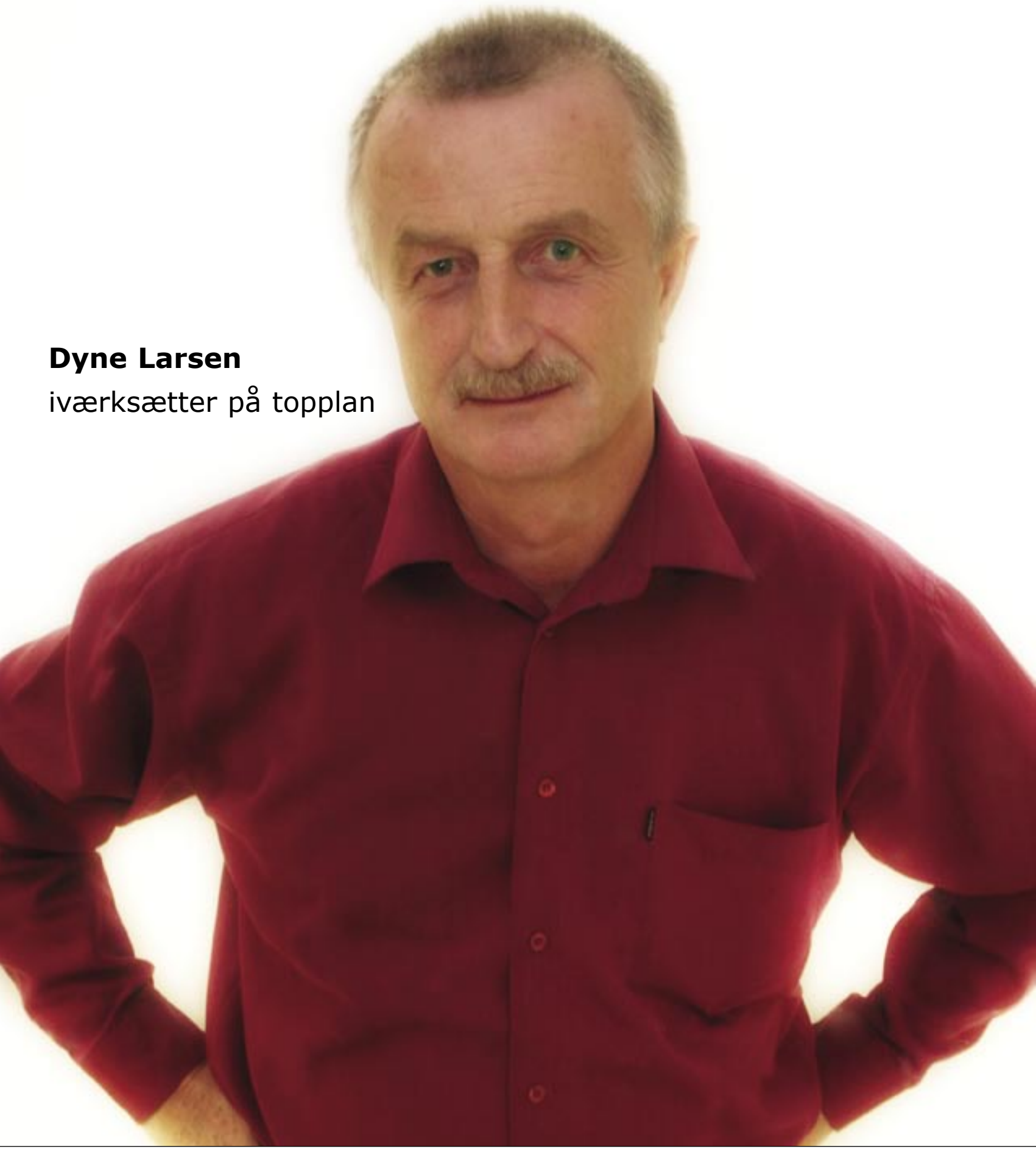


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Camilla Olsen, ansvarshavende redaktør

Danglish på højt niveau

“What do you have in your task today?”. Udsagnet stammer fra en kendt TV-sketch med Tommy Kenter og Per Pallesen i hovedrollerne, men kunne tilsyneladende lige så godt stamme fra en underviser her på stedet. Sproget kaldes danglish og tales primært af danskere i et forsøg på at tale engelsk. Problemet er, at man er nødt til at være dansk for at forstå det, hvilket er yderst uhensigtsmæssigt for udlændinge. Samtidig er det ikke optimalt, hvis man har valgt en international linie for at blive bedre til at begå sig på et andet fremmedsprog, og niveauet ikke bevæger sig tilstrækkeligt højt op. I normalt forretningsliv gælder at hvis man vil sælge en vare, må man have den på hylderne – det bør det også gøre her på stedet. Heldigvis er det kun gældende for et fåtal af undervisere, og fra ledelsens side er man opmærksom på problemet. Lad os håbe at opmærksomheden fører til handlinger og forbedringer.

I dette blad har vi tre sider med de nominerede til commercial awards. Der har været en masse gode bud på nomineringer, men de endeligt udvalgte kan findes inde i bladet. Til showet har vi fået en masse spændende Århus personligheder til at hjælpe os med virkelig at hylde den særlige indsats. I Klubben, Plug Inn og på SL kontoret kan du aflevere din stemmeseddel og dermed sørge for at “the best man wins”.

Håber vi ses til showet fredag d. 8. april kl. 19.30!

commercial's leder belyser et aktuelt emne i studiemiljøet på Handelshøjskolen i Århus. Holdningerne i lederen er ikke nødvendigvis udtryk for Studenterlaugets officielle holdning.

The Good, **the Bad** and the Ugly: students and faculty speak out on the use of English at ASB

In Denmark they speak Danish, but what about the teachers at The Aarhus School of Business in Denmark? Suddenly, employing skilled, experienced lecturers who are equipped with the tools to properly teach in English becomes a topic of discussion.

By: John Corey Morris
Foto: Sigrid Nygaard

English is essential for ASB's two internationally oriented bachelor programs. While other programs offer a few courses taught in English and some use textbooks written in English, BAMMC and BScBA are exclusive when it comes to bachelor programs using English as their functioning language. This calls for qualified teachers and requires ASB to look both locally and globally when searching for candidates. But how far is ASB really looking and what level of quality are they providing when it comes to teachers being able to communicate effectively in English?

Jesper Frost, a Dane and 4th semester MMC student, is quick to point out that, "the level of English spoken by some teachers has to some degree been poor; although we've had good communicators,

we've also had a couple of teachers who could not teach in English whatsoever". He adds that it is difficult to convey the substance of the course if the teachers cannot effectively use English to communicate. Moreover, he admits that ineffective teaching has affected his motivation as a student, especially after complaints to the administration, "already after the 1st semester", were unproductive. Jesper provides us with a different perspective of the problem.

"If ASB was a company in the professional business world and if the students were the products, this company would go bankrupt within a short period of time," he says.

Silvia Cebanu, a native of Moldavia and also a 4th semester MMC student, has a different opinion towards her educators and feels that the proficiency of English is much better than that of her home

university in Moldavia.

"I can't say that all the teachers have a high level of English (at ASB), but I think that if a teacher can express his or her ideas, then it doesn't matter how high their level of English is".

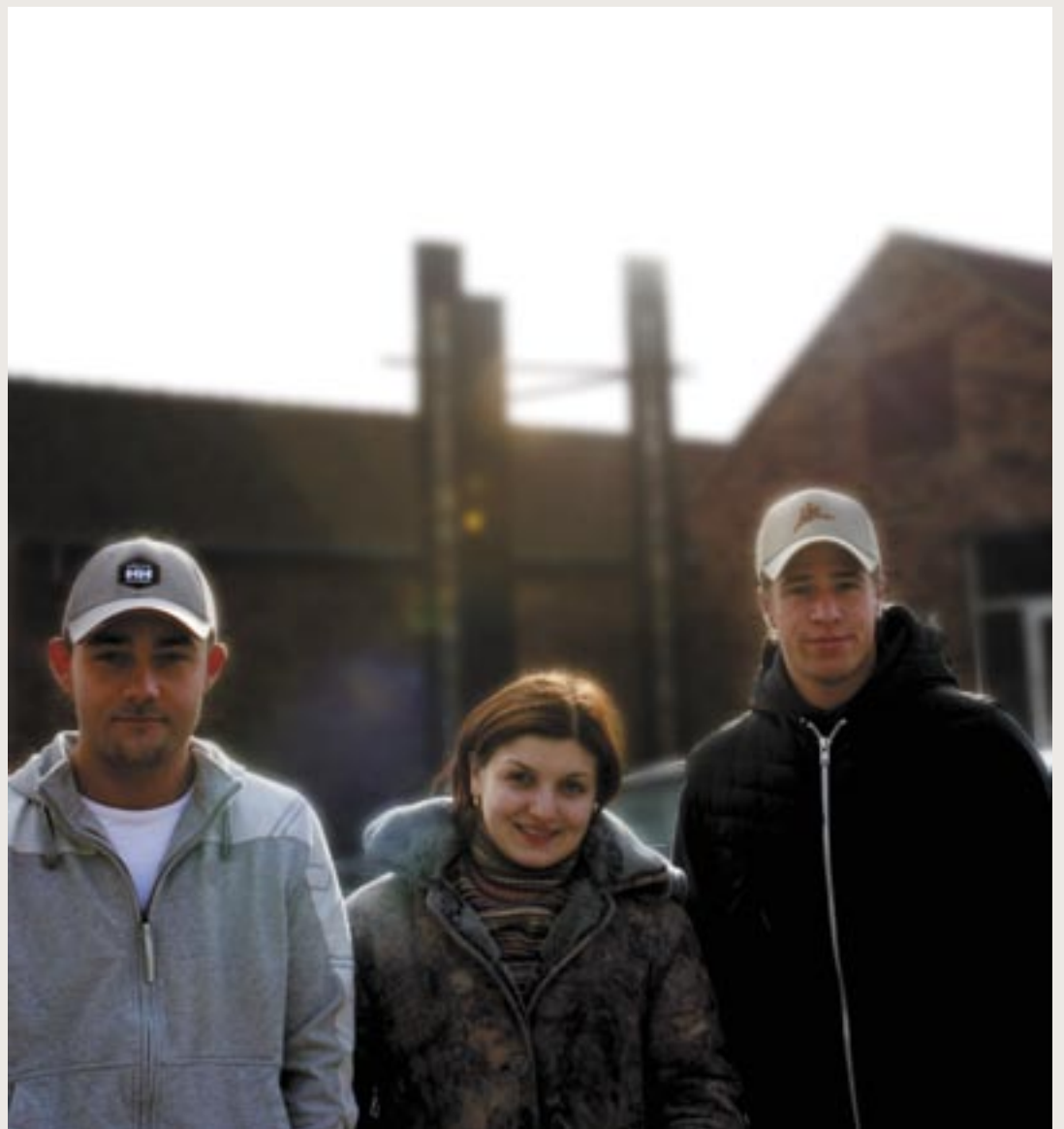
In regards to the program meeting her expectations, Silvia explains:

"For my level of English, the program meets my expectations... I can understand the teachers and follow their lectures, although it would of course be preferable to have native speaking teachers".

She concludes that we should focus on the fact that the teachers are not teaching us the language, but are teaching us the subject matter.

Simon Thomsen, a Dane and 6th semester BscBA student, indicates that there has been a large variation between the quality of English over the past 2 ½ years.

"Whereas some, such as an Indian and



Jesper Frost, Silvia Cebanu and Simon Thomsen.

an English professor, have been more accustomed to working with the English language, most have been Danish and their level of English as well as their ability to communicate their knowledge has not always been good enough".

He also draws attention to the fact that inconsistency is often apparent when comparing the academic level of the course material to the ability of the teachers:

"The lecturers used a very simple language, often repeating the same words due to a lack of vocabulary and in some classes half of the students didn't come because the level of English was so poor... actually, it seemed ridiculous that they were allowed to teach."

Anne Ellerup Nielsen, Associate Dean of International Programs & Program Coordinator for BAMMC, is not surprised to hear that some students are dissatisfied

with the level of English used by some teachers in the international educations. "In fact, this issue has already been brought to the Rector's attention", she says.

When asked what the school is currently doing to resolve the problem and to ensure that qualified teachers are hired in the future, she indicates that the school is presently advertising its vacant positions in local as well as international mediums. The inability to employ qualified personnel, it appears, is purely a matter of recruitment. This difficulty also has to do with the newness of the international programs.

"It takes some time for these programs to establish themselves and become attractive for international professors," she adds.

Furthermore, Anne Ellerup suggests employing a screening policy in which teachers will be required to demonstrate

their ability to communicate effectively in English. "Demonstrate", she explains, "by performing a pseudo lecture, which could possibly be evaluated by a board of English professors." She also points to the fact that students can contribute to shifting the status quo by complaining: "Complaining is the only weapon students have, and I'm always interested in hearing their complaints".

While attitudes towards the quality of English being exercised in the international bachelor programs may vary from enthusiastic to apathetic, it is important that students are allowed to speak their minds. But in fact it is ASB's administration that has the choice of taking notice or ignoring the matter. In the end, it may be this decision that determines the overall betterment of ASB.