

Students Prepare For Competency Test



Staff photo by Bratcher

Reynolds High Student Sharon Mason studies her textbook in preparation for the competency test.

By Sharyn Bratcher
Staff Writer

The first North Carolina competency test for high school students will be given in a few weeks, and Forsyth County students are spending from 1 to 5 days a week preparing for the test which will determine whether they will receive a diploma or a certificate of attendance.

Last Friday afternoon at Reynolds High the Level 2 English class of Ms. Jane Rae was studying Real Life Reading Skills, the manual designed to prepare them for the test.

"We spend 1 day a week preparing for the test," said Ms. Rae. She explained that students who were

expected to have trouble with the competency test were given preparation every day instead of their regular class by a visiting teacher. They studied the same material as the regular classes, but 4 times more often.

Unlike most high school English texts, which feature Shakespeare or Longfellow, this book concentrates on reading in every day situations.

There is a chapter on applying for a job, showing a sample application, and asking multiple choice questions about applying for a job. The chapter included a list of vocabulary words pertaining to employment, such as salary and marital status.

Other chapters deal with reading skills applicable to reading medicine labels, following instructions on appliances and taking driver's license test.

"This material is relevant to these kids' lives," Ms. Rae said. "I'd teach it even if there weren't a competency test because these are things students need to know."

"Last week we read the chapter on medicine labels, and most of the students didn't know what the word 'antidote' meant. So I explained it to them. Knowing something like that could save a life."

Is the competency test racially biased?

Michael Jones, a black student, didn't think so. "It'll help you out in the future," he said. "It's not that hard. I know some of it before."

"I don't understand most of it," commented Robert Beane, a white student.

"I don't see how anyone can say it is racially biased," said Ms. Rae. "Look at these chapters. Don't black people apply for jobs? Drive cars? Take medicine?"

Ms. Rae's class is nearly an even mixture of black and white students. She says that there seems to be no racial difference in the students' performance.

"It depends on the individual."

Health Center Problem To Be Resolved Soon

By Yvette McCullough
Staff Writer

Acting County Manager Ed Jones said last week that he would like to bring to a conclusion as soon as possible the dispute between Reynolds Health Center and the Health Department.

Jones addressed the Reynolds Health Center Advisory Committee last week during their regular monthly meeting. He reiterated remarks made in a Chronicle Q&A interview. He told the committee that the situation has been hanging over their heads for a long time.

"Our overall concern and goal should be, how can we in Forsyth

County have the most efficient and effective health care," Jones said. Jones said that he

will make a recommendation to the County commissioners at the first briefing in November. Jones met with Dr. Thomas Dundon, the county's health director and Dennis Magovern, Reynolds Health Center administrator last week and asked them for data that will help in his evaluation and recommendation.

"I don't have any preconceived notions about what the organization should be," Jones said. "I'm very optimistic that a resolution of the matter fairly quickly will achieve purposes we'll all find important."

The acting county manager said that he would like to move through the process with undue delay and that he will be meeting with Magovern and

Dundon during the coming weeks. Jones said that any feedback or input should be channeled through these two men.

In other business, Magovern said that a freeze on CETA jobs had not been lifted and that the center has five frozen vacancies. "CETA has been a bitter sweet, mixed blessing," Magovern said. The departments with frozen CETA positions are, two in Medical Records, one in registration, one in housekeeping, and one in administration. Also, the center may lose another position in registration next week.

"We're really hurting with five frozen positions and another possible vacancy next week," Magovern said.

Ward Kept From Teaching

By Sharyn Bratcher
Staff Writer

Dr. Robert Ward, an assistant professor of political science recently suspended by WSSU Chancellor H. Doublag Covington, was denied permission to con-

Sumler Blames

Democrats

On Insurance

By Sharyn Bratcher
Staff Writer

Rodney Sumler, A Republican candidate for the State House, charges that the Forsyth Democrat team "sold out the people to the major insurance companies," referring to the new law permitting the insurance companies to set their own rates, instead of petitioning the Insurance Commissioner for new rates which had to be approved by them.

"The worst part was not just that our Democrat team voted for such a horrible law," Sumler stated, "but Representative Dave DeRamus and Senator Carl Toherow were the chief spokesmen for the bill in the House and the Senate."

Sumler expressed concern for low-income persons who will be burdened by rising insurance rates, saying that car ownership will soon be impossible for the poor.

He favors a strong insurance commissioner with the power to set insurance rates. John Ingram, says Sumler, was not a strong commissioner.

"He didn't know how to win a case for the people in the courts," he stated, "and he lost 95% of them to the insurance companies while not doing his job."

tinue teaching his classes last Monday.

Ward appeared on campus Monday prepared to teach his classes, but Dr. Cleveland Williams, chairman of the political science department, informed him that the suspension barred him from teaching.

Ward has not yet begun to appeal the suspension, but he has retained Attorney William G. Pfefferkorn to act in his behalf. Pfefferkorn has written to the chancellor informing him that proper procedures were not followed in the Ward suspension, but he has declined to elaborate on that statement.

On October 5, Ward called a press conference, promising to release the letters he had written criticizing the chancellor, but at the meeting he announced that his attorneys had advised against such a disclosure. Instead he distributed copies of the two letters of apology that he had written the chancellor.

"My career is not going to be jeopardized," Ward told the group. I don't have to stoop so low to maintain a job that I have to give up my principles in the process."

Ward traced his clash with the chancellor back to October 1977, when Carl Russell planned to speak at WSSU as part of his mayoral campaign. Ward stated that he was ordered to "uninvite" Russell, but he refused.

Later Ward presented a list of grievances to the chancellor, criticizing the administration of the university and other conditions.

The letters which led to Ward's suspension were written when he was denied promotion.

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Miss WSSU From Page 1

my ability."

Blackstock said she would like to settle down and teach when she graduates or she might go on to graduate school. She said she is a lot more dedicated now than when she was in high school.

"When I was a senior in high school, I didn't know if I wanted to go to school, I was kind of lazy," Blackstock said.

"Now I know you can really benefit from coming to school."

She said she chose WSSU because she liked the small school atmosphere.

"Here (at WSSU) I'm not considered a number," Blackstock said. "If you need help, there is someone around to help you."

When she can find time, Pamela spends her time bowling, playing tennis, occasionally she listens to music or reads. She said that after homecoming she will be able to get more seriously into her school work. She quit the Marching Rams, to devote more time to her "Miss WSSU" duties. She is also a member of the Phi Delta Kappa National Honor Society.

calendar

Thursday, October 12

Board of Alderman hold a special meeting to plan for community development during the next three years in City Hall Council Chambers beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 13

City recreation department sponsors a city-wide hopscotch contest at the Martin Luther King Recreation Center beginning at 3:45 p.m.

A forum entitled "History of the American Woman -- an Overview", will be held at the Glade Street YWCA, guest speaker is Dr. Alice Mathews of Western Carolina University. Panelists include Alderman Virginia Newell.

Sunday, Oct 15

National Secretaries Association meets at Benton Convention Center.
Farmer's Market returns to Dixie Classic Fairgrounds building beginning at 6 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 15

Phyllis Robinson describes the Masai tribe of southern Kenya during a program entitled "African SAFARI" at the Nature Science Center at 3 p.m. Robinson took a three week tour to Africa in 1977.

Monday, Oct. 16

Airport Commission meets at 4:30 p.m. at Smith Reynolds Airport.
Board of County Commissioners meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Hall of Justice.
City Aldermen meet at 7:30 p.m. in City Hall Council Chambers.
School Board meets in briefing session at the administrative center auditorium at 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct 17

Environmental Affairs Commission meets at 7:30 p.m. in room 701, Hall of Justice.

Wednesday, Oct. 18

Zoning Board of Adjustment meets at 2 p.m. in City Hall.
Social Services Board meets at 7 p.m. in the Hall of Justice.
East Winston Unit of the League of Women Voters meets at East Winston Library at Noon.

Thursday, Oct. 19

Board of County Commissioners meet in Hall of Justice at 4 p.m.
Area Mental Health Board meets at 7:30 p.m. in Mental Health Clinic.

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