

Departments declare fall test plans

By Ramona Huggins

Senior comprehensive examinations begin next week at UNCA, giving graduating seniors the opportunity to demonstrate the knowledge gained and skills developed during their college experience.

Underclassmen, also eager to display their expertise, need not despair for lack of a chance however, for UNCA will have a final examination week this year, Dec. 12 to 16.

Not all departments are giving seniors comps, but all say they

are planning to give finals, most of which will cover all material studied (or at least assigned!) during this fall semester.

Dr. Laurence Dorr, UNCA vice-chancellor for student affairs, said there is no written university policy regarding

final exams. "Everyone is not required to give a final exam, but such exams provide a good feedback system," said Dorr.

Dorr also said departments are not required to give senior comps.

"Not all departments give comprehensive exams

because there are better ways, or different methods, of testing students," he said.

Dorr explained that some departments have graduating seniors do a broad research paper while other departments require the students to

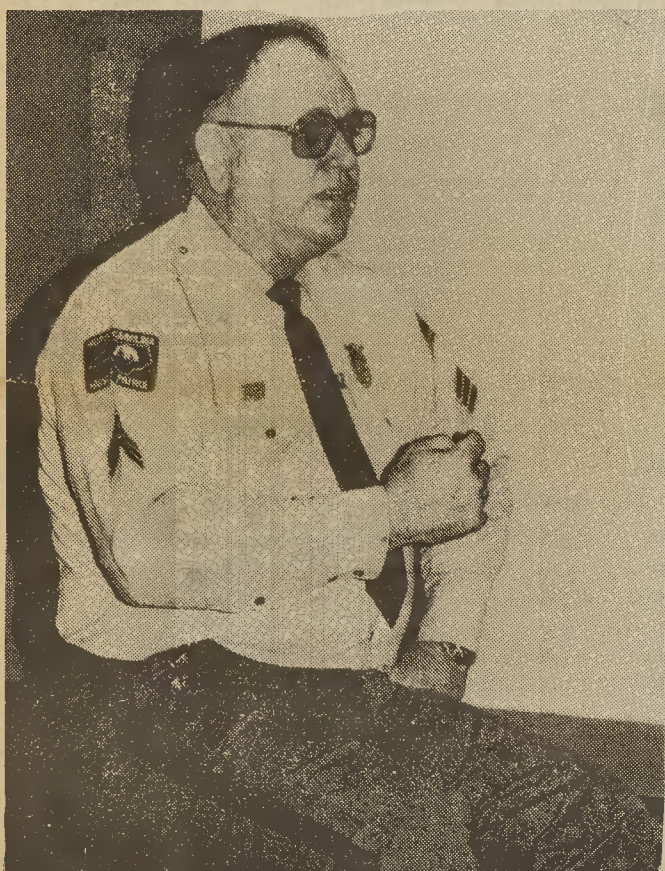
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Kaleidoscope

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Writer Wicker advises rewarding honesty

By Alan Riddle

The neo-conservative attitude is that to decrease crime in the U.S., the cost of crime must be increased.

"I say we turn that proposition on its head: increase instead the reward to the person not committing a crime!" said Tom Wicker, newspaper columnist, associate editor of the *New York Times* and former reporter for the *Winston-Salem Journal*.

Wicker is author of *A Time to Die*, a personal account of negotiations with the 1971 Attica prison rebels, which reflects his concern with crime and prisons.

He spoke at a recent "Justice and the Community" conference of the Western Carolinians for Criminal Justice held at the Central United Methodist Church in Asheville.

"Ten U.S. males died by violence in 1977 for every one Swede, German, Austrian or Japanese male who died by violence," said Wicker.

Wicker blamed television in part for this statistic.

"The contrast between poverty and affluence

is greater in America, and TV bears witness to it," he said.

Wicker said people who commit crimes are people with low self-esteem.

"Jobs are fundamental to self-respect," he said, adding that a return to a full-employment economy would restore general self-esteem and thus reduce crime.

Prison populations have risen 60 percent over the last 10 years, said Wicker.

He said much of the increase is due to mandatory sentencing; to criticism of due process as a "technicality;" and to longer sentences enacted in an epidemic of fear.

"Americans have a greater problem with the fear of crime than they do with crime," said Wicker.

In *A Time to Die* Wicker blames newspapers for creating a

lot of this fear without posing any solutions.

In the same book he says that there is an "unadmitted class war" going on in America, which likes to think of itself as a "classless society," but isn't.

He says "one third of all children born in 1981 will live in poverty before they are 18," and he calls this poverty a major cause of American crime.

Wicker was asked about his opinion of present prison policies.

"Nobody wants another Attica," he said. (The 1971 Attica prison revolt in New York resulted in the death of dozens of prison guards and rebellious inmates.)

He said prison life today is basically no different than it was in 1971, "but some of our initiatives to have

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Road blocks blocked: Sgt. Geter Wiles of the Traffic Safety Division of the N.C. Highway Patrol, told UNCA students that his state commander ordered all patrolmen under his jurisdiction to not use road blocks to check passing cars for drunk drivers even though the law permits them. Speaking in the Highrise dorm conference room last Thursday, Wiles said that N.C. now has "the toughest drunk driving laws in the United States." He also told students:

.to "never refuse to take a breathalyzer test or your license will be taken away for 12 months by the Department of Motor Vehicles.

.to not ask for a blood alcohol test "unless you are absolutely sure you are not legally drunk." Even though it is more accurate than a breathalyzer test, the blood alcohol test is not paid for by the state and costs the taker \$22.

.to not think beer is safer than mixed drinks. He said "a 12 ounce can of beer has more alcohol content (one-and-a-half ounces) than a mixed drink at a bar (one ounce)."

Photo by David LaPour

Weather

Forecast courtesy of the Atmospheric Science Program.

INSIDE

Partly cloudy for today and Friday. Rain Saturday and Sunday. Highs in the 40's to 50's and lows in the 20's.

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