

UNC Has 'Dear Abby' In Correspondence Bureau

By WES LEFLER

In that mountain of mail that piles up each morning at Mary Henry's office are poems, hymns, recipes, household hints and touching stories about 1,001 personal problems.

Notations come in scribbled on scraps of paper, jotted on the backs of envelopes or sometimes neatly typed on letterhead stationery.

But Miss Henry is not an advice columnist. She's more of an international educator.

Miss Henry heads the University Bureau of Correspondence Instruction. And written assignments from all of the University's 2,686 correspondence students around the world come to her office — plus the personal chit chat.

Most of these personal notes explain family problems that have come between the student and his overdue assignment or exam.

Some letters, mostly from adults, run several pages in length and ramble on and on about ill health in the family threatened divorce and even death.

"It's really difficult to keep from getting too personal when I answer their letters," Miss Henry says. "Some of our students tell us so much about themselves, you feel like you get to know them."

There was a letter from a college dropout who "wanted marriage and children more than an A. B. degree." Now she wants her college degree. She knows that a correspondence program is her only hope. Progress is slow, and sometimes difficult, but with every course she completes she is a little nearer her goal.

Then there was the mother of four who is now the family's only support. Her husband's health has failed and she has gone to work as a substitute teacher. She wants to complete her college

degree so she can qualify for an "A" teaching certificate.

"No one can imagine the struggle that I have undergone," wrote a 43-year-old textile worker. "Due to financial problems, I dropped out of high school seven weeks before graduation in 1937." He completed courses in English, math and history, and in 1961 passed the High School Equivalency examination. "It's now my desire to become a good elementary school teacher," he wrote.

Convicted criminals serving prison terms often write. They have their problems too.

"Some of these prisoners are very good students," Miss Henry says. "It's not unusual to have a straight 'A' student behind bars."

Tearful parents write.

"Sometimes we hear from parents of students who have mislead them about their progress," she says. They will tell their parents they have completed the course and are ready for the final exam. But after a time when the parents don't receive a grade in the mail for their child, they write to Mary Henry.

And sometimes she has to write back and say, "I'm sorry, but your son John has completed only three of his 25 assignments . . ." Tearful parents.

Sob stories have been on the increase since Viet Nam.

Some of those enrolled in the correspondence program are students who have been dismissed from the University because of failing grades. And unless they remove this grade condition and get back in school they sometimes become eligible for military service.

"When these boys can't meet the deadline to get back in school," Miss Henry says, "their parents write . . . 'If Jimmy doesn't get back in school

before the deadline you'll be sending him to his death. He's sure to be drafted and sent to Viet Nam.'"

Miss Henry is just thankful that 90 per cent of her students don't write personal and highly emotional letters.

Out of the 90 per cent Miss Henry gets frequent letters of thanks from students who have enjoyed a course and done well. Now and then students pass along constructive observations.

One student wrote, "I must confess that I thought correspondence courses were just for credit, but I am pleased to learn they are also for learning."

Each morning three secretaries spend one and a half hours opening Miss Henry's mail. From her office it is routed to individual professors who teach the 2,686 students in 3,138 courses. Some 47,000 assignments were completed during the past year.

UNC's correspondence students come from 95 of the state's 100 counties, 47 of the 50 states and a number of foreign countries.

Many courses are offered for undergraduate credit, while others do not carry university credit. Correspondence officials encourage students to complete and return at least one assignment per week. But hasty preparation is discouraged. Only four assignments can be accepted in a seven-day period. And

these must be submitted one at a time.

Just as on-campus students, the correspondence student faces final examinations after all course assignments have been completed if they wish credit for the course. Generally, the exam is taken on the UNC campus or at some other institution of higher learning accessible to the student.

The University accepts 30 semester hours of credit by correspondence toward an undergraduate degree. But the last year of college must be taken in residence. A minimum of 126 semester hours is required for graduation with a bachelor of arts degree.

Among the newest courses offered are English and modern math via television. The two courses are broadcast twice each week over WUNC-TV, Channel 4, Chapel Hill and WUNB-TV, Channel 2, Columbia. The English course carries three hours of college credit.

Among other popular new courses are Introduction to the Study of Exceptional Children, Elementary Italian, and courses in state government, Russian History and dramatic art.

By special arrangement between the Bureau and the United States Armed Forces Institute, military personnel around the world may enroll in credit courses. The federal government pays the instructional fee.



Miss Mary Henry

Students Find Favor With Course Outlines

By KENNETH ADKINS
Special To The DTH

Whether good or bad, course outlines or 'ponies' are an integral part of life at the University.

Students, faculty, and those who operate the local bookstores all have different opinions regarding the relative merit of such outlines.

Student opinion of course outlines is generally favorable. John Taylor, a freshman, said that the course outlines he uses are not as good as textbooks but that they "come in handy when assignments are too large." He summed up his opinion by saying, "I don't totally approve of them, but I'm not hesitant in using them."

Bo Bishop, a sophomore, said he has used them in the past but doesn't use them now. "Course outlines, if used, should be used to organize thoughts in preparing for quizzes. They are no substitute for paying attention in class."

Although critical of the use of course outlines as replacements for textbooks is frowned on by the faculty, most instructors agree that they are great aids to their students when they are used to supplement textbook material.

Many instructors and professors recommend that their students use course outlines.

There are at present about 16 different types of outlines available to students here at UNC. They range from the general course outlines such as the Monarch and College Outline Series to highly specific and technical outlines

such as those in the Schaum's series.

Neither H. C. Watson of the UNC Bookstore nor Wallace Kuralt, manager of the Intimate Book Shop, knew exactly how many outlines they sell each semester.

Watson said that most of his outline sales comes from the sale of outlines of Shakespearean plays. He added that sales pick up right before exams.

Kuralt said that the Intimate stocks about 16 different outline series.

He said the most popular outline series is the Monarch but that College Outline Series is running a close second.

"Most of the faculty consider these two to be pretty solid stuff."

Kuralt added that the Monarch series is one of the newer series but that it has gained rapidly in popularity with students. He feels that the reason for this is Monarch's system of keying its outlines to specific textbooks.

Kuralt summed up his opinion of outlines by saying, "A good outline used properly can raise one's grade. However, I don't feel that you can pass by just using outlines in place of texts."

Thin Red Line Comes Back To England

LONDON (UPI) — The "Thin Red Line" has returned to Britain — this time for the sidewalk, not the battlefield.

A narrow red stripe which means "no crossing here" is being painted on many London sidewalks in an effort to curb jaywalking, virtually a national pastime.

Pedestrians apparently find the mark on street crossings too few and far between. They have taken to crossing anywhere and everywhere, at the peril of the oncoming traffic and their own lives.

Now would-be jaywalkers will have to be careful as one step over the "thin red line" will mean an on-the-spot fine from watchful London "bobbies."



GINA LOLLOBRIGIDA and Alec Guinness, holding a secret rendezvous at an infamous Paris hotel, are alarmed by prying neighbors in one of the hilarious moments of MGM's "Hotel Paradiso," which will open at the Carolina theater this week. Filmed in Panavision and color, the uproarious farce-comedy was produced and directed by Peter Glenville.

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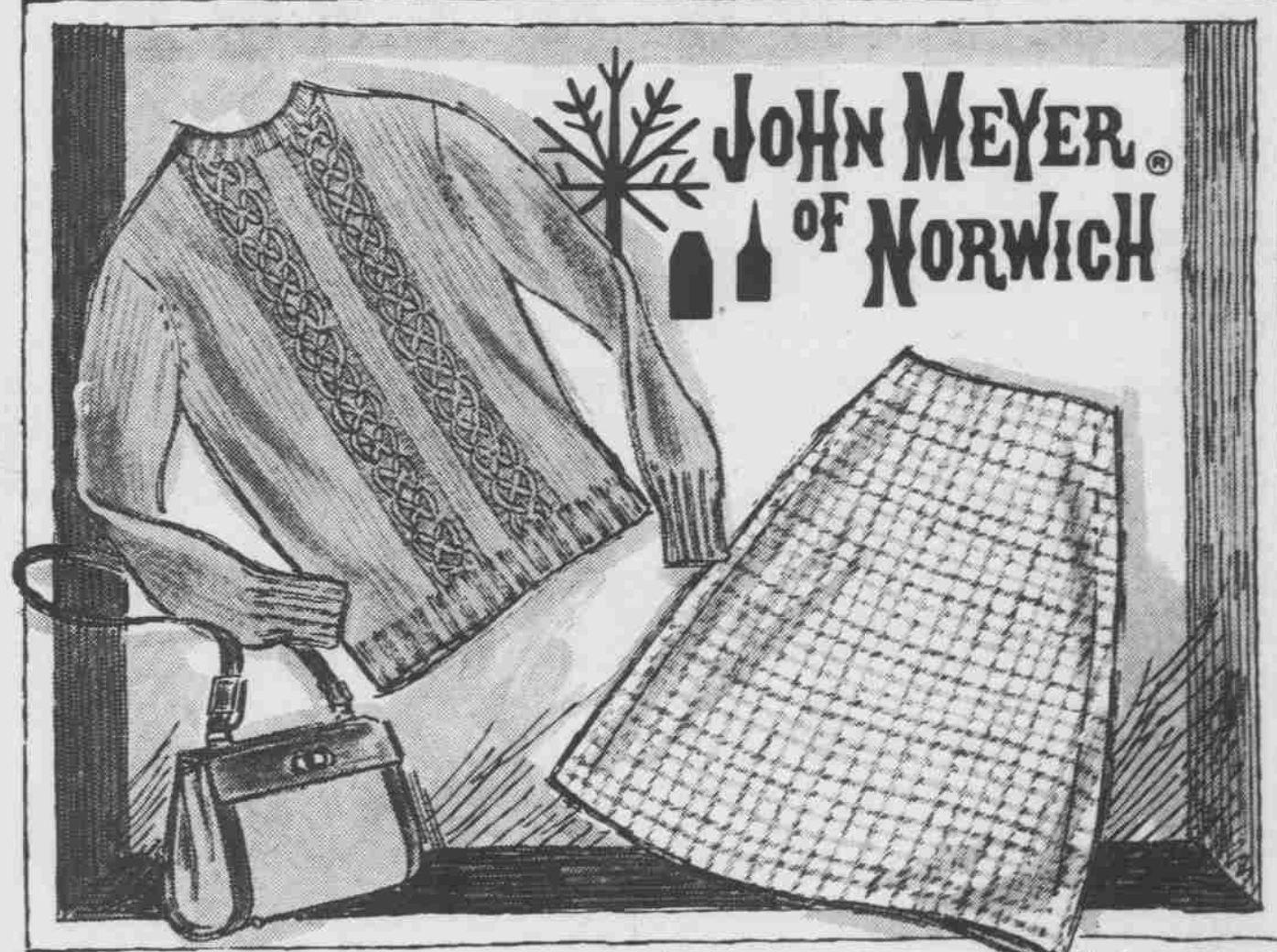
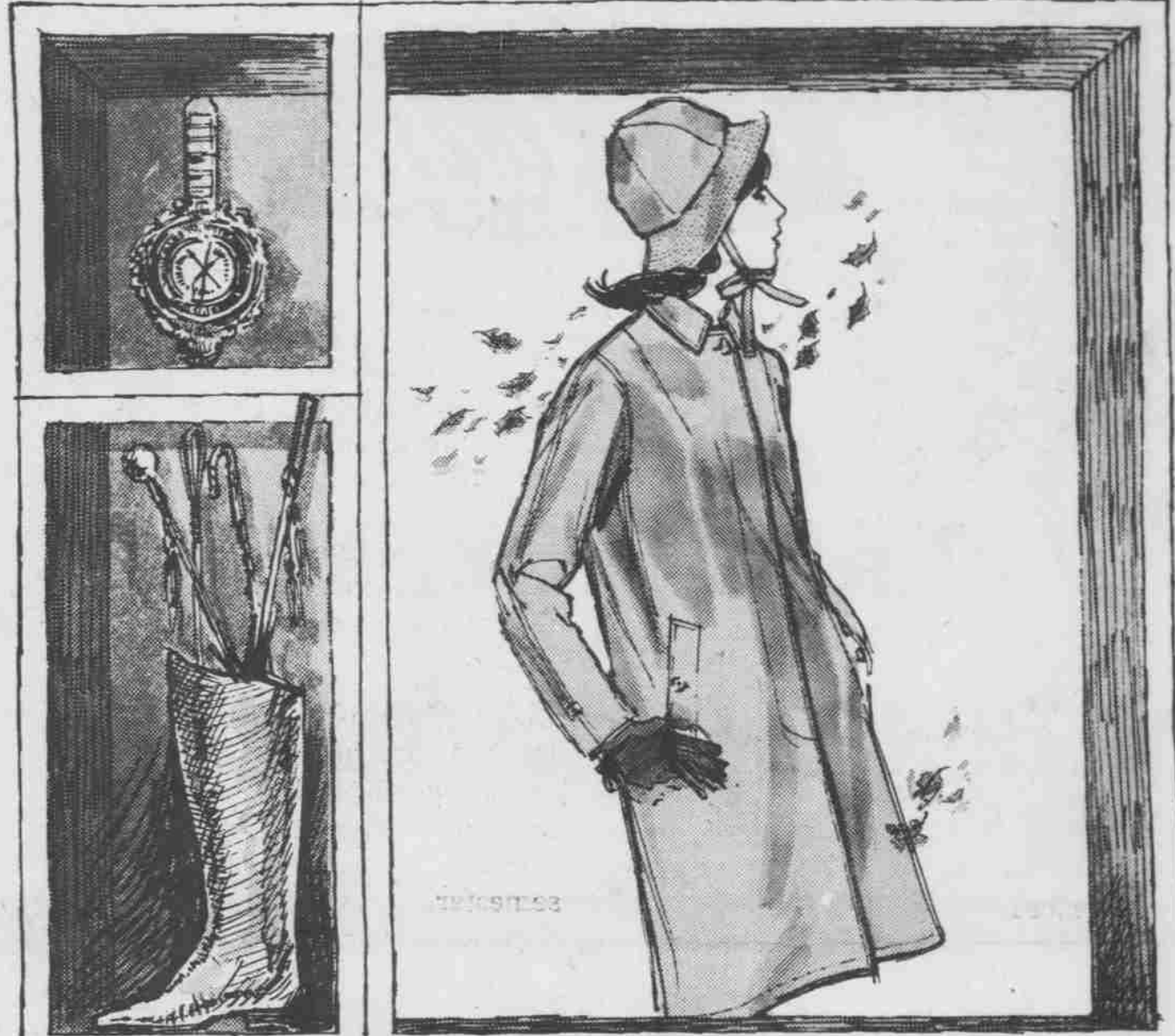
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