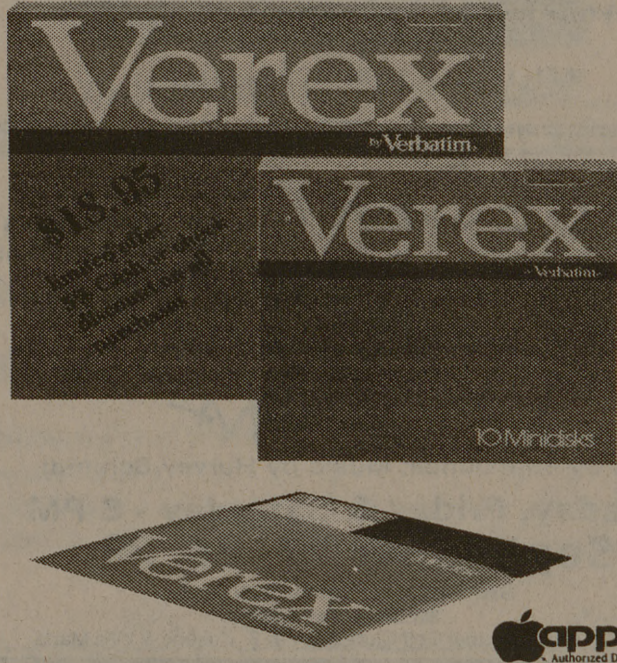


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Writing courses offered

By KIM GRIFFITHS
Reporter

When was the last time you felt you had really sailed through that tough essay exam and then discovered your score had been slashed by 20 points because of misspellings, dangling modifiers or sentences suffering from "incoherent thought?" Well, help is on the way — and it's free!

Beginning Oct. 3, the Texas A&M Department of English will offer Writing Outreach — mini-courses designed to assist A&M students, faculty and staff who want to improve their writing skills — at no cost.

Dr. Gwendolyn Gong, director of freshman English studies and creator of Writing Outreach, said the sessions are especially aimed at people who recognize they have a specific writing weakness but do not have either the time or desire to enroll in a semester-long writing course.

"Having just one minor writing barrier — such as not knowing when or where to use a comma — can create a writer's block and discourage a person from ever becoming more than just a mediocre writer," Gong said.

Each one-hour session, taught by a faculty or staff member in the English department, will focus on one writing topic such as paragraphing, coherence, revision, writing essay exams, writing critically about literature, grammar and punctuation.

More professionally-oriented sessions will deal with developing an effective resume and letter of application.

The program relies exclusively on the volunteer efforts of participating instructors, who are solely in charge of developing their courses and any supporting materials, Gong said.

"I think their enthusiastic response to these sessions clearly demonstrates our department's commitment to teaching the importance of good writing in everybody's life," Gong said.

She said careful records will be kept this fall to measure the response generated by Writing Outreach and the types of people attending the sessions. If the program meets expectations, plans for expanded courses and facilities will be looked into for the spring semester, Gong said.

Gong emphasizes that Writing Outreach was designed to support, not replace any writing course or lab currently offered at A&M and is not intended to be a one-to-one tutoring service.

The Department of English offers a variety of writing courses for those interested in strengthening their writing ability.

For further information about Writing Outreach, contact the English department.

What's up

Thursday

AGGIE DEMOCRATS: Ken Caperton, state senator, will speak at 8:30 p.m. in 601 Rudder.

PANAMANIAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION: will meet at 1:40 MSC at 7 p.m.

SOCIETY FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND NEW VENTURES: Jack Ford, from Brazosbank, will speak about what bankers look for in entrepreneurs at 7 p.m. in 116 Harrington.

NORTH LOUISIANA HOMETOWN CLUB: is meeting at 7 p.m. in 116 Old Engineering Building to discuss upcoming events, including a party.

CHI ALPHA: is meeting at 7 p.m. in 410 Rudder for worship, fellowship and Bible study.

TAIWAN ASSOCIATION: a song and dance show from Taiwan will be presented at 7 p.m. in Rudder Theater.

MSC CEPHEID VARIABLE: the movie "Conan the Barbarian" will be shown at 8 and 10 p.m. at the Grove.

DELTA Y: is meeting at 6:30 p.m. in 601 Rudder to discuss semester projects.

STUDENT Y: will meet at 7 p.m. in 601 Rudder Tower.

NATIONAL SOCIETY OF BLACK ENGINEERS: will have a general meeting in 137 MSC. For more information call Mark Sterling at 260-3370.

TEXAS A&M ANTIQUE AUTO CLUB: is meeting at 7 p.m. in 604 Rudder. Everyone is welcome.

HILLEL JEWISH STUDENT CENTER: is having Rosh Hashana services at 10 a.m. at the Student Center.

IM-REC SPORTS: 16-inch softball playoffs will be posted at 3 p.m. in 159 E. Kyle.

FENCING CLUB: will have a business meeting at 7 p.m. in 267 E. Kyle. The meeting will be followed by a beginners club and practice.

BLACK AWARENESS: is having a P.R. organizational meeting for TAMU Voices of Praise at 6 p.m. in 216T MSC. Anyone is welcome.

AGGIE PLAYERS: are presenting "Liliom, the Legend of a Romantic Hero," at 8 p.m. in Rudder Forum.

RAPE CRISIS PROGRAM: the student chapter of the American Veterinary Medical Association Auxiliary is sponsoring a rape prevention seminar at 7:30 p.m. in 701 Rudder.

Friday

IM-REC SPORTS: all clothing bags cleared from lockers must be picked up by this afternoon in 159 E. Kyle.

RHA CASINO: applications for Casino sub-chairmen and co-chairmen are due by 5 p.m. today in 213 Pavilion.

HILLEL JEWISH STUDENT CENTER: is having Rosh Hashana services at 10 a.m. at the Student Center.

SOCIETY OF IRANIAN STUDENTS: is meeting at 5:30 p.m. in 308 Rudder. Dr. Abu Zaid will speak about the Socio-political Situation in Iraq."

Reformer rearrested

United Press International

AUSTIN — David Ruiz, whose suit against the Texas prison system led to sweeping court-ordered reforms, was arraigned Wednesday on felony assault, firearms and habitual criminal charges.

Ruiz was being held on \$20,000 bond after his arrest Tuesday on two counts of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm and one charge of being a habitual criminal.

Ruiz was arraigned before Municipal Judge J. David Phillips. He faces sentences ranging from

25 to 99 years or life in prison if convicted of any one of the charges.

Austin police Sgt. Darrell Gabbrell said Ruiz also had been identified, but not yet charged, as one of three men armed with a handgun, Uzi machine gun and a rifle, who robbed five people and raped a year-old woman in Austin on this month.

While serving a sentence for armed robbery in 1971, Ruiz filed suit against the Texas Department of Corrections alleging inhumane treatment of prisoners. The suit led to widespread reforms ordered by U.S. District Judge William W. Justice of Tyler.

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