Survey says:
Swallowing goldfish, and other fun hobbies
By Rainey Miller, Co-Editor

How well do you know your classmates? I asked students three thought-provoking questions, and received some rather...well, colorful responses. Here are a few of them:

1. What's the strangest thing you've ever eaten?

“A live goldfish, as part of a truth or dare game (I swallowed it whole, actually...)”
—Gil Grabow

Nice. Points for swallowing a live animal, and for being the most die-hard truth or dare player among your circle of friends.

“Horse in France.”
—Anonymous

“My mom says it was dirt, but I remember fried veal.”
—Kellem Bolton

Who among us hasn't enjoyed a good mud pie?

“The strangest thing that I have consumed would have to be baboon brain. FYI: It was legal where I was in that part of the country.”
—Anonymous

Ok, stop, we have a clear winner. Not only did you eat a closely-related species, you ate its brain?! Kudos for being braver than I'll ever be.

2. What's the meancest thing you ever did as a child?

"I bit my uncle on the arm really hard when he tried to pick me up. It left a HUGE bruise!"
—Gil Grabow

Let's be honest, he probably deserved it.

"Put the cat in the mailbox—sorry, Mom!"
—Kellem Bolton

“I tortured a grasshopper...not proud of it, still haunts me today! I threw sand in his eyes, and had him by the wings. I put him in a book and smashed him.”
—Victoria Rios

It seems like more than a few of us tormented animals in our youth. When I was a kid, I drowned a flock of butterflies in a bucket of water, and tried to serve “butterfly soup” to my grandmother. She was not impressed.

“Pushed my sister off the roof while telling her to think happy thoughts.”
—Anonymous

Dang, savage.

“The meancest thing that I used to do as a child was burn my relatives’ hair with a lighter, and then run. This includes: siblings, parents, cousins, aunts, uncles, grandparents. No one was safe.”
—Anonymous

You mean to tell me that nobody—out of all your siblings, parents, cousins, aunts, uncles, and grandparents—ever outran you and took the lighter away? I commend you for not only being devious, but also, apparently, very fast.

3. What does your inner voice tell you?

“My inner voice tells me that the struggles I face, and the challenges God places in front of me, created the man I am today. Through a well-rounded background and experiences of failure and success, [my voice] tells me that He knows I can overcome anything—no matter how difficult the task.”
—Kellem Bolton

That’s the (holy) spirit!

“I do not know; I duct taped her mouth a long time ago.”
—Anonymous

“Be nicer, stop judging, accept others.”
—Victoria Rios

I think you’ve got the right idea.

“To shut the heck up at times when I seem to have diarrhea of the mouth.”
—Gil Grabow

And so do you.

“My inner voice typically tells me to be patient, as it’ll be worth it in the end.”
—Anonymous
There are many that have to endure the pain that comes from the hospitalization or death of a loved one due to suicide, or suicide attempts. Many blame themselves or others when these tragedies occur.

Despite the sense of taboo that comes from discussing suicide, it is quite common. In fact, the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention estimates that in the U.S. one million people engage in self-harm, annually. In attempts to bring awareness and prevention, here is a list of common guidelines to help you become more informed on suicide and suicide prevention.

**Change in speech patterns**
A suicidal person will start to express feelings of being trapped, unbearable pain, and a lack of will to live. They may also tend to express feelings of being a burden upon friends and loved ones.

**Changes in behavior**
People tend to begin or increase alcohol and drug consumption; this can domino-effect into increased recklessness. Withdrawal from family and friends, and routinely activities is also common.

**WHAT TO DO**
If you are experiencing any of these symptoms or if you are witnessing them in a loved one, please seek the advice of a mental health expert on how to proceed. Addressing these issues directly may seem helpful, but this may cause an individual further complications.

If you feel that a friend or loved one is at high risk of committing suicide, do not leave them alone. Stay with this person until you or a mutual friend is able to get assistance. In the case of an emergency, dial 911. You can also call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255; support is available 24/7.

If you have any questions or concerns relating to suicide as well as any other mental disorders, contact the SRSU Counseling Center, 432-837-8203 to schedule an appointment. The office is staffed with Licensed Professional Counselors. Their services are confidential and free of charge to Sul Ross students, staff and faculty. The Counseling Center is located in Ferguson Hall room 112 and is open weekdays.

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By Vashti Armendariz, Reporter

There may also be changes in sleep habits; sleeping too much or too little. There is a tendency to call or visit family members, friends, and loved ones, to say final goodbyes. Giving away prized possessions is also a common sign.

**Things to consider**
People with a history of other mental disorders such as depression, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, and the like, are at greater risk of committing suicide. Also, if a person suffers from a chronic health condition or has a history of suicide in the family, they are more likely to commit suicide.

Be watchful of those undergoing a stressful life event such a death or divorce, and of those suffering from prolonged stressful situations such as harassment or relationship issues.

**Treatments**
Treatments for suicide are often linked to the treatment of other mental disorders, such as depression, bipolar disease, and alcohol and drug abuse.

Treatments for suicide in depression patients involve cognitive behavioral therapy, and interpersonal therapy. Studies have also shown success in suicide prevention with the use of antidepressants along with psychotherapy.

Bipolar patients can be prescribed mood stabilizers and antipsychotics.

Treatments for patients with drug or alcohol abuse may vary, but are centered on rehabilitative care.

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By Vashti Armendariz, Reporter

Illustration by Jesus H. Guerrero
Scott blends her talents for Cabaret

A couple of years ago, Sul Ross State University Theatre faculty members Dona Roman and Marjie Scott discussed a “dream list” of roles and plays.

“Marjie told me she always wanted to play Sally Bowles,” Roman said. “I told her that I wanted to do (direct) ‘Cabaret’, and it has worked out.”

Roman, Sul Ross professor of Theatre, directs “Cabaret,” which opens Saturday, March 25 on the Marshall Auditorium stage. Scott, assistant professor of Communication and Theatre, not only plays Sally Bowles, but serves as the musical’s choreographer.

“This will be the community’s introduction to Marjie, “ said Roman. “She is very talented, has a great resume and is a seasoned actress. She combines the knowledge, training and experience of dancing, acting and singing, along with the maturity to understand the depth of this role.”

“Cabaret,” winner of numerous Tony and Academy Awards for both the stage and screen versions, depicts the dramatic shift of life and fortunes in Germany from the end of the 1920’s to the rise of the Nazi Party. The musical centers on nightlife at the seedy Kit Kat Klub, and revolves around young American writer Cliff Bradshaw (played by JB Fields, Venus) and his relationship with 32-year-old English cabaret performer Sally Bowles.

Performances begin at 8:15 pm Friday and Saturday (March 25, March 31, April 1, 7, 8) and 2 pm Sundays (March 26, April 2 and 9). Ticket prices are $12 for adults and $10 for seniors. The musical contains adult content, and parental discretion is advised. Scott has been able to juggle dual responsibilities during the extensive rehearsals. "The role of Sally is every bit as challenging and rewarding as I had hoped it would be,” she said. “I am enjoying the experience very much and am grateful to Dona and Sul Ross for the opportunity."

“Thankfully, I was able to start teaching the choreography last semester. I taught a musical theater dance class and the students learned a few of the dances from the show as part of their class.”

Scott said the dancers returned to Sul Ross a week before Spring 2017 classes began and learned/rehearsed for six hours a day. “It helped immensely. By the time acting rehearsals began at the start of this semester, the dancers already knew most of the dances.”

Since then, Scott and Roman split the weeks, with Scott rehearsing scenes Monday-Wednesday and working with the dancers Thursdays and Fridays.

“I really have to compartmentalize the two roles in my head,” she said. “I feel very differently when I’m playing Sally versus when I am the choreographer, so a big part of the process for me is letting go of one while I’m engaged in the other. It is indeed a juggle.”

Scott contrasted the energy of Berlin nightlife with the underlying theme. “‘Cabaret’ is a fun show, but it also contains a lot of darkness. It depicts the beginnings of Hitler’s rise to power and the fall of the Weimar Republic, so there is a sense of doom inherent in the show,” she said.

“Given everything going on politically right now, it is rather timely, I think … ‘Cabaret’ is an important reminder of what we don’t want to see happen ever again.”

She said the entire company is “making a solid effort to make this a great production. The cast, orchestra and crew are made up mostly of students and most of them are working very hard. It is inspiring for me to see, as an educator. As for me as an actor, it has been quite humbling to be on stage again after almost a decade….It has been fun. I love acting.”

In addition to Roman and Scott, Jeffrey Meyer, assistant professor of Music, directs the orchestra. Dr. Donald Callen Freed and Lana Potts are also musical directors. Other cast members include: Jason Roman, Fort Stockton (Bobby); David Garcia, Alpine (Victor); Max Lannom, Fort Davis (Hans); Marcelino Velaquez, Alpine (Herman). Other Swing/Ensemble members are: Michael Amerson, Fresno; Chinasa Okorocha, Pflugerville; Andrea Bode, Georgetown; Aracely Guerrero, El Paso; and Diff Torres, Van Horn.

Marjie Scott (center front) plays Sally Bowles and is also Cabaret’s choreographer. Photo by Gunner Gardner

OPENs TOMORROW!

Marjie Scott and Jonathan Fields practice a scene. Photo by Vashti Armendariz

Scott plays Sally Bowles. Photo by Gunner Gardner

Marjie Scott (center front) plays Sally Bowles and is also Cabaret’s choreographer. Photo by Gunner Gardner
Mixed media installations by artist Future Akins featured thru April 14 in Sul Ross main gallery

“Mementoes of a life well lived,” a series of mixed media installations by Future Akins, Lubbock, opened March 6 in the Main Gallery, Francois Fine Arts Building, at Sul Ross State University.

The exhibition will be on display through Friday, April 14. Gallery hours are 8 am-5 pm. Admission is free and open to the public.

Akins, a mixed media artist and associate professor of Art at Texas Tech University, used traditional "crafts" materials to push the envelope of the genre. Her research and her art is focused on woman and aging: their self-image vs. mass media's false image.

"It is on growing up in a military family and how there is no hometown, no settled place to land," according to her artist's statement. "And, it is on re-thinking art: how we learn art, how we teach art and how we approach art."

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Spotlight on SRSU rodeo

By Gunner Gardner, Co-Editor

Here in Alpine, western charm and southern decadence is abundant everywhere you look. And if you happen to peek into the S.A.L.E. Arena at the Turner Range Animal Science Building, you might catch a glimpse at one of Sul Ross’ most sacred traditions: collegiate rodeo.

Back on November 6, 1948, Sul Ross College held an invitational rodeo, inviting any college with enough cowboys to compete. At this rodeo, Hank Finger, a Sul Ross student, organized a meeting with the cowboys to compete. At this rodeo, Hank Finger, a Sul Ross student, organized a meeting with the cowboys to talk about the need for an official organization for college rodeo cowboys.

Representatives from 12 colleges throughout Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Colorado who congregated in Alpine formed the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association and adopted a constitution. The group also developed eligibility guidelines, scholastic standards, and structure for the organization. In August 1949, the NIRA was born and the first NIRA All Around Champion crowned that year was Harley May of Sul Ross State University. After laying the foundation, Sul Ross State University continued to be a significant cornerstone of collegiate rodeo.

Currently, there are twelve athletes from Sul Ross who compete in collegiate rodeo. While only six men and four women currently represent Sul Ross and the Bar-SR-Bar, other athletes are still able to compete individually and qualify for the College National Finals Rodeo. Under the direction of SRSU rodeo coach Jacob Gernentz, athletes typically spend four to five hours each day practicing and exercising.

"Rodeo is a sport unlike any other," Gernentz said. "For starters, it's not a cheap sport these kids basically pay to play." Athletes receive minimal funding from the school and typically pay for things like their trailers, feed, hotel rooms and gas out-of-pocket.

"It's also not for the weak of heart," Gernentz added. "It's a true competition between man and beast and takes a special blend of skill, charisma and nerve."

Gernentz grew up in Mission, Texas, where he exhibited a passion for rodeo ever since he was able to ride a horse. After graduating from Sharyland High School, he went on to compete in rodeo for Eastern New Mexico University. Later, he found himself at Sul Ross State University where he has served as the collegiate rodeo coach for the past four years.

"Rodeo is an important part of this school's history, heritage and identity," he said. "The Bar-SR-Bar brand we know and love is a significant symbol with great meaning that probably wouldn't exist without collegiate rodeo. I think Sul Ross would probably wouldn't exist without collegiate rodeo coach for the past four years."

Sul Ross State University Collegiate Rodeo will take place this fall, on October 5-7. The 72nd annual Sul Ross State University Collegiate Rodeo will take place this fall, on October 5-7.

Herpetology field expands in West Texas

By Malyssa Reed, Reporter

Herpetology is the zoological study of amphibians and reptiles. In the last few years Sul Ross has begun to expand this field. According to a few student herpers, the change really started when Dr. Sean Graham, a herpetologist and professor, began teaching at Sul Ross. Graham teaches the classes on vertebrates.

Graham has experience doing lab work and fieldwork, but he says, "My passion is just running out into the desert and catching snakes. I'd be happiest just driving around looking for reptiles."

He grew up in Georgia interacting with the reptilian and amphibian wildlife there and he continues that work today. He has written several scientific papers and encourages his students to publish their own scientific findings and experiences.

Even before Graham came to Sul Ross, students came to this area to study reptiles.

Sul Ross student Reese Hammock has been studying reptiles, snakes specifically, since he was a kid.

"I've been catching snakes, toads, and lizards since I was two or three," Hammock said. "I remember when I was twelve and my mom bought me a lot of scientific snake books and it really became a life-long passion.

Putting his interest to use, he has been working with Residential Living to remove snakes that end up inside the dormitory buildings and around campus.

Alpine is located in the northern part of the Chihuahuan Desert, a desert that lies mostly in Mexico and has not been surveyed quite as much as others. Snake collectors and enthusiasts come from all over to find and study the unique reptiles found only in this area. That makes Sul Ross a great area to study reptiles in.

Graham organizes his lab classes to include many field trips to observe the animals studied in that course. He also encourages people who are interested outside of his courses to join them on their field trips.

There are also student herpers who go out on their own to observe reptiles naturally. While on these ventures they also collect the more intact dead snakes to preserve them in the Sul Ross collections library.

In addition to field trips, Graham also organizes a bi-yearly 18-week trip where the group can visit the main deserts in the United States to experience the nature and wildlife unique to those areas.

Herpetology is a field that is sometimes overlooked, but incredibly important and fulfilling.
Sul Ross State University students A.J. Maldonado, and Dominic Carillo, won top undergraduate awards at the annual Texas Academy of Science (TAS) meeting, March 3-5 at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, Belton.

Nine Sul Ross undergraduate and graduate students, four faculty and three alumni attended.

Maldonado won the Best Chemistry Oral Presentation in the undergraduate competition, and Carillo won the Best Mathematics Oral Presentation in the undergraduate competition, as well as the Amir Mose Award for Excellence in Mathematics.

In all, Sul Ross made 10 scientific presentations, representing the Biology, Chemistry, Geology, and Mathematics programs, in conjunction with the McNair Scholars Program. Melissa Schenkman, Midland, was one of 10 students selected from over 100 presentations to make an oral presentation in graduate student competition.

The presentations and their presenters are listed below.

“Creation of a perfect hockey brake: Using matrices to depict the outcome of the Stanley Cup” by Carillo and Dr. Angela Brown.

“Insect pollinator diversity and other associates of saltcedar (Tamarix sp.) along the Rio Grande in Presidio County, Texas” by Alexandra Hassenflu and Ritzi.

“Resurgence of the tamarisk beetle on saltcedar and athel along the Rio Grande, with notes on other biocontrols” by Ritzi and Hassenflue.

“The association of obesity and lifestyle factors among children in rural and urban areas of the Trans-Pecos region” by Kassandra Hernandez and Ritzi.

“An Oligocene-Eocene Limestone Formation in Big Bend Ranch State Park” by Stephanie Elmore and Dr. David Rohr.

“The relationship between blood hormone and lipid levels on abundance of ectoparasites in the Southern Plains Woodrat (Neotoma microps)” by Melissa Schenkman, Ritzi, and Joseph Schenkman.

“Effects of body manipulation on insect succession and postmortem interval in the Trans-Pecos region of Texas” by Yelizsa Avila and Ritzi.

“Plant diversity in areas impacted by biological control of saltcedar (Tamarix spp.) in West Texas” by Michelle Lawhorn and Dr. Christopher Ritzi.

“Synthesis of a 6-fluorocholestrol” by Maldonado, W. David Nes, and Dr. Angela Brown.

“Inhibition of ergosterol biosynthesis and growth in Trypanosoma brucei by fluorinated sterols” by Dr. David Leaver, Presheet Patkar, Ujjal Singha, Matthew Miller, Brad Hawbrich, Minu Chaudhuri, and W. David Nes.

“Dynamics of ectoparasites in the Southwestern United States” by Yelizsa Avila and Ritzi.

“The impact of body manipulation on insect succession and postmortem interval in the Trans-Pecos region of Texas” by Yelizsa Avila and Ritzi.

Maldonado, Carillo take top honors at TAS

From China to Sul Ross

Cultural Encounter students Joyce, Catherine and Sunny pose at Marfa’s Hotel Paisano fountain. Alpine was their temporary home from Feb. 18 until March 12 while they attended classes, campus and community events, and took tours of the area as part of Sul Ross’ Cultural Encounter Program with Heze University in China. Next month a second student group, this one from Talent International College in Qinzhou, China, will arrive in Alpine for a three-week stay. A group of Sul Ross students will travel to China later this semester.

Celebration planned for SRSU’s 100th birthday

Birthday cake, piñatas, games, music and other festivities will highlight Sul Ross State University’s centennial celebration set for Tuesday, April 4. The event marks the beginning of the university’s centennial activities, which will continue through 2020.

“On April 4, 1917, Governor James E. Ferguson signed the bill establishing Sul Ross Normal College in Alpine,” said SRSU President Bill Kibler.

Sul Ross’ 100th celebration, scheduled from 5:30-8:30 pm, will include a barbecue meal served by Aramark, which is free to the community. Children’s activities, including piñatas, are planned, along with live music by local bands, games and activities sponsored by student organizations, display and storytelling about the famous Hancock Hill desk, a brief oral history of Sul Ross and more.

Birthday cake and ice cream will also be served.

Kibler emphasized that the celebration is truly a community event. “In order to locate a college in Alpine, the Texas Legislature stipulated that the community needed to provide student housing and donate land for the construction of the college, so this year (1917) also marked the beginning of the partnership between Sul Ross and Alpine,” he said.

“From its very beginning, Sul Ross was a community venture that strengthened the desire of the people for higher education opportunities in the Big Bend Region.”

The university will launch the official centennial celebration this coming fall, to continue through 2020. Due to World War I and post-war economic adjustment, Sul Ross officially opened for classes in June 1920.

For more information, contact Yvonne Realivasquez, 432-837-8000 or yrealivasquez@sulross.edu.
Lady Lobos 3-3 in recent outings

Coach Troy Canaba’s Lady Lobos split six games against Howard Payne and Hardin-Simmons to stay in contention for post-season softball play.

Sul Ross, 9-16 overall, 6-12 in the American Southwest Conference, tripped Hardin-Simmons 3-1 March 18 after losing 1-0 and 7-6 in Friday’s doubleheader.

Jackie Gonzalez yielded a first-inning run but finished with a three-hitter against the Cowgirls, while Alejandra Pasillas slammed a two-run, fourth-inning double for the go-ahead runs.

A week earlier, Sul Ross lost 4-3 at Howard Payne before bouncing back for 8-0 and 10-3 wins. The Lady Lobos dropped a three-game set to ASC leader Louisiana College (20-2, 14-1 ASC) March 3-4.

The Lady Lobos traveled to Austin March 24-25 to face Belhaven University in a three-game series. They return home March 31-April 1 to host LeTourneau, then travel to Belton April 7-8 to face Mary Hardin-Baylor.

Gonzalez has a 5-9 won-lost record and 3.13 earned run average, while Bailey Garrett is 4-6 with a 3.52 E.R.A. Destanie Hernandez leads the team with a .384 batting average, 28 hits and 15 runs batted in. Darrian Doederlein (.308) and Zuriah Leyva (.296) supply added punch in the batting order.

Tennis teams on the road

After identical 5-4 losses at the University of the Southwest March 8, the Sul Ross women’s and men’s tennis teams will stay on the road, with matches at the University of Texas Permian Basin, Odessa, March 23; Concordia-Texas, Austin, March 31 and Mary Hardin-Baylor, Belton, April 1.

The Lady Lobos and Lobos return home April 7-8 with matches against Hardin-Simmons and McMurry, respectively.

In women’s action against USW, Daisy Martinez (number three singles), Kelyn Likiaska (number four) and Marissa Mireles (number six) and the number three doubles tandem of Melissa Posada and Likiaska won matches.

Men’s players Juan Samaguey (number two), Kyle Ferguson (number four), Nathaniel Boaright (number five) and Damien Blanco (number six) won singles matches.

Lady Lobos softball celebrates a scoring run. Photo by Magaly De Leon.
Lobo baseball seeks reversal of fortune

After a 2-7 mark against three American Southwest Conference foes with a combined 51-15 record, Coach Bobby Mesker’s Lobos seek a reversal of fortune in upcoming baseball action.

Sul Ross, 9-15 overall and 2-7 in the ASC, finished 1-2 against both Concordia Texas (15-8, 7-2 ASC) and UT-Dallas (18-4, 7-2) on successive weekends (March 3-4, 10-11), before dropping a three-game set to fourth-ranked UT-Tyler (18-3, 8-1) March 17-18. Cody Remore gained the win and Aaron Marquez the save in a 3-1 win over Concordia, while Chris York’s 10th-inning single brought home the winning run in a 16-15 win over UT-Dallas.

The Lobos traveled to Marshall March 24-25 to face East Texas Baptist (12-9, 6-3) in a weekend set, then will return home to host L’Tourneau April 7-9 at Kokernot Field. After an idle Easter weekend, Sul Ross hosts University of the Ozarks April 21-22.

Remore has posted a 4-2 won-lost record with a 3.02 earned run average thus far. Ryan Almager is the top hitter with a .358 batting average, 34 hits, six doubles, four homers and 23 runs batted in. York has also slammed four roundtrippers, while Johnny Campos leads the team with 19 runs scored. Wesley Moss is perfect in seven stolen base attempts.

The Lobos host East Texas Baptist University tonight (March 24) at 7 pm at Kokernot Field. Tomorrow’s doubleheader against ETBU begins at 1 pm.

The next—and last—home games for Sul Ross are slated for April 28-29 when Hardin-Simmons visits Alpine.