

Physical Plant Division - Program To Solve Problems Of Illiteracy

By Barbara Baker
The question "Why can't Johnny read?" has been debated so often in recent years that it is almost a cliché. But the functionally illiterate adults in this country - and there are an alarming number of them - are often older than the stereotypical Johnny. And they know they can't read. For various reasons they were unable to stay in school long enough to learn how.

Emmett Carter knows the consequences all too well. He left school as a youth when both his parents died and he had to earn a living. He has worked steadily for 37 years, the last 17 for the Physical Plant Division at North Carolina State University.

Like many others, Carter never took the opportunity to go back and earn the degree or diploma which could enable him to advance into a better-paying career.

"Without an education you have to take a back seat and do the work nobody else wants," Carter said.

Last fall, however, Carter moved into the driver's seat. He earned his high school equivalency diploma. A supervisory position was subsequently available and he was promoted into it.

Carter and a number of his NCSU co-workers have been able to pursue a formal education through a program initiated at the university 10 years ago. The Physical Plant Division, with the full support of Charles Braswell, its director, works cooperatively with

the School of Education to help in solving the problems of functional illiteracy in the university's own backyard. The payoff has been tremendous for everyone involved.

Dr. Ariene Fingeret, assistant professor of adult and community college education at NCSU, became liaison between the program and the School of Education last year. As a specialist in adult basic education, she has found the program serves as an excellent prototype for her students.

Although she knows of some industries which allow employees paid time off to continue their educations, Fingeret says that she is not aware of another university arrangement like the one at NCSU. There, employees are given paid work release time off to take courses taught on campus, employing teachers and resources paid for by the university.

The program is broken down into three levels: Adult Basic Education I, Adult Basic Education II, and GED (high school equivalency). Incoming students are tested to see at which level they should begin, she explained. The courses require three to four hours of class time per week.

This past year an optional tutorial program was added which gave students a chance to seek further help on their own time. The program was surprisingly successful, Fingeret said.

Two teachers are hired part time by the Physical Plant Division to organize the pro-

gram and teach the course. Volunteers, including both faculty members and students from the School of Education and other university departments, serve as classroom aides and tutors.

Because the absence from work for classroom attendance means additional work for supervisors and peers, the potential for resentment exists. But the opposite reaction has occurred, Fingeret commented. Supervisors and co-workers have shown enthusiasm and pride in the accomplishments of the participants.

"Supervisors are increasingly more supportive," she said. "They tell us that skills and self concepts improve, morale is better, employees get a new sense of themselves, and they develop new attitudes and outlooks about their jobs."

The programs has not always been so popular. At first employees were somewhat reluctant to admit illiteracy publicly and had to be recruited vigorously. But now there is a waiting list to get in.

"I can't see why anybody wouldn't want to do it," Carter said. "I've talked it up so much in my shop that I've almost made some of them mad!"

Another goal of the teachers is to give the students exposure to the types of everyday tasks which, although taken for granted by most of us, can create panic for the functionally illiterate adult - for example, figuring out a

parking rate or understanding a map.

David Buchman, staff training and development specialist for the Physical Plant Division, believes the program fulfills part of an obligation that the university has to its employees. He suggested that perhaps it even could be used by faculty members to conduct sociological or psychological studies, since the nucleus group most likely will be here five years from now.

Buchman also would like to see the program expanded in-

to other university areas.

Fingeret finds a spirit in the program that is very moving. Classmates and teachers form close bonds. Mothers have called to express their gratitude to the school for giving their son or daughter a chance to get a diploma.

"It really fits into the land-grant philosophy of service," she said. The spirit is embodied in the enthusiasm, gratitude and accomplishments of students like Emmett Carter, who said, "I feel like I've inherited a million dollars."

Eastern Carolinians Attend Radio Meeting

GREENVILLE— Approximately 80 eastern North Carolinians attended a public radio meeting here, March 11, sponsored by Craven Community College and hosted by the East Carolina University Regional Development Institute.

The meeting, designed to acquaint participants with Craven Community College's plans to establish a public radio station, drew leaders in local government, education, civic and community organizations from several eastern North Carolina counties.

John R. Smith of ComUnigue in Edenton attended. Speaking on the radio project were Dr. Thurman Brock, CCC president; Cliff Swain, dean of students at CCC; Dr. Charles Barker of New Bern, chairman of the CCC Public Radio Committee and Janice Faulkner, director of the ECU Regional Development Institute.

The college has received federal and state grants to fund the construction and initial operation of its projected radio station, and plans to seek subscriber contributions to raise the \$100,000 annual operating costs.

The station, to carry the call letters WTEB, is expected to go on the air November 2, 1983. About a third of its air time will be devoted to public information programming, and CCC officials said they would seek National Public Radio affilia-

tion. Primary coverage area of the station would include about a 30-mile radius of New Bern.

Brock said that although Craven Community College is the "cutting edge" of the new station, CCC officials regard it as a "regional project" and a "community colleges project."

While listeners in some parts of eastern North Carolina can receive public radio broadcasts from National Public Radio affiliates WHRO-FM (Norfolk, Va.), WUNC-FM (Chapel Hill) and WVSP-FM (Warrenton), most of the region is not served by a public radio station.

Mrs. Faulkner urged those attending to become members of a new organization, Friends of Public Radio East, and help mobilize support for public radio service in eastern North Carolina. Also being planned are a relay station for WUNC-FM, to be located in Farmville, and a public radio station in Wilmington.

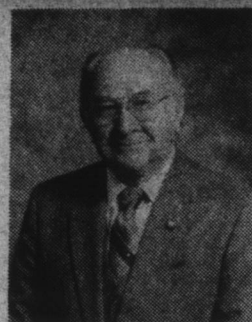
Card Of Thanks

Words cannot adequately express my sincere appreciation to so many for the monetary assistance given in my behalf, and for your prayers and concern. This evidence of "really caring" on the part of so many in the community will always be cherished. May God's richest blessings be yours.

Pauline Kenney

The James Report

by Rep. Vernon James
1st District Representative



There was a letter recently in the *Daily Advance*, Letter To The Editor column, stating that I had introduced legislation to increase motor vehicle tax to five dollars. I want to set the record straight. I introduced House Bill 190 "An Act To Allow Various Towns To Increase The Tax Levy On Motor Vehicles To A Maximum Of Five Dollars" at the request of several town governments. The key word is "allows". There are many towns and cities that have varying rates of up to five dollars. It is entirely possible that it won't need to be raised or to be raised slightly depending on the town's financial situation. As the federal government continues to cut back on its support for needed programs, the money has to be generated somewhere. Unfortunately, we, the taxpayers, are being forced to pick up the slack.

We have had phone calls and mail from people who are agitated over House Bill 314 entitled "An Act To Permit Pasquotank And Chowan Counties To Sell Impounded Dogs And Cats To Licensed Animal Dealers." This bill allows stray animals that have been picked up and held for 30 days in the pound to be sold to a licensed dealer to be used for research purposes. The reaction I have received suggests to me that these people are not fully aware of the extreme value of animals in the development of surgical procedures and drugs for treating people.

Just stop and consider the vast number of drugs that are available for the treatment and relief of the illnesses of man? Each of these drugs has undergone extensive testing under conditions that were regulated under federal law to insure that the animals were treated as humanely as

possible and still supply the essential information needed to prove that the drugs are effective against the disease as well as safe in other respects for human use. The only way that drugs can be tested, other than on humans, is to test them on animals. I believe that most thinking people will agree that we need these drugs and that it is better to test them on animals first.

Commonly, rats, mice, rabbits, and hamsters are used in such tests; but tests with dogs, monkeys, and certain other animals often provide additional data to insure safety to man.

Animals are also used to develop surgical procedures that are in common use in medical facilities around the world today. Treatments such as radiation therapy were tested on animals before they were applied to humans. Excessive radiation obviously can be extremely hazardous and even lethal to man, and radiation treatments were first applied to animals to develop techniques and to determine levels of radiation that could be tolerated by man.

There are innumerable ways animals are used to test drugs and surgical procedures, and without these tests our medical knowledge would probably be equivalent to that of the 1800's.

I am not suggesting that our loved, cared for pets be used. I am, however, suggesting that uncared for, stray animals that are otherwise being killed be used in the interest of medical science just as other experimental animals are. This is the only way that new procedures can be developed, that new instruments can be tested, and that new drugs can be evaluated for effectiveness and safety.

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5. Thick slice
9. Field
10. Pacific-Island
12. Rub out
13. Summon forth
14. Saucy
15. Fitcher
16. Regions
20. Indulges
23. Talk (colloq.)
26. Stand-offish
27. Rest
29. Animal's foot
30. Riddles
32. Coat
33. Edible bird
36. Bulb
40. Assumed name
42. Underwater detection apparatus
43. A ball
44. Ingress
45. Charges, as for services
46. Grows old

DOWN
1. Telegraph
2. Armadillo
3. Nazi police
4. Before
5. Pronoun
6. Washes
7. Below (naut.)

8. Cook, as a cake
9. Vigor
11. Indian weight
17. Allude
18. Erbium (sym.)
19. Meat jelly
20. Invalid's food
21. Wing
22. Cut, as grass
23. Chiclet
24. King of Judah
25. God of pleasure
28. Everlasting
31. Nickel (sym.)
32. Locality
33. Craze
34. Norse name
35. Fort or claret
37. Poker stake
38. Planet
39. Snoop
41. Southeast by south (abbr.)
42. "The Around Us"

RiverSpree

Arts and crafts enthusiasts are invited to display their work in RiverSpree '83 on May 21-22 in Elizabeth City. RiverSpree is the annual street and waterfront festival sponsored by the Elizabeth City Area Chamber of Commerce. In its debut in 1982, RiverSpree attracted nearly 10,000 visitors to the city.

Kern Ormond, crafts chairman, and Jack Bowden, arts chairman, have announced that booths are available at \$25 for 10'x10'; \$30 for 12'x12'; and \$35 for 14'x14' for both days of the festival. Exhibitors are expected to operate their booths from 10 A.M. to 7 P.M. on Saturday, with Sunday being optional from 1 P.M. to 6 P.M.

The arts and crafts booths will be set up in Water Street, which will be blocked off for the festival. Exhibitors must provide all displayed materials and their own protection in the event of sudden showers. Electrical service will not be provided. Guidelines and applications for arts and crafts booths are available from the chamber of commerce.

Deadline for booth reservations is April 2. All work must be original and done only by individual exhibitors and crafts/arts cooperatives. For additional information, contact the Elizabeth City Area Chamber of Commerce at 335-4365.



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