŭparolo, la Esperantan version. La tuto estas numerita kaj prezentata en du partoj: Pri Arto (1-169), kaj Pri Vivo (170-254). Longeco de la unuopaj eroj varias de kvarvortaj frazetoj ĝis eksplikoj plur-alineaj.

Traleĝante la unuan parton, ni sentas, ke ni kaptas la tutan filozofon pri la arto, kiun evoluigis Brâncuși. Eĉ sen antaŭa kono pri liaj verkaĵoj, oni povos preskaŭ tuj konstati, ke li strebis al baza abstrakteco en la skulptaĵoj, cele al elimino de nenecesaj detaloj. Emfazo estas al moviĝado, fluado. (N-ro 139: Kaj la skulpturo estas nenio alia ol akvo. La akvo mem!)

Kelkloke li kulpigas Michelangelo-n pro firmigo de dekadenco en la arto, dekadenco deveninta jam de la antikvaj helenoj. (73: Michelangelo estas entute nur karno [nur "bifsteko"]). Kontraste, li prezentas sian propran ŝuldon al la samtempa sed pli aĝa Auguste Rodin (**La Pensanto**) kaj ties simpleco, devianta de la stilevoluo de la florencano. (Tian severan kontraston eventuale malkonsentas aliaj art-amantoj, kiuj preferus laŭdi la influon de Michelangelo sur Rodin.)

Kiel aksiomon ni akceptu, ke arto baziĝas

en infanca animo kaj en ĝojo. Ofte li eksplikas per metaforoj, ekz. pri tio, ke la materialo prilaborata kaj -laborata parolas al la artisto. (25: ...la manoj de l' skulptisto pensas senĉese kaj sekvas la pensojn de l' materialo.)

Kvankam ekzistas ĝenerala konsekveneco tra la abunde cititaj vortoj de Brâncuși, de tempo al tempo mezvigla leganto eble trovos ŝajnajn kontraŭdirojn. Komparu ekz. la jenajn parojn:

4. Kiam ni ne plu estas *infanoj*, ni jam estas mortintaj.

59. La skulptado ne estas por junuloj.

11. Mi ne kredas je kresufero.

40. La moderna artisto ne estas luksa sed severmora besto. Lia arto kreiĝas nur per severeco kaj en dramo—kvazaŭ perfekta krimo.

3. La arto—eble la plej perfekta—estis konceptita dum la infanaĝo de l' homaro. [...]

111. Ĝis hodiaŭ ni havis nenian arton!

... La Arto komenciĝas ekde nun!...

175. Ĉiuj dilemoj solviĝas per unuigo de kontraŭoj.

197. Ĉiuj suferoj venas el... *kontraŭeco*. [...] la homoj aĉiĝas ĝuste ĉar sin lasas eroditaj de... kontraŭeco. En amo, kontraŭeco estas la plej granda trompo de l' naturo.

Kompreneble, el la numeritaj mallongaj citaĵoj ni ne konas la porokazajn kuntekstojn. (Ludado je supozataj kontraŭdiroj eksterkuntekste restu amata ĉevaleto de politikistoj.) Kaj, eĉ se vere ekzistas kontraŭdiroj en la eldiroj de Brâncuși trans jaroj, ĉu eble tio ne signifas evoluantan pensmanieron de homo maturiĝanta—eĉ se ni allasas, ke li volas resti infana?

Aparte interesa estas Postparolo, en kiu la tradukinto kondukas nin tra la ĝenoj kaj penoj renkontitaj survoje al traduko kaj fina eldono de la libro. Oni rajtas miri, ke ĉi tiu eldonajo ja ekzistas.

Ĉi tian libron oni preferu ne tutlegu en unusola sidado. Portu ĝin kun vi, kaj legetu kaj pripensu dum paŭzoj en viaj ordinaraĵoj. Se vi estas art-amanto, precipe pri Brâncuși specife kaj pri la skulpturo ĝenerale, vi eble trovos ĝin fonto senlime eltrinkinda. Se vi ne multon scias aŭ ŝatas pri tiu-specia moderna arto, vi almenaŭ iomete pli komprenos la artistan menson. Konsilinde ankaŭ estas tio, ke vi serĉu fotojn de tiuj specifaj artaĵoj menciitaj tra la libro, por ke vi pli bone komprenu kaj aprecu la priskribojn. Ĉu estas neplenumbla la revo, ke iam estonte ĉi Esperanto-traduko estos reeldon-

ita kune kun tiaj fotoj?

Flanknoto: Kiel ĝuste prononci la nomon de nia skulptisto, ĉi tie prezentitan kompletan kun diakritaj signoj? Diru: "brinkuŝi", en kiu la unua vokalo proksimas al tiu en la anglalingva *chin*.

Reg JADERSTROM (Mililani HI)

**Bildstria gvido al genetiko, La, Larry GONICK kaj Mark WHEELIS. Trad. Sung Ho CHO. Seulo: Librejo Akademio, 1996. 216p. 220x155. broŝurita. ISBN 89-7616-1555-6. Ĉe ELNA: kodo: BIL002; prezoj: \$17.45 (nemembroj)/\$16.55 (ELNA-membroj)**

Imagu: mi estas tiom aĝa, ke mi memoras akrajn diskutojn inter miaj profesoroj, ĉu peras la heredajn genojn proteinoj aŭ nukleaj acidoj. Mi tiam pensis, la proteinoj; mi malpravis! Nuntempe preskaŭ ĉiu scias ke DNA estas la kerna peranto de genoj. Multajn jarojn poste, mi protestis ĉe kunprofesoro ke ne ekzistu specialisma fako pri molekula biologio. Denove mi eraris! Ĝi ne nur ekzistas, sed ĉiun jaron pli kaj pli komplikiĝas. Malfacile estas por maljuna profesoro kia mi komprenadi ties evoluadon. Tamen, jen mirinde bona, eĉ amuza, helpilo tiucela. El ĝi mi mem lernas multon, antaŭe ne komprenitan, pri molekula genetiko.

(Kiel profesoro, mi lernis ke miaj ĉefaj taskoj estas ne transdoni informojn, cetere facile troveblajn en libroj, sed interesigi miajn studentojn pri la temoj, eĉ per amuzo. Tiel ili estas pelataj mem serĉi informojn, kaj tiel ili mem lernas.)

La libro estas verkita de Larry Gonick kaj Mark Wheelis, usonanoj el Kalifornio, kaj estas tradukita de Sung Ho Cho, koreo. Unike, la teksto estas plejparte per bildstrioj, tial tuj alloga al eĉ infanoj kaj laikuloj (same kiel al mi!). La unua duono, amuza enkonduko al genetiko, transfluas same amuze al la dua, pri molekula biologio. Nun, ridetante dum legado, mi komencas kompreni multajn aferojn antaŭe preskaŭ tute misterajn al mi.

La tradukinto, Sung Ho Cho, sukcesis bonege, kvankam kelkloke la traduko ŝajnas iom angleca. Mi preferus "idaj ĉeloj" ol "filinaj ĉeloj", "disiĝos" ol "disociiĝos", "mesaĝa RNA" ol "mesaĝista RNA", "unu-eco" ol "en grava punkto", "hibridiĝo" ol "kruco", "scienco daŭre marŝas" ol "scienco marŝas plu" ktp. Sed tiaj aferoj estas bagatelaj. Ŝajne (sed kompreneble) la tradukinto

ne komprenis iujn slangajn ŝercojn de la verkintoj. Por kompreni "perdi siajn marmorajojn", necesas scii ke, antaŭ multaj jaroj, ekz. dum mia knabaĝo, ni junuloj surstrate ludis per pilketoj fabrikitaj el marmoro aŭ (pli valoraj) el vitro; kaj ke, kiam viro malhavas sufiĉe da vireco oni ŝerce diras ke "ŝajne li perdis siajn marmorajojn" (ĉi-signife, testikojn). Tamen, eĉ sen kompreni pri tiaj esoteraj aferoj, la libro estas sendube amuzega kaj instrua.

Se vi ankoraŭ ne estas molekula biologo, nur trarigardu tiun ĉi libron, kaj mi vetas, ke ĝi altiros vian intereson kaj plu legigos vin. Se vi jam estas tia, kaj ankoraŭ ne konas la anglalingvan kaj bildstrian libron de Gonick kaj Wheelis, jen intelekta kaj amuza frandaĵo por vi.

Dr. Ralph LEWIN (La Jolla CA)

### *Anonc(et)oj*

[*Nek ELNA, nek Esperanto USA, nek ties ĉi redaktoro respondecas pri la promesoj faritaj en anonc(et)oj.*]

I have inherited a small collection of rare Esperanto first day covers and loose stamps which I wish to sell. These date from 1926. If you or any of your members have any interest please contact me and I will forward a complete list to you. Paul Hall-Smith, 1305 Knollwood Ct., Roswell GA 30075, USA; tel. 770/641-7504; e-mail: brit43@aol.com.

La trijara Kolegio Liaoning pri financa instruado de Dandong, Liaoning, bezonas anglan konversacian instruit(in)on por la venonta jaro. La kolegio pagos por la flugbileto, stipendo, kaj donos apartamenton. Por specifaj detaloj bonvolu kontakti s-ron SHUN Shiquan, fakso: 086-415-414-5526 ĉe la Liaoning College of Finance, Dandong, Liaoning, CN-118001 Ĉinio.

Kristana Esperantista Ligo Internacia (KELI) havas novan peranton en Usono. Por pliaj informoj skribu al Joel Amis, 16800 Phillips Rd., Alpharetta GA 30004.

### *La Estraro de ELNA*

Por plifaciligi la dialogon inter la membraro kaj la estraro de ELNA, ni publikigas ĉi-sube la nomojn kaj adresojn de kelkaj estraranoj: Prezidanto: David T. Wolff, 6 Durkee Rd., Acton MA 01720, tel. 978/264-0286; e-poŝto: dwolff@world.std.com; Vicprezidanto: Derek S. Roff, 1208 Española St. NE, Albuquerque NM 87110, tel. 505/255-1083, e-poŝto: derek@unm.edu; Sekretario: Ellen M. Eddy, P.O. Box 4055, Tumwater WA 98501; e-poŝto: eddyellen@aol.com; Kasisto: Anna Bennett, 3531 S Crosspoint Av., Boise ID 83706; tel. 208/343-2466; e-poŝto: abennett@worldnet.att.net. Venontnumere ni aperigos la nomojn kaj adresojn de la aliaj estraranoj.

### *Regione kaj loko*

Esperanto-Societo de Cincinnati formiĝis printempe kaj kunvenas monate. Kuraĝigaj leteroj kaj konsiloj estas bonvenaj: Esperanto-Societo de Cincinnati, c/o Jim Smith, 3361 Hageman St., Cincinnati OH 45241.

Finfine eklumis la Verda Stelo en Georgio! Atlanta, la olimpika urbo, ne plu estas senesperanta. Nun, danke al la novega Esperanto-Societo de Metropola Atlanta (ESMA), ĝi estas vere internacia. La unua kunveno de nia nova Esperanta organizado okazis la 9an de aŭgusto. Nia membraro daŭre kreskas kaj pli kaj pli entuziasmas. Fine, la membraro de ESMA deziras fiere anonci ke Georgio nun estas plenrajta parto de Esperantio, kaj ne plu nur "misia ŝtato". (Laŭ cirkulero de Joel AMIS, Alpharetta GA)

Ronald J. Glossop (Jennings MO) kaj Garrett A. Myrick (Kingston WA) elokvente parolis pri Esperanto en Seattle kadre de la nacia kunveno pri instruado de junaj talentuloj. (Laŭ *Ĉiam verde*, Sep-Okt 1997)

### *Esperanto examinations*

Are you curious about how much Esperanto you know? Do you need documentation of your competence in the language? If so, here's the solution: Take one of our Esperanto examinations!

They come in three levels—basic ("komencgrada"), intermediate ("dua-grada"), and advanced ("supera"). And you can take them wherever you live and whenever it's convenient. Here's how:

First, decide which level fits your needs. If in doubt, send for a syllabus detailing the contents. Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Then, find a local Esperantist or a local teacher (of any subject) who agrees to administer your test. (No knowledge of Esperanto is necessary.) The only equipment needed will be a tape recorder (two for the intermediate level).

Next, send us the name and address of your test administrator, the test level you desire, and a \$5 check or money order (made out to Dorothy Holland), and we will mail instructions and the necessary materials to your administrator.

That's all there is to it! If you pass, you'll receive an official certificate. If you do exceptionally well, it will say "with distinction". If you don't pass, all is not lost; you may take the test again at a later date (after further study, of course!). For more information and test contents, please write to: Dorothy Holland, 5140 San Lorenzo Dr., Santa Barbara CA 93111.

### *Menciinde*

Gratulojn al Joseph Truong (Lancaster PA) pro lia nova posteno en TEJO, kies prezidanto li fariĝis ĉi-somere.

Bonvenon al Elsa Torres kaj Abel Raola, la edzino kaj respektive filo de Orlando E. Raola (Berkeley CA), kiuj antaŭ nelonge elmigris el Kubo.

Adiaŭon al Alice Harris (Los Angeles CA) kaj H. Elwin Reed (Camarillo CA), forpasintaj ĉi-aŭguste.

# Vojaĝu kun ni en Esperantio '98

## ADELAJDO - 1997

Adelaide decked itself out with fluttering "bonvenigaj" flags; provided excellent mild winter weather, and hosted a small but delightful Universala Kongreso. A rich program had to compete with a multitude of interesting excursions. Only about 1200 people attended this expensive-to-get-to-destination, but all the programs worked out smoothly and an unusual intimacy characterized the atmosphere. Our pre- and post-UK excursions were great: New Zealanders and Australians are individualistic, but very friendly and helpful!

The ELNA members who attended the Universala Kongreso included: Farrell Eagle, Frauke Elber, Robert Burgess, Joseph Gamble, Rochelle Grossman, Lusi and Bill Harmon, Dorothy Holland, Maya Kennedy, Jerzy Korytkowski, Irene Leland, Pam Lieber, Stevens Norvell, Stefan Slak, Espero Smith, Arnold Victor, Steve Wagenseller.



Esperanto Vojaĝ-Servo  
6104 La Salle Avenue  
Oakland CA 94611  
[510] 339-2001  
Fax [510] 531-0152  
LusiHarmon@AOL.com

## NI AŬSTRALIUMIS...

Al malsupro de la mondo  
Kunvojaĝis nia rondo;  
Bonaj geamikoj ĉiaj  
El diversaj landoj, kiaj:

Japanio, Germanio,  
Fin-n-lando kaj Francio,  
Israelo kaj Svedio,  
Italio kaj Svisio;

Halifakso kaj Oaklando,  
Novjorkurbo kaj Portlando;  
Santa Barbara, Venezuelo  
Kaj eĉ Toledo en Ohio.

Unue suden, kun Maorioj  
Kaj Novzelandaj kalorioj  
(Buter' kaj krem' aperis ĉie -  
Dietojn ja defiis prie!)

En Adelajdo ni kongresis  
Semajno plena interesis;  
Cairns, Kuranda per telfero  
Ĝangalon vidis de l'aero.

Koala-ursoj, kanguruoj,  
Diĝeriduoj kaj emuoj;  
Kaj bonŝance ne post trinko  
Ekaperis ornitorinko.

Vi estis grupo tolerema  
Kun bonhumor' kaj senproblema;  
Dankas vin kun plena vervo  
Esperanto Vojaĝ-Servo.

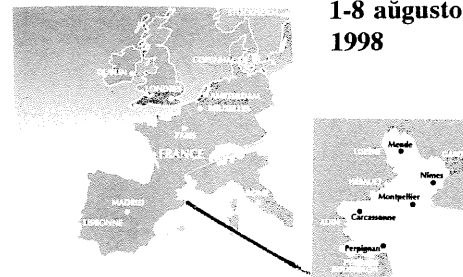
Vilĉjo Harmon 97/8

## Bonvenon en Francio!

We expect the 83rd UK in Montpellier to be much larger, but equally well run; and the more we learn about this charming city and region, the more we are pleased with the idea of holding our convention there. Esperanto Vojaĝ-Servo is planning an "Antaŭ-UK ekskurso" after the ELNA convention (which will probably be held in Montreal, Canada), and before the start of the UK. Ni verŝajne devos alkultimiĝi al la Esperanta-Franca kunligo antaŭ ol kongresi en Montpeliero en suda Francio.

### 83a UK de Esperanto - Montpellier

1-8 aŭgusto  
1998



I am soon going to France to make final arrangements for hotels and excursions. In addition to the Montpellier area, we will certainly want to visit Provence, Cote d'Azur, Rhône-Alpes and Lyon as well as Paris. So many lovely places to visit with Esperantists! Perhaps we should cruise north into Lyon. Let me know if you know of something special you would like included. —Lusi

Esperanto League for North America  
P.O. Box 1129  
El Cerrito CA 94530

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