

## **UT San Diego**

### **An 'old day' for San Diego**

#### **Letters to the editor for Feb. 14, 2014: Mayoral election; speaking English; Eric Holder; water, not bullet train**

##### **Americans can stick with English**

I read Mary Amanda Stewart's op-ed, "Speak American: be multilingual" (Feb. 13), with interest, and I could not disagree more. Ms. Stewart's idea that Americans should all learn the languages of our international immigrants is preposterous at best and ridiculous at the very least.

People knowingly come to America, an English-speaking country. The ball is in their court to learn English. I have no intention of going to the trouble of speaking Spanish, Farsi, Polish, German, French or any other language so these immigrants do not have to learn English. Our schools even provide English-as-a-Second-Language courses to aid them.

Yes, many other countries teach English because it is an international language. Students who come to this country for higher education learn to speak English for obvious reasons. If I were to work in a foreign country, I would expect to take the effort to speak the language of that country. The immigrants who come here need to do the same.

Karen Giannettino

Del Mar

##### **Delays in learning English hurt students**

As an American, born to Mexican parents, I became fully bilingual by speaking Spanish at home and English in school. I was the child who translated for my parents and agree with Mary Amanda Stewart's op-ed about the advantages of being bilingual or, better yet, multilingual.

It seems to me that while Ms. Stewart's "white native English-speaking son" is learning Spanish from his Latino classmates, these same classmates are not reaping the same benefits as they continue to communicate in their native language only, except perhaps in class. This is what holds back English learners as they tend to seek out friends who speak the language with which they are comfortable.

This eventually backfires for these students, academically and socially, as they will always feel uncomfortable speaking in English.

Tere Renteria

Carlsbad

## **English language add**

Regarding the Feb. 13, op-ed “Speak American: Be multilingual,” by Mary Amanda Stewart, with all her qualifications, she substitutes American in place of English to justify her claim that multilingual is good and those of us who stand on English as this country’s language are wrong.

I have no problem with being multilingual. It is a personal choice. This nation’s language is English regardless of what politicians, government and progressives say. Her word substitution, in reference to the Super Bowl commercial Coke commercial, is her justification, that before the USA and English, America spoke Keres and Spanish. Today, not yesterday, we as a nation conduct our social and business worlds in English. We formed a country in America. Its Constitution, laws and governments use English.

Her barb is in the same light as the illegal aliens’ justification that we took part of Mexico from them. Again, today not yesterday.

Walter Jennings

Oceanside