Readers Take Their Chance to Be Heard

RECENT LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I am increasingly alarmed by the failure of Plainly Malaspina to refer to faculty and administrators possessing PhDs by the appropriate title. This indicates a lack both of respect and of foresight concerning the future of MUC.

Mainly Malaspina, the authentic voice of the institution as it struggles to build credibility in the cut-throat world of the modern academy, uses the correct titles (see October issue). I respectfully suggest you tear a leaf out of its book.

Name and Title Withheld

Dear John, (I’ve always wanted to write that!)

I have read with interest, (but no capital) your latest ramblings in Plainly etc... (I write etc, in order to save myself a great deal of extraneous typing.) It is faintly ironic to see that you have joined the right wing (i.e. the Right Wing) and are becoming quite the capitalist. (The thought occurs: Are you related to Conrad, by any chance?) As for keeping your organ in the public eye (sic) I can only assume that you have been answering the Spam that has become so prevalent on the campus.

With best regards and wishes of good luck with your funding campaign,

Name and Department Withheld, PhD

Dear Editor,

While until now I have admired your lucid prose, I was dismayed to find in the rival magazine Mainly Malaspina a sentence written by you which is not only ungrammatical but also in extremely poor taste.

In “A Visit to Mulazzo” (October, p.13) you write of the village: “For 200 years its unique claim to fame has been trumpeted as the birthplace of Alexandro Malaspina.”

Any first-year English student could spot the syntactical nonsense of this sentence, but what is worse is the slur made against Mulazzo by the clear implication that its claim to fame is undeserved or overblown.

I am not sure whether I have been wrong about your alleged grasp of the language, or whether there has been some deliberate attempt by Mainly Malaspina to discredit you. Either way, it hardly reflects well on you!

Dr. I.M.A. Pedant, Ph.D

Editor: I can assure you and all my readers that there is no feud between the two publications, whose Editors are friendly reciprocal contributors.

The sentence I submitted was in fact: “Its unique claim to fame, trumpeted across the last two centuries by lichen-covered stone plaques and brand new tourist notice-boards alike, is as the birthplace of Alexandro Malaspina.” Clearly the deletion of the extra has been edited inadvertently for space.