
F R I C H

Forum for Research Into Communication History

Who We Are

FRICH Discloses its Identity and Purpose

Who puts out FRICH you wonder, and why? Is the paper put out by a couple of Earkle-style computer geeks because they have nothing better to do? Or is it put out by anarchists who hate the administration? Maybe it is a Senior Prank left over from last year, that got out of hand? Or maybe FRICH is put out by a couple of overachievers just looking for something to beef up their college applications. No, no. FRICH is put out by all of these personalities... and worse.

As you read this you are a link in the web that is FRICH. FRICH is a web of writers, editors, copiers, distributors, and readers. Even those who read FRICH to criticize it are part of this web.

We at FRICH have two specific goals. First, we endeavor to provide a forum where every student may be heard by the masses. Second, we hope to provide the masses with the opinions of individuals. We at FRICH are not only the masses, we are also FOR the masses.

With that closing thought, think of FRICH as your ally. We are YOUR forum.

π Sam(antha) Adams π

A Salute

This article is dedicated to many of the hardest working individuals in the entire community: The janitors of Niwot High School. I want to issue a personal salute and thanks to the custodians for their dedication and diligent work.

How often do you see random pieces of trash and/or paper lying around the halls? The caretakers of the school spend countless hours picking up after us slobes of "scholars." Do you know what I find ironic? A custodian will probably be picking this issue of FRICH up, even after this article.

Have any of you driven to school in the snow? Do you know who the first men out there are? The custodians are out in the freezing cold, shoveling the walkways and salting them so you don't break your scrawny neck. They have to mop up the tile after you drag in all that wet, dirty water. As to those soda bottles you so casually toss on the floor -- who do you think picks them up? The flippin' Tooth Fairy? However, do you hear those diligent men complain? Besides arriving first and doing all the hard work *during* school, they are among the last to leave after a long day (occasionally behind our hard-working administrators, who also deserve recognition, but that's a different issue for a different time.)

The deed that gives these men my unending respect is that they clean up after us (like our parents) and have the humility to call us "Sir" or "Ma'am" (unlike our parents.) They do this even though they are our seniors. To swallow your pride and say that to a snotty faced teenager is a hard act indeed. So, in conclusion, let's just help these guys out. Pick up the lone piece of trash, go the extra 5 feet to throw your soda bottle away, and wipe your feet before you come into the building.

π Benedict Arnold π

P.S. Mr. Cruz, a custodian, recently had shoulder surgery and will not be returning to work for another few weeks. Best wishes and get well soon, sir.

What Does “Fu<beep>” Stand For?

If you ask around a bit, you will no doubt find a number of people who fancy themselves a scholar of the wonderful word, “fu<beep>.” You will be told by at least a few of them that this word originated as an acronym. Fornication Under Control of the King, Forced Unlawful Carnal Knowledge, Frolicking Ueber Crack-headed Kittens, Filter Uncommon Couch Kitchen (or a similar stream of randomly-chosen words,) or a range of other possibilities. One story goes like this:

“The word ‘fu<beep>’ origi<beep>ted In the 1600s, when words ‘For Unlawful Carnal Knowledge’ were placed on a plaque above the stocks used to punish those guilty of adultery. This, inevitably, was shortened to an acronym.”

Another goes: “In Medieval England, couples were not allowed to have children unless authorized to do so by the king. The permits that were given out said ‘Fornication Under Consent of the King,’ which was also shortened to an acronym.” One begins to wonder, “Why all the differing definitions?”

When I became a writer for Fr<beep>ch, I made a vow in the name of all that is good, holy,

and an acronym that starts with the letter “F” that I would fight the evils of apathy and misinformation. Thus, I took on the righteous Qwest (yes, I admit it, we make all our money off product placements) of determining the true meaning of the acronym “FYI.” I was disappointed to learn that it wasn’t nearly as dirty as I had hoped. So, I looked up the word exactly 173 entries earlier. And to my *immense* surprise, no acronym or abbreviation was listed... It seems the word

origi<beep>ated from Swedish word “focka,” meaning “to strike, push, or copulate” (what an interesting combination of meanings) and first appeared in Middle English as the pseudo-Latin word “fuccant.” Not nearly as entertaining as a good acronym story, is it?

Anyways, this whole experience had really gotten to me. I felt too much like I was back in elementary school, snickering at the word “sex” in the dictionary. I had planned on also researching a rumor I had heard about the word “dork,” but the librarian was already looking at me in a rather distasteful manner. So, I straightened my tie, packed up my

briefcase, and left the library, radiating my usual air of dignity.

* * *

What’s my point? My point is simply this: Question the masses. People -- especially groups of people -- don’t always know what they’re talking about. All it takes is a little bit of discretion to weed the fact from the fiction, and it really doesn’t take a visit to the dictionary (or your local philosopher of obscenities.) And if you happen to hear about the origin of the word “dork,” give it a few seconds of thought before you accept it as truth...

π Paul Revere π

Editors note: Frich would like to apologize for any obscenities accidentally included in this article. We make every attempt to properly censor all our publications, but considering this issue is being broadcasted live from our studios in Boulder County, it is possible for language to be missed by our sensors... Our sincere apol<beep>gies.

Submit at: submit@FRICH.zzn.com

Causes and Effects of a Narcissistic World

I was born with a good set of genes. After all, it isn't just anybody who knows what "flummox" means. Proof that I must be smart. Excuse my "B" in Drama. I'm fun to hang out with, too. Girls would tell you that I am courteous and funny in a sarcastic way. Yet, I haven't had a girlfriend in a year... and a half. I'm sure they would flock to me if I were to make time for them in my busy and therefore important schedule. Furthermore, I'm great at sports. Or shall I say, a sport... and I didn't make the team.

Most teachers would agree that we have a confidence problem in our schools. This lack of self-confidence leads to increased drug use, poor academic performance and teenage pregnancy, they say. I suppose that that is why they keep telling me that I am Special. I'm Worthy. I'm Important. Despite my failures, I am Laudable. But the repetition isn't working. The conflict is that if I and everybody else are so unequivocally outstanding, then what distinguishes us? Is it merely typical to be outstanding? How can this be, when a comparative, exclusive adjective such as "special," by definition, cannot apply to everybody; unless of course, that adjective is "common," unexceptional" or "mediocre?"

The problem is that we as a society have recently encouraged too much undeserved pride, rather than granting praise for achievement, and ironically cheapening the deserved commendation. The simple, oft-distorted fact is that some of us are born with a genetic head start in life. As one bumper sticker sarcastically reminds us, "50% of Americans have a below-average IQ." Fair or not, this much is true. It is noble to attempt to make kids not feel substandard to one another. But when this goal is accomplished by instilling false confidence, not justified by accomplishments, such efforts cease to raise esteem over the long-term, as short-term motivation is soon to suffer.

Yet many educators and parents persist

in reiterating the rhetoric that people should be content with themselves for the simple fact that they are themselves. This hurts the person in the long term, as it chooses to show a preference to coddle the person's esteem, rather than exposing the individual to their own inabilities and shortcomings, encouraging them to improve. Their logic is wrong. This attitude, to say the least, does not lend itself to education. Pride should be earned, not nurtured.

"The building of false-esteem leads to satisfaction with present development and no urge to improve. This leads in turn to unsuccessful learning in school and failure to deal with reality in the world of work. True self-esteem can only come from accurate assessment which includes notification of failure when failure occurs."

(Britannica.com)

A standardized math test was given to 13-year-olds in six countries. Koreans did the best, Americans the worst. The kids were shown the statement, "I am good at Mathematics." Koreans had the least confidence, Americans the most. Only fifty years ago, humility was a central theme in the American education ideal. Pride has replaced this notion. Is it complete coincidence that what many consider to be the deterioration of school coincides with this changing attitude?

The instilling of false-esteem ultimately decreases one's self-esteem. Upon challenge of one's merits, a person without earned self-esteem will either lower their self-worth, or harbor ill feelings towards the challenger. Honesty does require more poise than false encouragement, but ultimately creates a more genuine environment where one can flourish, and subsequently acquire genuine self-assurance.

π The Cynic π

Football Anyone?

I don't know about you, but I'm already sick of Niwot football, and they've only had two home games. It's not the football I don't like, it's the people. I go to high school football games to enjoy myself, share school spirit, and hang out with my friends, not to be insulted by the rude, ignorant people (I think you know who you are). It is simply ridiculous how you all act. Haven't you all been informed about the civilized world yet, or did you skip that year of school?

For example, the Niwot vs. Skyline game. Every time you people would see a Skyline student in the crowd, you acted like wild animals. I remember seeing this one poor girl getting sprayed with silly string and getting yelled at by your foul mouths. Now I understand that it was the rival team and

how everyone feels, but for God sakes GROW UP! Did it ever occur that she could have been talking to some friends that she hadn't seen for awhile, or that she was visiting some family member that goes to Niwot? Oh wait, that means you would actually have to have a heart and a brain to think with, and God forbid that.

Instead of doing your "rituals" before a game and using your nice, colorful words, why don't you think first, and think of how stupid you look and sound? Don't live up to the reputation Niwot has from many other people. I know if you all really try then deep down inside not all of the Niwot student body is a bunch spoiled brats. Some of you are pretty cool.

π Jackie Kennedy π

10 Better Uses for New School Supplies

1. Give Freshmen I.D. numbers with a pen.
2. Use white-out to change questions on test.
3. Sell mechanical pencils to druggies instead of syringes.
4. Reconfigure calculator for use as cattle prod in crowded hallways.
5. Eat paper for needed dietary fiber.
6. Use spiral from notebook to open wine bottles in class.
7. Use locker for meat storage.
8. Open piercing shop with 3 ring binder.
9. Staple Student Body's legs shut.
10. Apply rubber cement.

The Disclaimer:

FRICH editorial policy states that any article that is well written MUST be printed. So, keep the following in mind:

First - the opinions expressed can only be considered those of the author.

Second - anyone can be published (see page 2)

Third - attitudes that may be perceived to belong to the editorial staff may not, in fact, exist.

Through a complete understanding of these effects, a more accurate understanding of FRICH can be achieved. And remember - Please don't sue.

<http://frich.flatirons.org>