

THE ROCKY ROAD TO IMMIGRATION REFORM

For nearly a decade, the House of Representatives has been the graveyard of immigration reform legislation. In 2006 and again in 2007, the Senate approved comprehensive immigration bills with ample bipartisan support, only to see these bills die an ignominious death in the Republican-controlled House. The failed legislation would have fixed logjams in the legal immigration system, beefed up border enforcement, established programs for managing future flows of labor migrants, and created a path to legalization and eventual citizenship for much of the country's estimated 11.7 million undocumented immigrants. House conservatives had made illegal immigration the wedge issue du jour in their reelection strategy. When **George W. Bush's** key political strategist, **Karl Rove**, went to the hill to plead with them for a modicum of moderation on immigration, he had his head handed to him.

History seemed to be repeating itself in 2013, with President **Obama** trying to make good on his 2008 and 2012 campaign promises to enact comprehensive immigration reform, the Senate passing such legislation in June (again with bipartisan support), and most House Republicans digging in their heels to prevent that bill from becoming law.

House Republicans would like to cherry-pick the Senate bill, passing the enhanced border and interior enforcement components more palatable to their conservative constituents (including up to \$49 billion in new spending on militarizing the border) and leaving less popular elements (like legalization) on the cutting



By Wayne A. Cornelius
Director, Mexican Migration Field Research Program, and Theodore Gildred Distinguished Professor of Political Science and U.S.-Mexican Relations Emeritus

room floor. Democrats won't go for this piecemeal approach. Nor will most Democrats accept a neutered legalization program that denies a full path to citizenship.

A minority of the House Republicans, taking their lead from Senator **Marco Rubio**, have expressed interest in a very limited legalization measure targeted at "Dreamers"—young undocumented immigrants, brought to the U.S. as children, who would have benefited from the often-introduced but never-enacted Dream Act. But Republicans who might be persuaded to support such a measure would not go as far as creating a path to citizenship for this subset of undocumented immigrants; they would get only "green cards" (permanent legal resident status).

For the remainder—the vast majority—the Republican policy prescription remains what GOP Presidential candidate **Mitt Romney** advocated in his 2012

campaign: "self-deportation," or doing whatever it takes to make life so miserable for undocumented immigrants that they give up and go back to their countries of origin.

But "self-deportation" isn't happening. After peaking in 2007, at an estimated 12.1 million, the undocumented population has been essentially stable, falling to 11.7 million in March 2012 despite the millions of jobs eliminated by the Great Recession, and despite the hostile climate created by the passage of anti-immigrant measures in Arizona and a half-dozen other states since 2006. Return migration to Mexico has dwindled to a trickle. Undocumented Mexicans who made it into the United States have stayed put, developing new economic survival strategies and if necessary moving to parts of the country where labor demand has been strongest during the recovery. "Self-deportation" is an ideologically constructed myth.

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House Speaker **John Boehner** recently reiterated his commitment to immigration reform (without taking a position on what kind). Some voices in the national Republican Party are urging action, if only to avert another Republican blow-out among Latino voters in the 2016 elections. Democrats and President Obama have been pressing hard for a House vote on the bipartisan bill passed by the Senate this year, and polls show that three-quarters of Americans favor immigration reform with a path to citizenship. So what explains the ongoing immigration gridlock in Congress?

The Senate-passed bill could be approved by the House with all Democrats and a handful of Republicans voting “aye.” But Speaker Boehner has vowed not to violate the “Hastert rule,” under which a Republican Speaker will not bring up for a vote any legislation not backed by a majority of his own party caucus. The immigration reform bill passed by the Senate clearly is not supported by a majority of House Republicans.

Why are so few House Republicans willing to embrace comprehensive immigration reform? Here’s the simple math: Republicans have 232 seats in the current House of Representatives. Only 45 of those Congressional districts can be classified as “competitive” or “swing districts,” using a standard mathematical formula.

In the 2010 elections the Democrats lost control not only of the House but of a majority of the state legislatures. That is critical to the current impasse over immigration reform (as well as recent battles over budget and debt issues),

because those Republican-dominated state legislatures controlled the redrawing of Congressional districts in 2011. As a result, fewer than one out of five Republicans now in Congress could realistically face a significant challenge from a Democratic opponent in the next four election cycles.

In their carefully-carved districts, Republican Congressmen can pander to their hard-right base on immigration and be rewarded for doing so, without fear of losing their seats, at least to a Democrat. They might lose a few independent votes, but there are not enough independent voters in their districts to affect election outcomes. In the 20 districts now held by “moderate” Republicans, the political calculus also argues against embracing comprehensive immigration reform. Most of these Republicans are afraid to buck the Tea Party on immigration.

When could this basic arithmetic change? Not until the 2020 Census. In 2021, Congressional district lines will be redrawn based on the new census data, and 2022 will bring the first election in these redrawn Congressional districts. The best shot for comprehensive reform (without a major compromise on a path to citizenship) would come when there is a Democratically-controlled Senate *and* House. That is highly unlikely to happen in 2014, mainly because of gerrymandering, even if Republicans are widely blamed for shutting down the government and undermining the country’s economic recovery in 2013-14.

It *might* be possible for Democrats to take control of the House in 2016, assuming that the damage to the Republican brand from this year’s budget shenanigans is severe enough. And/or: If the Republicans lose another presidential election in 2016 with the Democratic candidate again taking the lion’s share of Latino votes (Barack Obama outpolled Mitt Romney among Latinos by nearly three to one) there might be enough Republican votes in the next Congress to pass comprehensive immigration reform. But there will still be plenty of Republican Congressmen who don’t have to worry about Latino voters in their districts.

In the aftermath of New Jersey Governor Chris Christie’s lop-sided reelection victory, in which he won more than half of the state’s Latino vote, there has been much talk that Latinos are up for grabs by a “moderate” 2016 Republican presidential candidate who avoids overt immigrant-bashing and aggressively courts their support (guess who). But today’s large group of anti-immigration Republican Congressmen in gerrymandered districts have no incentive to anger their base by embracing immigration reform, just to bolster the presidential prospects of Chris Christie.

In the short-term, it looks like the President’s executive powers, and the actions of state and local governments, will play the most important role in extending rights to immigrants. By far the most important assertion of presidential powers in the Obama administration to improve life for immigrant families has been the creation of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, which suspends deportation proceedings for undocumented immigrants between the ages of 15 and 30 who were brought to the United States by their parents.

Implemented beginning last year, the DACA program potentially can benefit up to 1.9 million immigrants, based on the program’s eligibility criteria and the demographics of the undocumented population. But by mid-October 2013 less than 30 percent of those estimated to be eligible had applied—567,563 nationwide, 161,624 in California. Field interviews done by UCSD’s Mexican Migration Field Research and Training Program in January-February 2013 suggest that this under-enrollment is mainly because people don’t know that they are eligible.

Boosting participation in the DACA program is an urgent priority, especially in the absence of federal immigration reform. It will not solve all of the problems of “mixed status” immigrant families in which some members are legal residents and others are undocumented. And for individual beneficiaries, getting DACA status is not permanent legalization (i.e., a “green card”). It is just a two-year reprieve from deportation, potentially renewable

EMERITI WEBSITE

The UCSD Emeriti Association maintains a website: <http://emeriti.ucsd.edu>.

Clicking the **CHRONICLES** button will allow you to view past issues of this newsletter. The website also provides the constitution and by-laws, lists of members, and minutes of meetings.

every two years as long as the program exists. That said, moving even one family member out of the shadows and enabling that person to work legally is a huge step forward. The DACA program was created by executive action and it has been challenged in court on the grounds that the President exceeded his authority. The challenges have been unsuccessful so far and the program continues to accept applications; there is no deadline.

The downside of federal executive action on immigration under Obama has been the administration's mass deportation effort, which actually began in the last years of George W. Bush but was accelerated by President Obama. Since he took office, nearly 2 million deportations have occurred—nearly 400,000 in some years—breaking up countless immigrant families. Fewer than half of these deportations have involved people with criminal convictions, and a large portion of those were for minor offenses, such as a misdemeanor for driving without a license (which undocumented immigrants cannot get in most states).

The Border Patrol's new strategy of creating "enhanced [legal] consequences" for illegal entry put many of these people on the road to deportation. Under this policy the majority of undocumented migrants whom border agents apprehend are processed for criminal prosecution or administrative removal rather than allowing them to depart voluntarily, as in the past. Voluntary departures have fallen from 77 percent of apprehended migrants in 2005 to just 14 percent in the last fiscal year, while the proportion being prosecuted through the federal judicial system rose from 23 percent to 86 percent. "Immigration crime" is now the largest component of U.S. federal prosecutions. Saddling apprehended immigrants with a felony criminal record bars them from legally reentering the United States for at least ten years and may make them ineligible for any future legalization program, depending on how it is designed.

Why has the Obama administration pursued such an aggressively punitive policy? In order to buy credibility in Congress for the administration's push for com-

prehensive immigration reform. Tough measures were considered necessary to convince members of Congress that the administration was serious about its proposals to beef up border security as part of a comprehensive bill. Since the short-term prospects for comprehensive reform legislation have dimmed to the vanishing point, the rationale for continuing to deport 400,000 people each year and for criminalizing what are civil immigration offenses has gotten much weaker. But the buying-credibility rationale is still relevant to passing comprehensive immigration reform, as explained below.

States and localities can help to fill the void left by the failure of Congress to act. We have seen the ugly side of immigration federalism, in states like Arizona, Nebraska, Alabama, and Georgia. But there is also considerable potential for more politically progressive states and localities to continue moving forward on measures designed to integrate immigrants more fully into U.S. society and increase their contributions to tax revenues. In 2013 far more of the state-level legislative activity on immigration issues has been integrative and/or pro-immigrant in nature than in the 2006-2009 period.

California has the best record, with the legislature passing and Governor Jerry Brown signing several major pro-immigrant bills: the TRUST Act, which will make it harder for federal agents to detain and deport unauthorized immigrants apprehended in California who have not committed criminal offenses, or minor offenders, and who pose no threat to public security; a bill to allow undocumented immigrants to get driver's licenses; a bill allowing legal permanent residents to work in polling places for elections; a bill granting new labor rights to domestic workers; a bill prohibiting employers from calling immigration authorities to punish immigrant workers; and a bill allowing qualified undocumented immigrants to become licensed as lawyers. The Governor vetoed only one pro-immigrant bill passed by the Legislature this year: one allowing legal permanent residents to serve on juries. Altogether, this body of new state legisla-

tion represents a major expansion of immigrants' rights in California.

In short, states can take the lead. But one note of caution is warranted. Two of the Republican Congressmen who were part of the so-called House "gang" working on comprehensive immigration reform have dropped out of that effort in recent months, citing concerns over whether President Obama could be trusted when it comes to immigration enforcement. They might have been trying to head off a challenge from a Tea Party opponent in their next primary election, but publicly they justified abandoning the effort by arguing that Obama could not be trusted to carry out the enforcement provisions of a comprehensive immigration reform bill. Something like the TRUST Act represents a great victory for the immigrant-rights movement. But, regrettably, it plays directly into the Republican narrative that Democrats cannot be trusted on enforcement. This note of caution is important, if the goal is a comprehensive reform bill that has bipartisan support.

The bottom line is that unless and until we get a much larger number of competitive seats in the House of Representatives, especially in GOP-leaning districts, there is little chance that comprehensive immigration reform will be enacted. And that could take another ten years. ♦



“MURPH” GOLDBERGER AND THE JASONS: A MEMOIR

Marvin (Murph) Goldberger joined UCSD as Dean of Science in 1993, in a post created for him by Chancellor **Richard C. Atkinson**, capping a distinguished career as a theoretical physicist (earning the **Dannie Heinemann** Prize for Mathematical Physics in 1961), senior academic administrator, and advisor to the government on defense policy. In every phase of this career, he worked among the leading lights of twentieth century physics.

He was nicknamed “Murph” by schoolmates in a mainly Irish neighborhood in which he grew up. After graduating from the Carnegie Institute of Technology, he enlisted in the Army but was immediately assigned to a “Special Engineering Detachment” to work in the University of Chicago branch of the Manhattan Project that produced the atomic bomb. After the war he became a graduate student at Chicago where he did a doctoral thesis under **Enrico Fermi** and met his future wife **Mildred**, then a graduate student in Economics. After a post doc at Berkeley and MIT, he accepted an appointment at Chicago, where he worked, among others, with Fermi and **Edward Teller**, and with four other major researchers who later came to UCSD: **Harold Urey**, **Joseph E. Mayer**, **Maria Goeppert-Mayer**, and **Leo Szilard**. He left Chicago for Princeton and then became President of Caltech from 1978 to 1987. After that he returned to Princeton as Director of the Institute for Advanced Study (succeeding **J. Robert Oppenheimer**, with whom he became a close friend) after which he was appointed at UCLA and then settled in La Jolla. During this time he also served on the President’s Science Advisory Committee, originally created by President **Dwight Eisenhower** to bring scientific advice directly to the White House.

In a recorded interview with retired UCSD Provost **Ernie Mort**, Murph discussed his career and his role in setting up the Jasons, a group of advisors to the



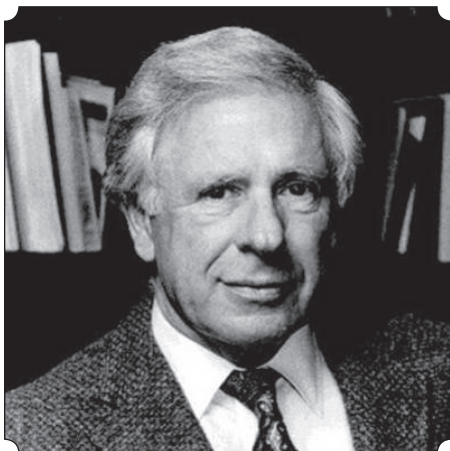
government on defense policy. This account draws on the interview and a previous one he gave in 1986 which is available on the website of the Center for the History of Physics of the American Institute of Physics.

The germ of the idea for the Jasons began with a summer study in 1958 run by the physicists **John Wheeler**, **Eugene Wigner**, and **Oskar Morganstern**. Goldberger and two men who were later critical to the founding of UCSD, **Keith Brueckner** and **Ken Watson**, were among the young researchers invited to take part in the study. At the end of the summer, Wigner and Watson thought it might be a good idea to set up something like a National Defense Institute to bring new developments to the attention of the Department of Defense at a high level. **Herbert F. York**, who would become UCSD’s first Chancellor and was then Director of Defense Research and Engineering in the Pentagon, encouraged the idea. Wheeler and Wigner decided that Goldberger ought to head the project, but at the time he was reluctant to give up his work as a physicist. The idea languished until a year later, when Goldberger and Watson were at Los Alamos, working on nuclear propulsion for rockets. **Charles Townes**, the inventor of the laser, was then vice president for research of the Institute for Defense Analysis (IDA), a think tank created by the Army to keep up with the Air Force’s “Project Rand” (for Research and Development, or R&D). Townes and the

physicist **Marvin Stern** came to Los Alamos to interest Goldberger and Watson in the creation of a standing advisory project. “I made the mistake of going to the john,” Goldberger recalls, “and I ended up chairman of the steering committee.” York made sure the project was backed by the DOD, and his successors, **Harold Brown** and **Johnny Foster**, were also very supportive.

A larger group was formed on the understanding that it would meet several times a year with a summer study as a centerpiece, frequently in La Jolla. Other theoretical physicists were the first to be invited, Goldberger recalls, but soon lesser mortals like experimental physicists and even chemists were invited. All received top secret clearance and were paid by the day (at the outset ordinary members earned \$50 a day, Murph, as chair, \$75). Certain topics, either already of interest at the DOD or pursued at the initiative of the physicists, were set for the group. Early among these was the feasibility of anti-ballistic-missile (ABM) defense. Arms control issues were another major concern. As arms control treaties limited weapons testing, the group became especially concerned with assuring the stability and reliability of the nuclear weapons in the American arsenal to allow for a comprehensive treaty to ban all testing. In subsequent years the group worked on a host of projects, including anti-submarine warfare, submarine communications, laser-guided smart bombs, and unclassified projects like the role of greenhouse gases in climate change.

The story of how the name was chosen is a favorite of Murph’s. At the Pentagon, the usual procedure was to insert projects into a computer which would spew out a code name for them. The name for this one came back “Project Sunrise.” When Murph’s wife Mildred heard it, her reaction was distinctly negative. “It stinks,” he recalls her saying bluntly. When she saw an announcement of the project put out



by the IDA, she noticed that the IDA's letterhead had a colophon that looked like a Greek temple. That caught Mildred's imagination. "You should call yourselves Jasons," she suggested, because like Jason you are setting out to make new discoveries. (Since they were being paid, Murph recalled, the idea that like Jason and the argonauts, they were pursuing "the golden fleece" also made the name appropriate.) That settled it: Jasons they became.

The existence of the group came to public notice in a highly controversial way when it featured in the Pentagon Papers, the study of the Vietnam War illegally "declassified" by Daniel Ellsberg and serialized in the New York Times. In the papers Jason researchers were said to have been involved in war work involving the development of an "electronic battlefield." The intention of the scientists was to minimize the need for bombing. Their proposal was implemented, however, as an adjunct to the bombing campaign. Although the project was not carried out by the group as a whole but only by a subset of six or seven researchers, Goldberger admits that in hindsight it was a serious error for the group to have put its imprimatur on it at all. Overall, however, he believes that the Jasons, whose membership is now diversified and who continue to meet, have had a positive influence on national security by involving younger scientists in important issues of science policy, in improving defense capability, and in "shooting down" ineffective or premature ideas for new departures in defense technology. ♦

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THE COURT SHOULD REPUDIATE THE INTERNMENT DECISIONS

By Peter Irons

Professor Emeritus of Political Science

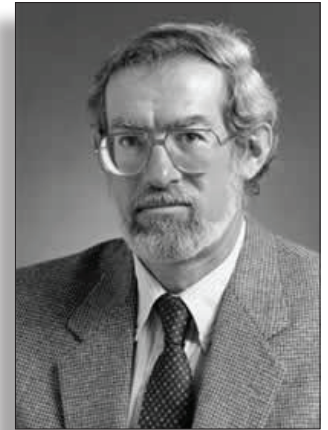
For more than three decades after the internment and imprisonment of Japanese Americans was formally ended, many victims of the camps remained silent about their experiences, bearing the shame and stigma of racial “disloyalty” the Supreme Court decisions had imposed on them. **Fred Korematsu**’s daughter, **Karen**, did not learn of her father’s role in history until a junior-high classmate gave an oral report on the internment, mentioning the Korematsu case. She went home and asked, “Daddy, are we related to him?” Only then did Fred tell Karen the story of his stand and his case. However, beginning in the late 1970s, inspired by the movements of black Americans for civil rights, and the opponents of the Vietnam War, some internment survivors, and members of the younger generation of Japanese Americans, launched a campaign for “redress and reparations,” seeking apologies from Congress and the Executive branch, as well as symbolic payments for the years they spent behind barbed wire in desolate concentration camps.

The redress and reparations campaign finally won recognition when Congress, with the support of President **Jimmy Carter**, established in 1980 the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians. Its report, *Personal Justice Denied*, was issued in December 1982, and concluded that President **Roosevelt**’s issuance of Executive Order 9066 “was not justified by military necessity, and the decisions which followed from it...were not driven by analysis of military conditions. The broad historical causes which shaped these decisions were race prejudice, war hysteria, and a failure of political leadership... A grave injustice was done to American citizens and resident aliens of Japanese ancestry who, without individual review or any

probative evidence against them, were excluded, removed and detained by the United States during World War II.” In its formal report to Congress, the Commission recommended both a national apology for the internment and financial compensation to its surviving victims.

In response to the Commission’s report and recommendations, Congress adopted in 1988 the Civil Rights Act, in which congress stated its purpose to “acknowledge the fundamental injustice of the evacuation, relocation, and internment of United States citizens and permanent resident aliens of Japanese ancestry during World War II”; and to “apologize on behalf of the people of the United States” for the internment of this racial minority. Congress also acknowledged in this Act that “these actions were carried out without adequate security reasons and without any acts of espionage or sabotage documented by the Commission and were motivated largely by racial prejudice, wartime hysteria, and a failure of political leadership. The excluded individuals of Japanese ancestry suffered enormous damages, both material and intangible, and there were incalculable losses in education and job training, all of which resulted in significant violations of the basic civil liberties and constitutional rights of these individuals of Japanese ancestry, the Congress apologizes on behalf of the Nation.”

In signing this Act on August 10, 1988, President **Ronald Reagan** told those at the White House ceremony, and the American people, that “we gather here today to right a grave wrong. More than 40 years ago, shortly after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry living in the United States were forcibly removed from their homes and placed in makeshift internment camps. This action was taken without trial, without jury. It was based solely on race... For here we admit a wrong; here we reaffirm our commitment as a nation to equal justice under the law.” The Act



signed by President Reagan also provided for payments of \$20,000 to each of the remaining 60,000 survivors of the internment camps, although the President admitted that “no payment can make up for those lost years.”

A final measure of recognition for their defense of “liberty and justice for all” came to Fred Korematsu and **Gordon Hirabayashi** in White House ceremonies in which they received the Nation’s highest civilian award, the Presidential Medal of Freedom. In January 1988, President **Bill Clinton** bestowed the medal on Fred Korematsu, calling him “a man of quiet bravery.” The presidential citation with the award read:

In 1942, an ordinary American took an extraordinary stand. Fred Korematsu boldly opposed the forced internment of Japanese Americans during World War II. After being convicted for failing to report for evacuation, Mr. Korematsu took his case all the way to the Supreme Court. The high court ruled against him. But 39 years later, he had his conviction overturned in federal court, empowering tens of thousands of Japanese Americans and giving him what he said he wanted most of all—the chance to feel like an American again. In the long history of our country’s constant search for justice, some names of ordinary citizens stand for millions of souls: **Plessy**, **Brown**, **Parks**. To that distinguished list, today we add the name of Fred Korematsu.

At a similar White House ceremony in May 2012, President **Barack Obama** conferred the same Medal of Freedom on Gordon Hirabayashi; unfortunately, it was a posthumous honor, since Hirabayashi died earlier that year, with the medal accepted by his children and wife. In the citation issued for the ceremony, President Obama said:

“Gordon Hirabayashi knew what it was like to stand alone. As a student at the University of Washington, Gordon was one of only three Japanese Americans to defy the executive order that forced thousands of families to leave their homes, their jobs, and their civil rights behind and move to internment camps during World War II. He took his case all the way to the Supreme Court, and he lost. It would be another 40 years before that decision was reversed, giving Asian Americans everywhere a small measure of justice. In Gordon’s word, ‘It takes a lot of courage in the face of military power in the crisis to tell us that unless citizens are willing to stand up for the [Constitution], it’s not worth the paper it’s written on.’ And this country is better off because of citizens like him who are willing to stand up.”

Minoru Yasui (who was equally deserving of the Medal of Freedom) died in 1986; Fred Korematsu died in 1995; and Gordon Hirabayashi in 2012. But their spirits and examples live on in the hearts of millions of their fellow Americans. They stood up for their constitutional rights when most Americans stood silent in the face of the “grave injustice” of the internment. The time has come for the Supreme Court to stand up, and carry out its obligation to secure “Equal Justice Under Law” for all Americans by repudiating the internment decisions that have stained the Court’s history and integrity.

For his role as a lead attorney in the petition calling upon the Supreme Court to reopen the Korematsu case, Irons was awarded a Silver Gavel certificate of merit by the American Bar Association—one of five he has earned. This article is drawn from the conclusion of “Unfinished Business: the Case for Supreme Court Repudiation of the Japanese American Internment Cases,” a 2013 publication of the UCSD Earl Warren Bill of Rights Project. ♦

ANECDOTAGE

By **Sandy Lakoff**

Reconquista

(Thanks to Anita Safran)

A U.S. Navy destroyer stops four Mexicans in a row boat rowing towards California.



The Captain gets on the loudspeaker and shouts, “Ahoy, small craft. Where are you headed?”

One of the Mexicans puts down his oar, stands up, and shouts, “We are invading the United States of America to reclaim the territory taken from us by the USA during the 1800s.”

The entire crew of the destroyer doubled over in laughter. When the Captain is finally able to catch his breath, he gets back on the loudspeaker and asks, “Just the four of you?”

The same Mexican stands up again and shouts, “No, we’re the last four. The rest are already there!”

♦ ♦ ♦

The recent revelation that Senator **Rand Paul** has been a serial plagiarist—whose indignant comments seemed to reveal he was unaware of what the word means—reminded me of two other classic instances.

One involved an undergraduate term paper submitted by a student in a Government course at Harvard. The topic was the Russian Revolution of 1917. The paper contained a footnote that read “Stalin told me this himself personally.” It turned out the paper had been lifted from **Leon**

Trotsky’s book on the revolution but that the student had not redacted the footnote. (P.S. He was not encouraged to run for the Senate.)

♦ ♦ ♦

I learned about the other in Cambridge from **Henry Popkin** (not to be confused with the locally known faculty of the same surname—the late **Richard H.** of our Philosophy Department or **Sam** of Political Science). The Popkin named Henry was an erudite student of drama with a delightful sense of humor. One day we ran into each other on Massachusetts Avenue and he told me he had recently received a paper in a graduate seminar at Brandeis which he felt sure had been plagiarized. He racked his brains, even checked the Master’s and Doctoral theses in Widener Library at Harvard, but couldn’t come up with the source until one day at the Phillips Book Store (near where we were standing) he spotted a volume on a top shelf and it lit the proverbial light bulb in his brain. He eagerly took it down, riffed through the pages, and sure enough found the original version. He returned the paper to the student with a grade of F and a comment: “I reviewed this unfavorably when it first came out and haven’t changed my mind since.”

♦ ♦ ♦

In a recent linguistic conference held in London, and attended by some of the best linguists in the world: **Samsundar Balgobin**, a Guyanese, was challenged to explain the difference between the word “finished” and the word “complete” in a way that would be easy to understand. He answered—to a standing ovation:

“When you marry the right woman, you are COMPLETE. But, when you marry the wrong woman, you are FINISHED. And when the right one catches you with the wrong one, you are COMPLETELY FINISHED!”

Continued on p.8 →

Anecdote from p.7

Verse still, (thanks to *Marv Hoffman*) as comedian **George Carlin** once observed,

*We'll begin with a box, and the plural is boxes,
But the plural of ox becomes oxen, not oxes.
One fowl is a goose, but two are called geese,
Yet the plural of moose should never be meese.
You may find a lone mouse or a nest full of mice,
Yet the plural of house is houses, not hice.
If the plural of man is always called men,
Why shouldn't the plural of pan be called pen?
If I speak of my foot and show you my feet,
And I give you a boot, would a pair be called beet?
If one is a tooth and a whole set are teeth,
Why shouldn't the plural of booth be called beeth?*

*Then one may be that, and three would be those,
Yet hat in the plural would never be hose,
And the plural of cat is cats, not cose
We speak of a brother and also of brethren,
But though we say mother, we never say methren.
Then the masculine pronouns are he, his and him,
But imagine the feminine: she, shis and shim!*



Mark Your Calendar!



Todd Coleman
Associate Professor of Bioengineering
**“Integrating Flexible Electronics
with Analytics for Unobtrusive
Health Monitoring”**
Wednesday, Jan 8, 4:00-5:30 pm

Stephanie Strathdee
Associate Dean of Global Health Sciences
“Global Health”
Wednesday, Feb 12, 4:00-5:30 pm



Let's face it: English is a crazy language. There is no egg in eggplant nor ham in hamburger; neither apple nor pine in pineapple. English muffins weren't invented in England.

We take English for granted, but if we explore its paradoxes, we find that quicksand can work slowly, boxing rings are square, and a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig.

And why is it that writers write, but fingers don't finge, grocers don't groce, and hammers don't ham?

Doesn't it seem crazy that you can make amends but not one amend? If you have a bunch of odds and ends and get rid of all but one of them, what do you call it?

If teachers taught, why didn't preachers praught? If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a humanitarian eat?

Sometimes I think all the folks who grew up speaking English should be committed to an asylum for the verbally insane. In what other language do people recite at a play and play at a recital!

We ship by truck but send cargo by ship... We have noses that run and feet that smell.

We park in a driveway and drive in a parkway. And how can a slim chance and a fat chance be the same, while a wise man and a wise guy are opposites?

You have to marvel at the unique lunacy of a language in which your house can burn up as it burns down, in which you fill in a form by filling it out, and in which an alarm goes off by going on.

And in closing, if Father is Pop, how come Mother's not Mop? ❖

Chronicles

Newsletter of the UCSD Emeriti Association



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