# Dos cervezas por favor

ey fellas, when you are taxed to the I max, and so busy that you are trying to get 25 hours out of each day, what does your wife do for you? Mine enrolled me in Spanish lessons.

This all started when I made the grave mistake of publicly raving over our trip to Spain a couple of years back. Live and learn. I now know that the only trip you hoot and holler over is the fly-in fishing trip/poker tournament you and the boys go on every year. Cause you know she's never going to want to tag along on that gas festival. But because I spoke highly about Spain and mentioned I'd love to go back, I'm now taking a night class trying to learn Spanish. Even though you probably think English is my second language, this isn't the first time I've attempted to learn more than one.

See, my wife is one of the few people I know who speaks perfect French and English without accents in either. Her first language is French, so right after we got

married, I thought I'd show appreciation and respect for her mother tongue take some night classes at Sheridan College in Oakville. Nothing like being told to take the garbage out in two languages. It should be pointed out that at the time I had a job that forced me out of bed at 3:30 in

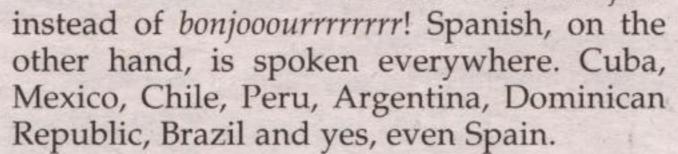
the morning and my night classes ran each Tuesday night from 8 till 10. I believe this is how they tortured people in WWII.

I slogged through this thing and didn't miss a single class over the eight weeks. After each lesson I'd come home with something new and awkwardly try to converse

with her in French. You know, heady stuff like... Bonjours! Je m'appelle, Jeff. Où est la bibliotheque? Finally, after nearly two months of this oral hunt and pecking, Julie announced that she would no longer be communicating to me in French, it was just too tedious. "Well, merde, if you're not going to speak French, there's no reason I need to." And that is where it died. The only words I retained were, of course, all the swear words and during the hockey season (when they're playing hockey) I use them on occasion when the Leafs are beating the Habs. But that is soooooo rare.

As I got to thinking about learning Spanish I came to the realization that there couldn't be a better second language to learn, and that includes French. Sorry Mr. Trudeau. When you think of it, the only times you'll really need French is with certain government jobs, travelling to Quebec City and going to France. But Parisians are so snooty about the kind of French you

> speak; you're better off struggling along with English than speaking bad Canadian French. That's all I need, to battle my way through a year's worth of French lessons only to have some waiter in Paris mime disappointment, light up a Gitane and stomp off leaving me unserved because I said bonjour



Spanish is also way easier to learn than French. With Spanish it's simple. You pronounce every letter. Take the French word



refrigerateur for example. Your average English person couldn't learn how to pronounce that word properly if he was locked in a beret factory for 10 years. In Spanish it's a breeze, refrigeradores. Why do I know so much about refrigerators you ask? Cause that's where they keep the cerveza.

Now even though you pronounce everything in Spanish, some letters don't sound the same in Spanish as they do in English. Anytime a "V" pops up, like in cerveza, it's pronounced as a "B". So cerveza becomes cer-be-sa. That can produce some unfortunate consequences for a Spanish person just learning English, as was the case with our Mexican professor, Fernando. In our first lesson he had written a, e, i, o, u on the chalkboard. He pointed to the first three and said, "now these are the weak bowels." Lucky mine were strong or there'd have been an accident in Spanish class.

All in all, I'm happy to be taking Spanish, if only to see my wife struggle with a language for the first time in her life. If I master it I know I'll be better off with 90% of the travel we do. If I don't I at least want to walk away with the swear words. It'll be nice to be tri-lingual in something.

## Milton Soccer Club holds winter league finals



PHOTO BY BERNADETTE WARD

The Milton Youth Soccer Club, winter league, held it's finals on March 5 at EC Drury Public School. The teams were clearly well-matched with the game in dead heat near the end. Team 1 scored the final goal for the championship win.



PHOTOS BY BERNADETTE WARD In the back row, from left to right are the champions of the Milton Youth Soccer Club winter league, under 17, mixed division: John Russell, Leonard Modestino, David Bitti, Peter Halls, Simeon Sham, Scott Bowman and coach Mike Bedard. In the front, left to right: Emily Pitman, Colin Bedard, Silas Sham and Chris Canas. Missing are Georgea Brooks and Hancock Canas.

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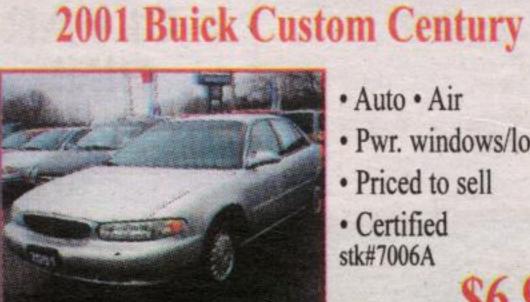
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