

Student Testing Will Begin April 1

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If Cathy arrives at the Star Theatre at 6:45 p. m., how long will she wait for the show to start. The show begins at 8 p. m. (check correct answer: 45 minutes, 1 hour 15 minutes; 2 hours 15 minutes; 2 hours 45 minutes.)

Under personal data in applying

for a job, which one of these should go in Blank 5 on the job form. (Blank 5 is Name of Applicant). Check the correct one: 897-4112; 87 Crescent Ave.; Gary Allan Leter; or Leter, Gary Allan. Simple? No, not to a lot of students, says

Dr. Conner — and these tests are designed to find out why. The 11th grade students tested during the period of Apr. 4-18 will try out several different minimum competency tests. Students tested in this trial phase will not have to pass the test as a requirement for

graduation. Their results will be used to choose the actual tests and set the passing scores for future classes. Individual test scores will not be reported but summarized test scores for each school will be returned to the school system in June of 1978.

Should students "cram" for these tests?

No, since the competency tests measure skills which the student has developed in school or acquired through every day experience, he or she will not need to prepare for the test by intensive studying. Students may, however, wish to review materials that deal with everyday mathematics and reading problems.

The Competency Test Program that was established by the 1977 General Assembly has placed North Carolina in a category with 18 other states in the U. S. that now have legislation mandating competency testing. Twenty-three of the remaining states are doing studies or making plans in this direction — while only eight have no plans at this time.

The Legislature passed H. B. 204 which stated that the major purposes of this program are to:

(a) Assure that all high school graduates possess those skills and that knowledge necessary for individuals to function as members of society.

(b) Provide a means of identifying strengths and weaknesses in the educational process.

(c) Establish additional means for making the educational system accountable to the public for results. The legislation went farther and specified that

(a) Students who fail to meet minimum standards will be given remedial instruction, have additional opportunities to take the test — up to last month of 12th grade, be retested only on the part they fail.

(b) Nonpublic schools are included in this year's trial run

(c) Exceptional children are included in the testing, except for those who are officially classified as trainable mentally retarded or severely handicapped.

In grades 1 and 2 the Prescriptive Reading Inventory and Diagnostic Mathematics Inventory tests will be given, and the California Achievement Test will be administered in grades 3, 6 and 9.

The schedule for this year's program, according to educators, is:

Testing materials will arrive at the local units between March 7 and 20.

As soon as the materials are received the test coordinators will be trained.

By March 31 this process should be completed.

Between April 4 and April 18 all tests, including make-ups, will be administered as well as the recording of data onto the header sheets and student forms.

Answer sheets and student data sheets will be edited for stray marks and then packaged by class and returned to the local education agency collection center between April 7 and 19.

During April 11 to 24, materials will be picked up from the LEA and shipped to CTB. McCraw-Hill for scoring, and by May 26 all student reports will be returned.

Dr. James Gallagher of Durham is chairman of the 15 member Competency Test Commission appointed by Governor Jim Hunt.

Some other examples of what the tests will be like:

— show how to fill in forms, job application.

— what telephone number to call in an emergency.

— doubling recipe — quantities of ingredients.

— balancing checkbooks — keeping current bank balances.

— C¹/₄ of income is expended for shelter.

The tests for grades one and two are the criterion-referenced tests. This type of test is designed to reveal whether or not students have mastered, or learned, certain specific objectives. Criterion-referenced results are reported in terms of success or failure of students on each objective. This format should provide information on specific skill weaknesses and strengths of students in the areas of reading and mathematics.

The third, sixth and ninth grades will be administered a norm-referenced test. This type of test is designed to compare the performance of North Carolina students with the performance of a representative national group called the "norm group." Scores measured against the performance of a norm group are reported in the form of percentiles, standard scores, grade equivalents or other derived scores.

Attending the presentation here of the annual and competency testing program were students, parents, teachers, school administrators and college personnel.



MEETS COMMANDER — North Carolina Senator Ollie Harris, left, of Kings Mountain, talks with Dr. John Wasylik, commander-in-chief of the VFW, about

the Panama Canal situation Friday when Wasylik made a brief stop at Frank Glass Post 9811 during a tour of North Carolina VFW posts.

Photo By Gary Stewart

Wasylik Speaks Against Panama Canal Treaties

Dr. John Wasylik, commander-in-chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, spoke out in opposition to ratification of the Panama Canal treaty in a brief stop at Frank Glass Post 9811 Friday.

Dr. Wasylik, an Ohio optometrist, told members of the VFW, VFW ladies auxiliary, and other guests, that he recently visited the Canal Zone and felt the VFW is correct in speaking out against the treaty.

Wasylik said the present administration has twisted the facts around and is misleading the public.

"We built the Canal and have operated it for the good of the Panamanians and the world," he said. He added that prior to the present Panamanian government that country had one of the best economies in the world but is now on the edge of bankruptcy. He said 89 percent of the gross national product goes to pay interest.

"They can't even take care of their own sanitation problems," he said.

Wasylik said that if the Panamanians become owners of the Canal, they will put it in the same financial position the country is in now and "will divert funds to shore up a shaky government."

"And," he added, "if the Canal becomes inoperable, we'll have to subsidize maintenance from our own finances."

Wasylik said if the treaty is ratified, it will cost U. S. taxpayers \$1 billion over and above what it would cost otherwise.

"There has not been one single positive reason for turning over the Canal," he said.

Contrary to recent fireside chats by the President, Wasylik says the U. S. owns the Canal and is not renting it, as President Carter reported to the American public.

"The Supreme Court said in 1907 that we own the Canal, and in 1970 let stand an appellate court ruling

that we own it," he said. "We don't pay rent, as the President said. The money we pay was agreed to in the original treaty and is an annual annuity to the Panamanian railroad for loss of revenue."

Wasylik pointed out that if the treaty is ratified, the U. S. Police Force in Panama and 10 of the 14 military bases there will be eliminated. Totally

eliminated will be the Air Force and Navy, which is necessary for defending the country against missile attack.

Wasylik said the treaty states the U. S. would have first passage and would defend the country, "but there's nothing in there that prevents Panama from throwing us out and inviting the Cubans in" to defend the canal.

Makeup Days Set

The board of education Monday night approved Fri., Mar. 24 and Fri., June 9 as makeup days for the two days Kings Mountain students lost due to bad weather.

In the event of any additional lost days, the board approved the following makeup days: first day, Fri., Mar. 31; second day, Thurs., Mar. 30; third day, Thurs., Mar. fourth day, Tues., Mar. 28.

In other action, the board: — Adopted a resolution of support for the 10-year re-evaluation of the senior high school by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

— Was told that a transaction between the school district and the city is not ready for completion due to a delay of federal funding. The transaction, which involves land near the administration offices, is expected to be completed within the next two months.

— Adopted a policy on the use of school-owned vehicles.

— Denied an expected request from the N. C. Art Museum to conduct a fund-raising effort in the schools.

— Was told that student representatives for the four Cleveland County high schools will meet on March 7 to discuss the organization of a county-wide student council.

— Approved the exchange of property between West School and Bob Cox to straighten out the school property line. No money was involved.

— Approved two requests for leaves of absence and elected the following teachers: William Keith Kiser, Jackie S. Shell, Susan W. Gaddis and Stephen D. Foster.

Elected President

Joe H. McDaniel, Jr. city clerk and treasurer, has been elected President of the Local Government Employees Credit Union for 1978.

Other officers are Judy

Mason, secretary; Hubert Crowder, treasurer; and Robert Hamilton and Clyde Adams, directors. This credit union is composed of all branches of government in Cleveland County.

Second Meeting

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financing the projects in the one application submitted to HUD," Long said. "This is a one time grant offer."

Mayor Moss reminded the citizens that the "25 percent grant from the federal government is the muscle to get other money committed. With a substantial local investment plus the guarantee of the 25 percent project cost grant, the corporation could have huge borrowing power from the financial institutions."

Special letters have been sent out to a large number of potential investors in such a local development corporation, but all private citizens are urged to attend Thursday's meeting.

"This is an opportunity for everyone to participate in the business development of Kings Mountain," the mayor said.

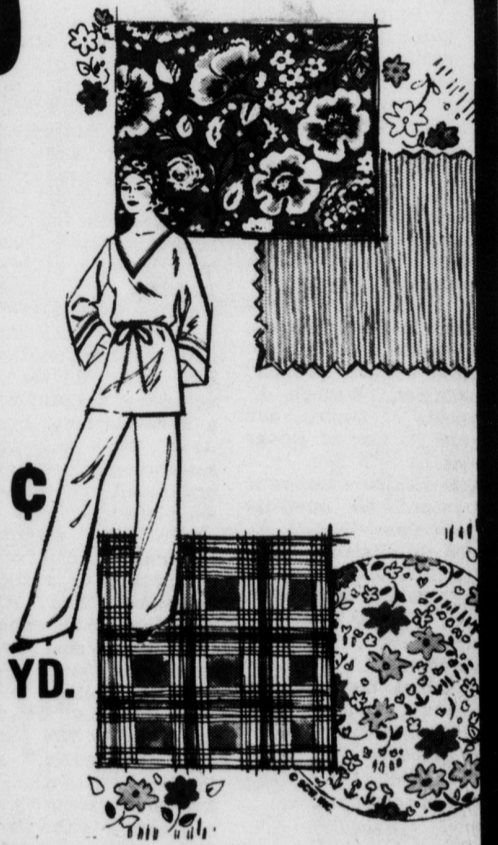
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 FEBRUARY 24 & 25

STEAK DINNER CHICKEN DINNER
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Enjoy a delicious meal, then Saturday night dance to the music of

"Lost Flight"
 8:30 p. m.

\$7.00 Per Couple

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