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letters

Creating words

I had to read Brian Moore's letter in Wednesday's (12/6) Emerald twice before I definitely determined that Mr. Moore was being witty and didn't believe anything he was saying at all. Sarcasm is such a convenient method of arguing. It bypasses the tedious process of thinking and writing down well-thought-out arguments (logic), yet at the same time it has the power to evoke emotional responses in the reader. In the fourth paragraph Mr. Moore introduces his theory that eliminating sexist language is the first step in creating an Orwellian society by stating "Our language controls our thoughts..." I believe that our thoughts make up our language. The result is that our language reflects our society. An overabundance of male-dominated words reflects a male-dominated society. This is what our children are taught when they learn English. So in a way, when we teach them how to speak, WE are shaping THEIR thoughts about the world and how they view themselves as a girl or a boy.

Newspeak sought to eliminate words and thereby eliminate thought. Eradicating sexist language does not eliminate words...it creates words! We can still retain "fireman" for a man who fights fires, but what's wrong with adding "firefighter"? Doesn't "police officer" sound more professional than "policeman"?

If eliminating words eliminates thought, then it stands to conclusion that creating new words should stimulate thought! Maybe this is the case. After all, the issue inspired Mr. Moore to sit down and create a letter. While it is not a very rational letter, it is, nevertheless, admirable that he took the time to write it. It is important to bring this issue to the public light.

Janice Sunseri
Undeclared

Make my day

No more 9-5 for me. Gun control could launch me on a profitable career. I need only enter the black market; Kind of like cocaine smuggling — an exceedingly lucrative career made

possible because the white stuff is illegal.

It would be great fun, running around selling firearms to the highest bidder. I would hire a few bad men to do dirty work and a Miami bank could launder my money. It would be especially fun to watch the feds spend millions of tax dollars trying to collar my colleagues and me. Sure, I'd run a slim risk of getting nailed — nothing a petty \$500,000 bail and a short vacation to Brazil couldn't cure.

It wouldn't bother me to read about all the murders. After all, nothing will have changed, and I'll be providing a service. So some of the guns I sell end up as evidence in a murder trial — not my fault that several million tax dollars later the crime rate still rises.

Just imagine all the money! I could dump off a \$200 .357 Magnum for at least a grand. I would be an instant millionaire, with the American people and their representatives to thank.

Oh, how I love American capitalism — everyone has a chance, one way or another, to make a fortune. So please, support me, your local gun smuggler, and urge your representatives to pass some kind of Mickey Mouse gun control legislation. Go ahead America, make my day.

John Shewey
Journalism

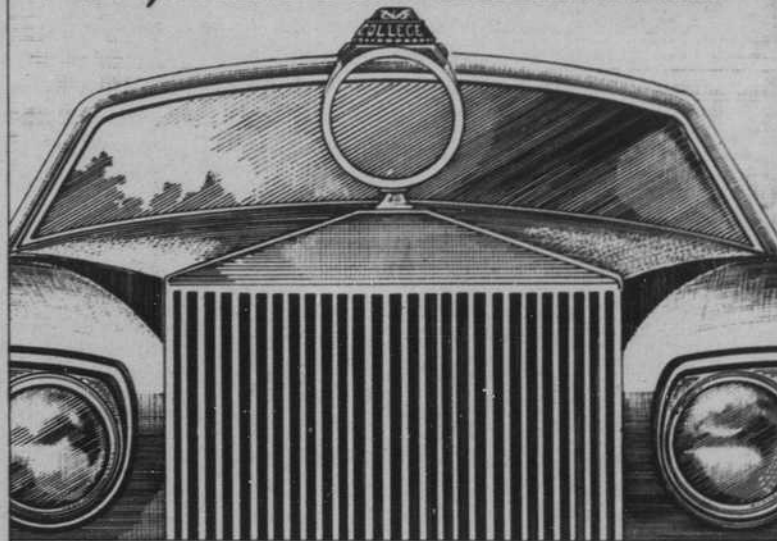
Campus dogs

This is in support of Linda Berry's letter of 12/6 regarding campus security's "arrest" of her dog. I have never seen why I have to call someone I don't know to escort me across campus when I have a large trustworthy furry friend who'll probably be more of a deterrent than even a burly male. I wish there were somewhere on campus I could leave my dog during the day so that he could escort me back home at night. I love to walk from my house to work both for the exercise it gives me (so I can do my job better) and the nice scenery along the way. I doubt that I could find someone from the campus escort service who would be willing to walk the 3 1/2 miles each way with me and yet my dog would benefit from the exercise. Why hasn't campus security thought of things like this? Instead of banning dogs from campus, why don't they think of places where people could leave animals for a period of time? Or, for that matter, why can't they see that in certain cases the rules could be bent as in Linda Berry's case?

Patricia A. Eysenbach
Teacher Education

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