

from other pens...

A national language easy idea to pass

The people in Washington who legislate the very air we breathe saw a need to put in writing that English is our national language. We've got news for them: to make something like that stick, they are going to have to persuade corporate America to change its ways.

And that's not likely to happen.

Why?

Call any large company, and the first thing you hear when the recorded voice comes on the line is this: press 1 for English, 2 para Español.

Can you imagine corporate America eliminating a part of our population that pours big bucks in their coffers?

It all sounds good. English will be the national language of the United States of America. For some odd reason, we have been under the impression that has been the case all along.

Bets are good that those legislators who don't buy into this, as well as the general population, will be tagged as unpatriotic.

We thought it was interesting how our two senators voted on this latest controversial effort. Take note:

English as the national language — Amendment to the Comprehensive Immigration Reform bill (S. 2611) designating English as the national language and requiring those applying for citizenship to demonstrate an understanding of U.S. history and culture: both Senators Pat Roberts and Sam Brownback voted **yes**.

English as the unifying language — Amendment to the Comprehensive Immigration Reform bill (S. 2611) that says English is the common and unifying language of the United States: Sen. Roberts voted **no** and Sen. Brownback **yes**.

Citizenship for illegal aliens — Amendment to the Comprehensive Immigration Reform bill (S. 2611) that would have eliminated provisions of the bill that allows illegal immigrants who have worked in the United States for five years or more to apply for legal status after paying a fine and back taxes and learning English: Sen. Roberts voted **yes** and Sen. Brownback **no**.

So, even our two Senate gents are split on two of the three amendments.

President Bush said in his nationally televised talk to the nation last week he expects a bill dealing with the immigration problem on his desk in two weeks. That may not happen.

This issue has divided the country to a degree not anticipated by even the smartest brains in the tank. And it's not a party-line issue. It has Democrats and Republicans sharing the same bed.

Whether the presence of the National Guard at the border will affect the situation is yet to be assessed. I wish there had been an amendment stuffing that issue in the mix to see how the two senators would have voted.

What to do, what to do.

What say you?

—Tom Dreiling, *The Norton Telegram*

They shall not grow old,
as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them,
nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun
and in the morning
We will remember them.



Ottawa Citizen
Caglecartoons.com

Better to respond to those calls for help

It all began innocently enough.

We had just settled into a new hotel room. We needed to get up in the morning — a rare thing on vacation — because it was Felicia's birthday and we'd promised to buy her breakfast.

I was in the living room.

"Honey," came the call. "Have you seen the instructions for this alarm clock?"

"No," I said. "Can't say that I have."

"Well, I can't figure out how to set it."

"Oh," I advised, and wisely, I thought, "why don't you just leave a call at the desk. That'd be easier."

"Sure," she replied.

I thought she'd given in a little too easily.

"Hey, the phone in the bedroom doesn't work. Someone cut the line."

That conjured up visions of all those old movies where the murderer cuts the phone lines before terrorizing the victim in a dark, creepy house — or hotel room.

I was about to get ready for heroic action, but the phone in the living room worked just fine. And besides, statistically, you are much more likely to be murdered by your spouse than a stranger. I know I am.

And just then, she appeared at the doorway,



steve
haynes

• along the sappa

holding a bundle of bare wires at the end of a phone cable.

"Call from the living room," I advised. "Tell them to let it ring."

With that I went back to watching container ships and tankers glide up and down the Savannah River. We went to dinner. The alarm was forgotten.

Until about 4 a.m., when something started buzzing softly in my ear.

Cynthia struggled to get up. She responds slowly at 4 a.m., but a lot faster than I do. She did something to the alarm and it went quiet.

I glared at her, best I could in the dark.

"This is your fault," I said.

"No, it's partly you're fault, too. I asked for help."

"No, you did not. You asked for the instructions. You didn't tell me you'd pushed all the buttons."

Any man knows you don't look at the instructions if you want to set an electronic device. You either push some buttons and set it, or call a 12-year-old.

"It's a good thing we don't keep nuclear weapons around. I can just see it now:

"Honey, have you seen the book for the nuclear weapon?"

"No. Why?"

"Well, I pushed some buttons and it's ticking."

"That's nice, dear. Whatever."

I pulled a pillow over my head and tried to get back to sleep.

The nuclear weapon went off again at 6. I whapped it, but I think I only got the snooze button, because it went off again at 6:10.

I was beginning to understand why someone had ripped the phone cord out of the wall. I was ready to look for the power cord for the clock.

We made it to breakfast, though. Later, I went back to disable the alarm. It was one of those new multi-time models. You can set it to go off up to three times in one day.

"These babies are tricky," I muttered, holding it up to the light. "The wires seem simple enough, but if you cut the green one first..."

If you like Mexico better, go home

To the Editor:

I saw the pictures in California where on March 27, 2006 Montebello High students raised the Mexican flag with the American flag flying upside down below it. If America is that bad of place and they are so loyal to Mexico, then please go home and live in the country you so love!

I wonder will we still be the country of choice if we continue to make changes forced on us by the people from other countries that come here to live because it is the country of choice? I am tired of this nation worrying about whether we are offending some individual or their culture. I feel like this country has bent so far over backwards so as not to offend anyone that now I feel offended.

This is the land of the free! Our First Amendment gives every citizen the right to express his opinion! Well I guess I am doing so now!

We have Season's Greetings now instead of Merry Christmas. Some schools no longer say the Pledge of Allegiance because it says "One nation under God." Well guess what: "In God We Trust" is our national motto. This is not some Christian, right wing, political slogan; we adopted this motto because Christian men and women founded this nation on Christian principles!

As Americans, we have our own culture, own society and our own language. This culture has been developed over centuries of struggles, trials and victories by millions of men and women who have sought freedom.

We speak English, not Spanish, Chinese, Japanese or any other language. Those that wish to have rights, be heard, change things need to learn our language, honor our flag, become an American, or as our guest, please feel free to complain, whine, gripe about our flag,



from our
readers

• to the editor

pledge, national motto or way of life and then exercise one of your other American freedoms, the right to leave!

If I invite a stranger who is in need into my home and he immediately wants keys to my car, an allowance, tells me how to decorate my house and what to cook, I will consider him rude and ask him to leave. As Americans this is our home and enough is enough. If immigrants want rights, then they should become American citizens!

I think Theodore Roosevelt said it best in 1907 when he said, "In the first place, we should insist that if the immigrant who comes here in good faith becomes an American and

assimilates himself to us, he should be treated as an exact equality with everyone else, for it is an outrage to discriminate against any such man because of creed or birthplace or origin. But this is predicated upon the person's becoming in every facet an American, and nothing but an American.... There can be no divided allegiance here. Any man who says he is an American, but something else also, isn't an American at all. We have room for but one flag, the American flag... We have room for but one language here, and that is the English language.... and we have room for but one sole loyalty and that is loyalty to the American people".

If you agree with this please contact your legislator by phone or by letter. One person may not make a difference, however if Americans make their voices heard, change will take place.

This is still our home and our country; let's keep it that way.

Larry Enfield
Goodland

where to write

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