



# capital translator

Newsletter of the National Capital Area Chapter of the American Translators Association  
Vol. 19, No. 5 June 1997

## Report on The Joint NCATA/SFL Luncheon

### Food for Thought

by Cassandra Decker

What would you say to an accreditation system which indicates a high level of skill? What would you say to being in business to make money? How about self-sufficient translators who consistently provide high quality work?

Oddly enough, these ideas are considered to be controversial. That being the case, the joint NCATA/SFL luncheon on May 10 was a veritable hotbed of revolution, as well as a rousing success. 44 people, 24 more than actually made a reservation, gathered at the Lighthouse Tavern to hear speakers Kevin Hendzel, Neil Inglis, and Glenn Nordin give the dirty laundry of the translation industry a well-deserved airing.

The issue most thoroughly treated was accreditation. The ATA accreditation system shows basic competency, but does not validate a high skill

level. Moreover, accreditation is not available for linguists working in many non-Western, and some Western, languages, noted

Indonesian/Malay translator Ninie Syarikin. She is denied full membership in the ATA and often has to explain to clients that the ATA doesn't even offer accreditation in her languages.

The major problems with establishing an accreditation system to reflect a high skill level are setting the standards for and fronting the cost of effective tests. In particular, the establishment of objective criteria will surely result in much acrimony and dissension, especially if competing linguists are judging each other. People will defend the present system if it has worked to their benefit and will fight against change to an accreditation, or certifica-

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## capital translator

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## President's Corner

by Lillian Clementi



I'm happy to report that our May 13 luncheon with the SFL was a roaring success, as you'll read elsewhere in this issue. And I do mean *roaring*. Judging by the volume of conversation alone, the more than 40 attendees did a lot of networking, and an outstanding panel raised eyebrows with thought-provoking comments ranging from money to accreditation to quality control. The luncheon will be our last event until the fall since our e-mail questionnaire on a possible riverboat dinner dance met with a decisive thumbs-down. We are still planning to hold an accreditation workshop and sitting in early September and October, however, and our legal workshop is targeted for early to mid-October. As soon as plans are final, we'll announce exact dates and venues, and you'll find workshop registration forms in the September and October issues of the *CT*.

This will also be the last *CT* until September, giving the editorial team a well-deserved rest. Co-Editors **Ruth Boggs** and **Cassandra Decker** and Production Manager **Karin Wuertz-Schaefer** had a tough act to follow when *CT* veteran **Ted Crump** stepped down in May of last year, but they hit the ground running and have done a terrific job. I'm delighted with the work they've done on the *CT*, and clearly you are too: kudos continue to come in from the many members who

enjoy the newsletter and appreciate this service to NCATA.

Speaking of which, it's time to get serious about finding candidates for this year's elections. We're particularly in need of candidates for treasurer and president, but we're also looking for a membership chair. If you or someone you know would make a good candidate, please contact any of the Board members listed at left.

Also on the ballot will be a referendum vote to approve revised bylaws. Probably the biggest proposed change is to limit elected offices to five: four Executive Board members plus an Accreditation Chair. This option would provide the broadest possible range of candidates for the various committee chairs since ATA's bylaws stipulate that only voting members of ATA may serve as elected officers of NCATA. Still on the table are a possible corporate membership category and the potential benefits NCATA could offer corporate members, and we'd welcome your thoughts. We'll work on this through the summer and plan to present you with the revised bylaws in the fall. ✍

## Food... ...continued from page 1

tion, system for which they may not qualify.

At this time, even the various government language tests are not a reliable indicator of performance. Nordin did note that tests for language skill to be used throughout the government are presently under development. The Federal Language Testing Board has spent a year establishing the methodology for an effective test of speaking ability and is now moving on to other language skills.

The costs of developing tests to validate high performance in all languages are measured in financial terms as well. The volunteer system now in place does not have a sufficient budget to test for a high level. Who should bear the cost? Translation companies and other users of language services need this information before they start handing out work. Meanwhile, the government has a history of regulating other professions, such as lawyers and doctors. While accreditation is for the greater good, finding the money is an important problem.

In the future, new tests will be developed and will confer accreditation, perhaps under another name such as "advanced accreditation" or "certification." Such tests could require proof of a number of years' experience, a portfolio of work, and a practical test followed by an oral defense. Eventually, said Hendzel, market forces will eliminate the ATA "learner's permit" test

from the running.

Accreditation must be reflective of quality and actual performance. At this time, real performance is the only reliable indicator: accreditation and academic credentials do not correlate. Users of language services are constantly searching for self-sufficient transla-

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## Fear is a powerful motivator.

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tors. Inglis described "self-sufficiency" as consistently providing quality work which needs little fixing. Many translators fail to maintain a high level of quality over time. The first job for a client may be spectacular, the second good, and the third subbed out to someone else. The client won't call that translator for a fourth job.

On their way to self-sufficiency, translators also need to spend more time checking their translations, especially on hard copy, working with a partner who will critique it, and putting their work at risk, meaning that it is subject to criticism from other colleagues as well. You know what self-sufficiency is, commented Nordin, if it's 1:00 am and you're the only linguist working on the presidential hotline. Fear is a very powerful motivator.

Quality problems still face translators who can provide

quality work. Clients may insist on compromising quality in order to "save money." Obviously, the client is not always right: a poor job is not in anyone's best interest. A translator has to be an educator and explain the not-so hidden costs of bad work. Should that effort fail, it is absolutely incumbent upon translators to refuse to do less than their best. Turn away work if you must, but if you insist on providing quality service, the world will beat a path to your door, said Hendzel.

Meanwhile a translator may be forced to add quality when working from poor source texts, written in the stream of consciousness style. Standards for source documents may vary wildly, noted Inglis, while quality standards for translators have been raised.

Finally, translation as a business is probably the most important, but least talked about, issue for translators today. Some translators are making six figure salaries! Reread that sentence until you feel comfortable with the notion of financial success.

Let's not be squeamish about money. We're in business after all. If you're not in business to make money, then you're not in business. If you're afraid of growth and expansion, then you're not in business. Translation will not be treated as a profession commensurate with the medical or legal professions, to which translation is integral, until translators demand to be treat-

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# Surf to Your Next Vacation

by Cassandra Decker

As summer approaches and the *CT* takes a brief break from publication, we feel it necessary to remind you to take a vacation yourself. Yes, stop working for a week or so and have fun. Do not even let the words *opportunity cost* cross your mind. Do not consider taking your laptop with you. Cross off the days on your calendar *now* and leave them crossed off.

Now that you have delineated some vacation time, you need to fill it up before someone offers you a job you can't refuse. Not surprisingly, you can use the Internet as a starting point for vacation planning. Even CompuServe offers a travel planning section (GO TRAVEL), which is heartily recommended by at least one member of the jet-set. Before you start making reservations, you can get some bright ideas from the following sites which provide information:

Condé Nast Traveler (<http://travel.epicurious.com>),

Travel & Leisure (<http://pathfinder.com/travel/TL>), and

The Travel Channel (<http://www.travelchannel.com>).

For specific directions, try MapQuest (<http://www.mapquest.com>).

Going way off the beaten path? Try the U.S. Department of State (<http://travel.state.gov>) for travel advisories and health information.

If you aren't on the Internet, then contact a travel agent! Remember all work and no play will not just make you dull. You could end up, like me, with a case of burnout—twitching eyelids, major grumpiness, exhaustion, and unable to work anyway. Spare yourself, spare your loved ones, and treat yourself and them to some relaxing quality time. ✍

Food... ...continued from page 3

ed, meaning compensated, accordingly.

As our pockets get deeper, however, we may be increasingly confronted with the issue of liability. Having money, or at least insurance, could make us targets for lawsuits. This is still mere probability, however, because of the lack of case law or history regarding suits against translators. Moreover, we must critically examine the true value of liability insurance. Read the fine print! If your mistranslation results in the next Chernobyl, the liability insurance offered through the ATA still won't cover you.

Financial success will thrust us into a new arena where we will be increasingly at risk and will have to defend our work. Without risk, however, there is no glory. We must choose between "shabby gentility" and champagne.

As translators, our primary role is as communicators, we handle not just words, but ideas and ideologies. We facilitate communication at every level of society, whether in the rarefied strata of international treaties or at the earthier level of the courtroom. We cannot fulfill our roles, however, if we do not acknowledge the importance of validating our skills, providing high quality work, and making money. Think about it. ✍

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## Top Russian Papers Reach the Web

The top Russian newspapers are on the World Wide Web at <http://www.rusianstory.com>. The service includes Pravda, the most well-known Russian newspaper, and Argumenty i F акты, the world's largest circulation newspaper. The newspapers are available in archives that are full-text searchable with complete article and image retrieval.

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# The Résumé: Technology vs. Substance

Eve R. Lindemuth

While new technology is fun and exciting, it should not be emphasized to the detriment of the actual substance of the communication (or résumé). After all, various technologies were invented to ease communication in the first place. With the advent of electronic résumés, people seem to have difficulty transferring two seemingly standardized elements to the new form: length and contact information.

Length tends to increase when résumés are sent electronically, since there is no physical one-page limitation. While the traditional one-page standard is no longer a hard, fast rule, you should still carefully consider each addition to your résumé and what value it adds. Ask yourself, is this item directly related to my translation skills, background, expertise or business practices (rates or scheduling)?

A recipient will be glad to read truly valuable information even if it extends the résumé to the equivalent of two or three pages. However, beware of thinking that an electronic résumé in the form of an e-mail will hide an exceptionally long or verbose résumé. For example, while the communication may be electronic, the recipient's filing system may not be; if a text file is printed out upon receipt, the length of a drawn out résumé will be painfully obvious. Additionally, if a résumé is sent

as an attachment, page breaks and the fudging of margins are easily seen by the word processing software used to read the file.

Length is less of a problem when a résumé is presented on a web site. This is because you can organize the web page with appropriate links divided into sections such as contact information, translation expertise, education, past clients, and so on. This allows the reader to easily skip over information not considered pertinent. Basic information like what your language pairs are, though, should be on the first page of your web site. If it is difficult to find, you risk losing the attention of surfers who, as a group, have a short attention span.

Moving on to the second topic, contact information tends to disappear when résumés are electronic. This is a severe problem, but is perhaps due to technology overload. An e-mailed résumé should

contain your name, full postal address, home and work phone numbers, fax number, e-mail address, and web page address, if applicable. Do not depend on the *reply to* function to provide this information and do not sign only your first name to an electronic communication. Often the *reply to* function will tell the recipient your name is something like *xc3ratp@xys.com*. It is disconcerting to receive an e-mail with no contact information. The recipient may ask, "Does this person live only in cyberspace?" Furthermore, if a response bounces, your e-mail will be deleted because you couldn't be contacted.

The moral of this article is: Don't let the lure of technology make you forget common courtesies, whether it be in résumés or other business communications. ✍

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Recruiter, ILE

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## My Dog Ate It

Recently a subscriber contacted us after the US Post Office shredded his copy of the *CT*. If your newsletter is damaged in the mail, don't hesitate to contact *CT* Production Manager Karin Wuertz-Schaefer. She often has extra copies and can provide them to members on a first-come, first-served basis. ✍

# Unicode is Surfboard in Sea of Foreign Languages

by Arman Danesh, *IT Daily*

Let's start with a little story. For the past few weeks, I've been setting up a small no-frills computer network for an international school in Europe. The needs are simple: word processing and internal e-mail for a handful of users as well as an occasional Internet dial-up connection for transmitting e-mail.

After weighing the options, I chose Linux for the operating system and Pine, the venerable UNIX e-mail program, as the mail software. But a new student recently arrived at the school from Korea with a brand spanking new PC running Korean Windows 95. And, of course, she wanted to send and receive Korean e-mail.

Well, our little Linux network wasn't designed to handle the Korean language. Using Telnet, the student could view her Korean messages. But any attempt to type a Korean message met in abject failure. In the end, I had to totally reconfigure the server in order to accommodate our new student.

And this hassle isn't likely to stop—it's an international school after all.

Next week it will be Arabic, then Russian, then Thai...the list of languages, character encodings and scripts seems never-ending. If only there was a way to simply add a font and extend one's system to support

Korean—or any language, for that matter. And then I thought of Unicode.

What is Unicode? Simply put, it is a single standard way to encode and represent all words and characters in all of the world's major languages. When most computers were 8-bit machines, there were 256 different ways to represent one byte. Enough for the English alphabet, which has 26 letters used to build words, but sorely lacking for Asian character-based languages, which have thousands of characters each representing a single word (hence, most common ways to represent Asian characters are "double-byte").

As a 16-bit system, Unicode allows 65,536 different characters. Enough to encode all of the world's major alphabets, all of the Asian languages (Chinese, Korean, and Japanese share many of the same characters, anyway), and still have a lot left over.

Unicode also eliminates the need for distinct multi-lingual operating system and applications—multilingual software would only need translated menus and dialog boxes, not rewritten code to handle new character encoding systems.

Say good-bye to Chinese Windows!

Unicode would also eliminate the political battles being waged through character en-

coding systems—the competing Chinese standards of GB and Big 5 from Taiwan and China being the most obvious example. Unicode would cut costs for computer users in the long-run. And finally, it would help the Internet transform from an English-only club into a true global, multilingual phenomenon.

Despite having been proposed nearly a decade ago, Unicode still hasn't taken off. For instance, most leading UNIX OSs—the heart of many large corporate networks—don't support Unicode internally. Windows NT supports Unicode internally, but there are essentially no applications or fonts to take advantage of this, including Microsoft's own 32-bit office applications. Windows 95 doesn't even attempt to support Unicode in any form.

So what are the problems? First, many countries have already standardized on their own encoding schemes and don't want to go through the effort of changing. And as in the aforementioned Chinese example, the two parties have political reasons for refusing to budge.

But politics can't be the whole story. It's also the software vendors. If Microsoft suddenly announced that Unicode was a major part of its product line, the entire PC industry

would likely adopt Unicode in the space of a year or less.

If big companies won't back Unicode, there may be only one path left: the Internet.

Because Unicode and ASCII share a common first 256 characters, it would be a small effort for individuals to begin using Unicode text on their Web sites, especially multilingual Web sites. This sort of grass-roots movement could put pressure on the browser makers and HTML tool creators to begin supporting Unicode.

Maybe this is too much to ask. Just as we witness hundreds of languages on the globe, maybe we should also expect many different ways to represent those languages on computers. But some argue that an international auxiliary language, which provides a means of common intercommunication while retaining a multitude of mother tongues, is desirable. Couldn't this be Unicode?

For more information, try the Unicode home page at <http://www.stonehand.com/unicode.html>. ✍

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## Advertise in the PSD

The publication date of the 1997/98 edition of the NCATA *Professional Services Directory* is still a few months away, but it is not too early to think about advertising your services in the *PSD*.

One of the benefits of NCATA membership is the chance to advertise your services in our printed directory at substantially discounted rates. Last year, the *PSD* was distributed to 250 translation and interpretation companies in the United States and abroad, and we expect the 1997/98 edition to exceed that number. Advertising in the directory is a smart and cost-effective way to market your services and to increase your visibility.

For all questions concerning advertising in the *Professional Services Directory* please contact Angelika Spears, telephone (301) 464-8309, or e-mail her at [102502.3224@compuserve.com](mailto:102502.3224@compuserve.com).

The printed directory 1996/97 is still available. If you would like to receive one, send a check for \$10.00, made out to NCATA, to:

NCATA  
Directory 1996/97  
PO Box 65200  
Washington, DC 20035-5200

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## NCATA Web Directory Updated

A completely updated version of the on-line edition of NCATA's *Professional Services Directory* is now available at [www.ncata.org](http://www.ncata.org). The number of entries has increased significantly, and all changes and amendments sent in with the membership renewal have been incorporated.

If you are included in the directory, take a minute to check out your personal entry and to verify that all information is correct. The Web database will be used to build the hardcopy directory later this year.

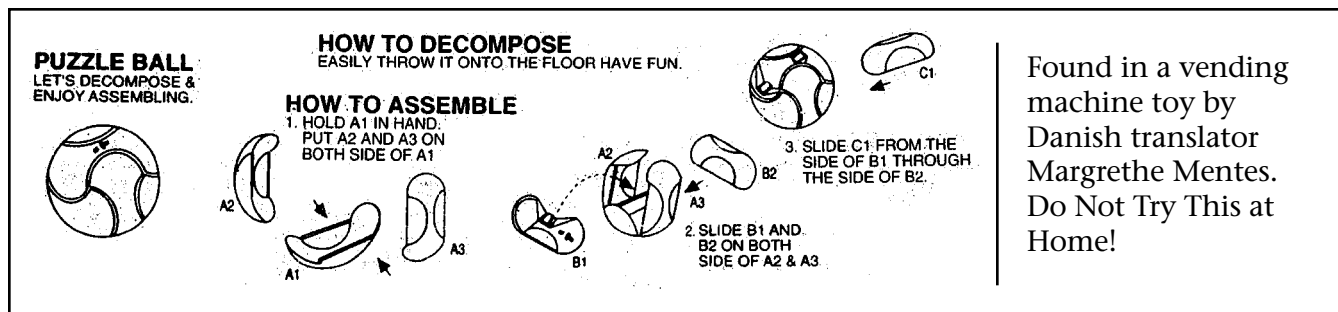
Send any changes to [mwahlster@comet.net](mailto:mwahlster@comet.net). ✍

### Can You Help??

The NCATA Web Directory is now six months old and has been visited by thousands of people. The hardcopy directory was distributed to over 250 translation companies in the US and overseas. Has all this made a difference? Have you been approached by potential clients who found your name through our directory?

If yes (or no), we would like to hear from you. Just e-mail Membership Chair Michael Wahlster ([mwahlster@comet.net](mailto:mwahlster@comet.net)) and take a moment to tell us your experience. It will help to finetune the directory and its distribution.

Thank you for your help! ✍



## Work-at-Home Parenthood

by Lisa Roberts

### Translation: Ring Master

If you're a work-at-home parent of young children, do you ever feel like your house has turned into a three-ring circus? In one ring there's the kids—crawling, toddling or scurrying about—looking for fun, adventure (and a wipe, thank you very much!). In the second ring there's your household—chores, activities, holidays (and, OK, some shopping, like you have the time!). And in the third ring there's your work—documents, clients, a keyboard (and the clock, that says 1:30 a.m., you think, if it wasn't so blurry...).

How, as a Ring Master, can you keep the show going without compromising your *act*? One strategy is to develop a *child-friendly* home office.

### Translation: Integration

Bring your children into the fold of your business by inviting them in, making them comfortable, verbalizing your expectations, and then letting them just *be*. Of course, be prepared to make slow progress and expect frequent interrup-

*Lisa Roberts has been a work-at-home mom for the past decade. She's the mother of four and author of How to Raise A Family & A Career Under One Roof: A Parent's Guide to Home Business (Bookhaven Press, \$15.95, 1-800-782-7424).*

tions, so don't plan any major projects during these hours. But for those light business tasks, it can actually be fun for everyone involved.

### Translation: Attitude

Here's a couple of ideas to get you started:

1. Keep a child's desk (those bright red plastic ones are fun) in your office *equipped* with all the neat stuff your desk has—including pens, pencils, markers, paper, rolodex (it's worth buying an extra one—kids love playing with it), post-its, etc.
2. Whenever you update your letterhead, recycle it by presenting the old box to your child to start up his or her

own *business* (at the child's desk).

3. When your child turns 3, buy an old computer loaded with educational software; he'll be old enough to handle a keyboard and/or mouse by then.
4. Buy a couple of those Disney movie musicals—like *Beauty & the Beast*, *Hunchback of Notre Dame*, etc. PLUS their accompanying CDs. You only need to show the movie once for your child to pick up on the music & the plot. Then play the score while you're working and s/he will dance and act out the movie while you're tending to light business tasks. Two years old is the prime age for role-playing.
5. If you have a baby, pull the playpen, baby swing or tot wheels (without the wheels for safety!) into your office and then play upbeat music for your baby to *sing and dance* to as you work. ♪

## Inglis At Length

# The Poverty Cult Revisited

## Or, how Inglis found the poverty cult on his doorstep

by Neil Inglis



An English colleague of mine, who (unlike me) is an ardent Labour Party supporter, called to gloat over Tony Blair's election triumph; in passing, she also shared a translation blooper. A multi-volume history of Italian art which she re-translated had been described (or should have been described) in its brochure as *part of a series of important projects devised directly inside our publishing house*; the first translator had rendered this as *works of pregnant importance, conceived inside our editor*. Tell me, NCATA members, do you find this funny?

Trading translation blooper stories can be relaxing if the election results aren't going your way, and it's also a heck of a lot of fun. Or is it? Does the recent Labour victory hold a deeper message? Irrespective of your party affiliation, there's no doubting that the victorious New Labour party is a different beast from the old Labour Party of yesteryear. It may still be a beast, but it has changed.

Much the same applies to the American Translators Association. Thanks to the passage of time, ideological struggles fought and lost, and the Grim Reaper himself, the ATA is a different beast; in a very real sense, it remains the ATA in name only. The cut-and-

thrust of ideas was alien to the ATA of old; it was akin to the 19th-century Pennsylvania Supreme Court Judge who described a popular debating society as "a nursery of vice, a school of preparation to qualify young men for the gallows and young women for the brothel."

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**...I wanted...to  
spread the message  
about the iniquity  
of the poverty  
cult...**

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The ATA *Chronicle* is also getting better. Many subjects, formerly taboo, can now be talked about in its pages. A good example is to be found on page 7 of the April 1997 issue. There, the very wonderful Laura Wolfson (known to NCATA members from last year's Regional Conference and ATA Conference) has written an incisive rebuttal to Mark Herman's column in the January issue, in which Herman

had looked askance at the professional skills of certain interpreters.

"Colleagues! As long as we tolerate the nonsense described above, Mark Herman's column included, and not only tolerate it, but publish it, give it a forum and applaud, even if just out of courtesy, we have a long, long way to go. I foresee near full-time employment for Neil Inglis for years to come, as he travels the country giving his *Poverty Cult* speech until that distant time when members of our profession no longer need to hear it."

Wolfson's remarks share a common characteristic with *The Seven Virtues of the New Translation Era*, the landmark article written by our very own Kevin Hendzel (who is also very wonderful). Wolfson and Hendzel refer to my keynote address (now forever dubbed the *Poverty Cult speech*) at the ATA Conference in Colorado Springs last year. NCATA members will recall how I first sounded the clarion call even earlier, at the Regional Conference in Washington last summer (almost one year ago—my gosh, where does the time go?).

This is exactly what I hoped would happen; I wanted my

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## Poverty ...continued from page 9

colleagues to clasp the baton and to run with it—in short, to spread the message about the iniquity of the poverty cult, and by extension, to keep up the pressure on its many practitioners. It seems a good time, then, to revisit the whole concept of the poverty cult and to investigate how much progress we have made since the battle against this dire creed was first unleashed.

The poverty cult, you will recall, is defined as seven loosely interlocking categories (in Hendzel's words, the *Seven Deadly Sins*): envying the success of others; gloating over the failure of others; a pervasive sense that it is better for everybody to fail than for a few to succeed; a sickly squeamishness where the subject of money is concerned; shabby gentility, more shabby than genteel; a widespread conviction that it is better to have a little and to be secure than to take a gamble and risk losing everything; and last, and very much least, *schadenfreude* mixed with sour grapes.

Battling the poverty cult is a slow business, partly because old habits die hard, partly because the high priests of poverty who have bedeviled translation for so long have made a tactical decision to trim their sails; after all, who could possibly admit to being in favor of such a thing as the poverty cult? Who could object to enhanced professional standards, who could quibble with wealth and prosperity (or motherhood, apple pie, and

Old Glory)? Everybody claims to support the *free market* these days; in the same vein, the poverty cult syndrome has been driven underground, but there it lurks, ready to burst forth again. How is so furtive a disease to be exposed to the light of day?

Poverty cult-itis is more than about money. A distinguished European language journal recently published an article of

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## Guides to career choices...make no reference to translation or interpretation professions.

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mine about William Tyndale. They left my name out. All other contributors got bylines but me. It was an honest mistake, probably. All of my friends and colleagues were enraged on my behalf. I was philosophical; anonymity is an occupational hazard of translators, and anyway, the mere fact that Tyndale's life and translations are now discussed and admired freely and unapologetically is a blessing in and of itself.

Still, the non-identification of authors is an abomination, partly because it baffles readers and researchers, but also (and more importantly) because it renders submitted articles use-

less for citation purposes. I never received an apology for the omission, and no correction was published in the subsequent issue. Were they taking a gamble that I'd never find out—after all, Washington is so very, very far away from London. This, dear colleagues, is the poverty cult in action.

I stress action, and also inaction, for sins of omission are also important. A published guide to career choices for liberal arts majors, available at any major bookstore, makes no reference whatsoever to the translation or interpretation professions. Poverty cult again.

Attitudes toward other colleagues likewise hold the key to understanding the poverty cult. In her letter, Wolfson decries Herman's treatment of the interpretation profession, making several points: "Herman's attitude in this column brings to mind one of the characteristics of Neil Inglis's *Poverty Cult speech* (...): "gloating over the [putative] failure of others." I say "putative" because we lack convincing evidence that these interpreters actually failed, and certainly there is nothing concrete to indicate that such failure is characteristic of the profession as a whole, although this is certainly implied." Very well said.

By this interpretation, snide putdowns are a sign of poverty cult behavior. But here, readers, is my problem; for I too am a master of the putdown. But (a big *but*) my overall message, I believe, is fundamentally positive and forward-looking. To be charitable to Her-

man, I see he has fallen into the trap that has, at one time or another, claimed all of us who write columns, myself included; we draw upon ancient personal anecdotes of limited relevance that may cause offense. But Herman also seals his fate with his opening words ("My one experience with formal interpretation occurred...").

Having dealt with Mark Herman, Laura Wolfson goes on to deplore the resurrection of hoary old translation blooper stories, including the Nova car which didn't sell in Latin America because *no va* is Spanish for *doesn't go*. Whoops! I have used the Nova gag myself! I used to think it had its place (especially with non-specialist audiences), but now I will scrub it from my repertoire. And yet, is there no place for self-deprecation? Is there no room for the kind of tasteless joke with which I introduced this article (the joke wasn't

mine, remember!). Was I wrong to have mentioned it?

A more nuanced conclusion might be that self-deprecation is OK in moderation but not if taken to excess. The pervasiveness of the poverty cult might be a function of our common temperamental characteristics as a bookish, introverted breed (I generalize, but you know what I mean). If we're honest, we might say that there are traces of the poverty cult disease within many or most of us; we must look deep inside ourselves and purge its traces. I am not immune; after all, I first raised the issue of the poverty cult because I understand the mentality only too well.

So today I take the pledge, and I urge you to join me; I vow to engage in soul-searching every day and every way, and I call upon you all to take up your baton and spread the message far and wide. ☞

## Accreditation Orientation Seminar

by Bill Keasbey

**W**ant to learn more about the ATA accreditation process? Come to the Chapter's orientation seminar at 2 p.m. on Saturday, September 6, at the Cleveland Park Library, Connecticut Avenue and Macomb Street, NW. The first part of the session will provide general information on the accreditation program and the opportunity to ask questions and get frank answers. The second part will divide into language sections to critique practice test passages that the participants have prepared ahead of time. We shall try to have accredited members to discuss the passages. The meeting is open to all, but those who are seriously interested in taking the examination are requested to obtain a passage by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Bill Keasbey, 5031 Alta Vista Road, Bethesda, MD 20814, indicating the language combination in which the test is desired, e.g. Spanish to English. Completing this passage and attending the seminar do not fulfill the ATA requirement for taking a practice test before the actual accreditation examination, but it should help to give people an idea of whether they are ready for the real thing. ☞

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### The *Capital Translator* Available on the Web

The NCATA newsletter, the *Capital Translator*, is now available on the Web in Adobe Acrobat format. The newsletter can be viewed in its complete form with all formatting and all illustrations. It can be searched and printed, as well.

The necessary software to accomplish this is the Adobe Acrobat Reader, available for Windows and Mac platforms, as well as for DOS and UNIX. It can be downloaded for free from the Adobe Web site, and our page has a direct link to that site.

To go directly to the E-CT, set your browser to <http://www.ncata.org/html/ct.htm>. ☞

# Calendar

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>
July 14 - 16		IT Services Conference	Grand Hyatt, Washington, DC For info, call Jim Forberg 203-256-4700, ext. 126
September 6	2 p. m.	Accreditation Orientation Session	Cleveland Park Library Washington, DC Contact Bill Keasbey 301-897-8318
Nov. 5 - 7		ATA Conference	Hyatt Regency Hotel, San Francisco, CA

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