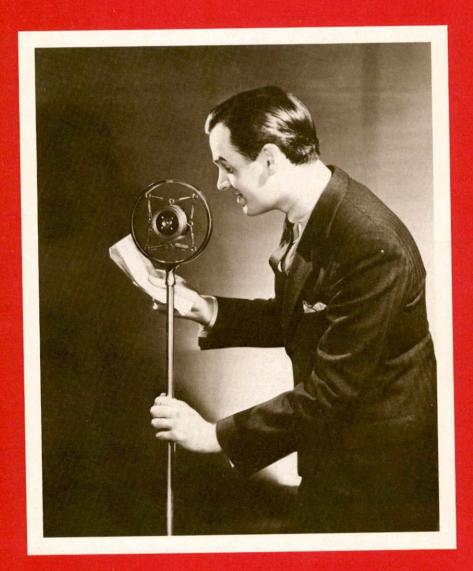
## ECONOMIC February 1976 February 1976 February 1976 February 1976 February 1976



An Expert Looks at VOICE CONTROL

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



#### **How About It?**

How about starting a monthly feature that deals with language, grammar, and word usage—something under a new and challenging title?

This effort would surely help make our communication truly beautiful.

Everett J. Deubner West Milton, Ohio

Any grammarians out there? If you would like to write a feature on words and language for THE TOASTMASTER, send us some samples.—Ed.

#### **Bulletin Board**

In reading the last issue (December, 1975) I was most pleased to see your newest innovation: excerpts from various club and district bulletins. That's a great idea!

For years, I have been receiving many club and district bulletins and have, from time to time, noticed items that were of general interest to the membership. In my opinion, sharing these ideas through THE TOASTMASTER promotes fellowship and unity while, at the same time, affording recognition to some of our most dedicated members who take the time to write

an article for their club or district bulletin.

In addition, I am pleased to say that I am still receiving unsolicited compliments on behalf of your staff for the overall quality of the magazine. Keep up the good work.

Chuck Allen, DTM International Director Huntsville, Alabama

#### Who Is the Fairest?

The article by David Schmidt that appeared in the December, 1975, issue of THE TOASTMASTER (Who's the Fairest of All?) was great. It made me stop to think how often we become preoccupied with ourselves.

At the end of the article, you mentioned three other articles written by Mr. Schmidt: "Read to Remember," "Managing Management Time," and "A Guide to Better Writing." Where can I obtain reprints of these articles?

Herbert Kramer Lyndhurst, Ohio

Reprints of the articles you mentioned can be obtained by writing directly to Dave Schmidt, Schmidt, Pryor, and Company, 5909 Martway, Shawnee Mission, Kansas 66202.—Ed.

#### It's Alive!

Your publication has really come alive with excellent "how to" articles, educational theme publications, and recognition.

My special thanks to you and the Wor Headquarters staff for going back to a expanded format for ATM/DTM Hall of Fame recognition. It's much better.

Club news, individual Toastmaste news, and special happenings could us a bit more space, but overall, an A plot for a good magazine that gets distribute here in Oklahoma City.

Keep up the good work.

Dick Schneider, DT Oklahoma City, Oklahom

#### The Magic of Speechcraft

May I suggest an interesting object for Toastmasters for 1976? Each d sponsor one Speechcraft program.

For revival of interest and increase membership, I believe no single effican compare with the magic of Speed craft. I have witnessed the revival three clubs with this excellent communications which we have to offer.

Just try Speechcraft once. There little to lose . . . and so much to gain!

R. J. Kenworthy, D' Queensland, Austra

"Letters to the Editor" are printed on basis of their general reader interest constructive suggestions. If you have so thing to say that may be of interest to o Toastmasters, send it to us. All letters subject to editing for reasons of space clarity and must include the writer's mand address.

TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL is a non-profit, educational organization of Toastmasters clubs throughout the world.

First Toastmasters club established October 22, 1924. Toastmasters International was organized October 4, 1930 and incorporate December 19, 1932.

A Toastmasters club is an organized group, meeting regularly, which provides its members a professionally-designed progra improve their abilities in communication and to develop their leadership and executive potential. The club meetings are conducted the members themselves, in an atmosphere of friendliness and self-improvement. Members have the opportunity to deliver preparable and imprompt talks, learn parliamentary procedure, conference and committee leadership and participation techniques, then to be evaluated in detail by fellow Toastmasters.

Each club is a member of Toastmasters International. The club and its members receive services, supplies, and continuing guida from World Headquarters, 2200 N. Grand Ave., Santa Ana, California, U.S.A. 92711.

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Dr. Ralph C. Smedley Founder, 1878-1965

No. 2

February 1976

#### OFFICERS

-George C. Scott, DTM, 1600 Standard ldg., Portland, OR 97204 ce-President-Robert W. Blakeley, DTM, lay Blvd., Alexandria, VA 22310 ice-President-Durwood E. English, DTM, tt. Alifan Drive, San Diego, CA 9211

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#### ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVE

and McZine, 2625 Polk Street, San Francisco, A 94109 (415) 788-3738. ert Day, 2089 Balmer Drive, Los Angeles, CA 0039 (213) 665-7271.

blished monthly by Toastmasters International. pyright 9 1976 by Toastmasters International, Inc. Rights Reserved. Second class postage paid at nta Ana, California, and additional mailing offices. astmasters International, 2200 North Grand Avenue anta Ana, California 92711. All material submitted eongs to Toastmasters International unless otherse stated. Author's opinions are not necessarily ose of the organization. The names "Toastmaster "Toastmasters International" are registered tradearks of Toastmasters International, Inc. Marca egistrada en Mexico. RINTED IN U.S.A.

m-member subscription \$3.60 per year; single copy Cents. Address all communications to THE TOAST MSTER, 2200 N. Grand Ave., P.O. Box 10400, Santa na, California 92711

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- 6 A Professional Look at Voice Control by Al Bernsohn



You've learned to choose a topic you care about and one that will interest and benefit your audience. You've developed research techniques, found how to organize and structure what you have to say, even chosen the words, the key thoughts precisely phrased. But there is something else you should be concerned with . . . how you sound when you say all of this!

- 10 The Spouse in the Toastmasters House by June McMahan Roy
- Speak Up . . . Your Audience is Waiting!
- That's Sharing '76!
- Speaking Off the Cuff? by Dr. William S. Tacey
- Can You Sell That Brainchild? by Mike LeFan
- How to Communicate What You Really Mean by Dr. David H. Smith

Editor: Bruce L. Anderson

Managing Editor: Michael J. Snapp

Illustrations: Phil Interlandi

# Get Rid of Those Chains

by
George C. Scott, DTM
International President



I remember a warm summer evening not long ago when my three-year-old grandson and I squatted down and peered under the flap of the large tent that housed the animals of the Ringling Brothers, Barnum and Bailey Circus. As our eyes gradually became accustomed to the semidarkness, the outlines of the various animals soon emerged. Horses, lions, camels, and tigers all came into focus. "Grampa," he shouted. "Look at all the elephants!"

There they were, the behemoths of the jungle, perhaps some of the strongest beasts in the world, being held in place by a short chain fastened around one leg. The other end of the chain was attached to a peg in the ground. Why didn't they just wrap their trunks around the pegs and pull them out? They were certainly strong enough. The reason was that they just didn't think they could do it.

At a very early age, these same elephants had been chained to a stake they found impossible to pull out. As they grew older, they just accepted the condition as something the couldn't change. Their whole attitude about the chain and stake was one of futility because they thought they couldn't do anything about it. They had been mentally programmed to believe just that.

As the two of us walked away from the animal tent, couldn't help but think how similar our lives are to that of the elephant's. If I were to start "programming" my grand son into thinking he could never be a good reader or speaker in all probability that's how he would be. He would find chain tied around him which would seem impossible to break.

Most of us put similar chains on ourselves. We tell our selves we can't stand in front of people and give a talk, an sure enough, the chain is there. We think of reasons why we can't do it. But these reasons, like the chains, are no more than handicaps we place on ourselves. We call them excuse when other people use them. It's really self-defeating behavior. Like the chains, they are self-imposed hand caps that defeat our real desires to find pleasure and satisfaction in our own talents.

Toastmasters can help break the chains that bind you. Self-confidence. The ability to communicate more effectively. A better understanding of leadership principle. These are but a few of the benefits of the Toastmasters programs which you can develop as your shackles fall.

But to do this, you have to become involved to get a there is out of the Toastmasters program. Involveme means following the established programs, using the maruals, spending time on preparation, and thinking about what you're supposed to be doing. It means regular attered ance at all your Toastmasters club meetings and a will ingness to help your fellow members, either as an office or as a member. Every time you fail to do any of the about and shrug it off with an excuse of some kind, you are plaing another chain on yourself. That is self-defeating behavior

You can gain the power you need over your own behavin a positive way through the great resources available toy through Toastmasters. Every one of your club member wants to help you overcome your weaknesses and capitalism your strengths. But the greatest resource lies within your really is up to you to make your membership meanings.

Or would you rather be like a chained up elephant?

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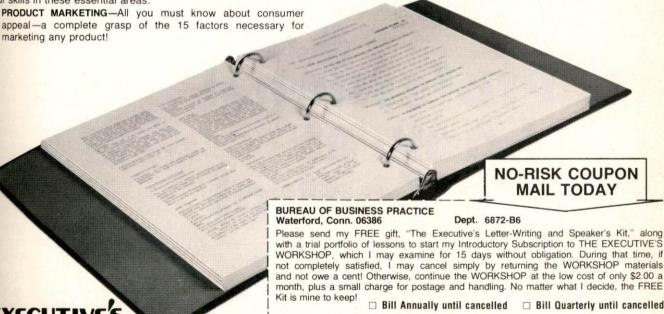
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## A Professional Look at Voice Control

by Al Bernsohn

You've learned to choose a topic yo care about and one that will interest an benefit your audience. You've devel oped research techniques, found how torganize and structure what you have to say, even chosen the words, the ke thoughts precisely phrased. In othe words, you've created the music.

Now what instrument will you use play it?

A favorite old college professor on told of Lytton Strachey lecturing befor a group of students on the meaning life. He had a scraggly red beard, lor bony fingers, and a high-pitched voice

"Professor Strachey," an earne sophomore asked after the lecture, "wh is the most important thing in life?"

The professor's fingers combe through his beard as he thought for a moment, then his voice squeake "Passion."

That vocal pitch that brought laught wasn't an inescapable handicap. Zin Provendie, former head drama coat of MGM, regards finding an attractive lower-register vocal range attainable for virtually every speaker.

"A high-pitched voice," Ms. Provendie says, "is rarely as effective a deeper one." How to lower your relister? "Practice speaking with you throat relaxed, using the lowest voice you can reach comfortably.

#### Say "Ah"

"That word 'comfortably' is impletent," she stresses. "Your throat pasage is under your muscular control. I doctor gets you to stretch your throat passage when he asks you to say 'Al You can practice the same thing in whisper or even silently or aloud privacy while driving.

"Tense your throat and your we becomes strident. Relax it and your ject more authority, ease tension, to only in your throat, but also in your me and shoulders, and appeal more to ears of your audience.

"But don't force it lower than is of fortable for you. It could make you'ce less audible and could give you'dence the impression you're do a Ted Baxter imitation."

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more difficult speech problem gional accent. Those of the South dwest are generally pleasant and eceptable both in those regions most of the United States. But not poklynese or Bronxian tone.

movie star, strikingly handsome own to motion picture fans every, had to undergo extensive correcoaching ever since his audition, supposedly playing the handsome prince, he came onto the set and zed, "Yondah lies da castle of da my fahda."

w do you check your own voice scover whether you have a major nal accent problem? Ms. Provendie ests that you make tape recordings ome of the better-voiced radio perlities like Walter Cronkite, Edwin man, or any of the anchor men of top network newscasts on radio or vision. Then transcribe a few parabhs, no more than five minutes, of ir material. Tape your own reading tand note where your pronunciation certain words differs from theirs, here there is a variation of inflection d syllablic emphasis.

#### **Projecting Your Image**

"To have a natural voice that still pjects an image of cultivation and thority is an effective success tool," s. Provendie counsels. "It helps in ining promotions, making sales, wining staff respect, and improving your cial opportunities, not just in making accessful talks."

One of the most common speech perrations, this speech expert feels, the making of a dipthong or a triplion of what should be a clear, crispowel sound. She suggests noting the nunciation marks on the various vowels a most dictionaries and practicing each of these until you have them made instinctive. Then, whenever you're uncertain a word you've heard pronounced differently from your customary way, theck it in the dictionary.

"The 'a' of 'father' and the 'oo' of pool' are joined by some who mispronunce 'town' as 'taoon,' "Ms. Proendie says.

"The secret of correct speech is the position of lips, tongue, and teeth. Dropping your jaw can have a tremendous influence on the sounds that emerge. Take the 'a' sound in 'cat' or 'can.' If the tongue is not dropped low in the mouth when you say these words, it comes out an offensive-sounding 'cayun.'

According to Ms. Provendie, barter had much to do with the origins of speech. At first, man communicated with grunts and signs. As he developed aptitudes—where one could carve, another make wheels, a third catch fish—a carved wooden bowl might have been worth five fish, a value denoted by five grunts. "But man had tongue, teeth, lips, and a jaw and discovered that by positioning them differently he could make a variety of sounds. Language evolved."

Whatever your assets-charisma, charm, poise, an eagerness to impart what you know, a genuine liking for your audience and real interest in it, the knowledge that what you have to say is worthwhile-all are enhanced by proper speech. "Not artificial speech mannerisms or verbal posturing," she stresses. "Those could be disastrous. Rather, clear, accurate, involved, interrelating communication. Your interest is in the subject and the audience. You want better speech in order to bring those two interests together. You don't want a high register, inaudible projection, or speech that reveals educational limitations to be a barrier between yourself and your listeners."

As with every other instrument, practice is essential. While driving alone in the car, speak aloud, and listen to the sound of your voice. What is the register? Is it pleasant? Try smiling when you speak and listen to the difference. Can you sustain voice without obvious interruption for the intake of breath? Do you find yourself tending toward a flat, monotonous vocal quality, or is there variation, enthusiasm, real interest, and the ability to attract and hold attention as much by how you say it as by what you say?

Even without outside professional counsel, you can make highly recognizable improvement in your speech quality through consistent effort to add dimension, strength, vitality, and authority to your voice.

Ms. Provendie recommends reading quality writing aloud, both to acquire the phrasing skills of the writer and to strengthen and gain control of your voice.

She advocates your gaining some knowledge of the mechanism that creates speech sounds in the human being. "Your lungs are cone-shaped pumps for the air you use in breathing and speaking. At the base, sheltered by the ribs, the cone is widest. Yet, shallow breathing causes you to use only the shallow, narrow, upper part of the lung, while deep breathing gives you use of much more of the lung, adding strength to your voice and helping you sustain prolonged speech."

She also recommends that you become familiar with the function of the vocal cords and the diaphragm, which "stretches sheet-like across the floor of the rib cage. It partitions the lungs from the abdomen. Inhaling fills the lungs with air, causing the rib cage to expand to the front, sides, and back. Pressure from the diaphragm forces the lungs to release air back up through the windpipe and through the vocal cords. These are just above the Adam's apple. The air pressure causes the vocal cords to vibrate, creating the sound which, aided by tongue, teeth, lips, and the throat, can emerge as speech."

#### Think Them Open

The relaxed and open throat, in contrast to the tense, tight one, is of primary consideration in making a voice pleasant to hear. Says Ms. Provendie: "You can stretch your throat at will or relax it without making a sound. You can control the muscles in your throat passage by 'thinking' them open; imagine that you are taking a drink of cool liquid to free your throat of tension. Practice this. It works. Listen to your voice that way. Then, deliberately tense your throat

### **CONVENTION TAPES**

The 1975 convention is history. But you can hear some of the highlights on the official cassette tape available through Toastmasters International. Included are the top three speeches from the International Speech Contest, and the educational session speakers Dr. Raymond Taylor and Lew H. Byrd. Available on one 90-minute cassette for only \$3.50, including shipping and handling (Code 2021). Quantities are limited, so order yours early!

muscles and compare the resultant sound. That high, squeaky quality you can attain this way is what you're trying to avoid. Listen for it. When fear, pressure, or anger take control and you lose your sound of authority, stop and deliberately think of that cool, relaxing drink. Get your throat back under your own command, and the sound will be that of the 'you' that you had in mind when you first envisioned yourself speaking to an audience.''

A few exercises may prove helpful in mastering your breathing apparatus. Try standing with your hands on your hips, inhaling slowly and deeply. Note how your abdomen and ribs expand. Lift your chest and forcefully push out your abdomen and lower ribs. Then exhale slowly, easily, a steady stream of air. Let your diaphragm do the work. Keep exhaling until your abdomen is as close to your spine as it can get. Repeat this until you have a sense of real familiarity with how this muscle works.

Let your tongue come forward, relaxed, while you pant the way your dog does after chasing a rabbit. Pant increasingly fast until you have a sure feeling of how the diaphragm affects the way you inhale and exhale with almost complete control.

Stand tall. Stretch as tall as you can. Now, put the heels of your hands along your lower ribs, with your fingers on your diaphragm, just at the base of your rib cage. Take a full, deep breath to inhale a column of air to support a full

tone. Slowly, evenly, recite the alphabet on that one stream of air, giving each letter equal volume and tonal value. Maybe you'll not make it all the way through the 26 letters on your first effort, but you can go the route in a short time with a little practice. Keep the movement in the diaphragm area only. This exercise counteracts "breathiness," or audible inhaling, after the airborne voice gives out.

Now, try it with a series of progressively-longer sentences of your own devising. Start with a three-word or four-word sentence. They try one with seven or eight words, then one of 12 to 14. Now, try an even longer sentence. Ms. Provendie calls this a vocal "breath stretch," and says to "deliver the sentences in full, rich tones. Breathe through your mouth to speak, taking in a breath on a vowel sound, even if it's in the middle of a sentence."

#### Concentrate on Tone

She notes that a bell has a single amplifying cavity, while your head has two: the nasal chambers and the mouth. These add resonance and richness to the voice, if the vocal passage is relaxed and it and the nasal passage are kept open and clear. Read aloud a favorite portion from literature or a poem, concentrating on the tones in your mouth and nasal area, she suggests, to gain firmer control over your voice and give it the impressive, authoritative qualities that help distinguish a strong, masculine speaker.

An executive who knew every asp of his business was having difficu getting his own staff and associates carry out his instructions. In execut staff meetings, he frequently present opposing views to those of the major and, despite the fact that he was of right, he rarely succeeded in getting group decision he sought.

The president took him aside and thim, "Look, Hank, here are two men randa I got this week." One was cle legible handwriting, the other a difficult scrawl. It even had eccentricition the "t"s were crossed at an extreslant, "i"s dotted with circles, "g at the ends of words with their tails a curling spiral. "Given my choiceven though I respect the man words with their tails to favor the other one. That's simple because I know what he's trying to me."

"And my speech is as hard to und stand as this man's handwriting," a executive responded. "Probably we some distracting eccentricities, to Thanks. I appreciate that tip."

He took some private lessons fr Ms. Provendie and later confided, "been so involved with the thought-str ture, I neglected the equally-import communication one. So, I had to let to make my voice pleasant enough the others to 'buy' it, strong enough be heard, deep enough to comma respect, and free enough of odd pronticiations and dictions and of technijargon so the audience wasn't distrator lost.

"My people understand better w I want them to do," he added, "and stopped losing so many policy bat now that I've learned to avoid all the speech traps I used to fall into."

Al Bernsohn is the executive edite Dealerscope magazine, an appliance consumer electronics business per ical. A former executive vice-presider the National Appliance and Radio Dealers Association, he has written TV Guide, True, Mechanix Illustrated, The New York Times.

## Seeking Speakers for Meetings and Conventions?

The Best in the Business Will Be in Atlanta in 1976, May 3 - 7

almost a hundred top platform personalities in rapid succession that week

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you should pay \$300 a day to hear these exciting speakers but registration fees are as low as \$160 for the entire week.

space is limited and registrations probably will be closed out in March. Don't miss this unusual opportunity \*\*\* send in your registration today!

#### This is the kind of leadership you will find in Atlanta, May 3 - 7:

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#### These comments are typical of the enthusiastic interest in this great week of speakers:

Dr. Carl Winters, president of the National Speakers Association, is one of those who plans to spend that entire week in Atlanta. He says: "This is really great! I'll gladly take part on your program, and will personally do everything I can to help you. I'm sure NSA will support it, and help you publicize it."

Cavett Robert, one of the most active and popular speakers on the professional circuit, says: "We've been needing just this sort of thing. Others have talked about it, but you're the first to do it, and I think it's tremendous. Atlanta is an ideal place for it, and I know the week will be a great success. Count me in. I'll help you every way I possibly can!"

Dr. Charles Jarvis, considered by many to be the best humorist on the platform today, was just as enthusiastic. He said: You've got a terrific idea. Of course, I'll be glad to speak for you — and do everything I can to help make that week the great success I know it will be."

The only way you can make certain you get in on these great sessions is to send in your registration TODAY. Reservations can be guaranteed only to those whose checks are received before March 1st. Low, Low registration fees \*\*\* special low hotel rates.

> DON'T DELAY. . . NOT EVEN ONE DAY. . . MAIL YOUR REGISTRATION TODAY SO YOU CAN BE PART OF THIS EXCITING WEEK!!

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We are particularly interested in speakers of this kind.

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☐ Monday, May 3 ☐ Thursday, May 6 ☐ We would like more details on that entire week

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one day, only \$80 two days, only \$110 three days, only \$130 four days, only \$145 all 5 days, only \$160

#### by June McMahan Rov

When a man joins Toastmasters International, he receives all kinds of material to sustain and guide him in his new life. from the Communication and Leadership manual and other World Headquarters guides, to every book on speechmaking the public librarian will let him cart away. In addition, he receives the experienced counsel of two dozen or so other Toastmasters, all very liberal with their exhortations.

The Toastmaster's wife, however, has no manual, no equivalent of Dr. Spock to instruct her on the care and feeding of a Toastmaster in the home, nor, until her husband's club has a Ladies Night, or she becomes a member herself, does she have the shoulders of other Toastmasters wives to cry on.

What the perplexed Toastmaster's wife needs, therefore, as she follows her own personal Toastmaster through

his early days of training, is advice. What she needs is reassurance that her Toastmaster is developing normally and that there are thousands of other women who share her problems. What she needs, quite frankly, is a bucketful of tranquilizers to get her through the rehearsal of her Toastmaster's 15 basic speeches.

With the help of the following rules, however, I believe that the wife of a promissory Toastmaster can survive the C & L Program without resorting to dope, drink or divorce. I may say at the outset that I have never known a Toastmasters couple to wind up as dope fiends, drunks, divorced, or even in the domestic relations court. Domestic relations may be strained at times, true; but about the worst that can happen is that the Toastmaster and his wife will wind up in separate bedrooms during the preparation and evaluation of a crucial speech. But, since neither of them is going to sleep much during this trying time anyway, they are probably better off thrashing around in separate beds.

My rules for the "Beginning Wife lot o are based not only on my own six year But : of seasoning as a Toastmaster's wife She but also upon research among a vas she number of other veteran Toastmaster asked wives, all of whom agree with my majo ing, premises and endorse my rules. tion.

#### The Hearty Assertion

the o The fundamental problem faced by the is in Beginning Wife is her Toastmaster's insistence that she evaluate his speeches tion beginning with his Ice Breaker. Even the take dullest-witted, most dewy-eyed bride to in realizes, however, that her Toastmaster tions does not want candid evaluation, bu in al rather the hearty assertion that he pos Toas sesses the eloquence of Sir Winston deal Churchill, the stage presence of Sir Laur able ence Olivier, and the sparkling wit of supe Bob Hope; and furthermore, that he had deno absolutely no need for Toastmaster obje training and the horrors attendant upor standing up in front of 20 or 30 people Wiff and making his Ice Breaker. rary

Why the Beginning Wife never eval responds to this unspoken plea is minor mystery, since it would save

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The Spouse in the Toastmasters House

and tear on her if she did. sn't. Instead, she evaluates. es and within 11 minutes oing and saying, "But you and he is snarling and sayted for *constructive* evaluat-picking!" and pretty soon nowling and the whole house hoil.

the Beginning Wife undermpossibly heroic task of trying her Toastmaster in all direcnce. True, he *needs* improving etions, but that's why he joined ters. Let Toastmasters, then, his obvious but definitely curking faults, such as glassy eyes, ous hands, and a regrettable tenblean on the nearest upright

ult as it may be, the Beginning ust utterly ignore these tempoperfections and not use blanket ion, which covers absolutely ing, but spot or band-aid evaluwhich covers only her Toastmaster's outstanding speaking vice. This can be accomplished by following my Basic Rule No. One: *The Vice-Breaker*.

With the Vice-Breaker, the Beginning Wife concentrates on any personal eccentricity, whether it be random scratching, hair patting, or nose twitching, which badly flaws her Toastmaster's public image. Take the nose twitching, for example. Perhaps the Beginning Wife has observed over the years that whenever her Toastmaster thinks deeply, his nose twitches. As a concomitant of thought, nose twitching is barely endurable in the privacy of the home, but is absolutely intolerable on the public speaker's platform. And so, the Beginning Wife applies band-aid evaluation to the nose twitch, until, in time, she breaks him of this vice.

#### The Hidden Vices

The Vice-Breaker is extremely effective for two reasons. First, the vice is something that time and training will not cure, because the Toastmaster is completely unaware of such a personal

idiosyncrasy and, thus, will not root it out himself. And his fellow Toastmasters will be reluctant to mention the vice in their evaluations, because the scratch, the pat, or the twitch may be due, after all, to disease, fleas, or an inborn tic, and the poor fellow can't help it. Only the Beginning Wife, therefore, and band-aid evaluation can break the vice. Second, and far more important, the Vice-Breaker confines the critical phase of speech preparation to one arena instead of scattering it all over the place in a teeth-gnashing uproar.

#### Under the Sofa

The Vice-Breaker is of immense value, but, unfortunately, it will not completely eliminate teeth-gnashing uproars, because there will come a time when the Toastmaster, practicing a forth-coming speech in the living room, will solicit the Beginning Wife's opinion on his projection, enunciation, and vocal variety. Incautiously, the Beginning Wife states her opinion—and that is when the family dog retires under the sofa and the couple retire to separate



## How do you treat your guests?

Believe it or not, the treatment your guest gets when he attends your club meeting has a lot to do with whether or not he'll join your club. Here's a list of Toastmasters materials your club should have on hand to help ensure that your guest is treated right . . . and will want to become a member of your club.

- Communication and Leadership Program (99) 25 free to each club upon request
- All About Toastmasters (124)
   5 cents
- Guest Badge-Visitor's Card (231) 2 cents
- Invitation to Membership (348) \$1.25 for 25
- Application for Membership Form (400) No Charge (10 per club)
- Prospect Orientation Program Form (402) No Charge (Limit, 3 per club)
- Visitor's Card (904) 50 cents for 30

Ask your educational vice-president about these materials or check the Toastmasters Catalog for further details.

bedrooms. In such a case, the Toast-master undoubtedly exercises a wide range of vocal varieties, but they are of dubious value since they are hard to work into one of his 15 basic speeches and have the further drawback of stirring up domestic strife.

Hence, in the interest of harmony in every home that contains a Toastmaster, I have formulated my Basic Rule No. Two: *Her Master's Voice*.

Her Master's Voice requires only two things of the Beginning Wife: the purchase of a tape recorder and her fixed resolution never to yield an opinion on an untaped speech.

Even if the Beginning Wife has to put everybody on beans and rice for a month to buy a tape recorder, its worth in domestic tranquility will be beyond rubies because there is absolutely no way to quarrel with a piece of machinery.

Although the primary function of Her Master's Voice is that of peacekeeper, it is equally meritorious in that it brings home to the Toastmaster the justice of the evaluation he has been receiving (and grousing about) from his fellow members. Indeed, it is wonderfully therapeutic for the Toastmaster to listen to a tape which faithfully transcribes what he considers his fine masculine rumble as a monotonous drone, his effective pauses as the moribund gasps of a very large animal, or his tonal modulations as some weird tribal chant. If therapeutic, this experience is often downright frightening, and the Toastmaster may be tempted to push the tape recorder into the back of the deepest closet and revert to a rehearsal of his speeches before some live, captive audience with whom he can argue—i.e., the Beginning Wife.

#### Remain Inflexible

The Beginning Wife must not let this happen. She must be perfectly inflexible in her observance of the second part of Rule Two and make sure at all times that she has a tape to confirm even the mildest comment on her Toastmaster's speeches. If her Toastmaster says it isn't worthwhile to get out the recorder and microphone, or claims that there is something wrong with the mechanism and it doesn't matter because this is just a quick run-through, the Beginning Wife may listen, but she must decline to evaluate or she's in for trouble.

She's in for trouble anyway. If she evaluates an untaped speech, she will get an argument about picayune fribbles. If she declines to evaluate an untaped speech, she will get an argument about her obstinacy in refusing to talk. But with a tape recording of Her Master's Voice, the Beginning Wife can bring any argument whatsoever to a screaming halt by plonking the tape on that paralyzing piece of machinery, because there's not a man born who won't instantly abandon even the most vociferous argument to listen to the sound of his own voice.

I wish I could guarantee that observance of my two Basic rules would assure a lasting peace in the Toastmasters home, but this is a utopian hope. As he plows through the Communication and Leadership manual, the Toastmaster learns ever more diligently to speak persuasively, to sway his listeners, to point

out that something is wrong—and had does a lot of homework by practicing this wife. If the Toastmaster undertake to speak persuasively about an underboiled egg on his breakfast plate, sway his Beginning Wife into boiling one minute longer, and to point out the said egg wasn't very fresh in the firm place, neither the Vice-Breaker nor Hadster's Voice are applicable. The Beginning Wife can only endure stoical and recognize that the egg talk is mere an informal rehearsal for a speech on the poultry business.

Within the realm of their proper application, however, the two basic rules we assuredly minimize uproarious disagreements and thus make it possible for the Toastmaster and his Beginning Wife go happily, hand in hand, into the Alvanced manual.

Since some people actually relish great window-shattering, dog-botherin pother, I have not formally drawn up at other rules, because they might hamp the Beginning Wife who thrives on controversy. But, for any Beginning Wife who is basically peaceable and who willing to make some sacrifice to main tain amity in the home, I can strong recommend my own informal but invicible "Motto for Meditation."

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#### She is Listening

To benefit from this, the Beginnin Wife must commit to memory the mot of Toastmasters International: "For Beter Listening, Thinking, and Speaking. She must understand fully that to be own personal Toastmaster the motto he but one meaning: When he is speaking she is listening!

She must engrave this motto on heart, because it has one enormous it tue: While he is speaking and she is littening, she can be thinking whatever she pleases.

June McMahan Roy was born in Ca fornia, grew up in Colorado, and sold he first story when she was nine years of According to June, this article was writte "with the full consent and approval of husband, who is a former member of Pa Club 3699-49 in Honolulu, Hawaii."

## Turn Your Club Into a Convention!

by Fran Renz Club 2023-25

The Chair recognizes the delegate the State of Boredom."

Mr. Chairman, the delegation from state of Boredom asks this Convento go on record as having its major ose to stamp out excitement."

Vith that, a delegate from the State Itopia slipped off his chair. "The e of Utopia has dropped into the an," observed the Chairman.

'No wonder,'' replied a delegate n the State of Bliss. ''Their platform weak!''

With that bit of nonsense, a mock itical convention put on by the CUNA

Mutual/CUMIS Club 2023-25 in Madison, Wisconsin, was off and running.

This interesting and educational program did not, however, come about overnight; it took more than a year of planning. The initial idea for the mock convention was proposed by Darel Baer, now the president of the club. Darel had experienced a similar program in college before joining CUNA Mutual and thought it would be an excellent vehicle to help us achieve our Toastmasters goals. After the club officers and the Educational Committee agreed, the development of the program began.



The mock convention was held in the City of Madison Council Chambers because we felt it would lend a convention-like atmosphere to the meeting. News releases were prepared and sent to the news media, resulting in excellent coverage by the local newspapers.

Did it work? We thought it did.

As every member of Toastmasters International knows, the underlying purpose of every Toastmasters meeting is NOT nonsense, but to give every member frequent opportunities to stand up before an audience and give a prepared or extemporaneous speech. The organization's goal is for Toastmasters to help one another in the development of their individual speaking skills.

The mock convention, despite the witicisms that pervaded it, gave every participant the opportunity to give a brief, hastily-prepared talk—hastily-prepared because none of the members knew, prior to arriving at the meeting site, what his assignment would be. Each was assigned as a delegate from one of the following "states": Bliss, Boredom, Confusion, Harmony, Irritation, or Tranquility. They were notified that they might be called upon to give the platform speech, outlining their "state's" views as to what action (or inaction) would propel the "Union of Retrospection" toward fulfillment.

In addition, each delegation also selected one of its members to give its "nomination speech" and another to give its "candidate's acceptance speech." These "elections" took the place of the evaluation process customarily followed in a regular club meeting.

Finally, each "state" delegation was given four "issues" to discuss. Some were current national or international issues, some strictly local, and some very silly ("The three-wheeler is better than the two-wheel bicycle").

This rapid progression of platform speeches prompted a delegate to rise and say, "We from the State of Boredom feel that this meeting is improving by the minute."

In short, the CUNA Mutual/CUMIS Toastmasters' mock political convention was anything but boring!□

## SPEAK IJP..

## Your Audience Is Waiting!

by Noel K. Julkowski Club 2032-4

The challenge of facing a new audience is one that, unfortunately, too many of us avoid. We're content to go to our Toastmasters club meeting and kid ourselves into believing that we are getting all we can out of the program. But there is much more to Toastmasters than facing the same audience week after week. We need new faces, new opinions, new challenges. And a speakers bureau can provide all of these.

Speakers bureaus-whether in your Toastmasters club or district, a favorite organization, or a business-are often used by civic clubs and schools to highlight special subjects of interest, and they provide an excellent training ground for the Toastmaster who wants to meet the challenge of a new audience. They offer a unique service to the community and a valuable source of information on almost any subject. The list of ideas is endless-from subjects like science and history to gardening and home repair.

The advantages of participating in a speakers bureau are almost too numer-

ous to mention. With every well-prepared speech you give, you attain a greater ability to communicate your thoughts to others. You provide a genuine service by enriching the lives of those you touch. But there are also tangible results.

You may earn up to 25 points for your club's Distinguished Club Plan by participating in a speakers bureau. In addition, the speakers bureau of which I am a member forwards a "Letter of Appreciation" to the person's employer for each speaking engagement. These letters tell the employer that you are a person interested in contributing to the world around you. In my case, I feel that they were a factor in a recent promotion I received.

Speakers bureaus are made up of volunteers and are often a division of a firm's public affairs office. Military installations, universities, and many large companies receive requests for speakers. With the speeches cataloged by topic, the members may speak as often as they

desire, with sufficient notice given so that you can fit a lecture into your schedule.

Invitations come for after-dinner, after breakfast, and classroom talks. Lions, Kiwanis, Elks, and women's clubs and just a few of the clubs and lodges which desire lecturers.

I average about one lecture per month speaking mostly to students at the ele mentary and high school levels. Interes may be in a particular topic, or perhap the employment potential in my profes sion. I find these talks most rewarding The students are attentive and courteous and their questions are as challenging those that come from adults.

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Presentations are normally about 2 minutes long, with an additional 10 min utes for questions and answers. I have found no better practice for Table Topic than this final portion of the speech. M specialty is Oceanography, but my sul ject may range from Marine Biology deformation of the earth's crust. I have no idea what the question will be and fin that this part of the program helps m tremendously.

#### **Added Confidence**

My first ventures in extemporaneou speaking were abysmal, complete wil false starts and stutters. Now I feel fair competent at Table Topics, and the s cret lies in the confidence that I have gained from the give and take of volu teer lecturing. The comments and vote of my fellow Toastmasters seem to su port this opinion.

I have found that speaking to a ne group of people is slightly different fro giving a speech at a Toastmasters met ing, where most of the faces are familia Host audiences usually range from 25 50. However, I once had an audien of seventy-five third-graders, which thought was charming and intelligent hope the feeling was mutual. All in a the atmosphere one experiences as an vited guest is rather heady . . . and challenge is real.

Every speech you give as an invi guest is opening night, so to speak, a you are the show. You are due to g a 20-minute talk on the American C War, but are you ready? Like a other successful speech, the secret su preparation.

at aid can be an artist's sketch e rough sketches to highlight my nd use them to put the thought fore my audience. Stick figures phasize your sketch, serving as a or your words. For example, I freuse a sketch of a sailing vessel. It le: just a rough outline of a hull vo masts and some square sails, crude stick figure shown peering d. Everyone easily relates the ne world to the sketch. (Notice llso economized a little.) The hull maritime vessels in general, the present propulsion, and the figure e the crew or the captain. The verof this sketch allows it to be used fferent emphases. I am sure you ave your own ideas.

**Use Those Props** 

careful not to have too many nes to keep track of. A device I have with good effect is a current-event item. One or two characters act out cene. The basic rule is to show the then discuss it. With a little ght, you may use this cartoon idea to our talk over with success. It has the bility to provide humor, always a in after-dinner speaking. In addithese props can aid you in keeping train of thought. Using them, it is difficult to give a 30-minute speech nout notes, and they add to the smooths and professionalism of your presentation.

For visuals, I borrow the tripod my buses to display the Toastmasters ernational seal and use it as an easel my sketches. I feel it best to set up the play before I am introduced. This prents a loss in continuity. You won't we the feeling of everyone staring hile you suddenly become fumble-negered, like I did the evening I had to to the back of the room to get my ops.

While you are setting up, select your sition with care. I once chose to be in a ace where neither the man who invited e nor the club president could see my splay. I had to look behind myself to thieve the correct eye contact with these eople, a rather awkward feeling. Be are everyone can see you and your peaking aids clearly. If you are speaking

in a classroom, select your position out of the line of the sun. For an evening program, make sure you can read any notes you require.

You may be interrupted. A waitress rattling dishes will steal part of your audience. If you stop, you will simply embarrass the person. A workable device here is to summarize a few points that you have just made. This is a further advantage of the sketches.

In a job placement lecture I give to schools, I note pertinent names and phone numbers on a sheet of paper. Passing out copies of this list obviates the need for the student to scribble down information, which may distract his attention from the talk. Similarly, for an environmental talk, I typed a bibliography available in the local library and had several of the books with me for the lecture.

Remember, your purpose is usually to inform and educate. Your enthusiasm for your topic will give your audience the feeling that you are doing both. Any use of a handout underlines the care which you have used in preparing your talk. In a school, you are more of an educator, and such handouts provide permanent notes for the students. For an adult audience, you are informing and perhaps a handout might still be appropriate. A little experience will help your judgment.

#### Do Your Homework

You can set a favorable impression by doing some homework on your hosts. Most civic clubs have a pet charity or project with which they are involved. A little interest in their project will enhance your image as a well-informed guest and will ensure a warm audience.

Before the meeting, you will get a chance to meet several members. Note their names with care. In a classroom, the students are frequently introduced. If they are not, try to ask for a class roster. The more faces that you can link with names, the better you show your interest to the audience. In the question and answer period, your ability to address people by their name will ensure an attentive audience. In addition, when asked a question, I think it is a good idea to repeat the question. Then everyone knows what you are answering.

Try to get an estimate of the audience size to which you will be speaking and the type of room. Do not use small props that cannot be seen from 30 feet away. If you are fortunate enough to have slides that will enhance your talk, remember that you cannot read notes in a darkened room. With respect to slides, remember where you will be speaking. I heard about one speaker who took a great slide show to a Boy Scout cookout meeting. Imagine his surprise when he found there was no electricity!

If your talk concerns traveling, a map is a must. Be it a city map or a chart of the heavens, such a visual aid provides a distinct place and time for your audience.

Regardless of your talk or audience, friendliness and courtesy are musts. You are, in effect, a minor celebrity to your audience, an authority in your field. Whatever you say will be taken as gospel.

#### The Unanswered Question

Occasionally, you will field a question that you cannot answer. This is a dangerous situation. The temptation to say something, anything, is almost irresistible. A simple "I don't know" is incredibly hard to say. A little embarrassment can be saved by something like, "The only honest answer is I don't know." You will be regarded as a human being, not a know-it-all.

You probably have a hobby or profession in which people are interested. A simple phone call can put you on a speakers bureau. A lasting feeling of worth comes from developing these community contacts, and increased skills and community service await you when you join a speakers bureau.

If you would like more information about forming a speakers bureau in your club or district, write World Head-quarters for a free copy of the Speakers Bureau brochure (No. 127).—Ed.

Noel K. Julkowski is president of the Naval Postgraduate School Club 2032-4 in Monterey, California. An ex-member of the U.S. Navy's submarine service, he is currently employed as an Oceanographer with the Navy's Fleet Numerica Weather Central in Monterey.

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- Recognition is based upon the number of new members who pay the member service fee, charter members, and reinstated members. Transfers are not included.
- Toastmasters participating in Sharing '76 should use the Sharing '76 Recognition form provided. (This
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- 5. Five SHARING POINTS are awarded for each five new members sponsored. Each Sharing '76 participant may select the award(s) he is entitled to, but each SHARING POINT may be used only once toward one award. For example, 15 SHARING POINTS would be required to receive both the calendar (5 points) and paperweight (10 points), with 30 SHARING POINTS required to receive all three awards.
- 6. Please allow 6 weeks for delivery of awards to U.S. addresses, slightly longer outside continental U.S.
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STM		ZIP:								
TOASTMASTE	CLUB:DISTRICT:									
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DAT	E	SIGNATI	URE:							
	ZE SELECTED: CALENDAR (5 PTS.) FIE (15 PTS.)									

Those great "impromptu" speakers—were they really . . .

## Speaking Off the Cuff



by Dr. William S. Tacey

On VE Day during World War II, people in England celebrating their victory called upon Winston Churchill for a "few appropriate remarks." As the great Prime Minister spoke in his usual excellent manner, his audience thrilled at the majesty of his thought and the excellence of his command of the language. Newspaper writers hurried to their typewriters and newscasters to their microphones to heap glowing praise upon the old master for his unexcelled ability to give an impromptu speech whenever the occasion demanded.

One enterprising reporter thought to interview Churchill's secretary. When asked about the preparation of the recent speech, the secretary replied that she had first taken her boss's dictation of the speech some two months earlier. In the meantime, Churchill had revised it several times, and by the time he gave it on request, he had polished it until it was as nearly perfect as any other of the Prime Minister's great speeches.

Churchill's procedure for "off the cuff" speaking differs but little from that of other master speakers who anticipate the day when they will be called upon to "say a few words." Webster's

famous "Reply to Hayne," for which he supposedly had but a few hours to prepare, was made up of thoughts that he had been preparing for over 20 years. For the purpose of the speech in the Senate, he had but to arrange his thoughts in order, and adapt them to the circumstances of the audience and the occasion. When William Jennings Bryan went before the Democratic Convention which was to nominate him for the presidency, it was to give a well-prepared speech despite the fact that he had but short notice of the fact that he was to address the convention. The "Cross of Gold" speech had not only been delivered before his colleagues in the United States Congress, but also in numerous appearances before his constituents while campaigning for office.

#### The "Rope Trick"

The brilliant orator who stands before an audience, holding it spellbound with the elegance of his diction, the profundity of his thought, and the aptness of his support is but a figment of the imagination. He is as much imaginary as is the famous East Indian rope trick. In the latter, the performer is described as causing a rope to rise into the air. Suddenly a small boy is seen to climb the rope. Up and up he goes, until he and the rope disappear. On call, he suddenly reappears from somewhere on the ground. The highly skilled "off the cuff" speaker is as hard to find as the Indian fakir with his rope trick. All accounts are always given by someone who has heard someone else relate a first-hand impression.

#### The Only Answer

If a speaker is ever asked to speak on a topic for which he has made absolutely no preparation, his only possible answer is no. There have been many apt saying invented to describe the situation. Among them are: "It's better to remain silent and be thought ignorant than to speak and remove all doubt." "Speech is silver; silence is golden." "God, help me keep my big mouth shut until I know what I am talking about."

How did the canard arise that some speakers have the gift of being able to speak whenever the occasion requires? Where have the silver-tongued orators been found who always speak as if they had been expecting to be called upon! Any speaker who meets the description is one who has been forehanded enough to prepare himself, as did Churchill, for



a contingency. Follow such a a few months and listen to the of times he repeats the same atch him as he observes the of his audience, making mental how he will rearrange his mateore he speaks the next time. A of the Quaker faith has been of going to meeting on Sundays for the purpose of practicing ures which are in great demand. school champion extemporaneeaker, whom I heard frequently his career, used many of the same s, examples, and thoughts for each n, regardless of the topic which had assigned to him.

sten to a few speeches by a popcommencement speaker, and over how frequently he gives same speech. Even on occasions in he is not addressing a group of ors, he will use many of the same lights and phrases which he normally es for June use. All married women aware of the number of times they I have to listen to their husbands' ne-worn stories. Such speakers have ing since formed habits of thinking that ake possible superior speeches. To

think of making a speech on a certain topic immediately sets the speaker to planning an outline with at least the customary divisions of introduction, body, and conclusion. As these are formulated in his mind, the "off the cuff" speaker recalls examples, illustrations, and statistics, gleaned from recent reading and observation. These are marshalled as support for the point of view to be explained. With even a minimum amount of preparation time, the experienced and competent speaker will ar-

range his ideas in clear, understandable order, and will use an abundance of illustrative material. In all of his preparation and while speaking, he will be drawing on a fund of information and patterns of thinking that have come from a lifetime of experience and study.

To the question of how one may prepare himself to speak "off the cuff," I would reply that you can't, if by your question you mean a purely impromptu speech. A perfect speech that is impromptu exists only in the imagination

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of the hearer. The "perfect" speeches that we hear are those which have been prepared with great diligence and hard work by their authors. John Mason Brown, popular speaker favored by women's clubs, takes the summer off each will thrill and delight his audiences through the fall and winter. An already well-prepared speech will be improved as he delivers it to each successive audience as Brown rides the circuit. Since it is not given to a nationwide television audience, he can give the same speech each time, changing it only as may be necessary to suit each new audience and new occasion.

#### Speaking Impromptu

The impromptu speech is an unprepared one. It is one that the speaker delivers as he stands where and when called upon. Only the glibbest of speakers and the ones with the finest memories and ability to organize their thoughts may expect to be able to succeed in speaking impromptu. They rely upon the spur of the moment to provide them with the necessary nudge. How often the rowel of the spur of the moment is dull. In an earlier day before we began to insist upon an educated ministry in some of our Protestant churches, the ministers claimed that they did not have to prepare their sermons because the Lord would tell them what to say. The Lord may have provided a message, but too often the preacher was caught in the pulpit with no adequate receiving apparatus. How unfair he was then to blame the inadequacies of the sermon upon the Lord.

What most people mean when they say "off the cuff" is extemporaneous. To look up the word, one has to rely on a speech text. Few dictionaries, even the latest ones, have caught up yet with the speech teacher in his use of the word. An extemporaneous speech is one that has been well prepared. It is one in which a careful outline has been worked out. Adequate supporting materials have been selected, each of them well chosen not only to support the generalities of the

speech, but also to catch the attention of the audience. Materials have all been selected for the appeal that they may have, as well as their adequacy in making clear what is meant in the speech.

en's clubs, takes the summer off each year to prepare the lecture with which he pendent upon the individual speaker, his

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True excellence in

"off the cuff"

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"

study habits, his ability at remembering, and his skill in arranging his thoughts. Not only may he require an extensive outline, but he may also rely upon a carefully-written script. One may well pause here to ask, if the speech is to be written in detail, how can it be called *extemporaneous?* The answer, of course, is that when the speaker writes the script he immediately discards it, lest he find himself memorizing great quantities of it, or lest he be tempted to read his speech

without further preparation. The purpose of writing a speech in detail is to guarantee that one's thoughts may be clear and cogent. Once the script has been written, it has outlived its usefulness. The careful speaker will avoid rereading it. Instead, he will rehearse his speech from meager notes. His notes will be but reminders to help him recall main thoughts or items which he wants to make sure of not overlooking while delivering the speech.

#### Few Disadvantages

The extemporaneous speech has all of the advantages of the written or memorized speech, yet has few of the disadvantages of either of the latter. It will be as well prepared; it will stick to the subject; it can be suited to the time limits. In contrast to the written speech, it can still be made to sound as if it were coming through the mind of the speaker, instead of through the public address system alone. In contrast to the memorized speech, it will seem to be spontaneous and unrehearsed, as though designed for the audience that is hearing it.

True excellence in "off the cuff" speaking comes as the result of careful preparation and practice. The skill of the speaker is developed as is the skill of the champion baseball pitcher.

Flawless speaking, so envied by one who has not studied or practiced, cannot come via wishful thinking. It can come by no royal road, only by the ordinant plebeian route of arduous work.

Dr. William S. Tacey has served as: professor of Speech at the University of Pittsburgh. He earned his doctorate in speech at Penn State University and has been a consultant in speech for the United States Steel Corporation, Duquesne Light Company, Pennsylvania Department of Public Health, and man others.



## Bicentennial Speech Topics

From March 7 through April 3, 1976, use participating in the American Issues from will be given the opportunity to speak a subject that has been widely discussed in ment years . . . American foreign affairs.

"America in the World," the seventh in a gies of nine topics, will concentrate on the treign policy of the United States—how it as grown and been abused—and has been wided into the following subjects:

tarch 7-March 13: The American "Dream" twong Nations. As a land of liberty and portunity, America became a nation conneced of its mission "to make the world safe or democracy." But can we help other nations without intruding in their affairs? Should we rely on international institutions beare for the needy, or are unilateral and private programs more realistic? What does America stand for among the world's nations?

March 14—March 20: The Economic Dimension. There is no issue that has been more persistently debated in American History than that of trade. Should America seek economic self-sufficiency in raw materials and protection for threatened industries? How should we treat countries which do not permit ownership of property or which confiscate American companies? Does a global economy require new international institutions?

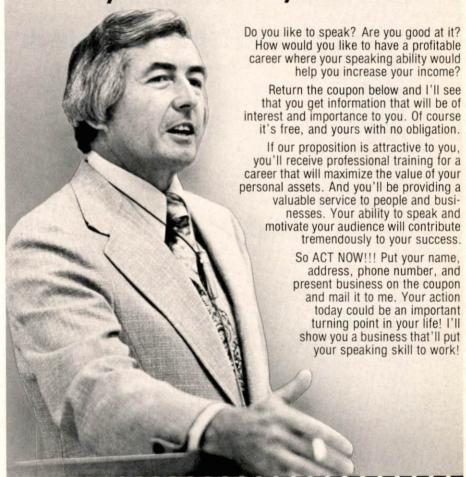
March 21 – March 27: A Power in the World. Today, America has armed forces stationed throughout the world. The very size and nature of our military power are themselves major factors in the complicated picture of contemporary world affairs. What is the role of the military in foreign policy? How have our attitudes about morality among nations changed?

March 28-April 3: A Nation Among Nations. America likes to think of itself as proudly independent, yet in just as many ways it is only part of a global web of dependence and international organizations or regional alliances like NATO and SEATO? How can America best advance world order and instice?

Join the thousands of other Americans participating in the American Issues Forum . . . and help celebrate America's 200th birthday!

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# Evaluating the Conference Speaker

#### by Efrem G. Mallach Club 301-31

Your club has provided speakers to outside groups. Perhaps you even have an organized speakers bureau. You've conducted Speechcraft and Youth Leadership programs in your community. But have you ever provided, as a club, speech evaluation for outside groups? Probably not—but you should! We did, and we'll do it again.

Who needs Toastmasters speech evaluation? Many people need it. One such group may be the speakers at a professional conference. While these people are competent in their fields, they aren't used to speaking. But they do know that their presentations can affect their careers, so they appreciate help. These people are also easy to locate. You can get help from the conference organizers in contacting them. Let's assume, then, that this is the type of group whose speeches you will evaluate. For such a group, here are some of the benefits you can expect:

#### • To the Club and Toastmasters—

You get good publicity. You help publicize yourself and the organization to conference speakers, session chairmen, committee members, and others. And you do this in a context where you are being helpful and your efforts are appreciated, as well as in a situation where the benefits of Toastmasters training are clear.

You can be of service to the professional community. For many of us, this is as important a community as the one in which we live, and service to it is just as valid an aim.

#### • To the Members-

You get practice in live speech evaluation. You're not evaluating speeches given at your Toastmasters meeting for practice; you're evaluating speeches given to an outside group for a real purpose.

You get to hear the conference speeches. These conferences represent months of work on the part of the speakers, because they have something important to say to other professionals in their field. Since attending these conferences is usually quite expensive, participating in an evaluation session gives you the benefit of much of the conference without the expense and, if you're really interested in a topic, the chance to talk to the speaker without hundreds of other people clamoring for his or her attention.

#### • To the Speakers—

They can improve their presentations. This, in turn, improves the impression they will make on colleagues and potential employers—an important factor at many conferences. This also improves their chance of winning the "best paper" awards some of the conferences present

—and these range up to \$500.

Convinced? You should be—this is a situation where everyone wins. Now, how do you go about organizing such a program? Here's the "how to":

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☐ Pick a conference. Our clubs (Honeywell Billerica Club 301-31, in Billerica, and Honeywell Wellesley Club 3326-31, in Waltham, Massachusetts) were lucky, our conference found us. Several of our members were active in organizing MINI-SYSTEMS '75, a Honeywell-sponsored conference on the use of minicomputers. In our case, connecting the clubs and the conference was a natural.

However, there are conferences scheduled all the time, all over the world Members of your club—accountants engineers, doctors, programmers, psychologists, editors, insurance adjusters salesmen, and others—all read conference announcements in the course of their work. Company and college bulk tin boards carry conference invitations. Hotels and convention facilities can tell you which groups have reserved space Pick a conference that fits the location of your club and the interests of its members and you're ready to go.

□ Contact the conference organizer. The person you want probably has the title "program chairman." If you can find such a person, go to any of the organizer.

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and follow their leads until you right person to discuss your

ify club interest. You can do gh your club officers or directly, g on how your club works. If t work through your educational ident, at least coordinate your with him.

ck a time. If the conference are local, a week or so before ference is ideal—the presentaould be ready, but there's still revise them. If they're coming her areas, you probably have no the session must be the day (or e afternoon) before the conferarts. We did one of each—one a before the conference for local rs and one the previous afternoon speakers coming from a distance. ick a place. Use the actual cone facilities, if possible, to familthe speakers with the podium, the stem, etc. This will often not be le, of course; then you'll have to ny adequate room.

Sign up evaluators. Get commitfrom your club members to parte in these evaluation sessions. Be our members get any management val they need; this shouldn't be a em, but don't overlook it. Sign up than a minimum number to have leeway for last-minute cancellations. Notify the speakers. This is best by the conference organizers. They ld tell speakers "what, why, where, when." If practical, they should ask for an indication of speaker

Read the papers. The conference mittee will almost always have a ten version or summary of what the aker will say. If at all possible, at least evaluator should read each paper that be evaluated. While the presentation th not (and should not) follow the tten paper exactly, this reading will rt the evaluators to the speaker's main

Arrange the facilities. Have a poum as similar as possible to the one that ll be used. Have any necessary proctors: you may need view-graph, 35mm ide, or perhaps others. Some speakers

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- 2. THE PRICE The registration fee for the program is just \$60! You can honestly say to a person. "You know exactly what it costs to take Adventures in Attitudes, what you don't know is what it may cost you not to take it, and that could be a great deal more." Here is a program priced well within the reach of everyone in your community with a generous return for you.
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- 4. THE MARKET Adventures in Attitudes is being used enthusiastically in Business and Industry (with clients like IBM. Honeywell, and McDonalds to name just a few), Churches, YMCAs, Chambers of Commerce, Jaycees, Business Colleges, all levels of federal, state, and local government, Community Colleges, Colleges, Universities (for both undergraduate and graduate credit), in-Service teacher training, the military, hospitals, religious orders, direct sales groups, fraternal groups, etc., etc., with new areas being added every day by people just like yourself, part or full time.

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may need a blackboard or a flipchart stand; if the conference will supply these, you should. Also, try to duplicate the conference timing facilities, such as wall clocks, lights, whatever.

☐ Welcome the speakers. Make them feel at home. Name tags with the Toastmasters symbol for the evaluators are a good idea.

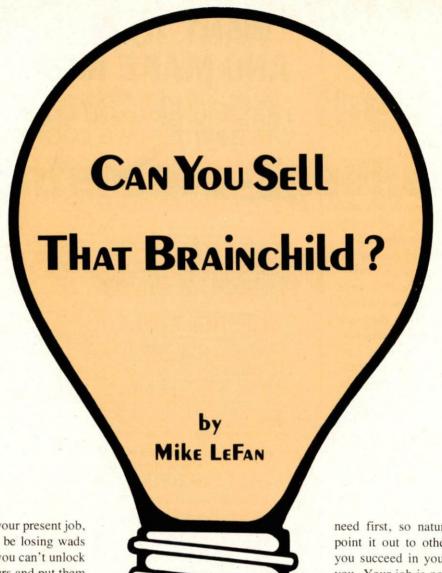
☐ Plug Toastmasters International. This should not be overdone, but a few opening remarks about Toastmasters International and the training it offers are in order. So are handouts.

☐ Evaluate. Be constructive. Keep in mind that these are not all Toastmasters. Try to hit the major problems in each presentation, remembering the amount of time left to correct them. No speaker can change 35mm slides in 12 hours. Many things can be improved, though; that's why you (and they) are there.

☐ Follow up. For local speakers, contact them after the conference and see if they are interested in joining Toastmasters. For others, a letter to a club near them or to their local district will permit the local unit to make contact.

There it is. A proven idea that will pay off for your members, your club, and Toastmasters. Why not start right now?□

Efrem G. Mallach is director of the System Design Group at Honeywell Informations Systems in Billerica, Massachusetts. The president and a charter member of the Honeywell Billerica Club 301-31, he is a frequent speaker at professional conferences and has published over 15 professional papers and articles.



You may be stuck in your present job, and your employer may be losing wads of money, just because you can't unlock those bright ideas of yours and put them to work.

Do you have trouble selling your ideas to the boss? Your timidity may be based on good reasons, especially if you've been knocked out of the saddle a time or two already. Or maybe you're a bit lazy. After all, putting together an effective presentation of your idea is a big task. You might have fallen into the trap of thinking your brilliant ideas would sell themselves. But that's nonsense. Even the most promising brainchild must be sold to the decision-makers.

#### Stick With It

Shaping that lumpy idea into a usable form calls for your willingness to stick with it. In fact, this process is often more difficult than conceiving the idea. Pushing a new idea requires courage, creativity, planning, persistence, and a selfstarter attitude. An idea locked in your head is useless, and the process of presenting it to your superiors for approval is a delicate part of the creative cycle. Many plans wither on the vine at this stage because of poor presentation.

The first, and maybe most crucial step, is convincing people a need exists and that your idea fills the need. Don't allow your brainchild to die just because no one sees the need for it. You saw the

need first, so naturally you'll have to point it out to others. Whether or no you succeed in your job depends upor you. Your job is nothing but a series of opportunities to demonstrate your worth so tilt the odds in your favor. Here's how

#### **Anticipate Needs**

Start early. Anticipate needs before they arise. A commuter ran like crazy catch the departing train, but missed by seconds. A station employee said "You should've run faster, and you have made it."

"No," puffed the commuter, wasn't a matter of running faster, h of starting sooner."

It's the same with ideas. Don't sho up with too little too late. Achieve give a little extra-and keep on givin it. If our commuter had denied himse that second cup of coffee, he'd have made the train. You have to give in ord to get. Give your extra effort by antipating needs and problems early.

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you sell your immediate superior ur interpretation of a problem, your on a solution are well on their way ceptance. How can you do it? By your superior's viewpoint. What is about the problem that would worry Follow this angle of approach and Il be sure to get somewhere.

Get Some Support

ommittees are a similar—though pounded—situation. If you've got convince a committee, begin ahead ime by working on one or two mems of the group. They may like being the know' on upcoming presentans, and their support can enhance up position.

Selling an idea demands that you prent a problem. Whether it's to a comntee or an individual, outline what ped you off to the problem and how n'd move ahead to a solution. Above leep it short.

Make it clear that this isn't some offcuff idea you stumbled upon. Let am know you've put in some time and fort. This early effort is vital; otherise, you may speak too quickly and ay something you haven't thought of at. If you want to sell your superiors a plan, don't spout off a bunch of alf-baked ideas. Show them you've bought it all out.

Be sure your presentation is clear. Remember, you know all the background and alternatives, but your listeners know all what you tell them. If you omit amportant points, they'll think you're suts—or incompetent. Follow the old adage: "Never underestimate their intelligence or over estimate their knowledge."

Have some solid backup material mady for the inevitable objections, but don't approach the presentation in a defensive mood. Your presentation should simply pose some objections and then answer them. This gambit will show your thoroughness and may also disarm some of the opposition before it has a chance to even fire a shot.

Put your proposal in as few words as possible. Time's valuable, and your boss will resent your wasting his time with a long, drawn-out presentation. Let the idea stand on its own merit. A truckload of talk can't prop up a shaky

idea. Keep a rein on your words, and don't talk too fast. Your new ideas have to be picked up and understood by your listeners, so proceed at a steady but comprehendable pace. Use plain English, and avoid complicated jargon like the plague. Everyone understands everyday language, but specialized lingo will leave many of your listeners back down the road. So drop it.

Be ready for objections, but never approach your appeal with an argumentative chip on your shoulder. People will react against you before they've heard what you're saying. Focus on the positive part of your plan, and back it up with plenty of practical how-to ideas on carrying out the thing. If you can't produce practical reasons for adopting your idea, it's a loser. Don't depend on statistics, probabilities, and other abstractions. Instead, show how your idea will help Joe Blow on the assembly line, or Mary Smith in the office, or Willy Jones at the sales conference. Point out the dollars and cents potential, demonstrating exactly where and how this brainchild is worth its salt.

A few charts, diagrams, or other visual aids might help. Words and pictures together can be potent, but never assume that visuals explain themselves. They don't.

Trying to sell your boss on your idea can be risky, because you'll be judged on the basis of your presentation. If it's sloppy and incomplete, they'll form a mental image of you—sloppy and incomplete. Do it right, and they'll think of you as someone who does things right.

Avoid The Oversell

Obviously, you're impressed with your idea, but if you come on like "Super Salesman," with an overdose of enthusiasm, people will wonder, "What's he trying to hide with this smoke screen?" Never make unreal claims or exaggerate the worth of your scheme. You may have a perfectly workable *little* idea worth using, but oversell tactics can scare everybody off and make you look silly. Be realistic.

If you run into stiff support for the old way of doing things, remember that you may be suggesting a newfangled replacement for the brainchild of the guy you're trying to convince. That may be his baby you're trying to kick out. For that reason, it's important to point toward the new heights offered by your plan—and never dwell on the failures of previous techniques and programs. You could trample important toes. Again, see the thing as your boss sees it. Look at the situation through his fears, preferences, strengths, and weaknesses. Then plan your strategy.

The Shakedown

Don't be afraid of testing your idea—assuming, of course, that you've properly thought it through. You ought to insist on a good shakedown cruise for your plan. If it's worth anything, it'll show it. But don't offer green twigs when solid oak is needed. You'll ruin your reputation with the higher-ups if you present them with ideas that are more trouble than the original problem. They've got enough to do without having to solve problems caused by your "solution." Plan it so you won't have to be afraid of a close evaluation.

Start early and do your homework. Then, like the old advice says, "Tell them what you're going to tell them; tell it to them; and finally, tell them what you told them." Your brief summary of the basic points must include the problem, the advantages of your solution, and some compelling reason to go that way.

As a backup, give everyone a written report, focusing on your suggestions. Write it like you did your presentation, paying close attention to the daily, practical advantages of your baby—and keep it short. This written report will give people a chance to reexamine your proposal and see the wisdom of your approach.

That's the idea. □

Mike LeFan is a freelance writer living in Temple, Texas. His articles on creativity and other self-help topics have appeared in Success Unlimited, Income Opportunities, and many other publications. He is also the author of a syndicated newspaper column called "More For Your Money."

# How to Communicate What You Really Mean

#### by Dr. David H. Smith

It is especially important for business executives to do a good job of communicating. The frustrations that come from misunderstandings are frequent enough and important enough that we would like to be able to reduce them.

Indeed, as we become more aware of just how many problems are essentially communication problems, we begin to find them all around us. It almost seems, sometimes, as if it were better not to know how often we misunderstand or are misunderstood.

Ignorance is a luxury, however, that the executive cannot afford.

Both in his capacity as a manager of a professional staff and in his role as coordinator of action, he can only be effective if he can understand the expectations and perceptions of others.

For this reason, managers should eagerly greet "new ideas" about communication. Training programs which offer the possibility of helping them improve their communication are quickly filled. Books on how to be better at communicating sell rapidly. Gimmicks and slogans which give new names to essen-

tially old ideas are quickly adopted into the vocabulary of management jargon.

A crusty old history professor of mine once explained to a class the reason for the high price of cosmetics. "A woman," he said, "will pay \$5 for a jar of beauty cream but only 50 cents for a cake of soap, because the cream promises to make her beautiful while all the soap promises is to make her clean. People will pay a high price for hope."

#### It's What We Know

My professor's thought was true for cosmetics and is certainly true for ideas about communication. Because we have so much hope that communication might work better, we are constantly searching for new ideas and new ways to achieve that goal. Frequently, however, it is not what we don't know about communication that brings us difficulty but, as the old farmer said, "It's what we know that ain't so."

There are three assumptions most people make about communication that stand in the way of the successful handling of communication problems. Understanding why these assumptions are misleading is fundamental to any attempat improved communication.

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The first assumption is that communication is easy if you are good at it. We regard communication as a skill, as of techniques or rules to be learned an improved upon, and it is not surprising that we do so.

We can all recall the courses we too in school that were supposed to teat us how to communicate better. The were essentially courses in how to write and how to speak. Our teachers taught sets of rules. In an English class the rule told us how to write a paragraph or sentence or where to put punctuation marks. We were taught to have claideas and to know what made up a proximate. Some of us may even have learned rules and principles of good styles.

#### Communication: A Skill

If we were taking a class in speech undoubtedly learned how to choose topic, how to organize a speech, and ho to use various forms of illustration a explanation. We learned rules for ho to stand and how to gesture.

The implicit assumption in all this

on was that if we learned to follow es we would be good communica-Communication is a skill. Those re skillful are supposed to be good unicators. If you have communiproblems, the reason is because have inadequate communication

nen we become aware of a misundering, we believe that it has resulted someone's failure to communicate, and because our culture is a guilt are we try to find out whose fault it is, uently we look to ourselves. We ent our own failures. We wish that were better at communicating. We ethis frustration with others, or we seek a training program which will see us good communicators.

#### Misunderstanding

t times, however, we examine the sages that we have created. We may at the letters or memos we have ten, and as we reread them we beconvinced that we have written well. We see a clear statement we wonder how anyone could have sunderstood.

The only explanation then, of course, that the receiver to whom we sent message must be a poor communitor. It is his skill, not ours, that is sking.

When we deal with a process that is fficult and complex, we expect to we problems. We attribute failures of to human inadequacy, but to the werehelming complexity of the task. Then we deal with something that is asy, however, when we expect to have access and instead find failure, we seek fix guilt. If the guilt is not ours, it is omeone else's and we attempt to find reason for it.

If you listen to the comments people take when discussing communication illures, you will hear up to four different explanations of why the other guy is poor communicator.

- First, because he is stupid. "How an a guy with no more brains than that old down his job?" Indeed, we so fear the allegation that we often hide the fact of our own misunderstanding in order to woid being thought stupid.
- Second, he doesn't care about us or

the company. "You'd think if he didn't care any more about the company than that, he'd resign." Or at home we might say "You don't love me or you wouldn't say that." Misunderstanding somehow gets interpreted as inadequate affection.

- Third, he has a bad character. "He twisted my meaning to make me look bad in front of the boss."
- Fourth, he is emotionally disturbed. We all like to play amateur psychiatrist. "Have you noticed how confused he seems lately? Maybe we should get him to see a psychiatrist." In this case it is not his badness but his madness that causes his communication failure.

Listen carefully and you'll hear these explanations for communication difficulty at one time or another.

Unfortunately, not one of the four does anything to overcome the problems of misunderstanding. In fact, each aggravates the difficulty, and frequently a small problem escalates into a large one because the parties involved have each decided that the other is defective. Their subsequent attempts to communicate will reveal their conclusions that the other is stupid, unconcerned, underhanded, or ill. Those messages will further intensify the conflict.

All this escalation of difficulty stems from the assumption that communication is a matter of skill, that it ought to work well if the people who communicate do it well.

That assumption is, however, basically incorrect.

Communication is not easy. It is complex. We must deal with the expectations and misunderstandings of other people. We must marshal our own considerably complicated cognitive processes. We must anticipate what is happening in the minds of other persons.

#### A Two-Sided Skill

Just about the time we think we have mastered an important skill in communication, we discover that the very skill that serves us so well in one situation may prevent us from being effective in another. A friend of mine, who had been a champion debater, discovered that the skill which won debating trophies made him lose points in informal social relationships. Other people really didn't

want him to prove them wrong with forceful arguments and mountains of statistics.

We must not expect others always to understand what we mean. It might be wiser to expect that others will misunderstand. The normal result of communication is at least partial misunderstanding. The assumption that communication problems will disappear if we have the proper skill is therefore erroneous.

The second assumption which leads us astray in our thinking about communication really follows from the first. We too often believe that the guy who is doing the talking is the one who counts. We come to believe that the important skill in communication, the one which will make us really good communicators, is the skill of creating and sending messages. All those English and speech courses referred to earlier emphasized the way you wrote the essays or gave speeches. Courses in listening are relatively new and they frequently put major emphasis on remembering what was said.

#### Speaker vs. Listener

When someone talks, he seems to be doing something. He seems active. A person listening doesn't seem to be doing anything. He seems passive. So, when we attempt to develop our communication skills, we usually focus on the doing—that is, on saying things clearly, forcefully, and persuasively. We seem to believe this, despite solid research evidence which demonstrates that a listener's perceptions of what is said are dramatically different from what a speaker thinks he has said. Each interprets what he hears in terms of his own experiences, his own expectations, his own hopes and fears.

Each person has a somewhat different perspective from which he views the world. The more similar our backgrounds and experiences, the more alike our perspectives are. But in no case do any two of us have exactly the same way of looking at things.

One professor developed a 10,000 word case study and asked executives representing sales, production, and public relations to analyze the case study from a company-wide perspective. When asked to indicate the major problem in the case study, the sales executives found

the major problem to be a sales problem, the production executives a production problem, and the public relations executives a public relations problem.

Some months ago, Association Management reported a survey of association executives. They were asked such questions as, "Do you tell your subordinates in advance about changes which will affect them or their work?" A high percentage of executives answered yes. A number of years ago, however, when this question was asked of superiors and their subordinates, and superiors said they told their subordinates everything in advance, most subordinates replied to the contrary. Different people see things differently.

If we want to understand what happens when people attempt to talk with one another, we must pay attention to far more than the words that are spoken. We must not believe that the only person who counts is the one who does the talking.

#### **Nonverbal Communication**

The topic of nonverbal communication has received a good deal of publicity in recent years. The ways in which we stand and gesture and the ways we control the space around us influence the responses of others. If someone stands too close to us we become uncomfortable. We regard the person as overbearing and boorish. If he touches us when we don't want to be touched, we will retreat from what we consider his aggressive act and try to protect ourselves by folding our arms or placing a piece of furniture between us. Some of our gestures are invitations to further conversation. Yet all of these acts are likely to take place without our full awareness, and all affect the way in which we respond to others.

It is possible to read too much meaning into postures and gestures. Sometimes we scratch because we itch rather than because of some deep, inner meaning we wish to convey.

It is surprising how much easier it is to learn the complicated rituals of social coordination than it is to learn simple rules of punctuation. Perhaps that is because the social rules are so much more important. It sometimes seems that none of the really important rules of communication are taught in school. But, for-

tunately, most of us learn them anyway. And most of us know that there's more to communication than talking.

The third false assumption we often make about communication really comes from the fact that we focus so much on the words and the speaker. We assume that people talk only about ideas. Just listen for a moment to what is being said around you. People seem to give reasons

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If we want to

understand what

happens when people

attempt to talk with

one another, we

must pay attention to

far more than

words. We must not

believe that the only

person who counts

is the one who does

the talking.

and explanations. They seek opinions; they give examples. But, if we naively assume that it is only this talk that is going on, we may very well miss the essential elements in our mutual coordination. We will certainly fail to understand why so many conflicts become so intense.

Every human transaction consists of two dimensions simultaneously—the content dimension and the relationship dimension. The content dimension ococurs in the open above the surface of our conversation. We freely admit that we are talking about content.

But every transaction also contains another element, one that is expressed only indirectly, below the surface of our conversation. That dimension is the relationship dimension. We are constantly listening as we talk with one another for indications as to how the other party regards us. Are we respected? Taken seriously? Is affection present? Think of those occasions in which you met another person and found him pushy and overbearing. The chances are you fell that he thought you were stupid. Was it anything he said directly that caused you to draw that conclusion, or was it some thing more subtle, the way he put his words together, the tone of his voice, or the way in which he looked at you?

We are all alert for these subtle cue of human relationship.

The Human Transaction

Let us use the words "agreement" and "disagreement" to indicate if two persons have similar perceptions of content and the words "understanding" and "misunderstanding" to indicate whether two persons have similar perceptions of their relationship. Agreement is cognitive; understanding is emotional. Agree ment refers to thought, understanding to feelings. Agreement applies to tasks understanding to egos. Agreement for cuses on agendas, understanding of hidden agendas. The important fact i remember is that both are present a simultaneous dimensions of any huma transaction.

The similarity or difference in or perceptions at one level may influence those at the other level. When we sense-from the way another person speaks to us—that he has little respect or affection for us, we find it difficult to accept hideas. If there is misunderstanding at the relationship level, there is likely to disagreement at the content level of or communication.

As we listen to others, we often to that the intensity of the conflict between them seems out of proportion to the striousness of the topic they are discusting. When this occurs, we can be su

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the problem is not their inability to the an agreement, but the problem ms from a misunderstanding at the elof relationship. It is not the truth of as that is at issue, but the absence of st and affection.

If you find difficulty achieving agreent with a colleague or subordinate, a may find that giving more direct intations of your respect and regard may tate a relationship climate more conzive to agreement.

Communication seems to work best in stuation where there is both agreement athe content level and understanding at crelationship level. It seems to be at its worst when there is both misunderstandard and disagreement.

It is possible, however, that two indiiduals who understand one another and are positive feelings about their relationship can honestly disagree. Such disagreement need not hinder the accomplishment of tasks so long as the communicators make clear to one mother that the relationship is still filled with respect, despite their difterence of opinion.

It is also possible that people can gree at the same time that they mismderstand one another. In such a circumstance, the apparent agreement may lead to difficulty when they attempt to implement their ideas because of the absence of a sound relationship base from which they can act.

If they are not sure of the trust and respect of one another, even agreement will not make them feel secure in dealing with each other. The wise communicator looks beyond ideas to the feelings that he and those with whom he communicates have about each other.

#### **Empty Conversation**

If you were to tape-record all of your conversations for a week and then listen to them, you would be surprised at how frequently you talk without exchanging new information. You would find that you frequently say the same or nearly the same thing to the same people, that there are certain opinions or phrases which you repeat often, and that much of your conversation elicits no new data or suggests no action.

Much of our talk with one another

carries out formal and informal rituals which help us determine the nature of the situations in which we find ourselves, the roles that we and others are to play, and the nature of the relationships involved.

If a group of people who have not seen one another for a long time meet at a conference or convention, they are likely to talk about mutual acquaintances, about common problems they have discussed many times before, and about recent personal activities. These discussions function not so much to provide new information to one another as to reassure one another that the old relationships and the old rules under which they were able to communicate still hold.

This is just another example that shows how the ideas discussed are not so important as the feelings that are communicated. When we assume that discussion between people is primarily about ideas—or perhaps solely about ideas—then it is easy for us to overlook the deeper and more important meanings that people give to their conversations. When we understand more about nonverbal communication, then we can understand better the reasons why communication operates as it does in the businesses we manage.

Only then can we fully appreciate the expectations and perceptions of others. Then you can learn to be more effective as a communicator.

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