

Language tables

Cottage cheese and Espanol

How do you say cottage cheese in Spanish when the Spanish don't even eat cottage cheese?

This is just one problem — and joy — that students eating at Las Mesas De Espanol (Spanish tables) face at dinner, Monday through Friday, Karen Prosterman, a student participant in the language table program, said Thursday.

"Students talk about history and verbs in every Spanish class," she noted, "But they get little experience talking about things in daily life — like cottage cheese."

Prosterman explained that situations like cottage cheese usually cause laughter and creativity. "Queso blanco" (light cheese) was the closest translation the students and graduate assistant could find.

The language table program was the idea of Hector Romero, assistant professor of Spanish.

"Students should have the opportunity to learn to live Spanish," he said, "to relate to the culture, to increase their vocabulary and to learn words they would use in Spain every day."

About 35-40 students are participating in the two week old program, according to Romero. Selleck Quad, Pound-Cather, A bel - S a n d o z and Harper-Schramm-Smith each have one language table.

Conversation tables are presently all in Spanish. Romero said that he hopes to open a similar program for students interested in French soon.

Each Spanish table includes a graduate student in Spanish to initiate conversation and correct mistakes. Of the six presently involved, Spanish is the native tongue of three.

"We usually talk about the food or what happened during

the day," Margret Tomassi, a graduate student from Pennsylvania, said.

Another graduate student, Cladine Kaiser Lenoir from Argentina, noted that beginning Spanish students often get the most out of the conversations.

"The emphasis at the tables should not be on correcting grammar," Lenoir said. "Let the students talk. Its more important that they talk without being inhibited than that they say everything right."

When groups like to talk, it's exciting for the graduate assistant as well as the student, Lenoir noted.

Prosterman said that students were beginning to talk more frequently and fluently after only two weeks.

"At first we were all really shy," she added. "Now we're gaining a little confidence."

Davis refutes reasons . . .

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follow that I would not be a good scholar? Does it follow that I have nothing to contribute to the good governance of a university?"

Davis asserts that his character is not really an issue.

"The Regents, who are intelligent men, know that one cannot judge character from a few isolated incidents like those recounted in the letter. They know that they are 850 miles

away from the facts upon which I acted and so are in no position to judge my tact, judgment, or objectivity themselves."

Davis said the Regents did not talk with members of the University of Nebraska's Philosophy Department who had met him nor did they ask to personally interview him.

"Could it be," Davis said, "That all the talk of character is irrelevant? That the real issue is one of politics?"

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