

Book Review

"Hieroglyphs: The Writing of Ancient Egypt". By Norma Jean Katan, with Barbara Mintz. Illustrated by Norma Jean Katan. Atheneum, 1981. 96 pp. \$8.95. — Clemson University Information and Public Services

When Jean Francois Champollion was 11, someone showed him an assortment of Egyptian hieroglyphs and explained that no one had been able to read them.

Hoping to be the first person to decipher hieroglyphs, Champollion began then and there to learn other languages, finally mastering 11. By his 16th year he was reading papers on languages before learned academies.

But hieroglyphs didn't yield their secrets easily. For 20 years he poured over them, including those on the Rosetta Stone.

At last these "words of gods", as the Egyptians called them, revealed their secrets. From that day Champollion's name would be celebrated and Egyptian culture better understood.

"Hieroglyphs" — for readers age 10 — 16 — depicts the basic vocabulary of this language, in drawings and photographs, and gives some rules for writing and reading them. Moreover, readers discover much about Egyptian views on death and the after life. Visits to Egyptian rooms in museums will never be the same.

The book also gives an account of the training and role of the scribe in Egyptian society. One quotation from the Papyrus of Anastasi shows his importance: "The scribe directs every work in the land...for him there are no taxes...he payeth tribute in writing."

usually thought of in a bad light, obviously because they seem to take advantage of our urge to see a certain game; they catch us at a time when we cannot say "No", to their price, no matter how high it is.

Sale of admission tickets in excess of the printed price is a serious matter in North Carolina. The General Assembly passed a law prohibiting ticket scalping as early as 1941. The law has remained on the books with very little change, except for recent modification in 1979.

North Carolina's earlier provision prohibiting ticket scalping was entitled, "Sale of Athletic Contest Tickets in Excess of Printed Price." It provided that it was unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to sell or offer for sale any ticket of admission to any baseball, basketball, football game or other athletic contest of any kind in excess of the sale price written or printed on the ticket. Violation of this provision was a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed \$500, imprisonment for not more than six months or both.

In 1979, North Carolina's General Assembly rewrote the provision entirely. The new provision now provides that any person, firm or corporation shall be allowed to add a reasonable service fee to the face value of the ticket sold, provided that the fee shall not exceed ten percent of the sales price. The existence of the service fee must be made known to the public by printing or writing the amount of the fee on the tickets which are printed for the event. If a person, firm or corporation sells a ticket and recoups funds greater than the combined value of the ticket and the authorized service fee, then he shall be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed \$500, imprisonment for not more than

many parents do not think about these needed vaccinations until just prior to the beginning of the school year. Now is the time to check your child's immunization records to see that everything is up-to-date.

Immunizations against childhood diseases form an integral part of every child's health care and they are an important aspect of preventive medicine. If your children's immunizations are not up-to-date, check with your family physician or local county health department.

What Saves Money, Energy?

By Chris Wise Tiedemann, NCSU
We often read that a microwave oven, manual defrost freezer or dishwasher left open for the dry cycle will save us money on energy.

But are these things true? It all depends on the situation and the efficiency of the homemaker, says Dr. Nadine Tope, extension food conservation and preparation specialist at North Carolina State University.

"Our power company tells me that customers use 110 kilowatt-hours (kwh) per month for the conventional range," Dr. Tope explains. "If we can save half of this amount by using the microwave at our electricity cost of about 4 cents a kwh, the savings would amount to \$27.06 per year."

"For a \$500 microwave, then, it would take about 18½ years to pay for that microwave in energy savings and about seven years to pay for a \$200 convection oven."

Dr. Tope says that many people use their microwave oven only about 15 minutes a day. "This tells me they aren't using their microwave for a very large part of their cooking," she says.

Using the microwave oven only to reheat leftovers or make



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