

FTI leads in area nursing scores

For the third consecutive year, nursing students attending the North Carolina community college system institutions have excelled on the State Board of Nursing Examinations.

This year, 935 nursing students, who took the examinations for the first time, scored 90% or better. Nine of the system's institutions reported passing rates of 100%.

Nursing students at Fayetteville Technical Institute scored the highest of the surrounding community colleges.

Out of the 30 students who took the writing tests at the Fayetteville school, 27 passed and three failed, giving the facility a 90% score.

At Robeson Technical College, 87% of the 23 nursing students taking the tests passed. Three failed.

Sandhills Community College students fared the worst.

There 86% of the 36 taking the test passed. Five students at the Moore County school failed.

Dr. Vencie Hardee, coordinator of health occupation programs for the Department of Community Colleges (DCC), said that a number of factors accounted for the system's scoring success.

"From the beginning, we try to pinpoint which applicants may have problems and offer these students essential developmental

courses," Hardee said. "For example, students have a better chance of succeeding in our nursing programs if they have taken algebra, and chemistry in high school.

"However, we never discourage anyone from attempting to succeed in our program," she added.

Hardee also said that improvements in faculty education, more effective use of clinical facilities and improvements in the nursing curriculum were major factors for the high scores this year.

Commenting on the excellent test results, State President Robert W. Scott said, "We are very proud of our nursing students and their exemplary record of achievement as reflected by the results of the State Board of Nursing Examinations. The nursing field is changing constantly and nurses today must keep abreast or find themselves unable to work in a modern setting.

"The Department of Community Colleges has an ongoing commitment to help nursing students across the state obtain the necessary up-to-date skills for today's expanding and complex health care systems," he added.

The community college system produces 95 percent of the two-year associate degree nurses train-

ed in North Carolina and all of the licensed practical nurses (LPNs) in the state.

Students from 32 community college system institutions took the examination.

The nine institutions with a passing rate of 100% were: Caldwell Community College (Lenoir); Gaston College (Dallas); Mitchell Community College (Statesville); Region "A" Consortium (Haywood Technical College, Clyde; Southwestern Community College, Whiteville; and Tri-County Community College, Murphy); Rockingham Community College (Wentworth); Rowan Technical College (Salisbury); Southeastern Community College (Whiteville); Surry Community

College (Dobson); and Wayne Community College (Goldsboro).

In addition, sixteen community, technical colleges and technical institutes had passing rates of 90% or better.

Six more schools had passing rates of 80% to 89%.

The sorely missed bluebird, whose population is said to have decreased by as much as 90% in the past 50 years, may be making a comeback, says the National Wildlife Federation. The songbird, that ranges only in North America, has several thousand tenacious volunteers to thank for putting up man-made bluebird nesting boxes across the country.



Five-year attenders

August A. Zitzmann (rear left), Corporate Vice President Manufacturing for Fabeg, Inc., is shown with six employees who recently completed five years of perfect attendance with the company. Zitzmann presented a watch to each employee for their accomplishment. Pictured from left to right are Sheila Sanders, Zitzmann, Billy McDiarmid, Larry Sanders, Ruby Easterling, Carl Barfield and William Morrison.

King tapped for Blake Hoke County campaign

Mary Neil King, life-long native of Raeford, has been named Blake for Congress chairman in Hoke County.

Harris Blake is the Republican candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives from North Carolina's Eighth District, which is composed of 12 counties.

Mrs. King is active in church, civic and school affairs in Hoke County. She is Women's Missionary Union director at the First Baptist Church, where she also teaches Sunday School. Her active memberships include PTA,

Chaminade Music Club and Raeford Jr. Women's Club, of which she is a charter member. She has worked with the Heart Fund, Easter Seals and the Hoke County Symphony Board.

She is the wife of Julian King, who owns electronic stores in Laurinburg and Aberdeen. They are the parents of two sons, Jason, 11 and Justin, 6.

A graduate of Meredith College, the active Mrs. King is currently working to establish a Hoke County Drug Task Force.

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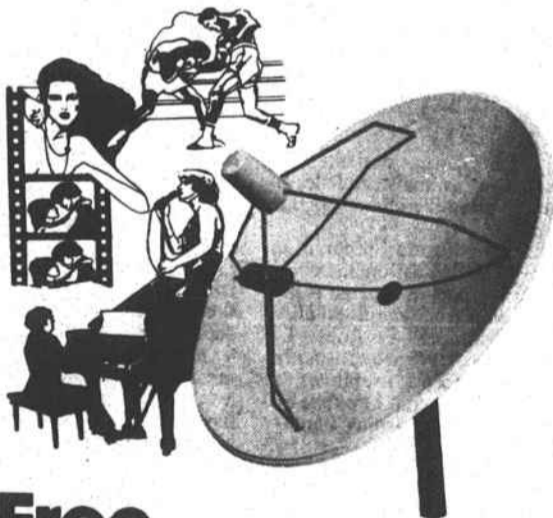
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