

UNC professors discuss 'the write stuff' for students

By JEAN LUTES
Assistant University Editor

Academic departments have varied writing styles, and each has a different effect on how students learn to write, a panel of five UNC professors said Tuesday.

The discussion, "Writing across the disciplines: Do we have a common language?" was sponsored by the Philological Club and moderated by George Kennedy, professor of classics and chairman of the UNC Faculty Council.

"Language in all its forms merits more attention than it has been getting," Erika Lindemann, associate professor of English, told about 20 people in Dey Hall.

Writing can be used to inform, to persuade, to express oneself and to create art, Lindemann said. Students are exposed to informational writing in most writing courses, she said.

But students who learn only informational writing gain a "false concept" of the uses of writing, she said.

For weak writers, remedial courses are very important, she said. "To them, 'bonehead English' represents their last chance to master writing."

George Tindall, professor of

history, said he had a standard answer if students complain when he corrects their writing.

"When students get back blue books with their margins illuminated in red pen, I get: 'I thought this was a course in history, not English,'" he said. "I finally discovered the answer to that: 'Well, that was your mistake,'" he said.

To improve the quality of writing, Tindall suggested placing a copy of William Strunk and E.B. White's "The Elements of Style" in the hands of every student and faculty member.

"Too many students approach academic writing with the sense that if it's not dull, it's unsound," he said. "Dull writing to me means dull writers."

He said all departments, even English, are guilty of writing in jargon, although the worst offenders are usually in social science departments.

Henry Landsberger, professor of sociology, said that before all sociologists were shot down for "making the obvious unclear and the unimportant seem profound," people should understand the different styles of sociological writing.

Landsberger's three main divisions of writing are "essayist polem-

ical," "theoretical conceptual" and "statistical empirical." Each has a specific purpose for a specific part of sociology.

Sociologists communicate worse among themselves than they do with people in other disciplines, he said.

While Landsberger said sociologists try to inform the general public of their findings, Robert Parr, professor of chemistry, said researchers write for specialists.

Research articles contain results of experiments, theoretical arguments and very technical language, Parr said. "Editors do not turn papers down because they do not like the style they are written in," he said.

"The most important thing in the article is the title, assuming it has some content," Parr said. When scientists read journals, they can often just read an article's title and know what it's about.

"Also, the net result has to be speed-readable," he said, so the article's readers can absorb the material in as short a time as possible.

Kennedy agreed that titles are important. "I'm often given papers that have no title, and after I've read them I don't know what they're about."

Massage parlor rubbed out

By DAN MORRISON
Staff Writer

Triangle Massage must vacate its building in southern Orange County by Nov. 15 following court settlement of a lease dispute, according to Joe Buckner, a law student speaking for plaintiffs Robert Epting and Rep. Joe Hackney, D-Orange.

Epting and Hackney, both Chapel Hill attorneys, bought the land from its previous owner, R.G. Windsor, who also owns the conservative "Landmark" newspaper. They filed suit this spring to force the parlor to leave.

Triangle Massage is at the intersection of N.C. 15-501 and Level Drive at the border of Orange and Chatham Counties.

John G. McCormick, an attorney for Triangle Associates, which operated Triangle Massage, said the parlor had failed

to record its previous lease with the record office in Hillsborough between Windsor and Triangle Associates.

"The lease was a small, handwritten document that probably wasn't in recordable condition," McCormick said.

"We just didn't want a massage parlor on the property," Buckner said.

That lease would have been good until 1990, McCormick added.

Epting and Hackney told Triangle Associates to make moving preparations in April. The case was brought to court in June, which handed down an order to move several weeks ago.

Hackney and Epting also received an award of \$1,000 monthly for seven months for a combination of back rent and damages.

A \$60,000 bond was passed down to Triangle Massage, to be paid if they chose to appeal the case. Triangle Massage decided not to pay the bond, thereby forfeiting its option to appeal, McCormick said.

An unidentified Triangle Massage employee expressed her disapproval of the court action Tuesday, saying, "We're just doing our job here like anyone else."

"If you close down all the shops, you're just going to have all these crazies run around other parts of Orange County anyway," she said.

Buckner said Hackney and Epting would like to rent out the space for a restaurant or small store, like a hardware store.

When contacted Wednesday, Hackney and Epting declined comment.

Congress

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sending were: Steve Griffin (Dist. 5), Ann-Christin Pautz (Dist. 19), Riemann, Brian Sipe (Dist. 14) and Wooten. Taylor abstained.

The congress also appropriated \$2,900 of a \$5,800 request for the Carolina Course Review, after its editor, Craig Parker, told the board that the future of the publication was in doubt if it didn't receive the funds.

Parker said the request had not been prepared for last spring's budget process, and had not been before the congress this fall because of "personal problems." College faculty around the country have called the review second only to Harvard University's, he said. But a commitment of \$17,000 from UNC's faculty would be withdrawn if the review does not come out before pre-

registration Oct. 17, he said. The congress appropriated half of the request — enough for the review to publish this semester's issue.

The congress also approved WXYC's request to spend \$2,316 from the radio station's surplus. The approval will allow the station use its own funds to purchase equipment to hook up its new control board.

Homecoming to be gala event

By BETH WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

The crowning of the homecoming queen will be the center of attention during this year's homecoming game, Saturday, Oct. 18, against N.C. State University.

The Monkees concert on Friday, an exhibition game between the Chicago Bulls and the L.A. Lakers on Sunday, an appearance by author George Plimpton, and a full schedule of special activities will also be featured during the week-long celebration welcoming back UNC alumni, said Megan Casey, co-chairwoman of the Carolina Athletic Association's Homecoming Committee.

To apply for the position of homecoming queen, students must be seniors at UNC and be sponsored by a campus organization. Applicants should be involved in extra-curricular activities and have good grades, she said.

George Plimpton, author of "The Paper Lion," will kick off Homecoming Week by speaking to the student body 8 p.m. Monday in Memorial Hall.

The CAA is also trying to get as many student organizations involved with homecoming as possible. Different student organizations will have activities in the Pit during the week of the homecoming. Businesses are supporting homecoming with prizes for the homecoming queen or donations to fund many of the other activities during the week.

"Our goal is to make homecoming a celebration and it hasn't been in the past," Casey said.

The homecoming committee hopes to get enough student groups involved to have a different performance in the Pit every half hour each day during the week of the game, Kenny McManus, co-chairman of the committee, said.

On Wednesday night the annual Mr. UNC contest will be sponsored by the CAA and Circle K. It's not

a bodybuilding contest, but a contest of wit and imagination, McManus said.

The homecoming parade will be held Friday afternoon. The parade starts at Fetzer Gym, turns onto Raleigh Street, goes up Franklin Street, then down to South Columbia Street and finally back down to Ehringhaus Field.

The Alumni Association and the Education Foundation will be supplying pompons to those attending game itself.

The CAA is encouraging those going to the game to wear Carolina blue and white. The game will be televised and blue and white should be worn as a visual sign of spirit for those watching at home, he said. It would be embarrassing if UNC students were overwhelmed by State red, McManus said.

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Drop

"Some students will bite the bullet rather than drop the class," Jicha said. "They think they can do the work, and they can't. It just piles up. Eventually they'll do worse in other classes than the one they might have dropped."

Some of these students, rather than drop the class, choose to take it pass/fail, he said.

The danger exists when a student falls below the minimum course load of 12 hours. Jicha said he did not recommend students skimming by

with 12 hours each semester. Eventually they would have to take summer school classes, correspon-

Budget

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definitely planning on implementing the cut.

"We're charging right ahead," Miya said.

David Galinsky, chairman of the psychology department, said his department was given the go-ahead

for the one position they requested. "It's unclear what the impact will be, but we're pleased that we are able to move ahead with the search."

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