

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
AMERICAN DIALECT SOCIETY

# NADS 27.1

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**Vol. 27, No. 1     January 1995**

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*NADS is sent in January, May and September to all ADS members. Send ADS dues (\$30 per year), queries and news to editor and executive secretary Allan Metcalf, English Department, MacMurray College, Jacksonville, Illinois 62650, phone (217) 479-7049 or (217) 243-3403, fax (217) 245-0405, e-mail AAllan@aol.com.*

*From:*

AMERICAN DIALECT SOCIETY  
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**FIRST CLASS**

Forwarding and Address  
Correction Requested

## ADS Divorces MLA, Marries LSA; Back to Chicago in the Future

After a hundred years of living together, it just wasn't working out. So the ADS Executive Council decided to move the Annual Meeting away from the Modern Language Association, as recommended by last summer's ad hoc committee (Sept. *Newsletter*, p. 2). But instead of setting up our own independent meeting in April, as the committee had recommended, the Council voted unanimously to meet for at least three years with the Linguistic Society—after our last meeting in Chicago with MLA this December.

That means returning to Chicago with LSA a year later. This is the LSA schedule:

1997, Jan. 2–5 • Chicago.

1998, Jan. 8–11 • New York City.

Whether we continue meeting in our own select hotel or with the LSA group remains to be determined. Also to be determined is the schedule; it was suggested that most ADS meetings be held on Wednesday and Thursday before LSA gets fully underway.

Of about two dozen in attendance at the Executive Council, most expressed opposition to adding a separate meeting to the year's busy calendar and expressed doubt that anyone but they would attend in such a case. There were few kind words for MLA, but many for LSA as the true home of our society. (Maybe NWAV as the truer home, but not stable enough.)

Those who favor LSA will now have the opportunity to demonstrate through programs, attendance, and recruits that their choice is the natural one. Those who favor MLA have one more chance this year to demonstrate what we would be missing.

### STILL FLIRTING WITH MLA

Yet even though our Annual Meeting will no longer be with the Modern Language Association after this year, we will continue to sponsor a session or two at theirs, if members are interested. Future schedule:

1996, Dec. 27–30 • Washington, D.C.

## ADS at LSA, Next January

It won't yet be the ADS Annual Meeting when the Linguistic Society meets next January 4–7, but it will be San Diego. (Only the Sheraton, however; if you want to return to Le Meridien, you'll have to make your own arrangements.) As usual, ADS will sponsor a session, with topic and style open; you can even arrange a whole program. Please observe our *March 20* deadline (next page) and send proposals to the Executive Secretary.

## NCTE: Call for Correct Names

The proper names for ethnic, social, and political groups have become a problem in public discourse, including the classroom. Must we be politically correct? Can we be polite? If you have answers of interest to members of the National Council of Teachers of English, please volunteer for the ADS-sponsored session at their annual convention in San Diego, Nov. 17–19. Our tentative title is "Political and Pedagogical Correctness: Proper Names for Diverse Cultures."

*March 1* is the deadline for getting in touch with the program chair, **Dennis Baron**, Dept. of English, Univ. of Illinois, 608 South Wright St., Urbana IL 61801, phone (217) 333-2392, fax (217) 333-4321; e-mail [debaron@uiuc.edu](mailto:debaron@uiuc.edu).

For convention information, write NCTE at 1111 Kenyon Road, Urbana, IL 61801-1096; phone (217) 328-3870.

## Eble for Tamony: April 20

**Connie Eble** of the Univ. of North Carolina, Charlotte, editor-elect of *American Speech*, will speak on "The Everyday in American English" in the tenth (has it been that long?) annual Peter Tamony Memorial Lecture on American Language at the Univ. of Missouri, Columbia on Thursday, April 20.

The talk will be held at 4:15 p.m. in Ellis Library, home of the files on slang and colloquialisms collected by Tamony in San Francisco. The collection will be on display at the reception that follows the talk.

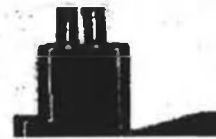


# ANNUAL MEETING 1995

Chicago • December 27–30

## CALL FOR PAPERS

### Deadline: March 20



For the last time, ADS will make its annual home-away-from-home next door to the Modern Language Association this year. The city is Chicago (where we will also return in January 1997 for our first Annual Meeting with the Linguistic Society); our familiar new home-away-from-home is the all-suite *Barclay Chicago*—familiar because we stayed there in 1990, new because they're spending \$5 million this year to renovate it for us. Our rate is *\$79 a night*, single or double occupancy, including full breakfast buffet. Future issues will tell you more about it, but you don't have to wait; to make sure of your place you can phone now, (800) 621-8004 or 312/787-6000, for reservations; ask for the American Dialect Society rate.

Send abstracts to Executive Secretary Allan Metcalf (address on cover) by *March 20*. You are encouraged to make a proposal even if you do not have a paper fully developed.

Please specify whether you need audio-visual equipment, and whether you prefer our independent sessions (at the Barclay) or our one session at MLA (requires MLA membership by April 1). Proposals are invited on all topics, but there are special opportunities in Dialect Obsolescence and Names.

#### DIALECT OBSOLESCENCE

Vice president and program chair **Walt Wolfram** writes: "We will host a special program on dialect obsolescence. Papers on moribund dialects or obsolescent dialect forms are heartily encouraged. This session is planned in recognition of the fact that many dialects of 'safe' languages are endangered, but endangered dialects have largely been excluded from the language endangerment canon.

"Several speakers have already agreed to represent different moribund dialect situations: **Salikoko Mufwene** (Gullah), **Garland Bills** (Spanish dialects in the Southwest), **Guy Bailey** (obsolescent forms in the South), and **Natalie Schilling-Estes** and yours truly (Outer Banks dialects).

"If there is sufficient interest, we will propose to publish a collection on dialect obsolescence in the United States, either as a special issue of *American Speech* or an independent publication. Let's make sure that moribund dialects threatened with extinction from encroaching varieties of 'safe' languages are not cast aside as linguists rally to preserve endangered languages."

#### NAMES AND DIALECT

As usual, the American Name Society will share our hotel and meeting dates. As unusual—in fact, for the first time—ADS and ANS will jointly sponsor one or more sessions for presentations of interest to members of both societies. Please note if you would like your paper considered for an ADS-ANS combined session.

**Please remember the deadline: March 20!**

Old Year's New Words: *Cyber, Morph* Tie for WOTY

A hint of solemnity touched the 1994 version of the now nearly traditional ADS retrospective of the year's newly salient vocabulary. Rather than a single spirited session of nominations and votes, the nominations were offered and discussed soberly at an open session the day before. Starting with lists provided by **John** and **Adele** Algeo and **David Barnhart**, the 18 members and friends at that meeting came up with the following nominees. Winners in the final voting Dec. 29 (with the help of a poll on the ADS-L discussion list) are given first and indicated in **bold-face**.

1. Most beautiful: **sylvanshine** the newly discovered night-time iridescence of forest trees; **granny mum** a woman past the usual child-bearing age who is pregnant through artificial implantation of a fertilized donor egg.

2. Most imaginative: **guillermo** e-mail message in a foreign language (=‘memo’ in Spanish); **morph** (v.) to change form, to change, to transport; **spamming** indiscriminate broadcast posting of articles and advertising on Internet bulletin boards (from the image of Spam dropped into an electric fan).

3. Most trendy: **dress down day/casual day** a work day, usually Friday, when employees are allowed to wear casual attire; **vegetal leather** synthetic leather made of latex on cotton.

4. Most euphemistic: **challenged** polite way of indicating an undesirable or unappealing condition, in combinations like “abdominally challenged,” “classically challenged”; **fetal reduction** aborting one or more fetuses that occur as a result of infertility treatment, to increase the chances for survival of the remaining ones

5. Most promising: **Infobahn** information superhighway, Internet; **Pog** a children's game; **polydoxy** holding a variety of beliefs.

6. Most useful: **gingrich** to dispense with government agencies, policies, and people in

the manner of newly-elected U.S. House Speaker Newt Gingrich; **cyber** pertaining to computers, electronic communication, or the electronic superhighway; **netiquette** appropriate behavior on the Internet or other computer network.

And the overall Word of the Year 1994? A tie between **cyber** and **morph**—so both were given the honor.

**Cyber**, nominated by the Algeos, was recognized not only for itself but because of the hundreds of compounds it has produced, such as **cyberculture**, **cybercrime**, **cyberhype**, **cybersex**, **cybersurfer**. It is not brand new, but newly prominent.

**Morph**, nominated by Barnhart, is also not brand new but was similarly prominent in 1994. Politicians learned about it as they were “morphed” by enemies in the November elections.

And what about 1995? Your eyes and ears are again needed as the words of the year pass in review. Send nominations to Barnhart at PO Box 247, Cold Spring NY 10516 or to the Algeos at PO Box 270, Wheaton IL 60189-0270.

## Annual Business: Elections 1994

Most of the business of the Society is conducted by the duly elected Executive Council in open session (see p. 7). But the general membership meeting still has the responsibility of electing Council members.

So on Dec. 30, 1994, with no additional nominations having been proposed, the membership ratified the Nominating Committee's candidates for office: **Walt Wolfram** as vice president 1995–96, president 1997–98; **Charles E. Meyer** as Executive Council member 1995–98; **Natalie Maynor** as Nominating Committee member 1995–96.

With the death of **Michael I. Miller** (see p. 12), a one-year vacancy opened on the Executive Council. After nominations and discussion, **Luanne von Schneidmesser** (**DARE**) was elected to finish his term in 1995.

## Problems in Establishing the *New* in *New Word*

By David K. Barnhart

(Preface to his list of candidates for *New Word of the Year 1994*)

The ultimate problem in pinpointing the appearance of a neologism comes from the obvious problem of adequately sampling the English language. Were we focusing upon Fiji or some similarly and reasonably definable community, the problem would be less troublesome. But English has, even by conservative estimates, hundreds of millions of speakers worldwide.

**REVIVALS.** Several dictionaries have entered the term *narrowcast* 'a broadcast of interest to a specific community of the population'. The term came to the attention of lexicographers in the early 1970s. Its current popularity arose in the context of cable television, and was so reported in *The Second Barnhart Dictionary of New English* (1980). Its use in the context of subscription radio was first noted by I. Willis Russell and Mary Gray Porter in "Among the New Words" (*AS* Fall 1978, p. 217). Their first quotation (1948) has been recently antedated by *The Oxford English Dictionary Additions Series* (1993) with a quotation from 1937 (for *narrowcast*, n.) and 1932 (for *narrowcasting*, verbal n.).

The combining form *-athon* is another example of this kind of rekindling. It was first recorded in *American Speech* (1934), cited in *OEDS* II (Burchfield) and commented extensively on by the editors of *The Second Barnhart Dictionary of New English* in which the widely recognized earlier terms *walkathon* (*DA*, under *walk*: 1932), *talkathon* (1948), and *telethon* (1952) were cited along with seven forms from the 1970s (of which only *bikeathon* seems to have survived with significant currency). *Readathon* presents an interesting example of revival. It was first reported in *The Barnhart Dictionary Companion* (Vol. 4.1-2: 1981). In providing evidence for *readathon*, *OEDAsI* shows quotations from 1936, 1968, 1979, 1981, 1984, 1989. We cannot be sure

that *readathon* did not occur in the 1940s and 1950s; however, Robert Barnhart reports none in his files and Sol Steinmetz at Random House, Mike Agnes at Webster's New World, David Jost at American Heritage, and Fred Mish at Merriam-Webster all report none. Since no examples from the twenty-year period have been discovered yet, it is reasonable to conclude that this is an authentic revival. Indeed, this may be an independent invention, one made without awareness of the 1936 event.

But this is a vulnerable position in light of the fact that the topic, Bible reading, is the focus of both the 1936 and 1968 (1st and 2nd, respectively) quotes in *OEDAsI*. Should evidence be discovered of its occurrence in the 1940s and 50s, we must conclude that it is dangerous to rely solely on the evidence dictionaries provide in concluding that a term is a genuine revival. Perhaps this is a case of semantic evolution. Originally, *readathon* was applied to Bible reading and only later does the evidence reflect the more general application.

Yet another revival is relayed in the etymological treatment of *stonewall* in *BDNE2*: "1974, a use made current during the Watergate hearings of 1973-74; extended from the term first used in Australian, and later British, political slang as a noun meaning Parliamentary obstruction (*OED* 1876) and as a verb, to use obstructive tactics in politics, especially by lengthy Parliamentary speeches; also a cricket term meaning to block balls persistently, to play solely on the defensive (*OED* 1889)."

Perhaps two of the most widely discussed terms in this category, at least in the United States, are *black* and *native American*. From *BDNE3* (1990) the following usage statement is drawn: "As a label of racial identity, *black* was revived in the late 1960s by the American civil rights movement and so successfully

(Please turn to Page 6)

Revival and Assimilation: What *Is* a New Word?

(Continued from Page 5)

popularized in the following years that it virtually removed from circulation the formerly standard label *Negro*."

Some of the variety of terms included: *Negro* (*OED*: 1955), *black* (*OED*: 1625), *colored* (*DAE* 1780), and *Afro-American* (*DA*: 1853) and its variant *African-American* (*BDNE3*: 1973).

The terminology for the members of the tribes of people inhabiting North America prior to the arrival of Europeans at the beginning of the colonial period likewise varies: *red man*, *Indian*, *native*, *savage*. But *Native American* has several interesting twists on this theme, as recorded in the *BDNE3* usage note: "This term [Native American] was popularized in the early 1970s by civil rights activists and perhaps derives from Native American Church (known since the early 1950s), referring to the religious denomination of American Indians which combines traditional Indian beliefs and rituals with Christianity."

Ironically, the name *Native American* was used in the 1840s to refer to a member of the Know-Nothing political party (the Native American Party) whose aim was to keep control of the U.S. government in the hands of native-born (but European-ancestred) citizens.

In the southwestern United States, *Native American* (*DA* 1811) has been used to refer to Spanish-speaking residents of European ancestry.

Can a case such as that which follows be one of revival or the victim of sampling which fails to reveal instances of use for the intervening 45 years?

**tear**, n.1 Add: A decorative air cavity in glassware; 1916 J.S. Lewis *Old Glass*. 1961 E.M. Elville *Collector's Dict. Glass*.

Similarly, *sausagey* is represented by quotations separated by 63 years:

**sausagey**. Resembling a sausage, esp. in appearance or shape. 1921 D.H. Lawrence

*Sea & Sardinia*. 1984 J. Updike *Witches of Eastwick*.

Perhaps the mother of all revivals is: **semi-detachment**. the state or condition of being partially detached. 1859 E. Eden *Semi-Detached House*. 1963 *Punch*.

However, here, because of the large span of time (104 years) and from the note provided by the *OED* editors, we can safely assume this to be an independent invention: "Also trans. and fig. (in quot. 1859, punningly). rare."

There is no such suggestion of a problem in the entry of *scuddiness* which spans with two quotes 1831 to 1972 (131 years), and only slightly less dramatic is this meaning of *sling*:

**sling**, n.2. Hence, a similar device for carrying a baby or small child. 1856 Dickens *Dorrit*. 1966 C.W. Hamilton *Oil Tales of Mexico*.

The perils of collecting evidence are many. This little essay has suggested one of them: too few eyes checking but a sampling of the English language.

**ASSIMILATION**. A similar problem resides in *nacho*. The term for this popular snack food and appetizer is recorded in no less than five sources (*12W*, *BDNE3*, *Macq*, *ODNW*, *OEDasI*). *12,000 Words*, in accordance with its style, gives no clue of earliest usage; *BDNE3* offers 1967 as the earliest date in English contexts, noting the term comes from Mexican Spanish. The *Macquarie Dictionary of New Words* (from Australia) gives two useful quotes from down under, but no date of origin. *ODNW* quite properly states: "Although first prepared as long ago as the forties, nachos did not spread far outside Texas and North Mexico until the seventies, and only became widely known through fast-food chains in the eighties." *OEDasI* offers the 1949 quote. However, one might quibble with this being English just yet because of italicization in the original text and because of the fuller term *Nachos Especiales* in the preceding sentence.

## Acts of the Executive Council, December 1994

Meeting for a brisk, focused two hours in the morning of Thursday, Dec. 29 in the Monaco Room of Le Meridien San Diego, under the benign government and velvet glove of President John Baugh, the open meeting of the ADS Executive Council, attended by seven of nine Council members and sixteen others, dispatched the following business:

1. unanimously agreed to President Baugh's conclusion that ADS hold its annual meeting in association with the Linguistic Society of America for three years starting January 1997. (See p. 2.)

## APPOINTMENTS

2. appointed to the *American Speech* advisory board for three-year terms, as recommended by Editor Ronald Butters: **Joan Hall** (*DARE*) to replace Connie Eble when she becomes Consulting Editor; **Frank Parker** (Louisiana State U.); **Silke Van Ness** (SUNY, Albany); others to be named.

3. appointed regional secretaries for two-year terms 1995-96: Midwest, **Beth Lee Simon** (Indiana U./Purdue U.-Fort Wayne), new appointment succeeding the late **Michael Miller**; Rocky Mountain, **Grant W. Smith** (Eastern Washington U.), reappointment.

4. at the suggestion of **Kathy Riley**, who wishes to relinquish the chair of the Teaching Committee, appointed **Alan Manning** (Brigham Young Univ.) as chair in her place.

5. at the request of Chair **Charles Meyer**, appointed the following members to the Usage Committee: **Rebecca Howard** (Colgate Univ.) [nominated after the Council meeting], **Albert E. Krahn** (Milwaukee Area Tech. Coll.), **William Lutz** (Rutgers U.), **Don Norton** (Brigham Young U.), **Richard Redfern** (Clarion U. of Pennsylvania, emer.), **Alan Slotkin** (Tennessee Tech. U.), **James Stalker** (Michigan State U.), **Robert Wachal** (U. of Iowa).

6. reappointed **Thomas Creswell** (Chicago State U., emer.) for a three-year term

1995-97 as trustee of the Hans Kurath Fund for the Linguistic Atlas, as recommended by Editor William A. Kretzschmar, Jr.

## MEETINGS

7. appointed **Dennis Baron** as chair and **Allan Metcalf** as associate chair for ADS session at 1995 NCTE convention, Nov. 17-19, San Diego. (See p. 2.)

8. endorsed **Methods IX** conference in Wales, July-August 1996, as ADS Summer Meeting that year, and allocated \$500 in support. (See p. 15.)

9. endorsed Dictionary Society of North America meeting in Cleveland, July 20-22, as ADS Summer Meeting 1995. (See p. 15.)

## FINANCIAL

10. approved requesting **Donald Larmouth** to serve as as financial consultant to the Executive Secretary.

11. instructed the Executive Secretary to investigate the cost of bonding for his financial transactions.

12. instituted a \$20 registration fee (students \$10, Presidential Honorary Members free) for the Annual Meeting, starting 1995.

13. approved donating ten subscriptions to *American Speech* to the East & Central Europe Journal Donation Project.

14. approved proposed budget for 1995:

## EXPECTED INCOME

Dues .....	\$24,000
Interest .....	3,000
Gifts, royalties and miscellaneous .....	1,500
<b>Total income .....</b>	<b>\$28,500</b>

## EXPECTED EXPENSES

<i>American Speech</i> .....	\$10,000
<i>PADS</i> , one number .....	5,000
<i>Newsletter</i> .....	3,500
Executive Secretary travel .....	1,500
Office expenses, incl. computer .....	4,000
ACLS and NHA dues .....	800
Annual Meeting expenses .....	500
<i>American Speech</i> computer exp. ...	2,000
<b>Total expenses .....</b>	<b>\$27,300</b>

## 1995–98 Honors to Gregory, de los Reyes; More Invited

President John Baugh has announced the award of Presidential Honorary Memberships 1995–98 to **Elizabeth Gregory** of Auburn University and **Guillermo de los Reyes** of the Universidad de las Américas in Puebla, México.

On behalf of Gregory, **Cynthia Bernstein** wrote: “She is a graduate student at Auburn preparing to work on a dissertation involving dialect research and has already presented papers with me on variant pronunciations of /ai/. Currently she is assistant professor of extension at Texas A&M University in College Station. She is bright, hard-working, and interested in the work of ADS.”

On behalf of de los Reyes, our first international Presidential Honorary Member, **Paul Rich** wrote:

“He is no stranger to Stanford because he has been my research assistant at Hoover, where I have been Visiting Fellow for several years. . . . He has co-authored two Hoover working papers with me, one on the revival of political culture and the other on the educational influence of Mexican Masonic lodges.

“Guillermo, who is 23, received his Lic. (bachelor’s degree) with high honors from the University of the Americas this year. His honors thesis was defended in the Board of Governors Room of the American Political Science Association in Washington, with an audience including Mexican Embassy officials. This was perhaps the first time that the University has had a thesis defended overseas. He is now doing his master’s degree here and hopes to be a Ph.D. candidate at Stanford. . . .

“Guillermo has been extremely active during his university career and partly responsible for the creation of an Electronic Library on the University network—hundreds of texts scanned in for the benefit of students. . . .

“His undergraduate thesis was on Freemasonry in Mexico, and because of his command of English and Spanish he is able to research the differences in the use of ritual words and

passes between Mexico and the United States. He is currently examining what one might call the “ritualistic dialect” of Mexican Freemasonry, which varies from state to state: a fascinating subject.

“He is a member of the International Studies Association, the Caribbean Studies Association, and the Royal Society of Arts (London) as a candidate for Fellowship. His paper on Iron John and the New Agers has been accepted for the American Culture Association meetings in Philadelphia in April, and his paper on legends in Freemasonry is accepted for the American Historical Association Pacific Section meetings in Maui in August. . . .

“There is a strong case for involving young Mexican scholars in learned societies like ours and in helping universities such as UDLA develop a graduate student culture. And of course ADS needs to become more of an international society: the demographics of the growing Hispanic population in the United States make it especially important to attract Spanish speakers.”

## 1996 Nominations Invited

The opportunity is now at hand to nominate candidates for 1996–99 Presidential Honorary Memberships. All that is needed is a letter of recommendation, although supporting material is also welcome. Send nominations for 1996–99 to the new ADS President **Lawrence M. Davis**, English Dept., Wichita State Univ., Wichita KS 67260-0014; e-mail [davis@wsuhub.uc.twsu.edu](mailto:davis@wsuhub.uc.twsu.edu).

Presidential Honorary Memberships are bestowed for four-year terms on students, graduate or undergraduate, who show interest in and aptitude for our field. Their aim is to encourage the recipients’ interest and accomplishments. Among Presidential Honorary Members of the past are currently notable ADS members **Kathryn Riley** and **Ellen Johnson**.



## Plans and Ideas for the Committee on Usage

By Charles Meyer, Usage Committee Chair

(Excerpts from his recent e-mail posting to the committee. See p. 7 for list of members.)

Let me first of all summarize what people said in response to my notice in *NADS* [September 1994, p. 23]. Everyone saw the need for the usage committee to become more actively involved in public matters of usage.

**Richard Redfern** defined the problem we need to deal with: that "many well-educated men and women who pride themselves in staying up-to-date in their profession still believe, as if it is a religious commandment, that it is poor English to end a sentence with a preposition, that the 'split' infinitive should be avoided like poison ivy, and that 'It was she,' 'That was they,' and the like are better than 'It was her' and 'That was them.'" He suggests that we approach the issue of divided usage as it relates, for instance, to verbs, agreement, and preposition usage.

**William Lutz** feels that the public should not receive information on English usage only from people such as John Simon and William Safire: "Surely we could add some intelligent comments to the public fray."

There were a number of specific suggestions concerning how we might educate the general public about usage.

**Alan Slotkin** thought we should undertake "a series of general articles for non-linguists focusing on such matters as the loss of the apostrophe in popular usage (or perhaps its misuses), dialectal usage and miscommunications, and the like."

**Albert E. Krahn** had a number of specific ideas, including "a newsletter similar to the one produced by NCTE on *Doublespeak*," and a column in *American Speech* similar to the *New Words* column. He also said that we need to inform the public on the difference between "grammar and usage" and discuss how "usage arguments can be best settled."

**Don Norton** sent me materials related to a column on usage that he writes for a local

newspaper in Provo, UT. He believes that a grass-roots approach to usage is important, and had many ideas on how to make discussions of usage interesting and enjoyable. . . .

Let me ask a few questions for all of you to think about and comment on:

1) Is there interest in an edited book on usage for the general public? If so, what types of articles should it contain, what publisher should we market it towards, and (most importantly) is there anyone on the committee interested in editing the book and contributing to it?

2) Is there interest in a newsletter? Again, who wishes to edit it and/or contribute to it? How often should it come out? How should it be published and distributed?

3) Are there other suggestions for how the committee might best approach the issue of bringing issues of usage to the public? For instance, how should the committee encourage the grass-roots approach to usage that Don Norton advocates?

Send comments to: Charles Meyer, English Dept., Univ. of Massachusetts at Boston, 100 Morrissey Blvd., Boston MA 02125-3393; e-mail [meyer@umb.sky.cc.umb.edu](mailto:meyer@umb.sky.cc.umb.edu).

### Coming in *American Speech*

70.1, Spring 1995

"The Future Pluperfect: Double Tenses in American English Auxiliaries" by **Carole E. Chaski**.

"Notes Toward a Sample of a Subject Glossary on Historical Principles: Contributions to the History of Linguistic Terminology" by **Fred R. Shapiro**.

"Linguistics in Textbooks: A Forty-Year Comparison" by **Walter E. Meyers**.

"Ohio Amish Women in the Vanguard of Linguistic Change: Pennsylvania German in Ohio" by **Silke Van Ness**.

"Among the New Words" by **John Algeo** and **Adele Algeo**.

Reviews and Miscellany.

## Fruitcakes, New Words, Englisch: New Books by ADS Members

*If you have recently published a book, send pertinent information to Executive Secretary Allan Metcalf (address on cover), and we'll mention it here.*

**Christine Ammer.** *Fruitcakes and Couch Potatoes and Other Delicious Expressions.* Dutton/Plume, January 1995. \$10.95. More than a thousand food-related items in everyday use and their origins, with relevant quotations, illustrations, index.

**David K. Barnhart,** compiler. *The Barnhart New-Words Concordance.* Lexik House (2 Railroad Avenue, PO Box 247, Cold Spring NY 10516; phone 914/265-2822), 1994. viii + 704 pages. In loose-leaf binder, \$65. 42,000 separate entries index 30 years of new words in these new-words publications: "Among the New Words" in *American Speech*, *Barnhart Dictionary Companion*, *Barnhart Dictionaries of New English*, *Oxford Dictionary of New Words*, *Longman Register of New Words* (2 vols.), *12,000 Words*, *the Macquarie Dictionary of New Words*, *Bloomsbury Neologisms*. An indispensable reference for any neologist or lexicographer, and enlightening even for the ordinary citizen. ISBN 0-936368-07-1.

**John Samuel Kenyon.** *American Pronunciation.* 12th edition, expanded by **Donald M. Lance** and the late **Stewart A. Kingsbury.** George Wahr (304 1/2 S. State, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104), 1994. xxxviii + 399 pages. Soft cover \$28.50, hard cover \$35. With a 15-page introduction by Lance, a 70-page spectrographic analysis of English phonemes and allophones by Lance and Stephen M. Howie, a 28-page overview of variation in American English by Lance, a reprint of Kenyon's 1948 "Cultural Levels and Functional Varieties of English," and a list of Kenyon's publications. Kenyon could be considered an anti-dialectologist, being responsible for ingraining the idea of "General American" deep in the hearts and minds even of many linguists, but that makes him influential in our field and our whole culture, and the new material tells the

story. Approved by the ADS Executive Council as a publication in the ADS Centennial Series. ISBN soft cover 0-911586-47-4, hard cover 1-884739-08-3.

**Allan Metcalf.** *Essentials of Writing to the Point.* Fort Worth: Harcourt Brace College Publishers, 1995. x + 107 pages. Soft cover. If you teach writing to freshmen, do you *really* want to make a difference? Do you want to effect such an improvement that the students, and your colleagues, will notice? It's risky! Play it safe and let them pass unscathed through a conventional textbook or handbook. But if you dare—then ask Harcourt Brace for an examination copy. It's the condensed essence of William J. Kerrigan (and Metcalf's *Writing to the Point*, 4th ed., so brief you can use it as a supplement (it's very compatible) to a conventional book. ISBN 0-15-501709-8.

**Allan Metcalf.** *Research to the Point.* 2nd edition. Fort Worth: Harcourt Brace College Publishers, 1995. ix + 214 pages. Soft cover. Same remarkable effectiveness as the preceding, but leading to a research paper that uses library sources. If you think it should be more than an exercise in documentation, try this. ISBN 0-15-501481-1.

**Itsuo Oishi.** *American English and British English.* (In Japanese.) Tokyo: Maruzen. 200 pages. ¥640 (\$6.40). Focused on vocabulary differences, including such pairs as *comforter-duvet*, *crosswalk-zebra crossing*, *drunk driving-drinking and driving*, *meter maid-traffic warden*, *alimony-maintenance*, *the Big Apple-the Smoke*.

**Herbert Penzl.** *Englisch: Eine Sprachgeschichte nach Texten von 350 bis 1992.* Bern: Peter Lang, 1994. 202 pages. sFr. 88, \$62.95. In German. Focuses on detailed synchronic and diachronic analysis of representative texts, starting with North Rhein-Westphalian runic inscriptions (ca. 350), continuing with Cædmon's Hymn and concluding with Lowell's "Biglow Papers" of 1848. ISBN 3-906751-79-1.

## ADS at ILA, Georgetown University, March 11

At the 40th annual conference of the International Linguistic Association (theme: Discourse and Text Analysis), to be held at Georgetown University March 10–12, following the Georgetown University Round Table March 8–11, the American Dialect Society will sponsor:

Section V (Dialectology).

10:30–11:45 a.m. Saturday, March 11.

Program:

- “Dislocations in Spoken Quebecois French.” **H. Ossipov**, Arizona State Univ.—Barnes 1985 examines dislocations in spoken standard French and predicts that Left Dislocation “ought to occur with approximately equal relative frequency in the speech of speakers of varying socio-economic standing” (114). This paper tests that prediction by examining the types of dislocations found in the speech of Quebecois from the Beauce area.

- “High/Low Focus and the Catalan Periphrastic Preterite.” **M. Westmoreland**, Univ. at Albany, SUNY.—Using data taken from a significant corpus of late medieval Catalan texts, this study will argue that discourse factors are essential in understanding Catalan past tense usage, where the simple form was replaced by a periphrastic *vaig anar* type form. This form, containing the go-verb auxiliary, iconically would seem to lend itself to high focus by glossing specific past actions with overt motion.

- “First Language Erosion of Distinctive Agreement Markers in a Group of U.S. Spanish Speakers.” **E. Martinez**, College of Charleston.—This paper analyzes the erosion patterns of distinctive agreement markers found in thirty high-school Spanish speakers from Hispanic communities in the Southwest, Southeast or Northeast. The subjects were asked to describe six different situational drawings and to talk about a personal experience similar to that of each drawing. The interviews were conducted completely in Spanish and their speech was recorded for further

analysis. The results indicated 1) erosion of gender markers, resulting in a random selection or non-distinction; 2) erosion of number markers when using collective nouns; and 3) erosion of personal markers of first and third person verb forms.

- “Examination of Elicitation Strategies for Vernacular Data.” **X. Huang**, Univ. of North Dakota.—This paper evaluates the feasibility of various sociolinguistic elicitation strategies on the basis of fieldwork conducted for a linguistic study of African-American Vernacular English in Muncie, Indiana. A fieldworker from a different ethnic culture can be an invaluable asset in eliciting vernacular data, particularly when the fieldworker is familiar with the potential subjects and able to manipulate different techniques of data collection.

*Session chair* and ADS Northeast Regional Secretary: **Silke Van Ness**, Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures, HU 216, State Univ. of New York, 1400 Washington Ave., Albany NY 12222; phone: (518) 442-4122; email SV478@cnsvox.albany.edu.

*Registration* before March 1 (preregistration by mail): ILA or ADS professional member \$30, student \$20; professional non-member \$40, student non-member \$30. After March 1 and on site, add \$10. To preregister, send check or money order, payable to International Linguistic Association, to S. Van Ness at the above address.

Accommodations may be reserved directly with the Leavey Center of Georgetown (\$109 single, \$124 double): Leavey Conference Center, Reservations; 3800 Reservoir Road, Washington, DC 20057; phone (202) 687-3200.

The ILA conference chair, Professor Ruth Brend, will be happy to arrange roommates and provide information regarding less costly nearby accommodations. Phone (313)-665-2787; fax (313) 665-9743; e-mail ruth.brend@um.cc.umich.edu.

## In Memoriam: Michael I. Miller 1941–1994

By Thomas J. Creswell

Michael I. Miller died in mid-career at age 53 on November 10, 1994. Michael took his BA at Roosevelt University in 1967, his M.A. in 1968 and his Ph.D. in 1978 at the University of Chicago under the direction of Raven I. McDavid, Jr.

He supported himself and financed much of his education through his M.A. and while doing the course work for the Ph.D. by working as a dance band drummer. In 1968 he became assistant professor of English at Augusta College, Augusta, Georgia. While there, he collected data and wrote his thesis, a study of the speech of Augusta.

He taught at Virginia Commonwealth University 1978–1984, spent the years 1982–84 in Poland as docent for programs in English at Jagiellonian University and Silesian University, then a year in Washington, D.C., working in computer programming. In 1985 he moved to Chicago State University where he served as teacher, department chair in English, and, from 1991, associate provost and associate vice president for academic affairs, positions he held until his death. In 1987–1988 he served on an NSF Fellowship as visiting professor of English at National Taiwan Normal University, Taipei, Formosa.

Through these busy, peripatetic years, he participated actively in the American Dialect Society, serving on the Committee on Regionalisms and Linguistic Geography, as Midwest Regional Secretary, and as a member of the ADS Executive Council. He was also a member of the American Name Society, the Dictionary Society of North America, and the Modern Language Association. He published articles and reviews and read papers on dialect, methods in dialectology with special attention to computer methods, black speech, and Chinese-English names.

His book, *Dynamics of a Sociolinguistic System*, is currently being prepared for publication.

Memorial services were held for Michael at Luther Memorial Church in Chicago, where he had been baptized; at Chicago State University, and at Augusta College. At the suggestion of Larry Davis, incoming ADS President, the ADS session at MMLA in Chicago November 12, 1994 was dedicated by those attending to the memory of Michael I. Miller.

*Excerpts from a posting by William A. Kretzschmar, Jr. on the ADS-L e-mail discussion list:*

A good friend to many of us in the ADS, [Mike Miller] was frequently in attendance and giving papers at national and regional meetings. . . . His materials are preserved in the Linguistic Atlas archives here at UGA. Mike was among the earliest and most proficient users of quantitative techniques in dialectology, and among the foremost of those who could bridge the gap between traditional dialectology and sociolinguistics. Mike was also my associate editor on *Journal of English Linguistics*, and played a key role in the internationalization of the journal during the 1980s. We will miss him.

### Stewart Kingsbury

Stewart Kingsbury, long-time member of ADS, died on October 23, 1994. He was 71.

Kingsbury's passion for Margaret Bryant's collection of proverbs and proverbial sayings rescued it from oblivion. In the days when computers were still new and bulky, he had the collection entered into a computer database which became the basis for the *Dictionary of American Proverbs* edited by Wolfgang Mieder, Kingsbury, and Kelsie B. Harder (Oxford UP, 1991).

When the book was published, he saved the Bryant collection a second time by arranging to have the 150,000 slips deposited in the Western Historical Manuscript Collection at the University of Missouri, Columbia (see *NADS*, Jan. 1993: 6).

## DARE Looks to Readers for Kram, Leek-Hook, and Liar-Weed

A longer list than usual—but an interesting one. Mostly items for *DARE* Volume III where we have only one or two examples, not enough evidence to justify an entry. If you can furnish more evidence or explain the item, we would be grateful. Write directly to *Dictionary of American Regional English*, 6125 Helen C. White Hall, 600 North Park St., Madison, WI 53706.

**key**—used widely for the samara or winged seed of maple and other trees. What other names do you know? Where and when used?

**knitting pain**—"I had a knitting pain in my side this mornin' till I couldn't hardly stand up." We have only one quotation, 1949, Ozarks.

**keekling** or **kinkling**—a sort of small cake. Our evidence comes only from MD and OH, surprisingly. Is it known elsewhere? Please describe.

**kosha grass**—we have one quot only, 1985, WY. Ranch yards are said to be "infested" with it. Where else is it known? Whence the name?

**kram**—as a noun meaning trifles, junk; as a verb, to rummage about, search haphazardly. Does anyone know this as used in an English context? What is the vowel?

**ladle**—our evidence as meaning a spatula or egg turner comes from elderly people in the Southwest and lower Missip valley. Is this sense used elsewhere?

**lampshade**—a (wild?) flower with a bloom presumably shaped like a lampshade. Reported once from nePA. Does anyone know the name? Can you identify the plant?

**lath oak**—early reported from New England, specifically CT. Is the word still in use? Was or is the wood particularly used for laths? Can it be identified?

**leek-hook**—is this a real instrument or something folkloric? Our only evidence is from PA. We suspect a wider-spread use. Please describe.

**left**—A suffix, as in "I got bus-left." We have examples from nwSC and neGA. How much use does it have? Other phrases in which it's used?

**liar-weed**—the plantain, from a children's game in which the leaves are stripped and the player who has the longest thread is the biggest liar. Who knows it?

**linen-britches winter**—we have only one record: Louisville, KY, 1950. It was a late Spring phenomenon: a cold spell coming after "blackberry winter." Other details?

**little**—referring not to size but to age, as in "little John," in distinction from "big John" who would be older—as in the son, junior, and father, both "John."

**little captain**—Another name for a dandelion. Michigan correspondent: "I heard it when I was a child. " Where else is it known? Is it still in use?

**live**—as an adverb: "It's snowing pretty

*(Please turn to Page 14)*

## DARE Looks for Money, Too

*By Joan Hall, Associate Editor*

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, which has been our primary source of private funding for 17 years (contrary to their usual policy of not providing support for more than a decade), has had to switch their funds to other worthy projects. That means that if we are to obtain matching funds from NEH, we have to find other private sources. Gifts from interested individuals (payable to the University of Wisconsin Foundation, a nonprofit tax-exempt foundation, and earmarked for *DARE*) will be very welcome. In addition, if others have suggestions of foundations that might be willing to entertain a funding proposal from *DARE*, we would be delighted to hear about them also.

Loose-Boned *DARE* Looks for Median, Mud Quacker*(Continued from Page 13)*

live." We have one record only, from seKY, 1967.

**livere(le)**—A type of liver sausage not containing cornmeal. Reported from cnSC and swTN. Where else is it known? Is the spelling right?

**locks**—one of the many names of the American bittern, reported from Chincoteague Island, VA. Can anyone confirm this? Is the spelling right?

**log cart**—In marbles games, does anyone know "log cart" as a term for a shooting marble? Reported to *DARE* only once.

**long-faced**—or "long in the face," meaning going bald in front, making the forehead extra high. We have only one record: 1936, c,c,TE. Is it known elsewhere?

**loons**—a great deal, as in "He's got loons of money." We have only one report of this: 1969, KY. Is it known elsewhere? Any idea of the source?

**looping**—A method of catching fish, reported once, PA 1966. "Getting fish into a loop then pulling it tight." Can anyone explain this further?

**loose-boned**—impatient. From OR, 1967—our only example. "You never did see such a loose-boned person," one who loses patience easily. Does anyone know this?

**loose-meat sandwich**—reported once from WI without explanation. Is it known elsewhere? What exactly is it? Homemade or lunchroom concoction?

**lop**—a verb: to strike, NC, TN, "Lop him one on the jaw." Also, 1934, Stribling, the phrase "to lop onto," to take hold of. Any evidence of use elsewhere?

**lost John**—one record: 1986, seFL, said to be "another expression for corn bread." Where else is this known? Can anyone explain the name?

**low-bred corn**—the ordinary corn (maize) that came before hybrid was introduced. (In

the North, hybrid is popularly known as *high-bred*.) Where is this used?

**low bridge**—as a general expression of warning. Our earliest quote is 1898, David Harum; the latest we have is from *DN* 1916. Is it still current (apart from the song)?

**meat**—as attributive noun: What is a meat fisherman? What is a meat hound? These have been reported without defining detail. Are these, or others, current? Meaning?

**median (strip)**—down the middle of a large highway. Can we have written/printed examples of the variants? We also have *medial, medium, media, meridian, medrin*.

**Michigan basement**—reported once without detail. What exactly is it? Michiganders, here's your chance.

**milking stars**—"the constellation of Orion." One report from the Ozarks. What does the name mean? A folklore belief about milking—or not milking—one's cows?

**mincing**—a snack, a bite. Mesabi Range, neMI. Compare a *piecing, a picking*. Is this in use elsewhere?

**mongrel**—Another name (reported 1944 only) for the long-legged sandpiper, from the neAtlantic coast. Why the name? Is it still in use there or elsewhere?

**mouse's eyes**—Used in hoodoo practice, 1945. Could be literal: eyes of mice used in charms; could be the name of a plant used medicinally. Black; New Orleans.

**mouse root**—Said to be a name for the wood lily *Lilium philadelphicum*. Where is this name used? What connection has it with mice?

**mud quacker**—a tree frog. Reported 1966 from KY and OH river valley. Apparently in reference to the animal's cry (quacking), but why mud? Any details welcome!

**mulatto soil or land**—from the South and South Midland: "dark soil with a reddish clay foundation." Is this term still current? Where?

*(Continued on next page)*

## DARE Wants Ooeys

(Continued from preceding page)

**muleshoe biscuit**—from a woman in AR: her grandmother makes them—white flour, sugar, butter, apple cider vinegar. Can anyone explain the name? (No guessing!)

**mule star**—what or which is it? Why the name? We have a sole example, “the mule star would go to sleep at about four o’clock.”

**mull**—a verb with the sense ‘to move sluggishly’—Rhode Island example from 1892. This is not the common phrase “to mull something over.”

**mundiner**—with second-syllable stress: a type of woodpecker. Reported from seSC by Raven McDavid. Does anyone know the word? Where from?

**mush pop**—an ice cream concoction served in a cone. Distinct from *ice pop*, we are told, which is on a stick. Does anyone know this?

**mussel duck**—said to be an old name for the scaup. In 1888 said to be “now seldom heard.” Is the name still known? Where? Duck hunters’ alert!

**need-more**—a person who is greedy in money matters; also an *ought-to-have*. Reported from MD, 1968, by an old farmer, white, with 7th grade schooling.

**ooey**—a small cut or bruise that makes a child say [‘u’i]. The mother says “It’s only a little ooey; I’ll put on a bandaid for you.” Where said?

**ouch**—not the exclamation: a noun, ‘a small pain, hurt, or injury’. Reported from the NW and SE. Evidently hypocoristic. How widely used?

**order house**—A mail-order company (such as Montgomery Ward). Where is this term used? *DARE* has a single quote from NJ, 1970, “order-house teeth.”

**pack, packingham**—Does anyone know *pack* for liquor made from molasses? Or (probably related?) *packingham* for ‘cheap or illegal liquor’?

## Call for DSNA, Cleveland in July

ADS members are encouraged to submit abstracts for what we have designated (see p. 7) as our summer meeting: the tenth biennial meeting of the Dictionary Society of North America in Cleveland, July 20–22.

*March 1* is the deadline for abstracts to the meeting chair, Professor P.K. Saha, 19901 Van Aken Blvd. A202, Shaker Heights OH 44122; phone (216) 368-2342.

The program will include two special sessions, one on the centennial of the *Century Dictionary*, organized by **Richard W. Bailey** (Univ. of Michigan), and one on Amerindian languages, organized by William J. Frawley (Univ. of Delaware).

The next ADS newsletter will give full information on the meeting. But to learn about it from the inside, you are welcome to join DSNA for \$20 annually (\$25 outside of North America). Membership includes a newsletter and the annual journal *Dictionaries*. Write Secretary-Treasurer Louis T. Milic, DSNA, RT 936/937, Cleveland State Univ., 1983 East 24 St., Cleveland OH 44115-2403; phone (216) 687-4830; fax (216) 687-9366; e-mail R0097@vmcms.csuohio.edu.

## NWAV '95: Philadelphia

Contrary to declarations in previous issues of this newsletter, we have learned that the venue for the fall 1995 conference on New Ways of Analyzing Variation will be the University of Pennsylvania. According to a reliable source, the dates have not been set yet, but the coordinator will be **William Labov**.

## Methods IX: Wales, 1996

As previously announced, the ninth triennial conference on Methods in Dialectology will return to University College of North Wales, Bangor, in late July-early August 1996. The next issue of this newsletter will have the call for papers, with a fall deadline. Conference organizer is **Alan Thomas** of the Department of Linguistics there; telephone (0248) 351-151, ext. 2269.

# REGIONAL MEETINGS

## Rocky Mountain

In association with RMMLA, Oct. 19–21; Spokane, Eastern Washington Univ.

**March 15** is the deadline for abstracts (maximum 300 words) to the meeting chair, **Mary Morzinski**, English Dept., Berry College, Mt. Berry GA 30149; phone (706) 236-2279; e-mail mmorzinski@berry.edu.

ADS Regional Secretary 1995–96: **Grant W. Smith**, English Dept., Eastern Washington Univ., Cheney WA 99004; e-mail gsmith@ewu.edu.

**Membership** in RMMLA is \$20 regular, \$10 student. Write RMMLA Executive Director Charles G. Davis, Dept. of English, Boise State Univ., Boise ID 83725; phone (208) 385-1199.

**Future meeting:** 1996 Oct. 24–26 Albuquerque, New Mexico.

## South Central

In association with SCMLA, Oct. 26–28; Houston, Wyndham-Warwick Hotel.

**March 15** is the deadline for abstracts to the meeting chair, **Nicole Pepinsper Greene**, English Department, Univ. of Southwest Louisiana, Lafayette LA 70504-4469; phone (318) 482-6915.

ADS Regional Secretary 1994–95: **Charles B. Martin**, Dept. of English, Univ. of North Texas, P.O. Box 13827, Denton TX 76203-3827; phone (817) 565-2149.

**Membership** in SCMLA is \$20 full professors, \$15 associate and assistant professors, \$10 instructors and students. Write SCMLA, Katherine E. Kelly, Executive Director, Dept. of English, Texas A&M Univ., College Station TX 77843-4227; phone (409) 845-7041; e-mail scmla@venus.tamu.edu.

**Future meetings:** 1996 Oct. 31–Nov. 2 San Antonio, St. Anthony Hotel; 1997 Dallas-Fort Worth.

Calls for other meetings on pages 2, 3, 15

## Midwest

In association with MMLA, Nov. 2–4; St. Louis, Marriott Pavilion Hotel.

**March 27** is the deadline for 1- to 2-page proposals or complete papers to the meeting chair, **Beth Lee Simon**, CM 109, Dept. of English and Linguistics, IPFW, Fort Wayne, IN 46805; phone (219) 424-8834; e-mail simon@cvax.ipfw.indiana.edu.

ADS Regional Secretary 1995–96: **Beth Lee Simon**.

**Membership** in MMLA is \$25 full and associate professors, \$20 other faculty, \$15 students. Write MMLA, 302 English/Philosophy Bldg., Univ. of Iowa, Iowa City IA 52242-1408; phone (319) 335-0331.

**Future meetings:** 1996 Nov. 7–9 Minneapolis, Marriott City Center; 1997 Nov. 6–8 Chicago, Ramada Congress Hotel.

## South Atlantic

In association with SAMLA, Nov. 3–5; Atlanta, Marriott Marquis.

**May 1** is the deadline for abstracts to the meeting chair, **Connie Eble**, English Dept., CB#3520 Greenlaw Hall, Univ. of North Carolina, Chapel Hill NC 27599-3520. Presenters must be members of both SAMLA and ADS. Presenters are limited to one paper at the SAMLA meeting.

ADS Regional Secretary 1995–96: **Natalie Maynor**, English Dept., Mississippi State Univ., Drawer E, Mississippi State MS 39762; e-mail maynor@ra.msstate.edu.

**Nominating Committee:** **Crawford Feagin**, Arlington, Virginia; **Walt Wolfram**, North Carolina State Univ.; **Ellen Johnson**, Piedmont College, chair.

**Future meetings:** 1996 Nov. 8–10 Savannah, Marriott Hotel; 1997 Atlanta.

**Membership** in SAMLA is \$15 for individuals, \$8 for students. Write SAMLA, Georgia State Univ., University Plaza, Atlanta GA 30303-3083; phone (404) 651-2693.