

Language Students Interviewed

Knowledge of Foreign Languages, Cultures Imperative

Editors' Note:

Students comprising the French conversation class, Mary Elliott, Phyllis Sledge, Ninette Humber, and Terri Campbell, and their instructor, Michelle Rouille, compiled the following article in an effort to inform readers of the importance of foreign language study.

Isolationism in the United States has long since been a thing of the past. The nations of the world interact more and more each day, and communication is necessary. The basic means of communication is language, for language is the gateway to understanding a country's culture and its people. And by understanding a foreign culture better, we may perhaps gain a little insight into our own heritage. The existence of vast means of communication such as television, radio, newspapers, magazines, and the telephone, which are such an integral part of our daily lives, make the knowledge of other languages imperative.

The following statements are from an interview conducted with students who are currently taking a foreign language.

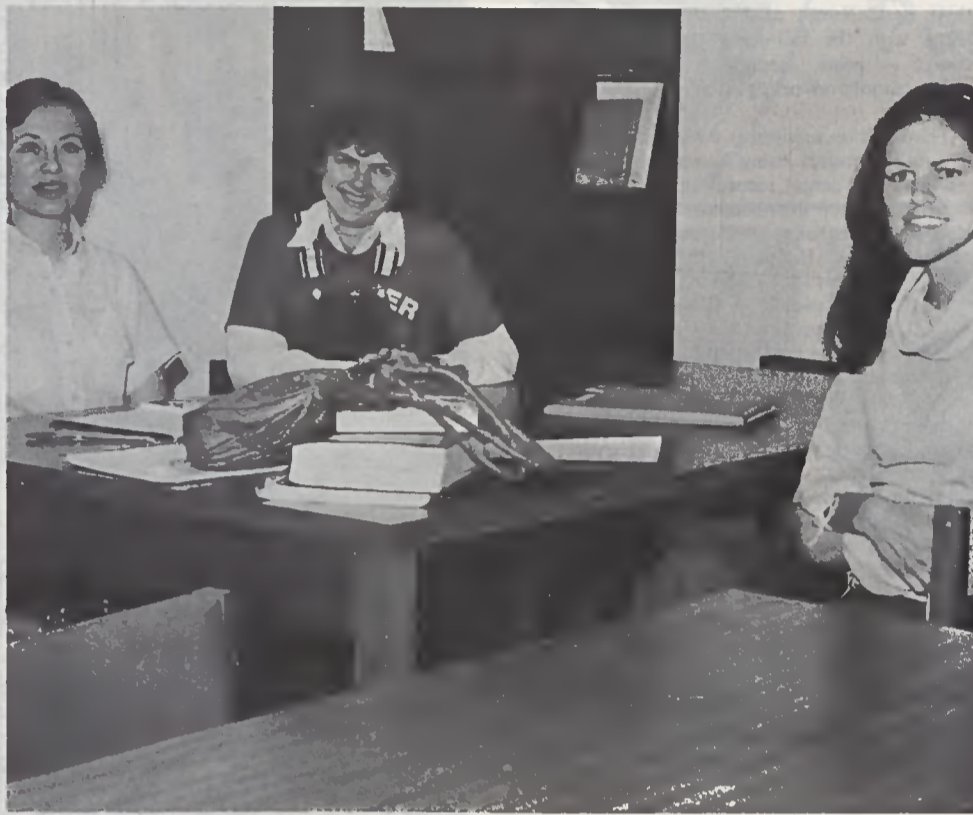
Why did you learn French?

Terri: I've always been fascinated with different languages and I've always wanted to learn one. Out of all the countries in the world, the one I wished most to visit was France. Also French seemed like it would be worthwhile to learn because it is such an international language.

Mary: I grew up in Ontario, Canada and took French in high school. It was required that I take it because there are many French-speaking people in Canada.

Ninette: I became interested in the French language when I was little and heard my father and grandparents speak to each other in that language. This interest was intensified by my young cousins speaking it after living in France for a year, and by my French grandmother, who tried to teach it to me when I visited her.

Phyllis: Since speech communicates thought, in learning a language one inevitably learns thought patterns. That interests me: the more we know about all manners of thinking, the more advances we can make in understanding



Members of the French conversation class are (l-r): Mary Elliott, Terri Campbell, and Phyllis Sledge. (Photo by Kirk Hall)

an individual's manner of thinking. The world is full, so full we can never hope to grasp a small fraction of what it has to offer. By learning French, among other languages, one can at least start to appreciate the variety of people that populate a single world.

Why are you continuing to take French and what have you gained from it?

Terri: During my high school years I enjoyed French very much and decided to continue with it in college. I've not yet fully de-

cidied on a career, but a knowledge of French or another language can be very helpful in business, government, the medical profession and other types of work. By learning French and studying French culture, I have learned to appreciate cultures different from my own.

Mary: I am interested in doing medical mission work and felt knowing French would help me overseas. I also think it is one of the most beautiful languages to hear spoken.

Knowing French has allowed me to be able

to better communicate. For example; when I travelled to the World's Fair in Montreal in 1967, it was easier for me to get around from place to place.

In my profession, nursing, I have been able to interpret a patient's needs for other personnel by my knowing French and thereby better care for them.

Reading French magazines and speaking with French people has broadened my scope as far as understanding the life of another culture.

Ninette: In the ninth grade I began formal classroom study and continued because I wanted to learn more than just the beginning basics of the language; I wanted to learn how to speak and converse in it. Later on in high school and in college, I began to not only want to learn about the language itself, but also about the lives and habits of those who spoke it. My outlook on the world has been broadened to include others besides Americans, and I've met many new friends in teachers and fellow-students with a common interest in the French language.

Phyllis: I pursue French because, obviously, you don't learn a language overnight. Just this reason alone makes studying French exciting — you never finish, there's always more. Already, I have realized how much American culture owes to French culture; and from a more stimulating viewpoint, how different the two societies are. An entirely different philosophy of life subtly underlies the history and "every day" life of France.

Why are you majoring in French?

Phyllis: I choose to concentrate in French because of the introduction it provides to almost every other field of study. When I study French, I also discover science, history, psychology, religion, philosophy, art, and literature. It widens the scope to gain new perspectives about old subjects. I like French; I hope to show others why it is worth the time it takes to be learned.

These responses make clear that learning a foreign language is not merely an end in itself, but a challenging avenue through which one's understanding of other cultures and one's perspective of life in general may grow and mature.

Baseball Overview

Volatile Team Scores High

by SCOTTY MILLER

When asked about the upcoming spring baseball season, second year head coach Al Ferguson quickly replied, "We're going to be better! We lost only two seniors from last year's team, and it doesn't look as if we'll have any seniors on the starting nine. And yet we have more experience in every position." That rare combination of youth and experience looks to bring a new image for Mars Hill Baseball fans.

The Lions are coming off a 9-17 campaign last year with a lot of pre-season hard work. Ferguson states, "The guys all have a tremendous attitude; they have a desire to win. We have a tough schedule. More than half of the schools we play give aid to their players, and we don't."

Mars Hill seems to improve with every contest. Their strongest aspect has been hitting. As a team the Lions are hitting at a phenomenal .298 clip. Leading the way is Danny Miller with a percentage of .378, followed by Jeff Davis at .354, Jeff Treadway at .342, and Ricky

Anderson at .333. Mars Hill has been averaging over six runs per game, another sensational feat. The biggest problem thus far has been pitching. It was the season opening question mark and remains a key for the rest of the schedule.

The immediate goal for Coach Ferguson and his players is to get into the District 6 playoffs. The top four teams in the district participate in the tournament, beginning May 10 in Greenwood, South Carolina. The Lions have remaining home games and there are some key contests in store. "An important factor in the outcome of home games is good support from the student body. They really can make a difference in a close ball game," states Ferguson.

As the Lions mature, look for them to more than better last year's 9-17 mark. In fact, look for an entry into the District 6 playoffs.

The remaining regular season games are as follows: April 30, Erskine College, at Due West, S. C.; May 2, Allen University, at Mars Hill, N. C.; May 3, Milligan College, at Milligan College, Tennessee; May 7, Lenoir Rhyne College, at Mars Hill, N. C.



General Washington demonstrates the pool expertise which allowed him to win top honors in the Wren College Union sponsored billiards tournament in March. (Photo by Kirk Hall)

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