

## UNCW Observes Veteran's Day In Different Ways

For the past two years, UNCW has taken part in what many hope will become an annual event to focus on nuclear war, its dangers and possible alternatives. Sponsored and conducted by UNCW faculty and concerned local citizens, in conjunction with the Union of Concerned Scientists of Cambridge, Mass., the convocation on nuclear issues was held on Nov. 11, 1982 - Veterans' Day.

According to Dr. James Megivern, chairman of UNCW's philosophy and religion department and coordinator of the UNCW convocation, more than 500 universities held similar convocations to "educate students and citizens about the real threat of a nuclear war and its consequences." Several movies were shown throughout the day, with discussion groups following.

*Hiroshima* is a documentary showing the effects of the bombing of that city by the United States in 1945. *No-First-Use* is a film made by the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) explaining that group's reasons for supporting the policy of no-first-use of nuclear weapons. *The War Game* shows a mock nuclear attack on Great Britain and what the makers of the film believe to be the effects of such an attack. The film was banned in Great Britain when it was first made in 1965.

"We will continue to hold these until the nuclear race is stopped," said Megivern. "There is a great concern for modern technology today, with no concern

at all of the ethics involved. I hope this convocation will affirm life, not death," concluded Megivern.

To commemorate Veterans' Day in a different fashion, Wilmington Mayor Ben Halterman laid a wreath in the quadrangle by the flagpole on the UNCW campus and the ROTC Honor Guard fired a 21-gun salute. The mayor asked for a moment of silence to reflect on those who have given their lives for their country. Chancellor William H. Wagoner and other faculty and staff of the university attended the ceremony November 11.

One of those attending was Captain Gordon Macrae, chairman of military science and head of the UNCW ROTC unit. "I think it was inappropriate to hold a convocation like this on Veterans' Day," said Macrae. "Veterans' Day is a time to remember those who have died for their country, not to preach a one-sided sermon as has been done on campus today.

"The one-sided nature of the presentations at the convocation can be dangerous," said Macrae, "because the uninformed students and citizens who attended movies and lectures were not given the opportunity to hear the other side. They came away with a distorted view of the reality of the nuclear issue."

Dr. Richard Wells, associate professor of sociology at UNCW, sees things a bit differently. He thinks Veterans' Day is a very appropriate time to hold this convocation. "We want to look at ways to prevent nuclear warfare and end all war," said Wells, "so that there will be no more lives lost and no more wars. This is how we honor veterans on this day, by trying to prevent more from joining their numbers."

## Conference Studies Krill As Source of World's Food

Krill is not exactly a household word. But scientists worldwide are interested in the little critter — actually a two-inch, shrimp-like crustacean found only in Antarctica. Forty scientists representing eight countries gathered at UNCW's Institute for Marine Bio-medical Research for the First International Symposium on Antarctic Krill at Wrightsville Beach October 16-19, 1982. The meeting was held to initiate a dialogue leading toward a better understanding of the biology of the krill, which makes up 40 percent of the protein in the world's oceans.

With greater knowledge of the krill's life cycle and larval and adult distribution patterns, scientists could tap them as a major food source, according to Dr. Robert Y. George, professor of oceanography at UNCW and director of the symposium.

"Already fishermen from Japan and the Soviet Union are using the big boats in their fishing fleets to commercially exploit krill as a food source," said George. "With dwindling fish production, overfishing and pollution, krill is a very important species.

"Two generations from now, the ocean will be a major source of food," George continued. "Other countries harvest the krill already. It is okay to remove a certain amount of protein, but where do we do it? How do we prevent krill exploitation from being a repetition of the whale over-harvesting?"

## Comedy Comes to Campus: Red Skelton Performs at UNCW

"I'm not a teacher or a professor or a philosopher. I'm a performer. I'm only important while I perform." Red Skelton is self-effacing as he talks about his role in the world of entertainment. He says that after most performances, after the audience has gone, after he has signed autographs for an hour or two, he goes out and looks at the empty seats. "There's no laughter then, no applause. For a while I was important," says Skelton, but, come time for the next performance, he must prove himself to a whole new audience.

"An actor has nothing to be conceited about. After all, the biggest thing on TV these days is a frog and a pig. In movies it's a little rubber man named E.T."

The comedian was speaking to a drama class at UNCW a few days before his performance November 6 in Trask Coliseum, sponsored by the University Program Board and Beggerman Productions. The communications division of the creative arts department had arranged the surprise visit, to which all communications majors were invited.

Red Skelton fielded questions from the students, each answer usually taking about 20 minutes. "I sure go the long way around, don't I!" he laughed. He was ready with plenty of one-liners ("I want to get up to Washington, D.C., before Reagan closes it"). But he also talked a bit about his life. Red's urge to perform came at the tender age of five, when he decided he wanted to go on stage. His mother, a charwoman at a theater, scrounged together enough money to send him and his brothers and sisters to a show. "When the comedian came out, I watched the audience," Skelton remembered, "and I decided then that I wanted to make people laugh." He left home when he was 10 to travel with a medicine show, "where they performed for free, then tried to sell the product. They call it television now," quipped the comedian.

Clem Cadiddlehopper. Freddie the Freeloader. Gertrude and Heathcliffe. Sheriff Deadeye. Junior the Mean Widdle Kid. To many, Red Skelton's characters are still very real. At Christmas, they get cards with money and notes that say, "We know you're not on TV any more, but we want you to have a nice Christmas." The gang always returns the money with a message, Skelton noted: "Thanks, but Red's taking good care of us."

Red Skelton's day is a long one. He rises at 5:30 every morning. After showering and shaving, he writes a love letter to his wife, whether or not they're together that day. ("She raises thoroughbreds and quarterhorses. For her birthday, she flew a Phantom jet.") Then he writes five musical selections. "I write for Muzak. You probably hear my songs all the time and don't know they're mine," he said. The London Philharmonic

Orchestra has recorded four of his symphonies, of which he has written 64. To date, he has written a total of about 8,000 different pieces of music. All the music at his performances has been written by Red.

After Skelton finishes his music, he writes an outline for a short story. Then, every Sunday, he takes the best and writes the whole story. "That way, I have 365 ideas and 52 stories each year. Most of them I sell through my mail-order business." Mail order? Red Skelton? Yes, that's also how he sells the children's books he writes.

Other current projects include a new Christmas special, *Requiem for a Christmas Tree*, and a new version of *A Christmas Carol* in which he'll play Scrooge.

The bulk of Red Skelton's day is spent observing, which is how he prepares for performances. He spent a week in Wilmington, visiting the UNCW campus and other parts of the city to acquaint himself with the local customs and speech patterns. He liked the U.S.S. North Carolina. "That is one big ship," he exclaimed. He even wrote an outline for a short story about the ship.

During his Nov. 6 performance, Red did several "Gertrude and Heathcliffe" skits, during which he even looked like a seagull!



He visited the UNCW campus and surprised students by dropping in on some classes. He spoke to communications majors, talked with people at his art exhibit, and generally observed the city and the university.

From 11 p.m. to 2 a.m. Skelton paints. He became interested in art in the days when he performed in burlesque theaters. During his time off, he went to art galleries, asked questions about the artwork he saw, and got hooked. "I've been painting ever since," he said. Sales of Red's art amount to \$2.5 million a year. His work hangs in 36 galleries across the country. He had an exhibit of his paintings at Independence Mall while he was in Wilmington.

When someone asked Red to "sign off" with his distinctive little wave of the hand and a "May God bless," he refused politely, explaining that it must come about on its own. "I don't use it as a gimmick. It comes from the bottom of my heart." Instead, he offered the students a new greeting to replace the clenched-fist power salute of the 1960s and 70s. "How can you hold anything in a clenched fist?" asked the comedian. He raised his hand, extended his thumb and his index and little fingers, tucked in the middle fingers. "People all over the world know this," said Skelton, pointing to his hand. It says "I love you" in sign language. Greet everyone with this," he said, "or this," changing his gesture into a "thumbs up" sign, "and you'll feel better."

Red Skelton will be 70 years old next year. (Hard to believe for those of us who remember so clearly those Tuesday nights in front of the TV set watching him!) Is he ever going to retire? "When they nail the lid down. Why should anyone live as long as he can and then just shut down?" Is there anything he hasn't done yet that he still wants to do? "Take my next breath," he responded quickly. "Each breath is an adventure with me. I keep my eyes and ears open for everything that comes my way. I take time to study the people and places around me. People will laugh at themselves if you give them the chance.

"I think people like me because I like them. Why am I so friendly to everyone? I was always taught that man was made in God's image. I've never seen God, and the next person I meet just might be Him!

"I don't simply perform what I think an audience will like. I ask them. That's why I came to Wilmington a week early, so I could prepare for my performance. Each place has its own flavor, a local color I try to capture. Wilmington does, too. My audience is my friend, and the better I know a friend, the better friend I can be."

If the residents of Wilmington and UNCW can count Red Skelton as one of their friends, they are much richer for the experience.