

Esperanto - a simple worldwide language

By JOHN HAMILTON

As our planet has figuratively shrunk in the past century due to better communications and transportation, numerous proposals have been made for some form of international language. Esperanto is the only language which has lasted and is being spoken today by a relatively large group of people.

Using a 26-letter alphabet, Esperanto is a basically phonetic language. Its simplicity lies in the fact that there are no irregularities or exceptions. It is based in 16 fundamental rules, which are never broken. New words are introduced whenever necessary. This is especially true in the sciences, and there are special vocabularies published for many varied subjects.

The language was invented in 1887 by a Polish doctor, L.L. Zamenhof. With a fairly simple vocabulary, it can be learned by the average person in about one-fifth the time it takes to learn a national language, say Esperantists.

Understood by people in nearly all countries, Esperantists feel that

their language can help bridge the problem which often leads to political misunderstandings. The growing "internationalism" of the world, they feel, demands a mode of communication free of the traditions, localisms, and aberrations which are present in all national languages.

As well, the language barriers can be broken by Esperanto-speaking tourists and translators, who can communicate their experiences to any other Esperantist in the world, regardless of his native tongue.

Spoken by hundreds of thousands, perhaps millions, of people, the Esperanto movement is continuously growing. There are libraries containing up to 30,000 books in the language, as well as several monthly Esperanto magazines. Congresses are held in cities around the world, drawing up to 5000 delegates annually. The 1979 congress is to be held in Lucerne, Switzerland. This language is particularly popular in Europe, because the people are surrounded with a great number of foreign languages.

Linguists say that a good Esperantist sounds like he is speaking Italian more than any other language. Easy to read, many non-Esperantists can possibly understand the following sentence:

Ne cio brilanta estas diamanto. (Not everything that glitters is a diamond.) Described by the French Academy of Sciences as "a masterpiece of logic and simplicity", Esperanto shows great

potential in the international educational field. Most Esperantists have pen-pals in foreign parts of the world, and a number of ham radio clubs are adopting the language in order to make contact in more distant locations.

The following non-credit courses are being offered by the UNB Computing Centre. All lectures are scheduled from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in Head Hall. Those planning to attend APL File Handling and/or Procedure Libraries should be familiar with Job Control Language.

Any comments on the courses given and/or suggestions for others to be offered, please contact User Services at 453-4573.

COURSE	# LECTURES	DATE(S)	LOCATION	INSTRUCTOR
Intro. to Computing Centre		Jan. 15	H-106	D.G. Macneil
Intro. to APL	2	Jan. 16, 18	D-6	D.G. Macneil
Utilities	1	Jan. 17	H-106	W.A. Mersereau
Intro. to Statistical Pack.	2	Jan. 22, 24	H-124	Nancy Burnham
Intro. to JCL		Jan. 22, 24	H-106	Bonita Mockler
APL File Handling		Jan. 23	D-6	Brian Lesser
RJE/RJO*		Jan. 25	D-6	Brian Lesser
Intro. to PANVALENT		Jan. 29, 31	H-106	Peter Johnson
Intro. to Procedure Libraries	1	Jan. 30	D-6	Peter Johnson
Intro. to Plotting	1	Feb. 1	D-6	Uday Gujar

MPHEC recommendation discussed

The future of the New Brunswick Coalition of Students and the recent release of the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Committee recommendations were two topics of concern at the December 3rd meeting of the group.

Members felt that the "relaxed" manner of work shown by the group in the past should be streamlined by designating external vice presidents as steering committee members. These members are supposed to ensure a higher level of research, correspondence and continuity in student issues.

Recent recommendations by the MPHEC were also discussed by members who intend to address various issues at a meeting of the

Thursday. NBCS members were concerned with the possibility of the MPHEC implementing a special funding component which would be designed to offset any possible tuition increases. They felt that this could be used as a lever by the provincial government. Members intended to address the area of operational grants and also the question of student aid at the meeting. The federal governments EPF scheme (Established Programme Financing—the method by which the Federal government funds post secondary education, social assistance etc.) was also discussed and members of the Student Union of Nova Scotia said they would try to insure that the provincial governments spend the

EPF grant in designated areas. In the past the provincial government has at times diverted these funds into areas other than those designated by the federal government.

National Union of Students fieldworker Gene Long attended the meeting and reported on NUS's efforts to protest the amendments to Unemployment Insurance programs which came in last year. He said that NUS representatives have been granted permission to meet with the Federal Government SUB committee handling the amendments to the UIC proposals.

The New Brunswick Coalition of Students will be meeting tomorrow at Mount Allison University.

The Democratic Party has made an official — half of the delegates at the 1980 convention will be women.

In a surprise move, the male-dominated executive committee voted in favor of a proposal that will guarantee women 50 per cent of the seats at the next party gathering. The resolution passed so quickly that some supporters

were caught off guard. One delighted woman Democrat called the sudden decision "incredible".

Ironically, the only opponent of the measure was Henry Braden, a black state senator from Louisiana who said the change "smacked of quotas". At the 1976 Democratic convention more than 65 percent of the delegates were men. (Newscrip)

CHANGES IN ACADEMIC REGULATIONS

Senate recently approved some changes in academic regulations which take effect in January, 1979. They are as follows:

Page 18, 1978/79 Undergraduate Calendar, item 1 is replaced by:

1 (a) Students are expected to attend all classes, laboratories, tutorials, or other class meetings officially designated for a particular course. They are expected also to complete all assignments. These assignments collectively are referred to as term or class work. Departments, or individual instructors, may make specific requirements about attendance and class participation which may form part of the student's final grade. It shall be the right of the instructor to assign a final grade of "F" to a student delinquent in class work. Such requirements must be made known to students within the first two weeks of the course. It is the responsibility of a student who is absent during the first two weeks to ascertain the requirements of the course.

1(b) It is expected that most problems caused by a student's absence from classes can be resolved with the instructor concerned. If through sickness or other unavoidable cause, a student is absent from classes, he or she must advise the instructors immediately upon his or her return to classes and supply suitable documentation if it is requested. It should be noted that medical certificates will only be accepted from the physician who attended the student during the period of absence.

Pages 20 and 21, 1978-79 Undergraduate Calendar, items 1 and 2 now read:

1. A student who by reason of illness or other misfortune is unable to write final examinations at the specified time may apply to the Registrar for permission to write special examinations at a time and place to be determined by the Registrar. Such examinations will take the place of the final examinations which the student was unable to write. Application for such special examinations, supported by medical certificates or other evidence, must reach the Registrar within thirty days of the final examinations which the student was unable to write.

2. A student who becomes ill and withdraws for this reason during a final examination, or who feels that his/her performance was seriously affected by illness, even if he/she does not withdraw, must, if he/she wishes to be eligible for a special examination, notify his/her instructor or an invigilator before leaving the examination room. The student should then go immediately to be medically examined, normally by a doctor in the University Medical Service. He/she may then apply to the Registrar within thirty days for a special examination.

Office of the Registrar

THE BYRDS

MAYBE CANADA WOULD DO BETTER IN INTERNATIONAL TRADING IF OUR NATIONAL PRODUCT WASN'T GROSS.




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Please note: TNB will not have a student buck night for the 1979 season