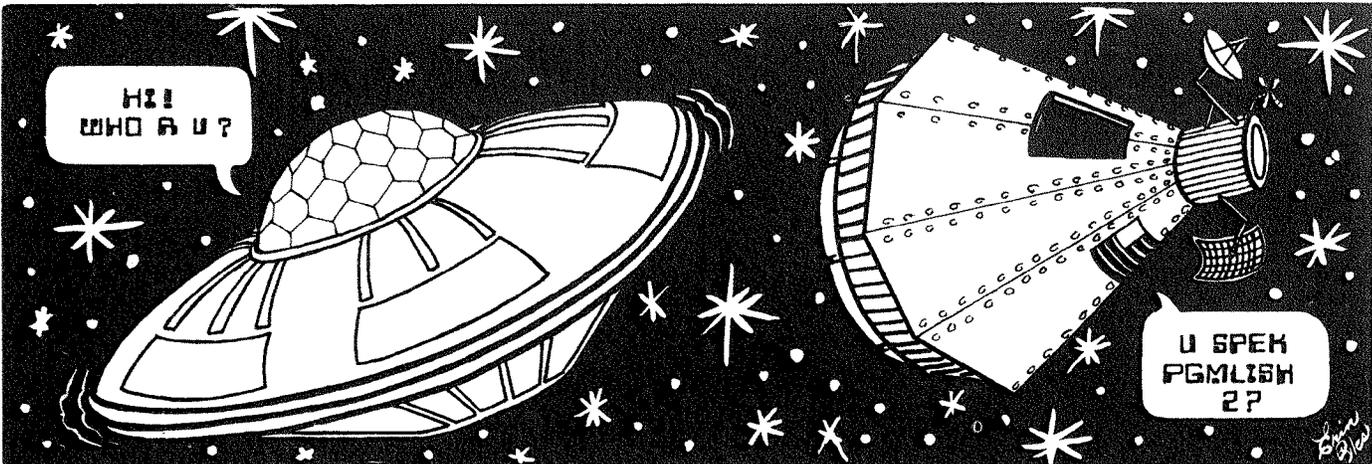


PGMLISH



or R U THERE?

by Henry Nussbacher

Campus computing is unique in one aspect that the "real world" tends often to down-play and more often to ignore. That is, inter-terminal communication plays a vital part in student programming and computing. While waiting for a job to run or just sitting reading an output, it is possible for your tranquility to be interrupted by a message beeping to life on your screen, asking, "Hi, who r u?"

What strange dialect have we here! Students, in their quest to keep typing to a bare minimum (and often the message buffer won't allow more than 80 to 133 characters, so terseness is a necessity), have created an entirely new language that rivals Gregg's shorthand. It even resembles "Speedwriting" to a degree.

Allow me to get more specific. One on-line system prevalent among campuses is known as Wylbur. Wylbur's input/output is controlled by a separate system known as Milten. Often it occurs that Wylbur will crash, as systems are wont to do, while Milten will remain functioning. A small advantage of having Milten function while Wylbur is down, is the fact that Milten is the system that controls cross-terminal communications. It is at this time that Pgmlish comes out and spreads its wings.

A: Hi, wats ur nam?
 B: l sec plz
 A: gret sys, aint it!?

Now for some Pgmlish rules of grammar (better known as the Nussbacher Rules of Chaos):

- 1) No apostrophes are allowed (there are exceptions).
- 2) No capitalization is allowed (there are exceptions).

- 3) Silent letters are never to be typed (there are exceptions).
- 4) Never type double consonants (there are exceptions).
- 5) No typed word should have more than one vowel (there are exceptions).

Let us analyze some quirks of the language. Take the word "we'll" for example. If we apply rules 1 and 4 we end up with "wel" which is Pgmlish for "well" so rule #4 takes preference and we end up with "we'l". Another stickler is the word "you'll". If we apply rule #4, we get "you'l", which violates two rules--#1 and #5; so many Pgmlish grammarians have suggested that the word "yule" be used instead, violating only one rule (#5). This works fine until the Christmas season and then confusion sets in.

Another word that causes problems (but only on a regional level) is the word "dequeue". Pgmlish for "dequeue" is "dq", which if you enjoy talking about ice cream can again cause confusion.

Wen workng wit Pgmlish da user mus kep his wits abt himslf (as n ne othr langue) but da gretest aid in lrning Pgmlish is prtice. NJOY!

PGMLISH GLOSSARY

ABOUT	ABT
AN	N
AND	+
ANY	NE
ANYONE	NE1
ARE	R
AREN'T	R-
BACK	BAK
BECAUSE	BCUZ
BEFORE	B4



BELIEVE	BLV
BUILD	BLD
BUSY	BZ
CAN	CN
CAUSE	CUZ
CUTIE	QT
DECIDE	DCID
DEQUEUE	DQ
EACH	@
EMPTY	MT
ENVY	NV
EXCEPT	XCEPT
EXTRA	XTRA
FEW	FU
FOR	4
FULL	FUL
GEE!	G!
*GOING TO	GONNA
HELP	HLP
IN	N
KNOW	NO
MONEY	\$
NOT	-
OTHER	OTHR
PLEASE	PLZ
PROGRAM	PGM
QUESTION	?
QUEUE	Q
SEE	C
SHOW	SHO
SOMEONE	SOM1
THANKS	THX
THE	DA
TOO, TO	2
TYPE	TYP
USED	UZD
**WE'LL	WE'L
WHY	Y
YOU	U
YOU'LL	YOU'L, YULE

*Allowed 2 consonants because it's 2 words.

**Apostrophe allowed because of double consonant.

NEWSLETTER COMPETITION UNDERWAY

The SIGUCC Computer Center Newsletter Contest is underway. Previous issues have highlighted the confusion that was rampant when the first annual contest, sponsored by SIGDOC, was misunderstood by some (including some contestants) to be sponsored by SIGUCC.

This year, the complication appears to be that some people with viable entries believe there are two contests--SIGDOC's and SIGUCC's.

Not that we know, there aren't. So far as we know, there is the one contest, and this year it's the SIGUCC contest. (Last year it wasn't.)

We hope that every interested competitor has, by now, received a direct mailing concerning the competition. If not, please let your nearest SIGUCC officer know, so that you will be sure to be included for future contests.

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