

NEXT WEEK

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ANSWERS to today's puzzles

ASOF MEMOS GALE
NEMO IGAVE HUDE
DEAR NOMAD EDGE
DRAFT SELECTION
FAY RAT
DEGAS MAT RODDY
EVAC MOLINE RUE
BOTTLEDEMOTIONS
IKEE ELEVEN NINE
TESLA LED ANDES
EVA ASA
CANNED LAUGHTER
OVID DUNNO UTAH
MINE EATING RACE
ODOR DUSTY ELKS

8	9	6	3	5	1	4	2	7
4	1	2	9	7	6	3	5	8
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2	6	7	8	3	9	1	4	5
5	4	9	1	6	7	8	3	2
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6	7	3	4	2	8	5	9	1

Program takes writing from page to stage

New initiative aims to assist writing and performance skills

By Lindsey Gawlik

A new program within the University Writing Center aims to further the arts at Texas A&M and create a fast-paced environment for writers to better learn their craft.

This year, the Writing Center will hold its first "Black Box Residency Program," an initiative to teach selected participants how to create and perform original work.

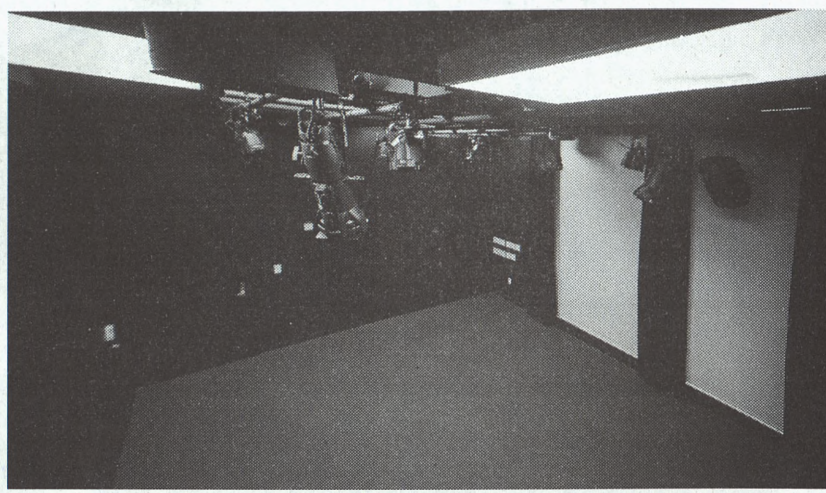
The residency — applications for which will be due Friday — will last five weeks, focusing first on writing improvement skills and then on performing in front of a public audience.

Florence Davies, facilitator behind the residency and administrator at the University Writing Center, said the idea for the program came from two former students who worked in the center.

"This is the first year that we decided to go ahead and try it out," Davies said. "It was actually a project idea brought to us, an idea of combining a workshop that focuses not only on the creative material but also the performance of that material."

Since this is a pilot event, Davies said this year the planning was focused more on creating a small fast-paced residency program that would allow students to decide between writing fiction or poetry.

"We are trying to figure out exactly what that public performance is going to look like," Davies said. "One of the ideas we had is to kind of, as the writers are reading their work and reading it to the



Tanner Garza — THE BATTALION

The University Writing Center's program will culminate in a performance at the black box theatre in Hullabaloo Hall.

public, we were thinking, 'Wouldn't it be great to have that immediate feedback from the audience and maybe getting the audience to write comment cards or give the writers some feedback on the reading itself?'"

Davies said doctoral students will teach the writing workshops and Candace Schaefer, associate director in the University Writing Center, will teach the performance workshops.

Schaefer said she hopes to help the residency participants — with different styles and varying levels of experience — become comfortable presenting their work to the public.

Schaefer said she's always been interested in supporting the writing life and creative spirit at Texas A&M.

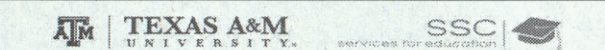
"I'm hoping that the resident participants get a venue for their work, which

I think is lacking in this community and I also hope they get a terrific audience for their work because the more enthusiastic the audiences become the bigger the enthusiasm grows for a program like this," Schaefer said.

One of the students behind the original idea for the program, Madison Parker, Class of 2014 and president of Mic Check Poetry, said her original hope for the program was to grow the creative atmosphere at A&M.

"We thought that it would be a really cool outlet for combining both of these to kind of give other A&M students the opportunity to engage in this and really enhance their craft as a whole," Parker said.

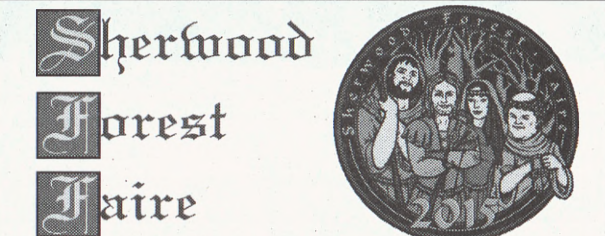
The final performance will be given at 7 p.m. April 11 in the black box theatre in Hullabaloo Hall.



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Judge's stay of Obama immigration order a 'shame for Texas,' advocate says

By Jennifer Reiley

President Barack Obama's executive orders on immigration came to a halt with a federal judge ruling late Monday afternoon.

Andrew Hanen, a U.S. district judge in Texas, blocked action on the executive orders, giving 26 states, including Texas, more time to build a lawsuit against the order. The states will claim the order to be unconstitutional.

"It represents a massive change in immigration practice and will have a significant effect on, not only illegally present immigrants, but also the nation's entire immigration scheme and the states who must bear the lion's share of its consequences," Hanen wrote in the official ruling.

The executive orders, announced by Obama in November, aim to shield from deportation four million immigrants, namely parents and families of children who are now citizens or permanent residents. Each person applying for the three-year deportation relief is required to have been in the U.S. for more than five years, undergo a criminal background check, register and pay taxes.

Felipe Hinojosa, assistant professor of history, works with undocumented students at Texas A&M. He said he disagrees with the judge's ruling, which doesn't address certain points about undocumented persons in the United

States.

"The judge's ruling states that the executive order would essentially force states to invest in things like law enforcement, education and healthcare," Hinojosa said. "And first of all I'd ask, 'What's wrong with that?' I think we need to do more of that as a state. But more importantly, what's missing in that equation is the fact that undocumented immigrants do pay into the system."

Hinojosa said the ruling feels more political than substance-based. Nery Guerrero, president of the Council for Minority Student Affairs, agreed, and said the ruling came two days before applications for work permit renewals reopened.

"It was meant to halt the renewals," Guerrero said. "This is very sad because the politicians are continuing to play this game that's not only affecting votes or parties — they're affecting people, they're affecting families. They're using this as a strategy on their campaign but they're playing with real people, real immigrants, and there are a lot of undocumented Aggies whose hopes are being brought down, and this is a shame on Texas."

For now, CMSA is working with other organizations like United We Dream to reassure students who are worried about the judge's decision.

"We're sending national information and national awareness to everyone, and

what we're basically telling everyone who might be scared about this is that this decision is not permanent," Guerrero said. "While it's delaying the process, this lawsuit is not permanent and we're confident the higher courts will reject this lawsuit since it has no legal merit."

Rep. Bill Flores released a statement Tuesday congratulating Hanen on his ruling.

"The rule of law has prevailed over President Obama's unconstitutional executive overreach," Flores said in the statement. "The president's unlawful amnesty plan has been stopped. Our Constitution has been preserved and the president has been put on notice that his unilateral actions will not go unchallenged."

Guerrero said the idea of an amnesty plan is a misconception.

"There's no amnesty plan," Guerrero said. "Obama relief is relief for parents of DACA [Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals] children — something that has been voted in before. It's not an amnesty plan, there's no granting of citizenship. It provides relief for the children, many of them students."

As of Tuesday, Hinojosa said the U.S. Justice Department will appeal the ruling and the Homeland Security secretary has released a statement against Hanen's decision.

WALK CONTINUED

Brown, an international studies and applied mathematics junior, and will meet at 3 p.m. at Jason's Deli. They invite students and other community members to join them in their walk through B-CS.

Brown, who has Ewing's sarcoma, said she was told about the Cobb family's walk by her roommate, who supported the family's walk in Huntsville, Texas last week.

"She was with the Cobb family when they were walking," Brown said. "She turned around and talked to them and told them about my story. We are really excited to be able to meet them Wednesday."

Jennifer Cobb said one of the main goals of the walk is to promote awareness of the gravity of pediatric cancer. The family started a foundation to continue their goal, called "JuCan," remembering their daughter Julia's nickname, Ju, and the inspiring message she sought to give to all.

"Unfortunately, pediatric cancer research is terribly underfunded," Jennifer Cobb said. "It is the number one cause of death by disease for children."

Jennifer Cobb said the family wanted to use their faith and their love for Julia to continue to spread awareness to help other children and other families throughout the nation.

"It's just something that no parent ever wants to go through," Jennifer Cobb said. "But we want to give our love and support to help everyone else that we possibly can."

Jennifer Cobb said the family walks

each day for a different person who is battling cancer to honor them and their fight.

"We pretty much walk around 25 miles a day, and each day we walk for one specific person," Jennifer Cobb said. "We've gotten so many different requests and people asked us, 'Could you walk for my niece or my nephew?' And we always do."

Brown said it is a privilege to be honored in the walk.

"I can personally speak to how underfunded childhood cancer is," Brown said. "I think it would be amazing to bring more awareness to college students."

Brown said bringing awareness to college-aged students can help with finding a solution sooner rather than later.

"I believe we're in a position to make change," Brown said. "We're all getting degrees that will shape our lives and then to go out into the real world to hopefully make a difference."

Logan Lester, a university studies junior, is a friend of the Cobb family and helped to organize the College Station walk. Lester said the event is important to her because of Julia Cobb's influence on her life.

"She left a powerful legacy, I can't even begin to put what she means to me into words," Lester said.

The walk through Aggieland will begin at Jason's Deli in the parking lot and will last approximately three hours. The route follows Texas to University, along University to Welborn and from Welborn to George Bush.

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