

Jim
VANCE

Vocabulary 101

*Students need class to
learn slang*

MILLS is a senior Advertising Major and a Daily Nebraskan Columnist.

As I sat with my roommate Missy, we were both exchanging stories of summer classes, classes neither of us liked nor wanted to take, classes we feel we've gotten nothing out of.

While we talked, we watched "Billy Madison," one of my favorite flicks. Between the complaining and the hilarious parts of the movie, we were struck with an idea. What if we had a class where we would learn to speak in a fun, interesting, attention-getting manner? What if the university offered Vocabulary 101?

Not a regular vocabulary class. Not where we learn huge words we can't spell or even pronounce. It could be a class where we learn to make ordinary conversations into extraordinary conversations. We would learn to use the newest slang words and phrases to our advantage. Some might be: pathetically anal, aces, 9er, hottie pottotie, gibberish, tying one on, shaft, ganked, holy schnikes, jipped, nookie, sloshed, and molly whopped.

Now I'm sure these are words and phrases are not new to you. But, using them in daily conversations can be difficult. Since the university doesn't offer Vocab 101, Missy and I thought up a scenario to put these words in context for you.

As Missy and I sat at our apartment contemplating our pathetically anal lives, the phone rang. It was one of our friends who told us about a party that was going to be aces. The address was 2479er Sheridan Boulevard.

We got ready so we could look like hottie pottoties. We didn't rush because we wanted to be fashionably late.

Unfortunately, we were too late because by the time we arrived, everyone was already talking gibberish. We decided that we were going to have to start tying one on. I needed pee, so Missy offered to wait in line with me. We set our glasses down and waited.

We realized we were getting the shaft. I saw a girl walk by, and she ganked our glasses.

We contemplated what to do next. We needed some new glasses. Holy schnikes, Missy and I planning a big night and we were not about to be jipped with no glasses, since we already paid for the first ones.

Well, we ended up getting pretty sloshed. The next day Missy and I agreed that we felt like someone had molly whopped us.

None of this is true, but didn't it just *sound* like fun? It may be all about the selection of words. Vocabulary 101 would be great.

Haney's
VIEW



Jim
VANCE

No more lock-outs

Limit NBA players' pay to keep league alive

VANCE is a senior physical and health education major and a Daily Nebraskan columnist.

The NBA announced last week that the owners and players of the most popular basketball league in the world failed to reach a new labor agreement, and the owners have decided to lock-out the players.

What is a lock-out you ask? The owners are upset that the players have too much control and money, and worried too many teams are starting to lose money. So the owners decided to stop all business actions. This includes not signing any free agents or draft picks, no summer leagues and no trades. If the two groups cannot decide on a new labor agreement by the start of next season, then there won't be another season, and the NBA will end.

So what is the problem about the current agreement? Simple. The players make so much money that some teams are actually losing money! The owners have said as many as 10 to 14 teams lost money this past season. The players contend it's not as bad as the owners say, and a better estimate is about four teams. The players take more than 51.8 per cent of all revenues. The players' union is also asking for lower rookie salaries and more money for established players. The players' union is also requesting that the minimum for the established players be raised from its current \$272,000 yearly salary.

Can you say GREED? Only those who have it all would complain

they don't get enough. Any team running at a loss is bad news, much less four or more! I'm still bitter about the baseball strike, and this may just do it for me as a fan of a bunch of greedy, spoiled brats — Jordan included. I'm tired of seeing men with minimal educations making millions of dollars and making a bigger impression on our youth than parents are.

This is ridiculous, but of course the owners are at fault as well. After all, they are the ones who offered the big salaries the players get. But when the commissioner of the NBA stated the league would make more money next season by not even having a season, since the television contracts are guaranteed and everyone, including players, will get paid, it showed how out of control players' salaries have gotten.

Instead of complaining about the problem, like most fans, I offer a solution. Pay players like teachers. At most school systems, there is a pay scale. Your position on the scale is determined by your number of years in the profession, as well as educational level, including post-graduate hours. Already this shows youth the need for education. This plan would limit the number of high schoolers and underclassmen coming to the NBA; they would see leaving school as unprofitable.

Let's say the pay scale has eleven levels, one for each year a player is in the league, and each year has a maximum yearly amount. Once a player reaches the eleventh year of his career, he is eligible for retirement, and no set amount of money is named for maximum earnings, as long as the player has a bachelor's

degree. A player who does not make it into his eleventh season is not eligible for retirement benefits.

A player comes into the league making the minimum. Then if he makes the All Star Game, he gets a bonus. Every player who comes into the league must play with the team he was drafted to, barring trades, for at least 3 years, when he can declare free agency. A player can declare free agency any time he wishes after this point, but would move down two places on the scale.

This would prevent all legal problems, as earnings would not be restricted, and players would get to choose where to live and work. There would be no need for the "Larry Bird Exception," in which teams can go beyond the salary cap to re-sign their free agents, which is what is killing teams.

Lastly, the players are guaranteed 40 per cent of all revenue from the owners, and the difference between salaries and the revenue would be what is paid for retirement benefits, like health and life insurance, for the players, as well as retirement checks, although this group probably would not need it. It could even protect those who had career-ending injuries.

I want to see another player play the game out of love, and realize the money will come when he performs, not when he holds out. Bird, Magic and the old school players were this way. I hope a system like this would help bring that back. Maybe for once we would actually see an NBA player with a Ph.D., and fewer with barely a diploma.

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