

**ROSIE RIGHT**

*The Power of Words*

**Mispronounced:** Patty Alspaugh tells Rosie "When I heard Clinton pronounce the word chameleon with an initial *sh* sound during the Richmond presidential debate, I went to a dictionary to verify that his pronunciation wasn't an accepted alternative to the initial hard *K* sound I knew. After not finding it in one dictionary, I even checked a second.

"Imagine my chagrin, when, the next morning on The Today Show, Katie Couric—who should have known better, being from U.Va. and all—propagated Clinton's mispronunciation when referring to Madonna....

Please, Rosie, make sure Richmonders know that Clinton's pronunciation was Wrong...."

No question, Alspaugh has caught both Clinton and Couric. Apparently, even Oxford and U.Va. can't always protect us from errors.

**Used Like Fog:** Cary Cohen has sent Rosie some wonderful examples of bureaucratese. The U.S. Small Business Administration pamphlet titled "The Effect of Access to Capital on Entry into Self Employment," tells us, among other far-from-surprising facts, "These findings indicate that liquidity constraints preclude some individuals from entering self employment altogether, and result in others entering self employment at a suboptimal scale."

**Used Carelessly:** Last week Rosie had Jefferson writing in 1859. Ooops! He died in 1826. The quotation was one he wrote in 1785, but according to the Oxford English Dictionary, it was published in 1859.

**Used With Malice Aforethought:** Quote of the week from the New York Times science section article about the use of colorful words such as Nemesis and Black Hole to describe scientific phenomena. Dr. Richard A. Muller of the University of California at Berkeley was asked if a catchy term could help win Federal grants said, "I think so," adding with a nervous laugh, "This is all a dangerous area to get into."

**Let's Just Do This**

A sign at Davis and Main restaurant speaks for a lot of us at the end of this political season:

"The Label Game

*Conservative*-one tending to maintain existing views or conditions

*Liberal*-one who is open-minded in the observation of traditions

Let's all pledge to work together for America!"

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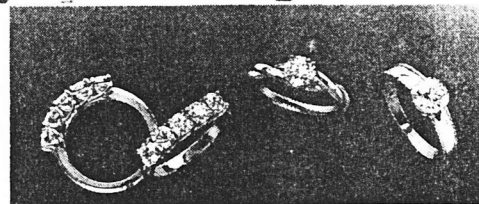


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