

Psych prof studies 'Cursing in America'

(CPS)—Dr. Timothy Jay is called the "Doctor of Dirty Words" and "The Pre-eminent Scholar of Profanity" and says he likes nothing better than a spirited discussion on cursing habits of the American public.

The psychology professor at North Adams State College has written a book titled *Cursing in America* (John Benjamins Publishing Co.) that explores different types of cursing, how children learn obscene words, and how men and women differ in the use of obscenities.

For example, women are often insulted by men for openly expressing their sexuality, Jay said. "Men don't realize how offensive some words are to women. Men, on the other hand,

get upset when they are referred to as effeminate. That's because the male sex role is still so rigidly defined."

Swear words remain fairly stable, Jay noted, with new words appearing from deviant subcultures such as music, drugs and prostitution from time to time. Hip new words, however, rarely last.

Everyone swears, Jay said, and people have been swearing for centuries. The only two groups who do not swear are some elderly women and the religious right, he's discovered.

"I think swearing is important for emotional expression, but every book on language ignores the phenomenon," said Jay, who said he swears much

less as a college professor than when he was an ice hockey player and construction worker.

Jay's obsession with profanity started in high school while listening to comedian Lenny Bruce. The material for the book, which he started collecting in graduate school, took 20 years to compile.

Most of the research came from the field where he and student assistants collected samples of people swearing. Jay's discussions of cursing have appeared in *Playboy*, *New Woman*, *Red Book* and *Parenting*.

He is also considered an expert witness, and has counseled lawyers and rock groups on the use of offensive language in the entertainment industry.

HOT WATER

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Brad, I wrote a letter of apology to Chris Ault (UNR athletic director and football coach), I apologized to our athletic department and when I went to the Board of Regents meeting in Reno I apologized to Chris Ault again in person," Kostman said.

Wednesday's meeting provided Nalder an opportunity to explain her actions.

"It was Homecoming, I was in a great mood," she said. "At about halftime, when UNLV was winning, I threw a cup with maybe one or two ounces (of beer) in it, but I wouldn't throw a full cup of beer."

Jackson said, "I'm in the same boat as Jami Nalder, except that what I did was toward the end of the game. I wadded up a wax paper cup and threw it into the field. I come from a different culture in Michigan. There everybody throws toilet paper onto the field after the first touchdown. I understand you have to sit on your hands here; if I could do it over again, I wouldn't."

Committee members Sen. James Yohe, business and economics, and Sen. Tina Yan, liberal arts, said Section D of the Senate Rules of Conduct, which prohibits "conduct unbecoming" of CSUN Representatives was void for vagueness in this case.

"Any coach at any University would not appreciate students who behave like that," said head football coach Jim Strong. "If it were members of our organization (football team) that went to, say a Student Government meeting, and threw beer on them I would definitely take action."

"This is a jurisdictional thing. I can't do anything about the actions of those in another organization. As long as students show their support by coming to the games we're not going to let incidents like this bother us."

Senate President Bud Benneman was dismayed the subject came up a second time.

"The Senate has already met and reprimanded these senators," he said. "This is the most stupid and asinine investigation ever conducted. If they decide to hear this case, I'm going to suspend the whole Rules Committee and appoint a new one. This whole thing is coming up because of a certain director, who shall remain nameless, that didn't have the guts to bring the complaint himself."

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