

ILA LISTENING PEST

April 1, 1995 SPECIAL EDITION

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

Now that we have all learned to listen with a drawl, its time for us to learn about the aquatic side of listening. Tommy Neuman has notified me that he is busily lining up appropriately watery activities for our convention in Northern California next year.

By the time we get to Sacramento, the hotel should be surrounded by a moat of flood waters. Therefore he has scheduled a rather challenging listening activity. We plan to hold the first ever listening regatta. All of us will be assigned to a crew on an ear shaped boat. Of course since we are so very safety conscious, all crew members will be required to wear listening preservers. The crew that listens best to the sailing instructions will remain afloat and actually win the regatta. In addition to a fabulous pewter Loving Cup, the winning team will win the opportunity to have the rest of the ILA membership listen joyfully to their bragging.

If our regatta is successful (in other words, all of us survive), Tommy has suggested we enter the next America's Cup sailing a ship equipped with a secret ear shaped hull made of fiber glass and staffed with an all ILA crew. (I understand that one of the racing syndicates already is trying to uncover our secret, but they are too busy talking to listen. And Dennis Conner is trying to get a judge to listen to his plea for an injunction against the hull because it gives us an unfair advantage.

PRESIDENT CONTINUED

In truth a regatta may be just the type of event to sail our message out to those unenlightened souls who aren't members of the ILA. Unlike our members, many of the teachers, business people, parents, children, spouses, friends, professional and others out there are so busy in the sea of life they forgot to trim the sail that will help them be better communicators and people...they forgot to listen.

On **APRIL 1** we celebrate "fooling around". A clever fool always listens carefully. A clever listener knows when to be serious and when not to be. Here's hoping your **APRIL 1** is filled with clever fools and great listening.

Margaret Fitch-Hauser
President ILA

ILA BIDS FOND FAREWELL TO DR. MARY WISE

Members of the executive board got a double shock when Mary Wise announced that not only would she cease to be our Executive Director but that she must remove herself from all ILA activities completely.

When pressed for details, Mary revealed that Ball State University had discovered that their retirement system was bankrupt and that senior faculty are in great jeopardy of relying only on Social Security. Mary was fully vested in the system. Fortunately, Mary and her husband had an Amway business. Need soap, call Mary.

PRESIDENT CLINTON TO CONSIDER A CABINET LEVEL POST-SECRETARY OF LISTENING.

An article in last Sunday's Washington Post mentioned that our nations Chief Executive, himself winner of the Listener of The Year Award from the ILA was strongly considering a new cabinet position to focus upon this nation's poor listening. Clinton was suggesting that Newt and others could profit from some expert to help them listen to the American People.

Larry King was the first to provide nation wide exposure to the lack of good listeners. Interviewed on the program include Dr. Ralph Nichols, referred to by many as the Father of Listening. Dr. Nichols said that there was no truth in the rumor that he and the Colonel were giving up Florida retirement to tackle the government problems.

Dr. Andy Wolvin also said he was not to be considered for the new position. Said Andy, "I am the speech coach for the Washington Capitol Hockey Team and I get great satisfaction when I can get one of the players to complete an interview with out saying 'eh'.

Sources close to the White House did say that immediate past ILA President, Sheila Bentley, Carolyn Grau, Susan Ellen Bacon, Sandy Stein, and Ethel Glenn are on the short list. When President Clinton was asked would he consider Bob Bohlken for the position. The President curtly said, "NO".

NEWS AND NOTES ABOUT ILA MEMBERS

Listening Post Editor, **LISA VICKERS** announced to the Executive Board that she was not only going to get married in 1996 but this hallowed and reverent event was going to take place at the convention in Sacramento next March.

Lisa could not be persuaded to reveal the name of the lucky groom. She did however smile when asked if he were a member of the ILA. She was asked directly if it was Bob Bohlken, she replied, **NO!**

KIMBERLY BATTY-HERBERT called our office to report that the flight to New Mexico following the Little Rock Convention was the worst that she had ever flown. The turbulence was so great that the flight had to be rerouted to Mexico City. Kimberly was able to calm the nervous passengers and taught them several listening games. U.S. Air awarded Kimberly with a Free Pass for a year. Great Job Kimberly.

TOM HICKERSON has kept himself in shape for years and it paid off once again when his old friend, Dusty Baker, manager of the San Francisco Giants called and asked if Tom might not join the team as a replacement player. Tom said he was ready and is now heavy in spring training. As of April 1 Tom was batting 433 and had hit a club high 7 home runs.

Did you know that there is a new 12 step program for compulsive talkers? It is called on and on anon.

Meanwhile, **CAROLYN COAKLEY HICKERSON** stayed in Sonoma California during the great rain of 1995 while husband Tom was out in the Arizona sun. While Tom was changing from street shoes to baseball cleats Carolyn was changing buckets, pans and any other container she could find to collect the rain water. She was able to borrow a wine barrel from one of her neighboring vineyards. The flooded vineyards admitted that their prize wines had got mixed with the Sonoma drinking water. Small wonder Carolyn is having speech difficulties now.

In one of the most memorable television encounters in recent history, Oprah had her hands full when she brought on author John Grey. He of Men are from Mars and Women are from Venus fame. John was most persuasive when he discussed the importance of listening in marriage. Oprah then turned to her overflow audience to get their reaction. What a reaction! **PHIL EMMETT** mentioned that he was First Vice President of the ILA and then told a nationwide audience how he saw the listening drama played out in marriage. It was then that spouse and fellow ILAer **VICKIE EMMETT** was heard to utter "...with logic like that you will never make president of the ILA." The nationwide television audience was treated to quite a domestic showdown. On that fateful day, Oprah's ratings out drew the O.J. trial.

The Speech Communication Department at Indiana University recently rewarded **DR. TODD THOMAS** tenure for his ability to get I.U. basketball coach Bobby Knight to listen to the complaints of his players and the fans. Said Bobby, "I'm a changed man."

LARRY BARKER, ILA's talented and versatile member once again showed the extent of his musical ability when on the Oscar Night Presentation, Barbara Streisand and Larry engaged in a musical version of the old Abbott and Costello routine of "Who's on First". Variety Magazine had this to say about the baseball protest and the musical treatment given by Streisand and Barker, "The heart of Hollywood strongly stands united to have baseball return to the major league parks this summer. Two great performers, one a proven star and one who should become a household name soon, sang their hearts out. There was not a dry eye in the house."

KIRK ASTON reports that the Native American painting that he bought at the James I. Brown Auction for \$40 was the best investment that he has ever made. He writes that he was showing the painting to an art dealer when it was discovered to be one of the three early paintings of Bev Doolittle. Christie's confirmed it to be an Doolittle original and estimates it's value at \$450,000. If Kirk decides to sell it he promises to endow the ILA with a handsome award.

CHARLES ROBERTS wants to thank all of the members who sent in manuscripts for the **ILA JOURNAL** but he says please stop. "I have so many great articles that we can publish this journal monthly and not get rid of all of them." Roberts goes on to say, "Please tell **BEV AWEVE** that she also included her car payment statement with her last manuscript. I paid it this time but not again."

MICHAEL PURDY invites you to call for an invitation to the Mid-West regional meeting to be held in Honolulu this fall. The cost is only \$299 for flight, registration, hotel, and meals. Call 708-534-40