
F R I C H

Forum for Research Into Communication History

Freedom of press limited?

Yes, if the Southpaw doesn't figure out how to write.

Ever notice how the public complains about the lack of proper English in our schools? Well, the latest edition of the Southpaw is a prime example. The first paragraph, for instance, not only contains three sentences, but also two comma splices and a funky double period. The first column contains five errors that make it unreadable to all but the most slang-loving, neo-anti-English, I'm-an-English-student-that-can't-write-but-am-important-since-I-write-for-a-paper type of person.

Remind me to invest overseas.

The rest of this column will be written in southpaw english.

In response, to the article on the back back that is on cliques i must respond. Maybe, the people who write about the prevalence and danger; of cliques,, should try to get to know other, people, instead of merely complaining about IT. Assume, as they do, that all cliques are designed solely to, prevent, them from having! a good time... at 7-11 every friday night. In any case, what do they, want people to do? Forming, cliques, is, human, nature. Most most students do not consciously,try, to exclude others.. Suggest; do i; that they try to deal with with human nature" instead of try to change it. After all all, what can be more fun, dealing with something or or just complaining about it?

By the way, i understand the irony of using a paper to satirize papers in general.

π Marquis de Lafayette <lafayette@frich.zzn.com> π

The Response

First, I must point out that although the article loaded with mechanical errors and the editorial on cliques are published in the same periodical, it is unfair to stigmatize the clique article with bad English. The author of the front page article was obviously sloppy, however this does not warrant punishment of the editorial's author. In response to your comment about the paragraph length, I suggest you consult The Denver Post or The New York Times. After counting the sentences per paragraph in these well respected papers, you will realize that it is proper news paper format to write one to four sentences per paragraph. Short paragraphs help focus the reader and keep his attention.

The South Paw has answered the question you are begging, "What do they want people to do?" In the last sentence of the editorial the writer states; "We, The South Paw, urge students to take a Friday night

away from their usual crowd,..” I will suggest that the South Paw has done more than simply complain about an issue. They have proposed a solution, which you have obviously overlooked.

I suggest you voice your concerns directly to The South Paw staff “instead of merely complaining about it” in this round about forum. The South Paw welcomes students to write in editorials and advice. In YOUR own words, “What can be more fun, dealing with something or just complaining about it?”

π Samuel Adams <sam@frich.zzn.com> π

Niwot Students Reported to be Counteracting the Effects of Natural Selection

Have you ever walked down the hall and seen all the attractive girls hanging out with all the guys with sub-zero IQs? This makes absolutely no sense, from a natural selection point of view. Why in the world would all the girls be attracted to the guys that will have minimum wage jobs and severe drug problems for the next 20 years, instead of the likely to be highly successful nerds? According to the laws of natural selection, the people who are currently the most popular would not be so popular, and the AP Calculus class would be the “Social Elite”. If anyone can explain this unnatural phenomena, email me.

π John Hancock <john@frich.zzn.com> π

Editors note: John Hancock can be reached at <john@frich.zzn.com> as soon as he has completed a rigorous recovery program consisting of extensive counseling and herbal remedies.

I Am a Senior, and I Know Who I Am

I come to school every day to see people obviously having no clue who they are. This disgusts me. Adolescence is the time that we are supposed to be realizing our true nature, not realizing the true cost of the latest cologne. I have seen people who have a waist the size of a toothpick complain that they put on a tenth of an ounce. Why are they so obsessed with being thin? I have seen people drown themselves in makeup because they have one blemish. Why are they so obsessed with appearing perfect? These people may be the top of the food chain during high school, but the real world won't care as much about how thin you were, how good you were with makeup, or even how popular you were. You were those things. Soon, you will be forced to take on an adult life, and you will no longer be those things. Some of the lucky ones will be able to continue on with careers that reflect what they did in high school. Most of us, myself included, will have to fit ourselves into society by changing ourselves. Prom royalty does not imply true royalty, it is a mock-up.

I have spoken with some of our college and post-college peers, they all realize now that the world is much more harsh than we thought it was in high school. There are 6.5 billion people on this planet. Not many grow up to be celebrities, in truth its about 1 in about a million. Not many grow up to be millionaires either, looking about one in a thousand. Which means that right now at Niwot, we could expect about a thousandth of a person to become a celebrity, and about 1.2 people to become millionaires. Some (or perhaps most) of you are thinking that it will be you that takes home the prize, but popularity here is no guarantee of popularity in the real world. Popularity in the real world is no guarantee of a lucrative job either. We, especially the seniors, need to begin looking at the real future, not this pseudo-world we have built for ourselves.

π Thomas Paine <tom@frich.zzn.com> π

...oops! Too late!

I woke up a few mornings ago and thought, "Crap. I'm a Senior. One last year to screw off before I get into the serious stuff." Today I realized something worse. There are still things I must do, places I must go, tests I must take, before this school year is over. I can't do what I did the past three years and sit on my ass watching Batman reruns anymore. No, those glory days have slipped out of my hands. So this morning, on top of my usual 12:00 shower and cigarette breakfast, I've been compiling a to-do list for seniors... and especially for me. My goal this year is to suck out the last few drops of adolescence while my fangs are still sharp. So, without further ado, here is a collection of important things every senior should complete before going on to the rigors of drunken stupor and frat parties that awaits in college life:

1. Go to Homecoming for the first time in two years and make an ass of myself
2. Round up a group of friends to dress like the Scooby Gang for Halloween
3. Learn how to blow smoke rings
4. <Censored under Columbine Act of '99>
5. Crossdress at least one day per semester
6. Draw Pokémon on all my finals
7. Flip off the Marine recruiters
8. Post porn in the hallways
9. Waste at least 1000 hours glued to my gameboy
10. Lose my virginity at Senior Prom... oops! Too late!

And last, but not least, the most significant thing I wish to accomplish this year is to bring my dog to <fornicate> on the football field. Yeah, aren't I the ambitious one?

π Misha Promeskiev <misha@frich.zzn.com> π

In Defense of the Word "Like"

Certain persons find the use of the word "like" to be a sign of poor education, bad vocabulary skills, excessive popularity, and the like. I, however, like like. In fact, I adore like. You would too if you realized the alternative was "uh" or "umm" or "duh" or "blah."

Besides, if you really wanted precision in speaking, stick to your computer's speech function. After all, it's the additional information conveyed in excess words, gesture and tone that makes communication work. Think about it.

π Ben Franklin <ben@frich.zzn.com> π

Editor's note: My response to people who bash the word "like" goes something like this: "But, like, dude, I, like, like 'like.'"

Lies, All, Lies!

Correcting the mis-truthes your teachers taught you.

1. You can, in fact, start a sentence with "Because," and STILL be gramatically correct.
2. Under normal circustances, two objects of different masses will generally NOT fall at the same rate.
3. You can actually use infinity in a mathematical equation, and still come out with a correct answer.
4. Under proper circumstances, you can divide by zero and still get a real answer.
5. Odds are, if you are a high school student, constitutional rights NEVER apply to you.
6. The first ammendment does not guarantee complete freedom of speech, press, religion, or assembly.
7. 110 volt current is only lethal if you're really stupid.
8. The ethical way is not always the best way.
9. Hard work does not pay off.
10. Large organizations NEVER follow the rules.

Survey

Are you, in fact, pupular?

C. Hell yeah, everybody loves me.

F. Yes. Quit laughing!

H. Do you think I'd be reading this if I were popular?

I. Being popular is nothing but a stupid popularity contest.

R. (embarassed silence)

So, answer the survey, get as many answers as possible from other people, and send them to: <paul@frich.zzn.com>

We don't care how you get your answers. Claim you're a representative of FRICH, get out the torture devices, use a little of the sodium pentathol you've been saving for a rainy day. We just want answers. The results will be in our next issue.

Apparently, some people found certain remarks made in FRICH #2 rude, mean, or even disparaging. However, a literal reading finds no evidence of any such disparagement, indicating that any sarcasm percieved was strictly a figment of the reader's imagination.

FRICH is not sponsored by, allied with, or otherwise influenced by anyone but those writing to it. Thus, if you want influence in FRICH, send submissions to <ben@frich.zzn.com.> Not all articles/essays will be accepted as space is limited. To increase your chances, write well. FRICH as a group does not espouse the beleifs expressed by the article writers therin. Good night.