

Intricate Metalworking, Unusual Materials Draw Local Jewelry Shoppers

BY RUTH BORLAND
STAFF WRITER

With a multitude of styles and price ranges, those interested in buying jewelry today are faced with no easy task. Potential customers have the price, the quality and the design to consider before they even begin to make a selection.

Current styles focus on design and metalwork, rather than stones.

"Stones aren't popular," said Joseph Berger, owner of Jewelry by Joseph Berger in University Mall. "We sell more beads and crystals than stones. Charms and charm bracelets are also popular."

Trends in jewelry design center around innovation with different types of metal and unusual combinations of metal types.

Don Johnson, owner of Creative Metalsmiths at 117 E. Franklin St., said he had sold pieces that combined Mokume, a Japanese metalworking technique, with Nietlo, a Byzantine technique. Titanium and niobium, elements used in the space shuttle, also are showing up in jewelry.

Another current trend in jewelry is the Native-American style.

"About half our stock is Native-American," said Virginia Penley of Taxco Silver Co. at 410 W. Franklin St. "Western clothing caused its comeback. It used to be a working-class thing—now it's a style even rich people wear."

To meet the demand for silver Native-American jewelry, Walt Penley, the owner of Taxco Silver Co., buys it directly from Native Americans or from a dead-pawn dealer.

A dead-pawn dealer is a pawn broker who makes deals with Native Americans not to sell pawned jewelry as long as the owner is alive in order to benefit from its increased value when the owner dies.

"The only silver jewelry that has any resale value is Indian jewelry," Penley said.

He sells used Native-American jewelry at market price, which is often higher than its original price.

"With Native-American stuff, it's more like appraising a painting because you're dealing with artwork, not precious jew-

els," Penley said.

Other jewelers agree that the craft of jewelry-making is an art.

"Technical skills can be taught to anybody," said Philip Manire, owner of Manire's Goldsmith in Carr Mill Mall. "Inspiration for design comes from your own being."

Many jewelers earn degrees from gemological institutes, which teach them the basics of metalworking and the proper way to appraise jewelry. Appraisal takes into consideration the designer's time, the artistic expression of the piece and the quality and value of its materials.

"We're here to educate an educated population about gems and gemstones," Manire said. "It's a purchase not a lot of people know a lot about. People find out more about their car than they do about their engagement ring."

For the amateur jewelry buyer, a little research is the best way to make certain the purchase is fair.

"If you know what you want, you can tell by the weight how much it's worth," Berger said. "Gold is a commodity just like anything else."

He advises consumers to weigh items they intend to buy. Other jewelers, such as Baum Jewelers at 106 W. Franklin St., use microscopes or other instruments to allow consumers to learn about purchases.

Manire said craftsmanship was another important factor the consumer should learn about when buying jewelry. He draws a distinction between the jewelry that is mass-produced in Hong Kong and the custom-made jewelry in his store.

"People are looking for something that is well-made, but not mainstream," he said.

Above all, consumers must trust the jewelers they choose, Manire said. "You need to get to know your jeweler. None of them are here to rip anybody off."

If one does have a bad experience with a particular jeweler, there are plenty of others in Chapel Hill.

Johnson said that since his opening 15 years ago, 20 jewelers had moved to the area. "It's become a Mecca for contemporary jewelry."

Pauper Players to Perform Timeless 'West Side Story'

BY CHARLIE SPEIGHT
STAFF WRITER

The worn-out cliché that history repeats itself once again proves to be true. This time the proof is provided by the Pauper Players, UNC's musical theater company, whose performance of Leonard Bernstein's "West Side Story" starts today.

In "Romeo and Juliet," William Shakespeare wrote about two feuding families and the lovers caught between them. First performed in 1596, "Romeo and Juliet" made a statement on the triviality of pride and division.

Bernstein recognized the timeless nature of Shakespeare's theme and adapted the storyline of "Romeo and Juliet" to fit 1950s America. The result was "West Side Story," a musical-theater performance that substitutes two rival gangs of different ethnic backgrounds for the Montagues and Capulets of Shakespeare's play.

As the Pauper Players perform "West

Side Story," the theme of racial division is again clearly applicable to the times.

"West Side Story," with the racial and ethnic strife that goes on, fits very well with the similar issues and concerns that we have on our own campus," said Jonathan Gyurko, a sophomore and the play's director.

There were concerns that an original twist would have to be added to "West Side Story," an often-performed play.

"There was an idea of casting the Jets white and the Sharks black instead of the Puerto Ricans as they are. But I prefer to do musical theater in a more traditional way. Often, there's such a push to make it unique and make it different that you take away from the integrity of the show and the music," Gyurko said.

"About the issue of ethnic strife and racial tension, I think the show's message and point is carried over to the audience effectively without having to sledgehammer a moral to the audience by casting it white and black."

Instead of trying to differentiate the play by adding such a twist, the Pauper Players

production energies are focused on creating a performance that will mesh all the elements of the musical together into a single effect.

The acting, dancing, singing and musical score all are essential ingredients in the performance, each relying on the others to support the theme of division. Essentially, the musical will offer a full sensory effect to convey a power struggle to the audience.

Adding to the strength of the show is the large, movable set and the location of the performances, Playmakers Theatre.

The set is composed of four rolling "buildings" that, when turned around, create an interior setting. For the cast, handling transition from an indoor scene to an outdoor scene is quite a remarkable feat.

Another strength of the show might well be found in the cast's ability to main-

tain a continuity and unity of spirit despite pressures and on-stage demands of portraying strife and tension.

The Pauper Players is a volunteer group with membership open to any UNC student.

Senior producer and actor Derrick Peterson said, "Pauper Players was started five years ago with the intention of doing benefits. Because of monetary reasons, we had to cut that out. But with this show we invited the Big Buddies, Big Brothers and Big Sisters to come to our dress rehearsal."

"West Side Story" will run at 8 p.m. today through Saturday at Playmakers Theatre. A Saturday matinee performance will be at 2 p.m. Tickets are available at the Union Box Office or through any cast member and are \$7 for adults and \$5 for students and senior citizens.

N.C. Tree Grower Presents Christmas Tree to First Lady

WASHINGTON—First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton on Wednesday accepted an 18 1/2-foot fir tree grown in North Carolina that will be displayed in the Blue Room of the White House during the holiday season.

"Beautiful tree," she said at the short ceremony outside the White House. The tree will be decorated with thousands of handcrafted ornaments from contributors around the nation, she said.

The tree was presented to Clinton by N.C. tree grower Wayne Ayers of the Roan Valley Tree Farm.

Ayers also presented the first family with a smaller tree, which will stand in the third-floor living quarters of the White House.

Clinton said the family tree would be decorated with personal decorations.

The tree made the final 100 yards of its journey from North Carolina to the steps of the White House in a horse-drawn wagon.

The tree is the main one with special

decorations that tourists will view on White House tours. Other smaller trees also will be displayed.

Clinton said the White House would be closed to the public for several days at the end of this week so the trees could be put up and decorated.

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Runs through Sat., Dec. 4
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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
The Heels host the Carolina Invitational at Carmichael Auditorium
Dec. 3 - East Tennessee State vs. Niagara 6:00 pm
Md.-Baltimore Co. vs. Carolina 8:00 pm
Dec. 4 - Consolation/Championship 2:00/4:00 pm

UNC Students/Faculty FREE with ID

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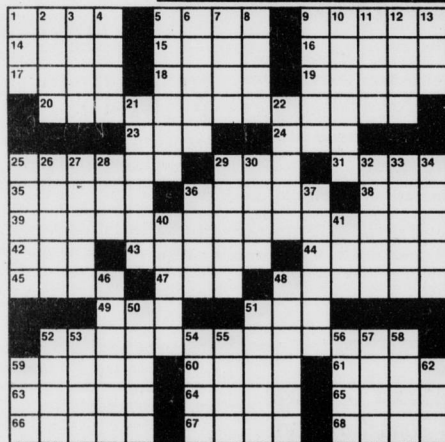


THE Daily Crossword by Gerald R. Ferguson

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- ACROSS**
- 1 Elvis — Presley
 - 5 Puma and lynx
 - 9 Froth
 - 14 Floor model
 - 15 Cain raiser
 - 16 Word to your sweetie
 - 17 Fervor
 - 18 Special treatment
 - 19 Zola
 - 20 Theatergoers' choice
 - 23 Diving bird
 - 24 Cal. fort
 - 25 Forearm bone
 - 29 Hanson
 - 31 Ms James
 - 35 From one to another
 - 36 Gay —
 - 38 Seek office
 - 39 Supreme Court decision
 - 42 Sibling: abbr.
 - 43 "The — of Hoffman"
 - 44 More mature
 - 45 Bitty preceider
 - 47 Acquire
 - 48 Stringy stalk
- DOWN**
- 1 Cutting tool
 - 2 Shipping hazard
 - 3 Sharif
 - 4 — contendere
 - 5 Mojave growth
 - 6 "It was — and stormy..."
 - 7 Poi source
 - 8 Duck
 - 9 Precipitous
 - 10 Hair dressing
 - 11 Military group
 - 12 Brooks and Torme
 - 13 Storm center
 - 21 Zero
 - 22 Staid
- 25 Holy man
 - 26 Early warning
 - 27 "I — choose to run"
 - 28 Bus. abbr.
 - 29 Proofer's mark
 - 30 Clumsy craft
 - 32 Balderdash
 - 33 Knob for a ham
 - 34 Fit to be tied
 - 36 Wan
 - 37 Inventor's cry?
 - 40 Johnson
 - 41 — Abner
 - 46 Polite reply
 - 48 Stick together
 - 50 Retention rights
 - 51 Role taker
 - 52 Beauty mark
 - 53 Prod
 - 54 Beginning
 - 55 Turner of film lore
 - 56 Seven year malady
 - 57 Not often noted
 - 58 Cicatrix
 - 59 Wise (to)
 - 62 Noah's limit?

SLAM AWAKE ADZE
 AURA TOWER ROOM
 STICKTOONESGUNS
 SEASHELL TORE
 ANY TARS
 ALMOND SAMOVED
 COIL SHRED TIE
 HOLDONTONESHAT
 ESE MEETS TENT
 ESTEEMS COULEE
 OLDS TOR
 PALE SHACKLES
 TAKETOONESHEELS
 ACID TRUST GNAT
 MAND SAGES SONS



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