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Daily Egyptian Staff

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Ashton Corcoran, of DeSoto, Mo., performs with the DeSoto High School Jazz band Saturday at Shryock Auditorium during the SIU Jazz Festival. The event brought together more than a dozen high school ensembles to highlight performances, host master classes and provide technique clinics for the students.

KYLE SUTTON
Daily Egyptian

Jazz music school off the walls of Shryock Auditorium this weekend in junior high and high school bands from around the state competed against each other at the SIU Jazz Festival.

On Saturday, SIU hosted its sixth annual jazz festival for students. Overall, 15 junior high and high school jazz bands and almost 325 students competed in a day filled with performance and education.

Director of jazz studies and assistant professor of saxophone, Richard Kelley coordinated the event. He said this year’s festival raised the bar in regards to performances.

“It was the highest level of playing we have had in six years,” he said. “The bands were great. Looking back at the judges’ comments and our observation, everyone was bunched up at the top, so it was hard to choose a winner.”

The Marion Junior High School jazz band took home first place in the junior high category while the Jackson High School jazz band took home first in the high school division. Awards were also given out for certain sections of the bands. The DeSoto High School Jazz Ensemble received an award for the best rhythm section. The Rickover Naval Academy took home awards for the best saxophone and trombone sections, and Jackson High School was awarded for having the best trumpet section.

Throughout the day, each band performed music in front of a panel of judges. The judges ranked the bands on a five-point scale, five being a superior performance and one being a poor performance.

The judges made the ratings based on three categories: the overall ensemble, the rhythm section by itself, which consists of bass, piano, percussion and guitar and solo performances. Bands played from 9:00 a.m. until 6:30 p.m. At noon, the NewArts Jazztet performed four songs. The NAJ is comprised of all school music faculty members and is regarded as one of southern Illinois’ premier jazz groups.

The night ended with a five-song performance by the SIU Studio Jazz Orchestra featuring special guest drummer C.E. Askew. Askew, a 25-year Air Force veteran, has more than 21 years of experience as the drummer for "Airmen of Note," one of the world’s most highly regarded military jazz ensembles.

JENNIFER GONZALEZ - DAILY EGYPTIAN

Tunnel sheds light on oppressive situations

KIA SMITH
Daily Egyptian

Students walking through the lower level of Grinnell this week may be called racial dums, car-called or face discrimination by various members of the student body.

The annual Tunnel of Oppression is the finale for the campus-wide celebration of Black History Month. Multiple RSOs gather together to put on a series of simulations featuring a variety of oppressive scenarios marginalized groups face daily.

The tunnel runs from 5-9 p.m. until Feb. 28, and is open to the public. The event is free with the last tour beginning at 8:30 p.m. each day. Each tour ends with a debriefing session from the staff of the Center for Inclusive Excellence, the SIU Counseling Center and the Women’s Center in Carbondale.

Alfred Jackson, coordinator of retention and outreach with university housing, said the tunnel is known for making many groups experience a mix of overwhelming emotions.

“It’s not meant to make you feel comfortable within yourself,” he said. “The tunnel is meant to make you step outside the box and envision the oppression of others.”

One RSO, The Black Males Roundtable, is giving the public a look inside police brutality. KelShon Adkins, the chief knowledge officer of the BMR, said while the event requires no fundraising to participate, it requires immense time and effort.

“Some of our members dedicated their time to volunteer as tour guides for the tunnel, and others put time into making our room impactful,” he said. Adkins, a senior from Chicago studying Radio and Television, said BMR chose to address police brutality because it is an issue the general public does not typically pay attention to.

“As an organization, we feel that police brutality is a crime that has been going on for many years but is often overlooked,” he said. “Our primary goal is to open the eyes of the individual who enter the tunnel to let them know that this is real and should be stopped immediately.”

Adkins said practicing for the tunnel was intense as he and other group members have to portray either the role of a brutal officer or a defenseless victim.

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ROBERT OLSON - DAILY EGYPTIAN

A student walks through the graveyard site Monday in Grinnell Hall during the first night of the Tunnel of Oppression. The walking tour is organized by University Housing and the Black Togetherness Organization each year and takes participants through several rooms with themes of prejudice and injustice. The public tours continue through Thursday.

‘Game of Thrones’ women
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‘3 Days to Kill’ review
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Beyond the Arc
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Everyone should watch ‘Game of Thrones’

Staff Column

“Game of Thrones” starts back up again this spring and will continue to attract a diverse audience.

“Thrones” has become one of the most popular series on television with only “The Sopranos” outranking it on HBO. Time has reported it to be number four on its top shows of 2013.

So why does this show have such a mass appeal?

First of all, let’s be honest here and say “Game of Thrones” has a strong dungeons and dragons vibe to it that usually would make a number of people avoid it like the plague. What is amazing about this show is that it has broken past the stereotypical nerd’s daydream and broken into mainstream appealing to people who do not like fantasy genres.

People who watch shows such as “Keeping Up with the Kardashians” are even taking a peek at what is going on with “Thrones.”

“Game of Thrones” has reached its popularity because of the character development so many shows lack.

“A Song of Ice and Fire,” the book series the show is adapted after, gets much acclaim for its female characters. Author George R.R. Martin, when interviewed, has simply said he sees women as people.

His simple response questions why it is so hard for other writers to create women characters in their stories.

Anyone who reads the series, whether or not the plot or writing style is up your alley, will realize how complex every single character is. The book shifts from many different perspectives, many which are women.

In many fantasy books, women are rarely protagonists and are not given a strong role. Every character George R.R. Martin writes about is so multi-faceted the readers feel as if their character is someone they have known their whole life.

In comparison, take the show “Supernatural,” for example. Most female characters do not extend past a few episodes and usually take the role of being love interests, victims or demons.

In the first season, watchers see Sam, one of the main characters, a mom and girlfriend die. Needless to say, the first season sets a trend for forgettable, short-lasting female characters.

There is a trend that women are either angels or demons in this show and many others. They fit this constricted, one-dimensional role that is neither realistic nor enjoyable to watch.

In “Game of Thrones,” the women you meet will not always be likeable but you will hate them because of their character, and not because they are underdeveloped.

One of the female characters Martin writes about is Brienne of Tarth, a 6’3” knight who is shunned because she is not conventionally attractive. Brienne could not care less about what others think and is loyal to fault, all while sword fighting as well or better than most of the male characters.

Another character, Cersei, is a beautiful queen who sleeps around and lies, but will still do anything to protect her children.

“Male or female, I believe in painting in shades of grey,” Martin said in an interview with The Telegraph. “All of the characters should be flawed; they should all have good and bad, because that’s what I see. Yes, it’s fantasy, but the characters still need to be real.”

Real is what you get in “Game of Thrones.” No character is safe from being killed off. Betrayal, blood, violence and sex are common themes within the show.

One minute you wish a character would be decapitated and the next you will sympathizing with them.

Regardless, if all that appeals to you, the books and show are worth a try.

“Game of Thrones” airs its fourth season on April 6 at 9 P.M.

Elizabeth Zinchuk

Neither, for example the star of “Game of Thrones.”

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Science students awarded at Spring Symposium

JAZZ CONTINUED FROM 1

As a member of “Xunum of Note,” Askew traveled the world as a musician and performed with famous entertainers such as Tony Bennett, Herbie Hancock and Chaka Khan. “When I can play and not have to count, the drummer is doing a great job,” he said. “My hand wasn’t counting, they were just playing and that’s great because you can only give credit to the drummer when that happens. His timing and the way he commanded the ensemble was masterful. It was a ton of fun.”

In addition to the competition, students received a 25-minute clinic with Askew. Askew, as well as faculty and graduate assistants from the university’s school of music, offered master classes for students during the day. Kelley said the festival revolves around education. He said the idea of the festival is to get bands to perform as a way to change it, “As I said, our scene isn’t meant to scare people, but more to give them a wake up call. It is not a policeman’s job to physically harass an individual unless they are physically under attack themselves.”

Once they found out I was innocent, they hopped in their cars and pulled off,” he said. Adkins said he wants the BMR’s room to be memorable and effective. “It is a reality that many African-American males face, whether you’re living in an urban city or on a college campus.”

According to a study done by the Malcolm X Grassroots Movement, police killed 313 African-American males between 2011-2013, or one every 28 hours, 40 percent of whom were between the ages of 22 and 31 years old. More than 35 percent of these males were between the ages of 18 and 21. More than 40 percent of these killings happen after a form of racial profiling.

Adkins said he went through a form of racial profiling and police brutality when he was 18. Chicago police officers pointed a gun at his head after they said he fit the description of a suspect they were looking for. “Once they found out I was innocent, they hopped in their cars and pulled off,” he said. Adkins said he wants the BMR’s room to be memorable and effective. “When people leave our respective room, we want them to not only be in shock, but also critically think about what they have seen and what can be done to change it,” he said. “As I said, our scene isn’t meant to scare people, but more to give them a wake up call. It is not a policeman’s job to physically harass an individual unless they are physically under attack themselves.”

TUNNEL CONTINUED FROM 1

“Throughout the mock hearings and crying, I realized that what we are doing presents a sad visual of what actually happens to innocent people,” he said. “Re-enacting the experiences of people such as Oscar Grant and Sean Bell makes me angry that this type of situation actually goes on.”

Oscar Grant was a 22-year-old killed by Bay Area Rapid Transit officer Johannes Mehserle in 2009. Sean Bell was shot four times and died the night before his wedding day in New York City after he and two friends were fired on more than 50 times by NYPD officers.

The impact we as an organization, would like to have is to simply spread the message of how wrong police brutality is,” Adkins said. “It is a reality that many African-American males face, whether you’re living in an urban city or on a college campus.”

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FIND YOUR CASTLE

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Writer/producer Luc Besson is known in Hollywood for his ruthlessly efficient, seedy European thrillers, particularly the Liam Neeson "Taken" franchise. But when Besson, who favors brutal fights, works with director McG, known for his flashy stylized action scenes, the two are like freight trains in a head-on collision.

The audience for this unholy duo's "3 Days to Kill" (Rated PG-13; 113 Min.) is caught in the bloated crossfire. However, "3 Days" is not a complete waste, particularly because of a fine performance from its leading man. Kevin Costner stars as Ethan Renner, a CIA operative known for his assassination techniques. He's dying of cancer and only has a few months to live, so he attempts to make amends with the daughter and wife he never had time for.

Because this is a Besson movie and fathers/daughters can't have a good relationship (Exhibit A: "Taken"), Renner is whisked away and given an ultimatum. The CIA has an experimental drug that could save his life, but if he wants it he has to finish one more target: The Wolf (Richard Sammel). Oh, and he must drink copious amounts of vodka with the drug to avoid losing control. And he has to keep his heart rate down or he will die. It's like "Speed" but for real. Don't worry though, the movie makes these plot points and moves so quickly away from them that when they become important later on, the audience has already forgotten them.

Therein lies "3 Days" main problem: it moves from plot point to plot point without much regard for what has come before. That's McG impressing himself on the film and Besson trying to pull it from his grasp. Perhaps the most crucial element missing is a better explanation why the movie is called "3 Days to Kill." The only reference to the title is Renner's wife leaving for London and telling him he has "three days to kill" spending time with his daughter. The trailer insinuates Renner has been poisoned and has three days before he will die, creating a solid deadline to get the drug. But it is as if the plot was changed at the last minute and is now missing that double-edged sword.

Most of the movie involves Renner interrogating members of The Wolf's inner circle to find his whereabouts, while also asking their advice on raising a daughter. To their credit, Costner and Besson never drop anything like the classic Lethal Weapon line "I'm too old for this s---." Costner is too classy an actor to let this movie slip from his hands, so he patiently wades his way through the muck as a calmer, more sophisticated version of Neeson's Bryan Mills.

But Costner's collected demeanor is outshadowed at nearly every corner by his CIA handler, Vivi Delay (Amber Heard), who must own about a dozen wigs to use. These are for Besson and McG control and the other because the movie is an editor with attention deficit disorder, two extra storylines don't they deserve: Renner's daughter Zoey (Hailee Steinfeld) feels real, and the relationship of squares apartment while he was Renner drags suspects and employs the family's daughter to keep guard while he was in the bathroom. Later, the family's daughter could have been an own, rather than being "3 Days to Kill" isn't a movie — it's not a bad comedy and it just doesn't excel in because it jumbles the movie with her counterpart under an identity crisis.

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KARSTEN BURGSTAHLER
Daily Egyptian

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PULSE

"3 Days to Kill" too busy to appreciate
Tuesday February 25, 2014

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Besson and McG; one representing rigid control and the other bathing in chaos.

Because the movie’s rapid pacing suggests an editor with attention deficit disorder, two extra storylines don’t receive the attention they deserve: Renner’s relationship with his daughter Zoey (Hailee Steinfeld), which never feels real, and the relationship he builds with the family of squatters who took over his apartment while he was away. At several points back to his apartment family’s youngest child to keep guard while the interrogation occurs in the bathroom. This subplot could have been an interesting movie on its own, rather than being shoehorned in.

“3 Days to Kill” isn’t really a bad “anything” flick, it’s not a bad drama. It just does not excel in any of those categories because it jumbles them all together. Just like Vivi with her countless wigs, “3 Days” falters under an identity crisis.

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THE Daily Commuter Puzzle by Jacqueline E. Mathews

ACROSS

DOWN

Ham Tonic Gay Pain

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contain every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve, visit www.sudoku.org.uk.

SOLUTION TO FRIDAY'S PUZZLE

Monday's Answers:

Answers:

Pick up the Daily Egyptian each day to test your crossword skills.
Senior tennis player continues to lead

SportS
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For live updates of all Saluki sports follow @DEsalukis on twitter

TYLER DIXON—DAILY EGYPTIAN

Senior tennis player Anita Lee collects her thoughts Friday during her singles match against Arkansas State University’s Biljana Miloshevska at Garden Grove Event Center. During the weekend, Lee posted a 4-2 record in singles and doubles play. Lee plans to stop playing competitive tennis after this season to focus on her pharmacy studies at SIUE.

TYLER DIXON
Daily Egyptian

From the nightlife of Las Vegas, to being with the woodlands of southern Illinois, senior tennis player Anita Lee had quite a transition to make when she chose to play for SIU. When she enrolled at SIU, she was looking for a change of pace. Lee said she found a lot more than just hunters and tobacco chewers.

"I wanted to get kind of far away from home," she said. "When you grow up somewhere your whole life, you kind of want to get away. I like Carbondale, they’re like no traffic, I hate traffic. Coming to Carbondale is more than just a gateway for Lee. It led to a very successful tennis career, including two Missouri Valley Conference titles in singles play. Her first championship, as a sophomore, she won playing in the number five spot on the team. Last season, she won a title playing the second spot.

Coach Audra Anderson said Lee brings reliability to the team as a player and as a captain.

"Off the court, on the court, in her matches, she’s a girl you can always depend on to get a win," Anderson said. "Very, very dependable, very good leader." This dependable nature has occupied Lee for a long time. Anderson said the senior has shown a willingness to lead and get involved since her first season on campus.

"Even when she was a freshman, she cared a lot about the athletic department as a whole, the school as a whole, her teammates as a whole," she said.

Anderson said Lee participates in Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. The SAAC is a committee of student-athletes who provide awareness on the student-athlete experience. The committee also finds ways to unite student-athletes and increase participation in community service.

Lee said the SAAC organizes a lot of community service, including a program involving spending time with veterans of the U.S military.

"We do this program called Valiant Player where we go visit the Carbondale Memorial Hospital with a couple of the athletes," she said. "We talk to them about their day and try to make them feel better."

Lee said her favorite community service project is the annual talent show the SAAC hosts.

"I really do like the talent show we do every year," she said. "It is just fun because all the different sports come together and we just show off our talents other than our normal sports."

Every year, all proceeds from the show go to the Carbondale Boys and Girls Club but Lee said this year they are considering donating it to the Special Olympics. For all the good she does off the court, Lee remains one of the team’s best players. Coming into her senior year, Lee is one of the team’s best in conference play, posting a record of 14-5 in singles.

In doubles, she plays with fellow senior Kelly Drye and has a 2-1 record this season. Love said having Lee as a friend and teammate is a pleasure.

"We’ve been together since day one here," Love said. "She’s my best friend, we live together. We are both co-captains, she’s awesome and we play well together in doubles."

Lee also said she was happy to be back playing with Love; the two won 6-1 in MVCS last season.

"I’m excited, I think that we will hopefully do really well," Lee said. "We’re not really set on teams yet but I think Kelly and I have played together before and maybe we can win the conference." That confidence is well deserved, Anderson said. The coach said Lee’s consistency is a big reason for her success.

"She always brings the same intensity, same hard work," Anderson said. "Even when she’s down, she lose the first set, you don’t worry because she’s the one that always comes back."

Lee said she has embraced that fighter spirit. She said sometimes she is her but believing she is never out of a match helps her as well.

"In sports like running or swimming, if you’re behind sometimes it’s hard to come back," she said. "But in tennis, it’s always the possibility of you coming back, even from 0-6." Lee’s fighting spirit is present off the court too. She has been named a scholar-athlete by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association for having a 3.5 GPA and was named a First-Team MVC Scholar-Athlete.

With her career winding down, Lee still has high hopes for the team, but understands she is probably done with competitive tennis after this year. Lee said she was accepted to the pre-pharmacy program at SIU-Edwardsville, and intends to focus on her studies after the season.

"I don’t plan on pursuing a pro career," she said. "I mean, pharmacy school is going to take a lot of studying." Even though this is her final season, Lee said she still loves tennis and interacting with her diverse group of teammates.

When you’re working with people from other countries, you have to learn how to effectively communicate," she said. "But I really love the girls that I’m involved with every day." The captain continued her success this past weekend posting a record of 4-2 in singles and doubles play. Lee looks to continue her hot streak next weekend in against Cleveland State University.

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