

Writing mysteries keeps prof off streets

By DEBBIE KILLOUGH
The state's leading author of adult mysteries, Frank Peirce, says writing keeps him off the streets and out bars.
Peirce, who has combined a teaching and writing career for the past 30 years, will have his fourteenth mystery story published soon in "Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine."
Besides teaching various English courses and holding administrative jobs, Peirce sometimes sends as many as 40 hours a week writing. He is addicted to it, he said.
Of his 14 published mystery stories, five have been anthologized. These anthologies, or collections, republish the best stories of the year, were "Ellery Queen Anthologies," "Mystery Writers of America Anthologies" and "The Best Detective Stories of the Year in 1972."
In addition to his mystery stories,

Peirce has also composed other types of writing to help his students in creative writing.
His works include five unpublished novels, gag lines for cartoons and comedy routines. Three of his novels won the top award offered by the Southwest Writers Conference.
But Peirce still has not been able to find a publisher for his novels.
"Competition," he said, "is tremendous in the writing markets for fiction today and there are a tremendous number of people writing." However, he said that he never gets discouraged by rejection slips.
Peirce said he writes whatever he is in the mood for when he sits down at his typewriter.
He said, "I enjoy writing anything during the first few drafts. I write at least six drafts of everything I do, but the last four can really be drudgery."
But this drudgery does not slow

him down any. He writes everyday without exception. He said if he misses one day, it is wise as easy to miss the next.
Ideas for his stories are reached by a variety of ways. He gets them from

reading newspapers, observing a happening around him, or hearing a striking quotation.

For instance, he read the quotation, "Give a man a mask that he can hide behind and he will tell you about himself."

Changing the quotation to, "Give a man many masks to hide behind and he will tell you about his world" resulted in the short story "Total Portrait" which was published in "The Best Detective Stories of the Year in 1972."

Looking at writing from an economic point of view, Peirce said he tells his students not to go into the field of writing for the money. The most he has ever earned from writing in a year was \$5800.

Giving advice to those students wanting to write, he said the best thing to do is to submit stories.

"Criticism," he said, "can help a writer, but not if he does not write. You can learn more by developing habits of self-discipline than from any other source."

Study in Guadalajara, Mexico
The GUADALAJARA SUMMER SCHOOL, a fully accredited UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA program, will offer July 5-August 13, anthropology, art, education, folklore, history, political science, language and literature. Tuition and fees, \$195; board and room with Mexican family \$280. Write to GUADALAJARA SUMMER SCHOOL, Office of International Programs, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona 85721.

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MEETINGS SCHEDULED

The Freshman Class will meet today at 7:30 p.m. in MSC 230.
Omega Phi Alpha will meet today at 6:30 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Student Programs Office.
Pakistan Student Association will meet today at 6:15 p.m. in MSC 211.
The TAMU Nursing Society will meet today at 7 p.m. in G. Rollie White 267.
Women's Soccer Club will meet today at 7 p.m. in Rudder Tower.
Mid-Jefferson County HTC will meet today at 7:30 p.m. at the Pizza Inn next to the Bank of A&M. Free

Pizza and drinks for students from the area.
Sierra Club will meet today at 7:30 p.m. at University National Bank.
Student Education Association will meet today at 7:30 p.m. in MSC 225.
The Senior Class will meet today at 8 p.m. in Rudder 305.
Dr. Athelstan Spilhaus will speak today at 7 p.m. in Bizzell 203. He is a visiting Centennial professor.
"A Doll's House" will be presented by the Aggie Cinema today at 8 p.m. in Rudder 701.

Campus Briefs

Texas A&M students who expect graduation in May have until Friday to apply for the degree.
Application, involving an \$8 fee, must be made at the Richard Coke building.
Receipts should be presented by undergraduate students in Room 1000 and by graduate students in the Graduate College office.
A large graduating group is expected for spring commencement, a centennial-celebration event at Texas A&M. Almost 2,500 had applied by Monday. Robert Baine, assistant registrar, said another 200,000 could qualify. Records checks and corrections for the large graduated group require the lead time. Graduation will be May 7-8.
A former Texas newspaperman as no current world authority on international politics visits Texas A&M soil next week as a Centennial professor. Dr. Charles B. Marshall, Paul H. Ullrich Professor of International Politics at Johns Hopkins University, will lecture at a variety of seminars and sessions Friday through Sunday as a Saturday appearance during the 21st Student Conference on National Affairs.

Reville IV came home last weekend, with a graduation certificate.
The Texas Aggie Band's annual dance will be held at Zachry Engineering Center Friday, February 13.
The dance is scheduled to begin at 8:40 p.m. and dress is formal.
Music will be provided by Doppleganger of Houston.
The Corps of Cadets will pass in review Thursday, February 12 in honor of SCONA XXI.
The review will start at 5:20 p.m. on the main drill field.
SCONA XXI delegates will be in the reviewing stand.

Abortions result from ban scare

WASHINGTON — A short-lived ban on spray adhesives by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission has frightened many pregnant women and led to at least eight women across the country to have unnecessary abortions, a new study says.
The ban on the products was lifted in 1973, but the study by a New York state researcher says some doctors are flooded with calls from pregnant women worried about possible birth defects due to the product.
The commission banned spray adhesives in August 1973 because an Alabama researcher said two dead babies and their parents had of genetic damage that might be linked to the adhesives.
In January 1974, the commission reversed its position, saying there is evidence the product causes birth defects or genetic damage.
The safety commission urged pregnant women to contact their doctors or genetic specialists immediately after it announced the ban on the products.
But Robert M. Hehir, director of medical science for the commission, said the agency did not encourage any woman to have an abortion.

WEIGHT WATCHERS

ANNOUNCES NEW CLASS

Monday 6:30 p.m. Feb. 2nd
A&M Presbyterian Church
301 Church Street — Fellowship Hall
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