

Writing lab helps many improve skills

By MELODEE ALVES
Staff Writer

The UNC Writing Lab not only provides help for students who want to improve their writing skills, but it also helps some students complete graduation requirements.

The lab, in 308 Greenlaw, gives assistance to students who want to remove a "Composition Condition" from their transcript, said Bill Waddell, lab director.

When a student gets a CC attached to his letter grade, he cannot graduate until it is removed, he said. CC means the student completed a course, but the instructor was not satisfied with that student's writing skills.

"I see a lot of seniors who have waited until now to remove a CC," Waddell said.

If a student brings his writing skills up to what Waddell feels is an acceptable level of college standards, he said he sends a letter to the registrar to have the CC removed from the student's transcript.

"What I'm looking for is some significant improvement in the student's writing ability," he said.

When students come to the lab for help, Waddell said he asks them to bring a sample of their writing. He also administers a diagnostic test to help him find any problems not evident in the student's sample. Students then write compositions assigned by Waddell and discuss problems they had and possible ways of improving them.

"The biggest problem that I have come across repeatedly is gathering ideas. Students can't seem to think of enough things to say," he said.



Bill Waddell checks over student's spelling... Lab works to improve students' writing skills

Other problem areas were mechanics and consecutive thoughts, Waddell said.

As the only instructor in the lab, Waddell said he saw between 20 and 25 students once a week. The students range from freshmen to graduate

students who are not English-speaking natives.

"I stay about as busy as I can be," Waddell said. "Additional funds would expand the potential of the lab greatly."

Police arrest two in connection with silver theft

By LAURA CARTER
Staff Writer

The sudden rise in silver thefts from area homes was highlighted Saturday with the arrests of two New Jersey men in connection with the theft of silver and other items from a Chapel Hill home, police said Monday.

Wilbur L. Packer and Louis M. Ortega, both of Newark, N.J., were arrested while Packer was allegedly trying to sell stolen silver in Durham. The silver was traced to a break-in this weekend on Morgan Creek Road.

Police said they did not know whether the two men had any connection with the rash of burglaries in the area, where the number of silver and jewelry thefts is up 154 percent from last year.

At a press conference Friday, Chapel Hill Mayor Joe Nassif said that silver and jewelry accounted for 90 cents of every \$1 of property reported stolen in Chapel Hill in October, or \$68,500 worth of goods. Most of these thefts occurred in residential areas, Nassif said.

"Police suspect that we are being victimized by some skilled operators, almost certainly more than one individual or even one small group," Nassif said. "Evidence suggests that they are learning what valuables are in homes before they enter...then making telephone calls to determine whether

anyone is home."

Most of the break-ins occur during the day while people are at work, Nassif said.

Most stolen silver is either melted down or sold at flea markets, Nassif said Friday, and although the police are working full time on this project, it is up to the homeowners and their neighbors to help protect themselves against thefts.

The police department has suggested that homeowners secure their homes with deadbolt locks and window pins,

and that they consider investing in a burglar alarm if they have a large amount of silver. They also recommended that silver be hidden from view and that precious items be marked and photographed to help recover them if they are stolen.

Watching for suspicious behavior, such as strange cars in the neighborhood or unusual telephone calls, can also help protect both you and your neighbors from theft, police said. Community Watch programs are a good way for area

residents to keep an eye out for each other.

"Let me remind you that Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's holidays are traditionally busy times for burglars, and there appears good reason for us to be exceptionally careful this year," Nassif warned.

Nassif said that both he and the police department believed that having alert and careful citizens was the most effective means of controlling the problem.

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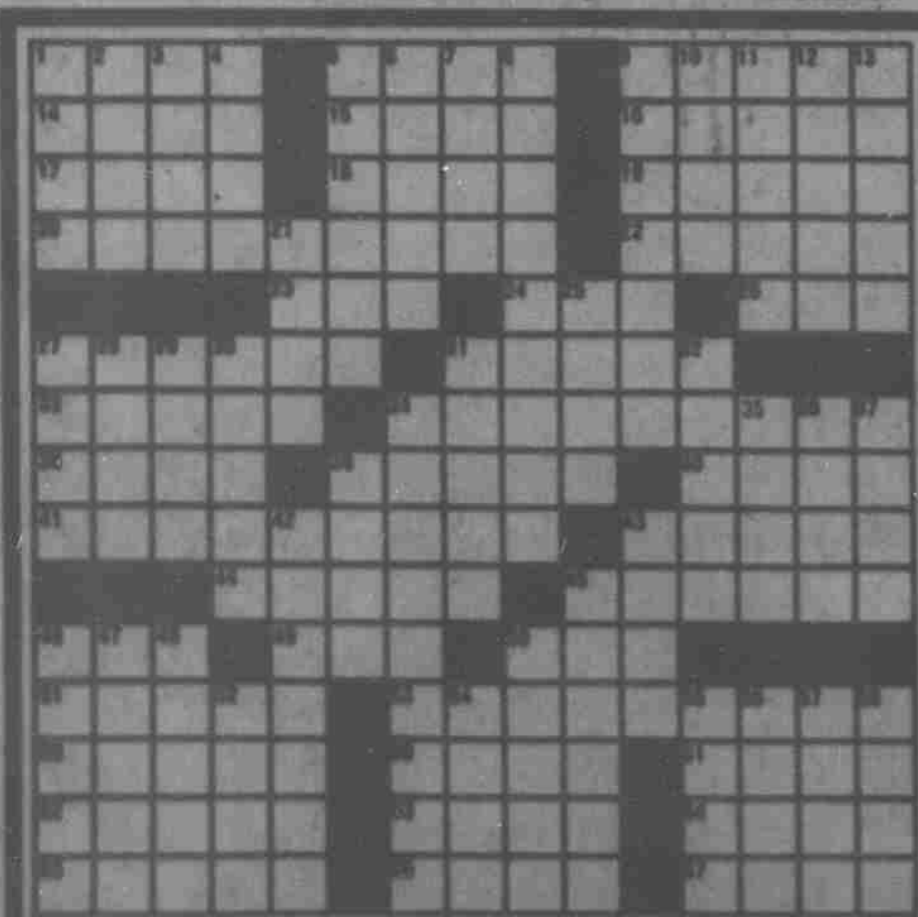
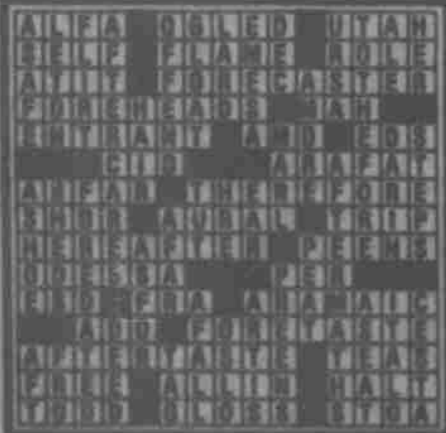
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THE Daily Crossword by Helen Fasulo

- | | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 31 Strong string | 50 Large snake | 25 Ireland |
| 1 Parlor piece | 33 Keep away from | 51 Keen | 27 Surrealist |
| 5 Tranquil | 34 Certain singer | 53 Opportune | 28 Muscovite name |
| 9 Sports groups | 38 Songbird | 59 Asian capital | 29 Kind |
| 14 Summit | 39 Beach | 60 Others: Lat. | 30 Items for amoes |
| 15 Miscellany | 40 Fountain beverage | 61 Machete | 31 "— wore the days" |
| 16 Moslem lands | 41 Type of doctor | 62 Rye fungus | 32 Literary compulsion |
| 17 Genuine | 43 Lowest point | 63 Reddish-brown | 34 Porcelain |
| 18 Lunch time | 44 Paris' river | 64 Cheopsra's handmaid | 35 Commotion |
| 19 European subway | 45 Meecal cactus | 65 Struck hard | 36 Prepare copy |
| 20 Meddle | 46 Division of a play | 66 Otherwise | 37 Infrequent |
| 22 Thick board | 49 Health resort | 67 Indefinite number | 38 Small cut |
| 23 Dawn | | DOWN | 42 Interval of rest |
| 24 Affirmative vote | | 1 Hindu garment | 43 Trim |
| 26 King: Sp. | | 2 Unfold | 45 Courteous |
| 27 Consternation | | 3 Exploit | 46 Fire residue |
| | | 4 Whelp shaft | 47 Charlama |
| | | 5 Escort | 48 Ballroom dance |
| | | 6 Bitter drug | 50 Great happiness |
| | | 7 Social luminary | 52 Plant part |
| | | 8 Trailing perennial herb | 54 Jewish month |
| | | 9 Kettledrums | 55 Wading bird |
| | | 10 Donkey: Gar. | 56 Moslem of the Philippines |
| | | 11 Communion table | 57 Ancient kingdom |
| | | 12 Historic river in France | 58 Measure of medication |
| | | 13 Obscured by haze | |
| | | 21 Study | |

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