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### Mother of late author

# Toole talks of 'Dunces' at UNO

by peggy poche

Thelma Toole, mother of the late author John Kennedy Toole, delighted a UNO audience last Wednesday, April 22, when she spoke about her son and his 1981 Pulitzer Prize-winning book, *A Confederacy of Dunces*.

Toole was participating in UNO's celebration of Women's Week '81.

She spoke with love, admiration and pride for John who, in deep depression over failing to get *Dunces* published, com-

mitted suicide in 1969 at the age of 32. "My son's book is the best literary work that has ever been and ever will be," said Toole, "At least I think it would be very difficult to compete with."

She continued after John's death to submit his manuscript to numerous publishers, but to no avail. Finally, along with the assistance of author Walker Percy, who wrote the preface in the book, *Dunces* was published by Louisiana State University Press last spring. "It was the miraculous happening of acceptance," said Toole.

Since then, there has been a total rush of fame into her life, she said with enthusiasm. She told the audience of her return only a few hours earlier from New York after being one of Tom Snyder's guests the night before on *Tomorrow* coast-to-coast.

"I thought he was pulling my arthritic leg when he said how good-looking I am," said Toole, "but he was a very nice man, and I thoroughly enjoyed the interview." Her only hope is to do a worthy job of promoting the book for her son, she said.

"The philosophy of *Dunces* is as perpetuating as those found in Charles Dickens' works," said Toole, who was once a teacher of elocution. "John's type of comedy is similar to Dickens' with a common touch and keen perception of life styles of the lower classes."

The novel takes place in New Orleans and vividly depicts the characters and lifestyles of people of the city, she said. "I believe the book generates a



Thelma Toole

fervor in people, an 'I'll be with it till I die' attitude because it seems so real," she said. Toole entertained everyone with her dramatic interpretations of some of the characters. The typical New Orleans 'y'alls' and 'yats' in the dialogue brought a standing ovation from the audience. "My son knew human nature. That's why the book is so great," and she compared him to Huey Long in this respect.

"A friend of mine told me this thing (the book) is just coming out of the ground, and I believe it is going to have a place as an immortal and historical novel of New Orleans," said Toole. This is really what her son wanted, not the money, she said.

## Spring Exam Schedule

EDITOR'S NOTE: The final exam schedule printed below is a revision of the schedule which was published in the class schedule at the beginning of this semester. Please make note of the alterations and lots of luck with your finals.

### GROUP EXAMINATIONS

COURSE	DATE	EXAM TIME
Political Science 1000	May 8	1:30 pm-3:30 pm
Computer Science 1060	May 8	1:30 pm-3:30 pm
English 1158	May 8	6:30 pm-8:30 pm
Psychology 1000	May 9	8:00 am-10:00 am
Mathematics 0107, 1112, 1114	May 9	10:30 am-12:30 pm
Mathematics 1111, 1114, 2107, 2108	May 9	1:30 pm-3:30 pm
Mathematics 2109, 2111, 2112	May 9	1:30 pm-4:30 pm
Accounting 2100	May 9	5:00 pm-7:00 pm
Business Administration 2780	May 11	1:30 pm-3:30 pm
Engineering 1000	May 11	1:30 pm-3:30 pm
Mathematics 0106	May 11	1:30 pm-3:30 pm
Chemistry 1017, 1018	May 12	1:30 pm-3:30 pm
Marketing 3501	May 12	1:30 pm-3:30 pm
Business Administration 1000	May 12	1:30 pm-3:30 pm
Spanish 1001	May 13	1:30 pm-3:30 pm
History 1000	May 14	1:30 pm-3:30 pm

GROUP EXAMINATIONS TAKE precedence over regular examinations. If a student is registered for a course in which a group examination is being given, he must take the examination at the time for the group examination and not at the time shown in the regular examination schedule listed below. Students in Evening Sections with the exception of those in mathematics courses and Accounting 2100 will take examinations at the time listed under Regular Examinations.

### REGULAR EXAMINATIONS

Check Group Examination listing FIRST

Class Hour ..... Examination Time

#### Friday, May 8, 1981

8:00 am MWF	8:00 am-10:00 am
2:00 pm MWF	10:30 am-12:30 pm
3:00 pm TTh	4:00 pm-6:00 pm

#### Monday, May 11, 1981

9:00 am MWF	8:00 am-10:00 am
1:30 pm TTh	10:30 am-12:30 pm
3:00 pm MW, MWF	4:00 pm-6:00 pm
5, 6, 7 M Only (Evening)	7:00 pm-9:00 pm
6 MW (Evening)	7:00 pm-9:00 pm

#### Tuesday, May 12, 1981

10:00 am MWF	8:00 am-10:00 am
11:00 am TTh	10:30 am-12:30 pm
4:00 pm MWF, 4:30 MW	4:00 pm-6:00 pm
5, 6, 7, Tu Only (Evening)	7:00 pm-9:00 pm
8 TTh (Evening)	7:00 pm-10:00 pm

#### Wednesday, May 13, 1981

11:00 am MWF	8:00 am-10:00 am
3:30 am TTh	10:30 am-12:30 pm
5:00 pm MWF	4:00 pm-6:00 pm
5, 6, 7 W Only (Evening)	7:00 pm-9:00 pm
7:30 MW (Evening)	7:00 pm-9:00 pm

#### Thursday, May 14, 1981

3:00 am TTh	8:00 am-10:00 am
12:00 noon MWF	10:30 am-12:30 pm
1:30 pm TTh	4:00 pm-6:00 pm
5, 6, 7 Th Only (Evening)	7:00 pm-9:00 pm
7:30 TTh (Evening)	7:00 pm-9:00 pm

#### Friday, May 15, 1981

1:00 pm MWF	8:00 am-10:00 am
2:30 pm TTh	10:30 am-12:30 pm

## Urban Studies examines Louisiana communities

by lester boutillier

UNO's Urban Studies Institute is beginning a study to define the concentrations of Afro-American communities in south-east Louisiana.

The study is the result of a contract with the Interior Department's National Park Service. Other area universities are doing studies of other ethnic groups in southeast Louisiana for the Park Service. All of this is being done in preparation for the opening of Jean Lafitte National Park. Such ethnopolous studies are always conducted for a new national park to determine how the park might serve the needs of the area's ethnic groups.

Bobby Dupont, researcher in the Urban Studies School, is project director of UNO's operations, and Dr. Alma Young is principle investigator. Two graduate assistants are also working on the project.

The team will be field-testing survey instruments to arrive at a definition of a community. Factors will include family ties, religious association and other elements. The study will be conducted over a five month period.

When all the results are collected, they will be used to plan park exhibits on the area's ethnic cultures as well as finding things that would attract the different groups to the park.




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