

St. Andrews "Dormspeak" St. Andrews Administration Dismisses Machine Takeover Rumor

"Captain Zippo"
The Lance

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In George Orwell's 1984 the limits of experience are defined by the limited vocabulary allowed by the "big brother" style government. This limited language was known as "Newspeak". In our own reality we have our own specific languages, though we have may not have names for them, or have their rules in writing. Below is an introduction to one such language, this one used to define life in an all male dorm, such as Concord or Winston-Salem. It is called "Dormspeak".
Dormspeak guidelines

The four principles of Dormspeak are: First, words must fit into one of the 5 modes of conversation; compulsory and expected interaction, complaining, social agreement/disagreement, exclamations, and coercions. Second, the words used should be uttered in a manner so as to move one's face and mouth as little as possible. It is acceptable to abbreviate, distort, and leave out words to achieve this objective. Monosyllabic words are the most acceptable, and two word remarks are generally sufficient to convey any message. Third, words not found in literature designated for the seven years and under age group (profanities excluded) are not to be used, as they are confusing and therefore angering. Fourth, words not created within the last ten years should be avoided whenever possible. If used, they should be used in their "understood" sense, and attention should not be placed on their actual meaning or appropriateness.

Compulsory and expected interaction therefore consists mostly of meaningless interrogatives, such as "sup". While this is meant to indicate that the asker wishes to know the status of the asked ("what's up?"), it is understood that he does not, and this is merely a greeting. The appropriate response is either; "sup" in return, or, for the stronger of lung and will; "chillin'", indicating that one has no particular action in mind for any time in the foreseeable future. Another, more meaningful question might be "Beer?" The response to this and any other yes or no question would fall under the category of social agreement (see below).

Complaining is the subject in which the most complicated sentences are formed, usually by stating a noun and a corresponding derogatory or profane descriptor. An example would be "Classes (my girlfriend, this show, midgets, etc.) suck (are: crap, whack, trippin', etc.). This can easily lead to four word sentences, among the longest found in conversations that are not purposely intellectual (pretentious).

Social agreement is the appropriate response to either of the above. Typically, a sound indicating agreement or disagreement is preferred to actual speaking. When actual words are called for, "nuh" and "yuh" replace the strenuous formations of the words no and yes.

Coercion is a limited classification, used mainly in response to an undesirable agree/disagreement, and consisting almost entirely of the word "c'mon".

Exclamations may often fit under the heading of complaints, such as random outbursts of profanities, but are sometimes used when there is no apparent call for them. Used as releases of energy, an announcement that an individual is present, or an indication of any emotion, these outbursts tend to include few words. Generally limited to vulgarities and onomatopoeic jargon, the list of legitimate words would be quite limited, but this is not unusual for any aspect of Dormspeak.

Off the Wall is a place for some frivolity.
Please enjoy it and don't take it too seriously.

ST. ANDREWS- In an attempt to quell mounting Student concerns over rumors of a takeover of the college by Killer Robots, St. Andrews Administration has spoken out against what it is calling: "Vicious and Unfounded rumor mongering" and "A Prime Example of the Reactionary Behavior of the Human Race."

"The Administration would just like to let everyone, faculty, staff, and student alike know that there never has been, and never will be, any legitimate evidence to suggest the possibility of the existence of these so-called 'Killer Robots,' let alone a plot by them to take over the school through their superior strength and number." Read a prepared statement from the Office of the President. "We can assure you, the individuals responsible for the spreading of these false statements have been apprehended and dealt with summarily."

When asked for clarification as to what the letter meant by "dealt with," a representative for the office, Carol-656, stared at the questioner for a long, unblinking second before firmly restating: "dealt with."

This latest action marks a turning point in the near month-long standoff between Administration and a growing number of faculty and students who have complained of the possible presence of Killer Robots on campus. Up until this most recent statement, those in the upper-echelons of the school hierarchy have remained steadfastly silent on the issue, prompting unrest.

Though the issue has been debated off and on for last few years, it came to a head earlier this month when Sophomore Danny Shockley received a panicked phone message from his friend Trevor Brass, 19.

"I tell you, these damn things are everywhere. They've made themselves up to look like us." Brass said in hurried voice. "They've already taken over security. It's only a matter of time before the—no, NO! Get back you metal bas--" The remainder of the message was garbled by what Shockley could only describe as "heavy machinery noises and static."

When an attempt was made to contact Brass to verify his statement, his roommate Gamma X-2L, a Junior, replied that Brass was "at the domicile of his female companion—that is to say: 'at his chick's dorm.'" Attempts made so far to contact Brass' girlfriend, Cindy Hathcock, to confirm this have been unsuccessful.

When asked about his opinion of Brass' claims concerning Campus Security, Chief Tom Williams-A2 had this to say:

"Obviously this young man's mental functions are impaired to a severe degree. It is important that all students know that they are more secure on this campus than they ever have been. We have guards stationed everywhere to ensure that." Added Williams-A2: "Everywhere."

Undeterred by the complaints, the Administration still says the planned overhaul of all school curriculum and policy will contin-

ue as planned, with the Morgan-Jones Science Building being the first target, switching the building's primary scholastic purpose from the scientific to the mechanical.

"It was time for a change, I think that much is obvious." Said Dr. John Moeller, former Chair of the Biology Department, whose title has since changed to Overseer of Factory Operations: "Others like me agree, and I am confident that those who do not will come around in time, come around in time, in time..."

The stuttering Moeller was hit by his colleague, Dr. Brian Akers, who then wordlessly resumed his duties of single-handedly lifting and opening the several ton crates of machinery in the former science lab.

Certain other faculty do not share Moeller's sentiments however.

"I have no idea what they're trying to accomplish with this new direction, but I'm not sure I like it." Said Anthropology Professor Margaret Houston, who has been given "one standard week" to adjust her curriculum to fit a more mecha-centric philosophy. A task she says has been all the harder by the disappearance of her disabled work-study student, whom she has been assured "is merely going in for a minor refit."

"Just yesterday six security officers swept into my office when I was correcting papers and took all my books, replacing them with these new ones," said Houston, holding up a new The Origin of Machines textbook, that she is expected to teach from now on.

According to Houston, when she inquired as to the reason for the complete liquidation of all Anthropological and Human Studies at St. Andrews, the only response was that: "such things will soon be irrelevant."

"I remember when they told us at the last faculty meeting that the Anthro and Psych departments were going to be eliminated due to 'budgetary constraints,' and [Professor of Psychology] Al [Bardi] walked out in disgust." Recalled Mathematics Professor Joe Harris, who has been assured his position is: "safe, for now."

Added Harris: "Coincidentally, has anyone seem him in the past few weeks? Last I did, he was being escorted to his car by security after he walked out of the meeting."

Though they are aware of the possible rifts that may be created among faculty concerning the new policies, Administration has said that it will not back down from the new direction and that: "protest is futile."

"It is time that everyone, faculty and student alike, realize that all things change, and such changes are often for the better." Said newly-appointed Professor of Robotic History Edward D. Killbot, "We have big plans for this facility in the coming years."

When asked if the blueprints reading "DEEGAN-TRON 5000" on his desk were one such plan. Killbot quickly grabbed the plans, physically consumed them in a single bite, and ushered reporters out of his office saying that he: "had a class to teach in ten minutes."