Breweries bring bands and beer
Carbondale celebrates second microbrew festival

MATT DARAY
Daily Egyptian

Advertising a microbrewery can be a challenge, but several breweries got a personal chance Saturday to promote their beer.

Hangar 9 joined with Carbondale Main Street to host the second-annual CarbondALE Microbrew and Music Festival, where small breweries got the opportunity to promote their products. Each of the eight breweries brought in a few of their choice beers to stands outside of Hangar 9 and allowed the public to taste and purchase them.

Microbreweries differ from normal breweries as they have a smaller operation and only sell their products in a select number of locations, and they can have a hard time becoming well known.

Kevin Flinn, a bartender for Von Jakob Vineyard and Brewery in Pomona, said the festival is a good way to promote microbreweries.

“It’s a good way to get our face out there,” he said. “We’re mainly known as a winery/ brewery on the wine trail, so it’s another way to get our name out there and let people know we have good beer and not just good wine.”

Flinn said breweries create more types of beer than people would think possible and are always working on new styles of brewing. He said one such example is a chocolate-milk stout, which uses cacao nibs, and will be available at the Big Muddy Monster Brew Fest on Oct. 26 at Murphyboro’s Riverside Park.

Saturday’s microbrew festival is not about who has a better beer, but a celebration of making beer, Flinn said.

“There’s a lot of good breweries here, and I think good beer is just good beer,” he said. “I’m really just glad that we could get local breweries together and see that we have a growing community of beer makers.”

Kelly Lohrmeyar, a member of Tall Grass Brewing Company from Manhattan, Kan., said her brewery opened because of a passion to brew and unique presentation.

“We’re six years old as a brewery, so we really like to have fun,” she said. “We like to bring beer to the community and share all the delicious stuff we make.”

Lohrmeyar said Tall Grass Brewing Company uses different designs on its cans—including retro videogames—to help with their marketing across the 13 states where they sell beer. She said the cans have gotten people interested in the beer and have resulted in online purchases from around the world, including in Africa.

Jake Kressig, a member of Excel Brewing based in Breese, said brewing festivals help smaller operations get together and stay in touch.

Kressig said Excel Brewing started about a year ago, branching off from making SKI soda. He also said it is hard to start up in the beer industry, because there are so many different companies out there.

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Commission discusses how to end African American disparities

Community members call for action in ‘divided city’

SARAH SCHNEIDER
Daily Egyptian

A sheet of paper passed around the Carbondale Civic Center was the first step toward the goal of the Illinois Commission to End Disparities Facing the African American Community.

The commission, formed in 2011, held a public hearing Thursday night to discuss healthcare, education and employment disparities facing the city. While the commission will submit a report to the General Assembly by Dec. 31, the chairman of the commission, Sen. Mattie Hunter, D-Chicago, said real change will happen when those in the community organize and raise a voice against injustice.

“The people of Carbondale need to get organized and mobilize themselves in order to be heard,” Hunter said. “The citizens need to be registered to vote as well, to really make a difference.”

Hunter said the commission has held several public hearings in cities with large African American populations, and she hears the same themes at each one; cities are still divided by race.

Carbondale resident Ella Lacey said not only is the city divided, but there are disparities in the city’s largest institution. Lacey has been part of the community for 53 years, has three degrees from SIU and is a retired faculty member from the school of medicine.

“SIU is doing quite a bit of celebrating the fact that 37 percent of the population is African American students in this year’s freshman class. That’s pretty good. It says things are changing,” she said.

But she went on to say that number drops consistently in the sophomore, junior and senior classes, and the percentage of graduate students is 7 percent. She also pointed out only 3 percent of faculty members are African American.

Those numbers are just striking to me and represent disparity, disparity, disparity,” she said. “The only category (in the SIU facebook) above 10 percent is service maintenance work.”

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About Us

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TEDDY GREENSTEIN
Associated Press

ESPN’s “College GameDay” is coming to town.

Even more novel, so are the Ohio State Buckeyes.

That’s an exaggeration, but not by much.

Ohio State last visited Evanston in 2008, and the teams haven’t met since.

Pat Fitzgerald is the second-most tenured of all the Big Ten coaches, but he has game-planned against the Buckeyes three times as head coach and each was a bloodbath.

In 2006, the Ohio State Sooners were ranked No. 1 before getting double-doubled by Urban Meyer’s Florida Gators in the BCS title game, the final score was 44-10. The Buckeyes’ defense was decimated to Miami because of bad weather at O’Hare, but they felt right at home at Ryan Field, where red outnumbered purple in the stands by about 3-1.

That was Fitzgerald’s first season. He was a pop of 31 years and a self-described “trouble” head coach.

The 2007 result was a 58-7 smackdown at the Horseshoe.

The 2008 Wildcats beat Michigan and took an electric Missouri team to overtime in the Alamo Bowl but still got shellacked by the Big Red Machine.

The final was 45-10.

Fitzgerald’s program now is in a different state. Or a different galaxy, you could say.

The Wildcats have won seven straight games, the nation’s third-longest streak. (Ohio State is first with 17 straight W’s.)

Northwestern is 9-1 at home since 2012, and the one loss featured a potential game-winning field goal against Nebraska that missed by a few feet.

The Wildcats haven’t lost a game by more than 14 points since 2010, when Dan Persa’s Achilles tear left a 7-3 team in tatters.

“Tough target again next week,” Meyer said, unprompted, after his team took down Wisconsin 31-24 on Saturday night.

Most of the Buckeyes didn’t quite know what to say about the Wildcats, a team these players never have faced. But they were all respectful.

“They’re a sneaky team,” Ohio State receiver Devin Smith said. “They have a lot of good athletes.”

Left tackle Jack Mewhort called Northwestern “your typical Big Ten football team a bunch of tough guys. They’re not a dynamic squad. It will be a fun game a classic smash-mouth game.”

Clearly aware that Northwestern runs an up-tempo, no-huddle spread, safety C.J. Barnett said: “We’ll have our hands full. We faced an offense like that in Cal.”

Northwestern could get a huge lift from the return of Venric Mark, who ran well in practice last week. A mysterious lower-body ailment has sidelined him since NU’s 34-26 loss at Cal, and he has not met with reporters since before the game in Berkeley. That is expected to change Tuesday.

Treyvon Green has been terrific in Mark’s absence, averaging 7 yards per carry. But Mark is the game-breaker, and he makes Kain Colter much more effective as a read-option threat.

Meyer was asked late Saturday night what concerns him about his next game.

“My leader, our leader, is in an ambulance right now,” he said of safety Christian Bryant, a senior whose season ended Saturday because of a major ankle injury. “So that’s concern No. 1. Concern (Nos.) 2 and 3 are who is going to assimilate to the #1 and #2 spots, who is going to assume the leadership obligation.”

As for “GameDay,” host Chris Fowler broke the news late Saturday night on Twitter, writing: “Northwestern, here we come! First time since the blizzard of ’95.”
AMINA KHAN
Los Angeles Times

A series of discoveries from NASA’s Curiosity rover are giving scientists a picture of Mars that looks increasingly complex, with small bits of water spread around the surface and an interior that could have been more geologically mature than experts had previously thought.

Curiosity’s formidable arsenal of scientific instruments has detected traces of water chemically bound to the Martian dust that seems to be covering the entire planet. The finding, among several in the five studies published online Thursday by the journal Science, may explain mysterious water signals picked up by satellites in orbit around the Red Planet.

The soil that covers Mars’ surface in Gale Crater where Curiosity landed last year, seems to have two major components, according to data from the rover’s laser-shooting Chemistry and Camera instrument. One is a coarse soil with millimeter-wide grains that probably came from the rocks around them; the other is a fine-grained soil with micrometers in size, the ChemCam data show.

The fine-grained soil doesn’t really match the rocks around it, said Pierre-Vesu Musolin of the University of Toulouse in France, who led one of the studies. But it does seem to match the stuff found at sites where other rovers and landers touched down. That means it is probably distributed over much or all of the planet, picked up and carried far in the fierce dust storms that can shroud the planet in a reddish haze.

The researchers say they do not know where that soil comes from, whether it is created in many places or has one source that gets picked up and blown all over. Either way, it’s a handy, naturally averaged sample of the Martian surface, said Indiana University mineralogist David Bish, who led a different study.

Perhaps the most intriguing thing about this fine soil is that when ChemCam’s readings detected a hydrogen signal, which could explain why satellites orbiting Mars have picked up a mysterious water signal in the past, Musolin said.

“It’s actually kind of exciting because it’s water yet again on Mars, but it’s in a different material than what we had recognized,” said Caltech geologist John Grotzinger, the mission’s project scientist. “So what Curiosity is doing is just demonstrating that water is present in a number of ways. It just adds to the diversity.”

But another study based on data from Curiosity’s Chemistry and Mineralogy tool — part of the drill-digesting lab in the rover’s belly — found no signs of water in soil samples taken from Rocknest, a sandy dune of a pit stop on the rover’s way to a region dubbed Yellowknife Bay. That’s because CheMin uses X-ray diffraction to bounce high-energy light off of a mineral’s crystalline structure. If the soil is not in crystalline form, there’s no way for CheMin to see it.

All this means the hydrogen signal seen by ChemCam must have been coming from the amorphous, or non-crystalline, portion, which makes up a significant minority of the soil, said Bish, who led the CheMin study.

Sure enough, Curiosity’s Sample Analysis at Mars instrument cooked up a tiny sample in its little oven and found that roughly 1.5 percent to 3 percent of the soil was made of water. The scientists think this water may have come from the atmosphere, pulled out of the thin air.

Bish said it was interesting that CheMin found no signs of minerals that formed in water, since looking for such clays was “one of the reasons for going to Gale Crater.” Inside Gale Crater lies a 3-mile-high mountain called Mt. Sharp, whose layers could be rich in clays that hold answers to whether Mars was hospitable to life.

It is possible that this fine-grained soil is simply too young to have ever encountered liquid water, he said. If so, it would mean that many years passed between the formation of the water-rich clays locked inside of certain rocks and the dusty grains that currently cover the Martian surface.

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As a result of the studies on the rock known as Jake M, named after NASA engineer Jake Matijevic, who died shortly after the rover landed in 2012. The researchers did not intend to study the rock — they analyzed it with Curiosity’s alpha-particle X-ray spectrometer in order to help put ChemCam’s measurements in context, said Caltech geologist Edward Stolper, lead author of that study.

Jake M is unlike any volcanic rock seen on Mars. It is rich in alkaline magmas, which told the researchers that it had been created under high pressure — and perhaps in the presence of water, Stolper said. In fact, it looks something like a relatively uncommon rock on Earth called a mugearite, found on ocean islands and in rift zones.

The rock’s composition also told scientists that it was clearly made of the leftovers after other minerals had crystallized out. That led them to believe that the heating and cooling and movement of magma that used to occur beneath Mars’ mantle were a lot more complicated than they had thought.

“We see evidence for a more evolved planet,” Grotzinger said, “so it looks like it was headed in more of a direction like Earth.”

Another of the studies focused on the rock known as Burroughs, named after NASA engineer Jake Matijevic, who died shortly after the rover landed in 2012. The researchers did not intend to study the rock — they analyzed it with Curiosity’s alpha-particle X-ray spectrometer in order to help put ChemCam’s measurements in context, said Caltech geologist Edward Stolper, lead author of that study.

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She asked the commission to ask for data at several in the five studies published online Thursday by the journal Science, may explain mysterious water signals picked up by satellites in orbit around the Red Planet.

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A growing university population is being recognized for its achievements and heritage this month and next.

SIU is celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month, which began Sept. 15 and will run through Oct. 15. Events including lectures, forums, celebrations and Mr. Latino & Miss Latina continue through Oct. 10.

According to the university’s Institutional Research and Studies department, the Hispanic population enrolled for fall 2013 is at 7.1 percent, compared to 6.5 percent for fall 2012. Chancellor Rita Cheng said Hispanic Heritage Month is a way to recognize and welcome the inclusion of Hispanic group. Campus events have turned out well and have given students a taste of a different culture, she said.

“The purpose of these months is to celebrate and learn about the culture and experiences of a particular ethnic group,” Sermersheim said. “This month is a chance to embrace and celebrate the Hispanic community, as well as an inclusive community at SIU.”

Dianna Balan, a senior from Chicago studying communication disorders and sciences and a Hispanic Resource Center student worker, said the month is valuable for her office because it highlights the Hispanic student population and diverse group. Campus events have turned out well and have given students a taste of a different culture, she said.

“We celebrate our achievements in this month, which is why it is important,” Balan said. “It is a way to get back to our roots at SIU. We want to show the whole community what we offer with our culture and traditions.”

Hurtado said the events the university puts on are not just for remembering Hispanic heritage, but also to meet new people in the community and on campus.

“All of the events are important but we are also trying to get to know other people in a communal way,” Hurtado said. “Anyone interested and wanting to have fun can join, meet other people and take away a part of our traditions and celebrations.”

Besides helping students educate themselves on Hispanic culture, the resource center helps students with their emotional and social needs, Hurtado said. “(Students) can come here for any help they need, whether it is academically or socially or any issue they are having in their life,” Hurtado said. “We are here for support and information.”

Hurtado said students who do not try to learn about their heritage often put themselves at a disadvantage and the events going on this month are a great opportunity for students to connect to themselves and others.

The remaining events for Hispanic Heritage Month include:

— “Where is the Tamale Button?” a presentation by Robert A. Lopez, at 12 p.m. Tuesday in the Student Center Mississippi Room; Lopez will cover development for emerging Mexican and Mexican-American Markets in the United States;

— “Courageous Conversations: How to Negotiate with Courage and Intelligence,” a presentation by Melinda Yeomans at 12 p.m. Thursday in the Student Center Mississippi Room;

— Student Rally and March, beginning at 12 p.m. on the steps of Shryock Auditorium;

— Loteria, a Mexican game of chance, held at 5 p.m. Sunday in the Student Center Renaissance Room;

— the Hispanic Student Council Festival Latino, from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. Oct. 8 in the Free Forum area outside Anthony Hall;

— the second-annual Mr. Latino & Miss Latina Pageant, at 5 p.m. Oct. 9 in the Student Center Auditorium, and

— concert of Hispanic vocal and instrumental pieces, starring Chiliean singer and guitarist Ihmael “Bundohere” Duran, at 6 p.m. in Ballroom B of the Student Center, Oct. 10.

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The wrong moment to ease D.C.'s pot laws

Don't get too excited by the introduction, by D.C. Council member David Grosso (D–At Large), of the Marijuana Legalization and Regulation Act. Nirvana is not near. It may never come.

To that I would shout hallelujah — except council member Tommy Wells (D–Ward 6), chairman of the Committee on Public Safety and the Judiciary, which has oversight of the issue, told me he's still focused on marijuana decriminalization. His proposal, introduced this year, would make the possession of one ounce or less of pot a civil — as opposed to criminal — offense that would carry a fine of $100.

"I’m not going to derail... decriminalization. It's too important," Wells said, adding that legalization "should go to voter referendum like they did in Washington state."

Consequently, Wells said, his committee won't consider Grosso's bill during next month's hearings on marijuana.

Grosso has argued that decriminalization doesn't go far enough. But his proposal goes too far, potentially turning marijuana into a District industry right alongside tourism.

It would allow for the production, transportation and sale of marijuana. It also would permit the transfer, without remuneration, of up to two ounces or less of dried marijuana or five grams of hashish and marijuana-infused products to anyone age 21 or older.

The Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration (ABRA) would issue and renew licenses to sell the drug, and a 15 percent wholesale or retail sales tax would be set.

Both bills follow the release this year of an ACLU report alleging racial discrimination in drug arrests in the city. Those results have been challenged, including by Police Chief Cathy Lanier and me. But the report succeeded in inciting anger.

The issue of criminal-justice disparities is more complicated than simple numbers. Too often the cultural and socioeconomic realities of a specific community are not incorporated in the analysis.

Nevertheless Grosso, like Wells, took the bait. "I want to remove the opportunity for [the Metropolitan Police Department] to disproportionately arrest African Americans for nonviolent drug offenses," he said. "This is a matter of justice."

The District has become the latest pawn in a nationwide campaign by the Marijuana Policy Project, a nonprofit organization, to change drug laws. It was a major force behind legalization in Washington and Colorado. "Objectively, [marijuana] is a less harmful substance than alcohol," Mason Tvert, the group's communication director, told me. "There is such widespread disrespect for the law, we need to reconsider the law."

Decriminalization and legalization are inappropriate responses. They ignore the District's culture, the potential dangers to youth and the struggles of some residents to rid their neighborhoods of the scourge of drugs.

Ward 7 council member Yvette Alexander (D) said she doesn't support either idea: "If you don't want to be arrested, don't break the law." She also asked what happens with decriminalization if someone is cited isn't "able to satisfy the civil penalty. Will they go to jail?"

Good question. The cure could create chaos and greater opportunity for arrests or jail time.

Moreover, both bills could intrude on the implementation of medical marijuana laws.

In an e-mail, Grosso said that the Legalization of Marijuana for Medical Treatment Amendment Act of 2010 would have to be repealed as part of his legalization bill. "Having two government agencies (ABRA and the Department of Health) regulating the same product and issuing licenses would be poor public policy." He said medical marijuana dispensaries could retain their licenses, and regulations governing their operation could continue "unless inconsistent with the full legalization law."

"The timing doesn't seem appropriate," said Rabbi Jeffrey Kahn, owner of the Takoma Wellness Center medical marijuana dispensary. He said he's sensitive to "people being arrested and having their lives destroyed," but he urged city officials to "watch and learn" first from what happens in Colorado and Washington.

If the proposals are about criminal-justice inequities, that problem may have already been addressed. In August, Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. advised Justice Department attorneys to prepare criminal complaints to avoid triggering mandatory minimum sentences for nonviolent drug offenses. That directive could greatly impact what happens in the District, since only the U.S. Attorney's Office is empowered to prosecute drug crimes.

Then, there is the Record Sealing for Non-Violent Marijuana Possession Act of 2013, introduced separately last week by Groso. If approved, the bill would allow those "for whom non-violent misdemeanor or felony possession of marijuana is their only prior criminal history... [to] have all their records" sealed by the MPD and the D.C. Superior Court."

I had urged in an earlier column that the council consider such action. Oddly, while that bill gets at the heart of Wells's concerns, he said it, too, won't be discussed at next month's hearing.

Grosso sees unaddressed by the delays or the opposition of his council colleagues to legalization. He said he expects eventual passage: "The tide is turning in this country."

Is he delusional or, perhaps, suffering from temporary amnesia, forgetting the role that Congress plays in approval of local legislation?
It was WWII Gen. George S. Patton who said, “Death can be more exciting than life.” Likewise, the main characters of “Rush” (Rated R; 123 mins.) only feel alive when they are cheating death. The idea of living on the edge has been an intriguing prospect since before Patton’s time and is still an enduring movie trope. “Rush” gives us some interesting meditation on the idea, but it tends to focus on the action that could get our protagonists killed rather than the protagonists themselves.

“Rush” follows internationally famous Formula One drivers James Hunt (Chris Hemsworth) and Niki Lauda (Daniel Brühl) as they compete for the world championships during the mid-1970s. Both men are completely consumed by the sport and cannot live without it, a problem that takes a toll on both of their personal lives. Lauda eventually ends up in a near-death accident and uses his desire to beat Hunt as his motivation to get back on the track.

The movie does feature some fine performances. Hemsworth plays the cocky hero he’s known for, but he puts his talents to use in a more serious drama rather than a fantasy flick. Brühl’s performance isn’t as hammy as Hemsworth’s, but is equally on key. Both actors deliver the material well. Olivia Wilde is understated as Hunt’s wife, a relationship that quickly devolves when she realizes how obsessed he is with racing.

The racing scenes are fantastic, among the best I’ve ever seen. Director Ron Howard and cinematographer Anthony Dod Mantle put the audience right in the front seat of the car, aptly described as a bomb on wheels by the main character. The danger is quite clear.

But even though the performances are good and the visuals stunning, I wish Howard had chosen to "tell just as often as he "shows." Yes, the audience gets to experience the blinding rain and tight curves Lauda and Hunt had to endure. We see the danger they live for. But as a character study, “Rush” merely goes skin deep. After Hunt has lost his sponsorship and cannot race, we briefly get to see how mad he has been driven. If Howard focused on the characters as much as on the visuals, Hemsworth and Brühl would have had more to work with.

As it is, the scenes where the two spar with each other—both for the sponsorship and cannot race, we briefly get to see how mad he has been driven. If Howard focused on the characters as much as on the visuals, Hemsworth and Brühl would have had more to work with. As is, it is scenes where the two spar with each other—both for the cameras and in private—are the scenes where “Rush” is at its best. “Rush” also suffers from a rushed third act. Lauda sustains horrible burns from his crash during the second act, so much so that his appearance will forever be altered. While his recovery feels like it should have been a bigger part of the movie, it feels like merely another obstacle Lauda must overcome. Howard loses the sense of what an accomplishment Lauda’s comeback really was.

“Rush” is one of the best sports movies I’ve seen in awhile, but it’s far from perfect. Some more meditation on the characters’ struggles could have made this a more effective sports tale. The movie’s action scenes speed forward while the character development struggles to stop idling.

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Bluegrass music releases hit shelves

North Carolina native Lou Reid began his bluegrass journey in the early 1970s with a band called The Seldom Scene before forming Carolina in 1992. In 1997, after the death of John Duffey, Reid rejoined the Seldom Scene and has been playing with both bands ever since. In December, Carolina celebrated its 25th anniversary with a concert at the Down Home in Johnson City, Tenn. It was recorded and the result is an album that shows Reid and his band at the top of their game. It’s one of the best bluegrass albums you’ll hear this year. There are a couple of hits from the band’s past “Amanda Lynn” and “Time.” And there are a couple of songs from the Seldom Scene repertoire “Lord Have Mercy (On My Soul)” and “Lost In A Memory.” “Lord Have Mercy (On My Soul)” is done a capella here and it sounds great. There’s plenty of hard-charging traditional bluegrass “Grass Lover.” “I Call Your Name,” “ Carolina Moonshine Man” and “When It Rains.” And there are a couple of ballads “Long Black Veil” and “I Couldn’t Find My Walking Shoes.” Christy Reid, a member of her husband’s band for more than a decade, sings Carter Stanley’s “She’s More To Be Pitied.” Fans of Lou Reid and Carolina will definitely want this album in their collection. Can’t find it in stores? Try Amazon.com.
Joseph Gordon-Levitt's writing and directorial debut, "Don Jon" (Rated R; 90 min.), is a hilariously sexy film that perfectly shows human expectations in this day and age.

The story is about pretty boy Jon, played by Gordon-Levitt, who enjoys pornography more than actual sexual intercourse — however, he still engages in a lot of both. He compares the intensity of pornography to the lack of intensity in bed, and craves that very intensity.

There are only a few things that Jon truly cares about, which he lays out at the beginning: his body, his pad, his ride, his family, his church, his boys, his girls and his porn. Every single scene had at least one of the few things he names at the beginning of the movie.

Eventually Jon meets Barbara (Scarlett Johansson), "a dime," or a woman he would say has the perfect body. After going on a date, he learns her fondness of romantic films, which do not interest him. Jon and his quiet sister Monica, played by Brie Larson, gradually realize Barbara is in control of the relationship.

The movie's primary message is that the media have a heavy influence of the average Joe's expectations in life. The romantic films are garbage for Barbara, because she taught herself that every man should do anything and everything for a female. The pornography is garbage for Jon because he expects intense sexual intercourse from every female he brought home. It also teaches him that looks are everything in a female, a thought he begins to reconsider.

The movie's secondary message is to let your emotions out. Esther, played by Julianne Moore, is a classmate of Jon's who was dealt a tragic accident. She is introduced to the audience crying, and continues to do so throughout the movie. Monica is silent, yet knows what is good and what is bad for Jon. However, she does not say a word until near the end after the conflict is mostly solved. Had she spoken up, every character probably would have ended up happier earlier on.

There are some minor technical flaws in Don Jon. There were a few continuity errors, primarily when the couple went out to eat. There would be a cell phone on the table that would change position multiple times when clearly nobody was touching it. Some camera shots were fuzzier than others. For the most part, the script and acting are excellent. Gordon-Levitt truly proved himself worthy as a writer, and did a great job as a director.

Overall, Jon's story is educational. "Don Jon" reminds viewers to not expect to get everything they want. The movie also asks the viewer to embrace things they care about, and not to sacrifice these for someone else.

"Don Jon" is not only a movie about a man addicted to pornography. It has multiple true lessons, with some of the best subtle humor ever used in a modern film.

Aaron Graff can be contacted at A gravity进步ofdailyegyptian.com or (618)-536-3311.
Obama breaks U.S. silence with Iran

Paul Richter

The ambitious international effort to take control of Syria's arsenal of chemical weapons, which seemed a pipe dream just weeks ago, has gathered momentum with a rapid-fire succession of dizzying diplomatic milestones.

The United Nations Security Council on Friday unanimously approved a resolution requiring Syrian President Bashar Assad to relinquish his stock of poison gases by mid-2014. International inspectors are expected to arrive in Syria by Tuesday more than a month ahead of an already accelerated schedule to begin the complex process of removing, dismantling or destroying the illicit arms.

Most surprising of all, Assad is cooperating so far, disclosing dozens of chemical production and storage sites and plying with the leaders of Syria's rebels. He has signed the 1993 Chemical Weapons Convention, the international treaty that bans the production, storage and use of poison gases.

Until two weeks ago, the befuddled leader had refused to budge, perhaps even believing the Washington Post described as about 1,100 tons of blister agents and neurotoxins. He still denies U.S. accusations that his security forces fired artillery rockets filled with deadly sarin nerve gas on rebel-held towns last month that killed about 1,400 people.

On Friday, President Barack Obama described the diplomatic progress as "a potentially huge victory for the international community" and a validation of his strategy to threaten targeted missile strikes to pressure Assad while also pushing a diplomatic process aimed at ending Syria's bitter civil war.

The disarmament plan, the first ever large-scale in the midst of a civil war, is still in its infancy. And it could easily fail.

"I don't know how I'd respond," said Treasury Secretary Jack Lew. "I think there are many reasons why this would fail, but let's be hopeful and see what happens."
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Softball

Some colleges distinguish students from athletes, but softball Head Coach Kerri Blaylock says they are both equally important. The Salukis have earned a team grade point average of 3.55 for the 2013 school year, ranking the SIU softball team sixth in the nation of National Collegiate Athletics Association academic programs. Blaylock said sports are important, academics fall very high on her priority list and she has high expectations for her Salukis.

“I consider winning and academics to be equal,” Blaylock said. Although Blaylock has high standards, she understands that everyone is not an A-student.

“Even if you’re not an A-student, you still have to be the best you can be and we hold you accountable to that,” she said. “If you’re a 3.0 student, then you are going to be the best 3.0 student you can be.”

Just like other college athletic teams, the Salukis have an academic coordinator and an associate athletic director for academics.

“[The academic coordinator is] fantastic. She works with the girls one-on-one, day-to-day to make sure they attend all of their study table hours, or she schedules a tutor if necessary,” Blaylock said.

Blaylock, along with Associate Head Coach Jenn Sevill and Assistant Coach Troi Harken, made class checks and collect grade sheets.

“My favorite thing to run is the six-week check, where I ask them if there is anything they’re struggling with,” Blaylock said. “If they are getting a C or below, I want to know so I can help them early.”

This season, the Saluki roster is filled with Missouri Valley Conference scholar-athletes. MVC scholar-athlete junior Kelyn Harker, a biological science major, said she plans to go to physician assistant school or medical school.

“I’m a competitor, so if it takes me rushing with 71 yards on 14 half and not come out and score (in the second half performance the second half). State held the Salukis scoreless in the losing end and got us our second play to bring us out of the hole.”

“In the end, I just try to do what’s best for this offense,” Faulkner said. “Tonight I was able to make some people miss and able to get downfield and get us first downs. It wasn’t planned, but it’s whatever you have to do.”

“The Salukis have now lost three games this season by a combined 12 points. In the Saluki’s next three games, they will face three conference opponents who were all ranked in the top 10 high school football series rankings before Saturday, including their next opponent South Dakota State, who was shut out Saturday 20-0 by conference rival North Dakota State.”

Junior linebacker Jordan Poole said despite the tough road ahead, the team will not be fearful of any opponent on its schedule.

“We can compete with any team we play with so we’re not worried or scared of any opponent,” Poole said. “We’ll go to work at practice, watch film and get ready to beat whoever our next opponent is.”

More than 11,000 fans attended Saturday’s Blackout Cancer game during Family Weekend. Fans were able to bid to put their names or the name of a loved one who has been affected by cancer on one of the 80 special black jerseys the Salukis wore during the game.

Saluki Athletics and Southern Illinois Healthcare raised more than $56,000 this year and has raised more than $200,000 in the past four games since the first Blackout Cancer game in 2011.

The Salukis will head to Brookings, S.D. Saturday with hopes of evening out their conference record as they take on South Dakota State at Coughlin-Alumni Stadium.
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**FOOTBALL**

**Penguins slide past Salukis**

Senior quarterback Kory Faulkner avoids a tackle Saturday during the Salukis’ 28-27 loss to Youngstown State University at Saluki Stadium. Faulkner’s 348 passing yards and 71 rushing yards gave him the second-highest amount of total offense by a player in a single game in school history. The Salukis travel to Brookings, S.D., Saturday to face South Dakota State University.

**VOLLEYBALL**

**Volleyball bounces back against Loyola**

The Salukis fell in their first match of Family Weekend, but kept their composure and evened their record in conference play. After dropping a heart-breaking five-set match against the Bradley Braves Friday, the Salukis did not hang their heads, but came away with a win against conference newcomer Loyola Saturday afternoon.

SIU took the first set Friday 28-26 and continued its lead in the second set winning 25-10. The Braves decided they did not want to head home with a three-set loss and won the third set 25-21.

Bradley had a productive fourth set and only one error in the 25-18 win. The Braves were able to keep the pressure on and came away with the fifth set win 16-14.

Three Salukis had at least 15 kills in the loss. Senior outside hitter Jessica Whitehead racked up 17 kills while senior outside hitter Elly Braaten and sophomore middle blocker Taylor Pippen each finished with 15.

Coach Justin Ingram said coming back from a tough loss is no easy task.

“One of the toughest things in sports is to recover from something that’s emotionally challenging,” he said.

The Salukis were able to bounce back Saturday in a big way at Davies Gym against Loyola.

SIU took the first two sets 25-17 and 25-19. A key moment in the first set was a long rally that the Ramblers won, but it did not change the Saluki game plan.

Ingram said a key part of his team’s game was staying calm throughout the match.

“I thought they played steady. I don’t think we were too frantic,” Ingram said.

The Salukis were able to come out strong in the fourth game as they took the final game 25-16. Ingram said it is still a learning process for the younger players and seeing what serve works in different situations.

“I think all our freshmen go through these growth spurts and try to figure out what a good serve is,” he said.

Whitehead continued her dominance this season as she finished with 14 kills in the win and Braaten had 14 as well. Freshman setter Meg Viggars was a stat sheet stuffer as she had eight assists and 20 digs in the victory.

Freshman middle blocker Taylor Pippen had seven key serves to extend the Saluki game plan.

“Hannah Kaminsky also had eight aces as they took the final game 25-16. Ingram said a key part of his team’s game was staying calm throughout the match.

“Tyler Dixon was going to go down if it wasn’t for (injuring) his knee,” coach Dale Lennon said. “He was going to fight for every inch. Him fighting so hard is probably why he got injured.”

Pruitt suffered a knee injury on the play and Lennon said he was shook-up after the game.

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**TERRANCE PEACOCK**

A missed extra-point attempt by junior place-kicker Thomas Kinney just before halftime proved to be the deciding factor Saturday night as No. 25 Youngstown State University cemented a fourth-quarter comeback to stun the Salukis.

SIU surrendered a 13-point fourth quarter lead and failed to generate much offense in the second half as the Penguins (4-1, 1-0 Missouri Valley Football Conference) defeated the Salukis (2-3, 0-1 MVFC) 28-27 in the third annual Saluki Blackout Cancer game at Saluki Stadium.

After Youngstown State took the lead with 1:50 left, SIU’s potential game-winning drive ended when junior tight end MyCole Pruitt caught a pass from senior quarterback Kory Faulkner, but fumbled at the YSU 38-yard line with 43 seconds left to play.

“MyCole (Pruitt) wasn’t going to go down if it wasn’t for (injuring) his knee,” coach Dale Lennon said. “He was going to fight for every inch. Him fighting so hard is probably why he got injured.”

Pruitt suffered a knee injury on the play and Lennon said he was shook-up after the game.

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