

Educational Program

Reading Course Ups Speed And Comprehension

Louis (Ranny) Partridge did not do very well on his last reading test.

He only read 1,200 words per minute with 100 per cent comprehension.

The previous quiz he had scored 1,450 words — 100 per cent comprehension.

At the beginning of the first session of summer school, Ranny enrolled in UNC's Reading Program, because he was "tired of plodding through books — taking as long as two weeks on a single book.

"Now I can read in an hour what it took two to three hours before."

Ranny scored 236 words per minute with 76 per cent comprehension the first day of the program.

"But from the very beginning I saw improvement in my reading skill," Ranny said.

However, Ranny is not exceptional in his progress through the reading course.

Mrs. D. W. Campbell, director of the Reading Program, said, "Some of our students attain a reading speed of 6,000 to 7,000 words per minute with 100 per cent comprehension."

The Reading Program in 106 Peabody Hall, is open to all course. Students may start and terminate the course at any time.

Each student is treated as an individual throughout his work in the program. The class hours may be scheduled in any combination during the week between 8 a.m. and



Barbara Lewis read 100 words per minute faster after the second day.

4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Mrs. Campbell recommends five hours per week during summer school — three hours per week during regular ses-

sion. "The most common problem of the students is probably a slow rate of reading" Mrs. Campbell said. "This problem, however, may be in combination with a poor vocabulary or poor comprehension.

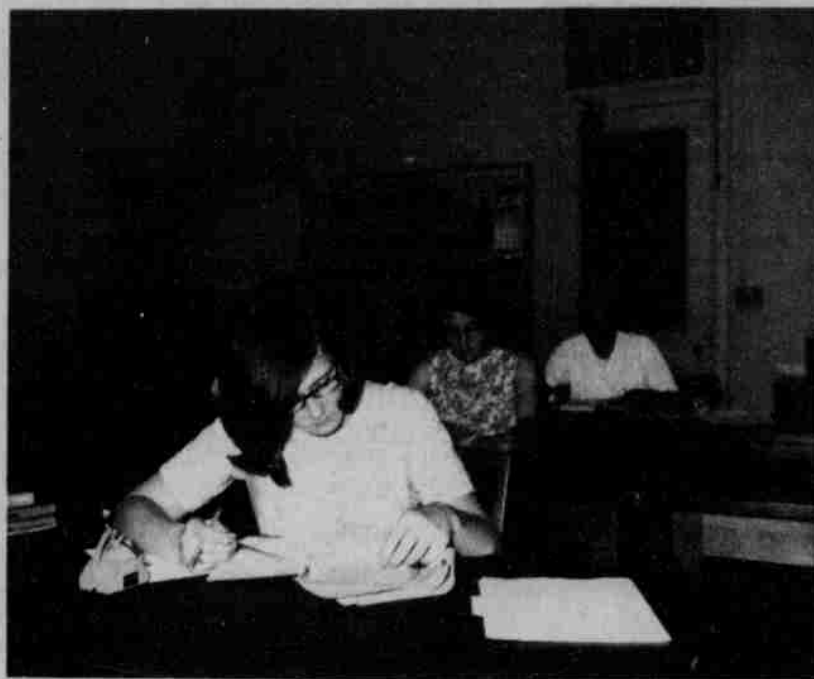
"The emphasis of the Reading Program is not on the rate of reading, but on flexibility. Flexibility in reading means being able to read and comprehend different types of reading matter."

The Reading Program teaches basic mechanics, flexibility, rapid reading, how to skim, comprehension, critical reading, vocabulary improvement, and basic study skills.

"We teach study skills because so many freshman come here without the basic equipment to study," Mrs. Campbell said.

The most unusual problems arise from teaching foreign students, who can not speak English very well.

Joe Moody, part-time staff member, recalled spending an



Practice is the most beneficial part of the course.

hour" just to explain what the course was about" to one foreign student.

"Communication with the student was touch and go," Moody said. "Sometimes we had to use sign language."

Students who enroll in the program are for the most part freshman. Of the 800 students enrolled last year, about 300 were freshmen.

Most of the students who enroll simply feel the need for improvement in speed.

Barbara Lewis, who will be a freshman nursing student next fall, said, "I couldn't keep up with my studies as slow as I read."

After the second day of the

course she had improved her speed by 100 words per minute.

"Practice is the most beneficial part of the course," Mrs. Campbell says. "After the basic instruction, the students spend the better part of their time just reading."

Mrs. Campbell, who is enthusiastic about her work, reads a book a day herself.

Text And Photos By Brian Ray



Ranny Partridge only reads 1,200 words per minute.

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