

Evolve with Multicultural Affairs

ERIC MCGEE
STAFF WRITER

A grand finale event celebrating Black History Month was held Saturday night at Centennial Hall. This event celebrated 5 decades of African American expression.

It was an evening that featured clothes, fine art, fashion, music, dancing and poetry. Evolve With Multicultural Affairs has evolved into an annual tradition. The evening began with an art exhibition which featured several local black artists.

One of the artists featured was Samuel Elliot Harris. His art was centered around realism with an abstract flare. It included a portrayal of historical black figures from the civil rights movement, along with dance and hip hop.

Jadyn Lewis was another artist featuring a large array of work. Most of her pieces were colorful portraits of black celebrities and leaders. However, her painting of a human heart with the thorny crown of Christ hovering over it evoked strong emotion from her audience.

The main event began at 7 p.m. The catwalks and center stage were purposefully constructed. The catwalks were L shaped,

projecting out from stage left and stage right. This left substantial room in the center for the performances to come. The sound system was positioned in the back, which provided quality sound that made the dialogue clear and audible.

The event was hosted by a fictional elderly couple played by Quentin Sanders and Dominique Phillips. They reminisced on a couch about a specific time period for a few minutes, discussing the black celebrities of the day. Then suddenly, music from that period kicked on and models appeared, strutting down the catwalks wearing the black fashions of that period. Parliament Funkadelic represented the 1970s and Kurtis Blow represented the 1980s. Every decade from the 1960s to the present was represented and accompanied by the music of the period.

It's important to mention that Sanders and Phillips were excellent hosts. It involved a great deal of dialogue which was both humorous and entertaining. They never missed a beat and they appeared to not miss a line. Their performance gave the show a great rhythm and tempo.

On two occasions the production paused for a poetic interlude. The lights dimmed,

with the exception of a single spotlight which focused on the stool where the poet read. Janeshia Hurston read her poem, "You so Black" and Nia read her poem, "Golden Girl."

Both poems illustrated the many obstacles black women face while growing up. However, both poems had an air of confidence, optimism and determination in overcoming these obstacles.

In addition to music, there was impressive choreographed dance routines which gave the show energy and momentum.

The production climaxed with music, dance, music and a flurry of models walking the runways. It concluded with Joshua Smith's recitation of Gil Scott-Heron's "The Revolution Will Not Be Televised."

Joshua Smith and Khagji Warren produced and directed Evolve with Multicultural Affairs. Taron Robinson did a great job floor directing. The program was very professional in its execution. It was entertaining, educational and inspirational.

Showcasing art and culture is essential in portraying black history. It is essential in portraying all history.

Local Production of "Newsies"

The Jonesboro Foundation of the Arts put on a production of the musical "Newsies." The final production was at 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 28 at the Forum Theater. Shows run for two weekends, with the Monday in-between being "pay what you can" night. For a schedule of live productions coming up, check foajonesboro.com. For more on this show, including footage, go to theherald.home.blog.



Image by Tucker Phillips

CAMPUS CRIME

MATTHEW WILLIAMS
NEWS WRITER

Feb. 16 | 1:23 p.m.

A man came into the University Police Department on Saturday night when he noticed his vehicle's license plate had been stolen. David Wilson, 21, told officers he'd parked his car in the commuter lot at the Fine Arts building at 6:30 a.m. Tuesday, and that he didn't return to it until 4:00 that Friday afternoon, the day before.

Wilson said he noticed it was gone when he went to work on Saturday, and came by the sta-

tion to report it. The plate was registered into the system as stolen, and he was advised to get another one.

Feb. 22 | 11 p.m.

University Police conducted a traffic stop at the intersection of Marion Berry and Johnson after officers saw a vehicle failed to stop at a red light as it moved north. After stopping the vehicle, they made contact with the driver, asking him for his license and registration, as well as his insurance.

The officers also asked to see the passenger's driver's license. She instead told them her name

and date of birth. After running both occupants of the vehicle's information through the system, the passenger, Samantha Marcusen, 31, was found to have out of town warrants in both Cabot and Judsonia, Arkansas.

Authorities in Cabot told them they wouldn't extradite, but authorities in Judsonia said they would, and so she was taken into custody. Marcusen was transported to the Craighead County Detention Center where she had a hold placed on her for Judsonia's warrant.

Quidditch Scrimmage Last Saturday



Arkansas State University's Quidditch team played a scrimmage against the Fayetteville/Ouachita, KS team last Saturday. A video is available on The Herald's website, theherald.home.blog. Pictured (left to right): Lenzie Brown, chaser. Zachary Casey, keeper/seeker. Savannah Godwin, chaser. Caleb Sherrill, beater. Dale Hindman, keeper/chaser.

Image by Rebecka Erwin

Temple Israel Jonesboro to Celebrate Purim

LILY CABIBI-WILKIN
OPINION EDITOR

Temple Israel will be hosting a Purim celebration Sunday from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Sunday the Purim is a Jewish holiday which is celebrated on the 14th of the Hebrew month of Adar. This year, that puts it on March 9. In the Gregorian calendar, Purim will start this year in the evening of next Monday, and will end in the evening of Tuesday. The holiday celebrates the salvation of the Jewish people in the ancient Persian empire" from prime minister Haman's plot to kill them, according to an article from Chabad. During this holiday, a scroll called the Megillah is read, which recounts the book of Esther. The book of Esther de-

scribes how in the Persian Empire during the fourth century BCE, King Ahasuerus chose a Jewish girl as his queen after he executed his previous one for being disobedient, though she kept her heritage a secret. After prime minister Haman attempted to have a decree issued that would order the extermination of all Jews on the 13th of Adar, Esther fasted and prayed for three days before revealing her heritage to King Ahasuerus. As a result, Haman was hanged, Esther's cousin Mordechai was appointed prime minister, and a new decree was issued that granted the Jews the right to fight back against their enemies (King wasn't allowed to just repeal his former order, but I don't remember exactly why). On the 13th of Adar, the Jews

fought back against the Persian forces who sought to kill them, and on the 14th they rested and celebrated.

Purim is celebrated by reading the Megillah (shaking noisemakers called "groggers/graggers" whenever Haman's name is read), giving gifts of food to friends and gifts of money to those in need, and feasting. A traditional Purim food is "hamantaschen", triangular pastries filled with poppy seeds or other sweet fillings. On the day before Purim, it is also customary to fast.

While there is little information online about Temple Israel's Purim celebration, the synagogue is located at 203 W Oak Avenue in Jonesboro.

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