

German professor wins faculty award

By GAYLA LEOPARD
Of the Emerald

Grammar 'hidden' in comedy, song

German Prof. Thomas Nadar says he once thought of the German language as "ugly, harsh and guttural — all the stereotypes."

But after a stint as an exchange student in Austria, Nadar changed his mind.

The enthusiasm Nadar brings into his classes has led Mortar Board to name him professor of the month. He has taught at the University for only six months.

Like other languages, German is not a static manner of speaking, Nadar says, but many students don't realize that.

"The problem is that when you learn a language, you think

it's in a book. You think it exists in these beautiful sentences — very, very neat, precise and grammatical."

Nadar usually spends his summers in West Germany disproving that theory. As he examines "how much the language has changed in the space of a year," he finds many "Americanisms."

Some Americanisms are words that "creep in" from American popular culture, computer technology, politics and airline usage, Nadar says. Others are "funny" grammatical constructions adapted from English.

One of the current ones is the German adoption of the English word "jog," Nadar says.

"It's so funny to pass by a store window with a display of running shoes and see a sign saying 'Let's jog' in German."

Germans have adopted the word completely, conjugating it as though it were a German verb. Many Germans consider the use of such Americanisms "chic," Nadar adds.

But there's no avoiding it — learning German is a lot of hard work.

"You can't avoid the grammar," Nadar says.

His classes, conducted half in English, half in German, have grammar lessons in English. One difficulty is that most people haven't studied English grammar, he says.

So Nadar's grammar is couched in songs, readings and comics such as "Peanuts." He devotes Fridays to grammar examples "hidden within that fun."

In addition, he has conversation periods in class to suggest the Germans' experience of "being bombarded by their language constantly."

Knowing German is important

in the business world, Nadar says.

German capital investments in the United States continue to grow. Recently, a large German restaurant chain bought the International House of Pancakes chain.

"For years, it was Germans learning English," Nadar says.

Now learning German can increase an American's chances for employment with German firms, he says.

The Mortar Boards' nomination box is located at the entrance to the education-psychology section of the University library. Nominations are open to all students. Winners are announced on the 10th of each month.

State takes shot at gun permit law

SALEM (AP) — Whether it's a vestige of the Old West or a response to crime in the 1980s, Oregonians are tenacious about their right to own guns.

However, the right to carry those weapons concealed is a different question and one that may have created some strange political allies in the 1981 Legislature.

To carry a concealed weapon, a permit is needed from the local sheriff and each sheriff has his own ideas about who is entitled to one.

Legislation (HB2421) has been introduced in the Oregon Legislature this session to take the discretion away from the sheriffs and impose uniform statewide standards.

While the bill is sponsored by gun owners groups who feel standards are too strict in some counties, the idea also has support from some gun control advocates who feel standards are too lenient in other counties.

Despite opposition from the sheriffs, the proposal may have a good chance of legislative approval if the various gun owners groups, legislators and other interested parties can agree on what the statewide standards should be.

One goal of the measure, sponsors say, is to force Multnomah County to issue more concealed weapon permits. Using perhaps the strictest standards in the state, Multnomah County handed out only five permits from 1978-1980.

This has irked many gun owners, including a state legislator who says he was refused a permit even after he told the sheriff his life had been threatened.

"I own a .380 automatic. I bought it because of a threat," says Rep. Drew Davis, D-Portland, who also owns other guns for sports. "With crime and everything going up the way it is, if people need to carry a weapon it should be a right that people have. The criminal element is not going to bother to get permits."

"Very few people feel like they need a permit," says Ray Burden, president of the Oregon State Rifle and Pistol Association which has 800 members. "I have weapons all over the place and I never felt I needed one. The sticky problem is that people who need them can't get them in some places. It's a hodge-podge from county to county."

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