

Assignment TV

By **TERRENCE O'FLAHERTY**

For the past 18 years television's impression on the English language has been roughly equal to that of Attila the Hun on Roman architecture. The Colosseum is still standing, of course, and so is the Forum, but they've never been quite the same since the barbarians came to visit.

The change in our language after nearly two decades of erosion by announcers, newscasters, actors, commercials and just plain men-on-the-street is enough to startle historians and scare English teachers out of their wits. A minor idiosyncrasy of repeated like "Us Tareyton smokers would rather fight than switch" — has had a more deadly effect on grammar than its product has on health because it effects smokers and non-smokers alike.

Last week the writer-narrator team of Andrew Rooney and Harry Reasoner touched on the problem — but only lightly — in another of their essays, "The Strange Case of the English Language." Unfortunately it left a lot of loose ends untied.

IN THE DAYS before television, the people who messed around most frequently with the language were politicians and actors. The actors were usually speaking the words of writers whose grammar was above criticism and whose sentences scanned. The politicians — ever engaged in a tug-of-war between private literacy and public votes — adapted their speech to their audience: hillbilly lingo for the hicks and wisecracks for the city slickers.

Today, with the honesty of television, we see the politician performing in both town and country. The slicker can see him when he's talking down and the hick when he's talking up. In dramas, the mannered language of the drawing room is being stormed by the explicit language of the street. Sunday night the word "crap" was used on two widely different shows: by Bette Davis in the old movie "Whatever Happened to Baby Jane?" and by Henry Fonda reading the words of John Steinbeck in "Travels with Charley." Oddly, it seemed more appropriate for the character of Baby Jane, the faded movie star, than for Steinbeck.

TELEVISION has introduced us to two new keepers-of-the-word: the newscaster and the talk-show host. These men hold important reins. They may introduce us to members of the illiterate fringe or the just plain stupid but they also have the power to let us hear the poets and the inspirers.

One thing we all have in common is our language, and it is becoming more common every day. To be healthy it must be usable. The four-letter words have been around for a long while. Anyone who has ever been in uniform knows that the armed forces would be rendered speechless without them and might not even be able to make war.

If they are to become a part of our acceptable video vocabulary, then let's balance them by adding some of the more stimulating words from the other end of the dictionary as well. For English, as it is spoken in America, is a changing language that is being hammered out before our very ears every day.

Spot Checking

Food ★ Fun ★ Frolic
By Bill Whitman

National Nothing Week

Unless of course you happen to be a Millionaire and according to The Millionaire's Diary there's much activity among the veddy, veddy, both here and abroad. But then — who's 'veddy, veddy'?

However, a good opening shot might be that the bull fighting season opened in Spain and that automatically leads us into the Matador Restaurant on West Pico Boulevard. And be assured—there is a connection.

So what better connection than those wonderful foods-of-Spain offered at Bill Fremont's authentic Spanish dining! Remember, that's Spanish—not Mexican. That's not to knock Mexican food... perish the forbid 'cause nobody enjoys Mexican food more than this corner! But if you have your mouth ready for Spanish food and get Mexican food—or vice-versa—it's most disappointing. And there is very much a difference in the two countries cuisine.

Anyway, Bill Fremont presents a most delicious and colorful menu in Spanish foods nightly (that's now seven nites a week, y'know!) along with some of the most authentic Flamenco entertainment available anywhere in the Southland.

And by way of further authenticating (who wrote that!) his Matador Restaurant, he has an original "traje de luz" on display in the main dining room that was worn by the late Manolete. Incidentally, that's the official name for the uniform worn by a bull fighter.

Do you know what's going on at the Pan Pacific on Beverly at Fairfax beginning this Friday nite?

Well it's the 23rd annual presentation of the Sportsmen's Show and will continue through April 7 so get some tickets right away and go so you'll know when, where and how you're going to spend your vacation this summer. (VaCaTion! What's THAT!)

At any rate, there'll be more than 500 exhibits and displays waiting for you and one of the favorites is sure to be the golf exhibit and they've got a regular schedule for you golf buffs.

It's an everyday set-up all the way from two o'clock on Friday the 29 and runs 'til 6:30. Every day has the same type of schedule on four-to-five-hour basis all the way through Sunday, April 7.

Featured in these demonstrations will be such sportsmen as Walter Keller from the Keller's Golf School, Len Kennett, Los Verdes G.C. in Palos Verdes, Joe Novak of the Bel Air Country Club... and oh just a whole bunch of other guys who know their



TALL TOM... He's not really "tall Tom." He's Tom Tall, who'll make a one nite appearance at Shipwreck Joey's in Wilmington on Sunday, April 7th, for an evening of Country and Western.

golf and who are prepared to give you a tip or two, very likely.

Hm-m-m-m... s'pose they could teach a guy how to get that little pointed thing down into the ground?

Here's a little something in the advanced department and it's the old favorite—Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus when the 98th edition of The Greatest Show on Earth comes to town July 23.

True, it's under new ownership but don't you think that Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey has kind of a familiar ring? Even more-so than Feld and Hofheinz, for example.

Well these are the gents who are bringing this famous three-ring extravaganza into the fabulous, air-conditioned new Forum in Inglewood in July. They're Irvin and Israel Feld and Judge Roy Hofheinz.

Have no qualms about this group as showmen. They're no charlie-come-ladies to this dodge and are well known throughout the circus world the earth over. And they're bringing you a whole bunch of new acts plus many of the old stand-bys including the 50 famous Ringling clowns with some all-new routines.

Might be a good idea to make plans now for your circus day. Call The Carrolls Agency at 876-5220.

There's still a bit of time left if you can work it in on



MENEHUNE'S TUNIES... But you only have a few more nites left to catch this talented and versatile group at Hop Louie's Latitude 20 Restaurant in Torrance. This Polynesian Revue closes April 7, so hurry on down. Shown above it's, back row, left to right, Jack Navarro, Kai Kalini, Cliff Edwards and Mac Pavon. Seated on the floor with Ernie, it's Tahina on the left and Tiare.

All this at the Latitude 20 plus—don't forget the contest Hop has going to name his beautiful new enclosed garden patio room. Prizes!!

There's a 26-year-old Amarillo, Texas, lad due in soon at Shipwreck Joey's over there at Wilmington's Figueroa and "B" Street junction by the name of Tom Tall.

And this guy isn't tall in name only—he's also tall in the ratings when it comes to western and country music, sparkling humor and an outstanding lead guitar.

"Tall Tom" opens for a one nite stand at Shipwreck Joey's on Sunday nite, April 7th, and will continue on 'til 12:30 in the ayem for your enjoyment.

Tom's got a wild string of credits in the recording field as well as radio and TV appearances so keep your eye and ear on this 'cause he's going far in his field. He's also an accredited songwriter. He's got lots of time to make

How-some-ever, it still leaves you ten nites or so to "come see" so hie ye on down.

Then, following Ernie, it'll be that internationally famed singer of songs, Miss Bach Yen who'll open here April 9 direct from filming "The Green Berets" with John Wayne in her native Vietnam.

That top rung and wadda'll you bet—he makes it big one day soon!

And do you know what wildcat opened this past Monday night, the 26, at the Carousel Theatre in West Covina? Why that's the name of the show—"Wildcat"—and it's with none other than Martha Raye as the star for a two-week stand.

And rightly enough, hundreds of members of San Gabriel Valley Veterans' organizations converged for the occasion when Miss Raye was presented with citations for her outstanding devotion to the United States troops in Vietnam where she recently received a special commendation from General Westmoreland during her four teen months spent in the war zone there over the past two years.

So waddya say, all youse GI's and vets? Don't you want to catch a truly great trouper? Catch Martha Raye in the next few days at the Carousel Theater.

But you've heard the line—"behind every successful man there's a woman"—or something like that! Well in this case it's the reverse, according to Totie. He is a successful comedian in his own right from the Boston area who is now Totie's manager, conductor, gag writer... oh yes... and husband. Totie credits GI's and vets? Don't you want her husband with all those hilarious ad libs she comes up with on the spur of the moment.

"Sharpest mind in the business today," says Mrs. Johnson. It's currently the comedy-station.

an's commediane. Totie Fields in the Riviera's Starlight Theater. Totie's no "lightweight" but that's part of her innate charm as well as part of her act. She's made quite a career of joking about her avoirdupois and has added a real heart-tugger to her act with a rendition of "Some of These Days" as a tribute to the late Sophie Tucker whom she idolized. And by a strange coincidence, her name at Weaver High School in Hartford, Conn., was Sophie Feldman.

And rightly enough, hundreds of members of San Gabriel Valley Veterans' organizations converged for the occasion when Miss Raye was presented with citations for her outstanding devotion to the United States troops in Vietnam where she recently received a special commendation from General Westmoreland during her four teen months spent in the war zone there over the past two years.

The WAIALAE BROS.
(The Leewards)

DAILY SPECIALS
• CHOICE PRIME RIB OF BEEF •
• TOP SIRLOIN • NEW YORK •
• CHARBROILED •

1.95

Your Host SAM FAILLA

THE San Franciscan
RESTAURANT & COCKTAIL LOUNGE
2520 SEPULVEDA BLVD., TORRANCE
Corner of Sepulveda & Crenshaw DA 5-5231

OPEN DAILY FOR LUNCHEON AND DINNER
Daily — 10 a.m. - 2 a.m. • Sunday 4 p.m. - Midnite

Kings X

NITELY SUE STEVENS and the HI-HATS

6853 La Tijera (At Centinela) 645-1600

OPEN DAILY Luncheon • Dinner
11 a.m. — 11 p.m.
PIANO BAR ENTERTAINMENT

Pick's L Bow Rm.
DINING COCKTAILS

11925 S. M. Blvd., W.L.A. "Around the Corner From the Coffee Shop" GR 3-7785

TAKE OUT, TOO HABIL-FORMING BARBECUE

Pete's
• RIBS • CHICKEN • SHORTRIBS • TACOS
11109 HAWTHORNE BLVD. INGLEWOOD • PH. 478-9957 COCKTAILS

The Marquis RESTAURANT
Continental & American Cuisine
8240 Sunset Strip / Hollywood 656-1313

PIZZA PALACE
FUN ★ FUN ★ FUN
TORRANCE GARDENA
341 SEPULVEDA BLVD. 1421 CRENSHAW BLVD.

KYOTO SUKIYAKI
1988 So. Western Ave., Gardena PA. 1-1607 and 327-7611

PENTHOUSE LOUNGE
dancing and entertainment nightly
TEMPO III
INTERNATIONAL HOTEL at entrance to L.A. INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Featuring SEAFOOD SPECIALTIES
Such as Lake Superior Whitefish, Alaska King Crab Legs, Planked Salmon.

Smith Bros. INDIAN VILLAGE RESTAURANT
LUNCHEON - DINNER POW WOW ROOMS - FIREWATER
Open Daily from 11:30 A.M. • Telephone: 378-9383
4020 PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY • TORRANCE

FISHERMAN'S HAVEN
Fresh Oysters and Clams on the Half Shell

MANY OTHER SEAFOOD SPECIALTIES

LUNCH • DINNER COCKTAILS

at Fisherman's Wharf FR. 9-1477 Redondo Beach

The Tea House
Superb Cantonese Cuisine

DIRECT FROM LAS VEGAS
The DEFUENTES Bros.
TUESDAY THRU SATURDAY

MONDAY NITE HAWAIIAN NITE

• Family style dinners from \$1.85
• EXOTIC POLYNESIAN COCKTAILS
• Entertainment Mon. thru Sat. Nights in the cocktail lounge
• Acres of free parking in front and rear
PHONE 326-5420
25316 Crenshaw Blvd., Torrance 611. of Pacific Coast Hwy. 1011

Entertainment Thursday, Friday and Saturday At Peninsula Center and Torrance Only

RED ONION
Sonora Style MEXICAN FOOD
COCKTAILS

3 BIG ADDRESSES
11625 So. Hawthorne Blvd., Hawthorne 676-9161
23305 So. Hawthorne Blvd., Torrance 378-8386
27736 Silver Spur Rd., Peninsula Center 377-5660

FAMOUS CHAMPAGNE DINNERS OPEN 5 P.M.

Captain's Table
LA CIENEGA AT 3RD / 655-7555

TUESDAY SPECIAL ROAST PRIME RIB OF BEEF
CHOICE OF SOUP, SALAD OR JUICE

\$1.89

WRAY'S RESTAURANT
15421 CRENSHAW — GARDENA — 772-4057

TORRANCE UNITED ARTISTS THEATRE
Pacific Coast Hwy. at Crenshaw • 325-4232

WEEKDAYS at 7:15 - 9:30
SAT. & SUN. at 1:20 - 3:30 - 6:00 - 8:00 - 10:10

They're young... they're in love... and they kill people.
Suggested for Mature Audiences

WARREN BEATTY FAYE DUNAWAY BONNIE & CLYDE

SHIPWRECK JOEY'S

ONE NITE ONLY
TOM TALL
Sunday April 7th
7:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

WATCH FOR YOUR FAVORITE WESTERN ARTISTS
To Appear Here With OUR OWN BILL OBBARD'S RHYTHM MASTERS

Your Hosts: JOEY, RUTH & IKE

"Ladies' Nite" Every Wednesday
Sunday Jam Session Starts 7 P.M.
HAPPY HOURS Mon. thru Sat. 7 to 9 P.M. Sun. 5 to 7 P.M.

MAKE RESERVATIONS—CALL 835-4900
Corner Figueroa & "B" St., Wilmington Harbor Freeway to C & B Off Ramp "Where Pequeño Ends & Fun Begins" JIM GENTRY, Mgr.

NO COV. HAWAII'S GOLDEN VOICE NO MIN.
CANTONESE AND MANDARIN DINNERS • COMPLETE REVUE • DANCING

ERNIE MENEHUNE
3961 PACIFIC COAST HWY. TORRANCE 378-8358 CLOSED MONDAYS

GALLEY WASE
AT MARINELAND OF THE PACIFIC
more than just a restaurant

WILD! WILD! WILD!
THE WILDER BROS.
Tues. thru Sat.

BANQUET FACILITIES TO 250 WEDDING RECEPTIONS Company Parties • Club Groups
Fashion Show Thursday Noon

FOR RESERVATIONS TELEPHONE 377-1111
OPERATED BY INDIVIDUAL HOSTS