



Aquin photo by Dave Feltaut

Mondale pushes language study to improve U.S. foreign relations

By Jim Buchok
Staff Writer

The United States has been both disrespectful and overconfident in its foreign relations because Americans neglect to study the languages and cultures of other nations, according to former Vice President Walter Mondale.

Mondale, speaking to a large crowd in the O'Shaughnessy Educational Center auditorium last week, urged students to study foreign languages as a way of correcting the problem.

"Great damage has been done to U.S. business because we've been too overconfident of our knowledge of others," Mondale said. "We demand that they understand us. We think they're kooks if they don't."

Mondale said this style of foreign relations is insensitive and "leads to a rejection of respect for the United States."

"We must be willing to learn languages," he said. "That knowledge will help the U.S. deal more effectively with other nations."

"St. Thomas is a great opportunity to become unburdened of ignorance and to be equipped with a better knowledge of the world."

Mondale admitted that when he attended Macalester College, he found language courses difficult.

"I didn't take French, it took me," he said. "If I could do it over again I would take languages more seriously."

"Every problem in foreign affairs should begin with an understanding of the other nation's language, history, and culture."

"How much do we really know about El Salvador, or Nicaragua, or Iran? Communication can mean the difference between war and peace."

Mondale said the United States learned about Viet Nam and its people "only after we had been there, after 50,000 Americans were killed."

He quoted figures from two studies that show that one-fourth of all U.S. high schools offer foreign languages, and eight percent of the country's colleges require a foreign language for admission.

"There are more Japanese businessmen working in the U.S. than there are students studying Japanese in American colleges," he said.

Mondale answered questions from the audience after the speech on

topics ranging from the MX missile system to the nomination of Sandra O'Connor to the Supreme Court, which he called "an excellent choice that would be good for the court."

He called the Kemp-Roth tax cut program "a radical proposal" that has made "cruel cuts of good and needed programs."

Mondale also said the present meetings of the independent union Solidarity in Poland are a tremendous accomplishment.

"To think they are criticizing their rulers and voting on union policy with the Russians conducting military operations at their border is incredible," he said.

Mondale said he favors a mobile missile system over the stationary missile silos now used. The silos are vulnerable because of Soviet advancements in missile aiming devices, he said.

He also favors adherence to the Salt II treaty, which limits the nuclear capabilities of the United States and the Soviet Union.

When asked who, besides himself, he would like to see as president, he hesitated and said, "You know, I'm stumped."

Walter Mondale ponders a question from the audience during his visit to St. Thomas last Thursday.

Waiting list for housing near 200

By Timothy Anderson
Staff Writer

Approximately 200 students remain on a waiting list for on-campus housing at the College of St. Thomas this fall.

The problem is due, in part, to the largest freshman class enrollment, 800, in the College's history. Last year, 720 freshmen enrolled and the waiting list for on-campus housing was 50.

"The school keeps getting larger," said Brian Dusbiber, the College's housing director. "We've added more housing but we can't keep up with the College in the area of on-campus housing."

According to a College pamphlet detailing housing regulations, the availability of on-campus housing is determined mainly by two criteria: the location of a student's home and the date a student's application for housing is received.

The policy ensures housing for those living outside the Twin Cities area provided their application is received at St. Thomas by March 1, along with a \$50 deposit.

In the past, the freshmen, sophomores and juniors were assigned housing by location. This year, the senior slots were also determined in this manner instead of by lottery.

After March 1, housing for students who live in the Twin Cities area is assigned according to the date the

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Aquin photo by Christie Zanios

At first glance, it's one of two things. Either it's the opening day of practice for the Minnesota North Stars, or it's the Society for Creative Anachronism putting on a demonstration in the St. Thomas quad last Wednesday.

PCA dumps on College waste disposal

By Vince Giorgi
Staff Writer

Earlier this summer, Bob Jacobs, St. Thomas' associate director of the physical plant, was confused when an acquaintance asked him about the previous night's newscast on WCCO-TV.

The broadcast, which Jacobs did not see, reported that the College had been charged with illegally disposing of hazardous wastes. Jacobs was especially surprised at the news since proper disposal of such wastes is one of his duties at the College.

The problem began when the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) received an anonymous complaint that electrical transformers were leaking oil on property owned by Martin Bush, the proprietor of Martin Bush Iron & Metal Co., Minneapolis.

Dick Kable, the head of the MPCA's emergency response unit, followed up the complaint on May 20 and found the offending transformer was leaking a harmless fluid. During the inspection, however, he found that another transformer, one of two that St. Thomas had sold to Bush, was also leaking.

Tests showed that both St. Thomas transformers were a type that contain chemicals classified as polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), which are environmentally hazardous and strictly regulated by the MPCA. The fluid serves as a coolant and insulator in operating transformers.

Although the transformer leaked at most a cup of fluid, according to Kable, the situation constituted a violation of state regulations.

With Bush out of town, Kable was unable to determine from where the transformers had come. But on May 27, after learning from Bush that they had been purchased from the

College, Kable informed Jacobs that St. Thomas was guilty of illegally disposing of a hazardous waste.

"St. Thomas made a mistake of not knowing they were giving this guy PCB transformers," Kable said. "With all the publicity that's been on PCBs the last few years, it's amazing that this sort of thing still happens."

Even though the College had sold the transformers to Bush, Kable said the generator of a hazardous waste "cannot contract its liability away."

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