

Classified Ads

•**CONDO FOR RENT** — Available Dec. 1, 1992. Elegant 2 bedroom/2 bath (great for 2 students/adults), large living room/dining combination with fireplace, built-in microwave, abundance of large closets, miniblinds, 2 decks, approx. 1100 sq. ft., electric heat/AC, ground level, approx. 4 miles from Meredith College off Duraleigh Rd., tennis courts/swimming pool. \$595/month. Call before 3 p.m. (919) 881-4876. After 3 p.m. (919) 787-7697.

•**NANNIES NEEDED.** Live-in child care positions available now on East Coast. Earn \$175 - \$250/week plus benefits and free room/board. Call The Perfect Nanny - 1-800-882-2698.

•**Wait Staff** needed for days, evenings, weekends. Choose own schedule each week. Prior experience and proper attire required. Contact Staff-Additions. 878-1500.

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Though the efforts toward being positive paid off, I did miss some of the traditional cheers that were banned after being deemed negative. I know the seniors missed singing "Three Cheers for the Senior Class," and I know the student body missed yelling "High school, high school" if the Freshmen did a cheer like "Freshmen rock the house." I remember when I was a freshman and had that yelled at me. My feelings weren't hurt and I didn't become vindictive toward the upper-classmen, just a little embarrassed but certainly more Cornhuskin'-wise.

I wish Cornhuskin' could return to the way it was my freshman and sophomore years when the negative attitudes were milder and impersonal and when those attitudes lasted for only one week. I realize that the competition among the classes has reached an intensity that requires constant monitoring and I can live with that monitoring if it means Cornhuskin' will remain Meredith's most loved tradition.

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The competency test is comprised of three sections: proofreading several paragraphs, selecting the best sentence from groups of three, and writing an in-class essay. Most of the 25 freshmen interviewed, all of whom responded anonymously, cited the essay as the section that worried them most. "I'm scare I'll forget all the grammar stuff when I start to write the paper" is one freshman's comment which typifies the fear.

Dr. Louise Taylor, head of the English department, points out that the essays are cross-graded by three instructors, with the average of the three grades being the final score. This process, she notes, enables the faculty "to evaluate students as equitably as possible." Taylor believes the competency test is a valuable tool in insuring a common core to the many sections of English 111, and the faculty agrees with her assessment.

All 111 instructors are responsible for prepaing students for the test and for evaluating the end result. Webb provides an insider's perspective about the grading session: "Dr. Taylor does it most efficiently, Dr. English, most humorously." If you left the competency test cursing and sweating, take consolation in knowing your instructors had a long night ahead of them.

Several freshmen indicated they are torn between doing homework for class and preparing for the test, unsure which is more important. Dr. Garry Walton has similarly mixed emotions. He finds preparing for the test to be a drain on class time but an asset in forcing students to get serious about grammar and editing. Walton fears most people fall into two mistaken camps: "those who take the test too seriously, and those who don't take it seriously enough." He empathizes with the dilemma, however, and notes that he has to "steer between those twin terrors" himself.

Dr. Jean Jackson also wrestles with preparing students for the competency test while preventing it from becoming the focus of the course. She sees the diagnostic test a student

takes at the beginning of the semester as an important gauge for student and teacher. Comparing the initial grade with the final test's grade "measures the progress" the student has made in 111.

The consensus among freshmen is that they understand the importance of having the competency test be a part of their first composition class. They believe it is important to establish solid writing skills early in their college careers. But understanding the test's merit doesn't make them less nervous about taking it. Many freshmen report the time leading up to the competency test is punctuated by sleepless nights. One suggests a way to lessen the stress: "I would feel better if I could take the different sections at separate times. If the prupose of the test is to see if I am reasonably competent, does it matter if I do it all at one time and at the same time everyone else does? Doing a long grammar/punctuation test and writing a whole essay is too much pressure for one night—especially since I have to take a final exam that covers the same things in a few weeks."

Dr. Robin Colby offered some words of comfort for those anxiously awaiting their grades: "For the most part, if a student is doing acceptable work in English 111, she will do fine on the test." For those who haven't quite mastered acceptable, here's a practice exercise for the re-test:

After my roommate and (I or me) perform (good or well) on this stupid test (, or ;) we are going to burn our Harbrace College Handbook (enclose title with " " or underline). (Its or It's) one of those college experiences that (grates or grate) our nerves!

Marketing and Advertising Assoc. Meeting

Tuesday, Nov. 17, 7 p.m. Kresge Auditorium
David Lawrence will be speaking on sports marketing.

Aqua Angels

Workshop

Monday, Nov. 16 -- 4:45 p.m.
Weatherspoon Gymnasium Pool

Try-outs

Wednesday, Nov. 18 -- 4:45 p.m.
Weatherspoon Gymnasium Pool

For more information
Call Carol Brown (x8334) or
Mitchell Brown (x7891)

WINGS meeting

Monday, Nov. 16
10:00 a.m. in 214 Harris
Join WINGS in honoring our
December graduates!
Guest Speaker -- Gordon Folger,
Career Services