

The Stanford flipside

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ITALICS MALFUNCTION RIDS CAMPUS OF PRETENTIOUS PAPERS

A system error of Microsoft Word caused widespread disabling of the italics function earlier this week, forcing faculty and graduate students across the country to remove italicized foreign-language words from papers and articles, making their prose easier to read and less pretentious.

"This is a problem of cyclopean proportions," said an anonymous source at *Daedalus*, the journal of



The italics malfunction left many dissertations and stacks of paper completely devoid of pretentious passages.

of non-English words, which are often substituted in academic writing for common but less impressive words of equivalent meaning.

"My paper now reads like a really good middle school book report," said Joel van Hutten, a Yale graduate student in American history. "The ideas are not all different from the original version, but the fact that a popular audience can now understand it makes it com-

pletely unpublishable."

As Word systems failed, Academic departments across the country scrambled to issue extensions for grad student papers, and professors themselves worked to revise articles slated to appear in academic journals. Two Amherst English professors are currently in critical condition after jumping from their third-story offices.

According to van Hutten, even sociology faculty members were furiously editing late into the night. "We have to rebuild the ivory tower to its previous heights of aloofness, but we lack the tools. We're missing a certain...*je ne sais quoi*."

"My paper on the provincial tariff collection system of the Yuan Dynasty in thirteenth century China was supposed to go to press this week," said J. Lyman Spencer, professor of Chinese history at the

University of Illinois. His article was pulled from the most recent edition of *Chinese Historical Review* because of formatting problems connected to the malfunction. "I just don't know how relevant this article will be when the next issue comes out in a few months."

"My authoritative voice is shattered," said Adele Marks, an assistant professor of Comparative Literature at the University of Chicago, after being forced to replace "*sine qua non*" with "essential component." she said, "I don't even want to think about what this does to my prospects for tenure."

"It's a real tragedy," added Spencer. "The academy has spent centuries building a vernacular that insulates us from the outside world and makes us appear smarter than we are. It's scary to think that one computer error could undo all that progress in an instant."

"My paper now reads like a really good middle school book report."

the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. "Virtually all fields of academia rely on an excessively ponderous, arid, and pretentious style, which is thoroughly undermined by the absence of italics."

Italics are used in the writing

Apple Releases Next Generation iHum



the best iHum yet

Journalist Wants To Take Acute Angle For Next Article



Missed Connections

32 years ago you spoke the word "serendipity" down the subway stairs. I haven't forgotten.

Two weeks ago you posted on missed connections. Call me...

To the girl on the elevator... you went to floor five... I pushed the button for you.

To the girl at Axe & Palm.. do you know how many calories are in that?

I saw you at Senior Night a month back, but I'm pretty sure you didn't see me. Or at least that's what I assumed when I saw you passed out in a pile of your own throw up. Hit me up.

You wrote a Flipside article once, and then I loved you.

SEND YOUR MISSED CONNECTIONS TO FLIPSIDE@STANFORD.EDU

President Hennessy Spotted On Campus



According to several eyewitnesses, Stanford President John Hennessy was seen walking between the Quad and the business school around 11:15 A.M. last Friday. This was the first sighting of the elusive Hennessy since he addressed the Class of 2012 during Orientation in mid-September. Sophomore and Hennessy-watching enthusiast Claire Naziri told the Flipside that she had spent over a year trying to observe him on campus. "I've staked out positions all over campus hoping to catch a glimpse of this rare specimen,

but this is the first time I've seen him since he spoke at my Orientation. He truly is a majestic creature, and I count myself as lucky to have seen him a second time."

It is widely thought that President Hennessy, who serves on the boards of Google and Cisco Systems, spends most of the school year hibernating in a cozy nest constructed from branches, mud, and stock options. He usually emerges twice a year—for Orientation and Commencement—to fulfill his obligations to the University.

“WHAT WILL WE DO WITHOUT SENIOR NIGHT?”

THE FRESHMEN, SOPHOMORES, JUNIORS, AND GRADUATE STUDENTS WHO ARE WHOLLY UNAFFECTED BY THE CANCELLATION OF THIS ACTIVITY.

REBUS PUZZLES

Can you guess the common word or phrase portrayed below?

theirs → S S S S	t i a w
EVER EVER EVER EVER ever	phone

last weeks answers: FRUIT LOOP, SOUTHPAW, MANHOLE, BOXER

NUMBERS

87

The average number of emails received by a Stanford University student on a given weekday. Half of these come from mailing lists you didn't sign up for, a quarter of these come from classes you didn't know you were in, six are probably from people who haven't figured out how to use your dorm chat list, fifteen are pure spam, and another two or three will probably come in a language you don't speak. Don't worry about it though, this just shows the power of technology!

CRYPTOGRAM CHALLENGE

This is a simple substitution code. Each letter is replaced by a different letter. Try to decode the message or quote below. HINT F=A

“TE QFB GPZC ITZUO UPVO EP VD FEEZETPZ EQFE NOPNGO PA FUUPVNGTIQVOZE MFMOGD IFE
YFUW FZB GOE EQTZCI QFNNOZ EP EQOV. EQOD JOZE PKE FZB QFNNOZOB EP EQTZCI.” - GOPZFM
BF HTZUT

LAST WEEK'S ANSWER: “CHANGE WILL NOT COME IF WE WAIT FOR SOME OTHER PERSON OR SOME OTHER TIME. WE ARE THE ONES WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR. WE ARE THE CHANGE THAT WE SEEK.” - BARACK OBAMA

SUDOKU

Level: Master

Fill in the grid so each column, row, and 3x3 box has the numbers 1 through 9.

	8		4			3	6	
9				6		7		5
7				5				
	4	9			3		5	
				2				
	3		5			4	8	
				4				1
4		2		8				6
	1	7			9		2	

SUDOKU PROVIDED BY SUDOKU-PUZZLES.NET

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four ordinary jumbles, and use the letters in circles to answer the final question.



ROBAH

VELDE

BLINBE

ENDANT

THEY GOT

LAST WEEKS ANSWERS: POUND, TARDY, BEACHY, DEEPEN, the problem at the wigstore checkout line HE DIDN'T WANT TOUPEE

Note: All names and stories are fictional, unless public figures are being satirized. Remember, these are all jokes.

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