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Few schools surveyed rely on WPE

By RHONDA SHARPE

Virginia Wesleyan is the only one of eight regional college surveyed by The Decree which presently administers a Writing Proficiency exam. The others....UNC Chapel Hill, Duke University, Davidson College, UNC Greensboro, Greensboro College, Averett College, and Christopher Newport College...offered a variety of reasons for not administering an exam.

For the past five years VA Wesleyan has been administering a Writing Proficiency Exam. Accord-

ing to Dr. Carroll Johnson, Director of the Writing Lab at VA Wesleyan, students are eligible to take the Exam when they acquire Junior status. The exam is usually given the 2nd week of each semester and is comprised of three questions from which the student must choose one.

The three questions are argumentative type Johnson said, "We allow the student to choose from three questions. The questions ask them to support an idea on a national or local issue, elaborate on a famous quote, or recommend a book, class, ect." A committee composed of all English

faculty grades, the papers based upon the ability of the paper to be "a clear readable prose." The paper is given either a "Pass or Fail" and is read by two committee members. "If there is a discrepancy between the two reader's grades, then a third member reads the paper and gives a grade to protect the integrity of the student's paper," Johnson added.

Should the student fail the exam, personal coaching and an evaluation of as much of the student writing as possible is done to discuss why the student failed the exam. When the student feels that he fully understands

his errors and is able to write free of many of these errors, he is encouraged to retake the Exam.

Johnson suggested several reasons for a student failing the exam:

1. Loss of some skills due to lack of use since the completion of Freshmen Composition.

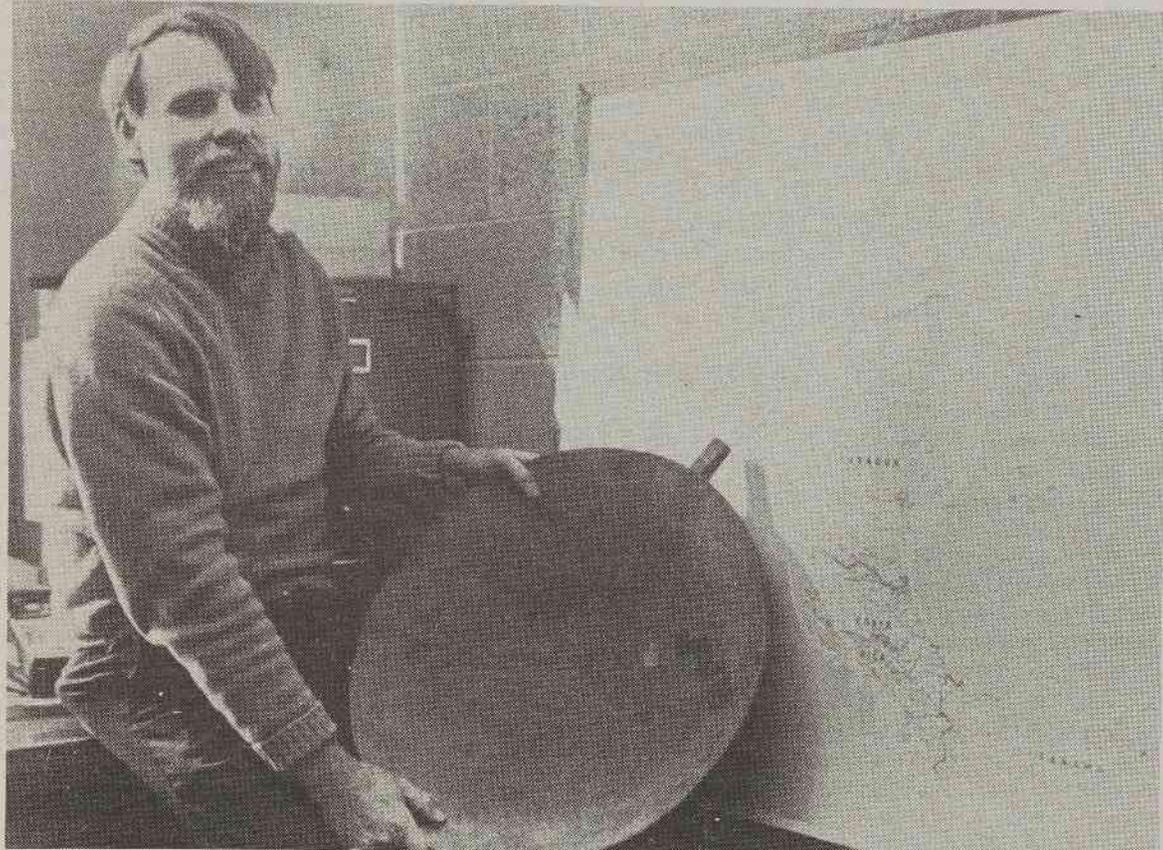
1. The possibility that the Freshmen Composition classes should be reevaluated and their objective reconsidered.

All of the other colleges, rely heavily on their Freshmen composition courses to instill writing competency in their students. Many consid-

ered writing as an integral part of their curriculum therefore, they don't have a proficiency exam.

Jean Walls, Assistant to the Dean of Academics at UNC-G, did not fully explain what an integral part of the curriculum, means but Dr. Emily Meredith, Director of Developmental Studies Program, at NCWC. Theoretically every college would like for writing to be an integral part of their curriculum, but it's very difficult to put in practice.

Christopher Newport College has
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DR. KENNETH FINNEY WITH HONDURAN ARTIFACTS

Honduras book published

A history of the late 19th century mining boom in the Central American country of Honduras has been published by Dr. Kenneth V. Finney, chairman and associate professor of history at Wesleyan.

The book, titled *In Quest of El Dorado*, is actually Finney's dissertation, which he researched and wrote between 1970-72. Finney was one of the first American historians to do any major historical scholarship on Third World history, he said, and his efforts earned him the title "the informal dean of Honduran studies."

Subtitled "Precious Metal Mining and the Modernization of Honduras 1880-1900," the book traces the history of the country's short-lived mining boom, the good and bad it did to Honduras, the companies and people who rode it to power, and what it implied for Honduras' future.

As part of his research Finney worked at the Honduran National Archives, where he discovered a huge mass of loose, uncatalogued documents, some of which dated back to the period Finney was studying."

The clerk hadn't told me about this room before because the staff was so chagrined at the disorganization," he said.

The Honduran National Archives are organized now, thanks to Finney and his sister. They went through all the documents and papers in the room page by page and then arranged them by decade and government division.

Finney's book has been published as part of a series on South American and Latin American economic history by Garland Publishing, Inc.

Black students found experience good at Wesleyan

By RHONDA SHARPE

It has been almost 20 years since Wendell (Dale) Cartwright and James (Jim) Price graduated from North Carolina Wesleyan. Cartwright received a BA in History in 1970 and was the first black graduated from Wesleyan. Price received a BS in mathematics in 1971. In contrast, 32 of the 210 students expected to be graduated in May are black.

According to Registrar Cliff Sullivan, 15 percent of all the students population at Wesleyan is black. This is quite a change from when Cartwright and Price attended Wesleyan and were the only blacks living on campus. Presently there are over 80 black resident students, and 37 of those students came to play a sport.

Cartwright, an Elizabeth City native, also came to NCWC to compete athletically, transferred from the College of the Albemarle to play basketball. According to Coach Donald Scalf, "Cartwright was the first black athlete. He once got a floor burn diving for the basketball. I mean he really busted his knee up bad. So after he showered, I got a bandage to put on his knee. It was one of those flesh colors. When I put it on his knee it really stood out. I said, Dale they didn't have you in mind when they made these!"

Price also played basketball, but says that's not what brought him to Wesleyan. "I attended Ralph L. Bunch in Weldon, NC. Mr. Maxwell was in charge of admissions and had come to our school to talk to the junior class. I was asked to keep him company while the students were gathered together. We began discussing my SAT scores, GPA, etc. He told me that I'd have no problem getting into Wesleyan and suggested that I apply. I liked the small campus buildings and the classroom size. So I decided to go. Basketball was distant because Wesleyan didn't offer athletic scholarships," he said. Price chose Wesleyan over N.C. State and Howard University.

Both Price and Cartwright joined fraternities at Wesleyan. Price belonged to Chi Beta Phi, the science fraternity, and Cartwright pledged Nu Gamma Phi. Cartwright joined the social fraternity because they showed an interest in him and the cost was less than he anticipated.

Price and Cartwright were members of different fraternities and they also lived in different dorms for part of their career at Wesleyan. Cartwright lived in 220 South and then 216 Edgecombe. Price lived in 315 Edgecombe with Henry Daniel Lee for two years. Price and Lee

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