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The subjunctive in American English at the turn of the twenty-first century

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**THE SUBJUNCTIVE IN AMERICAN ENGLISH
AT THE TURN OF THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY**

A Thesis

Presented to

**The Faculty of the Department of Linguistics and Language Development
San José State University**

**In Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree
Master of Arts**

**by
Anya Luke-Killam
August 2000**

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ABSTRACT

THE SUBJUNCTIVE IN AMERICAN ENGLISH AT THE TURN OF THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

by Anya Luke-Killam

This study investigates the current usage of the subjunctive mood in written Modern American English. Contrasted with the indicative mood, which expresses factuality, the subjunctive is primarily used to express unreality in conditional sentences. It has been noted that use of the subjunctive is declining in American English and that the indicative mood can often be used in place of the subjunctive (F. James 1986; W. Frawley 1992). A few analyses posit that English does not have a subjunctive mood at all (F. R. Palmer 1986, 1988, 1990). In this study, recent corpus data demonstrate that distinct forms of the subjunctive are still used in certain contexts in written Modern American English. In addition, data gathered from a questionnaire designed to elicit the opinions of speakers of English suggest that either the subjunctive or the indicative is an acceptable means of expressing hypotheticality in a conditional sentence.

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Chapter I Introduction

1.1 Overview

This study examines the current usage of the subjunctive mood in written Modern American English. The subjunctive mood functions primarily to indicate hypotheticality, as in the sentence: *If I were a movie star, I would live in Hollywood*, where the form *were* contributes to the hypothetical meaning of the clause introduced by *if*. Mood is a grammatical category that specifies the manner in which a verbal action is expressed. It is represented inflectionally in the verbal system of a language. Several of the most recent analyses of the English language have noted that the use of the subjunctive mood is declining in American English (James 1986; Ransom 1986; Davidsen-Nielsen 1990; Frawley 1992; Bybee et al. 1994). Other analyses posit that English does not have a subjunctive mood at all (Palmer 1986, 1988, 1990).

1.2 Mood and Modality

The terms “mood” and “modality” are often confused in the literature. Modality refers only to the semantic content of an expression, and is often said to reflect a speaker’s attitude toward an event or action. The term “mood” refers only to verb forms and not to the modality or meanings that a verb can express. Traditional analyses of modality distinguish between epistemic modality and deontic modality. Epistemic modality is associated with knowledge of the world or the truth of a proposition, while deontic modality is associated with the concepts of obligation and permission. In English, the modal verbs *may, might, can, could, will, would, shall, should, and must* are used to express either epistemic or deontic modality. For example, the modal *may* can express both epistemic or deontic modality:

- (1) Marty **may** leave now.

Sentence (1) can be interpreted to mean that Marty is allowed to leave—a deontic interpretation. Sentence (1) can also be interpreted to mean that there is a possibility that

Marty could leave—an epistemic interpretation. In certain languages, like German, epistemic and deontic modality may be expressed not only with modal verbs but also inflectionally on the verb, with the grammatical category of mood (Palmer 1990).

The subjunctive mood is one of three moods in the English language. The indicative mood is used to express statements of fact or to form questions, e.g.

- (2) Marty lives in California.
- (3) I believe that you are wrong.
- (4) Is it ready?

The imperative mood is used for issuing commands, e.g.

- (5) Sit down.
- (6) Go away.

With respect to its semantic content, the subjunctive mood is generally contrasted with the indicative mood. That is to say, in English, the subjunctive mood is associated with non-factual statements. Describing the uses of the subjunctive mood proves to be more complex, and will be discussed in the following section.

1.3 What is the Function of the Subjunctive Mood?

The subjunctive mood has several uses. For example, the subjunctive can be used in the construction of certain conditional sentences. All conditional sentences consist of an if-clause, formally called the *protasis* or *antecedent* and a main clause, which is formally referred to as the *apodosis* or *consequent*. Furthermore, all conditional sentences set up a relationship between the protasis and the apodosis. More specifically, in a conditional sentence “the truth of the proposition in the protasis is dependent on the truth of the proposition in the apodosis” (Palmer 1990: 168).

Distinctions are commonly made between either two or three types of conditional sentences in English. These types have been labeled in various ways throughout the literature. Dichotomous distinctions have been made between *open* and *closed* conditionals, or *real* and *unreal* conditionals, or *indicative* and *subjunctive* conditionals (Comrie 1986;

Dancygier 1998). Conditionals labeled *open, real, or indicative* “do not make any predictions about the fulfillment or non-fulfillment of the condition,” while the conditionals that have been labeled *closed, unreal, or subjunctive* “express the speaker’s negative belief as to the fulfillment of the condition” (Dancygier 1998: 30). Other analyses have built on the distinction between *real* and *unreal*, in order to make distinctions between three types of conditionals: *future real, future unreal, and past unreal* (Palmer 1990).

In this study, the labels that will be used to describe conditionals are *factual, hypothetical, and counterfactual*. In *factual* conditionals, the indicative mood is used in the protasis to set up a relation between the propositions in the protasis and apodosis, such that the speaker does not state his/her opinion:

- (7) If Lorraine **drinks** milk, she gets a stomachache.
- (8) If I **go** on vacation, I always go to France.
- (9) If you **multiply** 11 by 11, you get 121.

Hypothetical conditionals can utilize the subjunctive mood in order to cast doubt and to indicate that the proposition in the protasis is possible or unreal but not necessarily true:

- (10) If Marty **were** a millionaire, he would live in a mansion.
- (11) If I **went** to Paris, I would visit the Louvre.
- (12) If you **cared** about me, you would help me.

Counterfactual conditionals also utilize the subjunctive mood. A counterfactual conditional represents an imagined situation which is not possible. The proposition in the protasis of a counterfactual conditional is always false (Roese & Olson 1995). Thus, the subjunctive mood is used to point out that it is impossible for the proposition in the protasis to occur, as in:

- (13) If I **had been** able to leave, I would have gone home.
- (14) If you **had been** more careful, you wouldn’t have gotten hurt.
- (15) If Marty **had gone** to the party, Lorraine would have been happy.

The subjunctive mood is also used in subordinate clauses after certain types of verbs. The subjunctive mood occurs in the subordinate clause after the verb *wish*, as in:

(16) I wish she **were** here.

(17) I wish I **had** more money.

The subjunctive mood is also used to indicate demands, requests, and suggestions. This use of the subjunctive is referred to as the mandative subjunctive, and is the most common form of the subjunctive in Modern American English¹ (Gramley & Pätzold 1992; Kennedy 1998). The mandative subjunctive occurs in subordinate clauses, following verbs such as *advise*, *order*, *propose*, *insist*, *demand* or *suggest*, as in:

(18) I suggested that we **take** a walk. (Gramley & Pätzold 1992: 172)

(19) I demand that he **come** home. (Kennedy 1998: 137)

(20) We insist that she **be** there.

It is often difficult to find distinctive subjunctive verb forms in English. James (1986) notes that for many verbs, the forms of the indicative, imperative, and subjunctive are identical. For example, the second person singular present tense looks exactly the same for each of these three moods:

(21) I want you to **stop**. (indicative)

(22) **Stop!** (imperative)

(23) I demand that you **stop**. (subjunctive)

Only a few of the subjunctive verb forms in Modern American English are in fact recognizable. Distinctions are most easily recognized when the uses of the mandative subjunctive are contrasted with the indicative mood. Distinct forms of the subjunctive can be found in the present tense, third person singular:

(24a) They demand that she **come**. (subjunctive)

(24b) They know that she **comes**. (indicative)

The present tense of the verb *be* in the subjunctive is distinct from the present indicative for all persons and numbers:

(25a) I insist that Lorraine **be** there. (subjunctive)

(25b) I insist that Lorraine **is** there. (indicative)

The verb *be* is the only verb which has distinctive subjunctive forms in the past tense. These forms are only distinct for the first and third persons singular:

(26a) I wish that he **were** here. (subjunctive)

(26b) I know that he **was** here. (indicative)

According to Beyer (1998), it is possible to form a past perfect tense in the subjunctive mood. This tense of the subjunctive mood looks identical to the past perfect indicative for all forms:

(27a) If she **had** already **been** there, she would have told us. (subjunctive)

(27b) She told us that she **had** already **been** there. (indicative)

Thus, a majority of subjunctive mood verb forms are indeterminable when they are compared with indicative mood verb forms. For example:

(28a) If we **were** in trouble, we called you. (factual, indicative)

(28b) If we **were** in trouble, we would call you. (hypothetical, subjunctive)

(29a) If they **liked** the movie, they said so. (factual, indicative)

(29b) If they **liked** the movie, they would say so. (hypothetical, subjunctive)

Sentences (28a) and (29a) are factual conditionals, and in these sentences *if* is used to mean “whenever.” Since the sentences are factual conditionals, by definition, the verbs in the protasis of sentences (28a) and (29a) are both in the indicative mood. Likewise, the verbs in the protasis of sentences (28b) and (29b) are both subjunctive, since these sentences are hypothetical conditionals. It is still possible to tell which of these sentences are hypothetical conditionals and which are factual conditionals, even though forms of the verbs in each protasis are identical. The apodosis can provide a better clue as to which type of conditional is being expressed and the distinction can be very subtle. The fundamental distinction between these types of conditionals will be discussed in section 2.1.

Even though some forms of the subjunctive mood are identical to those of the indicative mood, there are other ways to determine if a verb is in the subjunctive mood. For example, James (1986: 3) notes that the subjunctive does not follow a sequence of tenses:

(30a) They prefer that it **be** so. *present*

(30b) They preferred that it **be** so. *past*

Furthermore, the subjunctive forms negative statements without using the auxiliary verb *do*.

The word *not* precedes the subjunctive verb:

(31a) The doctors suggest that I **not drink** coffee. (subjunctive)

(31b) I **do not drink** coffee. (indicative)

(32a) I propose that we **not do** anything. (subjunctive)

(32b) We **do not do** anything. (indicative) (Moser-Hargis 1985: 83)

For hypothetical and counterfactual conditionals, instead of using *if*, past subjunctive forms permit inversion with their subject. This construction is not permitted for the past indicative:

(33) **Were she allowed** to come, she would. (James 1986: 3)

(34) **Had I known**, I would have told you.

(35) ***Was she allowed** to come, she did. (James 1986: 3)

1.4 Origins of the Subjunctive Mood

A review of the literature on the origin of the subjunctive mood in English reveals that there is little agreement. English belongs to the West Germanic branch of the Indo-European family of languages. Indo-European is said to have distinguished between at least four moods: the indicative, the subjunctive, the imperative, and the optative. The optative is most often referred to as the mood that is used to express a wish or desire. In his analysis of the subjunctive and optative moods, Hahn (1953) posits that the subjunctive and the optative mood in Indo-European were similar in meaning to a future tense. Hahn claims that the subjunctive was used for “vivid futurity” and the optative was used for “potentially” or “remote futurity.” These meanings were so closely related that the optative and subjunctive verb forms were interchangeable. Lass (1994) posits that the subjunctive mood was used in Indo-European to signal specific kinds of subordinate clauses, as well as hypothetical and counterfactual conditionals.

However, according to Millward (1989), Indo-European also had a fifth mood, the injunctive, which was used to express unreality, while the subjunctive was used to express

will. She further claims that the Germanic branch of Indo-European “subsumed both the subjunctive and the injunctive under the optative (confusingly called the subjunctive)” (ibid: 60). According to James (1986), the subjunctive mood in English is a descendant of the Indo-European optative mood; yet, his analysis does not specify the characteristics of the Indo-European optative mood.

1.5 The Subjunctive Mood in Earlier Stages of English

Old English began to be spoken around the time of the first Germanic invasion of Britain in the fifth-century A.D. Like Classical Latin, Old English was a synthetic language—a language in which the function of a word is indicated by inflectional affixes (Moser-Hargis 1985; Finegan 1987). Verbs were inflected for person, number, tense, and mood. In Old English, the subjunctive mood was distinctive from the indicative mood semantically, phonologically, and morphologically. The indicative and the subjunctive occurred in only two tenses: the present tense and preterite (past) tense. The inflectional endings were identical for both tenses of the subjunctive mood, so “a sequence of tense convention” determined the correct temporal interpretation (Moser-Hargis 1985: 7). The following table, adapted from Moser-Hargis (1985) and Pyles & Algeo (1993), illustrates the indicative and subjunctive moods in the present tense and past tense:

Table 1 *Present and Past Tense Indicative and Subjunctive Moods in Old English*

	indicative		subjunctive	
	present tense		present tense	
	<i>singular</i>	<i>plural</i>	<i>singular</i>	<i>plural</i>
'help'	helpe	helpað	helpe	helpen
	hilpst	helpað	helpe	helpen
	hilpð	helpað	helpe	helpen
	past tense		past tense	
	<i>singular</i>	<i>plural</i>	<i>singular</i>	<i>plural</i>
'help'	healp	hulpon	hulpe	hulpen
	hulpe	hulpon	hulpe	hulpen
	healp	hulpon	hulpe	hulpen

The subjunctive mood was used in a variety of contexts. Moser-Hargis (1985) notes that Old English was similar to Latin in “its extensive, regulated use of the subjunctive mood” (ibid: 3). Both Latin and Old English required the use of the subjunctive mood following certain adverbials, and in dependent clauses, particularly after verbs of advising, wishing, fearing and persuading (Moser-Hargis 1985; Wheelock 1995). Yet, according to Pyles & Algeo (1993), to express a wish or command, the subjunctive mood was used in the main clause of a sentence. According to Traugott (1992) and Blake (1996), the subjunctive mood was often used if a speaker wished to cast doubt on a proposition.

The subjunctive mood was also used to construct hypothetical and counterfactual conditionals in Old English (Blake 1996). Molencki (1998) claims that Old English did not distinguish between these two types of conditionals, as the preterite subjunctive was used for both types. Furthermore, according to Molencki, the preterite subjunctive was placed in both the protasis and the apodosis of a conditional sentence. He states that in English there is “a tendency to distinguish the apodosis morphologically for its higher degree of modality” (ibid: 242).

The morphological and phonological distinctions between the indicative and subjunctive moods began to disappear around the tenth century. In Old English, stress fell on the first syllable of words that were more than one syllable long. This stressing rule eventually caused the vowels of final syllables to be lost. The leveling of unstressed vowels continued throughout the eleventh and twelfth centuries, such that the *-en* ending of subjunctive plural forms in the preterite tense disappeared, eventually being replaced by just an *-e* ending (Moser-Hargis 1985).

Old English evolved into Middle English after the Norman Conquest of Britain in the late eleventh century. It became increasingly more difficult to distinguish subjunctive verb forms from indicative forms within Middle English. The following table, adapted from Moser-Hargis (1985) and Pyles & Algeo (1993), demonstrates just how non-distinctive the plural forms of the subjunctive and indicative had become at this point in time:

Table 2 *Present Tense Indicative and Subjunctive Moods in Middle English*

	indicative		subjunctive	
	<i>singular</i>	<i>plural</i>	<i>singular</i>	<i>plural</i>
'help'	helpe	helpe(n)	helpe	helpe(n)
	helpest	helpe(n)	helpe	helpe(n)
	helpeth	helpe(n)	helpe	helpe(n)
'be'	am	be(n)	be	be(n)
	art	be(n)	be	be(n)
	is	be(n)	be	be(n)

In Middle English, the subjunctive continued to occur in the same types of independent and dependent clauses as it had in Old English. The subjunctive appeared in subordinate clauses after the verb *wish*, and in dependent clauses to express non-factual ideas and prospective events (Fischer 1992). The present subjunctive was used in Middle English in order to express a realizable wish.

Molencki (1998) states that the preterite subjunctive continued to appear in both the protasis and apodosis of hypothetical conditionals. Middle English also began to regularly use the verb *habban* to form a past perfect tense, which was then used to construct counterfactual conditionals. However, Molencki does not specify whether or not this tense was added to the subjunctive paradigm. Fischer (1992) also notes this modal use of the pluperfect, and does not specify if the subjunctive mood had a past perfect tense. In addition, past tense forms began to be used in present tense contexts in order to indicate hypotheticality; Fischer (1992) calls this use the “modal-preterite” (ibid: 246). “This is in fact a continuation of the Old English past subjunctive, which had become virtually indistinguishable from the past indicative in Middle English” (Fischer 1992: 242). Modal verbs also began to appear in the apodosis of conditional constructions in order to compensate for the lack of distinctiveness between subjunctive and indicative verb forms.

The Great Vowel Shift in the fifteenth century and the numerous phonological changes that occurred in Early Modern English lead to further simplification of verbal inflections. During the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, the subjunctive mood was most

often used only in the protases of hypothetical and counterfactual conditionals. By the eighteenth century it was quite common for a modal verb to be used in the apodosis of a conditional sentence. The indicative continued to replace the subjunctive in many dependent clauses, particularly after verbs of hoping and doubting. For wishes that expressed counterfactuality, the subjunctive mood was used. In Colonial America, the mandative subjunctive was used regularly, while this particular use of the present subjunctive lessened in England (Traugott 1972).

1.6 Linguistic Analyses of the Subjunctive Mood

Due to the fact that a majority of the forms of the subjunctive mood are not phonologically or morphologically distinguishable from indicative verb forms, the existence of the subjunctive mood in Modern American English is questionable. A few analyses of English posit that the subjunctive mood does not exist. In his analyses of mood, modality and the English verbal system, Palmer (1986, 1988, 1990) claims that the concept of the subjunctive mood has been taken from Latin and does not belong in the English grammar. Likewise, Moser-Hargis (1985) notes that “the chief syntactic influence” Latin has had on English “is its predisposing students of language to perceive English grammar in Latin terms” (ibid: 4).

Palmer (1990) has defined mood as a grammatical category that exhibits modality. In turn, modality is a semantic-grammatical category, encompassing the basic notions of possibility and necessity—epistemic and deontic modality, respectively. He claims that the epistemic and deontic distinction is the most fundamental semantically. He also proposes a third basic modality, that of dynamic modality which most often expresses ability in sentences such as: *I can speak French*.

According to Palmer (1990), mood is used to express modality in languages like German, French and Latin. Moreover, the function of mood is clear in a language like German, as the following example demonstrates. In this example, the speaker uses the quotative subjunctive to distance herself/himself from the truth of the proposition in the

subordinate clause:

(36a) Er behauptet, dass die Erde flach sei. (subjunctive)

‘He says (and I do not say) that the earth is flat.’

(36b) Er behauptet, dass die Erde flach ist. (indicative)

‘He claims that the earth is flat.’ (Wierzbicka 1988: 159)

Additionally, Palmer claims that the modal verbs, not mood, are used to express modality in English. “The closest thing that English has to a subjunctive is ‘may’” (Palmer 1990: 11). Palmer maintains that the only possibility for the subjunctive in English is a form that is identical to an infinitive—the forms used after verbs of ordering and suggesting. Still, Palmer claims that this form is used only in formal language.

Bybee et al. (1994), Bybee & Fleischman (1995), Ransom (1986), James (1986), and Fauconnier (1985, 1997) have proposed their own ways of looking at modality and the subjunctive mood. Each of these analyses builds on the traditional analyses of mood and modality. Within the analysis of Bybee & Fleischman (1995), the semantic domain of modality relates “to elements of meaning that languages express”(ibid: 2). There are several different types of “semantic nuances” associated with modality including: *jussive*, *potential*, *hypothetical*, *obligative*, *dubitative*, and *intensive*. A number of these “semantic nuances” have been ascribed to the subjunctive mood, namely *jussive*, *hypothetical*, *potential*, and *dubitative*, though the subjunctive is less likely to be used in *potential* and *dubitative* expressions:

(37) I insist that you be there. *jussive*

(38) If everyone were here, we could start the meeting. *hypothetical*

(39) It is possible that she will be late. *potential*

(40) I doubt Marty will arrive on time. *dubitative*

(41) I plan to go to France this summer. *intensive*

Bybee & Fleischman (1995) regard mood as a formal category of grammar and as a way in which a language can express modality. In Bybee et al. (1994) it was proposed that there are three types of modality: agent-oriented, speaker-oriented, and epistemic. Agent-

oriented modality expresses notions of obligation, necessity, and ability. This type of modality overlaps with the traditional deontic modality, as well as what Palmer (1990) refers to as dynamic modality. Speaker-oriented modality includes notions of command, demand, request, and warning. The mandative subjunctive often expresses this type of modality in English. Furthermore, ideas of possibility, probability, and counterfactuality are expressed with epistemic modality.

Bybee et al. (1994) describe the subjunctive mood as being a special verb form that, in many languages, obligatorily appears in particular subordinate clauses. In this analysis of mood, it is noted that it is not clear if subjunctive forms actually provide any meaning or if these forms appear because of syntactic requirements. For example, with verbs of volition in French and Spanish, the subjunctive mood is required when the subject in the subordinate sentence differs from that of the main sentence, as this Spanish sentence illustrates:

(42) Eva quiere que yo **salga**.

‘Eve wants me to leave.’ (De Mello 1990: 295)

However, there is a clear difference in meaning when the mandative subjunctive appears after verbs such as *suggest* and *insist*. For example, in sentence (25a), *I insist that Lorraine be there*, the speaker expresses a demand and the subjunctive mood is used in the subordinate clause. When the indicative mood is used in the subordinate clause of sentence (25b), *I insist that Lorraine is there*, the speaker does not express a demand, rather the speaker states his/her belief that Lorraine is at a particular location.

Ransom (1986) proposes two broad categories of modality: *Information Modalities* and *Evaluation Modalities*. *Information Modalities* are concerned with the way in which a speaker intends the content of a proposition to be interpreted. *Evaluation Modalities* are used to indicate someone’s evaluation of the facts “either as being the case or as having alternatives available to it” (Ransom, 1986: 69). There are four *Information Modalities*: *Truth*, *Future Truth*, *Occurrence*, and *Action*. Epistemic meanings are expressed by the *Truth*, *Future Truth*, and *Occurrence Modalities*, while deontic meanings are expressed by the *Action Modality*. The subjunctive mood is one way in which the *Action Modality* can be

represented in a language. For example, *Action Modality* is expressed in sentence (43a) while sentence (43b) expresses *Truth Modality*:

(43a) I insist that Wally **play** well. *subjunctive*

(43b) I insist that Wally **plays** well. *indicative* (Ransom 1986: 51).

In this way, mood functions to indicate differences in meaning among the *Information Modalities*. Ransom (1986) proposes four *Evaluation Modalities*, as well: *Predetermined*, *Determined*, *Undetermined*, and *Indeterminate*. These modalities differ from each other depending on the number of alternatives available. Ransom claims that the subjunctive mood is used in English when the alternatives are more determined.

James (1986) defines modality and mood in yet another way. According to James (1986: 13), “modality is just a linguistic term for manner of representation. Manner of representation is the relation (of which there are two kinds) between a representation and what is represented.” Thus, James refers to modality as the “relation between words and worlds” (ibid: 14). James (1986) describes these two kinds of manners of representation as *theoretical* and *practical*. The theoretical modality or manner of representation corresponds to the traditional category of epistemic modality, while the practical modality or manner of representation corresponds to deontic modality. Mood is a system of inflections on verbs. James feels that “to define mood as speaker’s attitude is too restrictive,” since the choice of mood does not always reflect the speaker’s attitude toward a situation (ibid: 11). Rather, mood specifies either of the two manners of representation by signifying the intended relation between words and worlds. Signifying practical modality, the subjunctive is semantically distinct from the indicative, which signifies theoretical modality.² Thus, when the words are not intended to match the world because of doubt, uncertainty, or unreality, then the subjunctive is used. The indicative or the imperative mood is used when the words are intended to match the world.

James (1986) notes that the phonological distinctiveness of the subjunctive’s forms has declined in Modern English, and argues that this is the reason that the subjunctive is disappearing from English. “It seems that as inflections are leveled, non-distinctive forms

are interpreted as indicative wherever possible. We can only speculate about why this should be so, but perhaps the reason is that the indicative has always been more frequent overall and often more frequent in uses which have allowed either mood” (James 1986: 4). Even though the subjunctive has lost uses, James (1986) maintains that the subjunctive mood is still used to signify practical modality.

James’ analysis of mood parallels Fauconnier’s (1985, 1997) analysis of mood, modality and *mental spaces*. Fauconnier states that *mental spaces* are constructs developed throughout discourse and are guided by linguistic expressions. Thus, *mental spaces* contain elements which correspond to the concepts presented during discourse. Relations are established between the elements as discourse proceeds. Moreover, certain verbs and adverbs—such as *wish* or *doubt* and *maybe* or *if*—are *space-builders*. New *mental spaces* are opened or shifted into focus when *space-builders* are used. *Space builders* open *mental spaces* which are distinct from reality. More specifically, the space builder *maybe* sets up a possibility space, whereas the space-builder *if* sets up a hypothetical space. In particular, the subjunctive mood in French is used in subordinate clauses following the space-builders *want*, *wish*, and *doubt* in order to mark the appropriate *mental space*:

(44a) Max voudrait que tu **achètes** une voiture qui **soit** rapide.

‘Max wants you to buy a car that is fast.’

(44b) Max voudrait que tu **achètes** une voiture qui **est** rapide.

‘Max wants you to buy a fast car.’ (Fauconnier 1985: 95)

In both sentences (44a) and (44b) the verb ‘to buy’ (*achètes*) is in the subjunctive mood because it is in the subordinate clause following the verb ‘to want’ (*voudrait*). Furthermore, Fauconnier (1985, 1997) argues that the subjunctive form of the verb ‘to be’ (*soit*) is used in the relative clause of sentence (44a) because Max does not have a particular kind of car in mind. This use of the subjunctive “prevents the information contained in the relative clause from being taken as a description of a real-world situation” (Fauconnier & Sweetser 1996: 19). However, in sentence (44b), Max does have a particular car in mind, so the indicative form of the verb ‘to be’ (*est*) is used. Moods do not create mental spaces but

rather offer important grammatical clues as to which *mental space* is most relevant in a sentence.

1.7 Focus of the Present Study

In the English language, the existence of the subjunctive mood is not as clearly defined as it is in German or in Romance languages. As compared to Old English and Middle English, the contexts in which the subjunctive mood can be used have become more limited. It has been repeatedly noted that subjunctive forms have become less distinctive both morphologically and phonologically. While past analyses of the English subjunctive mood have focused mostly on the syntactic and semantic roles of this mood, this study will focus on the current usage of the subjunctive mood in written American English. In an effort to determine if the subjunctive mood is still used, this study will analyze recent corpus data gathered from *The San Jose Mercury News* and *The New Yorker* magazine.

Several analyses, namely Palmer (1986, 1988, 1990), have claimed that the subjunctive mood does not exist in English. Other analyses have claimed that the existence of the subjunctive mood is threatened, as it is being replaced by the indicative mood (Ransom 1986; James 1986; Frawley 1992). Based on these analyses, it is expected that an analysis of the corpus will show that the indicative mood appears more frequently in the protases of conditional sentences. Moreover, it is expected that the indicative mood will occur more frequently in subordinate clauses after the verbs *wish*, *doubt*, and *hope*. While languages like French and Spanish use the subjunctive mood after the space-builder adverbs *perhaps*, *maybe*, and the phrase *It is possible*, it is expected that in the corpus the indicative mood will appear in sentences introduced by these space-builders. Other analyses of the subjunctive mood state that the mandative subjunctive is the most frequently occurring type of the subjunctive in American English (Johansson & Norheim 1988; Gramley & Pätzold 1992; Kennedy 1998). Therefore, in the corpus, distinct forms of the mandative subjunctive are expected to appear frequently in subordinate clauses after verbs such as *insist*, *suggest*, and *demand*.

It has been noted that the indicative mood is often used in place of the subjunctive mood, even though these two moods cover quite different semantic areas (James 1986; Frawley 1992). In light of this observation, the following question arises: Does the use of the indicative mood in place of the subjunctive mood affect the interpretation of hypothetical conditionals or counterfactual statements in Modern American English? It is my hypothesis that the use of the indicative in place of the subjunctive does not affect interpretation, and this is one of the reasons why the subjunctive is declining in use. To support this hypothesis, a questionnaire was administered to fifty speakers of English, in order to elicit their judgments on the use of the subjunctive mood in written Modern American English. The results from this questionnaire will also be discussed in this study.

Chapter II Corpus Study of the Subjunctive Mood

2.1 Does the Subjunctive Mood Have a Place in Modern American English?

More often than not, the subjunctive mood is phonologically and morphologically indistinguishable from the indicative mood in Modern American English, making it difficult to determine its role in Modern American English grammar. However, a few analyses claim that the subjunctive mood is still used in certain contexts. The mandative subjunctive is recognized as occurring after verbs such as *insist*, *propose*, *demand*, *ask*, *request*, and *recommend* (James 1986, Johansson & Norheim 1988, Davidsen-Nielsen 1990; Gramley & Pätzold 1992). However, according to James (1986), this use of the present subjunctive is the only use which is capable of producing a clear contrast in meaning. That is to say, the present subjunctive is no longer used in conditional sentences.

The past subjunctive occurs most often in hypothetical and counterfactual conditionals, and after the verb *wish*. The use of the past subjunctive is generally considered to occur only in formal contexts, its use regarded as stylistic. The past subjunctive is only distinguishable from the past indicative for the first and third singular forms of the verb *be*. Nevertheless, examples (45a) and (45b) demonstrate that the use of the past subjunctive creates quite a difference in meaning when compared to the past indicative:

(45a) If she **were** there, they would see her.

(45b) If she **was** there, they saw her. (James, 1986: 7)

The past subjunctive appears in the protasis of sentence (45a) in order to indicate that the speaker is uncertain about the proposition presented in the protasis. In sentence (45b) the indicative mood appears in the protasis, and the speaker indicates no doubts about the proposition in the protasis. Moreover, the meaning expressed in sentence (45b) cannot be expressed with the sentence: *If she were there, they saw her*, where the subjunctive mood appears in the protasis of the conditional sentence. In fact, a speaker of English would probably question the construction of such a sentence. The use of the past subjunctive in

the protasis indicates uncertainty, and cannot be concluded with a factual statement such as *they saw her*. This provides evidence that use of the past subjunctive mood does provide meaning, and is not merely stylistic.

In contrast to James' position, Palmer repeatedly claims that the subjunctive mood is not used to express hypotheticality and counterfactuality in conditionals. Palmer (1986, 1988, 1990) distinguishes between two categories of conditionals: *unreal* and *real* conditionals. In a *real* conditional the speaker states no views about the relation between the proposition in the protasis and the proposition in the apodosis. In an *unreal* conditional the speaker expresses doubts about the proposition in the protasis. Palmer (1990) further separates *real* and *unreal* conditionals into the following three types: *future real*, *future unreal*, and *past unreal*. Palmer (1990: 171) exemplifies these distinctions in the following ways:

(46a) If it **rains**, the match will be canceled. *future real*

(46b) If it **rained**, the match would be canceled. *future unreal*

(46c) If it **had rained**, the match would have been canceled. *past unreal*

Palmer (1988) claims that the past tense is always used in the protasis of an *unreal* conditional. According to both Palmer (1988) and Perkins (1983) the past tense is remote in time and reality. Frawley (1992) notes that many languages use the past tense in order to signal hypotheticality or non-actuality. Palmer (1988) states that "relations between the tenses will determine how the conditional is to be interpreted" (ibid: 151). Therefore, mood does not specify how a conditional is interpreted. He maintains that unreality "is expressed, as elsewhere in English, by the use of the past tense"(Palmer 1988: 150). This analysis is similar to Perkins' (1983) analysis of "real conditions" versus "hypothetical conditions." With hypothetical conditions, a verb in the past tense indicates that the condition has gone unfulfilled and is thus unreal, as Perkins (1983: 111) illustrates:

(47) If you **don't like** it, that's too bad. (*real condition*)

(48) If he **were** really hungry, he would eat this. (*unfulfilled condition*)

Palmer (1990) states that *past unreal* conditionals are marked with the past tense

twice, and express ideas that are contrary-to-fact. This observation explains why *counterfactual* conditionals often contain a past perfect verb form in the protasis. However, it is not always necessary that a past perfect verb form be in the protasis of a conditional in order for it to be considered counterfactual (Palmer 1990). For example, conditional sentences that contain the protasis *If I were you...* can be interpreted as counterfactual, since it is impossible for the speaker to become someone else. In fact, speakers of English may not think that it is necessary to use the past perfect form *If I had been you...* for this construction, in order to indicate counterfactuality.

Palmer (1990) states that *were* only appears in *unreal* conditionals. Palmer (1988) also states that the past tense is always used after the verb *wish*. Perkins (1983: 107) notes that “a past tense appears to be obligatory in complements following *wish*:”

(49) *I wish you **live** nearer. (Perkins 1983: 107)

Palmer (1988: 45) considers phrases such as *If I were you...* and *I wish I were...* to be “fossilized constructions,” claiming that either *were* or *was* is possible. Furthermore, he states that “all the potential subjunctives turn out to be past tense in form” (ibid: 46). However, this claim is not confirmed by other analyses, namely James (1986), given the fact that distinctive present tense subjunctive forms of verbs other than *be* are not at all like their past tense forms. For example, sentence (50a) uses the present tense subjunctive mood after the verb *insist*. This form of the subjunctive mood is distinct from both the present tense indicative mood in sentence (50b), and the past tense subjunctive mood in sentence (50c):

(50a) I insist that he **help**. (present subjunctive)

(50b) I insist that he **helps**. (present indicative)

(50c) If he **helped**, we could finish. (past subjunctive)

Palmer also states that a modal verb must appear in the apodosis of a conditional in order for it to be considered *unreal*. Thus, within his analysis, sentence (51a) represents an *unreal* conditional and sentence (51b) a *real* conditional:

(51a) If John **came**, Mary would leave.

(51b) If John **came**, Mary left. (Palmer 1988: 151)

However, Palmer does not consider sentence (46a) *If it rains, the match will be canceled* to be an *unreal* conditional, even though it contains a modal verb in the apodosis. It may be that he does not consider this conditional *unreal* because the verb in the protasis is not in the past tense. Thus, it is not clear which is more important to Palmer as a signal of unreality: the past tense or a modal verb. Furthermore, example (51b) shows that *real* conditionals can use the past tense. It is also not clear if he would consider the sentence *If it rains, the match is canceled* to be less unreal, since it does not contain a modal verb in the apodosis.

Palmer would consider sentences (52a) and (52b) to be *future unreal* conditionals because they both contain a modal verb in the apodosis:

(52a) If Marty **was** here, Lorraine would be happy.

(52b) If Marty **were** here, Lorraine would be happy.

Sentence (52a) contains a past indicative verb form in the protasis, while sentence (52b) contains a past subjunctive verb form in the protasis. According to Palmer, either of these two sentences is acceptable for the purposes of expressing an unreality, since modality can only be expressed with the modal verbs in English.

Both tense and modal verbs play an important role in Palmer's descriptions of conditionals, while mood does not. However, his analyses do not appear to fully explain how unreality is expressed in conditional sentences. It is not clear why the conditionals that he labels *real* contain modal verbs. He claims that modal verbs express modality, and in turn modality expresses the opinion or attitude of a speaker. However, Palmer (1990) defines a *real* conditional as a construction in which no attitudes or opinions are expressed. For these reasons, it can be said that Palmer's examples of *real* conditionals do not correspond to what are referred to in this study as *factual* conditionals, even though the definitions of both types of conditionals appear to be the same.

Dancygier (1998) addresses some of the issues that Palmer's analyses do not. She claims that "all verb forms in conditionals contribute in a significant way to the overall

interpretation of the construction” (ibid: 25). She makes the distinction between *predictive* conditionals and *non-predictive* conditionals. Sentences (46a), (46b), and (46c) appear in Dancygier’s analysis as examples of the three main types of *predictive* conditionals. She claims that the conditional *If it rains, the match will be canceled* is an example of a *predictive* conditional in which the speaker “may see the fulfillment of the condition as possible” (Dancygier 1998: 29). With sentences (46b) and (46c), Dancygier claims that the speaker believes that it is impossible for the proposition in the protasis to be fulfilled. Furthermore, she claims that a speaker expresses no opinions with *non-predictive* conditionals like:

(53) If you **heat** ice, it melts. (Dancygier 1998: 26)

(54) If it **rains**, cancel the match. (ibid: 26)

(55) If two and two **make** four, then two is an even number. (ibid: 29)

This analysis differs slightly from Palmer’s analysis. Palmer (1990) states that a speaker expresses no opinions with sentences like *If it rains, the match will be canceled*, while Dancygier maintains that a speaker expresses no opinions with a sentence like *If it rains, cancel the match*. According to Dancygier (1998), the use of *will* in sentence (46a) makes this conditional *predictive*. With a *predictive* conditional, the speaker expresses his/her opinions about the possibility of the fulfillment of the proposition in the protasis.

According to Dancygier (1998), *backshifting* marks the distinction between *non-predictive* and *predictive* conditionals. She states that “the term ‘backshift’ should be applicable to every case of language use such that the time marked in the verb phrase is earlier than the time actually referred to” (1998: 37). Fischer (1992) referred to this idea in her discussion of the “modal-preterite” in Middle English (see section 1.5). Dancygier claims that in sentence (46a) the verb *rains* “refers to the future, but indicates the present” (ibid: 38). Additionally, in (46b) the past tense is used to refer to a future time.

Dancygier (1998) never directly discusses the role of mood in conditional sentences. Instead, she refers to “weak” and “strong” hypothetical conditionals. These terms seem to correspond with what are referred to in the present study as *hypothetical* and

counterfactual conditionals. Dancygier claims that the past tense appears in the protasis of “weak” hypothetical conditionals, while the past perfect tense appears in the protasis of “strong” hypotheticals. Sentences (46b) and (46c) are examples of “weak” and “strong” hypotheticals, respectively. Thus, Dancygier (1998) claims that a speaker believes that it is impossible to fulfill the propositions in the protases of “weak” and “strong” hypotheticals such as *If it rained, the match would be canceled* or *If it had rained, the match would have been canceled*. Yet, this may not necessarily be true. With a *hypothetical* conditional, a speaker does not always regard the proposition in the protasis to be impossible. With the proper context, past tense forms can be used in the protasis of a conditional in order to indicate either possibility or impossibility.

(56) If I **were** President, I would eliminate income tax.

(57) If I **were** you, I would apologize.

Depending on the context, a speaker may or may not believe that the proposition in the protasis of sentence (56) is impossible. That is, various factors could influence the speaker’s opinions about the impossibility of the proposition in sentence (56). For example, a speaker who is not a citizen of the United States could never become President, and would thus consider the proposition in sentence (56) to be impossible. Still, a speaker who is a candidate for the presidency could eventually become President. In this case, the proposition in sentence (56) would be considered possible, yet unfulfilled. In contrast, it is more likely that a speaker would always view the proposition in the protasis of sentence (57) to be impossible, since it is not physically possible for the speaker to become someone else. The analysis of Comrie (1986) recognizes the range of meanings that can be encompassed in conditional expressions.

Comrie (1986) claims that the conjunction *if* overtly marks conditionality in English. Perkins notes that *if* is used to “qualify commitment to the truth” (1983: 110). Likewise, Fauconnier (1985, 1997) claims that *if* is used to set up a hypothetical space. In both English and German, conditionality can also be marked by inversion of the subject and the verb, as in:

(58) **Hätte er** das getan, wäre ich glücklich gewesen.

‘Had he done that, I would have been happy.’ (Comrie 1986: 87)

Comrie (1986) does not assume that conditional sentences can be divided into “a neat bipartite or tripartite division (according to the language), with a clear-cut boundary between the two or three types” (ibid: 88). Instead, he proposes a continuum of hypotheticality. In this way, his view does not require “the contorted and often empty formulations attempting to distinguish between real (open) and hypothetical conditionals” (Comrie, 1986: 88).

According to Comrie, hypotheticality means: “the degree of probability of realization of the situations referred to in the conditional, and more especially in the protasis” (ibid: 88).

Thus, a conditional labeled *factual* or *open* implies low hypotheticality and greater probability. A conditional that expresses counterfactuality implies the highest degree of hypotheticality and lower probability.³ In English, the interpretation of a conditional

sentence is governed by the choice of tense. In turn, the speaker’s evaluation of the “probability of the situation referred to in the protasis” determines the tense that is chosen (ibid: 92). Comrie claims that the present tense is used to express a conditional in which the speaker does not comment on the truth of the proposition in the protasis. Comrie also claims that the present tense is also used to indicate lower probability, as in:

(59) If you **come** tomorrow, you’ll be able to join us on a picnic. (ibid: 92)

On the other hand, to indicate greater probability, tense backshifting is used. In conditionals that indicate greater probability, past tense forms are used in the protasis to refer to the future, and past perfect forms are used in the protasis to refer to the past:

(60) If you **came** tomorrow, you’d be able to join us on a picnic. (ibid: 92)

(61) If he **had come**, I would have run away. (ibid: 94)

In summary, the English subjunctive mood is not a factor in the analyses of conditional sentences provided by Palmer (1986, 1988, 1990), Dancygier (1998), and Comrie (1986). According to James (1986), distinct meanings are only created for conditional sentences when the past subjunctive mood is used in contrast with the past indicative mood. The review of the literature presented in the previous chapter showed that

the subjunctive was used in Old English and Middle English to form *hypothetical* and *counterfactual* conditionals. However, it is not clear if the subjunctive mood is still used to form these constructions. A few analyses of American English state that the subjunctive mood is still used after verbs such as *insist*, *demand*, and *suggest* (Johansson & Norheim 1988; Davidsen-Nielsen 1990; Gramley & Pätzold 1992). In order to determine if the subjunctive is used at all in Modern American English, recent corpus data were collected.

2.2 The Current Corpus

This study aims to examine the current usage of the subjunctive mood in written American English. The role of the subjunctive mood in American English is not clearly defined. Some analyses state that the subjunctive mood does not exist in English (Palmer 1986, 1988, 1990), while other analyses claim that the subjunctive mood is often replaced by the indicative in conditional sentences (Ransom 1986; James 1986; Frawley 1992). Thus, it is expected that an analysis of a recent corpus will show that the indicative mood occurs more often than the subjunctive mood in the protases of conditional sentences. According to the analyses of Johansson & Norheim (1988), Davidsen-Nielsen (1990), and Gramley & Pätzold (1992), in American English the subjunctive mood is most often found after verbs such as *insist*, *demand*, *recommend*, and *suggest*. It is expected that this use of the subjunctive will occur regularly within the current corpus.

Recent corpus data were collected and analyzed in order to determine if the subjunctive mood is still used in present-day written American English. Several analyses of English state that the subjunctive mood only occurs in formal contexts (Palmer 1986, 1988, 1990; Davidsen-Nielsen 1990), and written data provide formal examples of American English. Examples of written American English were collected from *The San Jose Mercury News* daily newspaper and *The New Yorker* weekly magazine from January 1, 1999 through August 31, 1999. These examples were taken from both the “Opinion: letters, e-mails, and faxes” section of *The San Jose Mercury News* and the “Mail” section of *The New Yorker*. These sections were chosen because they could provide samples of English

that were not written by professional writers. While this written data provide formal examples of English, the style of writing is not among the most formal. In these sections, readers respond to articles and editorials that have appeared in the *San Jose Mercury News* or *The New Yorker*. In addition, these sections provide a forum for readers to respond to the letters written by other readers that have previously appeared. The letters that appeared in *The New Yorker* were written by individuals from all over the country. The letters that appeared in *The San Jose Mercury News* were written exclusively by those who live within California's Santa Clara County. The names of the letters' authors were not recorded in the collection process.

The criteria used to record sentences were: a) all conditional sentences which contained *if* in the protasis and a recognizable apodosis, b) conditional sentences in which there was subject-verb inversion in the protasis, c) sentences which used the verbs *suggest*, *demand*, *advise*, *propose*, *insist*, and expressed a demand or request, d) sentences which used the verbs *hope*, *wish*, and *doubt*, e) sentences containing the adverbs *maybe*, *perhaps* and the phrase *It is possible/It was possible*. Using these criteria, a total of 556 sentences were collected from *The San Jose Mercury News* and *The New Yorker*. The sentences collected, together with context provided by other text that comes directly before, appear in Appendix A. Ninety-six sentences contained more than one relevant example.

2.3 Analysis of the Corpus Data

The collected data were divided into the following distinct categories: *jussive*, *potential*, *hope*, *dubitative*, *wish*, *factual*, *hypothetical*, and *counterfactual*. Drawing on the analysis of Bybee & Fleischman (1995), examples which contained the verbs *insist*, *demand*, *suggest*, and *recommend* were categorized as *jussive* i.e.

- (62) We suggest that all projects which threaten significant historic structures be put on hold until alternatives to their destruction can be openly discussed.
[2/24/99, SJMN]

According to Fauconnier (1985), sentences which contain the adverbs *perhaps* or *maybe*, or

the phrase *It is/was possible* express ideas of possibility. Thus, these sentences were classified as *potential*:

(63) **Perhaps** we Americans should take a better look at this situation.

[4/1/99, SJMN]

Sentences in which the verbs *hope* or *wish* appear were placed into the *hope* and *wish* categories respectively. Sentences which express doubts were placed in the *dubitative* category.

Three types of conditional sentences were collected, as well: *factual*, *hypothetical*, and *counterfactual*. Those conditional sentences placed in the *factual* category set up a relationship between the protasis and the apodosis, in which the speaker expressed no doubts or opinions:

(64) If the person calling me **doesn't want** me to know who they are, I don't want to answer their call. [2/1/99, SJMN]

Often, in the factual conditionals *if* is used to mean "whenever." Conditional sentences which present the protasis as being possible or imagined, but not necessarily true, were categorized as *hypothetical*:

(65) If we **work** to move medicine closer to a free market, a lot of today's dissatisfactions will diminish. [1/26/99, SJMN]

(66) If San Jose and Santa Clara County officials **took** a bit more pride in those details outside of their own yards and workplaces, this would be quite a remarkable place to call home. [4/19/99, SJMN]

All conditional sentences in which the proposition in the protasis is presented as impossible and contrary-to-fact were categorized as *counterfactual*:

(67) If the free world **had acted** with resolve against fascism in the 1930s, millions of lives might have been spared. [4/18/99, SJMN]

(68) If NATO **had been** created only to protect the weak and defenseless, that would be enough to justify its existence. [6/2/99, SJMN]

The person, number, and tense of each verb in the protasis of a conditional was noted.

Table 3 *Distribution of Verb Forms Within All of the Collected Categories*

	indicative	subjunctive	modal verb	indeterminable	ROW TOTAL
<i>jussive</i>	2	20	2	14	38
<i>potential</i>	15	0	37	4	56
<i>hope</i>	7	0	13	5	25
<i>dubitative</i>	1	0	4	1	6
<i>factual</i>	18	0	5	13	36
<i>hypothetical</i>	122	27	30	150	329
<i>counterfactual</i>	0	7	2	48	57
<i>wish</i>	1	0	7	1	9
COLUMN TOTAL	166	54	100	236	556

In addition, an attempt was made to classify the mood of the verb that appeared in each protasis. The same method of classification was employed for the verbs that appeared after the adverbs *perhaps* and *maybe*, and in subordinate clauses of the sentences that were categorized as *dubitative*, *hope*, *potential*, *wish* and *jussive*. Table 3 shows the distribution of the types of sentences that were collected, categorized according to whether the verb was marked for a specific mood (indicative or subjunctive), whether it occurred with a modal verb or whether its mood was indeterminable.

2.3.1 Jussive

Thirty-eight sentences were categorized as *jussive*. In two of these sentences, a modal verb appears in the subordinate clause; each of these modals is past tense in form. For the remaining thirty-six sentences, all of the verbs are in the present tense. In twenty sentences in the *jussive* category, a subordinate verb in the present subjunctive mood appears after verbs such as *suggest*, *insist*, *demand* or *propose*. For fourteen of the sentences in the *jussive* category, it is not possible to tell if the verb in the subordinate clause is indicative or subjunctive since the present subjunctive is only distinctive in the first and third persons singular for many verbs other than the verb *be*. Two *jussive* sentences which express a demand or request, contained subordinate verbs in the indicative mood:

- (69) If we want to move the collective housing for the Bay Area jobs closer in, I **suggest** the first thing is to give cities the necessary tools. [2/7/99, SJMN]
- (70) ...let's **insist that** any suspected officials of either party are properly investigated, convicted and punished. [5/23/99, SJMN]

From this set of data, it can be seen that the subjunctive mood is still used in American English. This use of the mandative subjunctive supports the findings of the analyses of the differences in usage of the subjunctive mood in present-day British and American English (Johansson & Norheim 1988; Gramley & Pätzold 1992; Kennedy 1998). According to these studies, British English does not make use of the mandative subjunctive. Furthermore, these studies claim that the mandative subjunctive is the only type

of subjunctive still used regularly in American English.

2.3.2 Potential

Fifty-six sentences were categorized as *potential*. The data collected from the *San Jose Mercury News* and *The New Yorker* demonstrate that the indicative mood is most often used in sentences which are introduced by what Fauconnier (1985) calls *space-builders*, i.e. the adverbs *maybe* and *perhaps* or the phrase *It is/was possible that...* Unlike languages such as Spanish and French, the English subjunctive mood is not triggered by the use of these space-builders.

(71) Perhaps **it's** time to develop a more livable urban design based on living closer to work in communities that have a lower impact on the Earth.

[4/6/99, SJMN]

(72) Maybe the real story in Silicon Valley **isn't** high tech. [4/19/99, SJMN]

Rather, in English, the modal verbs are used in conjunction with *perhaps* and *maybe*, this combination was found in thirty-seven examples.

(73) Perhaps the state **should concentrate** on finding ways to motivate students and give them a proper education rather than forcing them to take more and more exams. [3/1/99, SJMN]

This same pattern was found in the subordinate clause after the construction *it is/was possible that*:

(74) Is it possible that the mainstream media **are** so lacking in curiosity that the pattern is of no interest to anyone? [3/4/99, SJMN]

(75) It's possible that Kennedy **could have been saved** if the rules had stated that a pilot must be certified to fly instruments if he is likely to encounter low visibility conditions during the time of his flight. [7/20/99, SJMN]

2.3.3 Hope

Contrasted with Old English, the subjunctive mood does not appear to occur after

the verb *hope* in this set of data. In this regard, too, the subjunctive mood functions differently in English than it does in other languages. For example, the subjunctive mood is required after the verb *esperar* 'to hope' in Spanish:

- (76) Esperamos que estés feliz.
'We hope that you are happy.'

Twenty-five of the sentences in the corpus were placed in the *hope* category:

- (77) **I hope that I am** so much a part of my son's life that I will be able to recognize any sort of trouble that may be brewing. [4/24/99, SJMN]

Granted, for five sentences in this category it is not possible to tell if the verb is subjunctive or indicative. Modal verbs occur frequently in the subordinate clauses after the verb *hope*:

- (78) **I hope that the children's hospital will reconsider** its unfortunate decision to terminate an extremely experienced and compassionate music therapist. [7/3/99, SJMN]

2.3.4 Dubitative

Six sentences were categorized as dubitative, and four of these sentences contain a modal verb in the subordinate clause after the verb *doubt*:

- (79) Had a woman become married, **I truly doubt you would have ignored** her station in life at the time of her passing. [8/25/99, SJMN]

While Old English used the subjunctive to indicate doubts, none of the sentences from the current corpus that were classified as *dubitative* contain a subordinate subjunctive verb.

2.3.5 Wish

Nine of the sentences collected were placed in the *wish* category. A modal verb appears in the subordinate clause after the verb *wish* in seven of these sentences:

- (80) I wish newspapers **would print** national gas prices along with the weather so Bay Area residents could see how much they are being gouged.
[6/10/99, SJMN]

None of the sentences in this category contain a subordinate verb in the subjunctive mood, while one subordinate verb was categorized as indeterminable. A subordinate verb in the indicative mood appears once in this category:

- (81) I only wish there **was** this level of commitment on the state and national level. [3/14/99, SJMN]

Based on the data collected, it seems that the subjunctive mood is no longer used in subordinate clauses after the verb *wish*. However, it does not appear that the indicative mood is replacing the subjunctive in these uses; rather, the modal verbs seems to have replaced the subjunctive mood in this construction.

2.3.6 Factual Conditionals

Thirty-six conditional sentences were categorized as *factual*, and none of these sentences contain a subjunctive verb in the protasis. It is not possible to determine the mood of the verb in the protasis for thirteen of these sentences. Eighteen of these sentences contain an indicative verb in the protasis of the conditional (see Table 3):

- (82) If the person calling me **doesn't want** me to know who they are, I don't want to answer their call. [2/1/99, SJMN]
- (83) When in a national disaster, if people **are found** taking advantage of the situation by looting or charging exorbitant prices for basic necessities, they are charged with a crime. [3/4/99, SJMN]

Five *factual* conditionals contain a modal verb in the protasis, as in:

- (84) If offensive speech **can** be censored in the workplace, it can be censored virtually everywhere. [8/8/99, SJMN]

Tables 4, 5, and 6 show the distribution of the tenses within the protases of all the conditional sentences. More specifically, Table 4 outlines the distribution of tenses for all indeterminable verb forms found in the protases of *factual*, *hypothetical*, and *counterfactual* conditionals. Table 5 charts the distribution of tenses for indicative verb forms in conditional protases, and Table 6 does the same for all subjunctive verb forms.

Table 4 *Tenses of the Indeterminable Verbs in the Protases of Conditional Sentences*

	factual	hypothetical	counterfactual	total
<i>present</i>	11	69	0	80
<i>past</i>	2	80	3	85
<i>present perfect</i>	0	1	0	1
<i>past perfect</i>	0	0	45	45
	13	150	48	

Table 5 *Tenses of the Indicative Verbs in the Protases of Conditional Sentences*

	factual	hypothetical	counterfactual	total
<i>present</i>	18	112	0	130
<i>past</i>	0	9	0	9
<i>present perfect</i>	0	1	0	1
<i>past perfect</i>	0	0	0	0
	18	122	0	

Table 6 *Tenses of the Subjunctive Verbs in the Protases of Conditional Sentences*

	factual	hypothetical	counterfactual	total
<i>present</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>past</i>	0	27	7	34
<i>present perfect</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>past perfect</i>	0	0	0	0
	0	27	7	

2.3.7 Hypothetical Conditionals

A total of 329 sentences were categorized as *hypothetical* conditionals. Overall, in the corpus an indicative verb occurred more often than a subjunctive verb in the protasis of a *hypothetical* conditional. This observation supports the hypothesis that was proposed in section 1.7.

A distinct form of the present subjunctive never appears in the construction of a *hypothetical* conditional (see Table 6). However, for sixty-nine of the sentences categorized as *hypothetical* it is not possible to determine if the present tense verb is subjunctive or indicative (see Table 4), as in the following examples:

- (85) No one in the middle class will benefit if Social Security payroll taxes **rise**.
[1/22/99, SJMN]
- (86) If we as a nation **expect** bad things from our youth, bad things will come.
[5/29/99, SJMN]

The present indicative appears in the protasis of 112 hypothetical conditionals (see Table 5):

- (87) If a rail link ever **makes** it to BART, the Great Mall will be on that line, too.
[2/19/99, SJMN]
- (88) If this **happens**, America would indeed be the greatest place in the world.
[6/5/99, SJMN]

The present tense indicative occurs twelve times more often than the past tense indicative in the protases of *hypothetical* conditionals. The past tense indicative occurs in the protasis of nine hypothetical conditional sentences (see Table 5). This observation does not provide much support for Palmer's claim (1986, 1988, 1990) that a past tense verb in the protasis is necessary to mark hypotheticality in a conditional sentence.

A verb in the past tense appears in the protasis of 116 *hypothetical* conditionals. Of these 116 conditionals, only twenty-seven protases contain a distinct form of the subjunctive mood.

- (89) If this **were** a feasible condition, it would have occurred at least once or twice. [8/1/99, SJMN]

Nevertheless, the past tense subjunctive occurs more often than the past tense indicative (compare Tables 5 and 6). More specifically, a distinct form of the past tense indicative mood appears only nine times in the protasis of a *hypothetical* conditional:

- (90) Imagine the tax cut we could have if there **was** no debt. [8/8/99, SJMN]
- (91) It was suggested to me that the book would sell much better if it **was** reclassified as nonfiction. [7/19/99, NY]

Based on this data, past subjunctive verb forms are still used in written American English. In fact, they occur more often than past indicative verb forms.

Also, modal verbs appears thirty times in the protasis of a *hypothetical* conditional (see Table 3):

- (92) If litigation **can be checked**, low cost auto policies would be standard for everyone. [2/22/99, SJMN]

Modal verbs were used only a few more times than the subjunctive mood in the protases of *hypothetical* conditionals.

2.3.8 Counterfactual Conditionals

Fifty-seven sentences were categorized as *counterfactual*. Past perfect verb forms appear in forty-five *counterfactual* conditionals (see Table 4). It is not possible to tell if past perfect verbs are indicative or subjunctive, as in:

- (93) If surplus Social Security payments of the past 20 years **had been invested** in corporate bonds or conventional savings accounts, Social Security would be very healthy. [1/24/99, SJMN]
- (94) If fewer Americans **had owned** guns when the British dominated our land, we wouldn't even be called Americans. [2/25/99, SJMN]

Distinctive past tense subjunctive forms were found in the protases of seven *counterfactual* conditionals (see Table 6):

- (95) If Elvis **were** coming to town, I'd be in line overnight. [5/14/99, SJMN]

A modal verb appeared in two of the sentences categorized as *counterfactual*.

2.4 Summary

In summary, the subjunctive mood is not used in those sentences within the corpus which were categorized as *potential*, *hope*, *dubitative*, *wish* or *factual*. Distinct forms of the present subjunctive were found in most of the sentences categorized as *jussive*. Overall, in the protases of *hypothetical* conditionals, distinct forms of the past tense subjunctive mood appear more often than past tense indicative mood. Yet, forms of the present tense indicative occur most often in the protases of *hypothetical* conditionals. Additionally, the past perfect tense was used most often in the protases of *counterfactual* conditionals in the corpus.

Based on the data collected from *The San Jose Mercury News* and *The New Yorker*, a questionnaire was designed in order to determine the judgments of English speakers regarding the use of the subjunctive mood in written American English. The corpus data demonstrated that the present tense subjunctive mood was only used in those sentences which were categorized as *jussive*. Sentences in this category were not investigated with the questionnaire. Rather, the sentence types under investigation included those in which it appears that either the subjunctive mood or the indicative mood is acceptable. That is, the sentence types investigated were those sentences within the corpus in which use of the indicative has not completely replaced the use of distinct forms of the subjunctive mood. Thus, the questionnaire included examples of *hypothetical* and *counterfactual* conditionals. The questionnaire also included sentences that express wishes, as sentences of this type have traditionally been associated with the subjunctive, even though the corpus did not demonstrate this.

Chapter III Opinions on the Use of the Subjunctive Mood

The data collected from the *San Jose Mercury News* and *The New Yorker* reveal that the subjunctive mood is still used in written Modern American English, though only in certain contexts. The corpus data demonstrate that the mandative subjunctive occurred after the verbs *insist*, *propose*, *suggest*, and *demand*, though twice the indicative mood appeared in place of the mandative subjunctive:

(96a) (indicative) ...let's **insist that** any suspected officials of either party **are** properly investigated, convicted and punished. [5/23/99, SJMN]

(96b) (mandative subjunctive) ...let's **insist that** any suspected officials of either party **be** properly investigated, convicted and punished.

Sentence (96a) does not use the mandative subjunctive, and is ambiguous. It could be taken to mean that the speaker is sure that the “suspected officials” are properly investigated, or it could mean that the speaker wants “suspected officials” to be investigated. When the mandative subjunctive is used, as in sentence (96b), a request is clearly expressed.

For many sentences in the corpus it is not possible to determine if the verbs in the protases of *counterfactual* and *hypothetical* conditionals are either subjunctive or indicative, as in examples (97) through (100).

(97) If he **knew** of the dedication it takes to become a pilot with a major airline, maybe he would not be so quick to pass judgment. [2/17/99, SJMN]

(98) If more renters **were allowed** to have animals, more people would be adopting them. [1/30/99, SJMN]

(99) If surplus Social Security payments of the past 20 years **had been invested** in corporate bonds or conventional savings accounts, Social Security would be very healthy. [1/24/99, SJMN]

(100) If the free world **had acted** with resolve against fascism in the 1930s, millions of lives might have been spared. [4/18/99, SJMN]

In those sentences that were categorized as *hypothetical*, when the subject of the verb in the protasis is third singular or first singular, it is possible to clearly tell if the verb form is subjunctive or indicative. In *hypothetical* conditionals, as in sentences (101) and (102) the indicative mood occurred most often,

(101) If the Senate **cancels** the people's vote for President and grants victory to his vicious political enemies, it would be a crime approaching that of assassination. [1/17/99, SJMN]

(102) If **this happens**, America would indeed be the greatest place in the world. [6/5/99, SJMN]

Only one sentence categorized as *wish* contains a complement clause with a verb in the indicative, e.g.

(103) I only wish there **was** this level of commitment on the state and national level. [3/14/99, SJMN]

These inconsistencies pose the question of whether or not the interpretation of these non-factual statements is affected by the use of the indicative mood in place of the subjunctive mood. Is it possible that the meaning of a *hypothetical* conditional, *counterfactual* conditional, or wish can be conveyed without the use of the subjunctive mood? For example, the subjunctive mood is used in the protasis of the conditional in (104a) and this sentence clearly expresses hypotheticality. However, the indicative mood is used in the conditional in (104b). This conditional may or may not express the same degree of hypotheticality as sentence (104a), that is, speakers of English could disagree about the degree of hypotheticality expressed in sentence (104b).

(104a) If he **were** here, he would know what to do.

(104b) If he **was** here, he would know what to do.

To determine if mood guides the interpretation of a wish or conditional sentence for speakers of English, an empirical study was designed to gather the opinions of speakers of English. The hypothesis presented in section 1.7 states that the use of the indicative in place of the subjunctive will not affect the interpretation of *hypothetical* conditionals, or

counterfactual conditionals and wishes.

3.1 The Questionnaire

In order to examine the ways in which speakers of English respond to the use of the subjunctive mood in non-factual statements, a questionnaire was administered to students at San José State University in November of 1999. The sentences collected from the *San Jose Mercury News* and *The New Yorker* served as a model for the sentences included in the questionnaire. Sentences expressing a wish, hypothetical or counterfactual situation were included. The mandative subjunctive was not included in this questionnaire, since only two irregularities in its use were found in the corpus data.

3.2 Method

Participants. Fifty undergraduate students from San José State University, ranging in age from 18 to 35 years of age, participated in this study. Participants were selected from those who attended the “Open Subjects Research Day” on Saturday, November 20, 1999 at San José State University. They were students enrolled in the ‘General Psychology’ course and were representative of many different undergraduate majors and backgrounds. 34 participants were native speakers of English, 6 were native speakers of Spanish, 4 were native speakers of Vietnamese, and there was 1 native speaker each of Cantonese, Samoan, Telegu, Greek, Urdu, and Cambodian. Each participant received thirty minutes of credit in his/her psychology class for participating in this study. The names of the participants will not be used in the publication of the data; the questionnaires were filled out anonymously.

Design. A seven page questionnaire was designed, using the 12 point Donata font (see Appendix C). On the first page of the questionnaire, participants were asked to provide background information about themselves: their age, their major, their first language, any foreign languages they have studied, how often they read the newspaper, magazines or books, and how many term papers they write in a semester. On the second page of the questionnaire, the following directions appeared: *Imagine that each of the following*

sentences has appeared in the opinion section of a newspaper. Each sentence describes either a wish or condition that has not been met. Using the scale below, rate how acceptable you think each sentence is in expressing a wish or condition that has not been met. Thirty-seven sentences appeared on the remaining six pages. Participants were asked to rate the acceptability of each sentence using the following five-point scale: not acceptable, somewhat acceptable, moderately acceptable, mostly acceptable, completely acceptable.

Of the thirty-seven sentences on the questionnaire, two sentences expressed a wish, thirteen sentences contained *counterfactual* conditionals, and twenty-two sentences contained *hypothetical* conditionals (see Table 7). A sentence was created for each number and person by combining each tense and voice in the subjunctive paradigm, i.e. present active and passive, past active and passive, past perfect active and passive.⁴ For example, many of the *counterfactual* conditionals contain a past perfect verb form in the protasis. Palmer (1986, 1988, 1990) claims that tense affects the interpretation of a conditional sentence. Thus, all combinations of tense and mood were included in the questionnaire.

For each of the thirty-seven sentences, two versions of each sentence were created: Version-S and Version-I. In either the protasis of a conditional or in a subordinate clause, a Version-S sentence would contain a verb in the subjunctive mood, while a Version-I sentence would contain a verb in the indicative mood. For example,

- (105) Version-S: *I wish I were a millionaire.* (subjunctive)
 Version-I: *I wish I was a millionaire.* (indicative)
- (106) Version-I: *If I were you, I would apologize.* (subjunctive)
 Version-S: *If I was you, I would apologize.* (indicative)

Table 7 *The Thirty Seven Sets of Sentences Used in the Questionnaires*

Type	Version	Sentence
wish	Version-S	I wish there were a better way of doing this.
	Version-I	I wish there was a better way of doing this.

Table 7 *continued*

Type	Version	Sentence
wish	Version-S	I wish I were a millionaire.
	Version-I	I wish I was a millionaire.
counterfactual	Version-S	If I were you, I would apologize.
	Version-I	If I was you, I would apologize.
counterfactual	Version-S	If it were a normal trial, an in-law of the accused would not be allowed to sit on the jury.
	Version-I	If it was a normal trial, an in-law of the accused would not be allowed to sit on the jury.
counterfactual	Version-S	I would stand in line overnight, if Elvis were coming to town.
	Version-I	I would stand in line overnight, if Elvis was coming to town.
counterfactual	Version-S	If I had known the answer, I would have told you.
	Version-I	If I had known the answer, I would have told you.
counterfactual	Version-S	I don't think that would have happened, had we been more careful.
	Version-I	I don't think that would have happened, had we been more careful.
counterfactual	Version-S	If I had been told that the meeting was canceled, I would have made other plans.
	Version-I	If I had been told that the meeting was canceled, I would have made other plans.
counterfactual	Version-S	If we had been given a map, we would have been there on time.
	Version-I	If we had been given a map, we would have been there on time.

Table 7 *continued*

Type	Version	Sentence
counterfactual	Version-S	If you had studied , you would have gotten a better grade.
	Version-I	If you had studied , you would have gotten a better grade.
counterfactual	Version-S	If you had actually been stung by a bee, your entire arm would be red.
	Version-I	If you had actually been stung by a bee, your entire arm would be red.
counterfactual	Version-S	Had my car had the anti-lock brakes which are standard equipment on SUVs, I would have been able to stop in time.
	Version-I	Had my car had the anti-lock brakes which are standard equipment on SUVs, I would have been able to stop in time.
counterfactual	Version-S	They could have been successful, if they had not been misled .
	Version-I	They could have been successful, if they had not been misled .
counterfactual	Version-S	This product would have sold well, if it had been made available to the public.
	Version-I	This product would have sold well, if it had been made available to the public.
counterfactual	Version-S	If the media had not hounded JFK, Jr. while he was alive, maybe he would have flown commercial airlines.
	Version-I	If the media had not hounded JFK, Jr. while he was alive, maybe he would have flown commercial airlines.

Table 7 *continued*

Type	Version	Sentence
hypothetical	Version-S	If we be really as altruistic as we say, we will involve ourselves in parts of the world that are hurting in a number of ways.
	Version-I	If we are really as altruistic as we say, we will involve ourselves in parts of the world that are hurting in a number of ways.
hypothetical	Version-S	I can do all the work, if I be given enough time.
	Version-I	I can do all the work, if I am given enough time.
hypothetical	Version-S	If we be paid on time, then we won't complain.
	Version-I	If we are paid on time, then we won't complain.
hypothetical	Version-S	If I were introduced to him, I wouldn't know what to say.
	Version-I	If I was introduced to him, I wouldn't know what to say.
hypothetical	Version-S	If I be sick, I will not go to school.
	Version-I	If I am sick, I will not go to school.
hypothetical	Version-S	If you be admitted to the program, you will do well.
	Version-I	If you are admitted to the program, you will do well.
hypothetical	Version-S	If he have honor or a sense of shame, he will resign.
	Version-I	If he has honor or a sense of shame, he will resign.
hypothetical	Version-S	If more renters be allowed to have animals, more people will adopt them.
	Version-I	If more renters are allowed to have animals, more people will adopt them.

Table 7 *continued*

Type	Version	Sentence
hypothetical	Version-S	If this state be serious about educational reform, we have to look at crucial issues such as new teacher retention.
	Version-I	If this state is serious about educational reform, we have to look at crucial issues such as new teacher retention.
hypothetical	Version-S	If the State of California deny the purchase of gas to anyone without a valid driver's license, more than 4 million drivers will not qualify.
	Version-I	If the State of California denies the purchase of gas to anyone without a valid driver's license, more than 4 million drivers will not qualify.
hypothetical	Version-S	If he be encouraged, he will realize his dream.
	Version-I	If he is encouraged, he will realize his dream.
hypothetical	Version-S	She would still ride her bike to work, even if gasoline were free.
	Version-I	She would still ride her bike to work, even if gasoline was free.
hypothetical	Version-S	He acts as if he were the most important person in the world.
	Version-I	He acts as if he was the most important person in the world.
hypothetical	Version-S	If she were attacked by a bear, she claims she would know what to do.
	Version-I	If she was attacked by a bear, she claims she would know what to do.
hypothetical	Version-S	We would admit it, if we were wrong.
	Version-I	We would admit it, if we were wrong.

Table 7 *continued*

Type	Version	Sentence
hypothetical	Version-S	If we were given a reasonable alternative, we would be happy to cooperate.
	Version-I	If we were given a reasonable alternative, we would be happy to cooperate.
hypothetical	Version-S	You would not go to his house, even if you were invited .
	Version-I	You would not go to his house, even if you were invited .
hypothetical	Version-S	You would do the same, if you were in his shoes.
	Version-I	You would do the same, if you were in his shoes.
hypothetical	Version-S	Even if you disagree with a person's lifestyle, that does not mean that you have to forget your compassion.
	Version-I	Even if you disagree with a person's lifestyle, that does not mean that you have to forget your compassion.
hypothetical	Version-S	Those politicians may consider it a victory if they tie up the Senate and the House for six months so that they do not have to address the President's agenda.
	Version-I	Those politicians may consider it a victory if they tie up the Senate and the House for six months so that they do not have to address the President's agenda.
hypothetical	Version-S	Her parents would be outraged if they found out that she had done that.
	Version-I	Her parents would be outraged if they found out that she had done that.

Table 7 *continued*

Type	Version	Sentence
hypothetical	Version-S	If high school students were required to pass an exam in order to graduate, they would be motivated to do all required work.
	Version-I	If high school students were required to pass an exam in order to graduate, they would be motivated to do all required work.

There are nineteen sets of sentences for which Version-I and Version-S are unique, i.e. it is possible to distinguish between the key subjunctive verb form in Version-S and the key indicative verb form in Version-I. However, for eighteen of these thirty-seven sentences it is not possible to tell the difference between the key verbs in Version-S and Version-I.⁵ For example, in sentences (107) and (108),

(107) *If I **had known** the answer, I would have told you.*

(108) *You would do the same, if you **were** in his shoes.*

it is not possible to tell if the verb in the protasis is indicative or subjunctive, though it could be concluded that it is subjunctive, since apodosis contains the modal verb *would*. Nevertheless, for the purposes of this study, sentences like (107) and (108), in which the forms of the subjunctive and indicative are identical, were considered to have both a Version-I and a Version-S.

Since there are two versions of each sentence, there were two versions of the questionnaire: Questionnaire One and Questionnaire Two.⁶ The selection of Version-S or Version-I for each sentence in Questionnaire One was randomized with a random number list. The opposite version for each sentence was used on Questionnaire Two. Furthermore, the order in which the thirty-seven sentences appear on both questionnaires was randomized with a random number list (see Appendix C).

Procedure. Approximately ten students participated in the study at a time.

Participants began the study by signing a consent form. Each participant was randomly given either Questionnaire One or Questionnaire Two. Exactly twenty-five participants received Questionnaire One and exactly twenty-five participants received Questionnaire Two. The first page of the questionnaire was identical for both versions of the questionnaire. Participants were instructed to answer the questions on the first page, and to carefully read the directions on the second page. They took up to thirty minutes to answer the preliminary questions on page one, and to rate each of the thirty-seven sentences on a scale from *not acceptable* to *completely acceptable*. When they were finished with the questionnaire, participants were debriefed as to the nature of the study.

3.3 Results

Chi-square analyses were performed on the data collected from the questionnaire. The first analysis was for all of the responses to each of the thirty-seven sentences that appeared on Questionnaire One and Questionnaire Two (see Table 8). Another analysis was performed for all of the responses to the nineteen sets of sentences in which Version-I and Version-S are different (see Table 9). The third analysis was performed on the eighteen sets of sentences in which it is not possible to distinguish between Version-I and Version-S (see Table 10).

The first analysis revealed that for all of the thirty-seven sentences, the responses to Version-I sentences and Version-S sentences differ significantly from each other, $\chi^2(4, N=50) = 28.44, p < .001$ (see Table 8). Specifically, participants seemed to accept Version-I sentences more than they did Version-S sentences. That is to say, the combined total for *mostly acceptable* and *completely acceptable* responses to Version-I sentences is 468; whereas, the combined total for *mostly acceptable* and *completely acceptable* responses to Version-S sentences is 387. A one-way chi-square test reveals that this distribution is significant, $\chi^2(1, N=50) = 3.84, p < .05$.

Participants seemed to respond more negatively to Version-S sentences than they

did to Version-I sentences. Likewise, the combined total for *somewhat acceptable* and *not acceptable* responses to Version-S sentences is 336, while the combined total for *somewhat acceptable* and *not acceptable* responses to Version-I sentences is 258. A one-way chi-square test reveals that this distribution is also significant, $\chi^2(1, N=50) = 5.12, p < .05$. Separate chi-square analyses were also performed for the responses to each sentence in the thirty-seven sets.⁷

Table 8 *Chi-square Distribution for All Thirty-Seven Sets of Sentences*

	not	somewhat	moderately	mostly	completely	total
subjunctive	171	165	202	177	210	925
indicative	98	160	199	229	239	925
total	269	325	401	406	449	1850

The second analysis revealed that the responses to Version-I sentences and Version-S sentences differ significantly from each other for the nineteen sets in which it is possible to tell the difference between Version-I and Version-S, $\chi^2(4, N=50) = 60.05, p < .001$. (see Table 9). Again, participants seemed to find Version-I sentences more acceptable than Version-S sentences. The combined total for *mostly acceptable* and *completely acceptable* responses to Version-I sentences is 254; whereas, the combined total for *mostly acceptable* and *completely acceptable* responses to Version-S sentences is 158. A one-way chi-square test reveals that this distribution is significant, $\chi^2(1, N=50) = 11.18, p < .01$. The combined total for *somewhat acceptable* and *not acceptable* responses to Version-S sentences is 211, while the combined total for *somewhat acceptable* and *not acceptable* responses to Version-I sentences is 128. A one-way chi-square test reveals that this distribution is significant, $\chi^2(1, N=50) = 10.16, p < .05$.

Table 9 *Chi-square Distribution for the Nineteen Sets of Sentences in Which Version-I and Version-S Are Unique*

	not	somewhat	moderately	mostly	completely	total
subjunctive	127	84	106	75	83	475
indicative	47	81	93	121	133	475
total	174	165	199	196	216	950

In addition, an analysis was performed for the eighteen sets of sentences in which it is not possible to tell the difference between Version-I and Version-S. This final analysis revealed that the responses to Version-I sentences and Version-S sentences do not significantly differ from each other, $\chi^2(4, N=50) = 3.09, p < 1$ (see Table 10).

Table 10 *Chi-square Distribution for the Eighteen Sets of Sentences in Which Version-I and Version-S Are Not Unique*

	not	somewhat	moderately	mostly	completely	total
subjunctive	44	81	96	102	127	450
indicative	51	79	106	108	106	450
total	95	160	202	210	233	900

3.4 Discussion

The results of this study provide support for the hypothesis posed in section 1.7. Participants accepted indicative verbs in the protasis of *hypothetical* and *counterfactual* conditionals. For all thirty-seven sentences used in the questionnaire, a chi-square analysis revealed that the responses to Version-S and Version-I sentences differ significantly from each other. Thus, there is a difference in the participants' level of acceptance for the subjunctive and indicative moods.

Taken individually, there is a significant difference in responses for only six of the

nineteen sets which have a unique Version-I and Version-S, i.e the key verb in Version-S and the key verb in Version-I are distinct from each other. In particular, participants accepted Version-I more often than they accepted Version-S for each of these six sentence sets:

- (109) If we *be/are* really as altruistic as we say, we will involve ourselves in parts of the world that are hurting in a number of ways.
- (110) If you *be/are* admitted to the program, you will do well.
- (111) If he *have/has* honor or a sense of shame, he will resign.
- (112) If this state *be/is* serious about educational reform, we have to look at crucial issues such as new teacher retention.
- (113) If more renters *be/are* allowed to have animals, more people will adopt them.
- (114) If he *be/is* encouraged, he will realize his dream.

What is remarkable is that out of the nineteen sets of sentences that have a unique Version-S and Version-I, there is *not* a significant difference in the way participants responded to the following four sets:

- (115) I can do all the work, if I *be/am* given enough time.
- (116) If we *be/are* paid on time, then we won't complain.
- (117) If I *be/am* sick, I will not go to school.
- (118) If the State of California *deny/denies* the purchase of gas to anyone without a valid driver's license, more than 4 million drivers will not qualify.

Otherwise, for the remaining nine sets which have a unique Version-S and Version-I, either Version-S or Version-I was acceptable to the participants, since the responses do not significantly differ for any of these sets.

For the eighteen sets which did not have a unique Version-S and Version-I, there is a significant difference in the responses to the following sets:

- (119) I don't think that would have happened, **had we been** more careful.
- (120) If we **were given** a reasonable alternative, we would be happy to cooperate.
- (121) If you **had actually been stung** by a bee, your entire arm would be red.

(122) **Had my car had** the anti-lock brakes which are standard equipment on SUVs, I would have been able to stop on time.

For the remaining fourteen sets, participants' responses do not significantly differ. That is, participants accepted either Version-S or Version-I. Again, it is not possible to tell the difference between Version-S and Version-I for any of these eighteen sets of sentences.

The results from this study correspond to many of the observations made in the analysis of the corpus. At the same time, some of the results from this study contrast with the data in the corpus. The results from this study are discussed in conjunction with the data from the corpus analysis in the next chapter.

Chapter IV Interpretation of the Current Results

4.1 The Mandative Subjunctive

A review of the literature has shown that the mandative subjunctive was used in Old English and Colonial American English. The present study has shown that the mandative subjunctive continues to be used in written Modern American English. The mandative subjunctive regularly occurs in the corpus and distinct forms were found for first person singular active verbs, third person singular active verbs, and all verbs in the passive voice. Due to its regular use within the corpus, sentences containing the mandative subjunctive were not included in the questionnaire. The mandative subjunctive, which occurs in subordinate clauses after verbs such as *insist*, *suggest*, and *propose*, is used thirty-eight times in the corpus, with twenty sentences containing distinct forms of the subjunctive mood. Only twice does the indicative mood appear in the subordinate clause after a verb such as *insist* or *suggest*. Likewise, a modal verb appears only twice in the subordinate clause after a mandative verb.

The mandative subjunctive is considered to be the most frequently occurring form of the subjunctive mood in American English (Johansson & Norheim 1988; Gramley & Pätzold 1992). However, some analyses posit that the mandative subjunctive only occurs in formal contexts (Palmer 1986, 1988, 1990; Davidsen-Nielsen 1990). These analyses do not specify what is meant by formal contexts. Thus, it is not clear whether these analyses would consider the corpus used in this study to contain examples of formal English. It should be noted that the letters can be submitted to *The San Jose Mercury News* and *The New Yorker* via mail, e-mail, or fax. The letters submitted to *The New Yorker* are edited for length and clarity.

The regular use of the mandative subjunctive prevents ambiguity in written American English. That is to say, if the mandative subjunctive were not used, sentence (123a) could be interpreted in one of two ways:

(123a) I insist that Lorraine **stays** at home.

(123b) I insist that Lorraine **stay** at home.

Use of an indicative verb form in sentence (123a) implies that the speaker is quite sure that Lorraine remains at home on a regular basis. However, if the mandative subjunctive did not occur, sentence (123a) could also be taken to mean that the speaker is ordering Lorraine to stay at home. In contrast, sentence (123b) is not ambiguous and is taken to mean that the speaker wants Lorraine to stay home. According to Bybee et al. (1994) the mandative subjunctive is a subordinate mood and may only appear after verbs such as *insist* and *suggest* due to the syntactic requirements of English. After a cross-linguistic analysis of mood, Bybee et al. (1994) further claim that subordinate moods like the mandative subjunctive tend to disappear from languages over time. If this is the case, American English will eventually have to find some other way of indicating a request or order in a subordinate clause after verbs such as *insist* or *suggest*. In the corpus, modal verbs were used twice in the subordinate clauses of sentences which were categorized as *jussive*. This may be an acceptable substitute for the subjunctive mood; however, in this context, it seems that a modal verb is not capable of expressing the same degree of force as the subjunctive mood. For example, compare (123b) with *I insist that Lorraine must stay home*. The subjunctive encoded clause is more forceful than the one with the modal verb.

Palmer (1986, 1988, 1990) claims that the mandative subjunctive is not a distinct verb form in English, as he considers the forms that appear in subordinate clauses after verbs such as *suggest* to be identical to infinitive verb forms. It should be noted that in Palmer's analyses of the English verbal system (1986, 1988, 1990) he may only be referring to British English. British English does not make use of the mandative subjunctive, and uses modal verbs in the subordinate clauses after verbs such as *suggest* (Johansson & Norheim 1988). Nonetheless, his analyses refer to mood and modality in English without specifying British English or American English.

4.2 Expressions of Possibility, Wish, Hope, and Doubt

Bybee & Fleischman (1995) cite *potential* as a one of the "semantic nuances"

associated with modality. In the current corpus, fifty-six sentences expressing possibility were categorized as *potential*. Possibility can be expressed in sentences which are introduced by the phrase *It is/was possible* or the adverbs *perhaps* and *maybe*, all of which Fauconnier (1985, 1996) calls *space-builders*. Unlike languages such as Spanish and French, the use of the English subjunctive mood is not signaled by these *space-builders*. In the corpus, the subjunctive mood never appears in a sentence that was categorized *potential*. Modal verbs most often appear in sentences categorized as *potential*. These observations provide some support for Palmer's claim (1986, 1988, 1990) that only the modal verbs are used to express modality in English.

The subjunctive mood in Old English and Middle English was associated with expressions of wish, desire, hope, and doubt (Moser-Hargis 1985; Fischer 1992). A distinct form of the subjunctive never appears in the subordinate clause after the verb *wish*, *hope*, or *doubt*. Within these categories too, modal verbs frequently appear in subordinate clauses after the verbs *wish*, *hope*, and *doubt*. Thus, in expressions of possibility, desire, hope, and doubt, English seems to be replacing the subjunctive mood with modal verbs.

4.3 Conditionals and the Present Subjunctive

According to Molencki (1998), present and past subjunctive mood forms were used to form *hypothetical* and *counterfactual* conditionals early on in Old English. The present tense subjunctive mood was also used in Old English and Middle English to express wishes, and doubts. In the corpus, the present subjunctive mood is not used in any of these constructions, suggesting that this form of the subjunctive mood does not appear in the protases of conditionals any more, or at least is very rare. With respect to conditional constructions, the present subjunctive is never used in the protasis of a *hypothetical* conditional, while the present indicative mood appears 112 times in the protases of *hypothetical* conditionals. Modal verbs in the present tense did appear in the protases of *hypothetical* conditionals, though not as often as the present tense indicative mood.

It was hypothesized in section 1.7 that the indicative mood would occur more often

than the subjunctive mood in the protases of *hypothetical* conditionals. The corpus illustrates that the present indicative mood is, in fact, the most frequently occurring verb form in the protasis of a *hypothetical* conditional. Moreover, based on the hypothesis that the indicative mood would occur most often, it was then hypothesized that the use of the indicative mood in place of the subjunctive mood would not affect the interpretation of *hypothetical* conditionals. Thus, a questionnaire was administered in order to test this hypothesis. The responses for those sentences on the questionnaire which contrast the present tense indicative with the present tense subjunctive, differ significantly for six sentences:

- (124) If we *be/are* really as altruistic as we say, we will involve ourselves in parts of the world that are hurting in a number of ways.
- (125) If you *be/are* admitted to the program, you will do well.
- (126) If he *have/has* honor or a sense of shame, he will resign.
- (127) If this state *be/is* serious about educational reform, we have to look at crucial issues such as new teacher retention.
- (128) If more renters *be/are* allowed to have animals, more people will adopt them.
- (129) If he *be /is* encouraged, he will realize his dream.

The protasis of each of these conditionals contains a present tense verb in the first or third person, and the indicative forms are distinct from the subjunctive forms. Participants accepted the indicative versions of these sentences more often than they accepted the subjunctive versions. It could be concluded that the participants preferred the use of the present tense indicative mood in *hypothetical* conditionals.

Considering that the present subjunctive never appears in *hypothetical* conditionals in the corpus, it is unlikely that the participants had ever been exposed to this particular use of the present tense subjunctive in written English. Even though 16% of the participants indicated that they read the newspaper everyday, 26% indicated that they rarely read the newspaper. Likewise, 36% of participants indicated that they rarely read books that were not assigned for a class; 2% of the participants read a non-assigned book everyday. Thus, it

is unclear why the responses on the questionnaire were not significantly different for the following four sentences which contrast the present subjunctive and present indicative:

- (130) I can do all the work, if I *be/am* given enough time.
- (131) If we *be/are* paid on time, then we won't complain.
- (132) If I *be/am* sick, I will not go to school.
- (133) If the State of California *deny/denies* the purchase of gas to anyone without a valid driver's license, more than 4 million drivers will not qualify.

In each of these sentences, the protasis contains a present tense verb in either the first person or third person singular. Thus, the subjunctive forms are quite different from the indicative forms. Still, participants' responses do not significantly differ; that is to say, the participants found either the present subjunctive or the present indicative acceptable.

4.4 Conditionals and the Past Subjunctive

In the past tense, the verb *be* is the only verb which has distinctive subjunctive forms, and these forms are only distinct for the first and third persons singular. The past tense subjunctive was previously used in Old English and Middle English to indicate hypotheticality or counterfactuality in conditionals (Moser-Hargis 1985; James 1986; Molencki 1998). In the corpus, distinctive forms of the past subjunctive mood appear in twenty-seven hypothetical conditionals and seven counterfactual conditionals. Furthermore, in *hypothetical* and *counterfactual* conditionals, distinct forms of the past subjunctive occur more often than the past indicative, in sentences such as:

- (134) (*hypothetical*) If this **were** a feasible condition, it would have occurred at least once or twice. [8/1/99, SJMN]
- (135) (*hypothetical*) ...this virus would be even more deadly if it **were** airborne... [8/2/99, NY]
- (136) (*counterfactual*) If I **were** a California high school student today, I wouldn't follow the UC list of courses, either. [1/11/99, SJMN]

These observations do not support the hypothesis posed in section 1.7, as it was

hypothesized that the corpus would show that indicative forms occur more often than subjunctive forms in hypothetical and counterfactual conditionals, regardless of tense. Still, the present indicative, overall, was used more often than the past subjunctive in the protases of hypothetical conditionals.⁸ In many of these conditionals, the past subjunctive could have been used to indicate present time, i.e. *If he were here **right now**, we would start the meeting*. However, a majority of the hypothetical conditionals in the corpus feature a modal verb such as *would* or *could* in their apodoses, and indicate present time by using the present tense indicative mood in their protases—rather than the past subjunctive.

On the questionnaire, there are nine sentences which feature a past tense verb for which the subjunctive version is distinct from the indicative version. In these nine sentences, either a past tense verb in the first or third person singular appears either in the protasis of a conditional or in the subordinate clause after the verb *wish*, e.g.

- (137) I wish I *were/was* a millionaire.
- (138) If I *were/was* you, I would apologize.
- (139) If I *were/was* introduced to him, I wouldn't know what to say.
- (140) If it *were/was* a normal trial, an in-law of the accused would not be allowed to sit on the jury.
- (141) She would still ride her bike to work, even if gasoline *were/was* free.
- (142) I wish there *was/were* a better way of doing this.
- (143) I would stand in line overnight, if Elvis *were/was* coming to town.
- (144) He acts as if he *were/was* the most important person in the world.
- (145) If she *were/was* attacked by a bear, she claims she would know what to do.

For these nine sentences, participants' responses do not significantly differ from each other. Participants generally accepted either *was* or *were* as a way to express hypotheticality or counterfactuality. However, in the corpus, *were* appears more often in *hypothetical* and *counterfactual* conditionals than *was* for the third person singular and first person singular. Pyles & Algeo (1993: 17) note that:

Acceptability is not absolute, but a matter of degree; one expression may be more or less acceptable than another. “If I *were* in your shoes” may be judged more acceptable than “If I *was* in your shoes”; but both are considerably more acceptable than “If *we was* in your shoes.” Moreover, acceptability is not abstract, but is related to some group of people whose response it reflects.

Palmer (1986, 1988, 1990) maintains that either *were* or *was* is acceptable to use in a conditional that expresses unreality, as there is no subjunctive mood in English. According to Palmer (1990), past tense forms are used in English to express unreality in the protasis of a conditional, and in this way Palmer distinguishes between *real* and *unreal* conditionals. Furthermore, an *unreal* conditional is also distinguished from a *real* conditional by the presence of a modal verb in the apodosis. In section 2.1 it was shown that Palmer’s definitions of *real* and *unreal* conditionals are problematic. The following examples demonstrate that it is possible to use a modal verb in the apodosis of a conditional in such a way that the expressed meaning is ambiguous:

(146) If Marty **was** in Paris, he ate crème brûlée.

(147) If Marty **was** in Paris, he would eat crème brûlée.

(148) If Marty **were** in Paris, he would eat crème brûlée.

Palmer would consider sentence (146) to be a *real* conditional, in which the speaker expresses no opinions or doubts. Palmer would consider sentence (147) to be an *unreal* conditional expressing hypotheticality, since a modal verb appears in the apodosis. However, with the proper context, it is also possible to interpret sentence (147) such that it is a *real* conditional which expresses the idea that whenever Marty was in Paris he ate crème brûlée, even though there is a modal verb in the apodosis. The use of the subjunctive mood prohibits the interpretation of sentence (148) as a *real* or *factual* conditional. Sentence (148) represents a hypothetical situation, and indicates that Marty is not in Paris. In this way, distinct forms of the English subjunctive mood function to express hypotheticality, contrasting with the function of the indicative mood. Furthermore, this observation supports Fauconnier’s (1985, 1997) analyses of mood and *mental spaces*. Fauconnier (1985, 1997) claims that hypothetical *mental spaces* are introduced by *if* and mood serves to indicate the

relationship between reality and the hypothetical mental space. It does not seem that this function can be adequately performed by simply marking the apodosis with a modal verb.

4.5 Conditionals and the Past Perfect Subjunctive

The past perfect tense did not exist in Old English, and was added to the verbal system of Middle English. Molencki (1998) notes that Middle English used the verb *habban* to form the past perfect tense. He does not specify whether or not the past perfect tense occurs in the subjunctive mood. However, Fischer (1992) and Molencki (1998) have claimed that the past perfect tense has historically been used to indicate counterfactuality in a conditional. Palmer (1990) claims that the protases of *past unreal* conditionals are marked with the past tense twice, in order to express counterfactuality.

Beyer (1998) includes the past perfect in the subjunctive paradigm of Modern English. Yet, a past perfect subjunctive is virtually indistinguishable from the past perfect indicative. Accordingly, the protases of forty-five counterfactual conditionals in the corpus contain a past perfect verb, and the mood of each has been labeled *indeterminable*.

Thirteen *counterfactual* conditionals were included in the questionnaire and ten of these contain a past perfect verb form in the protasis. Based on the analysis of Beyer (1998), sentences which contain past perfect verb forms were considered to have subjunctive and indicative versions, even though it is not possible to tell the difference between the past perfect subjunctive and the past perfect indicative. Unexpectedly, the results of the questionnaire show that for three sentences containing a past perfect verb form, participants' responses differ significantly:

(149) I don't think that would have happened, **had we been** more careful.

(150) If you **had actually been stung** by a bee, your entire arm would be red.

(151) **Had my car had** the anti-lock brakes which are standard equipment on SUVs, I would have been able to stop on time.

That is, there is a difference in the participants' level of acceptance for these three sentences, even though the subjunctive versions look identical to the indicative versions. In particular,

participants preferred the subjunctive version for sentence (150), while they preferred the indicative version of sentences (149) and (151).

For the remaining seven sentences on the questionnaire which contained a past perfect verb form, participants' responses do not significantly differ. That is, they accepted either the indicative or subjunctive version. Participants' responses were distributed evenly throughout all five categories of acceptability, i.e. *not, somewhat, moderately, mostly, and completely*. More specifically, participants did not overwhelmingly accept past perfect verb forms as a means of expressing counterfactuality, even though a majority of *counterfactual* conditionals in the corpus used past perfect verb forms. In this regard, the results of the questionnaire provide support for the hypothesis proposed by Molencki (1998: 248) which states that speakers of English "are not happy" with the past perfect verb in the protasis of a *counterfactual* conditional.

4.6 Other Observations

Some of the conditionals in the corpus were difficult to categorize. Palmer (1986, 1988, 1990) states that a modal verb must be present in the apodosis of conditional in order for it to express a meaning of unreality. In the corpus, conditionals expressing unreality were categorized as either *counterfactual* or *hypothetical*. Indeed, for those sentences in which past tense forms in the protasis are indeterminable, the use of modal verbs in the apodoses distinguishes between *hypothetical* conditionals and *factual* conditionals which simply indicate past time, as in:

- (152) (*factual*) If M. W. **thought** he was stopped without cause or with prejudice, he **had** a duty to complain and find out what the true reason was for the stop. [6/16/99, SJMN]
- (153) (*hypothetical*) If San Jose and Santa Clara County officials **took** a bit more pride in those details outside of their own yards and workplaces, **this would be** quite a remarkable place to call home. [4/19/99, SJMN]

Yet, several conditionals classified as *hypothetical* do not contain modal verbs:

- (154) If the global warming issue **is** taken seriously, then there **is** no solution without a major world-wide expansion of nuclear energy.

[1/20/99, SJMN]

Moreover, conditionals categorized as *factual* sometimes contain modal verbs in their apodoses:

- (155) Physics tells you that for a given exhaust velocity, you can achieve any necessary velocity if you **can** carry enough propellant. [3/4/99, SJMN]

This conditional expresses meanings of possibility, but was not considered to express any doubts. In another example, a modal verb appears in the protasis and the indicative mood appears in the apodosis. This sentence was categorized as *hypothetical*:

- (156) If most people **would** continue to be in a carpool lane even without the diamond lane, then there **is** a lot of lost freeway capacity. [1/30/99, SJMN]

These examples show that modal verbs do not always appear in the apodosis of *hypothetical* conditionals. Likewise, *factual* conditionals that do not express any doubts can contain modal verbs. Overall, context seems to be important in the interpretation of certain conditionals. Thus, with the proper context, the following conditional could be interpreted as *factual* even though it was classified as *hypothetical* in the corpus:

- (157) If you inspect a dime, you **will notice** that nowhere on it do the words “ten cents” appear. [1/4/99, NY]

Sentences containing the deontic modals such as *should* or *must* in the apodosis were sometimes difficult to classify, as well. This conditional was classified as *hypothetical* yet, it could be interpreted as *factual*, too:

- (158) If your argument is valid, then it **must** apply in other similar situations. [1/24/99, SJMN]

Many conditionals expressing unreality use the imperative mood or rhetorical questions in the apodosis, rather than modal verbs:

- (159) If sacrificing Clinton means the end of the Republican Party, **isn't that worth it?** [1/28/99, SJMN]

(160) If you want to preserve the valley's heritage, then **help** continue the 4-H'ers of this valley by allowing them to have a venue to exhibit their hard work. [8/6/99, SJMN]

(161) If burning firewood is twelve times more carcinogenic than cigarette smoke, **is the forest** the next target for lawsuits? [7/17/99, SJMN]

Other adverbs such as *truly*, *really*, *maybe*, and *perhaps* appear in conditional sentences in order to express unreality:

(162) If it **really** is easier for minors to get guns now, then what you are saying is that gun control laws are counterproductive. [4/23/99, SJMN]

(163) If the leaders of the United Way think that our community can get by without this crucial labor program and that the work of this staff doesn't help union members and their families, then **maybe** we need to rethink how relevant the United Way is to our community. [5/30/99, SJMN]

(164) **Perhaps** if we didn't feel the need to bribe people into running for office, we could attract a different class of politician. [6/25/99, SJMN]

Thus, it seems that classifying the meanings expressed by conditionals on the basis of tense and modal verbs is not always productive. A past tense verb form is not always present in the protasis of a *hypothetical* conditional. Likewise, a modal verb does not always appear in the apodosis of a *hypothetical* conditional. The subjunctive mood is still used in American English to express unreality and doubt in conditionals. However, as the use of subjunctive mood declines, other constructions, such as adverbs and rhetorical questions, are being used to indicate unreality.

Chapter V Conclusions

5.1 Summary

This study examined the current usage of the subjunctive mood in Modern American English. The subjunctive mood was used in Old English and Middle English to express hypotheticality and counterfactuality in the protases of a conditional sentences. In Modern English, only a few forms of the subjunctive mood are phonologically and morphologically distinct from the indicative mood. It has been argued that the indicative mood is replacing the subjunctive mood, as the subjunctive mood is disappearing from English (Ransom 1986, James 1986, Frawley 1992). Therefore, it was hypothesized in section 1.7 that the indicative would appear more often in the protases of *hypothetical* and *counterfactual* conditionals. A review of a current corpus shows that the present indicative is indeed used most often in the protases of *hypothetical* conditionals. However, the corpus also shows that distinct forms of the past subjunctive mood are still used in the protases of *hypothetical* conditionals. In fact, based on the corpus data, the past subjunctive is used more often than the past indicative in the protasis of a *hypothetical* conditional. Past perfect verb forms appeared most often in the protases of *counterfactual* conditionals; yet, past perfect verb forms look identical for the subjunctive and indicative moods.

Other analyses claim that English does not have a subjunctive mood at all. Specifically, Palmer (1986, 1988, 1990) argues that modal verbs impart modality in English, not the subjunctive mood. According to Palmer (1986, 1988, 1990), a modal verb must appear in the apodosis of a conditional sentence, in order to indicate unreality. In the corpus, modal verbs appeared in the apodoses of *hypothetical* and *counterfactual* conditional sentences which used either the indicative or subjunctive moods. Likewise, modal verbs appeared in the apodoses of *hypothetical* and *counterfactual* conditionals for which it was not possible to determine the mood of the verb in the protasis. Yet, many of the conditionals expressing unreality which did not use the subjunctive mood also did not contain a modal verb in their apodoses. In the apodoses of these conditionals, the

imperative mood and rhetorical questions were used. Palmer (1986, 1988, 1990) also claims that the past tense is used to indicate unreality. However, the corpus demonstrates that the present indicative was used most often in conditionals expressing hypotheticality or unreality.

Based on a review of the literature, it was also hypothesized that the subjunctive would be used in the subordinate clauses after verbs such as *insist*, *demand*, and *suggest*. This use of the subjunctive is called the mandative subjunctive, and is considered to be the most frequently occurring form of the subjunctive mood. An analysis of the corpus revealed that the mandative subjunctive is still used in written Modern American English. This form of the subjunctive is the only form of the present subjunctive found in the corpus. A review of the literature also indicated that Old English and Middle English used the subjunctive mood in subordinate clauses after verbs expressing doubts, wishes, and requests. The corpus shows that the subjunctive mood is not used in subordinate clauses after the verbs *hope* or *doubt*. Distinct forms of the subjunctive mood were not found in subordinate clauses after the verb *wish*.

According to Fauconnier (1985, 1997), the adverbs *perhaps* and *maybe*, and the phrase *It is/was possible*, are *space-builders* which can create *mental spaces* that expresses possibility. He claims that mood is used to signal the difference between reality and a *mental space* expressing possibility. In languages like Spanish and French, these *space-builders* signal the use of the subjunctive mood. However, the corpus shows that these *space-builders* are not accompanied by the use of the subjunctive mood in English.

It was further hypothesized that the use of the indicative mood in place of the subjunctive mood would not affect the interpretation of *hypothetical* and *counterfactual* conditionals. The results from a questionnaire administered to fifty undergraduate students at San José State University support this hypothesis. On this questionnaire, participants rated the acceptability of thirty-seven sentences, using a scale of *not acceptable*, *somewhat acceptable*, *moderately acceptable*, *mostly acceptable* and *completely acceptable*. The participants in this study generally preferred the use of the indicative mood in the protases

of *hypothetical* and *counterfactual* conditionals. Furthermore, it was found that participants' responses for all of the sentences differed significantly from each other.

5.2 Points for Further Research

When the questionnaire used in the study was originally designed, an attempt was made to include a sentence for each person, number, tense, and voice of the subjunctive mood. However, this may not have been the best approach. It may have been better to exclude the use of conditionals which contained past perfect verb forms, as it is not possible to tell the difference between the subjunctive and indicative moods for this tense. It also may have been better if the questionnaire only contained *hypothetical* conditionals, instead of a mixture of sentences that expressed wishes, hypotheticality, and counterfactuality. This mixture of sentence types may have affected the way in which participants responded.

A review of the corpus indicates that context is an important factor in the interpretation of conditional sentences. When the subjunctive mood is absent or indistinguishable from the indicative, context plays a role guiding the proper interpretation of a *hypothetical* or *counterfactual* conditional. In speech, both context and intonation could provide clues as to how a conditional sentence should be interpreted, in the event that the subjunctive mood is not used. Thus, it would have been better if the sentences in the questionnaire had appeared with some contextual clues. Furthermore, at the beginning of the questionnaire, participants were instructed to rate how acceptable *each sentence is in expressing a wish or a condition that has not been met*. This rating was to be based on each participant's individual opinion. Still, it is possible that participants were responding to the propositions presented in the sentences rather than to the way in which the sentences expressed a wish or condition.

Not all of the conditionals used in the questionnaire followed the format of *if...then*. Specifically, *if* was not used in the protases of two conditionals. These conditionals used subject-verb inversion instead. One sentence in the questionnaire used *as if* and did not have an identifiable apodosis. Four of the sentences in the questionnaire contained what are

referred to as *concessive conditionals*. Dancygier (1998) notes that *concessive conditionals* are not generally regarded as true conditional constructions. *Concessive conditionals* introduce a protasis with *even if*, and appear three times in the corpus. The relationship set up between the protasis and apodosis in a *concessive conditional* is not the same as the one set up in a *hypothetical* or *counterfactual* conditional, though *concessive conditionals* can utilize the subjunctive mood to signal unreality. The questionnaire should have only included conditional constructions which had an identifiable apodosis, and a protasis beginning with *if*.

5.3 The Role of the Subjunctive Mood in Modern American English

The interpretation of certain sentences is affected by the use of the subjunctive mood. In particular, use of the subjunctive mood contrasts with the use of the indicative mood after verbs such as *insist*, *recommend*, and *suggest*. In order to determine if the subjunctive mood is still used in written American English, the present study analyzed recent corpus data from *The San Jose Mercury News* and *The New Yorker*. A review of this current corpus showed that the mandative subjunctive mood is used in subordinate clauses after verbs such as *insist*, *demand*, and *suggest*. Distinct forms of the subjunctive mood were not used to express doubts, hopes or wishes in subordinate clauses after verbs such as *wish*, *hope*, or *doubt*.

Use of the subjunctive mood does not always appear to be necessary in the interpretation of *hypothetical* or *counterfactual* conditionals. In particular, the corpus has shown that, in written American English, the subjunctive mood is not used as frequently as the indicative mood in the protases of *hypothetical* conditionals. It was hypothesized that the use of the indicative mood in place of the subjunctive would not affect the interpretation of *hypothetical* and *counterfactual* statements. To support this hypothesis, a questionnaire was administered to fifty speakers of English in order to elicit their judgments. The results of this study showed that participants preferred the use of the indicative mood in the protases of *hypothetical* and *counterfactual* conditionals.

Modal verbs can be used in the apodoses of *hypothetical* and *counterfactual* conditionals in order to distinguish them from *factual* conditionals. Interrogative and imperative constructions also appear in the apodoses of *hypothetical* conditionals. Most importantly, when the use of the subjunctive mood is indeterminable or absent in a conditional sentence, context can aid the reader in arriving at the correct interpretation. Modern American English uses other constructions to signal unreality, since subjunctive verb forms are not as phonologically and morphologically distinct as they once were.

NOTES

¹ The construction of *Let's+verb* is referred to as both the *hortative subjunctive* in Lass (1994) and the *jussive subjunctive* in Moser-Hargis (1985). This construction is used quite frequently in American English; however, it will not be a topic of discussion in this study.

² James (1986) also claims that the subjunctive mood is distinct from the imperative mood. The imperative mood, like the indicative mood, signifies theoretical modality.

³ Comrie (1986) argues further that “a conditional never involves factuality” (ibid: 89). He also claims that English does not have conditionals which express counterfactuality, because the falsity of either the protasis or apodosis of a conditional cannot be logically deduced.

⁴ There was no sentence created for the first person singular passive.

⁵ Specifically—first person singular and plural past perfect active, first person plural past active and passive, all second person forms, third person plural present active, third person plural present active and passive, third person plural past perfect active and passive, and third person singular past perfect active and passive.

⁶ See Appendix C for copy of Questionnaire One and Questionnaire Two.

⁷ See Appendix D for chi-square distributions for each sentence individually.

⁸ A post-hoc one-way chi-square analysis reveals that this distribution is significant.

Hypothetical conditionals: indicative vs. subjunctive

	present indicative	past subjunctive	<i>total</i>
<i>frequency observed</i>	112	27	139
<i>frequency expected</i>	69.5	69.5	139

$\chi^2 (1, N=139) = 25.99, p < .001$

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Appendix A. The Corpus

Entries followed by (NY) appeared in the "Mail" section of *The New Yorker* magazine; all other entries appeared in the "Opinion" section of *The San Jose Mercury News*.

counterfactual

1/11/99 subjunctive first singular past	The governor's proposal to admit a minimum of 4% of each high school class to the UC system whether or not they are otherwise UC-eligible is a good one.... IF I WERE a California high school student today, I wouldn't follow the UC list of courses, either.
1/12/99 subjunctive third singular past	M. Kramer argues that Senator B. Boxer should excuse herself from her constitutional duty to serve as a juror in the impeachment trial because her daughter's husband is the president's wife's brother.... IF THIS WERE a normal trial, an in-law of the accused would never be allowed to sit on the jury.... But it isn't a normal trial.
1/12/99 subjunctive third singular past	I suggest that Rep. Z. Lofgren stop whining about the "zealotry" and "misuse of impeachment." For every person she's found "racked with sobs" over the impeachment, I found counterparts who firmly state they would not vote for Bill Clinton IF HE WERE running for president today.
1/24/99 indeterminable third plural past perfect	IF SURPLUS SOCIAL SECURITY PAYMENTS OF THE PAST 20 YEARS HAD BEEN INVESTED in corporate bonds or conventional savings accounts, Social Security would be very healthy.

<p>2/3/99 indeterminable third singular past perfect</p>	<p>If Bill Clinton were a Republican or IF GEORGE BUSH OR RONALD REAGAN HAD BEEN ACCUSED of the same offenses that Clinton is accused of, all of Rep. Tom Campbell's attackers would be his defenders and his supporters would be his attackers.</p>
<p>2/6/99 indeterminable third singular past perfect</p>	<p>C. Huang's revisionist assertion that "when orchards dominated the valley...the community was socially and culturally homogeneous" is just plain wrong. HAD HE SPOKEN with anyone familiar with the valley's history, he would have discovered that immigrants of many backgrounds came together here and maintained and cultivated their varied ethnicities and identities.</p>
<p>2/8/99 indeterminable third singular past perfect</p>	<p>HAD ANYONE TRIED to tell those of us who lived in Billy the Kid country, where I spent my youth, that the Lincoln County War had roots in the conflict between English Protestants and Irish Catholics, we would very likely have responded with a resounding "What?" (NY)</p>
<p>2/9/99 indeterminable second singular past perfect</p>	<p>It was a pleasure to read your editorial on the draft plan for redevelopment of the 50 acre SOFA in Palo Alto. I would have been even more pleased with your words HAD YOU EMPHASIZED the serious need for maximizing the amount of affordable housing in those 300 housing units envisioned by the draft plan.</p>
<p>2/10/99 subjunctive first singular past</p>	<p>Monica Lewinsky was described as being "confident; well-prepared, and assertive" in her videotaped deposition before the House managers of the impeachment trial.... How long do you think it will be until she's elected to the House of Rep. on a right-to-privacy platform? IF I WERE her, I'd move straight to Pasadena and challenge House manager Rep. J. Rogan.</p>

2/14/99
indeterminable
third singular
past perfect

I wonder what would have happened IF on January 26, 1998, instead of denying everything, **THE PRESIDENT HAD SAID**, "I have been so egregiously wrong."

2/14/99
indeterminable
third plural
past perfect

I laughed out loud when I read Linda Tripp's rationalization for her actions regarding Monica Lewinsky. If her actions stemmed from maternal concerns, why didn't she also think of Chelsea Clinton, one of the true victims in this sorry story? **IF TRIPP'S MOTIVES HAD BEEN DRIVEN** by anything other than a frenzy to get the president, she never would have proceeded to make public a very private matter.

2/14/99
indeterminable
third plural
past perfect

P. B. said that **IF DEMOCRATS HAD HAD** the same case against Reagan or Bush they would have sought impeachment just as the Republicans did against Clinton.

2/20/99
indeterminable
third singular
past perfect

IF YOUR REPORTER HAD ACTUALLY ATTENDED Tom Campbell's town hall meeting at the Almaden Community Center, he would have seen a large banner that said "Y2K Campbell Away" and a voter registration table where Republicans took advantage of the opportunity to re-register as Democrats.... Since anyone entering the building, including Campbell, had all this protest right in their face, I wonder how your reporter could honestly say "the impeachment fireworks flickered like embers."

2/25/99
indeterminable
third plural
past perfect

IF FEWER AMERICANS HAD OWNED guns when the British dominated our land, we wouldn't even be called Americans.

2/26/99
indeterminable
third singular
past perfect

For one whole year, while the country was mired in the Clinton mess, what we got from the president was, "The people want me to get back to doing the people's business...." He could have done so last January IF HE HAD TOLD the truth and spared us this past year, which has disgraced the presidency as well as the country.

3/1/99
indeterminable
third singular
past perfect

IF STANFORD HAD BEEN up front with its development plans at the time it lobbied for the Sand Hill Road improvements and Stanford Shopping Center additions, the electorate may have been much more receptive.

3/5/99
indeterminable
third singular
past perfect

Clinton had a torrid affair with an experienced woman that stopped short of sexual intercourse. HAD HE BEEN successful in concealing it, Monica, his family and the nation would have been spared a tortuous and costly experience.

3/22/99
indeterminable
third singular
past perfect

While driving my sport utility vehicle on South Lake Tahoe's icy streets, I entered an unmarked intersection only to see one of those subcompacts coming at me from the left in an uncontrolled skid. HAD THIS CAR HAD the anti-lock brakes which are standard equipment on my SUV, it would have been able to stop on time.

3/25/99
indeterminable
third singular
past perfect

It's time for a female president. IF HILLARY CLINTON HAD BEEN in office instead of Bill, we would have never had to suffer through the sex scandal of the past year. Unfortunately, the polls tell us that G. W. Bush is most likely to become the conservative's next Presidential candidate. If that happens, one of our country's greatest resources will remain untapped: the heart of a woman.

<p>3/31/99 indeterminable third singular past perfect</p>	<p>HAD THE INQUIRY ON KOSOVO NOT TAKEN PLACE in our Congress, I would not have realized that nearly half of our congressional representatives have very grave doubts on the wisdom of our present foreign expedition.</p>
<p>4/3/99 modal verb third singular past</p>	<p>I read the story about how the lack of sleep by teens is hurting their academic performance. No disagreement there. However, later in the story, a Stanford professor makes a statement that 20 years ago “kids were alert and energetic all day long. Now they’re falling asleep in class.” IF THE GOOD DOCTOR WOULD EXPLAIN to us exactly why kids are unable to stay awake, I and other readers would have appreciated it.</p>
<p>4/10/99 indeterminable first plural past perfect</p>	<p>The real issue in Kosovo for North Americans and our European allies is this: Should we stand with armed power against all who cause genocide against unarmed civilians, irrespective of politics?... The armed reaction of all morally advanced nations should be swift, automatic and overwhelming. HAD WE DONE this before, it would not even have occurred to Slobodan Milosevic to do it today.</p>
<p>4/18/99 indeterminable third singular past perfect</p>	<p>If we are to prevent atrocities and future Holocausts, we will sometimes have to resort to force.... IF THE FREE WORLD HAD ACTED with resolve against fascism in the 1930s, millions of lives might have been spared.</p>
<p>4/26/99 indeterminable third plural past</p>	<p>I couldn’t disagree more with R. C. The answer is not to get rid of guns, which would be impossible even if the government tried.... As I read the articles of the Littleton shootings, it struck me that there was an overall feeling of helplessness among the victims and others in the school as they pleaded or ran for their lives. How far could the shooters have gone IF THERE WERE people lawfully carrying firearms on the school campus?</p>

<p>5/3/99 indeterminable third singular past perfect</p>	<p>IF as little as ONE YEAR HAD PASSED before IBM decided to develop a new research facility on the site, housing developers probably would own the entire property.</p>
<p>5/4/99 indeterminable third singular past perfect</p>	<p>What foster parents need most is legal protection.... It is not uncommon for the birth parent (or child) to make allegations against the foster parents.... That is why my wife and I got out of foster care. The mother of our foster child made allegations against me.... But IF THE BIRTH MOTHER HAD NOT HAD a history of false allegations, and the charges had not been dismissed, I would have been responsible for defending my own rights.</p>
<p>5/10/99 indeterminable third singular past perfect</p>	<p>Mr. Ferguson's method of counterfactual history reduces contemplation about society and history to mere nostalgia; it represents a yearning for the world that has been lost, and a refusal to accept a world that is now here. His argument in "The Pity of War" that IF THE BRITISH HAD NOT ENTERED the First World War the war would have been contained is not new. One might wonder, counterfactually, what if the United States had not interfered in the Balkans in 1919? <i>(NY)</i></p>
<p>5/10/99 indeterminable third singular past perfect</p>	<p>Mr. Ferguson's method of counterfactual history reduces contemplation about society and history to mere nostalgia; it represents a yearning for the world that has been lost, and a refusal to accept a world that is now here. His argument in "The Pity of War" that if the British had not entered the First World War the war would have been contained is not new. One might wonder, counterfactually, what IF THE UNITED STATES HAD NOT INTERFERED in the Balkans in 1919? <i>(NY)</i></p>
<p>5/11/99 indeterminable third singular past perfect</p>	<p>Shame on the members of the board of directors of the United Way. These are all respected, reputable, responsible members of the community who, individually and collectively, did not do their job.... IF THE APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF DIRECTION HAD BEEN ACCOMPLISHED, they wouldn't have been caught off guard.</p>

5/11/99 subjunctive third singular past	What we have here is a cost-bloated, middleman fund-raising agency located in the heart of Silicon Valley.... IF THE UNITED WAY WERE a start-up, would you give it another round of funding after looking at its record so far?
5/14/99 subjunctive third singular past	O.K. I'm a 38-year old "Star Wars" fan...but I don't understand for the life of me why anybody would spend even one day in line for a movie.... IF ELVIS WERE coming to town, I'd be in line overnight, but for a movie?
5/18/99 indeterminable third plural past perfect	While some of Sen. Barbara Boxer's points were correct, the supply and demand issues of gasoline in California are more complicated than portrayed.... Recently, four different refineries had problems within weeks of each other. This led to short supplies, thus leading to panic buying on the part of brokers.... IF THE MAJORS HAD NOT RAISED their prices, demand at the lower prices would have quickly emptied the terminals completely, making it impossible to supply their internal customers, much less the independents.
5/19/99 indeterminable third singular past perfect	United Way's function is the selling of a community benefit, the collection of money, and the distribution of that money, and the distribution of that money efficiently and effectively to provide the services promised in exchange for the money. IF YOUR UNITED WAY HAD BEEN MANAGED properly (by both CEO and board), early problems would never have escalated.
5/22/99 indeterminable third singular past perfect	The documented evidence of a "Mozart Effect" clearly opens the possibility of a Marilyn Manson Effect, a Rap Music Effect, and so on. Maybe IF THE TRAGIC LITTLETON PAIR HAD DIALED in Glauzunov and Bach in lieu of shock rock, they might have had different outcomes.

5/29/99
indeterminable
third singular
past perfect

As a volunteer with the city of San Jose's anti-graffiti program, I comb the streets every month to erase tags.... One day as I was cleaning a sign, blue van pulled up across the street.... The woman inside honked and angrily pointed at me.... **IF A 30 YEAR OLD HAD BEEN ERASING graffiti, this woman would not have said a thing....** If we as a nation expect bad things from our youth, bad things will come.

6/2/99
indeterminable
third singular
past perfect

IF NATO HAD BEEN CREATED only to protect the weak and defenseless, that would be enough to justify its existence.

6/11/99
indeterminable
third singular
past perfect

The recent strike in the Alum Rock Union School District gave me an opportunity to observe the best and the worst in human nature.... **HAD THE STRIKE PROGRESSED**, I am confident the classroom learning process would have also progressed as everyone gained familiarity with each other.

6/14/99
modal verb
first singular
past perfect

IF I WOULD HAVE HAD the opportunity to vote on the Moreland unification, I would have voted against it.

6/15/99
indeterminable
third singular
past perfect

The hundreds of thousands of ethnic Albanians streaming into neighboring countries of Europe, posed an enormous threat to the stability and peace on that continent.... Clearly, immediate and forceful action had to be taken. **IF PRESIDENT CLINTON HAD NOT RALLIED** the NATO members to act, someone else would have had to do it.

6/16/99
indeterminable
third singular
past perfect

Car stops by the San Jose Police Department are based solely on reasonable suspicion or probable cause.... If M. W. thought he was stopped without cause or with prejudice, he had a duty to complain and find out what the true reason was for the stop. **IF HE HAD**, he wouldn't have to wonder what the real reason might be, or he might have rid whatever department stopped him of someone who shouldn't be a police officer.

6/18/99
indeterminable
third singular
past perfect

To imply that profit-mongering by Wall Street is the underlying reason for this war is to ignore the fact that all of Europe, including eight NATO countries, found the Serbian behavior in Kosovo to be unacceptable.... **HAD EUROPE SPOKEN** with this determination in 1938 when Hitler perpetrated the "Anschluss" in Austria or invaded Czechoslovakia, history may very well have been different.

6/21/99
indeterminable
third singular
past perfect

I have a friend who was accused of domestic abuse by his wife during a messy divorce...it was clearly a custody ploy. Rather than fight it out, and potentially be convicted of a felony on a "he said, she said" case, the officer, on advice of counsel pleaded "no contest"...this was done deliberately to protect his job as a police officer.... **IF HE HAD KNOWN**, 15 years ago, that pleading "no contest" to this bogus charge would cost him his job, he would have fought the charge, and likely won.

6/28/99
indeterminable
third singular
past perfect

I am the daughter of an officer who has served his community for over 25 years. He has had to fire his gun only five times during his career; each time, his life depended on his ability to defend himself. **HAD HE BEEN UNABLE** to defend himself, I would have lost my dad long ago.... If he were unable to have access to the tools to protect himself, I could not live with this reality.

7/3/99
indeterminable
third plural
past perfect

Although, I applaud the Stanford Hospital's decision to employ a musician for its patients, they would have gained much more **IF THEY HAD HIRED** a qualified music therapist. I hope that the Children's Hospital will reconsider its unfortunate decision to terminate an extremely experienced and compassionate music therapist.

<p>7/20/99 indeterminable third plural past perfect</p>	<p>It's possible that Kennedy could have been saved IF THE RULES HAD STATED that a pilot must be certified to fly instruments if he is likely to encounter low visibility conditions during the time of his flight.</p>
<p>7/23/99 indeterminable third plural past</p>	<p>Fining beggars sounds like one of the most counterproductive ordinances I've heard of.... IF THEY HAD hundreds of dollars to pay the fine, they probably would not be out begging in the first place. If all cities maintained such facilities and opened them to the public, then the homeless could visit other localities in search of jobs.</p>
<p>7/23/99 indeterminable third singular past perfect</p>	<p>My deepest sympathy goes to those whose loved ones lie unretrieved in our waters. However, it was crucial to recover the bodies of John, Carolyn, and Lauren. Picture the frenzy of private divers going after artifacts privately HAD THE COAST GUARD BEEN called off after a couple of days. If the media had not hounded John when he was alive, perhaps he would have flown on commercial airlines instead of choosing to become a pilot. If the media had not hounded John, perhaps a burial at sea would not have been necessary.</p>
<p>7/23/99 indeterminable third plural past perfect</p>	<p>My deepest sympathy goes to those whose loved ones lie unretrieved in our waters. However, it was crucial to recover the bodies of John, Carolyn, and Lauren. Picture the frenzy of private divers going after artifacts privately had the Coast Guard been called off after a couple of days. IF THE MEDIA HAD NOT HOUNDED John when he was alive, perhaps he would have flown on commercial airlines instead of choosing to become a pilot. If the media had not hounded John, perhaps a burial at sea would not have been necessary.</p>
<p>7/23/99 indeterminable third plural past perfect</p>	<p>My deepest sympathy goes to those whose loved ones lie unretrieved in our waters. However, it was crucial to recover the bodies of John, Carolyn, and Lauren. Picture the frenzy of private divers going after artifacts privately had the Coast Guard been called off after a couple of days. If the media had not hounded John when he was alive, perhaps he would have flown on commercial airlines instead of choosing to become a pilot. IF THE MEDIA HAD NOT HOUNDED John, perhaps a burial at sea would not have been necessary.</p>

- 7/24/99
indeterminable
third plural
past perfect
- It is disappointing that the AMC theaters had to go to such extremes to discourage parents from bringing their babies. **IF PARENTS HAD BEEN** more responsible and courteous, maybe this would not have happened.
- 7/26/99
indeterminable
third singular
past
- While Texas has the nation's second highest number of children without health insurance, Bush attempted to reduce the number of children eligible for the State Children's Health Insurance Program by two hundred thousand, by setting draconian eligibility standards (**IF HE SUCCEEDED**, only five states would have had stricter standards). (NY)
- 7/28/99
subjunctive
third singular
past
- Those who criticized Chief Justice W. Rehnquist for leading a sing-along of "Dixie" at a recent judicial conference might do well to heed the words of Abraham Lincoln.... **IF LINCOLN WERE** here today, he would be singing "Dixie" along with Justice Rehnquist.
- 8/2/99
indeterminable
third singular
past perfect
- I couldn't agree more with R. Cohen's column about the rioters at Woodstock.... I noted that the same weekend this occurred there was a very large gathering in Philadelphia of black fraternities and sororities for a picnic. Can you imagine what would have happened **IF THE BLACK GATHERING HAD ERUPTED** in the same kind of trouble as happened at Woodstock?
- 8/4/99
indeterminable
first singular
past perfect
- The cancer experience of R. Hyman resonates with me. According to the article, Hyman would have lost both of his testicles if he had followed the advice of his first doctor.... I had a similar experience... **HAD I BEEN SATISFIED** with only the first opinion, my lymphoma may have killed me.

8/4/99
indeterminable
third singular
past perfect

The cancer experience of R. Hyman resonates with me. According to the article, Hyman would have lost both of his testicles **IF HE HAD FOLLOWED** the advice of his first doctor.... I had a similar experience.... Had I been satisfied with only the first opinion, my lymphoma may have killed me.

8/25/99
indeterminable
third singular
past perfect

Your use of masculine pronouns in the obituary of Dr. Shoshanna Michal Gillick was terribly demeaning as well as insensitive to her survivors.... **HAD A WOMAN BECOME MARRIED**, I truly doubt you would have ignored her station in life at the time of her passing.

8/25/99
indeterminable
third plural
past perfect

I was stunned by your editorial on the Stanford drug study performed on juvenile offenders in California's correction facilities.... **IF THE 61 YOUTHS HAD BEEN** Stanford fraternity boys, the tone of your article (which implies that the experience was for their own good) would be different, and the valley would be ablaze with lawsuits.

dubitative

1/30/99
modal verb
third plural
future

I haven't had a long enough conversation with a dog or cat to ascertain whether being able to hang out in posh digs such as those at San Francisco animal shelter makes any difference to them or not. If such accommodations do make a difference to a dog or cat, then I suppose that the society is setting up their clients for some disappointment, because **I DOUBT THAT MOST ADOPTIVE HOMES WILL PROVIDE** the same level of elaborate accommodation.

<p>2/1/99 modal verb third singular future</p>	<p>I highly DOUBT THE MERCURY NEWS WILL ADVOCATE cutting social security benefits to the disabled and the elderly—leaving a tax hike or greater borrowing as the only “solutions.”</p>
<p>7/23/99 modal verb third singular past</p>	<p>While it is always sad when young people die, I question why the American taxpayers are footing the bill for JFK, Jr., his wife, and her sister’s burial at sea. I DOUBT THAT DEFENSE SECRETARY WILLIAM COHEN WOULD EVEN TAKE our call if one of us taxpayers were to request such treatment.</p>
<p>8/2/99 indeterminable third plural past perfect</p>	<p>Why is the Mercury News expending a high amount of journalistic resources to completely cover Berkeley KPFA protests?... Besides, I DOUBT THAT 90% OF THE BAY AREA POPULATION HAD EVEN HEARD of the station before March 31.</p>
<p>8/19/99 indicative third plural present</p>	<p>The news media have a bad habit of making criminals famous. All a person has to do to achieve instant fame is commit heinous crimes. It may be argued that they achieve notoriety instead, but I DOUBT THE CRIMINALS FEEL that way.</p>
<p>8/25/99 modal verb second singular past perfect</p>	<p>Your use of masculine pronouns in the obituary of Dr. Shoshanna Michal Gillick was terribly demeaning as well as insensitive to her survivors.... Had a woman become married, I truly DOUBT YOU WOULD HAVE IGNORED her station in life at the time of her passing.</p>

factual

1/30/99
indeterminable
second singular
present

It seems to me that if a parent has a gun (not just a handgun) in the house it should have a trigger lock on it and the ammunition not stored with the gun.... **IF YOU USE** a gun in a crime, it's instant punishment.... If lawmakers get together and decide that gun makers can be sued because they manufactured the gun that was used in a crime, who's going to be next?

2/1/99
indicative
third singular
present

I am a satisfied caller ID customer. Yes, it would be better if some people didn't block their [phone] numbers from view.... **IF THE PERSON CALLING ME DOESN'T WANT** me to know who they are, I don't want to answer their call...

2/2/99
indeterminable
third plural
present

IF THE MEMBERS OF A CHURCH DISAGREE with that church's teachings on homosexuality and marriage, it is more honest and fair to leave that church and join one they agree with.

2/6/99
indicative
third singular
present

The lawsuit revolves around the fact that migratory birds have landed in the storm water containment area within the mud pile. The way I look at the argument in the lawsuit is, **IF A DUCK LANDS** in a puddle in a parking lot, then the puddle becomes 'waters of the U.S.' because the duck is a migratory bird. If that is true, then you would have to protect the puddle and you would not be able to use the parking lot.

<p>2/14/99 indeterminable first singular present</p>	<p>I live in a nation where I have the freedom to urge my views upon my representatives in Congress. I have the opportunity to vote for those Representatives IF I AGREE with their positions or I can vote for someone else if I do not.</p>
<p>2/14/99 indicative first singular present</p>	<p>I live in a nation where I have the freedom to urge my views upon my representatives in Congress. I have the opportunity to vote for those Representatives if I agree with their positions or I can vote for someone else IF I DO NOT.</p>
<p>2/23/99 indicative third singular present</p>	<p>IF A PRODUCT IS NOT good for you, don't use it. If you do use the product, then accept the consequences.</p>
<p>2/23/99 indeterminable second singular present</p>	<p>If a product is not good for you, don't use it. IF YOU DO USE the product, then accept the consequences.</p>
<p>3/4/99 modal verb second singular present</p>	<p>Physics tells you that for a given exhaust velocity, you can achieve any necessary velocity IF YOU CAN CARRY enough propellant.</p>

3/4/99	When in a national disaster, IF PEOPLE ARE FOUND taking advantage of the situation by looting or charging exorbitant prices for basic necessities, they are charged with a crime.
indicative	
third plural	
present	
3/15/99	I have never had a problem with any sport utility vehicle. IF I CAN'T SEE around one, I just back off or go around it.
modal verb	
first singular	
present	
3/20/99	There is nothing inherently offensive about the ethnicity of a team symbol or mascot.... IF THE ETHNIC GROUP CHOSEN TO REPRESENT A TEAM IS OFFENDED by that representation, it is sufficient reason to find another symbol.
indicative	
third singular	
present	
3/23/99	Not everything will be one hundred percent ready by January 1, 2000. For those parts of society which interface heavily with people and their assets and records, like the banking, insurance and health care industries, I would be budgeting resources to hire temporary personnel to staff customer service phones. These industries are more sensitive to customer panics IF THE MECHANISMS FOR HANDLING QUESTIONS AND COMPLAINTS ARE not running smoothly.
indicative	
third plural	
present	
3/29/99	Assembly Bill 88 is intended to allow those persons suffering from biological mental illnesses...to receive the same insurance coverage for treatment as a person with any other biological illness. Currently, IF A PERSON IS AFFLICTED with one of the specified mental illnesses, their access to insurance for medical treatment is either severely limited or not available.
indicative	
third singular	
present	

4/17/99 indeterminable first plural present	If I'm a station owner and I can sell just as much gasoline at \$1.70 per gallon as I did at \$1.50, which price should I choose? If I'm selling a house in Palo Alto, should I sell it for what I paid for it plus a "reasonable" profit, or should I sell it for what the housing market says it is now worth, and what a willing buyer will pay for it? But we are all willing co-conspirators IF WE BUY just as much gas as we did when it was a buck gallon, and if our only response as we're led to the slaughter is righteous indignation.
4/17/99 indicative third singular present	If I'm a station owner and I can sell just as much gasoline at \$1.70 per gallon as I did at \$1.50, which price should I choose? If I'm selling a house in Palo Alto, should I sell it for what I paid for it plus a "reasonable" profit, or should I sell it for what the housing market says it is now worth, and what a willing buyer will pay for it? But we are all willing co-conspirators if we buy just as much gas as we did when it was a buck gallon, and IF OUR ONLY RESPONSE as we're led to the slaughter IS righteous indignation.
5/8/99 indicative third singular present	Taxes, in their own little way, help people quit smoking. IF EVERYONE QUILTS smoking, there is no more tax.
5/22/99 indeterminable second plural present	There will always be adolescents with rage. There are lots of ways to calm a raging teenager—as long as he doesn't have a gun.... IF YOU TAKE away guns, all you have left is raging adolescents.
5/27/99 modal verb third singular present	As a cardroom customer, one of many who generate millions of dollars in revenue annually for the city of San Jose, I am amazed that the acting city manager's recent report on cardrooms fails to address what might be done to benefit cardroom customers.... The report recommends more city bureaucracy.... The report states that the current regulations are among the most aggressive in the state. IF THE CITY CANNOT REGULATE two cardrooms on a budget of more than \$500,000 a year then something is wrong.

<p>6/6/99 indicative third singular present</p>	<p>A new city hall on East Santa Clara Street will be a success.... IF SAN JOSE'S MONEY HAS TO BE SPENT on City Hall, let's maximize economic development and job creation.</p>
<p>6/7/99 indicative third plural present</p>	<p>The trend to discard the rule of law for what some think to be "correct" political policies is becoming accelerated and frightening.... IF OUR POLITICAL LEADERS ARE ALLOWED to ignore the Constitution and subsequent laws put in place by democratically elected officials, we no longer reside in a republic.</p>
<p>6/8/99 indeterminable third plural present</p>	<p>IF [SCIENTISTS] GET too involved in political and economic debates, they risk losing their credibility. But if they don't share what they know with us and just operate within the ivory tower, they deprive the world of the best evidence there is about our atmosphere, evidence we need to plan for our future. Our local Stanford guys show courage and conscience in taking this stand publicly.... I hope Stanford can find a way to just say no to economic bullying and make its investment decisions based on conscience, ...and the conclusions of its own world-class scientists.</p>
<p>6/8/99 indicative third plural present</p>	<p>If [scientists] get too involved in political and economic debates, they risk losing their credibility. But IF THEY DON'T SHARE what they know with us and just operate within the ivory tower, they deprive the world of the best evidence there is about our atmosphere, evidence we need to plan for our future. Our local Stanford guys show courage and conscience in taking this stand publicly.... I hope Stanford can find a way to just say no to economic bullying and make its investment decisions based on conscience, ...and the conclusions of its own world-class scientists.</p>
<p>6/9/99 indeterminable first plural present</p>	<p>An article quoted government and other scientists as saying that there are too many gray whales in the ocean.... Now there is a rush to declare that there are too many gray whales. IF WE CUT down old-growth forests, spotted owl populations decline. Does this mean we have too many owls?</p>

6/14/99	Ms. Kolbert discusses the amount of press attention that N. Siegel gets. But perhaps there is a general misunderstanding as to what civil liberties are all about, and perhaps that is the reason that Siegel must constantly take his arguments to the press. Chipping away at any one group's civil liberties may erode others', and IF SIEGEL IS successful in communicating that point, that's already a job well done. (NY)
indicative	
third singular	
present	
6/16/99	Car stops by the San Jose Police Department are based solely on reasonable suspicion or probable cause.... IF M. W. THOUGHT he was stopped without cause or with prejudice, he had a duty to complain and find out what the true reason was for the stop. If he had, he wouldn't have to wonder what the real reason might be, or he might have rid whatever department stopped him of someone who shouldn't be a police officer.
indeterminable	
third singular	
past	
6/19/99	IF THERE IS no lawful reason to stop someone, then that person's Fourth Amendment rights are being violated.... If citizens believes [sic] that they have been treated unfairly or prejudicially, they should follow the appropriate steps to file a complaint and have the matter looked into.
indicative	
third singular	
present	
6/25/99	Parents have a responsibility to teach their children right from wrong. IF THEY ARE unwilling to give their children the necessary guidance, then they, as well as the errant child, must suffer the consequences when unlawful acts are committed.
indicative	
third plural	
present	
7/4/99	J. L.'s article is at best a disservice to both men and women.... In regards to men, she has clearly made it a point that is socially unacceptable to be poor.... A well-dressed, athletic, affluent man is what women want, and he is abnormal IF HE CANNOT FIND a woman.
modal verb	
third singular	
present	

7/16/99	Recent events at KPFA are a distinct blow to free speech. The station offered a perspective that I couldn't hear anywhere else.... IF THEY PERMANENTLY CHANGE the format, I plan to boycott Pacifica [radio] and stick with PBS and my CD player.
indeterminable	
third singular	
present	
7/19/99	In reading the article about the change in AMC policy, I was struck by the change in attitudes of parents with infants and toddlers today versus when our children were that age.... H. R. stated in the article that it was her right to bring her children to the theater IF SHE WANTED But the owners/operators of privately owned property have the right to refuse service to anyone if they so choose...
indeterminable	
third singular	
past	
7/19/99	In reading the article about the change in AMC policy, I was struck by the change in attitudes of parents with infants and toddlers today versus when our children were that age.... H. R. stated in the article that it was her right to bring her children to the theater if she wanted.... But the owners/operators of privately owned property have the right to refuse service to anyone IF THEY SO CHOOSE ...
indeterminable	
third plural	
present	
7/31/99	IF A COVENANT WITH GOD HAS any value at all, it lies in observing not just the letter of the law but in keeping to the spirit of the law as well.
indicative	
third singular	
present	
8/8/99	Creating an exception holding that free speech must give way to workplace anti-discrimination laws is to create an exception that can, and eventually will, swallow the rule. IF OFFENSIVE SPEECH CAN BE CENSORED in the workplace, it can be censored virtually everywhere. I hope the the U.S. Supreme Court overturns this ruling of the California Supreme Court.
modal verb	
third singular	
present	

8/13/99 **The story by B. B. about the Montgomery Hotel was journalism at its best: it gave non-biased information.... The idea of moving a landmark is an oxymoron. IF IT IS a landmark, it marks the land on which it sits.**
indicative
third singular
present

8/22/99 **In a fully privatized school system, a school must provide what its customers demand, or go out of business. In such a world, IF WE DEMAND that our kids actually be educated, that they be taught how to use their minds, then we will get schools that do exactly that.**
indeterminable
first plural
present

hope

1/22/99 **I'd like to commend the Mercury News for its visible coverage of the arraignment of the suspect in the recent fatal chain-reaction accident of Highway 101. I HOPE THAT YOU CONTINUE the coverage as this legal case proceeds.**
indeterminable
second singular
present

2/12/99 **A disturbing trend is now seen [in Palo Alto] with the loss of the family owned California Avenue Pharmacy to the Rite-Aid chain and the impending closure of Printer's Inc Bookstore. I HOPE THAT YOUR READERS WILL RECOGNIZE that such changes may offer short-term convenience but will exact from us a significant long-term price. If "revitalization" means converting our local shopping areas into a culture of wall-to-wall Longs, Starbucks, and WalMarts then I for one would rather not have it.**
modal verb
first singular
future

3/6/99 modal verb third singular past	I knew San Jose has long planned on developing the Coyote Valley, but I have been hoping it that it would never happen. I HAD HOPED THAT THIS BEAUTIFUL SWATH OF LAND between San Jose and Morgan Hill WOULD FOREVER REMAIN a rural reminder of the Valley's past.
3/9/99 modal verb third singular future	I was saddened and outraged by the acquittal of Marine pilot Richard Ashby from charges of involuntary manslaughter in the Italian accident that killed twenty Europeans.... I HOPE THAT THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT WILL CONSIDER closing at least the American base near the Cavalese area. If this happened at Squaw Valley with a European aircraft, Americans would be furious.
3/14/99 modal verb third singular future	When the Democrats send troops into Kosovo, I HOPE THAT THE CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION WILL BE the first to arrive.... The Marines have the common sense to put human life above the remote chance of harming a grey whale during a training exercise. If the members of the Coastal Commission found themselves in Kosovo, they would quickly understand.
3/21/99 modal verb first singular future	The Mercury News headlined the tragedy of poorly organized disaster relief efforts for Honduras without giving sufficient credit to organizations and people who are doing it right.... Rather than sensationalize the unfortunate and thoughtless practices of some well-intentioned groups, I HOPE THAT THE MERCURY NEWS WILL RECOGNIZE , support, and promote those organizations with admirable records of responsible relief work.
3/25/99 indicative third plural present	I HOPE THAT when the body bags start arriving at Andrews Airforce Base, CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES ARE THERE TO EXPLAIN to the families of the slain just how terribly important our involvement in somebody else's civil war is.

4/17/99
modal verb
third singular
present

After reading about the admirable efforts of California Attorney General Bill Lockyer to make the 1996 medicinal marijuana initiative work for people who may benefit from it, I have a renewed sense of hope regarding health care and the utilization of drugs in America.... Maybe Lockyer's meeting with law enforcement officers and medicinal marijuana activists will dispel the myths about what may happen as a result of this law (more drug addiction, etc.). Most important, I HOPE IT WILL BECOME easier for people to get the treatment they need.

4/24/99
indicative
first singular
present

It is not media sensationalism, or the guns, or the music the young students at Columbine High School listened to that is to blame for this week's shooting in Colorado. It all falls on the parents.... I HOPE THAT I AM so much a part of my sons' lives that I will be able to recognize any sort of trouble that may be brewing.

5/5/99
indicative
third singular
present

As a person who worked for a year at United Way of Santa Clara County before being laid off in March, I have been following the recent Mercury News articles on the financial problems of the organization and the actions of CEO E. Jacobs.... As Jacobs sits back on administrative leave and continues to draw her six-figure income, I HOPE THAT SHE TAKES time to think about the thousands of people in this valley who will be cut off from services as a direct result of her actions.

6/2/99
indeterminable
third plural
present

I HOPE THAT ALL OF THE PEOPLE who claim guns kill REALIZE that a gun is a nothing more than a tool, and can be used responsibly or irresponsibly.

6/8/99
indicative
third singular
present

I HOPE THAT THE PEACE AGREEMENT IS CONCLUDED successfully in Yugoslavia.

6/8/99 modal verb third singular present	If [scientists] get too involved in political and economic debates, they risk losing their credibility. But if they don't share what they know with us and just operate within the ivory tower, they deprive the world of the best evidence there is about our atmosphere, evidence we need to plan for our future. Our local Stanford guys show courage and conscience in taking this stand publicly.... I HOPE STANFORD CAN FIND a way to just say no to economic bullying and make its investment decisions based on conscience, ...and the conclusions of its own world-class scientists.
6/14/99 modal verb first singular future	Each family who experienced the tragedy of flight 1420 will have to address legal issues. I HOPE THAT MY FELLOW LAWYERS WILL HELP them in a responsible manner.
6/14/99 indicative first singular present	I HOPE THAT JAMES C. HORMEL IS qualified to become the United States' ambassador to Luxembourg and that he performs his duties with honor, integrity and courage.
7/3/99 modal verb third singular future	Although, I applaud the Stanford Hospital's decision to employ a musician for its patients, they would have gained much more if they had hired a qualified music therapist. I HOPE THAT THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL WILL RECONSIDER its unfortunate decision to terminate an extremely experienced and compassionate music therapist.
7/21/99 indeterminable third plural present	I was visiting Chico the Saturday morning when John, Jr. was reported missing. Friends of mine were glued to the television, wanting to know if he and his passengers survived. I HOPE THAT YOUR READERS KNOW that not all Gen Xers are ignorant of what was lost when John, Jr's plane crashed Friday night.

<p>7/22/99 indeterminable second singular present</p>	<p>You take Governor Gray Davis to task for continuing to oppose implementation of California's "medicinal" marijuana law. I HOPE THAT YOU RETHINK your position so that the dangerous recreational use of marijuana will not be expanded.</p>
<p>7/24/99 modal verb third singular future</p>	<p>I HOPE THE DEATH OF JFK, JR. WILL LEAD to a time of reflection and action. I hope those who felt the original inspiration will finally step up and carry out Kennedy's message for service and unselfishness.</p>
<p>7/24/99 modal verb third plural future</p>	<p>I hope the death of JFK, Jr. will lead to a time of reflection and action. I HOPE THOSE WHO FELT THE ORIGINAL INSPIRATION WILL FINALLY STEP UP and carry out Kennedy's message for service and unselfishness.</p>
<p>8/4/99 modal verb third singular future</p>	<p>Americans should not remain silent any longer, because the sanctions on Iraq are immoral. WE HOPE THAT YOUR ARTICLE WILL INSPIRE people to demand that the sanctions be lifted.</p>
<p>8/8/99 indicative third singular present</p>	<p>Creating an exception holding that free speech must give way to workplace anti-discrimination laws is to create an exception that can, and eventually will, swallow the rule. If offensive speech can be censored in the workplace, it can be censored virtually everywhere. I HOPE THAT THE U.S. SUPREME COURT OVERTURNS this ruling of the California Supreme Court.</p>

8/21/99
modal verb
third singular
future

Mayor Ron Gonzales has my support in his efforts to bring the BART system to San Jose. However, I HOPE THAT HE WILL PROPOSE a route which can be realized at greatly reduced costs and significantly less time compared to the \$3 billion, 15 year plan described in Sunday's paper.

8/21/99
indeterminable
third plural
present

I HOPE THAT THE ATTENDEES of the State Democratic convention ENJOY our city when they come here next February.

8/24/99
indicative
third singular
future

San Jose Unified School District is contemplating a flying leap into our brave new world dominated by rampant hucksterism and mindless greed. A Mercury News story tells us that the district will pay a marketing firm \$322,760 plus a hefty annual contract maintenance fee to broker a deal with Pepsi or Coca-Cola for exclusive rights to sell their product on all campuses.... I HOPE THE SCHOOL BOARD WILL RESIST this latest assault on the higher mission of schools. If we sell out our principles, we should not be surprised how slippery the slope becomes.

hypothetical

1/3/99
indeterminable
second singular
present

Elite customer service in the airline industry is a thing of the past and it's more like Greyhound in the skies these days. IF YOU ACCEPT THAT, your expectations will be small and you'll be prepared to deal with the little help you'll receive from the poor airline industry employees.

1/3/99
indeterminable
third plural
present

...at this time of the year, when we are all getting ready to fill out our tax forms and pay thousands of dollars in taxes, we find out that the tax payers just spent \$132, 000 to fish a bunch of old, bored, millionaires out of the ocean when their balloon crashed. **IF THESE BALLOON PEOPLE WANT TO PLAY** with their toys, they should use their own money when they get in trouble.

1/3/99
indeterminable
third plural
past

L. Jensen, public information director for the local chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, writes that all religious groups were harmed because a “fundamentalist” Christian group wanted to bury a truck-load of aborted baby parts that had been dumped by the side of the road. The fundamentalist media evangelists would be abandoned **IF THEIR SHEEP DEPENDED ON** reason rather than on self-serving, literal scripture interpretations.

1/4/99
indeterminable
second singular
present

One coin is both the most American of all coinage and, perhaps, the most hostile to foreigners—the dime. **IF YOU INSPECT** a dime, you will notice that nowhere on it do the words “ten cents” appear. (NY)

1/5/99
indeterminable
second singular
present

Every year newspapers run articles on “The Biggest Stories of the Year...” How about “The Biggest Stories of the Millennium?” **IF YOU INCLUDE** all hemispheres and continents, we can learn a lot in one year.

1/7/99
indeterminable
third singular
past

It is impossible to view Monica-gate through a non-partisan lens.... **IF BILL CLINTON HAD** honor or a sense of shame, he would resign.

1/8/99
modal verb
third singular
present

I am glad to see at least one other father who is concerned about the violence in video games.... Perhaps these violent games ought to be labeled, like movies are already.... **IF A MOVIE CAN BE RATED AS INAPPROPRIATE FOR YOUNG KIDS** because of violent content, perhaps arcade games ought to be labeled in the same way.

1/8/99
indeterminable
third singular
past

Gov. Gray Davis' proposal on mandatory exit exams in order to graduate from high school is praiseworthy. **IF IMPLEMENTED properly, this would prevent under-prepared students from enrolling for higher education.**

1/10/99
indeterminable
third singular
past

IF PRESIDENT CLINTON RESIGNED, it would be open season on any future president whose program and/or actions were in conflict with those of a highly partisan congress.

1/11/99
subjunctive
third singular
past

It appears that Gov. Davis is being tough only on school boards and principals.... The real power to effect reform rests with the bosses of the teacher's unions.... **IF THE UNION BOSSES' POWER WERE REDUCED**, their Democratic clients might just possibly become less dependent on them.

1/11/99
indicative
third singular
present

I currently believe that Lee Harvey Oswald shot John Kennedy, and James Earl Ray shot Martin Luther King—each acting alone. **But IF SOME DYING MAFLA CON OR CIA OPERATIVE PROVIDES compelling evidence to the contrary**, I am prepared to listen. (NY)

<p>1/14/99 indicative third singular present</p>	<p>I watched the proceedings of the 12/8 Santa Cruz City Council meeting on television.... IF A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC IS unwilling or unable to extend the most common courtesies to others present at these meetings, it is in the interest of all that either the person be escorted out of the meeting or that the meeting be suspended...</p>
<p>1/16/99 indeterminable first plural present</p>	<p>It is attractive to blame things on the video game “problem”because it seems easier to solve. But changing kids’ fantasies will not change their realities.... IF, INSTEAD, WE CONCENTRATE on solving their real problems, we just might save a kid from perpetuating real violence.</p>
<p>1/16/99 indeterminable third plural past</p>	<p>Many parents who wouldn’t consider having a firearm in their home or who would be outraged IF THEY FOUND OUT their child was hanging out in an adult bookstore think nothing about their children spending hours in a video arcade.</p>
<p>1/16/99 indicative third singular present</p>	<p>Recently, the media have been teeming with news about educational reform.... IF THIS STATE IS serious about educational reform, we have to look at crucial issues such as new teacher retention.</p>
<p>1/17/99 indicative third singular present</p>	<p>The Senate should end this sad spectacle soon or Americans will turn off politics for generations to come. IF THE SENATE CANCELS the people’s vote for President and grants victory to his vicious political enemies, it would be a crime approaching that of assassination.</p>

1/20/99
indicative
third singular
present

IF THE GLOBAL WARMING ISSUE IS TAKEN seriously, then there is no solution without a major world-wide expansion of nuclear energy.

1/21/99
indeterminable
third singular
past

DMV statistics show that one in every 4 fatal accidents involves a driver without a valid license.... IF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DENIED the purchase of gas to anyone without a valid driver's license, paid auto registration and auto insurance or with outstanding warrants for unpaid traffic citations, more than 4 million drivers would not qualify.

1/22/99
indeterminable
third plural
present

No one in the middle class will benefit IF SOCIAL SECURITY TAXES RISE.

1/22/99
modal verb
third singular
past

Santa Clara County should require the tower company to post a bond of \$500 million or \$1 billion to indemnify the county against loss of life from aircraft accidents due to the presence of the tower.... We would then see IF THE COMPANY WOULD CONTINUE TO INSIST that this is the best place for such a tower.

1/23/99
indeterminable
third plural
present

I marvel at the ability of the American public to see through the hatred and self-interest of the House Judiciary Committee.... The Republicans may consider it a victory IF THEY TIE UP the Senate and the House for six months so that they do not have to deal with the president's agenda.

1/24/99
modal verb
third singular
future

IF THE PUBLIC WILL SUPPORT State Senator T. Hayden and his bill, SB79, to change the law so the third strike applies just to a new violent offense, then we could change the law this year.

1/24/99
indicative
third singular
present

I read your specious editorial assertion that firearm manufacturers had helped create a “public health menace” and must “face up” to it. **IF YOUR ARGUMENT IS VALID**, then it must apply in other similar situations.

1/26/99
indeterminable
first plural
present

IF WE WORK to move medicine closer to a free market, a lot of today’s dissatisfactions will diminish.

1/28/99
indicative
third singular
present

Republicans are doing themselves in better than any political party ever could.... I encourage the GOP to press on as hard as it can in this travesty. **IF SACRIFICING CLINTON MEANS** the end of the Republican Party, isn’t that worth it?

1/30/99
modal verb
third plural
past

It is impossible to determine if car pool lanes are a success or a failure using the data you published.... **IF MOST PEOPLE WOULD CONTINUE TO BE** in a car pool even without the diamond lane, then there is a lot of lost freeway capacity.

1/30/99
indicative
third singular
present

It seems to me that **IF A PARENT HAS** a gun (not just a handgun) in the house it should have a trigger lock on it and the ammunition not stored with the gun.... If you use a gun in a crime, its instant punishment... If lawmakers get together and decide that gun makers can be sued because they manufactured the gun that was used in a crime, who's going to be next?

1/30/99
indicative
third singular
present

California should pass a law that would do away with all diamond lanes for six months.... **IF A CATASTROPHE ENSUES** and the people of California start begging for diamond lanes, the law will expire and the diamond lanes and metered ramps will automatically resume. However, if the experiment shows that banning the lanes causes an obvious improvement, the ban would be made permanent.

1/30/99
indeterminable
second singular
present

IF YOU OWN an energetic dog and do not like its attitude, you should consider getting a more peaceful or lazy dog.

1/30/99
indeterminable
third plural
present

It seems to me that if a parent has a gun (not just a handgun) in the house it should have a trigger lock on it and the ammunition not stored with the gun.... If you use a gun in a crime, its instant punishment.... **IF LAWMAKERS GET** together and decide that gun makers can be sued because they manufactured the gun that was used in a crime, who's going to be next?

1/30/99
indicative
third plural
present

I haven't had a long enough conversation with a dog or cat to ascertain whether being able to hang out in posh digs such as those at San Francisco animal shelter makes any difference to them or not. **IF SUCH ACCOMMODATIONS DO MAKE** a difference to a dog or cat, then I suppose that the society is setting up their clients for some disappointment, because I doubt that most adoptive homes will provide the same level of elaborate accommodation.

1/30/99 **IF YOU CHOOSE to drink and drive, if you choose to shoot and kill, if you choose to drive recklessly, you will be criminally punished.**
indeterminable
second singular
present

1/30/99 **California should pass a law that would do away with all diamond lanes for six months.... If a catastrophe ensues and the people of California start begging for diamond lanes, the law will expire and the diamond lanes and metered ramps will automatically resume. However, IF THE EXPERIMENTATION SHOWS that banning the lanes causes an obvious improvement, the ban would be made permanent.**
indicative
third singular
present

1/30/99 **IF MORE RENTERS WERE ALLOWED to have animals, more people would be adopting them.**
indeterminable
third plural
past

1/31/99 **IF THE SENATE CAVES in to public opinion and permits [Clinton] to continue governing, what in heaven's name will become of us?**
indicative
third singular
present

1/31/99 **News and reports and editorials on last week's Supreme Court decision concerning statistical sampling and the census once again paint the Democratic Party as the champion of the poor.... IF EITHER THEY OR THE REPUBLICAN PARTY REALLY CARED about enfranchising those uncoun- ted masses, they would figure out how to bring them into the mainstream of society.**
indeterminable
third plural
past

- 2/1/99
indicative
third plural
past
- I am a satisfied caller ID customer. Yes, it would be better **IF SOME PEOPLE DIDN'T BLOCK** their [phone] numbers from view.... If the person calling me doesn't want me to know who they are, I don't want to answer their call...
- 2/3/99
subjunctive
third singular
past
- IF BILL CLINTON WERE** a Republican or if George Bush or Ronald Reagan had been accused of the same offenses that Clinton is accused of, all of Rep. Tom Campbell's attackers would be his defenders and his supporters would be his attackers.
- 2/4/99
subjunctive
third singular
past
- In a recent article you quoted Alice Starr—when asked what she would do **IF SHE WERE** in Hillary Clinton's shoes—as saying “I'd rather not be married to someone who doesn't love me enough to remain faithful.” It might be interesting to ask Hillary Clinton what she would do if she were in Alice Starr's shoes. Perhaps she would say that she would rather not be married to a man who could work so hard to destroy lives.
- 2/4/99
subjunctive
third singular
past
- In a recent article you quoted Alice Starr—when asked what she would do if she were in Hillary Clinton's shoes—as saying “I'd rather not be married to someone who doesn't love me enough to remain faithful.” It might be interesting to ask Hillary Clinton what she would do **IF SHE WERE** in Alice Starr's shoes. Perhaps she would say that she would rather not be married to a man who could work so hard to destroy lives.
- 2/4/99
indicative
third singular
present
- Regarding the Clinton impeachment trial, here's an alternative and likely unpopular view: It would be okay with me **IF THE TRIAL LASTS** indefinitely. I wish we could find an issue which would similarly occupy our legislature and city council.

<p>2/5/99 indicative third singular present</p>	<p>I read with utter shock the recent article about C. Story. From my experience, the notion or claim of Story as white supremacist couldn't be further from any truth.... IF ANY PART OF THE STORY YOU PUBLISHED IS TRUE, it is my belief that he simply fell into the wrong associations.</p>
<p>2/6/99 indicative third plural present</p>	<p>I am concerned about the procedure being recommended to acquire bay land to extend the runways of the San Francisco Airport. As I understand it, the plan is to force Cargill Salt Co. to sell its salt evaporator ponds under the threat of eminent domain.... Presumably, IF THE PONDS ARE CONFISCATED, the dikes of the ponds will be allowed to deteriorate so that the ponds will revert to marshes.... If it is agreed that the airport must be expanded, let us permit it—but without the unwise and unfair trade-off.</p>
<p>2/6/99 indeterminable third plural past</p>	<p>I don't speak Mandarin, but over a billion people do, and I wouldn't mind IF MY CHILDREN WERE GIVEN an opportunity to learn it.</p>
<p>2/6/99 indicative third singular present</p>	<p>I am concerned about he procedure being recommended to acquire bay land to extend the runways of the San Francisco Airport. As I understand it, the plan is to force Cargill Salt Co. to sell its salt evaporator ponds under the threat of eminent domain.... Presumably, if the ponds are confiscated, the dikes of the ponds will be allowed to deteriorate so that the ponds will revert to marshes.... IF IT IS AGREED that the airport must be expanded, let us permit it—but without the unwise and unfair trade-off.</p>
<p>2/6/99 indicative third singular present</p>	<p>The lawsuit revolves around the fact that migratory birds have landed in the storm water containment area within the mud pile. The way I look at the argument in the lawsuit is, if a duck lands in a puddle in a parking lot, then the puddle becomes 'waters of the U.S.' because the duck is a migratory bird. IF THAT IS TRUE then you would have to protect the puddle and you would not be able to use the parking lot.</p>

2/7/99
indeterminable
first plural
past

I build in approximately 25 communities in the Bay Area and there isn't one that really welcomes me to come in and build housing.... IF WE WERE left to our own devices, we could solve a lot of the housing needs in a way that would improve the quality of life rather than degrade it.

2/7/99
subjunctive
first singular
past

IF I WERE to look for any one thing, I would say we need some really severe crisis [in order to sustain the economic vitality and quality of life in Silicon Valley.]

2/7/99
indeterminable
first plural
present

IF WE FIND in the new emerging economy that the economic vitality of the region, as measured by economic productivity and the quality of jobs, can grow without rapid job growth, then the range of options to solve our problems would seem to be much larger.

2/7/99
indeterminable
first plural
present

IF WE WANT to move the collective housing for the Bay Area jobs closer in, I suggest the first thing is to give cities the necessary tools.

2/9/99
indeterminable
third plural
present

The age of free speech is over. Free speech cost the creators of an anti-abortion web site \$107 million in the eyes of a federal jury. IF THEY TAKE away the right to free speech, will they take away the right to a free press?

<p>2/10/99 modal verb third singular present</p>	<p>Communities like Cupertino pass open space laws eliminating significant amounts of hillside space for housing developments...then pass additional restrictions on new two-story homes in old neighborhoods.... I wonder IF SOMETIMES THE MOTIVATION behind these building restrictions MAY HAVE to do with maintaining some kind of ethnic purity of the original neighborhood.</p>
<p>2/12/99 indeterminable third plural past</p>	<p>I find it interesting and tragic that the administration is considering sending troops to Kosovo. A parallel to me would be IF THE FARMERS IN KANSAS AND THE RANCHERS IN NEBRASKA WERE in an all out fight over grazing rights and France decided to send in ground troops to help settle the whole thing.</p>
<p>2/12/99 indicative third singular present</p>	<p>A disturbing trend is now seen [in Palo Alto] with the loss of the family owned California Avenue Pharmacy to the Rite-Aid chain and the impending closure of Printer's Inc Bookstore. I hope that your readers will recognize that such changes may offer short-term convenience but will exact from us a significant long-term price. IF "REVITALIZATION" MEANS converting our local shopping areas into a culture of wall-to-wall Longs, Starbucks, and WalMarts then I for one would rather not have it.</p>
<p>2/13/99 indeterminable third plural past</p>	<p>There is a question about whether children in junior high should be separated by gender.... IF GIRLS WERE SEPARATED from boys, they would have more opportunities to succeed, develop self-confidence, and become more independent.</p>
<p>2/13/99 indeterminable third singular past</p>	<p>I find the assumption of racial motives in the L. family's neighborhood dispute offensive.... I expect that IF THE L. FAMILY URGED their architect to develop a plan more in harmony with the rest of the street, they would find their neighbors far more enthusiastic.</p>

2/14/99 indeterminable third plural past	I laughed out loud when I read Linda Tripp's rationalization for her actions regarding Monica Lewinsky. IF HER ACTIONS STEMMED from maternal concerns, why didn't she also think of Chelsea Clinton, one of the true victims in this sorry story? If Tripp's motives had been driven by anything other than a frenzy to get the president, she never would have proceeded to make public a very private matter.
2/17/99 indeterminable third singular past	I was offended by L. Z.'s article on the American Airlines pilot sick-out and his characterizations of pilots as greedy, arrogant, and militant. IF HE KNEW of the dedication it takes to become a pilot with a major airline, maybe he would not be so quick to pass judgment.
2/17/99 subjunctive first singular past	In referring to the President, D. S. wrote "I feel sure his behavior is not that unusual in the male population. IF I WERE to write a letter stating that "Linda Tripp's betrayal is not that unusual in the female population," D. S. would probably and rightly be offended by such a course brush being utilized to paint every woman."
2/18/99 subjunctive third singular past	I regret that W. R. chose to identify himself as a member of Amnesty International at the end of his commentary that criticized the group of the left-wing bias. IF HE WERE actually active in Amnesty International, he would know that his local volunteer chapter in Palo Alto, is currently working on behalf of Chinese factory worker Chen Gang
2/19/99 indicative third singular present	In a couple of years, when the remodeling project is completed, [The Great Mall] will be on a light rail line. IF A RAIL LINK EVER MAKES it to BART, the Great Mall will be on that line, too.

2/20/99	IF REP. T. CAMPBELL THINKS that because he survived two town hall meetings in Republican West San Jose that he is out of the woods, he should think again.
indicative	
third singular	
present	
2/21/99	After reading Dan Schnur's post-impeachment article, I come away with the idea that Republican fictionaries of his bent "just don't get it." This is very telling in his belief that the sins of the President will be visited on the Vice-President.... Gore could counter by asking the presumed Republican nominee, G. W. Bush, to defend the House Republicans unpopular impeachment articles.... IF BUSH GIVES unqualified support, he risks alienating moderate Republicans, conservative Democrats and independents. If he waffles, he will loose support from the right wing.
indicative	
third singular	
present	
2/21/99	After reading Dan Schnur's post-impeachment article, I come away with the idea that Republican fictionaries of his bent "just don't get it." This is very telling in his belief that the sins of the President will be visited on the Vice-President.... Gore could counter by asking the presumed Republican nominee, G. W. Bush, to defend the House Republicans unpopular impeachment articles.... If Bush gives unqualified support, he risks alienating moderate Republicans, conservative Democrats and independents. IF HE WAFFLES , he will loose support from the right wing.
indicative	
third singular	
present	
2/22/99	SB 171 ignores the number one factor that causes insurance rates to increase: litigation. IF LITIGATION CAN BE CHECKED , low cost auto policies would be standard for everyone.
modal verb	
third singular	
present	
2/22/99	P. M. says she doesn't think any racist images should be used as mascots.... IF IT IS DETERMINED THAT these names are degrading, then animal rights activists will eventually insist we treat animals equally and cease using demeaning team names such as Bengals, Bears, and Dolphins.
indicative	
third singular	
present	

<p>2/23/99 indeterminable first singular present</p>	<p>IF I FANCY that I have suffered “discrimination” because I am fat, my first order of business upon stepping into court, would be, to prove I am! Do we really want to add this type of silliness to the caseload that already mires our judicial process?</p>
<p>2/24/99 indeterminable third plural past</p>	<p>IF ALL ETHNIC COMMUNITIES IN THE U.S WERE TO FORM their own political parties, how well would they contribute to the interests of the American public overall.</p>
<p>2/24/99 modal verb third plural present</p>	<p>Thanks for the in-depth story on the growth of corporate giant Intel.... IF THEY CAN CONTINUE TO PROVE that they are doing more good than harm for the industry and affected communities, then I can go out and buy a Pentium III computer with a clear conscience.</p>
<p>2/25/99 indeterminable second singular present</p>	<p>IF YOU ASSUME fluoride is “beneficial” and then leap to the conclusion that it should be added to the public water supply, one might ask: Wouldn’t vitamin C added to the water supply be beneficial?</p>
<p>2/27/99 indicative third plural present</p>	<p>As a high school economics teacher, I wholeheartedly support Governor Gray Davis’ planned proposal to hold schools accountable for student achievement by ranking California’s 8,000 public schools from best to worst. IF POLITICIANS ARE serious about education reform, then they are going to have to pony up some fresh ideas.</p>

3/1/99 [A cancer clinic] is a facility that I would enthusiastically endorse and in the event of the necessity race to use IF I NEEDED TO.

indeterminable

first singular

past

3/4/99 I'm not as sure as some of your letter writers that Juanita Broaddrick is telling the truth when she claims that Bill Clinton sexually assaulted her back in 1978.... IF CLINTON WAS a sexual predator that is something that the voters deserved to know in evaluating his fitness to hold public office.

indicative

third singular

past

3/5/99 Jackson has made a career of pitting the races against each other. Let's face it, IF WE ALL GOT ALONG, which it appears we do pretty well in the Bay Area, Jackson would be out of work.

indeterminable

first plural

past

3/7/99 I have no doubt that, WERE THERE TO BE a referendum, the people of San Jose and of this valley would overwhelmingly reject the plan for a 400 acre Cisco campus with its 200,000 new jobs in the Coyote Valley.

subjunctive

third singular

past

3/7/99 It would be a real shame IF WE DROVE companies like Cisco out of the region because of lack of foresight on the part of community leaders.

indeterminable

first plural

past

3/8/99 **IF YOU WANT to meet a bunch of anal-retentive, super-organized, self-critical people, get acquainted with a hospital's staff. (NY)**
indeterminable
second singular
present

3/8/99 **I keep reading glowing praise for electric vehicles in the press, yet I am always left with the same question: Are they genuinely good for the environment?... Electric vehicles will not help the environment IF THE NET RESULT OF THEIR WIDESPREAD ADOPTION IS more burning of fossil fuels and more pollution near power generation plants.**
indicative
third singular
present

3/9/99 **I was saddened and outraged by the acquittal of Marine pilot Richard Ashby from charges of involuntary manslaughter in the Italian accident that killed twenty Europeans.... I hope that the Italian government will consider closing at least the American base near the Cavalese area. IF THIS HAPPENED at Squaw Valley with a European aircraft, Americans would be furious.**
indeterminable
third singular
past

3/9/99 **IF THE CALIFORNIA REPUBLICAN PARTY HAS SEEN FIT to elect to leadership strict anti-abortionists, then surely they owe us a clear picture of what they intend to do.**
indicative
third singular
present perfect

3/10/99 **We firmly believe that IF THE 1999-2000 SANTA CLARA COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY IS as diverse as our local population, it not only will be extremely effective in investigating complaints of discrimination by local agencies, but it will also be very effective in carving out recommendations that truly address these complaints.**
indicative
third singular
present

3/12/99
modal verb
third singular
past

I would like to send a welcome and thank you to the Marines who will be involved in the "Urban Warrior" training exercise this weekend.... It is sad a small group of vocal misguided people can make it seem that the Marines aren't welcome here. **IF THE MERCURY NEWS WOULD POLL** the rest of the population, I'm sure that they would find most people do not have a problem.

3/12/99
indicative
third singular
present

I'm afraid that the only explanation we might all believe from Bill Clinton at this point would be an admission of guilt. **IF HE DENIES** wrong admission in any plausible matter from now on, who will believe him?

3/12/99
indicative
third singular
present

I am disturbed to hear that IBM is planning to build homes in the orchards of Almaden Valley. **IF THE ORCHARD AREA IS** lost, citizens will be deprived of a spot of peace and a part of Almaden Valley that has not been overcome with technology.

3/13/99
indeterminable
third plural
past

Teachers and schools have a monumental task. It would be simple **IF EVERY STUDENT HAD** the same advantages as the next, but the truth is they don't. If we must blame our educational system, we also need to blame ourselves. If schools are to be successful, they must have students who are willing and ready to learn.

3/13/99
modal verb
first plural
present

Teachers and schools have a monumental task. It would be simple if every student had the same advantages as the next, but the truth is they don't. **IF WE MUST BLAME** our educational system, we also need to blame ourselves. If schools are to be successful, they must have students who are willing and ready to learn.

3/13/99
indicative
third plural
present

Teachers and schools have a monumental task. It would be simple if every student had the same advantages as the next, but the truth is they don't. If we must blame our educational system, we also need to blame ourselves. **IF SCHOOLS ARE TO BE** successful, they must have students who are willing and ready to learn.

3/13/99
indicative
third plural
present

IF AFFIRMATIVE ACTION PROGRAMS ARE not tolerable to most people, it is still reasonable to expect a fairer representation at our public universities.

3/13/99
indicative
third singular
present

IF THE U.S. IS to meet its commitments to reduce our carbon dioxide contribution to the atmosphere and help reduce the trend to global warming we cannot build any more fossil-fueled power plants.

3/14/99
indeterminable
third singular
present

When the Democrats send troops into Kosovo, I hope that the California Coastal Commission will be the first to arrive.... The Marines have the common sense to put human life above the remote chance of harming a grey whale during a training exercise. **IF THE MEMBERS** of the Coastal Commission **FOUND** themselves in Kosovo, they would quickly understand.

3/15/99
indeterminable
third plural
past

Wouldn't it be nice **IF**, after President Clinton finishes his term, he and Hillary divorced, **BILL AND MONICA WERE MARRIED**, and the two just rode off into the sunset never to be seen or heard from again?

3/15/99
indeterminable
first plural
present

The battery-powered electric cars you can buy are burdened with inefficiencies.... **IF WE BURN** one barrel of energy out of our wall outlet, the power plant will have to burn three barrels of energy.

3/16/99
indeterminable
third singular
past

The article regarding the use of American Indian figures as sports mascots and symbols, only brought one reply to the Mercury News. Do you believe for one minute that **IF TED TURNER DECIDED** to rename his "Atlanta Braves" the "Atlanta Blacks" in honor of Atlanta's black population, it would fly?

3/20/99
indicative
third singular
present

I happened to pass by Calabazas Park recently and was surprised to find the trails very much as I had left them so many years ago. Because of these memories, I was saddened to hear of the destruction of the trails a few days ago. **IF SAFETY IS** an issue, simple barriers could separate the bikers from the pedestrians.

3/22/99
indeterminable
first plural
past

IF WE WERE really as altruistic as we say, we'd involve ourselves in parts of the world that are hurting in a number of ways.

3/23/99
indeterminable
first plural
present

I wonder how different our educational landscape would look, **IF WE CONSIDERED AND FUNDED** our schools as product development sites rather than simply product manufacturing plants.

3/23/99 IF YOU HAVE the first baby of January 1, 2000 it will be one year too soon to qualify for the first in the 21st century — which begins January, 1 2001.
indeterminable
second singular
present

3/23/99 I am horrified that our military has been allowed to destroy the land, sea, animals, and lives of the people of Vieques, an island which is part of a U. S. protectorate. How can they trust the U.S. IF WE TREAT them in such an inhumane manner?
indeterminable
first plural
present

3/24/99 The addition of a child safety lock would not increase the cost of a firearm by more than a few dollars, and IF THEY CAME with the firearm, it is more likely that they would be used.
indeterminable
third plural
past

3/25/99 Although most Americans could not identify Kosovo on a map IF THEY WERE SPOTTED Serbia and Albania, Warrior-Prince Bill Clinton has now decided that it represents a national vital interest.... If the Europeans are that concerned about the situation, let them deal with it.
indeterminable
third plural
present

3/25/99 Although most Americans could not identify Kosovo on a map if they were spotted Serbia and Albania, Warrior-Prince Bill Clinton has now decided that it represents a national vital interest.... IF THE EUROPEANS ARE that concerned about the situation, let them deal with it.
indicative
third plural
present

3/25/99	It's time for a female president. If Hillary Clinton had been in office instead of Bill, we would have never had to suffer through the sex scandal of the past year. Unfortunately, the polls tell us that G.W. Bush is most likely to become the conservative's next Presidential candidate. IF THAT HAPPENS , one of our country's greatest resources will remain untapped: the heart of a woman.
indicative	
third singular	
present	
3/26/99	We told our son IF HE BROUGHT his grades up at school, he may get the bike in the summer.
indeterminable	
third singular	
past	
3/26/99	I was shocked and disheartened at the indifference expressed by K.Morihisa. This Stanford graduate student said he hasn't been paying any attention because "It isn't sexy enough." After a year of wallowing in President Clinton's tawdry sex life, a mere war is boring. But IF THE UNITED STATES WERE ABOUT TO BOMB the Middle East for oil, Morihisa indicates he and his fellow MBA students would pay attention.
subjunctive	
third singular	
past	
3/27/99	A recent editorial couldn't be more timely. I am a member of one of those pesky "community groups" trying to get the ear of San Jose Mayor Ron Gonzales. We've been asking for a meeting for weeks on a matter that unfortunately just won't wait.... So what would we tell Mayor Gonzales IF WE COULD GET his ear?
modal verb	
first plural	
past	
3/28/99	I was appalled by the comments made by the people that you interviewed about the situation in Kosovo. It was clear that people in this valley care more about material possessions than the lives of women and children in Kosovo.... IF THIS IS TO BE AVOIDED , we need to pay attention to the situation in Kosovo, and see that there is relevance to us.
indicative	
third singular	
present	

<p>3/29/99 modal verb third singular past</p>	<p>As an avid mountain biker and hiker I get to see two out of three sides of the issue of trail use.... IF EACH OF US WOULD THINK of ourselves as ambassadors for our sport and treat each other with courtesy and respect, our outdoor experiences will be enhanced.</p>
<p>3/30/99 indeterminable third plural present</p>	<p>The article about the East Bay company providing schools with computers and internet service illustrates the disturbing trend of schools becoming commercial venues with reduced educational value.... IF SCHOOL STILL USE books, I would suggest a few that can be appreciated by those who haven't been brainwashed via Channel One.</p>
<p>3/30/99 indeterminable third singular present</p>	<p>Americans would patriotically support our president, no matter what we thought of him, IF, FOR EXAMPLE, CANADA DROPPED bombs on this country in order to help Texas become an independent country. If history taught us nothing else, it showed that in WWII the Serbian partisans led by Tito fought the occupying German army until the end. If we go in with troops and fight a war, the people of Yugoslavia would not let Milosevic give up a part of the country.</p>
<p>3/30/99 indeterminable first plural present</p>	<p>Americans would patriotically support our president, no matter what we thought of him, if, for example, Canada dropped bombs on this country in order to help Texas become an independent country. IF WE GO in with troops and fight a war, the people of Yugoslavia would not let Milosevic give up a part of the country. If we go in with troops and fight a war, the people of Yugoslavia would not let Milosevic give up a part of the country.</p>
<p>3/30/99 indeterminable third singular past</p>	<p>Americans would patriotically support our president, no matter what we thought of him, if, for example, Canada dropped bombs on this country in order to help Texas become an independent country. If we go in with troops and fight a war, the people of Yugoslavia would not let Milosevic give up a part of the country. IF HISTORY TAUGHT us nothing else, it showed that in WWII the Serbian partisans led by Tito fought the occupying German army until the end.</p>

4/3/99
indeterminable
third singular
past

Since the top cause of spinal cord injury is car crashes, New York state passed a bill to put a small surcharge on speeding tickets; that money will be used for spinal cord injury research. **IF CALIFORNIA FOLLOWED** this example, the Roman Reed Bill would be paid for by reckless drivers only; safe drivers would not be charged.

4/3/99
indeterminable
third plural
present

I read about Rep. Zoe Lofgren's proposal to provide federal aid to schools to help high schools change their schedules to begin later in the morning so that teenagers could get enough sleep and do better in their studies.... **IF THE KIDS NEED** more sleep, they can go to bed earlier.

4/5/99
indicative
third singular
past

My boss beat his head against a brick wall trying to tell the fishing industry, both sport and commercial, that the rockfish were in deep trouble and that **IF SOMETHING WASN'T DONE**, the fisherman would eventually lose their livelihood.

4/5/99
indeterminable
third plural
past

I am angry that oil companies are gouging the Bay Area; we have been paying higher gas prices here for months.... It wouldn't be so bad **IF THE INCREASED COSTS WENT** to improve our transit and highway system.... Good luck with supporting a regional gas tax for transportation improvements, which we probably need, if we are still being gouged by the oil companies.

4/5/99
indeterminable
first plural
present

I am angry that oil companies are gouging the Bay Area; we have been paying higher gas prices here for months.... It wouldn't be so bad if the increased costs went to improve our transit and highway system.... Good luck with supporting a regional gas tax for transportation improvements, which we probably need, **IF WE ARE STILL BEING GOUGED** by the oil companies.

4/6/99
indicative
third singular
present

What are we protesting with the planned April 30 gas boycott? IF IT'S an anti-monopoly boycott, why don't we include PG&E and PacBell, which force us to pay more than anywhere else in the nation for power and phone service?... Perhaps it's time to develop a more livable urban design based on living closer to work in communities that have a lower impact on the Earth. If we extend the boycott to everyday, we'll drive less, slow down, and have time to smell the flowers.

4/6/99
indicative
first plural
present

What are we protesting with the planned April 30 gas boycott? If it's an anti-monopoly boycott, why don't we include PG&E and PacBell, which force us to pay more than anywhere else in the nation for power and phone service?... Perhaps it's time to develop a more livable urban design based on living closer to work in communities that have a lower impact on the Earth. IF WE EXTEND the boycott to everyday, we'll drive less, slow down, and have time to smell the flowers.

4/6/99
indicative
third singular
present

We have the liberals screaming to get the United States involved in another war where there is absolutely no reason for Americans to be put in harms way.... I have two sons who are potential candidates for the draft that is sure to follow IF CLINTON IS left unchecked in this insanity.

4/7/99
indicative
third singular
present

On March 8, W. H. Lee was fired from his job at Los Alamos laboratory in New Mexico for the simple fault of being Chinese-American. National security secrets related to the advancement of nuclear weaponry were allegedly smuggled to the Chinese government. IF LEE IS of Chinese descent, then he must be the culprit, or so it seems.

4/7/99
indicative
third singular
present

Perhaps we should simply accept the rationale of media pundits that President Clinton would never plunge us into a civil war unless it is for humanitarian purposes. We should accept the network and newspaper reports that do not show the impact on the men, women and children of Serbia. I guess IF THE NEWS IS not in the accepted media, we must suspect any news that is contradictory.

4/10/99 Our entire society has a sex problem. When will the human body be
indicative accepted for the work of art that it is? **IF SOME COMPANY USES** it
third singular in an ad, so what?
present

4/10/99 This attack on the Serbs is another instance of the United States flexing
indicative its military muscle against a smaller rival.... The United States has to
third singular clear up its moral stance **IF IT WANTS** to play global policeman.
present

4/10/99 As a four-year Navy veteran in the Korean War, I support the NATO
modal verb airstrikes against Serbia.... Although almost 70 years old, if the Navy
third plural asked me to return for this murderous outrage, and **IF THEY WOULD**
past **TAKE** me, I would go.

4/10/99 High school students should absolutely have to pass an exit exam.... **IF**
indeterminable **STUDENTS WERE** required to pass the exam in order to graduate, they
third plural would be motivated to do all required work.
past

4/10/99 As a four-year Navy veteran in the Korean War, I support the NATO
indeterminable airstrikes against Serbia.... Although almost 70 years old, **IF THE**
third singular **NAVY ASKED** me to return for this murderous outrage, and if they
past would take me, I would go.

4/11/99 indicative first plural present	IF WE ARE LOOKING for quiet in the nicest restaurants, maybe we should encourage a cell phone instead of a dinner partner? And, maybe even better, suggest the patron dine alone?
4/16/99 indeterminable third plural present	IF THE MEDIA honestly and objectively COVER events, national leaders and presidential hopefuls, then trust and respect will follow.
4/17/99 subjunctive third singular past	Columnist L. Quarnstrom wrote about the death of K.G and the problem of illegal drugs in downtown Santa Cruz.... Quarnstrom's take on "heroin chic" is appreciated.... Quarnstrom's comments suggest that addiction is a choice; IF IT WERE SO , it would not be an addiction. I suggest in the future that when writing about the passing of another human being, consider the people who are deeply saddened and in the process of trying to live life without their loved one even if you disagree with a person's lifestyle, that does not mean that you have to forget your compassion.
4/17/99 indeterminable second singular present	Columnist L. Quarnstrom wrote about the death of K.G and the problem of illegal drugs in downtown Santa Cruz.... Quarnstrom's take on "heroin chic" is appreciated.... Quarnstrom's comments suggest that addiction is a choice; if it were so, it would not be an addiction. I suggest in the future that when writing about the passing of another human being, consider the people who are deeply saddened and in the process of trying to live life without their loved one. EVEN IF YOU DISAGREE with a person's lifestyle, that does not mean that you have to forget your compassion.
4/17/99 indicative first singular present	IF I'M a station owner and I can sell just as much gasoline at \$1.70 per gallon as I did at \$1.50, which price should I choose? If I'm selling a house in Palo Alto, should I sell it for what I paid for it plus a "reasonable" profit, or should I sell it for what the housing market says it is now worth, and what a willing buyer will pay for it? But we are all willing co-conspirators if we buy just as much gas as we did when it was a buck gallon, and if our only response as we're led to the slaughter is righteous indignation.

4/17/99 indicative first singular present	If I'm a station owner and I can sell just as much gasoline at \$1.70 per gallon as I did at \$1.50, which price should I choose? IF I'M selling a house in Palo Alto, should I sell it for what I paid for it plus a "reasonable" profit, or should I sell it for what the housing market says it is now worth, and what a willing buyer will pay for it? But we are all willing co-conspirators if we buy just as much gas as we did when it was a buck gallon, and if our only response as we're led to the slaughter is righteous indignation.
4/17/99 indeterminable third singular past	I'm a product of California public schools before the passage of Proposition 13, and personally I don't think they were so hot then.... We got a lot of 'new math' and no grammar. I couldn't diagram a sentence IF MY LIFE DEPENDED ON IT. Proposition 13 should be taught in California History classes as a tax revolt along the same lines as the Boston Tea Party. Property taxes were running 10 12 percent of your property's value, and the county assessors were jumping that value at a rate of up to 20 percent per year.... My parents were plenty worried how they were going to pay if it kept up like that.
4/17/99 indeterminable third singular past	I'm a product of California public schools before the passage of Proposition 13, and personally I don't think they were so hot then.... We got a lot of 'new math' and no grammar. I couldn't diagram a sentence if my life depended on it. Proposition 13 should be taught in California History classes as a tax revolt along the same lines as the Boston Tea Party. Property taxes were running 10 12 percent of your property's value, and the county assessors were jumping that value at a rate of up to 20 percent per year.... My parents were plenty worried how they were going to pay IF IT KEPT up like that.
4/18/99 indicative first plural present	IF WE ARE TO PREVENT atrocities and future Holocausts, we will sometimes have to resort to force. If the free world had acted with resolve against fascism in the 1930s, millions of lives might have been spared.
4/18/99 indicative first plural present	It is said that IF WE DO NOT STUDY history, we are doomed to repeat it... If organizations like NATO don't say no to vicious genocidal maniacs, who will? And, if the U.S. doesn't keep its commitments and treaties, how can we expect anyone else to?... If monsters like Milosevic and Hitler are allowed to continue committing atrocities, they will continue committing atrocities.

4/18/99
indicative
third plural
present

It is said that if we do not study history, we are doomed to repeat it....
IF ORGANIZATIONS LIKE NATO DON'T SAY no to vicious genocidal maniacs, who will? And, if the U.S. doesn't keep its commitments and treaties, how can we expect anyone else to?... If monsters like Milosevic and Hitler are allowed to continue committing atrocities, they will continue committing atrocities.

4/18/99
indicative
third singular
present

It is said that if we do not study history, we are doomed to repeat it.... If organizations like NATO don't say no to vicious genocidal maniacs, who will? And, **IF THE U. S. DOESN'T KEEP** its commitments and treaties, how can we expect anyone else to?... If monsters like Milosevic and Hitler are allowed to continue committing atrocities, they will continue committing atrocities.

4/18/99
indicative
third plural
present

It is said that if we do not study history, we are doomed to repeat it.... If organizations like NATO don't say no to vicious genocidal maniacs, who will? And, if the U.S. doesn't keep its commitments and treaties, how can we expect anyone else to?... **IF MONSTERS** like Milosevic and Hitler **ARE ALLOWED** to continue committing atrocities, they will continue committing atrocities.

4/19/99
indeterminable
second singular
present

I have often heard that **IF YOU WANT** to know how someone really feels, you have to walk a mile in their shoes.

4/19/99
indeterminable
third plural
past

Local culture is a balance of details. **IF SAN JOSE AND SANTA CLARA COUNTY OFFICIALS TOOK** a bit more pride in those details outside of their own yards and workplaces, this would be quite a remarkable place to call home.

- 4/20/99 I see the pictures of the Kosovo refugees' hopeless faces, and I try to
 indeterminable imagine what it would be like **IF OUR NEIGHBORS WERE** to
 third plural suddenly turn on us.
 past
- 4/21/99 Regarding J. Rodriguez's recent articles on "monster houses:" **IF I**
 indeterminable **OWNED** a mid-to lower priced house and someone bought a similar or
 first singular dilapidated house nearby, to either remodel it or tear it down and put up a
 past "monster house," I would thank them from the bottom of my heart.
- 4/22/99 [Clinton] calls the shootings in Colorado a wakeup call for America....
 indicative What about saying "enough is enough" and start working on serious
 third singular gun control laws.... **IF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DECIDES,**
 present again, not to take any action on this, maybe California can take a stand.
- 4/23/99 Some argue that **IF WE OUTLAW** guns, only outlaws will own guns.
 indeterminable
 first plural
 present
- 4/23/99 **IF WE BAN** guns now, in ten years it would be difficult for a criminal to
 indeterminable find one.... If we don't act, guns will only become cheaper and easier to
 first plural come by.
 present

- 4/23/99
indicative
first plural
present
- If we ban guns now, in ten years it would be difficult for a criminal to find one.... **IF WE DON'T ACT**, guns will only become cheaper and easier to come by.
- 4/23/99
indicative
third singular
present
- Following the terrible tragedy in Colorado, the media, including your editorial, have asserted that "what's changed is not the nature of kids, but rather their access to guns..." **IF IT REALLY IS** easier for minors to get guns now, then what you are saying is that gun control laws are counterproductive.
- 4/24/99
indicative
third singular
present
- For decades, the media have exploited the differences in skin color, culture, mind sets, ad nauseum, in the name of fairness, equal opportunity and affirmative action, also ad nauseum.... It is not up to the Supreme Court or the media to force-feed the populace. It is up to the parents to expose their children, from the time that they can crawl, to other children of whatever heritage they happen to be. In fact, **IF THIS EXPOSURE IS** left optional, there will be a time when all citizens of this country will, again, become Americans.
- 4/26/99
indeterminable
third singular
past
- I couldn't disagree more with R. C. The answer is not to get rid of guns, which would be impossible **EVEN IF THE GOVERNMENT TRIED....** As I read the articles of the Littleton shootings, it struck me that there was an overall feeling of helplessness among the victims and others in the school as they pleaded or ran for their lives. How far could the shooters have gone if there were people lawfully carrying firearms on the school campus?
- 4/26/99
indicative
first plural
present
- [...in Washington, Virginia] we have our share of squabbles and paranoia, which Horowitz points out. But Washington also has a spiritual community.... **IF WE ARE**, as Horowitz describes us, "the village of the damned," I wish that all the damned might be so lucky.
(NY)

- 4/27/99
indeterminable
first plural
past
- Since the tragedy in Littleton, I have received a lot of e-mail reacting to these sickening events. **IF WE HAD** more interest before the fact, maybe we could head off these shooting rampages before they happen.
- 5/8/99
indeterminable
third plural
past
- Parents, we cannot blame a mass killing on gothic music and personal fashion. Gun availability is the issue here; twenty years ago, many may have performed the same atrocities **IF ARMS WERE** accessible.
- 5/8/99
modal verb
third singular
present
- IF THE MERCURY NEWS CAN CLAIM** to feel the pain of the people of Colorado and claim to want to be a part of the solution, how on Earth do you justify running gun ads in your sports section?
- 5/8/99
indicative
third singular
past
- Most of the [tobacco] ads are lies. The ad will show a girl with perfect skin and beautiful teeth.... But **IF THAT PERSON WAS** really smoking that product, her teeth would have a yellow tint caused by tar from the cigarettes and her skin would be wrinkled and yellow.
- 5/9/99
indicative
third singular
present
- I was appalled at your editorial condoning the burning of the stars and stripes as a valid method of dissent.... **IF ONE FOLLOWS** your logic, burning a cross in the yard of a black family is perfectly acceptable.

5/10/99
subjunctive
third singular
past

IF HISTORY WERE TAUGHT with the recognition that it, like everyday life, is about decision making in the face of uncertainty (and what we can learn from those decisions), we and our politicians might actually learn something from it. (NY)

5/10/99
indeterminable
third plural
past

California can have up to 250 charter schools operating in 1999-2000. Multiply this by an average of 25 teachers per school who pay union dues each month. **IF ALL OF THESE SCHOOLS WENT** non-union, it would create quite a dent in the revenues collected by the California Teachers Association.

5/11/99
indeterminable
second plural
past

What has the bombing of Yugoslavia accomplished?... **IF YOU WERE TO ASK** the president what we have changed, the truth would be “zero,” nothing.

5/14/99
indeterminable
third plural
present

Nothing better illustrates this country’s muddled attitude toward violence than last Sunday’s “Face the Nation...” The obvious assumption was that our bombs are good bombs, and when they kill and maim foreign nationals, it is no cause for outrage. (Of course, **IF ANOTHER NATION’S BAD BOMBS**, by accident or design, **HARM U.S.** citizens, retaliation would be immediate and devastating.)

5/16/99
indeterminable
third plural
present

Our conduct in this war has made a bad situation worse. Why not halt the bombing completely for three days and tell Slobodan Milosevic that, **IF in that time, HIS FORCES CEASE** the killing and displacement of Kosovars, we will continue the cease-fire for another week, and encourage immediate negotiations?

5/16/99
modal verb
third singular
past

IF ANYTHING GOOD COULD COME OUT of such a tragedy as the massacring of twelve children and one teacher, it is that there is a tremendous outpouring of sympathy and compassion.

5/16/99
indicative
third singular
past

One aspect of the United Way mess which I have not seen addressed is the number of non-profit agencies involved... **IF THIS WAS** private industry there would be plenty of mergers and acquisitions, which would result in better service to the clients and considerably less overhead.

5/17/99
indicative
third singular
present

The [health care] system cannot afford a grab bag of expensive unfunded mandates and regulations that could have the effect of making health care unaffordable. **IF THIS OCCURS**, we may end up with a single-payer, government-run system in California.

5/17/99
subjunctive
third singular
past

It is a desire to care for the sick that attracts nurses to this profession. But the hospitals would have you believe it is because of the money. **IF IT WERE** the money, we would be in a different profession.

5/17/99
indeterminable
first plural
present

Never has the West been so poorly led... Engagement without participation is the Cowardly Clinton approach to everything... **IF WE ESCAPE** without our leaders blundering into a horrendous world-wide conflagration, it will not be because they found a way to avoid it, but by a miracle.

5/19/99
indeterminable
third singular
past

I am shocked that there are still people in this country who cannot see what the Yugoslav army is doing to the people of Kosovo. **WHAT IF THE U.S. ARMY WENT** into Utah and started executing hundreds and thousands of Mormon men?...

5/19/99
indicative
third singular
present

The San Jose Mercury News has been wrong in advocating the unification of Moreland School District.... About half of Prospect's teachers have said that they will leave Prospect **IF MORELAND TAKES OVER.**

5/21/99
indeterminable
third plural
present

Economists estimate that we California taxpayers are already paying over \$1 billion, and possibly as much as \$3 billion, each year to pay for education, medical care, and social services for illegal immigrants. **If things got this bad with Gov. Pete Wilson determinedly trying to close the borders to illegals, imagine how bad it can get IF DAVIS AND LT. GOV. C. BUSTAMENTE LAY** out a welcome mat the border.

5/21/99
indeterminable
third plural
past

Economists estimate that we California taxpayers are already paying over \$1 billion, and possibly as much as \$3 billion, each year to pay for education, medical care, and social services for illegal immigrants. **IF THINGS GOT** this bad with Gov. Pete Wilson determinedly trying to close the borders to illegals, imagine how bad it can get if Davis and Lt. Gov. C. Bustamante lay out a welcome mat the border.

5/21/99
indeterminable
third plural
present

Tell me that the absence of any front-page stories on the Yugoslavian war for two days running was just an oversight, that the responsible employees have been suitably chastised, and that it won't happen again.... Perhaps you'll tell me that you don't give it front page status because the public really doesn't care about a war that is costing us billions, creating chaos and tragedy, and not accomplishing anything worthwhile, so why make it an issue? After all, Page 17A has coverage on "The Attack on Yugoslavia." Anyone *really* interested can find it **IF THEY TRY.**

5/22/99
modal verb
third singular
past

It is unfortunate that all of the media attention was focused upon United Way because it teetered on the brink of bankruptcy.... **IF THERE COULD BE** a more consistent media emphasis on local charities and their ongoing needs, and successes, perhaps it would not take a firestorm to shed light on the problem.

5/22/99
indeterminable
first singular
past

I agree with B. P. when she says that as funding for the arts has decreased in recent years, violence has increased.... I turn to art when I am frustrated.... **IF I CHOSE** violence, then I would be getting into so many problems.

5/23/99
subjunctive
third singular
past

Columnist L. Weimers challenged the community to show that we were actually concerned enough about school safety and violence to do something about it. He gave notice that the San Jose Police Department and prevention agencies from through out San Jose were holding a meeting. The meeting was held—and hardly anyone came.... **IF THIS WERE** an actual test, we as a community failed.

5/24/99
indicative
third singular
present

I'm pleased for local charities that Bill Gates and others have donated more than enough money to cover the United Way's short fall.... **IF THE UNITED WAY WANTS** to regain trust, the current board should resign.

5/25/99
indicative
third singular
present

Although I agree with L. Bickford's comments regarding Clinton's hypocrisy in Hollywood, I was bemused by his reference to the "liberal media..." **IF BICKFORD THINKS** the unrelenting efforts to undermine a centrist president over the past seven was the product of a liberal media, heaven help us if a true liberal becomes our next president.

5/25/99
indicative
third singular
present

Although I agree with L. Bickford's comments regarding Clinton's hypocrisy in Hollywood, I was bemused by his reference to the "liberal media...." If Bickford thinks the unrelenting efforts to undermine a centrist president over the past seven was the product of a liberal media, heaven help us **IF A TRUE LIBERAL BECOMES** our next president.

5/25/99
modal verb
third plural
past

IF ALL EMPLOYERS IN THIS VALLEY WOULD OFFER one of their employees to spend a few hours volunteering for United Way, as my company did, perhaps expenses could be cut further and more awareness created in the workplace as to what donated dollars do.

5/27/99
indeterminable
first singular
past

If I hear Energy Secretary Bill Richardson one more time on one more news show rattle off the litany of all the things he is doing to fix security at our national weapons, I will scream.... I would have somewhat more confidence **IF I HEARD** the Clinton administration speaking about plans for what is to be done given this new reality.

5/27/99
indicative
second singular
present

Advocates of gun control know full well that gun control only disarms those least likely to abuse then weapons... I cannot lose the impression that these people are intentionally trying to make decent people unsafe. **IF YOU ARE** one of these people, please do what is honorable and right: abandon empty and dangerous causes like gun control.

5/27/99
indeterminable
third plural
present

IF BIKERS WANT respect, maybe they should earn it.

- 5/27/99
indeterminable
first singular
present
- IF I HEAR** Energy Secretary Bill Richardson one more time on one more news show rattle off the litany of all the things he is doing to fix security at our national weapons, I will scream.... I would have somewhat more confidence if I heard the Clinton administration speaking about plans for what is to be done given this new reality.
- 5/28/99
indeterminable
second plural
present perfect
- As a National Rifle Association member who actually advocates some of the measures passed last week by the Senate, I have to comment on some of the other events that accompanied the debate. **IF YOU'VE BEEN WATCHING** carefully, you've noted that the Republicans haven't been the only ones shooting themselves in the foot (pun intended).
- 5/28/99
subjunctive
third singular
past
- At Rancho San Antonio County Park, one of the most popular parks in the system, virtually everyone who goes there is actually using the adjacent Midpeninsula trail system.... Since very few people would probably visit the park **IF IT WEREN'T** for the trails, I think the county should share some of the entrance fees with them.
- 5/29/99
indicative
third singular
present
- The Prospect High School teachers who are threatening to leave **IF MEASURE A PASSES** should leave.
- 5/29/99
indeterminable
first plural
present
- As a volunteer with the city of San Jose's anti-graffiti program, I comb the streets every month to erase tags.... One day as I was cleaning a sign, blue van pulled up across the street.... The woman inside honked and angrily pointed at me.... If a 30 year old had been erasing graffiti, this woman would not have said a thing.... **IF WE AS A NATION EXPECT** bad things from our youth, bad things will come.

5/29/99
indicative
third singular
present

More than two thousand registered voters live in the southeastern part of Moreland district, closer to Westmont High School than to Prospect. **IF MORELAND BECOMES K-12**, these neighborhoods will not only lose the ability to attend their neighborhood school, Westmont, but they will no longer be a part of the Campbell High School District.

5/30/99
indeterminable
third plural
present

IF THE LEADERS OF THE UNITED WAY THINK that our community can get by without this crucial labor program and that the work of this staff doesn't help union members and their families, then maybe we need to rethink how relevant the United Way is to our community.

5/30/99
indeterminable
third plural
past

Santa Clara County Sheriff Laurie Smith was elected by a majority of the voters who apparently shared her vision.... Smith doesn't want to contend daily with two potential future rivals in positions of power. The fact remains that she won the election. As a result, she can reorganize the department the way she see fit. **IF THE TABLES WERE** turned, Ruben Diaz or Tom Sing would certainly do the same thing [reorganize the department], and Smith would be back to her previous lower rank.

5/30/99
indicative
first plural
present

IF WE DO NOT CONSIDER controlling our computer and other high-tech exports now, we will face a tremendous threat from China and its allies in the future.

6/2/99
indeterminable
third singular
past

I've always wondered why the insurance industry didn't assume responsibility for building inspections.... **IF THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY HANDLED** inspections, it could field qualified inspectors where the need existed.

6/3/99
indeterminable
first plural
present

Thanks to the vehicle entrance fee adopted by the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, children and families will now be deprived of the right to peacefully walk on a shaded trail, sit under a nice oak tree or nap in the noon sun.... **IF WE LET** the board do this now, it will set a dangerous precedent, and your children will be asking you for money just to go climb a tree.

6/5/99
indicative
third singular
present

To eliminate racism, we all need to look at the facts and see the truth.... Once the truth is known, people would be able to accept that we are all made up of many things and that together, we could accomplish a lot more.... **IF THIS HAPPENS**, America would indeed be the greatest place in the world.

6/5/99
indeterminable
third singular
past

For months now newspapers have been bearing events of tragedy from Kosovo to Colorado. Both events happened because of the lack of tolerance in this world.... If the Serbs would leave Albanians alone, and if the two boys had more respect for others, then maybe each morning we would read about something positive. I think **IF EVERYONE HAD** respect for others, then such tragic events could be avoided.

6/5/99
modal verb
third plural
present

For months now newspapers have been bearing events of tragedy from Kosovo to Colorado. Both events happened because of the lack of tolerance in this world.... **IF THE SERBS WOULD LEAVE** Albanians alone, and if the two boys had more respect for others, then maybe each morning we would read about something positive. I think if everyone had respect for others, then such tragic events could be avoided.

6/5/99
indeterminable
third plural
past

For months now newspapers have been bearing events of tragedy from Kosovo to Colorado. Both events happened because of the lack of tolerance in this world.... If the Serbs would leave Albanians alone, and **IF THE TWO BOYS HAD** more respect for others, then maybe each morning we would read about something positive. I think if everyone had respect for others, then such tragic events could be avoided.

6/7/99	Preventing failure has become the only purpose of war: NATO is fighting for its institutional life. IF FAILURE WILL RID us of an organization that must wage war to survive, then so be it, and good riddance. (NY)
modal verb	
third singular	
future	
6/7/99	IF Senator Tom Hayden and his crew REALLY WANT to reduce accidents, they should not let youngsters drive.
indeterminable	
third plural	
present	
6/8/99	I am afraid that the Mercury News may have done a disservice to the students of Morgan Hill. Anyone who “skimmed” the weekend article (Page 1B, June 6) would get the impression that Morgan Hill’s Measure B is totally flawed. The main focus is on the difficult, time-consuming process that would occur IF THE NEW HIGH SCHOOL WAS BUILT on the Sobrato land in Coyote.
indicative	
third singular	
past	
6/8/99	B. Z. commented on the proposed new power plant near the whistlestop of Coyote, wanting to know why one would want to place this facility in “our backyard.” Power plant siting analyses focus on putting the facility near its customers and near existing natural gas pipelines and high-voltage electric transmission lines in order to minimize the total cost of producing electricity. As far as environmental effects are concerned, I would be surprised IF ONE COULD HEAR the operating power plant outside of its property line over the noise of neighboring Highway 101.
modal verb	
third singular	
past	
6/10/99	Peace in Kosovo seems to be drawing closer thanks to NATO’s resolve, tenacity, and forceful action against Slobodan Milosevic.... NATO needs to display the same empathy toward all refugees, IF ITS ALTRUISM IS to be believed.
indicative	
third singular	
present	

<p>6/10/99 indicative third plural present</p>	<p>I am appalled by the hypocrisy of the American people who condemn the atrocity in Europe, while few bat an eye toward the treatment and persecution of the peasants in Mexico's Chiapas region.... IF AMERICANS ARE concerned about the welfare of people around the world, we must not discriminate.</p>
<p>6/12/99 indeterminable second singular present</p>	<p>IF YOU GET a traffic ticket or have an accident in the time period of your current license, you should take all of the tests that can be devised to assess your driving skills before your license is renewed, regardless of your age.</p>
<p>6/12/99 indeterminable third plural past</p>	<p>Parents, teachers, and others are too soft on kids today.... IF PARENTS, TEACHERS, ELDERS, AND COUNSELORS STOPPED trying to make everything all right and started focusing on dealing with a real issue, kids would be better off. Maybe kids shouldn't be sheltered by their parents.</p>
<p>6/12/99 subjunctive third singular past</p>	<p>For many years, Oregon subscribers have had the option of having their numbers in the White Pages preceded by a large black ball. A note on each directory page points out that the black ball means that unsolicited sales are prohibited by law. This solution is easy to understand and implement. IF THERE WERE to be a subscriber charge for this in California, it should be the one-time charge levied for any other listing change.</p>
<p>6/13/99 indicative third singular present</p>	<p>IF A "SIGNATURE BUILDING" IS NEEDED, then the joint city/San José State Library can be constructed where City Hall is proposed, and save another \$30 million or so by not having to destroy the present, still useful San José State library building.</p>

6/13/99 indeterminable third plural past	I keep reading that the reason our children are performing so poorly in school and testing is that we pay our teachers so little and that IF THEY WERE PAID more, this problem would go away.... If California has difficulty with providing our children with the best education possible, then let us analyze the situation and find out what the problems really are.
6/13/99 indicative third singular present	I keep reading that the reason our children are performing so poorly in school and testing is that we pay our teachers so little and that if they were paid more, this problem would go away.... IF CALIFORNIA HAS difficulty with providing our children with the best education possible, then let us analyze the situation and find out what the problems really are.
6/13/99 indeterminable third plural past	C. T. praises a group of parents who, when asked to observe a moment of silent reflection at a high school commencement, instead recited out loud the Lord's Prayer.... I expect that IF ANY NON-CHRISTIANS SOUGHT to use a public high school event to promote their religious beliefs, C. T. would be the first to demand they respect the principle of separation between church and state.
6/14/99 indeterminable third singular present	S. Kraus would be less frustrated by the price discrepancy of fuel between California and the rest of the United States IF HE LIVED , as I do, in Great Britain.
6/16/99 indeterminable first plural past	The only way for mental disorders to be demystified is for family and friends of those afflicted to speak out.... My son took his own life at age 27, and at the time I was unaware of the hereditary nature of bipolar disorder.... Perhaps knowledge could have made a difference. IF WE ALL SPOKE openly about these illnesses that are as treatable as, say, diabetes, life for the mentally disabled might improve.

6/17/99
indeterminable
third singular
past
Please let us not take the bombing of Yugoslavia as a model for future foreign policy. Even if it has finally achieved its objectives, after a much longer offensive than was expected to be necessary the costs...have all been far too high.... And **IF IN 50 YEARS ALBANIA CAME** to be prosperous while Serbia were still a pariah nation, that would be as much justice as I think we can hope for from this sad situation.

6/19/99
modal verb
second singular
present
I don't understand why your readers are upset with calls from telemarketers.... After the telemarketer's long unbroken sales pitch, I respond with "Thank you for calling. Unfortunately, my religion prohibits transacting any business over the phone. I belong to the Church of Ozology.... **IF YOU WILL GIVE** me your home phone number, I'll have one of our elders contact you."

6/19/99
modal verb
third singular
present
There has been a certain amount of hysteria generated by opponents of the Calpine proposal about pollution. Yet, with all the alarm, there has been no demonstration of significant local effects from power plants. Nor has there been evidence reported of any increase of respiratory ailments or other illnesses in the vicinity of power plants. **IF ANYONE CAN PRODUCE** credible documentation of such local effects, I will be happy to include it with other information on the proposal at a community web page I created...

6/19/99
indicative
third plural
present
If there is no lawful reason to stop someone, then that person's Fourth Amendment rights are being violated.... **IF CITIZENS BELIEVES** [sic] that they have been treated unfairly or prejudicially, they should follow the appropriate steps to file a complaint and have the matter looked into.

6/19/99
indeterminable
third plural
past
The Mercury News editorial on the proposed Calpine Corporation power plant in Coyote Valley was shocking.... I can't help but wonder what the editors' opinion would have been **IF THE MERCURY NEWS OFFICES WERE** located in the same area.

6/19/99 The proposed Metcalf Energy Center in Coyote Valley has no direct
subjunctive benefit for local residents that we could not get **IF IT WERE** to be
third singular located elsewhere in the Bay Area in a heavy industrial zone where
past power lines and gas pipes intersect.

6/20/99 We are all in the same societal boat and ultimately will sink together **IF**
indicative **WE DON'T IMPROVE** the quality of life and the quality of education
first plural for all children and families.
present

6/22/99 If an officer fails to react quickly or properly with an armed suspect, it
indicative may be the very last thing he ever does and fractions of seconds can
second singular spell life or death.... **IF YOU ARE** an armed suspect, with a gun in your
present waistband, under your shirt or coat, are you more likely, or less likely, to
 try and pull your gun if an officer approaches you with his gun out and
 at the ready?

6/22/99 **IF AN OFFICER FAILS** to react quickly or properly with an armed
indicative suspect, it may be the very last thing he ever does and fractions of
third singular seconds can spell life or death.... If you are an armed suspect, with a
present gun in your waistband, under your shirt or coat, are you more likely, or
 less likely, to try and pull your gun if an officer approaches you with his
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6/22/99 If an officer fails to react quickly or properly with an armed suspect, it
indicative may be the very last thing he ever does and fractions of seconds can
third singular spell life or death.... If you are an armed suspect, with a gun in your
present waistband, under your shirt or coat, are you more likely, or less likely, to
 try and pull your gun **IF AN OFFICER APPROACHES** you with his
 gun out and at the ready?

<p>6/22/99 indeterminable first plural present</p>	<p>IF WE ALL UNDERSTAND how the transportation system can be improved, perhaps we trail users and bicyclists can move our elected officials to provide adequate trail and bicycle facilities that improve transportation.</p>
<p>6/24/99 indicative third singular present</p>	<p>IF CALIFORNIA IS sincere in looking for a solution to link San Francisco and Los Angeles, the bullet train is the most ideal solution.</p>
<p>6/25/99 indicative first plural past</p>	<p>A bill is before the House of Representatives to double the President's annual salary to \$400,000. Perhaps IF WE DIDN'T FEEL the need to bribe people into running for office, we could attract a different class of politician.</p>
<p>6/25/99 modal verb third singular present</p>	<p>I was saddened to hear that the San Jose G. I. Forum's annual Mexican-American festivals may be canceled because of unpaid bills.... IF THE G. I. FORUM CAN'T TAKE a critical look at itself, I suggest we find someone else to help us celebrate Latino Pride.</p>
<p>6/26/99 indeterminable first plural present</p>	<p>It is hard for me to understand the attitude of business people who insist on seeing a return on charitable investment.... We have to understand that IF WE TREAT people with respect and care then there will be good repercussions. We may not see the results in this generation, but the next will show it.</p>

6/27/99
indeterminable
third plural
past

We read with interest S. Gonzales' reports on the Santa Clara County civil grand jury. Grand juries do matter and they could matter a great deal more **IF THEIR MEMBERS MORE FULLY REALIZED AND EXPLOITED** their authority.

6/28/99
subjunctive
third singular
past

I am the daughter of an officer who has served his community for over 25 years. He has had to fire his gun only five times during his career; each time, his life depended on his ability to defend himself.... Had he been unable to defend himself, I would have lost my dad long ago.... **IF HE WERE** unable to have access to the tools to protect himself, I could not live with this reality.

6/28/99
indeterminable
third plural
present

IF THE POLICE THINK that retroactive sentencing in cases of abuse is so unfair, why did they overwhelmingly support California's "three strikes" initiative?

6/28/99
indicative
third singular
present

So, the House of Representatives voted to amend the constitution to allow for legislation to ban flag burning.... **IF THE AMENDMENT EVER MAKES** its way into the constitution, I will begin flag burning.

6/29/99
indicative
third singular
present

IF THE MERCURY NEWS HAS any better reasons for its support of the joint resignation of the United Way Board members, I think you owe it to your readers to tell us what they are.

<p>6/30/99 indeterminable third singular past</p>	<p>Your commentaries on gambling made several good points in suggesting that we pause before allowing any more legal gambling.... IF EVERYONE MADE just one bet per year, gambling's "performance" would be equivalent to a horrid investment that loses five percent annually forever.</p>
<p>7/4/99 indicative third singular present</p>	<p>The City of San Jose will be totally irresponsible IF IT ALLOWS the GI Forum to walk away from paying the \$625,000 owed for past Cinco de Mayo and Mexican Independence Day celebrations.</p>
<p>7/4/99 subjunctive third singular past</p>	<p>Medi-Cal pays only a fraction of what a private-paying client pays, and the Medi-Cal system would probably collapse IF IT WERE required to adequately fund the of indigent individuals.... If most people were insured for the high likelihood that they may use long-term care services in their lifetime, there would be far fewer people creating a drain on Medi-Cal.</p>
<p>7/4/99 indeterminable third plural past</p>	<p>Medi-Cal pays only a fraction of what a private-paying client pays, and the Medi-Cal system would probably collapse if it were required to adequately fund the of indigent individuals.... IF MOST PEOPLE WERE INSURED for the high likelihood that they may use long-term care services in their lifetime, there would be far fewer people creating a drain on Medi-Cal.</p>
<p>7/5/99 indicative third singular present</p>	<p>IF CONGRESS WISHES to amend the Constitution and outlaw the burning of the American flag, it ought to also ban the use of the flag in commercial advertising.</p>

7/7/99 indeterminable first plural present	Competition is the key to delivering high-speed Internet access to consumers by phone, cable and satellite.... IF WE LET local and state regulators impose restrictions on deployment of the broadband infrastructure under the guise of “open access,” we can expect the same regulatory, legal and legislative logjam that has delayed the introduction of competition in local phone service.
7/8/99 indeterminable third singular present	To celebrate the Independence Day weekend, I set up an American flag in front of my home. Watching it wave proudly in the afternoon breeze made me think about the proposed constitutional amendment to ban flag desecration.... IF PASSED , this amendment would take away some of our freedoms in an ironic attempt to protect the very symbol of those freedoms.
7/10/99 indicative third singular present	Concern about nuclear weapons should focus on Russia—which has thousands of warheads and delivery systems and an unstable political system—and not China. IF ONE REALLY WANTS to find a set of circumstances for which to blame China, then imagine having its agent deliver evidence of espionage to a CIA office, resulting in a furor that forces the head of the nuclear weapons program in the Department of Energy to resign.
7/10/99 indicative third singular present	Silicon Valley leaders face an important political decision in the coming presidential election.... IF BUSH WINS , a new economic team will change the philosophy and assumptions underpinning the current momentum.
7/10/99 modal verb third plural present	IF OUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES CANNOT provide a quality education for our children, we must take action.

7/10/99
modal verb
third plural
past

It appears that winning has become the sole motivation for political contributors. Unfortunately, it would be nice **IF THESE** newly-found Republican **CONTRIBUTORS WOULD DO** more to promote the Republican Party at home in Silicon Valley.

7/11/99
indeterminable
third plural
past

One has to wonder **IF THE ROLES WERE** reversed, and Vice President Al Gore raised double what the Texas governor has thus far, would M. C. have sat at her word processor and fumes about who decides who is or is not elected?

7/11/99
modal verb
third plural
past

My family and I owe the Mercury News a special thanks for not running tobacco ads in your newspaper.... It would be neat **IF MANY OTHER NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES WOULD FOLLOW UP** your lead.

7/11/99
indeterminable
first plural
present

IF WE WANT to use power for our computers, TVs, lawn lights or pools, we should well expect to suffer the consequences, instead of destroying the ecosystems of far off, pristine areas to support our energy habit.

7/13/99
subjunctive
third singular
past

There is a serious mismatch between the standard math test and the curriculum at the fifth grade level. In almost every school that showed fifth grade scores [in the STAR tests], the lowest score in the group of standard tests was for 5th grade math.... **IF THE CURRICULUM WERE** at fault, we would expect 6th grade math scores to suffer similarly, since a proper foundation would not have been laid the previous year, but they do not.

7/13/99
indicative
third singular
present

As a long time urban gardener and composter, I heard from friends about the UC Regents' wish to make money by selling the land in Santa Clara currently used for the Bay Area Research and Extension Center.... **IF THIS LAND IS SOLD**, the loss of ongoing agricultural research and gardening information specific to the Bay Area will be profound.

7/14/99
indeterminable
first plural
present

Those who criticize President Clinton's proposal to add prescription drug coverage to Medicare fail to take into consideration some salient points.... The critics are right in one sense: Taxpayers will pay more. **But they will pay more than twice as much IF WE SKIMP** on drug coverage now and have to pony up millions for the hospital care that will inevitably result later.

7/15/99
indeterminable
third plural
past

We home-school our son now. But we also tell our politicians, everywhere and often, that our vote will go to those who fund education, not to those who would solve every perceived problem with a prison sentence. **IF ENOUGH PARENTS DID** this, schools wouldn't need bake sales.

7/17/99
indicative
third singular
present

IF BURNING FIREWOOD IS twelve times more carcinogenic than cigarette smoke, is the forest the next target for lawsuits?

7/18/99
indeterminable
third plural
present

H. J. blames the Internet for worsening equality between rich and poor states.... **IF STATES FAIL** to make a transition to a capitalist economy, their economies will stagnate and fall behind.

- 7/18/99
indeterminable
third singular
past
- B.K.'s claim that the KPFA radio station manager's firing of rebellious employees constitutes "censorship" is laughable. How long does he think that a news anchor at KTVU would last **IF HE BEGAN** to lambaste the station manager at the end of the 10 o'clock news?
- 7/19/99
indicative
third singular
past
- In 1996, Suhrkamp published a German translation of my account of a wartime childhood in Poland. It is entitled "Dobryd." I chose to write it as fiction, because, like Aharon Appelfeld, I did not trust the factual accuracy of my recollections.... It was suggested to me that the book would sell much better **IF IT WAS** reclassified as nonfiction. (NY)
- 7/19/99
indicative
third singular
present
- Everywhere you look in San Jose these days you see a building built by Cisco. They make the products that make networking possible in the highest tech area of the country.... **IF CISCO'S PRODUCT IS** such a revolutionary idea, why isn't it and similar companies leading a revolution back to a better quality of life for all of us?
- 7/20/99
modal verb
first plural
past
- I still call myself a feminist but feminism failed. It was not our intention to merely join the competitive world of men; we wanted to change it. We thought **IF WE COULD GET** a bit of power we could reduce reliance on war.
- 7/20/99
indicative
third singular
present
- It's possible that Kennedy could have been saved if the rules had stated that a pilot must be certified to fly instruments **IF HE IS LIKELY TO ENCOUNTER** low visibility conditions during the time of his flight.

7/21/99
indicative
third singular
present

IF THERE IS any similarity between Kosovo and Kashmir, it is that in both cases credible evidence exists of the militants link's to drug money.

7/21/99
subjunctive
third singular
past

The model of the new San Jose City Hall complex certainly looks uninspired **IF IT WERE** the final design.

7/22/99
subjunctive
third singular
past

I take Caltrain (with my bike) pretty much every day between Palo Alto and San Francisco, and I wouldn't give it up **EVEN IF GAS WERE** free...

7/23/99
subjunctive
third singular
past

While it is always sad when young people die, I question why the American taxpayers are footing the bill for JFK, Jr., his wife, and her sister's burial at sea. I doubt that Defense Secretary William Cohen would even take our call **IF ONE OF US TAXPAYERS WERE** to request such treatment.

7/23/99
indicative
third singular
present

Thanks for the fine article about PBS station KTEH and its financial woes.... **IF KTEH GOES** under, viewers will definitely notice a precipitous drop in the already declining number of insightful television shows.

7/23/99
indicative
third singular
present

As a former insurance adjuster, I offer this about Senate Bill 1237: California, prepare for increased insurance rates. **IF THIS IS SIGNED** into law, litigation will skyrocket.... If claimants have a legitimate claim, the insurance company will pay or be made to pay by the courts.

7/23/99
indeterminable
third plural
past

Fining beggars sounds like one of the most counterproductive ordinances I've heard of.... If they had hundreds of dollars to pay the fine, they probably would not be out begging in the first place. **IF ALL CITIES MAINTAINED** such facilities and opened them to the public, then the homeless could visit other localities in search of jobs.

7/23/99
indeterminable
third plural
present

As a former insurance adjuster, I offer this about Senate Bill 1237: California, prepare for increased insurance rates. If this is signed into law, litigation will skyrocket.... **IF CLAIMANTS HAVE** a legitimate claim, the insurance company will pay or be made to pay by the courts.

7/24/99
indicative
third singular
present

I believe that AMC is making a huge mistake. They would be much better served if they just made a policy of "no babies at non-G-rated films." **IF AMC WANTS** to change admission for babies and toddlers, then it should be prepared to accommodate them with changing stations, small kid-sized toilets, low sinks, and diaper dispensing machines in the restrooms.

7/24/99
indeterminable
third plural
past

I believe that AMC is making a huge mistake. They would be much better served **IF THEY JUST MADE** a policy of "no babies at non-G-rated films." If AMC wants to change admission for babies and toddlers, then it should be prepared to accommodate them with changing stations, small kid-sized toilets, low sinks, and diaper dispensing machines in the restrooms.

7/24/99 indicative third singular present	As a member of a family that has taken part in the Santa Clara County Fair for nearly fifty years, I feel that it is important to let the public know what is happening to our fair.... IF THE NUMBER OF EXHIBITORS AND FAIR VISITORS GOES down, the fair board can say that there is reason to replace the agricultural exhibits with amphitheater and parking lots.
7/24/99 indeterminable third plural present	The San Jose Branch of the NAACP applauds your editorial opposing the formation of an European American Firefighters Association in the San Jose Fire Department.... IF THE LEADERS OF THIS NEW GROUP REALLY WANT to improve human relations, they should abandon this ill-conceived idea and focus on healing race relations in the fire department.
7/25/99 indeterminable first singular past	Would I throw away my TV? No. Why? Because I don't use my TV for watching TV. I use it for watching movies on DVD.... IF I HAD KIDS , I would keep my TV set and DVD player in a locked room.
7/26/99 indeterminable first singular past	K. E. has it all wrong about telecommuting and how we should do it whenever possible. She goes on to say how we should spend more time with family, develop a social life, breathe cleaner air and be healthier.... No, no, no. I for one enjoy being stuck like a prisoner on death row in traffic.... IF I HAD the time, I would then have to take emotional risks, attempt to date once again and do all sorts of other emotionally terrifying things.
7/29/99 indeterminable third singular past	Regarding J. C.'s assessment of the day worker situation in Los Altos and Mountain View: Driving through an intersection hardly constitutes knowledge of the situation. IF J. C. OWNED a business in this area, or patronized any of the nearby businesses, her assessment might be different.

<p>7/29/99 indeterminable third singular past</p>	<p>The Udall Act, enacted in 1997, authorizes \$100 million on research focused on Parkinson's disease. To date only 40 percent has been spent on Parkinson's disease. The rest is spent on unrelated research. Some medical funding is focused up to 99 percent.... IF FULLY FUNDED, the Udall Act would correct these disparities.</p>
<p>7/31/99 indicative third singular present</p>	<p>M. S. evidently has strong feelings regarding the separation of church and state. But why does he oppose a small community of Orthodox Jews who want to construct a symbolic wall that has little impact on others?... IF TRUE SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE IS what you are fighting for, you lost the fight a long time ago.</p>
<p>7/31/99 indicative third singular present</p>	<p>Career advancement was not the impetus to create the Peace Corps, but IF THAT IS now a recruitment positioning, it will only lead to disillusionment.</p>
<p>7/31/99 indicative third singular present</p>	<p>IF A CHURCH WANTS to install a bell, would it be fair to deny the bell since it might require city approval?</p>
<p>8/1/99 subjunctive third singular past</p>	<p>I find it very hard to imagine that an internal malfunction, as the government contends, could have caused the explosion aboard the aircraft [TWA Flight 800].... Have you ever heard of a fuel tank simply exploding without some huge external force first being applied? IF THIS WERE FEASIBLE a feasible condition, it would have occurred at least once or twice.</p>

- 8/2/99
subjunctive
third singular
past
- Viruses and other microorganisms seem to be evolving at a rate that supersedes the rate at which scientists can research and produce new cures. The introduction of the AIDS virus into the human population, for instance, has been catastrophic; this virus would be even more deadly **IF IT WERE AIRBORNE** (as it easily could have been). (NY)
- 8/2/99
subjunctive
third singular
past
- Certainly, looting and theft, not to mention any other mayhem that may have transpired at Rome, N.Y., is unacceptable. Having attended "A Day In The Garden," last year's much smaller concert at the original Woodstock site, I do have some sympathy with those asked to pay \$4 for bottled water when the only alternative was diarrhea-causing water.... Nevertheless, **WERE IT NOT** for Peter Townshend's performance that day, I would be hard-pressed to find any reason to attend such an affair in those conditions.
- 8/3/99
indeterminable
first plural
past
- We should all feel sorry for the starving and dying children of Iraq, but we should not shoulder the blame. **IF WE DOUBLED OR TRIPLED** the amount of oil Iraq could sell to the rest of the world, the extra income would only go to furthering the military control instead of feeding and medicating the children.
- 8/3/99
subjunctive
third singular
past
- You were correct to write that the tax cut, as conceived, would be counter-productive and unfair.... And it is unfair because the vast majority of the cut goes to the very most wealthy. You might have added that even if this were not the case, listening to the Republicans about tax policy is like listening to Typhoid Mary for advice on public health. Then in 1993 they told us that **IF PRESIDENT CLINTON'S FIRST BUDGET WERE PASSED**, calamity would ensue.
- 8/3/99
indeterminable
third singular
present
- S. Peterson's use of personal income tax numbers is highly disingenuous.... Peterson's own professed beliefs belie his arguments. **IF HE REALLY BELIEVED** that "individuals have a primary right to the product of their own labor," he would be supporting your editorial, since typically the income of the highest earners is derived not from labor but from capital—that is, from other people's labor.

8/4/99
indeterminable
third singular
past

Thank you for the enlightening article about R. Hyman.... **IF ANY OF YOUR READERS HAD** any doubts about the potential impact of the Internet on empowering consumers to take charge of their own health care, this article should dispel those doubts.

8/4/99
indeterminable
third plural
past

Thank you for having the courage to speak in opposition to the insanity of our nation's punishing economic sanctions against the children of Iraq. I truly believe that the people of the United States would also demand a lifting of the sanctions **IF THEY READ** similar editorials in their hometown papers. Maybe then Washington would listen.

8/5/99
indicative
third singular
present

It's time for the board and management of KTEH to stop making excuses and begin an aggressive campaign to partner with the valley's top businesses.... **IF KTEH IS** not available, we'll be dependent on what a San Francisco station believes is the right programming for us.

8/5/99
indicative
third singular
present

I'm glad the Mercury News is making an effort to publicize the Santa Clara County Fair.... **IF THE FAIR BOARD THINKS** that replacing the fair with concert venues will do the trick, they need not count on my support.

8/6/99
indeterminable
second plural
present

How can you save the [county] fair by moving it to May and virtually eliminating the 4-H participation of approximately 1,000 kids who are preserving the Valley's agricultural heritage?... **IF YOU WANT** to preserve the valley's heritage, then help continue the 4-H'ers of this valley by allowing them to have a venue to exhibit their hard work.

- 8/6/99
indeterminable
third plural
past
- R. B. fails to address several important issues. He flaunts the fact that the GI Generation laid the groundwork for where we are today by building highways, schools and winning the Cold War. But **IF THEY LAID** this groundwork, where's their responsibility for overspending and fiscal mismanagement while leaving future generations with the reality of a bankrupt Social Security system?
- 8/7/99
modal verb
third singular
present
- Once again, we are subjected to knee-jerk calls for gun control when liberals are forced to face the obvious: that some people are just bad and will kill **IF SOCIETY CAN NOT OR WILL NOT DEAL** with them. If we are to stop killers by regulating the means of killing, we will need not only gun control, but knife control, bat control, hammer control and, ultimately, every-object control.
- 8/7/99
indeterminable
first singular
past
- Palo Alto has started to ticket drivers of large sized vehicles—including SUVs, trucks and vans—found in city owned parking lots and garages. I am a driver of a SUV, and **IF GIVEN** a choice I wouldn't park my vehicle in such a space.... If you start ticketing compact vehicles who park in the full-size spots, you won't see drivers of big vehicles parking in those little spots in the first place.
- 8/7/99
indeterminable
second plural
present
- Palo Alto has started to ticket drivers of large sized vehicles—including SUVs, trucks and vans—found in city owned parking lots and garages. I am a driver of a SUV, and if given a choice I wouldn't park my vehicle in such a space.... **IF YOU START** ticketing compact vehicles who park in the full-size spots, you won't see drivers of big vehicles parking in those little spots in the first place.
- 8/7/99
modal verb
third plural
past
- With apologies to the late John Lennon: Imagine if there were no guns. Imagine **IF PEOPLE COULD GO** to work each day without the fear of being murdered while trying to do their jobs.

8/7/99
indicative
first plural
present

Once again, we are subjected to knee-jerk calls for gun control when liberals are forced to face the obvious: that some people are just bad and will kill if society cannot or will not deal with them.... **IF WE ARE** to stop killers by regulating the means of killing, we will need not only gun control, but knife control, bat control, hammer control and, ultimately, every-object control.

8/7/99
subjunctive
third singular
past

With apologies to the late John Lennon: Imagine **IF THERE WERE NO GUNS**. Imagine if people could go to work each day without the fear of being murdered while trying to do their jobs.

8/8/99
indicative
third singular
present

The Mercury News refuses to associate the drop in the violent crime rate with locking up violent criminals. Many think there is a direct connection. **IF IT DOES COST \$20,000** per year per incarceration, how many lives do we have to save by your standards to justify the cost. If the members of the Legislature start tinkering with the law, we will again by initiative override them until they finally get it.

8/8/99
indeterminable
third plural
present

The Mercury News refuses to associate the drop in the violent crime rate with locking up violent criminals. Many think there is a direct connection. If it does cost \$20,000 per year per incarceration, how many lives do we have to save by your standards to justify the cost. **IF THE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE START** tinkering with the law, we will again by initiative override them until they finally get it.

8/8/99
indicative
third singular
past

Imagine the tax cut we could have **IF THERE WAS** no debt.

8/9/99
indeterminable
third plural
past

I find it curious that people who own older houses in the hills object to newer houses in the hills. To me they all mar the beauty of the scenery. **IF THESE PEOPLE WERE** truly sincere, then they would have their houses razed and come live with us down here in the valley.

8/9/99
indicative
third singular
present

Your editorial on Iraq raises difficult questions.... **IF THE ECONOMIC SANCTIONS ARE LIFTED**, there is no way to assure that the additional funds will go to the people.

8/9/99
indeterminable
first plural
present

Thank you for your spotlight on the catastrophic effect of the economic sanctions on the innocent children of Iraq.... How can we call ourselves civilized **IF WE ARROGANTLY PERSUE** this inhuman policy of destroying an entire generation of children, whose only fault it was to be born in Iraq?

8/9/99
indeterminable
third plural
past

It is commendable that the Mercury News has shown concern over the living conditions of ordinary Iraqis living under United Nations sanctions.... **IF THE SANCTIONS WERE** lifted as you advocate, the ones to benefit would not be the Iraqi people.

8/10/99
indicative
first plural
present

You deplore “putting government in the role of policing speech,” (Opinion, Aug. 6) but you are really talking about conduct between persons in the workplace. It’s time to realize that the free speech clause has nothing whatever to do with the situation.... **IF WE ARE** truly concerned about conduct which demeans another, we might look to the Declaration of Independence.

<p>8/10/99 indicative third plural present</p>	<p>After reading the essentials of Rep. Zoe Lofgren's BRAIN Act, one thinks Lofgren has been brainwashed by the high tech corporations. Her plan is simple. There is a reputed shortage of high tech workers. There is a pool of foreign students in our universities with the proper degrees. The BRAIN Act bypasses current immigration limits to hire these individuals. IF THE IMMIGRATION LIMITS ARE NOT INCREASED, then there will be a decrease in the supply of high tech workers, which will drive up demand and this increase the salaries for high tech workers now in this country...</p>
<p>8/12/99 indicative third singular present</p>	<p>We now have the immoral system where working families pay taxes so 90-year-old Granny can have free heart surgery, while at the same time they cannot afford health care for themselves and their own kids. IF GRANNY WANTS a new automobile, television or computer, new kidneys or knee joints, more medicine, dentures, hearing aid, hip replacement, cataract surgery, etc., that is all wonderful, as long as she pays for it herself.</p>
<p>8/16/99 indeterminable first plural present</p>	<p>I am amused by the rationale offered by the creationists. [Page 1A, Aug. 12] states that "creationists say God directly created human and other species. They say that since evolution cannot be observed or replicated in a laboratory, there is not evidence that it occurred." IF WE EMBRACE their rationale, I would like to have them measured by their own criterion.</p>
<p>8/17/99 indicative third singular present</p>	<p>I am very much against having a crematorium right next to the elementary school.... San Jose wants to be known as the efficient, high-tech capital of the world. IF THE CREMATORIUM IS approved by the city council, the banners welcoming visitors to San Jose can then be updated to read, "San Jose pumps out silicon wafers and burns bodies in factory/warehouses cheaper, faster and more efficiently than anyone else in the world."</p>
<p>8/17/99 indeterminable third plural past</p>	<p>I suggest we consider alternative methods of dealing with violence in school settings, such as those employed in Israel, like arming teachers. I know this is considered a radical proposal in America, but these are terrorist acts. Perhaps the outcome would have been different in Colorado and Los Angeles IF THOSE WHO SHOT KIDS KNEW that they may have met some resistance before committing their acts of terror.</p>

<p>8/17/99 indicative third singular present</p>	<p>Regarding P. F.'s commentary on "Air Rage": What's the big deal? Perhaps she would benefit from looking at the big picture.... IF P. F. DOESN'T LIKE traveling by plane, then drive a car.</p>
<p>8/20/99 indeterminable first plural present</p>	<p>The tragic shooting at the Jewish Community Center in Los Angeles last week horrified many of us.... IF WE CONTINUE to focus primarily on our rights to bear arms and freedom of speech in the face of ignorant intolerance and violence, we will bury more of our children needlessly.</p>
<p>8/21/99 indicative first plural present</p>	<p>Your editorial regarding the BART extension to San Jose was very well presented. This is an opportunity to make some very good or very bad decisions.... IF WE ARE GOING to have a world class city, we are going to need a direct train connection to our airport.</p>
<p>8/21/99 indeterminable third singular past</p>	<p>As much as I enjoy riding trains (BART included), it doesn't make since [sic] to bring BART to the Silicon Valley unless it will be a part of a solution to our traffic problems.... IF 10% OF THE PEOPLE CHOSE to use transit, there would be 300,000 fewer cars on the road.</p>
<p>8/23/99 indeterminable first plural present</p>	<p>J. C.'s article is another in a long series of reports about the supposed horrors of nuclear waste storage. IF WE WAIT, as the scenario suggests, another 500,000 years, or even half that time, the dangerous wastes, even the much-maligned plutonium, will have decayed away.</p>

8/24/99 **IF GEORGE W. BUSH DID NOT USE cocaine he would have said so; therefore we must assume that he did.**
indeterminable
third singular
past

8/24/99 **I found the article headlined “Gene Splice Tames Mice Who Cat Around” interesting and informative. But it also contained an inaccuracy.... It would be unfortunate IF READERS BELIEVED that injecting DNA into mice could cause behavior changes.**
indeterminable
third plural
past

8/24/99 **San Jose Unified School District is contemplating a flying leap into our brave new world dominated by rampant hucksterism and mindless greed. A Mercury News story tells us that the district will pay a marketing firm \$322, 760 plus a hefty annual contract maintenance fee to broker a deal with Pepsi or Coca-Cola for exclusive rights to sell their product on all campuses.... I hope the school board will resist this latest assault on the higher mission of schools. IF WE SELL out our principles, we should not be surprised how slippery the slope becomes.**
indeterminable
first plural
present

8/25/99 **IF CUSTOMERS ARE ALLOWED to sue HMOs rather than using arbitration, juries would award gigantic sums to the claimants because of emotional content and not the validity of the suits.**
indicative
third plural
present

8/26/99 **Did someone legalize cocaine when I wasn't looking?... IF WE'RE ready to accept the blots on the past of George W. Bush, then we should be a lot more open to everyone else.**
indicative
first plural
present

<p>8/26/99 indeterminable third plural past</p>	<p>L. Quarnstrom writes that the Santa Cruz City Council should indeed, keep a Boarders bookstore from opening in Santa Cruz.... IF LANDLORDS REFUSED to rent to folks they didn't happen to like, I imagine Quarnstrom and the city council would be all over them for discrimination.</p>
<p>8/27/99 indicative third singular present</p>	<p>I strongly support of [sic] AB518, which would provide legal protection to those who set up needle exchange programs.... IF IT IS VETOED, thousands more will die and the spread of AIDS will not slowed [sic].</p>
<p>8/27/99 indeterminable second plural present</p>	<p>Circus elephants and other circus animals are abused and cruelly mistreated for no other reason than to "entertain" people and make money for the company.... IF YOU CARE about animals, boycott the circuses that use them. If you decide to attend anyway, go with an informed decision and the knowledge that you are perpetuating the cruelty.</p>
<p>8/27/99 indeterminable second plural present</p>	<p>Circus elephants and other circus animals are abused and cruelly mistreated for no other reason than to "entertain" people and make money for the company.... If you care about animals, boycott the circuses that use them. IF YOU DECIDE to attend anyway, go with an informed decision and the knowledge that you are perpetuating the cruelty.</p>
<p>8/28/99 indicative third singular present</p>	<p>The difference between religion and science is that science is self-correcting. So IF SCIENCE EVER LEARNS that evolution is wrong, it will be the first attempt to accept the null hypothesis.</p>

8/28/99 indicative first plural present	In recent days, you've published two anti-evolution screeds on your letters page.... IF WE ARE to teach about the origins of life in science class, we should take a scientific approach.
8/28/99 indeterminable first plural present	IF WE WANT a better world, we must treat all people as equal and strive to bring the benefits of modern technology to all in an effort to eliminate poverty and the terrible things that go with it.
8/28/99 modal verb third singular present	D. I.'s commentary on global warming was insightful and carried an important message for the energy companies: Big oil may be held financially liable to property owners, farmers, the insurance industry and others for the economic and environmental catastrophes caused by global warming.... IF IT CAN BE PROVEN in court that the oil industry participated in spurious propaganda campaigns and actively avoided marketing available renewable energies, it may end up on the losing side of large class-action lawsuits.
8/29/99 modal verb third singular present	The nation is literally hemorrhaging from crimes of violence predicated on racism, ethnic hatred, religious hatred and fanaticism, and sexism.... Perhaps there should be a retraction of the adage that "sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can never hurt me." IF IT CAN ONLY BE acknowledged that words do hurt, perhaps there would be no need for them to be supplemented by sticks and stones.
8/29/99 indeterminable second plural present	I urge those who are not registered in a party to change your registration IF YOU WANT your vote for the presidential candidate of your choice to really count.

8/30/99
indeterminable
third plural
past

We can't all become intellectual geniuses with enough work—after all, no amount of hockey practice will turn me into Wayne Gretzky. But what **IF CHILDREN WERE ENCOURAGED** to approach academic learning in the same spirit in which they approach physical activity? (NY)

8/30/99
indicative
third plural
present

The women of America should tell Senator John McCain and the Republican Party that we will vote to repeal Roe vs. Wade when the men vote to ban the sale of Viagra. It is unfortunate that those in the Republican Party feel tied to repealing this law. **IF THEY ARE** so set against abortion, perhaps a few male Republican Senators, or former Senators, can appear in advertisements for birth control.

8/31/99
indicative
third singular
present

After calling for the lifting of economic sanctions against Iraq just four weeks ago, a Mercury News editorial concluded that the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors has no business speaking out on the issue. The editorial was prompted by the fact that local activist groups approached the supervisors about passing a resolution calling for lifting the sanctions.... **IF THE BOARD PASSES** the resolution, its action won't change Washington's policy.

jussive

1/6/99
subjunctive
third singular
present

I SUGGEST THE U. S. STOP admonishing other countries regarding their poor human rights records while we are, at the same time, actively supporting some of the worst offenders in the world.

1/12/99
subjunctive
third singular
present

I SUGGEST THAT REP. LOFGREN STOP whining about the “zealotry” and “misuse of impeachment.” For every person she’s found “racked with sobs” over the impeachment, I found counterparts who firmly state they would not vote for Bill Clinton if he were running for president today.

1/19/99
subjunctive
third singular
present

The writer also told of how boring and uncomfortable it was to sit during the [impeachment] trial. May I SUGGEST HE GIVE up his seat to an adult who is able to sit still, pay attention, and accurately report the event rather than question its existence.

1/21/99
subjunctive
third singular
present

One of your letter writers disavowed his allegiance to one of our two major political parties and planned to change his voter registration to “decline to state....” I WOULD LIKE TO SUGGEST THAT HE GIVE the other parties some serious consideration.

2/7/99
indicative
third singular
present

If we want to move the collective housing for the Bay Area jobs closer in, I SUGGEST THE FIRST THING IS to give cities the necessary tools.

2/8/99
indeterminable
third plural
present

It is becoming abundantly clear that the Republican Party is not Y2K compliant and will shut down 1/1/00. I SUGGEST THAT THEY CONCENTRATE a little more on staying on line with their constituents, and a little less in trying to ram their solutions down our throats.

<p>2/12/99 subjunctive third plural present</p>	<p>Why should correctional peace officers have fewer constitutional rights than the inmates they supervise? Your recent editorial accuses us of impeding investigations into alleged abuses by prison officers.... Our only DEMAND WAS THAT THE OFFICERS BE ALLOWED legal counsel before answering questions.</p>
<p>2/22/99 indeterminable first plural present</p>	<p>P. M. says she doesn't think any racist images should be used as mascots.... If it is determined that these names are degrading, then ANIMAL RIGHTS ACTIVISTS WILL EVENTUALLY INSIST WE TREAT ANIMALS equally and cease using demeaning team names such as Bengals, Bears, and Dolphins.</p>
<p>2/24/99 subjunctive third plural present</p>	<p>The Preservation Action Council has been impressed with our new mayor. We like his policies which include an open government and an interest in preserving our city's historic resources.... WE SUGGEST THAT ALL PROJECTS WHICH THREATEN CERTAIN HISTORIC STRUCTURES BE PUT ON HOLD until alternatives to their destruction can be openly discussed.</p>
<p>2/25/99 modal verb third singular past</p>	<p>TO SUGGEST THAT THE USE OF FLUORIDE SHOULD BE LEFT to the choice of the individual suggests that every member of our community has equal access to fluoride and dental treatment.</p>
<p>3/6/99 indeterminable third plural present</p>	<p>Your article on the recent decision to close some unauthorized trails in the El Corte de Madera Open Space Preserve focused on the dispute between some bikers and the district. I RECOMMEND THAT UNHAPPY BIKERS LEARN more about hillside damage and the flooding and destruction to wildlife it can cause both near and far from the trail area.</p>

- 3/10/99
subjunctive
third singular
present
- I agree with your editorial that says San Jose should resist any cable rate increases by TCI.... **I WOULD SUGGEST THAT THE CITY INQUIRE** strongly into reasons why their rate-resistant stand has not been acted upon.
- 3/29/99
subjunctive
third singular
present
- Mr. Denby suggests that "Life Is Beautiful" represents "a benign form of Holocaust denial," but both the film's humor and its poignance depend upon the audience's remembrance of the Holocaust.... Denby's **INSISTENCE THAT A SUCCESSFUL HOLOCAUST COUNTER-FANTASY DEPICT** the Nazis' fiendish efficiency assumes that a movie's viewers, like Benigni's son, will believe that the showers are just showers until they're shown otherwise. (NY)
- 4/3/99
subjunctive
third singular
present
- Your editorial on Stanford land use planning sets an excellent example for the university and the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors. **I SUGGEST THAT THE LAND USE PLAN** approved by the board of supervisors **GRANT** Stanford a vested right for future development in the foothills based on current zoning regulations.
- 4/11/99
subjunctive
third singular
present
- If we are looking for quiet in the nicest restaurants, maybe we should encourage a cell phone instead of a dinner partner? And, maybe even better, **SUGGEST THE PATRON DINE** alone?
- 4/17/99
indeterminable
second singular
present
- Columnist L. Quarnstrom wrote about the death of K.G and the problem of illegal drugs in downtown Santa Cruz.... Quarnstrom's take on "heroin chic" is appreciated.... Quarnstrom's comments suggest that addiction is a choice; if it were so, it would not be an addiction. **I SUGGEST** in the future **THAT WHEN WRITING** about the passing of another human being, **CONSIDER** the people who are deeply saddened and in the process of trying to live life without their loved one even if you disagree with a person's lifestyle, that does not mean that you have to forget your compassion.

<p>4/20/99 subjunctive third singular present</p>	<p>I WOULD SUGGEST THAT D. P. GET all the facts about how much the country spends and receives in revenues from San Carlos Airport before he tries to sway opinion based on conjecture.</p>
<p>5/5/99 indeterminable third plural present</p>	<p>As a lifelong contributor to United Way of Santa Clara County, perhaps I am naive to SUGGEST to those 30 employees who were granted twice the severance pay associated with the private sector THAT THEY VOLUNTARILY CONTRIBUTE half their gross severance pay back to the United Way.</p>
<p>5/19/99 indeterminable first plural present</p>	<p>V. C. M. was right on target until she bizarrely claimed that the breakdown of families was due to corporate America's INSISTENCE THAT WE PARTICIPATE in a mobile society. This piece of psycho-babble is so far from the truth as to be laughable if it weren't for people like her spreading this foolishness.</p>
<p>5/22/99 subjunctive third singular present</p>	<p>Charlton Heston and his gang could truly benefit from the balanced advice offered by M. Purdy, as HE SUGGESTS THAT THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOLLOW the breweries' lead. Being a "good guy" in the public view will yield great dividends to the NRA.</p>
<p>5/23/99 indicative third plural present</p>	<p>The story is both frightening and mind boggling. Chinese money flowing to the Clinton and the Democratic National Committee, while our nuclear and missile technology was simultaneously given away and stolen. Someday, when we have a real Attorney General, let's INSIST THAT ANY SUSPECTED OFFICIALS OF EITHER PARTY ARE properly investigated, convicted and punished.</p>

- 5/25/99
indeterminable
third plural
present
- The more that news of a crime is repeated, the more copycats will consider this as a way to become as notable as the shooters in Colorado. **I SUGGEST THAT THE MEDIA TELL the story, the whole story, and only the story, and then go on to other news.**
- 6/1/99
subjunctive
third singular
present
- For many years now, on Good Fridays, my family and I have participated in a prayer vigil at the gates of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.... Our small prayer group now commands 100 Livermore police, sheriffs, university police and California Highway Patrol officers.... In light of the congressional report detailing a vast spy network... **I WOULD SUGGEST OUR POLICE EFFORT BE DIRECTED** inside the laboratories where the real crime is committed.
- 6/9/99
indeterminable
first plural
present
- I PROPOSE THAT WE REALLY GET** serious about year round schools.... Teachers should be paid a salary equivalent to the private sector. I would suggest that senior teachers get a salary of maybe \$60,000 or \$70,000.
- 6/9/99
indeterminable
third plural
present
- I propose that we really get serious about year round schools.... Teachers should be paid a salary equivalent to the private sector. **I WOULD SUGGEST THAT SENIOR TEACHERS GET** a salary of maybe \$60,000 or \$70,000.
- 6/25/99
indeterminable
first plural
present
- I was saddened to hear that the San Jose G.I. Forum's annual Mexican-American festivals may be canceled because of unpaid bills.... If the G.I. Forum can't take a critical look at itself, **I SUGGEST WE FIND** someone else to help us celebrate Latino Pride.

6/26/99
subjunctive
third singular
present

C. Honaker, executive director of "Wings Over Moffet," said there were only a few transportation glitches at the show. **I SUGGEST THAT HONAKER OWN UP** to the enormous problems and figure out how to do it better.

6/30/99
indeterminable
first plural
present

Your commentaries on gambling made several good points in **SUGGESTING THAT WE PAUSE** before allowing any more legal gambling. If everyone made just one bet per year, gambling's "performance would be equivalent to a horrid investment that loses five percent annually forever.

7/3/99
subjunctive
third singular
present

From my experience of air combat in Korea and Vietnam and as a POW, I have developed two simple tests which I mentally apply to all candidates. I will vote for the candidate who passes my test.... **I SUGGEST THAT W. D. GET** as many people as possible to devise tests of their own based on their own lives.

7/7/99
subjunctive
third plural
present

For \$25 million, we will have an open space preserve along Highway 17 where we will be able to continue to admire the green hills and open space on our way to Santa Cruz.... **I WOULD SUGGEST THAT 50 LOTS ON 50 ACRES BE SOLD** for \$500,000 each.

7/17/99
subjunctive
third plural
present

National legislators earn about \$140,000 per year, with generous pension benefits. **I PROPOSE THAT THE SALARY AND PENSION BENEFITS BE REDUCED** by 25% after six full years in office.

<p>7/31/99 indeterminable first plural present</p>	<p>I SUGGEST THAT after the politically necessary expenditures are made to shore up our Social Security and Medicare systems, WE REDRESS the neglect of our schools.</p>
<p>8/1/99 subjunctive third singular present</p>	<p>Rather than fining small business owners, I SUGGEST THAT A LAW BE PASSED that requires that every pack of cigarettes sold in California come with a disposable ashtray.</p>
<p>8/4/99 subjunctive third plural present</p>	<p>Americans should not remain silent any longer, because the sanctions on Iraq are immoral. We hope that your article will inspire people to DEMAND THAT THE SANCTIONS BE LIFTED.</p>
<p>8/12/99 modal verb third singular past</p>	<p>An August 5th LETTER SUGGESTED THAT KTEH SHOULD BE FUNDED by more companies in the Silicon Valley.</p>
<p>8/17/99 indeterminable first plural present</p>	<p>I SUGGEST WE CONSIDER alternative methods of dealing with violence in school settings, such as those employed in Israel, like arming teachers. I know this is considered a radical proposal in America, but these are terrorist acts. Perhaps the outcome would have been different in Colorado and Los Angeles if those who shot kids knew that they may have met some resistance before committing their acts of terror.</p>

8/18/99
indeterminable
third singular
present

In the wake of recent tragedies, national discussions on gun control and violence on television are warranted.... We must attack the source of this despicable glorification of violence against Jews, Asians, blacks, Latinos and gays.... **WE MUST INSIST THAT OUR GOVERNMENT OPEN** full hearings and investigations into their activities and consider appropriate strategies for dealing with them.

8/22/99
subjunctive
third plural
present

In a fully privatized school system, a school must provide what its customers demand, or go out of business. In such a world, if **WE DEMAND THAT OUR KIDS ACTUALLY BE EDUCATED**, that they **BE TAUGHT** how to use their minds, then we will get schools that do exactly that.

potential

1/8/99
modal verb
third plural
present

I am glad to see at least one other father who is concerned about the violence in video games.... **PERHAPS THESE VIDEO GAMES OUGHT TO BE LABELED** like movies are already.... If a movie can be rated as inappropriate for young kids because of violent content, perhaps arcade games ought to be labeled in the same way.

1/8/99
modal verb
third singular
present

Senator Tom Hayden's bill forcing animal shelters to maintain stray animals for 6 days instead of 3 is ludicrous.... Hayden needs to work at a shelter for just 2 weeks to understand what animal shelters face each and every day. **MAYBE THEN HE'LL SHAKE** his head and wonder what he was thinking of when he proposed his bill.

1/31/99
modal verb
first plural
past

I am pleased that the Cupertino Union School District decided to expand the two-way Mandarin-English program. **PERHAPS** instead of being outraged that Cupertino Union School District. provided one or two Mandarin-English classrooms, **WE SHOULD INSTEAD CONSIDER ADDITIONAL WAYS** that we might give back to the Asian community in appreciation for what it has done for our schools.

2/4/99
modal verb
third singular
past

In a recent article you quoted Alice Starr—when asked what she would do if she were in Hillary Clinton’s shoes—as saying “I’d rather not be married to someone who doesn’t love me enough to remain faithful.” It might be interesting to ask Hillary Clinton what she would do if she were in Alice Starr’s shoes. **PERHAPS SHE WOULD SAY** that she would rather not be married to a man who could work so hard to destroy lives.

2/9/99
indicative
third singular
present

J. J.’s perceptive column on operating in today’s cultural minefield noted that the portrayal of Eleanor Roosevelt on the new dollar coin was rejected because she was “too partisan.” **PERHAPS ITS TIME TO RETHINK** the likeness of Lincoln on the penny, Jefferson on the nickel and Eleanor’s husband on the dime.

3/1/99
modal verb
third singular
past

The exam for high school students that will determine whether they graduate seems like a good idea at first glance, but the policy has too many flaws. **PERHAPS THE STATE SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON** finding ways to motivate students and give them a proper education rather than forcing them to take more and more exams.

3/4/99
indicative
third plural
present

The media’s seeming complete lack of interest in the ultimate source of these stories [about Clinton] even as the trend has continued with complete predictability, is awesome. **IS IT POSSIBLE THAT THE MAINSTREAM MEDIA** so lacking in curiosity that the pattern is of no interest to anyone?

3/21/99
modal verb
third singular
future

While we naively elect Congress to protect our constitution, Democrats and Republicans serve their special interests at the expense of the country and they point a finger at one another.... My guess is that this conflict better serves the media than a healthy country. **PERHAPS THIS WILL BE** the tragic flaw of democracy.

3/21/99
indicative
third singular
present

Conservatives have criticized Clinton's lack of military experience.... **PERHAPS THIS IS** an advantage since unquestioning, military-style loyalty made the Iran-Contra and Watergate affairs possible.

3/25/99
modal verb
third plural
past

Let's not expand into Coyote Valley and beyond until there's no distinction between San Jose and Gilroy. **PERHAPS THERE COULD BE** community gardens that could supply a season's worth of organic fruits and vegetables.

4/1/99
modal verb
first singular
past

In entering the Kosovo conflict, we forgot some of the primary rules of thumb about war.... The only way we can get out, I think, is by bombing the Serb infrastructure so it hurts the average citizen enough so that he or she will decide it isn't worth it. **PERHAPS WE MIGHT END** our involvement that way without hurting too many people on either side.

4/1/99
indeterminable
third plural
present

I was disgusted to read the article about a group of drag queens in the San Francisco's Castro district who will mock Jesus on Easter Sunday.... **MAYBE THESE PEOPLE THINK** they're thumbing their noses at society, but as a believer in Jesus as the Son of God, I am incredibly insulted at this group's callousness.

4/1/99 In the Serbs' attempt after many centuries to create their own country, this civil war has erupted.... **PERHAPS WE AMERICANS SHOULD TAKE** a better look at this situation.

modal verb

first plural

past

4/3/99 Stanford University has been a major, if not the major, driving force in populating and developing this area. In no way should Stanford be immune to the pressures created by population growth and development here. **PERHAPS THE UNIVERSITY SHOULD FILE** an EIR before being allowed to accept next year's students.

modal verb

third singular

past

4/4/99 Could there be a hint of political motivation by Clinton when he calls our bombing and killing of Serbs a humanitarian effort? **PERHAPS HE SEEKS** to regain some of the moral high ground that he lost in the Oval Office.

indicative

third singular

present

4/6/99 What are we protesting with the planned April 30 gas boycott? If it's an anti-monopoly boycott, why don't we include PG&E and PacBell, which force us to pay more than anywhere else in the nation for power and phone service?... **PERHAPS IT'S** time to develop a more livable urban design based on living closer to work in communities that have a lower impact on the Earth. If we extend the boycott to everyday, we'll drive less, slow down, and have time to smell the flowers.

indicative

third singular

present

4/7/99 **PERHAPS WE SHOULD** simply accept the rationale of media pundits that President Clinton would never plunge us into a civil war unless it is for humanitarian purposes. We should accept the network and newspaper reports that do not show the impact on the men, women and children of Serbia. I guess if the news is not in the accepted media, we must suspect any news that is contradictory.

modal verb

first plural

past

<p>4/7/99 modal verb third singular present</p>	<p>The existence of [the computer virus] Melissa was inevitable, an accident waiting to happen. Unfortunately, so are its descendants. Only next time it won't be so easily traced, and it won't just replicate itself. MAYBE IT WILL delete or change files, or send copies of your stored notes to other users.</p>
<p>4/16/99 modal verb third plural past</p>	<p>So the editors of America are trying to figure out why the public distrusts what it reads in the paper. MAYBE THEY SHOULD START with the coverage of the conflict in the former Yugoslavia.</p>
<p>4/17/99 modal verb third singular present</p>	<p>After reading about the admirable efforts of California Attorney General Bill Lockyer to make the 1996 medicinal marijuana initiative work for people who may benefit from it, I have a renewed sense of hope regarding health care and the utilization of drugs in America.... MAYBE LOCKYER'S MEETING with law enforcement officers and medicinal marijuana activists WILL DISPEL the myths about what may happen as a result of this law. Most important, I hope it will become easier for people to get the treatment they need.</p>
<p>4/18/99 modal verb first singular future</p>	<p>I just love these bombastic pronouncements by the Clinton administration.... PERHAPS WE WILL IMPOSE economic sanctions for the next decade and starve Serb civilians by the hundreds of thousands. I would like to see the Clinton administration stop issuing threats that cannot be carried out.</p>
<p>4/19/99 indicative third singular present</p>	<p>Wednesday's front page ran contrasting headlines: "War in Yugoslavia; people from different backgrounds can't get along..." vs. "The Great Melting Pot of Santa Clara County." MAYBE THE REAL STORY in Silicon Valley ISN'T high tech.</p>

<p>4/24/99 modal verb third singular future</p>	<p>Congratulations on your recent series exploring the changing demographics of Silicon Valley.... PERHAPS YOUR NEW SERIES WILL SPARK a new look at what a fully representative grand jury would look like.</p>
<p>4/24/99 indicative third singular present</p>	<p>PERHAPS IT'S a matter of semantics, but I think the point must be made that, in the wake of the shooting tragedy in Colorado, we should not teach our children "tolerance."</p>
<p>5/5/99 indicative first singular present</p>	<p>As a lifelong contributor to United Way of Santa Clara County, PERHAPS I AM naive to suggest to those 30 employees who were granted twice the severance pay associated with the private sector that they voluntarily contribute half their gross severance pay back to the United Way.</p>
<p>5/18/99 indicative third singular present</p>	<p>Reviewing the tragic "mistakes" made by the United States' military in the past year and half is cause for alarm.... PERHAPS WHAT OUTRAGES our international peers the most is not our lethal carelessness but rather our depraved indifference to our "mistakes."</p>
<p>5/21/99 modal verb second singular present</p>	<p>Tell me that the absence of any front-page stories on the Yugoslavian war for two days running was just an oversight, that the responsible employees have been suitably chastised, and that it won't happen again.... PERHAPS YOU'LL TELL me that you don't give it front page status because the public really doesn't care about a war that is costing us billions, creating chaos and tragedy, and not accomplishing anything worthwhile, so why make it an issue? After all, Page 17A has coverage on "The Attack on Yugoslavia." Anyone <i>really</i> interested can find it if they try.</p>

5/22/99
modal verb
third singular
past

It is unfortunate that all of the media attention was focused upon United Way because it teetered on the brink of bankruptcy.... If there could be a more consistent media emphasis on local charities and their ongoing needs, and successes, **PERHAPS IT WOULD** not take a firestorm to shed light on the problem.

5/25/99
modal verb
third plural
past

If all employers in this valley would offer one of their employees to spend a few hours volunteering for United Way, as my company did, **PERHAPS EXPENSES COULD BE CUT** further and more awareness created in the workplace as to what donated dollars do.

5/29/99
modal verb
third singular
past

IT IS POSSIBLE, but not certain, **THAT MORELAND ELEMENTARY MIGHT BE ABLE** to craft a better high school at some time in the near future, even though the district has no experience with high school administration and has the highest administrative costs in the area.

5/30/99
indeterminable
first plural
present

If the leaders of the United Way think that our community can get by without this crucial labor program and that the work of this staff doesn't help union members and their families, then **MAYBE WE NEED** to rethink how relevant the United Way is to our community.

6/1/99
modal verb
third singular
present

Agriculture is important to California. No one can dispute that fact. But **PERHAPS OUR AGRICULTURAL WATER CAN BE USED** more wisely.

6/12/99 modal verb third plural present	Parents, teachers, and others are to soft on kids today.... If parents, teachers, elders and counselors stopped trying to make everything all right and started focusing on dealing with a real issue, kids would be better off. MAYBE KIDS SHOULDN'T BE SHELTERED by their parents.
6/14/99 indicative third singular present	Ms. Kolbert discusses the amount of press attention that Norman Siegel gets. But PERHAPS THERE IS a general misunderstanding as to what civil liberties are all about, and perhaps that is the reason that Siegel must constantly take his arguments to the press. Chipping away at any one group's civil liberties may erode others', and if Siegel is successful in communicating that point, that's already a job well done. <i>(NY)</i>
6/16/99 modal verb third singular past perfect	The only way for mental disorders to be demystified is for family and friends of those afflicted to speak out.... My son took his own life at age 27, and at the time I was unaware of the hereditary nature of bipolar disorder.... PERHAPS KNOWLEDGE COULD HAVE MADE a difference. If we all spoke openly about these illnesses that are as treatable as, say, diabetes, life for the mentally disabled might improve.
6/22/99 modal verb first plural present	If we all understand how the transportation system can be improved, PERHAPS WE TRAIL USERS AND BICYCLISTS CAN MOVE our elected officials to provide adequate trail and bicycle facilities that improve transportation.
6/23/99 modal verb third singular present	I drive on Highway 101 from San Jose to Mountain View everyday.... San Jose is a big city with a lot of business people traveling through it. MAYBE THE CITY CAN put some of its budget surplus to a good use.

<p>6/23/99 modal verb third singular past</p>	<p>I am forced to respond to R. Smith and D. Brosnan regarding the Makah tribe's gray whale hunt in Washington.... PERHAPS BROSAN SHOULD TRY protesting the slaughter of marine life by the orcas rather than the Makah tribe who only took the whale.</p>
<p>6/25/99 indeterminable first plural past</p>	<p>A bill is before the House of Representatives to double the President's annual salary to \$400,000. PERHAPS IF WE DIDN'T FEEL the need to bribe people into running for office, we could attract a different class of politician.</p>
<p>6/25/99 modal verb third plural present</p>	<p>The most important issue in transportation is transporting the greatest number of people in the most efficient way. MAYBE POLITICIANS CANNOT UNDERSTAND this, but they need to try.</p>
<p>6/29/99 indeterminable third singular past</p>	<p>San Jose Unified School District wants to move Broadway Continuation High School onto the baseball field of John Muir Middle School.... The plan includes building a fence and planting shrubs between the two schools to keep the populations separate. MAYBE THE PLANNING COMMITTEE FORGOT that there is a sidewalk on Branham Lane.</p>
<p>7/1/99 indicative third singular present</p>	<p>D. G. derides Al Gore for hypocritically finding religion.... PERHAPS GORE IS out front in the scramble to shape his electability, but let's hope for the same objective commentary when the Republican candidates make their own startling transformations.</p>

<p>7/14/99 modal verb third singular past</p>	<p>I'm glad to see that the Bay Area has a newspaper with a holier-than-thou attitude that can say no to tobacco advertising.... PERHAPS THE MERCURY NEWS COULD ADOPT a slogan like "all the news and advertising that fits our agenda."</p>
<p>7/16/99 modal verb third singular past</p>	<p>Rather than spend those millions of dollars to build a new edifice to the stupidity of man, why not help the homeless get on their feet, so that they can become contributing members of society? PERHAPS ONE OF THEM MIGHT COME UP with a "real" design for a new city hall.</p>
<p>7/20/99 modal verb third plural past perfect</p>	<p>IT'S POSSIBLE THAT KENNEDY COULD HAVE BEEN SAVED if the rules had stated that a pilot must be certified to fly instruments if he is likely to encounter low visibility conditions during the time of his flight.</p>
<p>7/26/99 indicative third plural present</p>	<p>I suppose IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THOUSANDS OF BERLINERS WAKE UP every morning filled with angst about whether the design of the DaimlerChrysler complex will serve to 'link the city to itself.' (NY)</p>
<p>8/4/99 modal verb third singular past</p>	<p>Thank you for having the courage to speak in opposition to the insanity of our nation's punishing economic sanctions against the children of Iraq. I truly believe that the people of the United States would also demand a lifting of the sanctions if they read similar editorials in their hometown papers. MAYBE THEN WASHINGTON WOULD LISTEN.</p>

8/7/99	I, too, can't wait for the day that the government makes all private ownership of guns illegal. Then, PERHAPS in my lifetime, WE COULD HAVE a Tiananmen Square in this country!
modal verb	
first plural	
past	
8/14/99	Obviously, the principle behind compact spaces—being able to fit more cars in a smaller space of land—is outmoded given the current “trend toward larger vehicles.” PERHAPS THE ANSWER IS to build whole parking lots exclusively for SUV owners. In fact, separate shopping centers, freeways, and residential areas for these road-hogging machines might be in order too.
indicative	
third singular	
present	
8/16/99	As the grandparent of two children who ride school buses to their schools, I realize the danger they face each school day. There are no seat belts on their buses.... PERHAPS THE ASSEMBLY COULD SHOW the same concern for our children as for the farm workers and propose a package of bills to improve transportation for all persons.
modal verb	
third singular	
past	
8/17/99	I suggest we consider alternative methods of dealing with violence in school settings, such as those employed in Israel, like arming teachers. I know this is considered a radical proposal in America, but these are terrorist acts. PERHAPS THE OUTCOME WOULD HAVE BEEN different in Colorado and Los Angeles if those who shot kids knew that they may have met some resistance before committing their acts of terror.
modal verb	
third singular	
past perfect	
8/17/99	Regarding P. F.'s commentary on “Air Rage”: What's the big deal? PERHAPS SHE WOULD BENEFIT from looking at the big picture.... If P. F. doesn't like traveling by plane, then drive a car.
modal verb	
third singular	
past	

8/26/99	IT IS POSSIBLE that the very same hour Bush says, “I never used illegal drugs,” a political operative willing to lie will be on TV saying, “Yes, he did.”
indicative	
third singular	
present	
8/29/99	The nation is literally hemorrhaging from crimes of violence predicated on racism, ethnic hatred, religious hatred and fanaticism, and sexism... PERHAPS THERE SHOULD BE a retraction of the adage that “sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can never hurt me.” If it can only be acknowledged that words do hurt, perhaps there would be no need for them to be supplemented by sticks and stones.
modal verb	
third singular	
past	
8/30/99	Mr. Gladwell’s article reminded me of another <i>New Yorker</i> essay on the imaginative planning and visualization involved in acts of physical genius.... MAYBE ALL ASPIRING SURGEONS SHOULD also study music, poetry and courtly conversation. (NY)
modal verb	
third plural	
past	
8/30/99	I am a member of a generation that has seen it all and is cynical about the media—news footage especially. But G. Peress’s pictures do not lie. PERHAPS as P. Gourevitch writes in his accompanying text, IT IS because “none of the people in these pictures appear to notice the camera” that these photographs begin to cut through our culture of voyeuristic montage. (NY)
indicative	
third singular	
present	

wish

2/4/99 Regarding the Clinton impeachment trial, here's an alternative and likely unpopular view: It would be okay with me if the trial lasts indefinitely. I WISH WE COULD FIND an issue which would similarly occupy our legislature and city council.

modal verb
first plural
past

3/14/99 The broadcast planning commission and city council meetings may be a bore to some but to others they are an essential part of local politics. I ONLY WISH THERE WAS this level of commitment on the state and national level.

indicative
third singular
past

3/25/99 I dislike the significant tax burden of California get-tough crime policy as much as the next person—but at least I can see a positive result from my dollars. I WISH I COULD SAY the same about the rest of the state budget.

modal verb
first singular
past

4/26/99 [...in Washington, Virginia] we have our share of squabbles and paranoia, which Horowitz points out. But Washington also has a spiritual community.... If we are, as Horowitz describes us, "the village of the damned," I WISH THAT ALL THE DAMNED MIGHT BE so lucky. (NY)

modal verb
third plural
past

6/7/99
indeterminable
third singular
past perfect

I WISH THAT NATO HAD GOT RID of Milosevic early on in his regime, so that the Serbs might at least have had a chance to join the other newly established democracies of Eastern Europe. *(NY)*

6/10/99
modal verb
third plural
past

I WISH NEWSPAPERS WOULD PRINT national gas prices along with the weather so Bay Area residents could see how much they are being gouged.

6/26/99
modal verb
third singular
past

I WISH THAT D. GILLMOR'S EXCELLENT COLUMN about how Silicon Valley can truly impact charity — not just with money but with organized attention — **COULD BE** a boldfaced memo on the desk of every high-tech company exec's desk.

7/1/99
modal verb
third plural
past

How my heart leaped with joy upon reading about the planned change for limiting cars and buses at the Grand Canyon. **I WISH MY GRANDCHILDREN AND YOUR GRANDCHILDREN COULD EXPERIENCE** the Grand Canyon as I did in 1952.

7/3/99
modal verb
third plural
past

Thanks are due to your paper for having the integrity to provide a forum of expression for those of us who have long been denied a voice. **I WISH MORE PUBLICATIONS WOULD FOLLOW** your lead.

Appendix B. Human Subjects-IRB Letter of Approval



San José State
UNIVERSITY

**Office of the Academic
Vice President
Associate Vice President
Graduate Studies and Research**

One Washington Square
San Jose, CA 95192-0025
Voice: 408-924-2480
Fax: 408-924-2477
E-mail: gstudies@washoo.sjsu.edu
<http://www.sjsu.edu>

TO: Anya Luke-Killam
445 South Third St., #1
San Jose, CA 95112

FROM: Nabil Ibrahim, 
AVP, Graduate Studies & Research

DATE: October 29, 1999

The Human Subjects-Institutional Review Board has approved your request to use human subjects in the study entitled:

"A Study of the Subjunctive Mood in American English at the Turn of the Twenty-First Century"

This approval is contingent upon the subjects participating in your research project being appropriately protected from risk. This includes the protection of the anonymity of the subjects' identity when they participate in your research project, and with regard to any and all data that may be collected from the subjects. The Board's approval includes continued monitoring of your research by the Board to assure that the subjects are being adequately and properly protected from such risks. If at any time a subject becomes injured or complains of injury, you must notify Nabil Ibrahim, Ph.D., immediately. Injury includes but is not limited to bodily harm, psychological trauma and release of potentially damaging personal information.

Please also be advised that all subjects need to be fully informed and aware that their participation in your research project is voluntary, and that he or she may withdraw from the project at any time. Further, a subject's participation, refusal to participate, or withdrawal will not affect any services the subject is receiving or will receive at the institution in which the research is being conducted.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (408) 924-2480.

The California State University:
Oranchoff's Office
Bakersfield, Chico, Dominguez Hills,
Fresno, Fullerton, Hayward, Humboldt,
Long Beach, Los Angeles, Maritime Academy,
Monterey Bay, Northridge, Pomona,
Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Diego,
San Francisco, San José, San Luis Obispo,
San Marcos, Sonoma, Stanislaus

Appendix C. The Questionnaire

1. How old are you? _____

2. What is your major? _____

3. Is English your first language? _____ Yes
_____ No

4. If English is not your first language, what is your first language? _____

5. Have you ever studied any foreign languages in school? _____ Yes
_____ No

6. If you answered 'yes' to question #5, please list the foreign language(s) you have studied:

<u>language</u>	<u>level of fluency</u> (circle one)
_____	beginning intermediate advanced
_____	beginning intermediate advanced

7. Approximately how many terms papers do you write in a semester?
circle one: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9+

8. How often do you read books that have **not** been assigned in school?
circle one: everyday often sometimes rarely never

9. How often do you read the newspaper?
circle one: everyday often sometimes rarely never

10. How often do you read magazines?
circle one: everyday often sometimes rarely never

Appendix C. Questionnaire One

Imagine that each of the following sentences has appeared in the opinion section of a newspaper. Each sentence describes either *a wish or a condition that has not been met*. Using the scale below, rate how acceptable you think each sentence is in expressing a wish or a condition that has not been met.

**Mark only one box
for each sentence.**

not acceptable somewhat acceptable moderately acceptable mostly acceptable completely acceptable

If you had studied,
you would have gotten
a better grade.

If the media had not
hounded JFK, Jr. while
he was alive, maybe he
would have flown
commercial airlines.

Had my car had the
anti-lock brakes which
are standard equipment
on SUVs, I would have
been able to stop in
time.

**Mark only one box
for each sentence.**

not
acceptable

somewhat
acceptable

moderately
acceptable

mostly
acceptable

completely
acceptable

You would not go to his
house, even if you were
invited.

If he have honor or a
sense of shame, he will
resign.

If we had been given a
map, we would have
been there on time.

We would admit it, if we
were wrong.

If I was you, I would
apologize.

**Mark only one box
for each sentence.**

not
acceptable

somewhat
acceptable

moderately
acceptable

mostly
acceptable

completely
acceptable

If high school students were required to pass an exam in order to graduate, they would be motivated to do all required work.

If this state be serious about educational reform, we have to look at crucial issues such as new teacher retention.

They could have been successful, if they had not been misled.

If the State of California denies the purchase of gas to anyone without a valid driver's license, more than 4 million drivers will not qualify.

She would still ride her bike to work, even if gasoline were free.

**Mark only one box
for each sentence.**

not
acceptable

somewhat
acceptable

moderately
acceptable

mostly
acceptable

completely
acceptable

If more renters are
allowed to have animals,
more people will adopt
them.

I don't think that would
have happened, had we
been more careful.

If I had known the
answer, I would have
told you.

If I were introduced to
him, I wouldn't know
what to say.

If he is encouraged, he
will realize his dream.

**Mark only one box
for each sentence.**

**not
acceptable**

**somewhat
acceptable**

**moderately
acceptable**

**mostly
acceptable**

**completely
acceptable**

If she were attacked by
a bear, she claims she
would know what to do.

If you be admitted to the
program, you will do
well.

Her parents would be
outraged if they found
out that she had done
that.

I would stand in line
overnight, if Elvis was
coming to town.

If I be sick, I will not go
to school.

**Mark only one box
for each sentence.**

not
acceptable

somewhat
acceptable

moderately
acceptable

mostly
acceptable

completely
acceptable

He acts as if he were the
most important person
in the world.

You would do the same,
if you were in his shoes.

I wish there was a better
way of doing this.

Even if you disagree
with a person's lifestyle,
that does not mean that
you have to forget your
compassion.

If I had been told that
the meeting was
canceled, I would have
made other plans.

**Mark only one box
for each sentence.**

not
acceptable

somewhat
acceptable

moderately
acceptable

mostly
acceptable

completely
acceptable

Those politicians may consider it a victory if they tie up the Senate and the House for six months so that they do not have to address the President's agenda.

If it was a normal trial, an in-law of the accused would not be allowed to sit on the jury.

If we are paid on time, then we won't complain.

I wish I was a millionaire.

If we be really as altruistic as we say, we will involve ourselves in parts of the world that are hurting in a number of ways.

**Mark only one box
for each sentence.**

not
acceptable

somewhat
acceptable

moderately
acceptable

mostly
acceptable

completely
acceptable

This product would
have sold well, if it had
been made available to
the public.

If you had actually been
stung by a bee, your
entire arm would be red.

If we were given a
reasonable alternative,
we would be happy to
cooperate.

I can do all the work, if I
am given enough time.

Appendix C. Questionnaire Two

Imagine that each of the following sentences has appeared in the opinion section of a newspaper. Each sentence describes either *a wish or a condition that has not been met*. Using the scale below, rate how acceptable you think each sentence is in expressing a wish or a condition that has not been met.

**Mark only one box
for each sentence.**

not acceptable somewhat acceptable moderately acceptable mostly acceptable completely acceptable

I can do all the work,
if I be given enough
time.

If I had known the
answer, I would have
told you.

If we had been given
a map, we would have
been there on time.

**Mark only one box
for each sentence.**

not
acceptable

somewhat
acceptable

moderately
acceptable

mostly
acceptable

completely
acceptable

We would admit it,
if we were wrong.

If you had actually been
stung by a bee, your
entire arm would be red.

If it were a normal trial,
an in-law of the accused
would not be allowed to
sit on the jury.

Those politicians may
consider it a victory if
they tie up the Senate
and the House for six
months so that they do
not have to address the
President's agenda.

She would still ride her
bike to work, even if
gasoline was free.

**Mark only one box
for each sentence.**

**not
acceptable**

**somewhat
acceptable**

**moderately
acceptable**

**mostly
acceptable**

**completely
acceptable**

You would not go to his house, even if you were invited.

Her parents would be outraged if they found out that she had done that.

If the media had not hounded JFK, Jr. while he was alive, maybe he would have flown commercial airlines.

If we are really as altruistic as we say, we will involve ourselves in parts of the world that are hurting in a number of ways.

If I were you, I would apologize.

**Mark only one box
for each sentence.**

not
acceptable

somewhat
acceptable

moderately
acceptable

mostly
acceptable

completely
acceptable

If more renters be
allowed to have animals,
more people will adopt
them.

If you had studied, you
would have gotten a
better grade.

If I am sick, I will not
go to school.

If this state is serious
about educational
reform, we have to look
at crucial issues such as
new teacher retention.

If we were given a
reasonable alternative,
we would be happy to
cooperate.

**Mark only one box
for each sentence.**

not
acceptable

somewhat
acceptable

moderately
acceptable

mostly
acceptable

completely
acceptable

I don't think that would
have happened, had we
been more careful.

I wish there were a
better way of doing this.

If I had been told that
the meeting was
canceled, I would have
made other plans.

You would do the same,
if you were in his shoes.

This product would
have sold well, if it had
been made available to
the public.

**Mark only one box
for each sentence.**

**not
acceptable**

**somewhat
acceptable**

**moderately
acceptable**

**mostly
acceptable**

**completely
acceptable**

If he be encouraged, he
will realize his dream.

I would stand in line
overnight, if Elvis were
coming to town.

If we be paid on time,
then we won't
complain.

Even if you disagree
with a person's lifestyle,
that does not mean that
you have to forget your
compassion.

If she was attacked by a
bear, she claims she
would know what to do.

**Mark only one box
for each sentence.**

**not
acceptable**

**somewhat
acceptable**

**moderately
acceptable**

**mostly
acceptable**

**completely
acceptable**

If he has honor or a sense of shame, he will resign.

If I was introduced to him, I wouldn't know what to say.

Had my car had the anti-lock brakes which are standard equipment on SUVs, I would have been able to stop in time.

If you are admitted to the program, you will do well.

If the State of California deny the purchase of gas to anyone without a valid driver's license, more than 4 million drivers will not qualify.

**Mark only one box
for each sentence.**

not
acceptable

somewhat
acceptable

moderately
acceptable

mostly
acceptable

completely
acceptable

If high school students
were required to pass an
exam in order to
graduate, they would be
motivated to do all
required work.

I wish I were a
millionaire.

They could have been
successful, if they had
not been misled.

He acts as if he was the
most important person
in the world.

Appendix D. Chi-Square Tables

version-S If we be really as altruistic as we say, we will involve ourselves in parts of the world that are hurting in a number of ways.

version-I If we are really as altruistic as we say, we will involve ourselves in parts of the world that are hurting in a number of ways.

	<i>not</i>	<i>somewhat</i>	<i>moderately</i>	<i>mostly</i>	<i>completely</i>
subjunctive	7	1	11	4	2
indicative	3	2	3	10	7

chi-square $\chi^2(4, N=50) = 11.85, p < .025$. Distribution is significant.

version-S I can do all the work, if I be given enough time.

version-I I can do all the work, if I am given enough time.

	<i>not</i>	<i>somewhat</i>	<i>moderately</i>	<i>mostly</i>	<i>completely</i>
subjunctive	9	4	3	4	5
indicative	1	4	5	6	9

chi-square $\chi^2(4, N=50) = 8.44, p > .05$. Distribution is not significant.

version-S If we be paid on time, then we won't complain.

version-I If we are paid on time, then we won't complain.

	<i>not</i>	<i>somewhat</i>	<i>moderately</i>	<i>mostly</i>	<i>completely</i>
subjunctive	13	3	4	3	2
indicative	4	2	9	6	4

chi-square $\chi^2(4, N=50) = 8.55, p > .05$. Distribution is not significant.

version-S If I had known the answer, I would have told you.

version-I If I had known the answer, I would have told you.

	<i>not</i>	<i>somewhat</i>	<i>moderately</i>	<i>mostly</i>	<i>completely</i>
subjunctive	1	3	8	7	6
indicative	2	2	6	8	7

chi-square $\chi^2(4, N=50) = .962, p > .05$. Distribution is not significant.

version-S I don't think that would have happened, had we been more careful.

version-I I don't think that would have happened, had we been more careful.

	<i>not</i>	<i>somewhat</i>	<i>moderately</i>	<i>mostly</i>	<i>completely</i>
subjunctive	5	4	2	4	10
indicative	3	1	10	8	3

chi-square $\chi^2(4, N=50) = 12.73, p < .025$. Distribution is significant.

version-S If I had been told that the meeting was canceled, I would have made other plans.

version-I If I had been told that the meeting was canceled, I would have made other plans.

	<i>not</i>	<i>somewhat</i>	<i>moderately</i>	<i>mostly</i>	<i>completely</i>
subjunctive	1	0	4	9	11
indicative	0	2	3	9	11

chi-square $\chi^2(4, N=50) = 3.14, p > .05$. Distribution is not significant.

version-S If we had been given a map, we would have been there on time.

version-I If we had been given a map, we would have been there on time.

	<i>not</i>	<i>somewhat</i>	<i>moderately</i>	<i>mostly</i>	<i>completely</i>
subjunctive	1	3	9	6	6
indicative	2	3	3	10	7

chi-square $\chi^2(4, N=50) = 4.41, p > .05$. Distribution is not significant.

version-S We would admit it, if we were wrong.

version-I We would admit it, if we were wrong.

	<i>not</i>	<i>somewhat</i>	<i>moderately</i>	<i>mostly</i>	<i>completely</i>
subjunctive	0	9	5	6	5
indicative	4	6	5	4	6

chi-square $\chi^2(4, N=50) = 5.09, p > .05$. Distribution is not significant.

version-S I wish I were a millionaire.

version-I I wish I was a millionaire.

	<i>not</i>	<i>somewhat</i>	<i>moderately</i>	<i>mostly</i>	<i>completely</i>
subjunctive	3	3	2	3	14
indicative	1	3	3	3	15

chi-square $\chi^2(4, N=50) = 1.23, p > .05$. Distribution is not significant.

version-S If I were you, I would apologize.

version-I If I was you, I would apologize.

	<i>not</i>	<i>somewhat</i>	<i>moderately</i>	<i>mostly</i>	<i>completely</i>
subjunctive	3	3	4	6	9
indicative	6	4	4	7	4

chi-square $\chi^2(4, N=50) = 3.14, p > .05$. Distribution is not significant.

version-S If I were introduced to him, I wouldn't know what to say.

version-I If I was introduced to him, I wouldn't know what to say.

	<i>not</i>	<i>somewhat</i>	<i>moderately</i>	<i>mostly</i>	<i>completely</i>
subjunctive	1	5	7	6	6
indicative	1	6	4	6	8

chi-square $\chi^2(4, N=50) = 1.19, p > .05$. Distribution is not significant.

version-S If we were given a reasonable alternative, we would be happy to cooperate.

version-I If we were given a reasonable alternative, we would be happy to cooperate.

	<i>not</i>	<i>somewhat</i>	<i>moderately</i>	<i>mostly</i>	<i>completely</i>
subjunctive	0	3	4	6	12
indicative	1	2	11	9	2

chi-square $\chi^2(4, N=50) = 12.21, p < .025$. Distribution is significant.

version-S If I be sick, I will not go to school.

version-I If I am sick, I will not go to school.

	<i>not</i>	<i>somewhat</i>	<i>moderately</i>	<i>mostly</i>	<i>completely</i>
subjunctive	11	6	3	2	3
indicative	4	5	2	8	6

chi-square $\chi^2(4, N=50) = 8.16, p > .05$. Distribution is not significant.

version-S Even if you disagree with a person's lifestyle, that does not mean that you have to forget your compassion.

version-I Even if you disagree with a person's lifestyle, that does not mean that you have to forget your compassion.

	<i>not</i>	<i>somewhat</i>	<i>moderately</i>	<i>mostly</i>	<i>completely</i>
subjunctive	1	3	6	4	11
indicative	2	3	6	7	7

chi-square $\chi^2(4, N=50) = 2.04, p > .05$. Distribution is not significant.

version-S If you be admitted to the program, you will do well.

version-I If you are admitted to the program, you will do well.

	<i>not</i>	<i>somewhat</i>	<i>moderately</i>	<i>mostly</i>	<i>completely</i>
subjunctive	11	3	8	2	1
indicative	2	4	5	8	6

chi-square $\chi^2(4, N=50) = 14.24, p < .01$. Distribution is significant.

version-S If you had studied, you would have gotten a better grade.

version-I If you had studied, you would have gotten a better grade.

	<i>not</i>	<i>somewhat</i>	<i>moderately</i>	<i>mostly</i>	<i>completely</i>
subjunctive	1	1	5	7	11
indicative	2	7	4	3	9

chi-square $\chi^2(4, N=50) = 6.74, p > .05$. Distribution is not significant.

version-S If you had actually been stung by a bee, your entire arm would be red.

version-I If you had actually been stung by a bee, your entire arm would be red.

	<i>not</i>	<i>somewhat</i>	<i>moderately</i>	<i>mostly</i>	<i>completely</i>
subjunctive	6	1	3	6	9
indicative	6	9	5	1	4

chi-square $\chi^2(4, N=50) = 12.39, p < .025$. Distribution is significant.

version-S You would do the same, if you were in his shoes.

version-I You would do the same, if you were in his shoes.

	<i>not</i>	<i>somewhat</i>	<i>moderately</i>	<i>mostly</i>	<i>completely</i>
subjunctive	2	8	6	3	6
indicative	4	4	10	3	4

chi-square $\chi^2(4, N=50) = 3.4, p > .05$. Distribution is not significant.

version-S You would not go to his house, even if you were invited.

version-I You would not go to his house, even if you were invited.

	<i>not</i>	<i>somewhat</i>	<i>moderately</i>	<i>mostly</i>	<i>completely</i>
subjunctive	3	10	3	3	6
indicative	3	9	4	4	5

chi-square $\chi^2(4, N=50) = .43, p > .05$. Distribution is not significant.

version-S If he have honor or a sense of shame, he will resign.

version-I If he has honor or a sense of shame, he will resign.

	<i>not</i>	<i>somewhat</i>	<i>moderately</i>	<i>mostly</i>	<i>completely</i>
subjunctive	10	6	6	1	2
indicative	1	8	6	3	7

chi-square $\chi^2(4, N=50) = 11.43, p < .025$. Distribution is significant.

version-S Those politicians may consider it a victory if they tie up the Senate and the House for six months so that they do not have to address the President's agenda.

version-I Those politicians may consider it a victory if they tie up the Senate and the House for six months so that they do not have to address the President's agenda.

	<i>not</i>	<i>somewhat</i>	<i>moderately</i>	<i>mostly</i>	<i>completely</i>
subjunctive	5	8	4	5	3
indicative	5	5	8	6	1

chi-square $\chi^2(4, N=50) = 3.12, p > .05$. Distribution is not significant.

version-S If this state be serious about educational reform, we have to look at crucial issues such as new teacher retention.

version-I If this state is serious about educational reform, we have to look at crucial issues such as new teacher retention.

	<i>not</i>	<i>somewhat</i>	<i>moderately</i>	<i>mostly</i>	<i>completely</i>
subjunctive	7	7	9	0	2
indicative	0	1	9	4	11

chi-square $\chi^2(4, N=50) = 21.73, p < .001$. Distribution is significant.

version-S If the State of California deny the purchase of gas to anyone without a valid driver's license, more than 4 million drivers will not qualify.

version-I If the State of California denies the purchase of gas to anyone without a valid driver's license, more than 4 million drivers will not qualify.

	<i>not</i>	<i>somewhat</i>	<i>moderately</i>	<i>mostly</i>	<i>completely</i>
subjunctive	6	2	8	4	5
indicative	0	1	9	4	11

chi-square $\chi^2(4, N=50) = 8.64, p > .05$. Distribution is not significant.

version-S If more renters be allowed to have animals, more people will adopt them.

version-I If more renters are allowed to have animals, more people will adopt them.

	<i>not</i>	<i>somewhat</i>	<i>moderately</i>	<i>mostly</i>	<i>completely</i>
subjunctive	9	4	6	5	1
indicative	1	8	3	12	1

chi-square $\chi^2(4, N=50) = 11.61, p < .025$. Distribution is significant.

version-S If he be encouraged, he will realize his dream.

version-I If he is encouraged, he will realize his dream.

	<i>not</i>	<i>somewhat</i>	<i>moderately</i>	<i>mostly</i>	<i>completely</i>
subjunctive	13	3	6	2	1
indicative	1	3	4	9	8

chi-square $\chi^2(4, N=50) = 20.58, p < .001$. Distribution is significant.

version-S If the media had not hounded JFK, Jr. while he was alive, maybe he would have flown commercial airlines.

version-I If the media had not hounded JFK, Jr. while he was alive, maybe he would have flown commercial airlines.

	<i>not</i>	<i>somewhat</i>	<i>moderately</i>	<i>mostly</i>	<i>completely</i>
subjunctive	10	8	2	2	3
indicative	6	3	3	7	6

chi-square $\chi^2(4, N=50) = 7.25, p > .05$. Distribution is not significant.

version-S Had my car had the anti-lock brakes which are standard equipment on SUVs, I would have been able to stop in time.

version-I Had my car had the anti-lock brakes which are standard equipment on SUVs, I would have been able to stop in time.

	<i>not</i>	<i>somewhat</i>	<i>moderately</i>	<i>mostly</i>	<i>completely</i>
subjunctive	2	6	12	3	2
indicative	5	5	1	4	10

chi-square $\chi^2(4, N=50) = 16.16, p < .01$. Distribution is significant.

version-S They could have been successful, if they had not been misled.

version-I They could have been successful, if they had not been misled.

	<i>not</i>	<i>somewhat</i>	<i>moderately</i>	<i>mostly</i>	<i>completely</i>
subjunctive	4	4	8	7	2
indicative	1	4	8	9	3

chi-square $\chi^2(4, N=50) = 2.25, p > .05$. Distribution is not significant.

version-S This product would have sold well, if it had been made available to the public.

version-I This product would have sold well, if it had been made available to the public.

	<i>not</i>	<i>somewhat</i>	<i>moderately</i>	<i>mostly</i>	<i>completely</i>
subjunctive	0	3	5	12	5
indicative	0	3	9	6	7

chi-square *Unable to calculate chi-square; cannot divide by zero.*

version-S If it were a normal trial, an in-law of the accused would not be allowed to sit on the jury.

version-I If it was a normal trial, an in-law of the accused would not be allowed to sit on the jury.

	<i>not</i>	<i>somewhat</i>	<i>moderately</i>	<i>mostly</i>	<i>completely</i>
subjunctive	3	3	5	6	8
indicative	3	4	3	6	9

chi-square $\chi^2(4, N=50) = .70, p > .05$. Distribution is not significant.

version-S She would still ride her bike to work, even if gasoline were free.

version-I She would still ride her bike to work, even if gasoline was free.

	<i>not</i>	<i>somewhat</i>	<i>moderately</i>	<i>mostly</i>	<i>completely</i>
subjunctive	1	7	8	3	6
indicative	3	5	5	8	4

chi-square $\chi^2(4, N=50) = 4.69, p > .05$. Distribution is not significant.

version-S I wish there were a better way of doing this.

version-I I wish there was a better way of doing this.

	<i>not</i>	<i>somewhat</i>	<i>moderately</i>	<i>mostly</i>	<i>completely</i>
subjunctive	4	5	2	7	7
indicative	0	3	6	5	11

chi-square $\chi^2(4, N=50) = 7.22, p > .05$. Distribution is not significant.

version-S I would stand in line overnight, if Elvis were coming to town.

version-I I would stand in line overnight, if Elvis was coming to town.

	<i>not</i>	<i>somewhat</i>	<i>moderately</i>	<i>mostly</i>	<i>completely</i>
subjunctive	7	5	3	7	3
indicative	4	3	5	7	6

chi-square $\chi^2(4, N=50) = 2.82, p > .05$. Distribution is not significant.

version-S Her parents would be outraged if they found out that she had done that.

version-I Her parents would be outraged if they found out that she had done that.

	<i>not</i>	<i>somewhat</i>	<i>moderately</i>	<i>mostly</i>	<i>completely</i>
subjunctive	2	6	6	4	7
indicative	2	8	6	4	5

chi-square $\chi^2(4, N=50) = .62, p > .05$. Distribution is not significant.

version-S He acts as if he were the most important person in the world.

version-I He acts as if he was the most important person in the world.

	<i>not</i>	<i>somewhat</i>	<i>moderately</i>	<i>mostly</i>	<i>completely</i>
subjunctive	5	4	7	4	5
indicative	8	6	4	3	4

chi-square $\chi^2(4, N=50) = 2.16, p > .05$. Distribution is not significant.

version-S If she were attacked by a bear, she claims she would know what to do.

version-I If she was attacked by a bear, she claims she would know what to do.

	<i>not</i>	<i>somewhat</i>	<i>moderately</i>	<i>mostly</i>	<i>completely</i>
subjunctive	4	10	4	6	1
indicative	4	9	4	6	2

chi-square $\chi^2(4, N=50) = .38, p > .05$. Distribution is not significant.

version-S If high school students were required to pass an exam in order to graduate, they would be motivated to do all required work.

version-I If high school students were required to pass an exam in order to graduate, they would be motivated to do all required work.

	<i>not</i>	<i>somewhat</i>	<i>moderately</i>	<i>mostly</i>	<i>completely</i>
subjunctive	0	1	4	8	12
indicative	3	3	4	6	9

chi-square $\chi^2(4, N=50) = 4.71, p > .05$. Distribution is not significant.
