

NVRA Board to Meet in Columbia, S.C.

NVRA's Board of Directors will hold its Fall Board Meeting in Columbia, South Carolina, at the Wingate Inn, 217 Lanneau Court (I-126 & Harbison Blvd., (803) 407-6166 or (800) 228-1000), on October 25 and 26, 2002. Please notify Linda.Winfrey@nvra.org if you have any items to place on the agenda.

What Dialect Do You (or Your Witnesses) Speak?

Do you pronounce "girl" with two syllables? What do you call a carbonated beverage? Does a witness with a slightly different accent throw you for a loop in the middle of your deposition when he says "AD-ja-cent" rather than "ad-JAY-cent"? When is it supper and when is it dinner? And what's a Chinese fire drill? Do you drive on a freeway, an expressway, a parkway, a highway, a thoroughfare, or a turnpike?

Bert Vaux, an associate professor of linguistics at Harvard University, is preparing an Atlas of North American English Dialects that will be based largely on an online survey (www.hcs.harvard.edu/~golder/dialect). So far about 5200 people have taken part in the survey— (5201, counting your editor who found the "Comment" section most useful!)

Answering the 122 questions will reveal your pronunciation habits and prejudices. Pronunciation of the word "often," for example, reflects a phenomenon that Professor Vaux (pronounced vox) calls schizo-prestige: "Those who pronounce the "T" think that those who don't sound foolish — and vice versa."

Review maps of the continental United States showing the regional distribution of people's answers. There are gems in the data: for instance, some people pronounce "aunt" differently when referring to the "general concept" and when speaking about a specific aunt. The data is somewhat skewed toward urban areas, and Professor Vox acknowledged, "You can't always rely on people's awareness of their own idiosyncrasies in pronunciation."

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Special points of interest:

- *Voice Assistance for the Blind*
- *Remembering Joyce Green*
- *Spyware*
- *2003 Intersteno Congress*
- *Native American Seeks Info*

Voice Assistance for Blind

The New York Times reports that an interactive personal navigation system developed at the University of Florida could someday guide blind people through corridors and along busy city sidewalks. The system combines off-the-shelf hardware, software and a **voice-controlled interface** of the students' own design. It communicates wirelessly with widely available but little-known databases of detailed geographic information that can quickly be updated to reflect changing conditions. When the user gives **voice commands** to ask for directions, the system responds with verbal instructions, giving distances in feet and providing corrective guidance along the way.

The system is named Drishti, for "vision" in Sanskrit. The heart of the system is a wearable computer about the size of a thick paperback book, which is worn on the user's waist, runs Windows 98, and is voice-controlled with an interface that uses **IBM's ViaVoice software**. The computer is connected to a Global Positioning System receiver carried on the user's back and also gets data from the university's geographical information system, or GIS, a dynamic layout of the Gainesville campus that can be updated by campus officials as they learn about trouble spots like construction sites.

As the user navigates the route given by the computer, the system compares data from the GPS receiver with data from the GIS to refine the route and warn if the user is straying off course. The project began as a master's thesis project for Steve Moore, a computer science student at UF. Mr. Moore estimates that it would be about two years before a Drishti-like product became commercially available, with the big hurdle being gaining access to public and private GIS databases.

StenoScribe Goes to SC

StenoScribe invites you to attend its three-day technology seminar November 6-8, 2002, in Columbia, South Carolina, covering Windows, Word Perfect/Word, Computer Care, Dragon NaturallySpeaking, scoping, marketing, with the main focus on TechlenniumXP (Realtime). Please join us for three days packed full of education and fun. For more information on the agenda, please visit our website at www.stenoscribe.com. For further information and to register, please call StenoScribe at (800) 456-3290.

Remembering Joyce Green, CVR-CM

Joyce Green, a former member of NCVRA and NVRA, passed away on September 5, 2002, at Duke Hospital. Joyce was a member of NVRA from '86 to '94, where she served on the testing committee. She was at one time Membership Chairman of NCVRA and also served on the board. She reported predominantly in the Carteret County area.

Joyce had had lung surgery in July, was doing very well, and then inexplicably took a turn for the worse on September 4. NCVRA is making a donation to the Carteret County Chapter of the American Cancer Society in Joyce's name and will notify her family. Please keep Joyce and all those who knew and loved her in your prayers.

National Security and Your Privacy

Practice good PC hygiene, or maybe a terrorist organization will one day hijack your hard drive! In 2001, viruses and other malicious code caused \$12 billion worth of damage to the U.S. economy with the aid of unsuspecting users. Check your hard drive for spyware! A program installed in your computer without your consent which gathers information about you is surreptitious software including adware (commercials you didn't ask for), stealware (which leeches sales commission away from small websites in affiliate programs), and scumware (which alters the origin of links on a Web page so that an innocent news headline directs you to a porn site) It gets onto your PC masquerading as a cookie or hides behind other software you download. Antivirus software doesn't spot it, because it looks like something you chose to install.

If you own a Windows machine, go to lavasoftusa.com and download a free utility called Ad-Aware. Install it, hit the scan button, and watch it locate and remove suspicious files. A database listing more than 1000 programs, SpyChecker.com tells you what each one does. Clean out your PC, install a firewall, and you'll feel more secure — and maybe a little patriotic.

Native American Needs Info

My name is Guenevere Locklear. I am a Native American court reporter in North Carolina and am trying to find out some statistics and additional info for an upcoming article for a local newspaper. If you are a Native American reporter or if you know someone who is, please contact me at: AccuWriteReporting@msn.com. Any information will be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Visit www.intersteno.it

Voice reporters will be invited to compete "under the same conditions with reporters using traditional shorthand or steno machines" at the 2003 Intersteno Congress to be held in Rome, Italy. Please continue to check the Intersteno website for details — and get your passport!

AudioScribe Visits Arkansas

AudioScribe's Director of Support, Michelle Guilbeau, invites you to drop by and visit with her at the Arkansas Court Reporters Association fall convention being held this weekend at the Embassy Suites in Little Rock, Arkansas. Stay tuned to eVoice to find out where you can view AudioScribe's latest technology. AudioScribe representatives can be reached by calling (800) 869-0569.

NVRA Welcomes New Members!

Julie Cappuzzo, NC

Mai-Beth Ketch, NC

Rebecca Geldres, NC

Erin Reardon, MA

Donna Hartley, SC

Dee Michaels, NC

Barbie Lane, NC

Denise Cannarella, SC

Patti Martin, LA

Classifieds

Busy firm in Greenville, SC, has immediate openings for experienced court reporters. Please call (864) 234-5744 in Greenville, (888) 699-2084 outside of Greenville, or gcr@charter.net. (1)

I would like to purchase a used Sony BM-147 transcriber. Please contact Pat Redding, (770) 748-0610, or jgaryred@bellsouth.net. (2)

For Sale: The SpeechCat Writer Bundle with Writer Realtime Dictation Software, Speech-Cat Digitran recording software and SpeechCat Scopist, text and audio editing software and Dragon NaturallySpeaking Professional, and realtime cables, manuals, quick reference cards, and free on-line. Includes nylon carrying case, SpeechCat condensing (mini) and concordance (keyword index), ASCII preparation, ProText and ProDex software and manuals, \$2000. Contact Angela Anthony, P.O. Box 20505, Hot Springs, AR 71901, H (501) 262-9902, C (501) 617-0700. (2)

Pace Reporting Service, Inc., has an immediate opening for a court reporter in any one of its three locations: Raleigh, Fayetteville, or Wilmington, North Carolina. Reporting experience is not necessary if applicant possesses an English degree; however, a currently working reporter is preferred. This position would be as a home-based employee, not a subcontractor. We offer a salary-plus-commission compensation package, as well as employer-paid health/life insurance, a retirement program, and other benefits. Resume and salary requirements to: pacereporting@att.net, or Ted Thorne, P. O. Box 252, Cary, NC 27512. (2)

I want to purchase a used Marantz PMD430 (or anything similar) and a mini mask to go with it. If anyone has one for sale, contact Diane at (803) 463-3526 or Palmettoreport@aol.com. (3)

Sony transcribers for sale: BM-35 - \$50, BM-45 - \$50, BM-75 - \$100 , (4) FS-75 foot controls - \$15 each, Marantz PMD-360 - \$50, (4) Martel mini masks - \$50 each. The following are FREE if recipient pays shipping: Sony BM-35; Sony BM-25A; Sony BM-75. These transcribers don't work properly. If you know someone who refurbishes Sony transcribers, please let them know. Contact Ramona Crouse at rcrouse@triad.rr.com or call (336) 777-0839. (4)

NVRA Testing Schedule

2002	~ November 9-10	CVR/CM Test, Hiram, GA
	~ November 17	RVR Test, New Orleans, LA
2003	~ March	CVR-CM Test, Florence, SC
	~ April	CVR-CM Test, New Orleans, LA

Time has an undertaking establishment on every block and drives his coffin nails faster than the steam riveters rivet or the stenographers type or the tickers tick out fours and eights and dollar signs and ciphers. — John Dos Passos

CE Opportunities

Georgia Shorthand Reporters Association 2002 Fall Seminar, October 26-27, 2002

Emerald Pointe Resort, Lake Lanier Islands, GA
Contact: Greg Martin, (770) 932-3263 or
gbmartin@mindspring.com, 20 NVRA CE Credits
Making a Lasting Impression
Surviving and Prospering Beyond 9/11
Internet Research for Court Reporters
Internet Predators: How to Protect Yourself
Computer & Internet Security
Planning for Your Life
BCR Update
Strategic Planning & Business Development
Business Etiquette
Unique Aspects of High Profile Cases
Entertaining for Business

MO Office of State Courts Administrator, Forensics and Court Reporters, October 29-30, 2002

Columbia, MO, 20 NVRA CE Credits
Contact: Patricia Crockett, (573) 752-4377 or patricia_crockett@osca.state.mo.us
Crime Scene Evidence
Ballistics
Pathology/Anatomy
Toxicology
Anthropology/Dentistry
Medical Terminology
DUI/Breathalyzer

Jeff Justice will hold another “**Managing Stress with Humor**” class in Marietta, GA, at the Northwest Atlanta Hilton on **November 8 and 9, and in Savannah, GA**, on November 15 and 16. (\$229 by October 15; \$249 after October 15) 10-hour program, 3:00 – 8:30 on Friday, and 9:00 – 3:00 on Saturday. Contact Mr. Jeff Justice at (404) 262-7406 for registration information.

West Virginia Court Reporters Association Fall Seminar, November 9, 2002

Oglebay Park, Wheeling, WV, 14 NVRA CE Credits
Contact: Jennifer Vail-Kirkbride, (304) 233-0661 or jennyVK@stratuswave.net
Communication Access Realtime (CART)
Deaf Awareness - What is CART Reporting?
Professional Standards
Technology, Basic and Advanced Hardware for CART
CART Part 2
Writing Techniques and Work Environments
Job and Dictionary Preparation
"The Buck Stops Here" Panel Discussion
Cart Part 3
Writing Techniques and Work Environments
CART Settings
Cart Part 4
The Business of CART



NVRA's eVoice

National
Verbatim
Reporters
Association



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PMB 130
Fayetteville, AR 72703

(479) 582-2200
(479) 521-7459

WWW.NVRA.ORG

Look for another eVoice on November 2, 2002, and eVoice Extras at any time! Please send news, comments, and other submissions for publication to Linda Drake, Communications Chair, eVoice@nvra.org, no later than noon EST on the Wednesday prior to Saturday publication. Be sure to send your photo along with your article. eVoice prefers JPGs or TIFs, but hard copies are welcome also. eVoice is an electronic newsletter published by the National Verbatim Reporters Association to foster communication among court reporters and is not a commercial venture.

eVoice does not publish advertising for any commercial purposes or entities. We will publish announcements of upcoming shows, demonstrations or special offers involving commercial products as well as reviews of commercial products available to assist court reporters in their work. Advertising of commercial products may be placed in "The Verbatim Record." Contact Jan Cooper for more information at Jan.Cooper@nvra.org.

We hope no one will want to stop receiving eVoice, but if you want your name removed from our list, please send a note to Linda.Drake@nvra.org with the subject line CANCEL SUBSCRIPTION. We would appreciate a short note as to why you want to cancel, but that is not necessary. eVoice's address list is not sold to any entity.

Flotsam, Jetsam or Ligan?

When goods are cast into the sea in storms or shipwrecks and remain there without coming to land, they are distinguished by the names of *jetsam*, *flotsam*, and *ligan*.



The casting out of a part of the lading from a vessel out of necessity is to *jettison* or *jetsam*, and the thing cast out also bears the same name. The jettison must be made for sufficient cause and not from groundless timidity. It must be made in a case of extremity, when the ship is in danger of perishing by the fury of a storm, is laboring upon rocks or shallows, or is closely pursued by pirates or enemies. If the residue of the cargo be saved by such sacrifice, the property saved is bound to pay a proportion of the loss. In ascertaining such average loss, the goods lost and saved are both to be valued at the price they would have brought at the place of delivery on the ship's arrival there, freight, duties and other charges being deducted. *Flotsam* is the wreckage of a ship or its cargo floating at sea, while *jetsam* sinks and remains underwater. *Ligan* (or *lagan*) are goods cast into the sea, tied to a buoy, so that they may be found again by the owners.

The term "flotsam and jetsam" is used to mean "odds and ends" or unemployed people who drift from place to place.

The restless ocean may at any moment cast up a whale or a wrecked vessel at your feet. All the reporters in the world, the most rapid stenographers, could not report the news it brings.
— Henry David Thoreau