



How 'bout a kiss

Mr. Ugly (alias Walter Miltier) was a guest star at the Band Booster's Variety Show Saturday night. Over \$1000 was raised for

band uniforms and equipment in one night of fun. For more on Miltier, see "My Turn" on

page 2. (PHOTO by NOEL TODD-MCLAUGHLIN)

PHS gets state test scores in

By MIKE McLAUGHLIN
Results of the statewide competency testing for public school students have been released and 80 percent of the 151 students taking the test at Perquimans High School passed both the reading and math sections, according to figures presented at the county school board meeting Monday night.

The competency testing program began last year, and requires that the student demonstrate his proficiency in reading and math before a high school diploma is issued to him.

Schools Superintendent Pat Harrell said this fall's results are comparable to last year's scores and school board members expressed general satisfaction with the figures.

Students taking the test were primarily juniors, and scores were somewhat higher in reading than in math.

Harrell reported that 35 percent of those students taking the test scored above

the 92 percent mastery level in reading, while only 18 percent scored as highly on math.

On the other end of the spectrum, 4 percent of test participants failed only the reading section of the test, while 6 percent failed the math portion and passed the reading portion.

An additional 10 percent of those tested proved deficient in both reading and math.

Students are presented with four opportunities to take the test during their normal course of high school studies. They can, however, take the test as often as they like following graduation.

Those who do not pass both segments of the test but meet all other state and local requirements for graduation will receive certificates rather than diplomas.

Another item of business discussed at Monday night's school board meeting was the adoption of a Family Life Curriculum Guide that has been prepared by teachers at

Perquimans Union School and Perquimans High School.

The guide attempts to bring together units on family life and human sexuality that are currently scattered under such subjects as biology, physical education, home economics and health, and bring them together under the health curriculum.

Harrell said the curriculum would hopefully provide structure and sequence for family life education.

"We're dealing with it now but it's not very well defined," Harrell said.

The curriculum guide would be intended to insure that students get the information they need in dealing with the many facets of family life.

Part of the curriculum would be devoted to sex education, an area described at the board meeting as being critical and sensitive.

"It really troubles me," board chairman Clifford

(Continued on page 2)

Subdivision may be redefined here

The Perquimans County Board of Commissioners will apparently consider amending the county subdivision ordinance so that the property owner can sell up to four lots, one at a time, from the same parcel of land without each sale being considered a subdivision.

Planning board chairman John Coston and board member Silas Whedbee told the commissioners Monday afternoon that such a change would simplify the process of selling property in the county.

Coston said the extensive paperwork involved in selling "even one little lot" meant the expenditure of at least \$125.

Currently, the sale of more than one lot from a single parcel of land represents a subdivision, meaning that the property owner must follow all the requirements of the county subdivision regulations.

Coston said that the ordinance as it now reads hurts the little man who is not interested in a major development, but in selling property a piece at a time.

All requirements of the subdivision regulations will still be applicable, except that

a surveyor's map of the entire parcel of land would not be required until the property owner decided to sell his fourth lot.

The commissioners were receptive to the idea and asked that the planning board representatives meet with county attorney John Matthews to determine exactly how the ordinance needed to be amended.

In order to amend the ordinance a public hearing must be held. The commissioners will decide whether or not to call such a hearing at their next meeting.

In a related matter, the commissioners approved two subdivision plats, though neither plat met county regulations.

Commissioner Lester Simpson said that almost every plat presented to the commissioners falls short in one way or another of the stringent requirements of the ordinance.

The commissioners, however, have the authority to grant variances from the ordinance where they see fit.

The commissioners also heard from social services director Paul Gregory that the

cost of renovating the old agriculture building (which houses the department of social services) was going to be \$1,200 to \$1,500 more than had been budgeted because of an oversight on the part of the contractor, Donald Riddick.

Riddick had apparently not realized that the specifications for the project called for water to air heat pumps when he placed his bid.

The commissioners voted to allocate an additional \$1,200 to meet the increased expense.

County accountant Durwood Reed reported to the commissioners that a budget amendment would eventually have to be made to pay for the replacement of an engine in Sheriff Julian Broughton's white Plymouth patrol car.

Reed said Broughton had told him the engine was burned up after it overheated and a broken guage failed to indicate the problem.

Reed said there simply isn't enough money in the sheriff's budget to pay for the \$1,099.99 repair job. He said it was the second engine that had been put in the car since July.

Reed also reported that \$200,000 in county taxes had been collected so far this year.

Council skeptical about clinic

The Hertford Town Council apparently will not support efforts of the Northeastern Rural Health Development Association until further investigation of the group can be made.

The council endorses better medical facilities but cannot endorse an organization that we do not understand," said Hertford Mayor Bill Cox at last Monday's meeting.

The North Eastern Rural Health Development Association (NRHDA) is a nonprofit, private corporation trying to operate medical clinics in Perquimans and Bertie counties. NRHDA is presently operating in Tyrell County.

The council's support has been requested at a public hearing scheduled to review NRHDA's application for second-year funding before

the project review committee of the Eastern Carolina Health Systems Agency (ECHSA) to be held Thursday, Dec. 6 at 7 p.m. at John Holmes High School in Edenton.

But because of the controversy and apparent lack of local interest surrounding NRHDA, the council stated that no measure of support could be shown at this time.

In another matter, Cox related a citizen's request to lower the 35 miles per hour speed limit on Grubb Street to 25 miles per hour.

It was acknowledged that although speeding is a problem on Grubb Street, a 25 m.p.h. limit would be too slow. Hertford Police Chief Marshall Merritt was instructed to enforce the present 35 m.p.h. more strictly until further investigation of the matter could be made.

In reference to enforcing the

ordinance prohibiting parking to the left side of the curb, Merritt reported that he has issued 32 warning tickets and several verbal warnings.

"I have not had to warn the same person twice," said Merritt.

One application has been received to fill the vacancy in the police department and although the applicant is under consideration, further advertisement for the position is underway.

Dan Tew, community assistance planner, reported to the council on the Coastal Area Management Act Land Use Plan.

Under CAMA, the county is required to upgrade the plan every five years and its purpose is to identify problems and issues that will confront the county in the next five years and to get public input on how these issues

should be handled.

The council was asked to suggest members for a citizen advisory committee presently being assembled to distribute a questionnaire, and collect data reflecting public opinion.

The possibility of creating a separate questionnaire for the town and county was discussed as it was felt that

the town's problems were not sufficiently covered in the last survey.

Dan Berry and Morris Kornegay were announced as the appointed alternates for the Zoning Board of Adjustments, Mary Harell as a Zoning Board member, and Robert Riddick as a Zoning Board alternate.

Petition seeks to oust VEPCO

by NOEL TODD-MCLAUGHLIN
A campaign to obtain 100,000 signatures of Northeastern North Carolinians on a petition asking the stockholders of Virginia Electric and Power Company to sell the company's electric distribution system in the region and to leave North Carolina has been launched in Perquimans County.

Leaders of Operation Overcharge, a group formed by the local Chambers of Commerce in Northeastern North Carolina to combat exorbitant electric rates charged by VEPCO, are coordinating the petition effort with local Chambers of Commerce and other organizations.

VEPCO has among the highest electricity rates in the nation according to data from the Edison Electric Institute, a trade group.

Since 1972, VEPCO's average residential rates have more than doubled, rising 30 percent faster than national electricity prices and nearly 50 percent faster than the consumer price index. VEPCO recently predicted that its rate rises will continue to outstrip inflation for at least the next decade.

VEPCO's rates remain higher than either of North Carolina's leading electrical utilities, Carolina Power and Light, and Duke Power.

According to Jerry Causey, VEPCO's Southern Division marketing services manager, VEPCO's average revenue per kilowatt hour (kwh) in 1978 of 3.872 cents was 12.4 percent higher than CP&L's 3.446 cents and 28.3 percent higher than Duke's 3.018 cents for all customer classes.

Operation Overcharge is seeking a Congressional ear for its complaints that the

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) hasn't paid enough attention to the problem. And, it is welding a petition to the North Carolina Public Utilities Commission as a tool for VEPCO's eviction.

"100,000 unhappy people have got to have an effect on the legislators, the governor, and VEPCO," said Henry Carney, Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce President, and a member of the Executive Committee of Operation Overcharge.

Although Carney feels VEPCO's considerably higher rates reason enough for ousting the utility from North Carolina, he also doesn't believe the presence of a Virginia company in North Carolina can operate in the best interests of the state.

"I'd prefer a North Carolina utility, somebody that's directly responsible to our

government and cares about the needs of our people," said



Carney

Carney, adding, "I'd rather keep the Carolina dollar in Carolina."

The petition effort will run until March 31, and although Perquimans County is only responsible for 5,000 of the 100,000 signatures, Carney expects to exceed that number.

Petitions, placed in every

business in the county, can be signed once by anyone who is at least 18 years of age. A signature appearing more than once will invalidate one entire page of the petition.

Perquimans County is also responsible for \$500 of Operation Overcharge's administrative costs.

Carney said that contributions could be sent to the Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 27, Hertford, N.C. 27944.

Post open

The Hertford Post Office will be open on the next two Saturdays to give postal patrons a chance to mail early and avoid the holiday rush, according to postmaster Henry Stokes.

The post office will be open from 9 a.m. until 12 noon on both Dec. 8 and Dec. 15, Stokes said.

Shooting takes life

A Belvidere man bled to death Wednesday afternoon after receiving a shotgun wound to the shoulder.

Sammy Lucien Langley, 41, was shot in rural Chowan County following what was reportedly a domestic dispute with Carlton Eugene Copeland, 42, of Chesapeake, Va.

Copeland, a former husband of Langley's wife, is alleged to have shot Langley in State Road 1203 between Center Hill and Ryland, then called the Chowan County Sheriff's Department from a nearby home.

He was taken into custody 300 yards from where the

shooting occurred, said Chowan County Sheriff Troy Toppin.

Copeland was charged with second degree murder and was scheduled for a first appearance hearing on Tuesday, Dec. 3.

He has been released from prison on a \$15,000 secured bond.