

## Writing Lab works

As one of many people who have worked hard the past three years to create a writing lab that would serve the needs of English composition students and their teachers, I want to clear up some confusion that may have arisen from Laura Fisher's article on the Vick Report in the April 14 *Texan*.

At one point Dr. James Kinneavy is quoted as suggesting that the current Writing Lab is not "doing the work it should be." Actually, Kinneavy was referring to an earlier version of the lab, which was an alternate E306 course and not the support facility for all freshman composition students that it is now. On the phone yesterday, Dr. Kinneavy told me that he has in fact been delighted with the work of the Writing Lab since it assumed this larger responsibility beginning in the fall of 1980.

Apparently other members of the English department feel the same way: all of the 34 respondents to a survey on the lab this week encourage their students to use the lab; of this same group, 79 percent either agree or strongly agree that their students' writing improves as a result of visits to the lab; and in the view of 85 percent of this group of department members, freshman composition students themselves believe that they benefit from their work in the lab. Students themselves in a survey of opinion on the Writing Lab in the fall of 1980 were even more positive about the lab.

I would hate for readers of the *Texan* to get the wrong impression of the Writing Lab: we provide assistance and encouragement to a large number of student writers every semester; our lab is staffed by wonderfully talented, energetic graduate-student members of the English department who are invariably sympathetic and devoted to the writing students who visit.

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**Omission justified**