

Opinion

Foreign language experience becomes more important

by Stephani Veff
Opinions Editor

Have you ever thought about all the advantages there are in taking a foreign language class? Many of us only think about the difficulty and time involved in taking a foreign language, but the benefits are so great that these "cons" can easily be turned into "pros."

Many colleges and universities are now requiring their students to take at least a year or two of a foreign language in order to obtain their degrees. Some students wonder why they should take a foreign language because it doesn't seem to go along with their curriculums. But the key word here is "seem." What these students don't realize is that a foreign language is very helpful in all fields of study.

When learning a foreign language students are forced to learn their native language in a whole new way. Not many people think

language, students also learn about the culture and background of the foreign country and its people. This brings a better understanding of the world and the people in it. Here in the United States this is especially significant because almost everyone (with the exception of native American Indians) immigrated from some other country. Most of us would like to know what our ancestors were like and this is one of the best ways to do it.

Of course a foreign language is always helpful if you plan to travel to a foreign country, but travel is not the only place where a foreign language has importance. As more businesses become international, the more multi-lingual people will need to become. Many businesses will hire a person more quickly if he has had some foreign language experience; some businesses require their employees to have foreign language experience.



Domestic Issues - rainy days and kids

by Tammy Swartzendruber
Staff Writer

This morning I awoke to the drumming of the rain on the roof. I groaned inwardly. Why must it always rain on the weekend? I had a lot of work to do. Now I would have to find something for my daughter to do indoors.

The day was as bad as I thought it would be. My daughter awoke crying because her Teddy bear had fallen out of bed during the night and she couldn't find it. I was frying eggs when I heard her desperate cries for help. With a quick flick of the wrist, I turned the burner off and went in to find Teddy. I found him pinned between the bed and the wall. I could have sworn he winked at me as I pulled him out. Tossing him to my daughter, I hurried back to the kitchen, only to discover that I had turned the burner on high instead of off. My eggs were spitting hot butter everywhere. What a day this promised to be!

All morning I navigated between the kitchen and my daughter's bedroom. Her Barbie

dolls needed dressed. The cookies needed to be taken out of the oven. I couldn't get a thing done. Finally I mixed together some cornstarch and water to make a form of playdough. Handing the finished product to my daughter, I disappeared into the bedroom to strip the beds.

It took me longer than I had planned because I found my fingernail file I had lost two weeks ago. So plopping myself down on the bed, I began filing my fingernails. Naturally if you file your nails it only makes sense to polish them too. So I polished them to perfection. As I was sitting there admiring my handywork, I became aware that the house was entirely too quiet. I could hear nothing but the continual dripping of the rain.

I hurried to the kitchen to find my daughter. There she was sitting at the table, playing with her playdough. A funny grey-green color was smeared everywhere. "I'm making a rainbow, Mommy," my daughter said grinning happily. "See, isn't it pretty?"

"Very pretty," I said wryly. I pulled her from her chair to go

wash her hands, in so doing, I ended up with food coloring all over myself. It took me half an hour to clean up the mess, make a peanut butter sandwich, and stick my daughter into bed for her nap. During nap I wracked my brain to come up with a plan for an easier afternoon.

When my daughter awoke, I was ready. Loading her into the car I hurried to the store. There I found a darling little red and white umbrella with a Mickey Mouse on it. I bought it for \$3. Next I picked up a four dollar pair of plastic rain boots. Then back to the house we went. Now I'm sitting here in peace and quiet. The house is cleaned. I've even managed to get some homework done. Periodically I check my daughter. She's happy as a lark, splashing through the puddles in her new boots and gleefully trying to catch the rain that is dripping off her umbrella. What a sweet child she is! I feel a sense of accomplishment. Contentedly I smile to myself. Mickey Mouse grins back at me.

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about nouns, verbs, pronouns, etc. when they are speaking, or even writing, in their native language. While taking a foreign language people are forced to recognize these parts of grammar so that the foreign language makes more sense, this, in turn, makes the native language more understandable.

Along with learning the

So despite the fact that learning a foreign language is time consuming and difficult, there is just as much evidence that it is well worth the effort. Next time you're signing up for your classes why not consider taking a foreign language? You might be surprised to find out how much you'll like it. Bonne Chance!

Campus Comments: How do you think CCC could be improved academically?



Lisa
We need more transferrable business classes.



Tia
Having one teacher teaching a whole program just isn't right. We need more instructors.



Marv
We need more human potential classes along with academic classes.



Heather
I think we need to add to our merchandising business management programs. We need more instructors.



Cindy
I think we need more students counseling students.

