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June 21, 2006

To: All our loyal subscribers and supporters of the *Spelling Newsletter*.

My dear, dear friends,

Although I knew from the beginning, when we first published the *Spelling Newsletter* back in 1990, that the time would come when I would have to take this step, but now that it has arrived, it's even more difficult than I had imagined. However, that time has arrived when I must tell you all that I must cease further publication. The actual cause in a nutshell? I simply can no longer find the physical and intellectual energy required to conceive, research, write and produce our publication at a level that is acceptable to both me and our managing editor Benice, who, for those still unaware of the fact, is also my wife and life-partner of fifty years. Rather than boring you with precise details, let it suffice to say that increasingly growing personal health events have conspired to force the Ozlike cataclysmic decision to bring the publication of the *Spelling Newsletter* to an end... and it is really painful.

This past decade and a half has been the most rewarding period of concentrated creative effort I have ever engaged myself in, and I am satisfied that the totality of results that flowed from that effort has been, and will continue to be, useful. And I believe even more strongly than I did when I began writing about language more than forty years ago, that the totality of spoken language as it is transliterated into the English print system through the medium of its 26 letter alphabet, constitutes a perfect system for representing that language. And I believe further that the overall visual organizational system used to represent speech which has evolved as dictated by the limitations of the present alphabet, should not be significantly tampered with in naive attempts to, in some way, alter its appearance and thus improve its overall "sound-to-symbol regularity". It is the fluid interaction of these dual media that has evolved over the past

several millennia that constitutes a remarkable synthesis in the truest sense of that often misunderstood word, for the English print system is truly a *totality whose combined parts result in a product that is greater than the sum of the individual parts*, a creation which, in effect, most perfectly represents our uniqueness as a linguistic species. It has been my attempt to more fully understand that language and its immensely complex receptive-expressive operations that has consumed the most significant part of my 78 years.

And one final special thought - I again wish to thank you all personally for reading the *Spelling Newsletter*, for, in some way which I am unable to express in mere words, I want you to believe that I somehow felt/feel that I was/am speaking to each of you directly and sharing with you the fruit of my mental efforts to honestly communicate my own best understanding of our language and its ineffable wonders as they were/are carried through words flowing from my innermost self, through my fingers and onto each and every page.

And so my dear newsletter friends, Bernice and I both say goodbye and hope that all of us will continue to live lives filled with health, happiness and purpose for many years to come -

The Editors and Publishers,
Ray and Benice Laurita

Hi Don -

Hope this note finds you enjoying your new focus. I still admire your energy + dedication & hope we'll continue to correspond when the spirit moves us. Best wishes, as always -



Internet Publisher Note: Donald L. Potter

November 1, 2008, Odessa, TX

I have corresponded regularly with Mr. Laurita since 2002 when I first read his eye-opener 1981 book *The New Spelling: Orthographic Structuralism*. His **Orthographic Structuralist** view of English Orthography was a great help to me in my search for an understanding of how best to teach the highest levels of total linguistic function (reading, writing, and spelling) to all my students. I hope to eventually republish all of Mr. Laurita's major works along with my favorite articles from some of his more recent **Spelling Newsletters**.

It has since been my pleasure to publish the following essays by Mr. Laurita on the Education Page of my website www.donpotter.net:

1. "A Critical Examination of the Psychology of the Whole Word Method"
2. "Basic Sight Vocabulary: A Help Or A Hindrance?"
3. "Frustration and Reading Problems"
4. "Spelling as a Categorical Act"
5. "A Plea to Restore Reading as a Spoken Activity"
6. "Vertical Word Processing: A New Approach For Teaching Written Language to The Learning Disabled Adolescent." Phillip W. Trembley, MA.
7. "Reversals: a response to frustrations?"
8. "Understanding the Significance of the Individual Letters of the Alphabet in the Development of Full Literacy"
9. "Rehearsal: A Technique for Improving Reading Comprehension." (Teaching Teenagers)
10. "Errors Children Make." This 1967 article is the essence of wide experience and sound judgment."
11. "Spelling Problems Resulting from the Deletion of the Second Consonant in Root Forms."

I am publishing this letter concerning the cessation of the publication of Mr. Laurita's *Spelling Newsletter* out of a deep sense of debt and appreciation for the impact his work on my understanding of English Orthography and for the wonderful success I have been privileged to enjoy with all my students.

Note that Mr. Laurita's website is no longer on the Web, and the e-mail address at the head of his letter is no longer in service.

Last corrections made 11/12/09.