

INSIDE:

- Dr. Gina Causin named president of Hospitality Educators Association of Texas, [Page 2](#)
- Review: Improv Strikes Back amuses with 'Titus Improvius', [Page 4](#)
- Editorial discusses importance of having black counselors on campus, [Page 5](#)
- Lumberjacks make great female athletic trainers, [Page 6](#)

Online advising form created to streamline SFA advising process

By Grayson Porter
Staff Writer

After seeing a demand for an easier advising opportunity, Lisa Stone, director of advising in the James I. Perkins College of Education, and Sara Cole, lead academic adviser for the college, worked with IT to create an online advising form for advising holds to be removed faster to make the process quicker for students. This also helps professors visualize their students' class for better advisement as well.

"Our original problem is that our faculty in the [James I. Perkins College of Education] would often ask our advisers how many students that we've advised to take classes," Stone said. "Which was very time consuming for us to go back and look at that. We kept spreadsheets for a time, but that was very time consuming as well. We knew we needed [some] technology to help us do that."

Stone and Cole worked with the Information Technology Services on campus to create the form, both using their perspective of the necessities for the form to create a usable platform. They began their work in the summer of 2018 when it was evident that students in the education department needed an easier way to be advised.

"It was such an easy process," Cole said. "Brad Fox and Rich Barnhart were the two that we work with the most. Brad, he kind of took over, emailing back and forth, fine tuning. I'm advising students every day, so I just am more into that. He was great. He was responsive. I know nothing about technology. He knows nothing about advising, so I just told him what we needed, and he said, 'Well hey, will this work?' We just went back and forth, and it just went very smoothly."

So far, the online advising forms are being used in the James I. Perkins College of Education and the Nelson Rusche College of Business, but it has been brought to the attention of other colleges around campus. The intent of the online advising form is to help students and teachers work together to help each student's college career excel. This improvement of the advising program is one that Dr. Scott Gordon, the new president of SFA, has advocated for.

"If you are a student, you know about holds and what you have to go through for registering for where certain things can happen," Gordon said. "[You can be] dropped from a class if your financial aid isn't in. All of these things, we want to find a way to [streamline advising for students.]

With the use of this new program, students will be able to remove advising holds from their mySFA accounts, have their schedule in a an easily accessible place and will let students and their teachers be able to communicate more efficiently about the class schedules.

So far, the student responses to the online advising form have been positive, and Stone and Cole hope for the form to spread to other colleges on campus.

Raquel Torres contributed to this report.

OMA celebrates indigenous culture



Photo by Katie Harris / The Pine Log

The Office of Multicultural Affairs celebrated Native American Heritage Month Nov. 13 in the Baker Pattillo Student Center Spirit Lounge. Students were provided with education, music and dance, as well as a performance by the Great Promise for American Indians. Pictured from left are Starria Sage standing with John Butler and Nan Blassingame.

Student Center Dining Hall to undergo renovations in the spring

By Kayley Frazee
Contributing Writer

The Baker Pattillo Student Center Dining Hall will be remodeled in the spring of 2020. While plans are still in the early development stages, it is planned to be finished by the fall semester of that year.

"It's probably been about 11 years since there's been any significant updating to the Student Center Dining Hall," John Anderson, general manager of SFA Dining, said. "Eleven years seems to become dated pretty quickly. So, that's probably the biggest reason for this. Just as things change, we want to make sure things stay current in the marketplace."

On Oct. 30, SFA Dining met with students at the Food Committee Meeting to ask what students would like to see in the dining hall, including stations and menu items.

"Most of the design work is very preliminary," Anderson said. "I can tell you, however, that floor to ceiling, wall to wall, it's going to be redone. We're going to have some level of outdoor seating, as well as both internet and charging stations."

Carrie Charley, director of auxiliary services, said, "We feel that we're missing out on one of the most beautiful views of campus. We need a better structure to see out and to bring the outside in, so probably new windows that are lighter, brighter. We agree that we should have variable seating, not all four-tops like we have in there now. We want to include opportunities to look out if you're not outside, single and group seating areas, as well as new dishes and flatware."

Most of the work will be done over the summer when the dining hall is closed, but it is likely to close for construction a few weeks before the end of spring semester. Due to this,



Photo by Cameron Sweet / The Pine Log

there will be Grab N Go options in the Student Center C-Store, and the East College Dining Hall will have extended hours.

"We're on a timeline, so we didn't want to wait two more years and not have something new and fresh," Charley said. "We've had a long-standing partnership with Aramark. As people can see from the last Board of Regents meeting, we added another amendment to our contract so that we'd have some funding for this project to do it right."

SFA Dining also has plans for the Dining Hall that will aid students with dietary needs.

"We're excited about adding our True Balance Station, which will be an integral part of the overall new Student Center Dining,"

Anderson said. "So, that's a big piece of it. More and more students coming in do have some level of gluten intolerance or some type of dietary need."

According to Tiffany Gonzalez, marketing manager of Aramark, the True Balance Station is a health allergen aware station. SFA Dining felt it was important to include this, as 27% of the incoming freshman class has special dietary needs.

SFA Dining also has plans for a new dining hall, which is anticipated to be complete by 2023. Ground will be broken in the spring for a new residence hall. Once that is constructed, Hall 16 will be demolished and will be the site for the new dining hall.

SFA College Democrats reply to conservatives' claims on hateful comments, bad influence

By Grayson Porter
Staff Writer

After a recent article in The Pine Log quoted some conservative students saying they feel ignored on campus, the College Democrats felt they themselves were under fire due to some of the claims made in the article. Conservative students in the article claimed that any conservative awareness programs were shut down due to the SFA College Democrats' influence and that an English professor had been prejudiced toward a student due to their political beliefs.

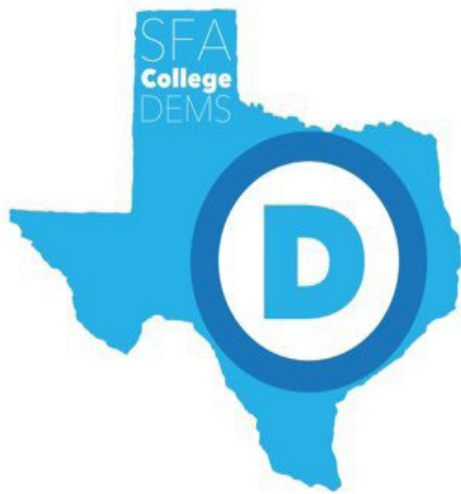
"There are ways to break through the barrier and be bold enough and strategic enough to organize around your beliefs to where it is not offensive, to where it is respectful and to where it is effective," Gabrielle Harris, junior political science major from Houston and president emeritus of SFA College Democrats, said.

"And to where you can create a movement that people want to join. If you aren't creating a movement that people want to join, then there is really no point. You're just making noise."

The conservative student claimed that the College Democrats were responsible for negative comments made when the College

Republicans had a pro-life booth, but the SFA College Democrats president said this was not a result of the club. Members hold that any anti-conservative actions on campus were not directed from the club, and that these problems are not stemming from the Democratic organization.

"You can deface our flyers all you want, you can say what you want, but our actions speak for themselves," said Larissa Charles,



sophomore environmental science major from Houston and president of the College Dems. "We aren't going around defacing their flyers. We're not going around harassing them at tables. They talked about how if someone has

a MAGA (Make America Great Again) hat on, we are going around and harassing them.

"If I see someone with a MAGA hat, I'm ignoring them. We aren't going around and doing that to them."

When the article circulated, the College Democrats took to Twitter to release a statement and state their side of the story. They talked about how the 'Beto' sticker on a member's car was covered with a Trump Sticker and signs for the organization's Planned Parenthood event being vandalized.

However, even with these acts, the College Democrats don't believe that it is something that the Republicans are at fault for. Furthermore, they believe the aggressive

push back from other conservatives on campus to College Democrats is something the Republicans are not responsible for.

"People focus too much on labels," Josh Mannin, sophomore sound recording technology major from Kingwood, said. "It is always labeling someone 'Oh, you're liberal. You're conservative. You're straight. You're gay.' I think people should put their differences

"We aren't going around defacing their flyers. We're not going around harassing them at tables."

—Larissa Charles, president, College Dems

aside and actually work together." The organization believes that the only way to have an equal balance on campus is for the College Republicans to be able to organize their events better and for them to no longer blame College Democrats for the backlash on campus.

The College Democrats also don't want people to think that they promote hate speech around campus and that they are just on campus to help raise awareness for their events and help students register to vote.



■ SEE PAGE 6
Football gets ready to
fight in the 54th annual
Battle for Chief Caddo.

NEWS

Page 2

The Pine Log

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Professor named president of Hospitality Educators Association of Texas, plans study abroad trip to France

By Ryan Eubanks
Contributing Writer

Dr. Gina Causin, an associate professor in the SFA School of Human Sciences, was elected president of the Hospitality Educators Association of Texas last Monday at the conference in Glen Rose.

HEAT is a statewide organization that connects secondary schools to colleges and universities. The purpose of the organization is to help students find their path in the fields of hospitality, tourism and culinary arts, according to Causin.

“The organization will keep the members who represent their school, especially high school faculty, informed on changes and revisions on courses that pertain to hospitality, tourism and culinary in the high school,” Causin said. “The post-secondary professors are there to see if those courses align with the courses that we are teaching in the college level.”

This helps create opportunities for students, like dual-credit, while representing SFA in schools all over the state, something that Causin prioritized when she was elected.

“My purpose for getting involved was for us to be able to do dual-credit relationships with high schools, so that when they come they already have courses taken and can finish in three years,” Causin said. “As far as I know, there are some schools that are doing this, but that is what I wanted for SFA. That is kind of my bottom-line that we should have articulation agreements with the high schools all over Texas.”

Causin also showed a desire to look to the past for guidance in her new position. She felt that past officials offer a variety of resources that she wanted to bring to HEAT again.

“Another thing I would like for HEAT is to organize past presidents of the organization because I believe that past presidents would have a wealth of knowledge as an advisory committee for us, for the board, for the president,” Causin said. “This way they don’t feel that after being president that they don’t have any use.”

Causin’s reasons for wanting to be president also included an interest in growing the hospitality program as well as the overall enrollment at SFA. She said that to do this it was critical for SFA faculty members to pursue influential

state-wide positions to bring awareness to the University.

“It’s very important that we get involved outside of SFA, especially because we are in a small town,” Causin said. “Not everybody knows about us. If there are faculty with professional organizations, it would be beneficial for the whole university.

Causin has left many lasting impressions on her peers and students. Dr. Lynda Martin, the director of the human sciences school, recounted Causin’s involvement in HEAT and at SFA.

“Dr. Causin has been involved with the Hospitality Educators Association of Texas since her arrival as a faculty member in our hospitality program,” Martin said. “Her work has been impactful with high school hospitality educators and helps high school teachers and students around the state learn about SFA’s outstanding hospitality program. We are very proud that she has been elected president this year.”

In addition to being an involved member of HEAT, Causin also created a study abroad opportunity for student of any major at SFA: a trip to Cannes, France, to attend the Cannes Film Festival as interns in a range of fields.

“When I came to SFA, I brought this on,” Causin said. “Because I know the people who organize the American pavilion. When I came to SFA, I designed a course for it, so the student who goes will get credit.”

Causin explained that the trip is designed to expose students to the culture, while they work in the hospitality tent of the American pavilion in a variety of roles.

“The students will be working in the pavilion in the different areas,” Causin said. “We have the restaurant, we have the conference room, we have the coffee bar, the bar and the kitchen. So, culinary students who want to work in the kitchen will apply as culinary students and are in charge of preparing the food in the hospitality tent. The rest of the students: film, business, hospitality, art, theatre or whoever will take the course have the chance to work in the pavilion as servers or videographers or as people who put together press conferences.”

Causin explained the prestige of the event. Students who attend will be working with people who are powerful and famous in their fields. One

prospective student, Trace Horger, a computer science major and sophomore from Winnie, expressed his reasons for being interested in the opportunity.

“I think this whole trip is about networking,” Horger said. “We will be standing not even 10 feet away from huge influencers, company CEOs and celebrities. The trip may be a film festival, but here I could talk to my future employer. I went to go meet with [Dr. Causin] at the end of October to talk about her Cannes study abroad program. This was the first time we ever met in person. She was a professor like no other I have met. She is very nice, and I could tell that her goal for the Cannes trip is for her students to have fun and go experience the world. She is excited that she is the one guiding us.”

In the past, the event has featured a number of prestigious movie companies and studios. Lionsgate, Paramount Pictures and so forth have all been film companies that Causin said students have worked with in the past, alongside independent film companies and film distributors.

“Film distribution companies is another area where especially the business students who want to know the business of film distribution can work with a company that does that,” Causin said. “Or for a journalism student or an advertisement student who would like to work with Hollywood reporters or Vogue. They will be there.”

Causin described the experience like a 20-day internship, with the additional benefit of exposing the students to the culture and history of France.

“That’s why I love doing this, because the experiences of the students are so different, because they are assigned to different things,” Causin said. “I always like to take the student to the red carpet for one or two premiere shows. I organize field trips outside of Cannes to go sight-seeing. Because I’m in hospitality, I like to take the students to the wineries and the vineyards to have food and wine pairings. We go to the islands. There are two islands across Cannes that I love to take my students to: Sainte-Marguerite and Sainte-Honorat. I also want the students to take the train, to learn how to ride the train. We travel to Ventimiglia, Italy, which is like an hour away from Cannes by train and have lunch there.”



Photo by Caroline Metersky / The Pine Log
Dr. Gina Causin, associate professor in the School of Human Sciences, says the study abroad trip to France is open to any major.

Steel Band to perform after Thanksgiving break

The Steel Band at SFA will present its fall concert at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 3, in Cole Concert Hall on the campus.

Directed by Dr. Ben Tomlinson, adjunct professor of percussion in the School of Music, the student ensemble will perform a number of traditional calypso selections from the islands of Trinidad and Tobago and additional tunes from around the world.

Among the works on the program is “Chunk,” a funk tune composed by Oklahoma City-based composer Jamie Wind Whitmarsh. This rendition will include an extended percussion solo to feature the band’s “Engine Room,” which includes drumset and a percussionist playing hand drums and other auxiliary percussion within the Steel Band.

“‘Chunk’ is an upbeat tune with colorful harmonies and rhythms that really challenge the ensemble’s timing and ability to fit in the pocket,” Tomlinson said.

Also on the program is Ray Holman’s “Pan in My

System,” which Tomlinson describes as fast and upbeat and “a challenging soca chart that is sure to be a crowd favorite.”

The Steel Band will perform “The Peanut Vendor” by Moisés Simons. The tune has been recorded more than 160 times and has been included in the United States Recording Registry by the National Recording Preservation Board.

“Arranged by ensemble member Ethan Ainsworth, ‘The Peanut Vendor’ is arguably one of the most famous pieces of music to come out of Cuba,” Tomlinson said. “Released in the 1930s, this tune was responsible for ‘rumbamanía’ in the United States, introducing U.S. listeners to Cuban music.” Ainsworth is a senior music major from Hallsville.

Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors and \$3 for students and youth. For tickets or more information, call the SFA Fine Arts Box Office at (936) 468-6407 or visit www.finearts.sfasu.edu.

Crime Log:

11/13/19

An officer was dispatched to Lumberjack Landing in reference to a drug complaint. Upon arrival, the officer made contact with a subject who was found to be in possession of marijuana. The subject was issued a summons to appear before Nacogdoches County Court for possession of marijuana. There is one suspect.

11/17/19

An officer was dispatched to Lumberjack Village in reference to a drug complaint. Upon arrival, the officer made contact with one subject that was found to be in possession of marijuana. That subject was arrested for possession of marijuana in a Drug Free Zone and transported to the Nacogdoches County Jail without incident. Another subject was found to be in possession of alcohol by a minor. That subject was issued a citation for Minor in Possession of Alcohol. There are two suspects.

To contact UPD in an emergency, call 9-1-1.
For non-emergencies, call (936) 468-2608.



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Review: Improv Strikes Back amuses with ‘Titus Improvicus’

By Kayley Frazee
Contributing Writer

Improv Strikes Back is Stephen F. Austin's student-created and student-run improv troupe. Friday night, they had an improv show titled, "Titus IMPROVICus" hosted by the president of Improv Strikes Back, Gareth Phipps, in the Wright Music Building.

The show consisted of multiple games done by the actors in the troupe in which they take suggestions of things like location, occupation, relationships and objects from the audience in order to act out an improvised scene.

The first game was, "moving boxes" in which two actors took the stage. Per audience suggestion, one actor played a jailer who was helping an inmate move boxes in their cell. I liked lines such as, "I'm more than a number you know" and "Life is about making accidents." A common theme throughout the show was extremely bizarre situations that are obviously meant to be funny, but you also somehow end up getting deep and learning important life lessons.

The second game was a "LaRonde," which means full circle, and the concept of this one was that six actors were on stage. However, only two would perform at a time, and the other four were supposed to individually take the place of the person who had been in the scene the longest until the scene got back to the original actors, ultimately going "full circle." The game started off with two brothers. One



Photo by Andrew Delph / The Pinelogs
From left, John Martin, Gareth Phipps and Alex Duty act out one of the various games that the troupe performed Friday night.

came to the other for advice because he needs advice for going out on a date. While I think the brother actually gave pretty good advice, "Be confident, know who you are, and you'll inspire other people to be confident. It'll be good," the brother going on a date ended up being stood up. We then switched to the other brother and his father where he scolded him for giving his brother bad advice. Then, the brother's date came into the scene, and we got the line that I found hilarious, "He is my son, which means I want him to be with someone who is going to make him happy. Stand him up again, and your car isn't going to be the only thing that's broken down." We got the date and another girl who she stood up. Then, one of my favorite characters of the night entered the scene, the girl's little brother "James," who is only two years old. But, he was honestly the

smartest one there and gave some great advice about not putting time into people who don't treat you well.

The third game, "Makin' A Movie," contained four actors and consisted of two actors having to "frame" another actor by giving them a name, age and fact for their character. An audience member chose their location as a rowboat, where we were introduced to Bilbo, a crew member who hated the ocean, a crew member who hated Bilbo, and a 13-year-old workaholic. They managed to lose all their oars and had to face a kraken with a single oar. They somehow managed to win.

The final game was a "Harold," which contained three other games that they used to reference back to for the creation of "Harold." The actors started off by doing multiple rounds of speed-

See ARTS on Page 3

Review: ‘Ford v Ferrari’ gets feel of historic race just right

By Cameron Keplinger
Contributing Writer

As a racing fan, I was very excited to watch "Ford Versus Ferrari." The story is one of the most famous stories in all of racing, and I was interested in how it was going to be retold. I'm glad to say it was very good. I would recommend "Ford Versus Ferrari" to anyone who is into racing, or even to people who don't know anything about it.

One of the best things about the movie is that you don't have to know anything about the Ford and Ferrari Le mans battle. In my opinion, the less you know about the famous 1966 Le mans 24 Hours the better.

The main story of the movie revolves around Carol Shelby, who is played by Matt Damon, and Ken Miles, who is played by Christian Bale. Unlike what the title of the movie suggests, there is actually very little racing against Ferrari. It is more like a build up to the big 1966 race and a big internal struggle

against Carol Shelby and Ford. After Ferrari rejected Ford's proposal to purchase the company, Henry Ford decides to hit Ferrari where it hurts, the racetrack. Ford gets Carrol Shelby, who, at the time, was the only American to ever win the 24 Hours of Le mans to manage the team. Shelby's first order of business was to recruit Ken Miles, who is a world-class driver from England. Despite having a loose head, Shelby wants Miles to test the new Gt40 and race it at Le mans against Ferrari. The relationship between Miles and Shelby sets up one of the main conflicts in the movie. When I went to see the movie, I was under the assumption that it would only focus on the race and little else. I was wrong. Shelby's desire to run the team by himself was constantly tested as the corporate suits at Ford tried to interfere, adding and removing things based to their liking. One of the things that Ford did not like was Ken Miles. Their disdain for

Miles caused Shelby to go to great lengths to get Miles to Le mans. Once Miles got to Le mans and was put up against Ferrari, the rest is history.

"Ford Versus Ferrari" did a great job of adding story elements that anyone can follow. I liked that you didn't have to be an expert in racing to get enjoyment out of it. Even if you follow racing, you will learn something new. Its a great story that will make you feel good sometimes and put you on the edge of your seat at other times. This is one of my favorite movies of the year and possibly one of my favorites ever.

The racing scenes where shot to perfection, giving the impression that you are also on the track racing. The story was well thought out and action packed.

I recommend this movie to anyone who has even the slightest interest in racing and wants to learn about a historical event where a company waged war against another on the racetrack.

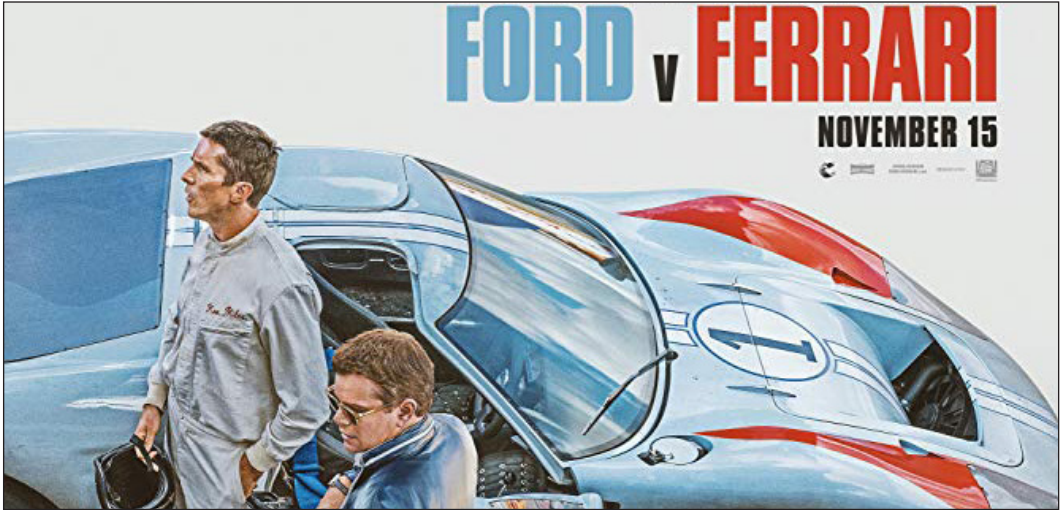


Photo courtesy of IMDb

Review: ‘Titus Andronicus’ shocks with violence, blood

By Alyssa Coker
Copy Editor

"Titus Andronicus," has been considered one of Shakespeare's most violent and bloodiest plays. However, that did not intimidate director Cleo House Jr.'s decision to bring the show to SFA. This was the second main stage production of the semester, showing from Nov. 12 to Nov. 15 at 7:30 p.m. Previously, I had read the script; and, honestly, it gave me quite a shock. However, reading it and watching House's rendition of the play was a completely different story.

The original version of the play is set in ancient Rome. House, however, set it in Rome in 2100. While the fact that it was set in the future wasn't abundantly clear, it could be understood through costuming and scenery. The beginning of the show slowly introduced each character. I will say that I got a better feel for each character's personality faster in watching the play than reading the script. Titus Andronicus, played by freshman theatre major Triston Dodson from Hawkins, was obviously dramatic. Saturninus, played by junior Bayley Own from Royse City, was very flamboyant, and we discovered that from the get-go. All of the characters were very upfront with their personalities and consistent with them throughout the entire play. When Titus and his sons come home after fighting the Goths, we get introduced to the first conflict: the choice of the new emperor. Titus eventually chooses Saturninus over Saturninus' sister, Bassiana, introducing an element different from the original production. Originally, Bassianus is the brother of Saturninus; however, House made the executive decision of making Bassianus a female instead of

a male. Thus, House formed Bassiana. With the formation of Bassiana, so came the representation of the LGBTQ+ community, as Bassiana and Lavinia, Titus's daughter, have a relationship onstage.

After choosing Saturninus, Titus gave him his prisoners from the Goth country. Then, we are introduced to Tamora, her sons, and Aaron, her secret lover. Saturninus takes Tamora as his wife. She, of course, takes advantage of her new position to revenge Titus Andronicus and his family. Honestly, this is where I got a little bit freaked out over what was going on, not only in the script but in the actual production as well. Tamora's sons, Demetrius and Chiron, played by junior Kilgore native Skyler Yarbrough and sophomore Baytown native Triston Haq, decide to rape Lavinia, played by junior Beau McAfee from Red Oak. In the script, I was terrified. In the play, I was terrified. It just legitimately freaked me out. Furthermore, they torture Lavinia in some terrible ways. I understand why this was left in the production as it is pivotal to the story line. But, what brought me over the edge, was the scene rendition of when Chiron, Demetrius, and Aaron, played by sophomore theatre major Myles Sands from Rosenberg, are in the bathhouse talking about their experience with Lavinia. That scene is in the script, and that didn't surprise me. However, Chiron and Demetrius bring in a "sex doll." That's kind of where I drew the line. In my opinion, that was too much considering the circumstances of rape and torture. However, that is not to say that Demetrius, Chiron, and Aaron were not played well. Each actor made a definite choice to their character and stuck with it. I can appreciate that.

Nearing the production's

end, we find that Tamora was carrying Aaron's baby. She gave birth to their child and told her nurse to kill the child. Aaron finds out and saves it by killing almost everyone who saw it hiding to save his child. Chiron and Demetrius move on to helping their mother finally get her revenge on Titus. They go to Titus, who is already crazy with grief over his daughter and the loss of so many of his sons throughout the play, and try to trick him into believing they are the human embodiments of revenge, murder, and rape. Titus plays along, getting them to believe that he is falling for their plot. Once he gets Tamora to leave, however, he calls his men to kill her sons. Then, he cooks them into a pie and plans to feed them to Tamora and Saturninus later at a parley he is having for his daughter, Lucia, played by sophomore theatre major Fatimah Green from Houston. Lucia is another change House made to the production. I loved the idea of Lucia. The actress did so well and was a powerful presence on stage. Particularly, she had an amazing monologue near the end of the production that made someone in the audience actually start yelling in agreement and clap. She was very convincing in the role.

After getting everyone to come over, Titus admits he cooked Tamora's sons in the pie she was eating, killed Lavinia and Tamora, and got killed by Satuninus. To avenge her father, Lucia killed Saturninus and became empress of Rome. This scene was the fastest wrap-up to a story I had ever seen. But, it tied up all the loose ends like a proper ending should.

In conclusion, while this play was a little too much for me at times, the rendition and the whole concept was very creative and interesting to watch. I admire any cast and crew willing to take on Shakespeare.

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Illustration by Audrey Diakun / The Pine Log

Rape jokes are never funny, need to stop



By Kayley Frazee
Contributing Writer

According to the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network, or RAINN, in the United States there is an average of 433, 648 victims of rape and sexual assault each year. Furthermore, women between the ages of 18-24, specifically those who are college students, are three times more likely than your average woman to experience some form of sexual violence.

For those of you who haven't taken a government class yet, you might not have been introduced to Clayton Williams. He is a man who ran for governor here in Texas in 1990. He ultimately, however, lost due to the fact that he made comments such as the following, "Rape is like the weather. Once you know it's coming, you should just sit back and enjoy it."

I was disgusted by this comment when we learned about it in class, and foolishly assumed everyone else would be, too. However, about a week later, we were discussing the statement and a boy in my class said, "Yeah I made that joke to some of my friends. None of them thought it was funny."

This week in a different class, we were discussing the ethical content of various commercials. One in particular was a Bud Light advertisement where they used the slogan, "The perfect beer for removing 'no' from your vocabulary for the night." Now, whether or not the Bud Light executive who suggested that was actually unaware of the alcohol-fueled rape culture the slogan is referring to, I can't say. I can, however, say that after everyone else in the room cringed, another classmate of mine said, "I don't know. That's led to some of my best nights."

What part of rape is funny? What about the idea

"Just because someone says, 'Oh, it's just a joke,' doesn't make it any less offensive or harmful."

of a person, whether a young male or female, being taken advantage of, being scarred for the rest of their life, maybe even being severely injured or killed sounds like a good idea for a joke?

I can't make a quick walk to the Starbucks off campus without some random dude yelling, "Hey, lil' mama" to me. My roommate doesn't walk to her car after her night class alone; a good friend of ours always insists on walking her back.

Rape is real. Rape is scary. But, most of all, rape isn't, has

never been and will never be a funny thing to joke about.

Aside from the fact that it's just a disgusting thing to joke about, it also diminishes the experience of people who have been sexually assaulted. According to RAINN, out of every 1,000 sexual assaults, only 230 are reported to the police. That means that approximately three out of four incidents go unreported. Want to know why? It's because people say things like, "The true hero, Brock Turner." That makes people think that if they were ever raped, no one would take them seriously, that they would just get blamed for "having too much to drink" or they were "asking for it because their skirt was too short."

You never know what the people around you have been through. Anyone, whether it's the boy who sits across from you or the girl who sits behind you, could have been sexually assaulted, and you making jokes about consent could trigger them, causing them to relive that experience. Just because someone says, "Oh, it's just a joke," doesn't make it any less offensive or harmful.

So please, next time you feel like making a joke about forced intercourse, don't. Find a pun, a wholesome meme or a vine that isn't hurtful. And, if you just can't manage that because your humor only relies on you being rude and offending other people, I think it's time to realize that you aren't funny and stop making those jokes.

A push for diverse counseling staff will help students feel they are understood

Counselors' jobs are to give advice to students in any form or fashion. They also help to guide the student to the better and safer answer. It helps when the counselor has been through what the student has, so they know what to say to make them feel better. It's about time that there should be black counselors to reflect the black community on campus.

SFA junior Robin Branch got great feedback from her Twitter poll asking if there should be a black counselor involved in Counseling Services, with majority of the votes saying "Yes." According to this poll, people seem to want someone who comes from the same background as them. For example, women often feel more comfortable when they can make an appointment with a woman doctor. There's a good number of stories out there of women saying they went misdiagnosed because their male doctor told them they were exaggerating and making things up. Another example is people who identify in the LGBTQ+ community. They want to talk with someone who either identifies the same as them or at least has family members/friends who have been through the same as them. They wouldn't want to trust someone with something as personal as their sexual identity with someone who might not understand their struggles. People have different experiences, and being forced to ask someone who isn't from the same background and who may not understand where you came from will make the situation worse.

People want to feel comfortable with who

they confide in. They want a counselor who has been in their shoes so that the counselor can tell them things that will help them based on the counselor's own past experiences. Why make someone feel uncomfortable asking for advice from someone who is the opposite of who they are? Why make a black student confide in a white counselor, a woman confide in a male doctor, or a person who falls under the LGBTQ+ community confide in a straight person? Underneath the Pine Log's Facebook post of the article explaining Branch's reasoning for posting the poll, there are some comments saying that race should not be the factor in determining who should get the job, and it should go to the most qualified person who applied for the position. However, SFA wanting to reflect the diverse student body with the faculty should not be an argument. It should already be implemented to give the students a better environment throughout their college years.

According to the same article, SFA is encouraging people of color to apply for the counseling position, which is reassuring. Just the little step in the right direction gives the students hope that the school is wanting to make the environment welcoming and open for everyone. Students need to feel like they are given the right advice in their specific circumstances by people they feel comfortable with. That is something that cannot be achieved with those who don't fully understand what they are going through and give them outsider advice that might possibly lead to the wrong path.

Getting sick during semester proves to be a struggle



By Christy Murray
Staff Photographer

The last thing I needed to hear come out of my doctor's mouth is that I am sick. I have been fighting a lung infection for a little over a week now. I know I am not alone. A lot of you reading this right now are sick, too. The weather has not helped at all either. One day, it's in the upper 70s, feeling like the 90s with all this humidity. The next, it's in the 30s, raining as it always does here in Nacogdoches.

There are only a few weeks in the semester left. It's crunch time. We're all busy prepping for our finals coming up, doing presentations and writing papers. We are all feeling as if the professors waited until the last minute to give us all our assignments for the entire semester. In this week alone, I've had two exams, written a three-page paper and given an oral

presentation. All while I was sick.

Getting sick in college is completely different from when you got sick when you were younger. All you want to do is take medicine and lay in bed all day. I remember being in high school and having a few excused absences throughout the year I could use for sick days. As long as

"I was told all week I had to show up for every class and turn in everything I had due on time, regardless of being sick."

you brought a doctor's note, the teacher had to give you an extension. For instance, when I was a senior in high school I came down with the flu and pneumonia at the same time. I was out for over a week; but, when I came back with all of my doctor's notes, I was given a week to catch up for everything I missed. Sadly, it does not work that way in college. I

was told all week I had to show up for every class and turn in everything I had due on time, regardless of being sick. If I missed that, they would not let me make up any of my exams or assignments. I was not given the option of any type of extension on my assignments, regardless of being to the doctor and having documentation to prove it. So, I stood in front of my Tuesday night class and gave my oral presentation, barely being able to speak—only for people to complain that they could not hear me, and I needed to speak up.

When I'm sick, I don't execute things nearly as well. I have no energy and no motivation to do anything. But, regardless of how much I do not want to do anything, I still have to keep going. I have to carry on as a student, do all my assignments, go to class and participate in outside of school activities. So, if you are currently like me, trying to fight off sickness as I finish off the remainder of this semester, keep pushing. You've got this! Go to the doctor, take your medications, take a nice shower, eat a good meal and knock out these last few weeks.

We want your feedback!

- Follow us on Facebook (The Pine Log) to comment on posted stories and make sure to share the articles, too!
- Follow us on Twitter (@thepinelog) and vote on our polls as well as retweeting them to spread the word!
- Visit our website (thepinelog.com) where you can also submit story ideas and comment on articles!

Don't be shy; let us know what you're thinking!



Occasionally, The Pine Log's Opinions Page features an advice column. The staff will be answering questions about anything from relationships to general life issues, and everything in between. To submit your questions, email The Pine Log at sfasupinelog@gmail.com.



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Letters to the editor should be typed and should include the student's hometown, classification, campus ID number and phone number for verification purposes. We reserve the right to edit letters for space, spelling, grammar and potentially libelous material.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

■ The Ladyjacks will play Oklahoma University at 11 a.m. today in Norman, Oklahoma. The game will be broadcast on Fox Sports Go. They are coming off a 57-63 loss against the University of Central Florida.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

■ The Lumberjacks will play Rutgers University at 6 p.m. today in Piscataway, New Jersey. The game will be broadcast on the Big Ten Network+. They are coming off an 82-67 win against Drexel University.

FOOTBALL

■ The SFA football team will play against Northwestern State University in the 54th annual Battle for Chief Caddo at 6 p.m. Thursday in Turnip Stadium in Natchitoches, Louisiana. The game can be heard on Q107.7.

VOLLEYBALL

■ The SFA volleyball team will play in the Southland Conference tournament this weekend with their first match against the University of New Orleans at 4 p.m. Friday in Conway, Arkansas. They took the regular season title last weekend.

Lumberjacks make great female athletic trainers

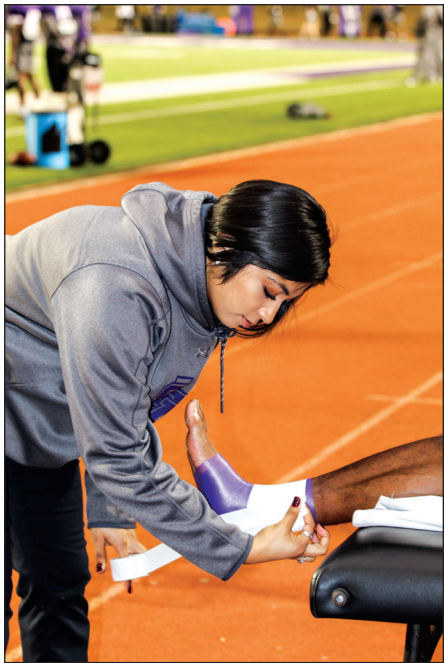
Menjivar becomes SFA's first, youngest female athletic trainer to intern for NFL

By Deanna Swindell
Sports Editor

After applying for internships to all 32 NFL teams, it was time for Melany Menjivar to wait patiently for at least one team to accept her as a sports medicine intern for the summer. It was on Nov. 12, 2018, while she was walking on campus on her way to class when she received a call offering her an internship position with the Seattle Seahawks.

Menjivar, a senior and kinesiology major, made a name for herself by being the first woman and the youngest student at SFA to have a sports medicine internship in the NFL. She was born in Houston, growing up as a minority as both her parents migrated to the United States from El Salvador, met in the states and got married.

Menjivar was diagnosed with scoliosis when she was younger. She was a multi-sport athlete growing up playing volleyball, basketball and ran cross-country and track in middle school. In high school, she played basketball and ran track. She faced an injury playing sports in



Photos by Charis Phelps / The Pine Log
Melany Menjivar, a senior and kinesiology major, works for the SFA Athletics program with the football team during the season and women's basketball and track and field during the spring semester. Last summer she worked with the Seattle Seahawks and was SFA's first and youngest female athletic trainer to intern in the NFL.

high school and had to work closely with the athletic trainers, which opened her eyes to see what sports medicine was about.

At SFA, Menjivar works with the athletics program, specifically with football during the season, women's

basketball and track and field during the spring semesters. After graduating from SFA, she plans to attend graduate school to get her master's degree.

In her internship with the Seahawks, she described her work

for them when having to begin the internship on July 18 and returning Aug. 29. Working with the team, she had to wake up early and was not able to sleep until late at night.

"They are such an amazing organization," Menjivar said. "They

are very welcoming when it comes to new people, new faces. They pride themselves in being a giant family. They're very particular on what they want. There's so much that you are able to do hands-on with someone. I was able to learn soft tissue techniques, a lot of rehab exercises that were for the beginning stages of an injury and the nutrition that goes into their daily intake for fuel."

In the years that she has been a student at SFA, Menjivar has been able to work close and learn from A.J. Van Valkenburgh, director of sports medicine and the head football athletic trainer. He has seen the professional aspect of the job while working for the Houston Texans for six years and was able to give a recommendation for Menjivar to the Seahawks to be an intern.

"There's a big learning curve between high school athletic training and college athletic training," Valkenburgh said. "For [Menjivar,] there wasn't much of a learning curve. I knew she could handle what they needed from her as a summer intern."

See **TRAINER** on Page 3

Lumberjacks to play Demons in 54th Battle for Chief Caddo

By Alec Reyes
Staff Writer

The SFA Lumberjacks football team concludes the 2019 season in the 54th Battle for Chief Caddo against rival Northwestern State University. The game kicks off at 6 p.m. on Thursday in Turpin Stadium in Natchitoches, Louisiana.

The Jacks look for a win after a 30-7 road loss against the University of Central Arkansas Bears. Freshman receiver Xavier Gipson hauled in four receptions for 85 yards and SFA's lone touchdown. Redshirt freshman quarterback Cam Arnold went 14-28 for 143 yards and the touchdown pass to Gipson. Junior safety Trenton Gordon



Photo by Charis Phelps / The Pine Log
Senior running back Thomas Hutchings runs the ball through the Cardinal defense during the last home game of the season. The Lumberjacks defeated University of the Incarnate Word 31-24.

led the Jacks with 11 tackles. Freshmen cornerbacks Willie Roberts and Myles Brooks both recorded an interception.

NSU defeated the Sam Houston State University Bearkats 31-28 on the road last Saturday. In that game, the Demons erased a 14-point deficit and held off Sam Houston in the second half for the win.

Chief Caddo is the world's largest sports trophy, standing 7 feet, 6 inches tall and weighing over 320 pounds. Since the inception of the game in 1961, NSU leads the all-time series 32-20-1. The Demons hold a two-game win streak in the annual rivalry game. SFA last defeated NSU in the 2016 game 45-31.

Coming into this game, the Demons have won three of their last four contests and are on a two-game win streak. They are led by second year head coach and alumnus Brad Laird. He also serves as NSU's defensive coordinator and coaches the safeties.

NSU's multiple offense is led by Shelton Eppler, a senior quarterback and Texas native. A 2014 state champion as a junior at Navasota High School, he is the conference's second

See **CHIEF CADDO** on Page 3

SFA volleyball team seeks its second straight conference tournament title

By Deanna Swindell
Sports Editor

The Ladyjacks volleyball team won the regular season title for the third consecutive year. Now, they look for a second consecutive tournament title in the Southland Conference tournament with the first game against eighth seed University of New Orleans at 4 p.m. on Friday at Farris Center in Conway, Arkansas.

After their second perfect season, the Ladyjacks finished with a 28-1 overall record, 16-0 conference record and a .966 winning percentage. UNO has a 13-17 overall record, a 6-10 conference record and a .433 winning percentage.

In the 2018 conference tournament, the Ladyjacks lost on set throughout the entire tournament which happened in the first match against Texas A&M University-

Corpus Christi Islanders. The match was a comeback from the previous season after losing 3-2 to Abilene Christian University in the first match of the tournament.

SFA went on to defeat Houston Baptist University and the University of Central Arkansas 3-0 in the following

two matches of last year's tournament and received a bid to the NCAA tournament. They played the No. 5 ranked University of Texas and lost in three sets (25-14, 25-17, 25-21).

The Ladyjacks come off their last two home and conference with 3-0 wins against Lamar University and McNeese State. In the



Photo by Christy Murray / The Pine Log
The SFA volleyball team stands with the SLC regular season championship trophy during Thursday's game against Lamar after being named the regular season champions for the third consecutive year.

match against Lamar on Thursday, SFA did not allow the Cardinals to reach 20 points in any of the sets. SFA had a .424 hitting percentage for the game with 38 kills while Lamar had a .094 hitting percentage with 31 kills. In defense, the Ladyjacks had nine blocks and 43 digs. The Cardinals had one block and 38 digs for the game.

Saturday's match

against McNeese was a similar match until the third set where the Cowgirls had a 6-1 run and were leading the set. Following, the Ladyjacks went on a 4-0 run to win the game. SFA had a .302 hitting percentage with 37 kills while McNeese had a .204 hitting percentage with 38 kills.

See **TOURNAMENT** on Page 3

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