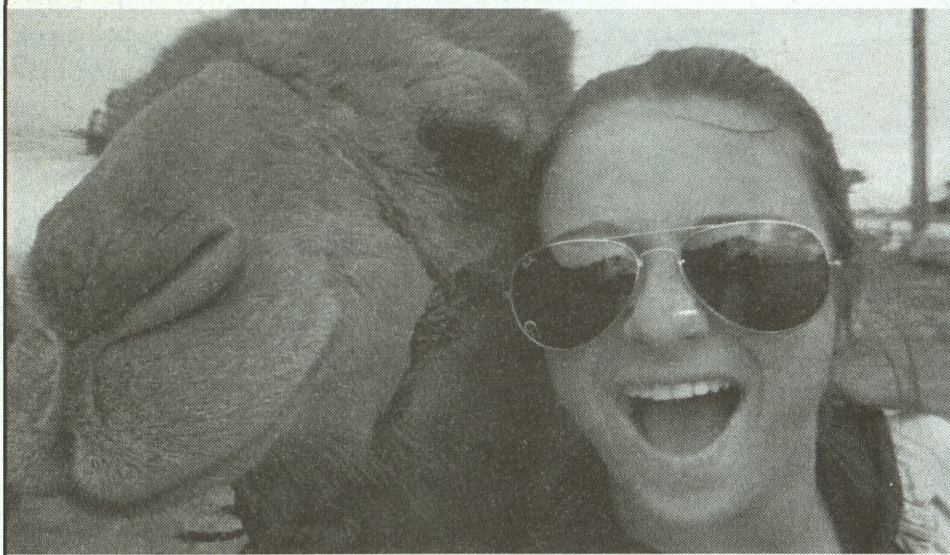


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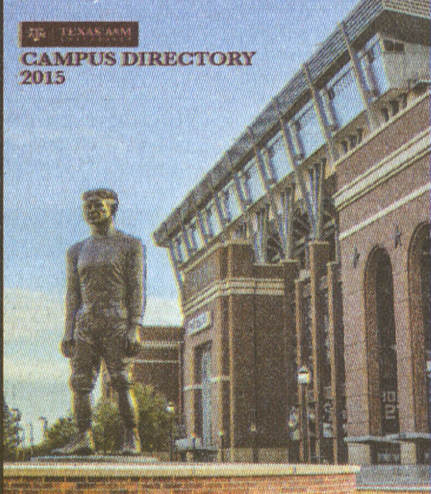
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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



FILE

The president's home will not be occupied by new president Michael Young.

Dear Chancellor Sharp '72,  
I'm writing to you to congratulate you on the selection of Michael Young as the next president of our flagship university, and also to protest the recent policy you announced concerning the future of the President's House on campus. Since the days of General Earl Rudder the House has served as a connection between Texas A&M students and their leaders, and severing this unique symbol of Aggie unity to make raising money easier is a terrible mistake. In the last couple of days I've spoken to former and current students, from Bonfire Redpots to current student leaders, who treasure the memories they made while inside the house. Even those who never went inside have spoken of the strong sense of kinship they felt from having their campus leadership live among them. Such a feeling is integral to the development of Aggie unity, and reserving a key position on campus for rich donors is a slap in the face to the community access on which Rudder and the University once prided themselves on.

Your comment this week, that the President's House is "way more important in terms of fundraising," and that "these guys could go find another place to live" shows a great misunderstanding of what this House represents to the A&M community, which is embodied in every student just as much as it is in high-powered donors.

If the MSC, Hagler Center and other such buildings do not fit current outreach needs, then I strongly urge you to consider designating the Reed House, present home of the A&M System Chancellor, as an alternative location to house donors and hold fundraising events. Located just across the street from the Bush School, it is close enough to campus to be convenient for visiting VIPs, and could certainly be repurposed for, as you recently said, "a lot of goodwill, fundraising, and things that are far more valuable than having somebody live there."

Michael Dror  
Class of 2014

Dear Board of Regents:  
Congratulations on your selection of Michael Young to be the next President of Texas A&M University. With this search complete the university we all hold dear can now begin to turn the page with fresh, bold, new leadership.

In order to accomplish the task of new leadership it is important to note a "STUDENTS FIRST" priority should be demonstrated. To this effect, President-designate Young should be allowed to live in the President's home on campus. Established under President Rudder, this home allows the university president to show solidarity with the campus and provide access to students and visitors. By transforming the home into a guest palace for dignitaries and donors, you are sending the message you have a greater priority on fundraising as opposed to the unique connectedness between the President and the campus.

Furthermore, onboarding a new President by saying, "Get your own damn house," seems unprofessional and unwelcoming to the campus' new leader. Please reconsider this decision and allow President-designate Young the opportunity afforded to Presidents before him — the chance to integrate with Aggies, visitors, and those donors and dignitaries from the Presidents home.

At the same time, the Hagler Center nearby the campus and football stadium could easily be used for fundraising initiatives. Perhaps a suggestion would be to add on to the Hagler Center with an overnight complex for dignitaries to stay? Congratulations again on your selection of a new President.

Robert Christopher Ferguson  
Class of 2001

## MUSIC

### Panel finds intersection of rap, economy

By Taylor Siskind

MSC Carter G. Woodson Black Awareness Committee and the Africana Studies Program, along with several other departments, will host "Rap Sessions: Global Hip-Hop and Economic Recovery," an event that seeks to connect hip-hop to social issues and the economy.

The panel will be a follow-up of the movie screening "Unstoppable: The Roots of Hip-Hop in London," which took place Wednesday.

Composed of hip-hop artists Akua Naru and Blitz the Ambassador, professor Dawn-Elissa Fischer and author Giuseppe Pipitone, this panel will discuss the entrepreneurial strategies of hip-hop.

"What hip-hop artists have done, like Boogie Down Productions, KRS-One specifically, and even the distinct Kanye West have argued is that black people need to be their own producers," said associate sociology professor Tommy Curry. "So we need to take the buying power, the consumerism that drives black society, to imitate larger, white society in many ways because of relative deprivation. We need to take that power

and produce our own goods, support our own businesses, create our own investments, banks, firms, etcetera."

Bakari Kitwana, the creator of Rap Sessions, said she hopes to inform college students that a traditional job with a company is not necessarily the path one has to take, and in today's economy is not the most reliable either.

"From the standpoint of students, I think it's soothing because first of all, if they are interested in hip-hop, there are many opportunities out there, and also, even if they aren't, to just begin to start to think about ways of how you can be viable independently," Kitwana said.

Thursday's event seeks to link hip-hop with larger issues to aid people of all types and backgrounds.

"That exposure can really help any student of any color of any background understand more about what rap is," said Chaance Graves, electrical engineering junior and co-director of the educational sub-committee of the WBAC.

The discussion will be at 7:30 p.m. in the Preston Geren Auditorium of the Langford Architecture Building.

## MOSTLY WATER CONTINUED

to be just before the first edition was printed in October 2014.

"I was about to print the first edition and didn't have a title, so I typed the first thing I could think of into InDesign," Land said. "I actually really don't like it because I think the wit of it only comes across when you say the full thing, and it often just gets abbreviated to 'mostly water,' which isn't my favorite thing in the world."

"Mostly water" is open to any type of visual or written art submission and is published on a monthly basis. Leaf said they are trying to stay away from categorizing submissions.

"The categories can limit an artist," Leaf said. "Artistic expression doesn't work in categories. Many times, journals can feel limiting. We don't want to do that."

Among some of the work submitted to and published by the journal are a series of Snapchat images and photocopies of receipts.

"The photocopies of receipts were kind of used to depict and tell a story," Land said. "It was really interesting, the artist used the items on the lists to tell a story."

Land said authenticity in a poem is what draws him in.

"I like it when I read somebody's stuff, and you can tell that they'd be writing whether someone else is going to be reading it or not," Land said. "I like it when you can see the ghost of the poet's past and their poetic tradition."

At the same time, Land said they try to emphasize that much of the selection does come down to personal taste.

"We don't claim to be some grand arbiters of art," Land said. "What we end up selecting is what James and I like and what we think that other people should be exposed to and read."

Land and Leaf work to keep the journal free for residents of Bryan-College Station, and have shipped the journal both nationally and internationally. Land said the majority of the journal's funding comes from the two students' personal

funds.

However, Land said the two have also received support from Florence Davies, University Writing Center administrator and academic adviser for The Eckleburg Project.

"When Davis and James first told me about ... 'pretty much everything is water' I knew almost immediately I wanted to help them in any way I could," Davies said. "The experimental and experiential art they hoped to receive, as well as their process of selecting pieces, absolutely blew me away."

Davies said the journal felt fresh and electrifying and that she could feel the heart put into its creation.

"These days with everyone on earth trying to blog for a hot dollar, the idea of two humans printing off zines in someone's bedroom, making art for art's sake is something you don't come across very often," Davies said. "You hear a lot of braggadocio about wanting to change the local art scene, but it's another thing entirely to tangibly create something that's doing just that."