

# Wordsmith slams U.S. lingo killers

A lexicographer, whose dictionary is the third largest selling book ever published, says self-appointed language experts—like Edwin Newman—should mind their own business, words.

David B. Guralnik, whose "Webster's New World Dictionary of the American Language" has sold 45 million copies, feels arbiters of linguistic taste like Newman are stripping language of all its life.

"He [Newman] has every right to expound on any subject he wishes," Guralnik told the Chicago Tribune. "But I think it's a mistake for him to set himself up as an authority on languages . . . the glory of our language is that it never was controlled by an academy."

Newman, an NBC newsman, is the author of two best-selling books, "Strictly Speaking" and "A Civil Tongue." In them, he argues, Americans who use their participles, tack the suffix *-wise* onto words, and mouth such bureaucratic mush as *input* and *imperative* are muddying English.

Guralnik, however, says people like Newman are the criminals. "Language grows like any other living organism. Any attempt to hobble it can only hurt the language, not help it. Who should control the language? The people who use that language. Language is created by man for man. That which is useful remains, and that which has no real use falls by the wayside in the crucible of time."

Guralnik practices what he preaches. His dictionary, first published in 1953, broke centuries of lexicographic tradition by refusing to pass judgment on words as good or bad. Instead, it simply records the words and their definitions people are using. Only Dr. Spock's "Baby Book" and a cookbook by "Better Homes and Gardens" has outlasted "Webster's New World Dictionary," not including the Bible.

In order to correctly monitor the language, Guralnik employs people called citators who peruse almost everything printed in English.

"They're looking for new words that crop up in new usages of established words," said Guralnik, "and who has been a leader in that."

In its latest edition, Webster's lists the word *grak*, a term meaning "to emphasize" which first appeared in Robert Heinlein's popular novel, "Stranger in a Strange Land." "We have objective evidence that *grak* is still used in writing today," says Guralnik.

## Lawmakers consider Red Squad probe

As more tales are told of illegal surveillance of everyday people by Michigan police agencies, state legislators are pushing for permission to take a long hard look at the practice.

The type of surveillance legislators and civil libertarians are most concerned about includes files kept on police, lawyers, professors, students, reporters, housewives and others never involved in a crime. The Michigan State Police "Red Squad" alone kept files on some 38,000 persons according to the attorney representing the state in a Wayne County suit.

Attorneys for the state and plaintiffs in that suit now are trying to figure out how every person named in those state police files and in thousands of similar files kept by the Detroit Police Department can be notified of their existence.

Already the first fallout has begun in an Ingham County suit through which some 200 people will get to see their Red Squad files. Former Congressman Raymond Cleverger of Ann Arbor, whose file was the first released, said he was shocked that it included information on his wife, a member of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). Cleverger threatened a suit over his file.

Following reports of Cleverger's file, house lawmakers introduced a proposal to create a committee with subpoena power to probe police agencies in general. Claims are that the Red Squad did not act alone, but worked

with supplied information to police departments across the state.

Originally created under a 1960 law, the Red Squad also supplied data on prospective appointees to the governor's office and on prospective employees to the Panax Corp., a news paper chain based in East Lansing.

Four faculty appointments have been approved by the Oakland University Board of Trustees.

The new faculty members are Robert J. Goldstein, assistant professor of political science; Jean A. Mohan and Joyce Paape, instructors in nursing; and Keith E. Stanovich, instructor in psychology.

The appointments of Goldstein, Paape and Stanovich became effective on August 15, while Mohan became a faculty member on Jan. 3.

Also the following faculty members received changes of status: Patricia Johnson, associate professor of education, is now acting chairperson of the Department of Teacher Education; F. Edward Kieck, director of the University Community Counseling Center, moves from assistant to acting associate professor of psychology effective August 15; and William White, former professor of speech communication is now professor of communication arts and journalism.

## Regional Roundup

### BCCE GETS AWARD

The Birmingham Center for Continuing Education (BCCE) has received a special award from the National University Extension Association (NUEA) for "a timely, relevant and different approach to education or training." The award was accepted for innovation in continuing education at the NUEA's 62nd annual conference, March 19-23 in Tucson.

### GIRL WINS BATTLE

Two months ago, 13-year-old Lorri Lair of Troy contracted hepatitis and for five days fought a life-and-death struggle against the virus. Now recovering, her father Lee credits the doctors and staff at Wayne County General Hospital for remarkable comeback from a comatose state.

As Lorri rallies back to life, her friends in the Oakland County Camp Fire Girls are doing something to help out. The group is asking the community to donate blood in Lorri's name during a Red Cross blood drive from 3:30-10 p.m. Friday at Troy High School, 3129 Livermore, Troy.

### BOUNDARY REALIGNMENT

Some 170 Rochester Community School District students will be attending school in different districts in the fall if a proposed boundary realignment by the board of education.

Change involving at least two secondary schools and less than capacity enrollment in others has brought school officials to the conclusion that changes are necessary.

This will be the second time in two years Rochester has altered attendance boundaries.

### MILLAGE ELECTION

Farmington school district voters will go to the polls April 5 to decide a four mill tax renewal. More than \$2 million in revenue hangs on voters' consistency in never turning down a millage

### RIDER SHELTER REJECTED

There will be no new SEMTA bus shelter for Lathrup Village.

Despite efforts by Councilwoman Beverly Cleino and city administrator Jerald Stone urging council to reverse a previous decision against a new SEMTA shelter, the aluminum and plastic structure which was rejected at the Monday council meeting.

Stone pointed out to the council that since public attention has been given to the idea, several residents have contacted him and Mrs. Cleino by phone, letter and in person offering support for the new shelter.

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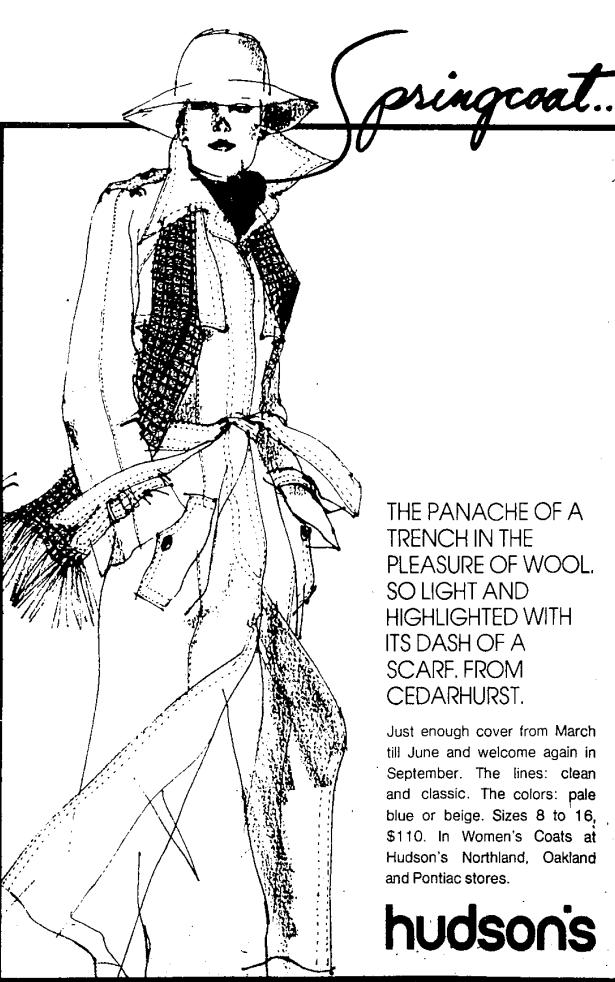
Here's an example of one of the bargains:



Hours: Mon-Wed 10-7; Thurs. & Fri. 10-9; Sat. 10-6; Sunday 12-5

**VILLAGE HUTCH**

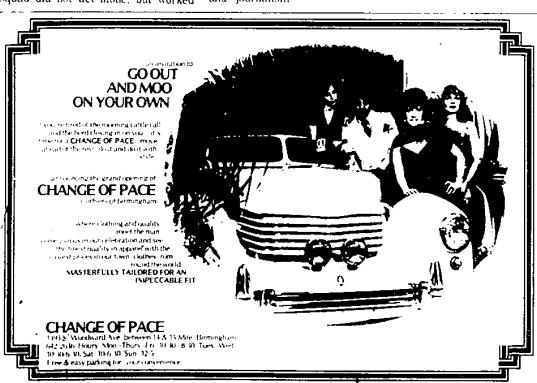
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