The Daily Egyptian, December 02, 2013

Daily Egyptian Staff

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Volume 99, Issue 57

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New wall brings opportunities for advancement

LUKE NOZICKA Daily Egyptian

After years of advocating for a new wall, the SIU climbing club finally had their wishes granted.

Located in the Recreation Center, the 34-year-old climbing wall was taken apart. Construction began Tuesday night, and as of now, the new climbing wall is set to be open for public use come the beginning of the next semester.

Mitch Beliley, the graduate assistant of Outdoor Pursuits studying natural resource management and recreation ecology from Peoria, said the climbing community has continued to voice a need for an updated wall for six years.

One of those community members is Dave Hug, president of the SIU climbing club, who said the current wall was completely outdated and has been in great need of a makeover for some time.

“It was the very first wall ever built on a college campus and the fifth wall ever built in the country. It’s an absolute dinosaur,” he said.

Hug said the present wall is dilapidated and has an abundance of problems, including the absurd amount of dead spots. Dead spots are where a climber cannot mount a hold, and as of now, there is zero access to the backside of the wall.

The new design, however, will have full access to the back of the wall, and it will be composed of more than 1,000 holds. It will consist of a steel-reinforced frame and new plywood in order to keep it safe and stable.

Hug said the new design was done before he personally created the blueprint last spring, which was modified slightly then built by campus engineers and union carpenters.

“The way that they’re putting it up is going to make it as strong as can be, and I really don’t see any way to make it any stronger. They’re going to do it with a very professional job on it,” he said.

Hug said they had their initial meeting with the engineers in January, who at the time were fairly busy, and did not get the final go-ahead until the beginning of this semester.

“We have been talking with the engineers, we have been bouncing ideas back and forth, and I would say roughly for about a year now,” he said. “But actually designing and purchasing of the stuff probably started in August.”

Hug said they are getting $10,000 of new equipment, which includes new ropes, harnesses, shoes, hardware, auto belays and brand new holds. The project will take just two weeks, and the most difficult part will be setting the routes.

“The hardest job is going to be putting up the climbing routes,” said Hug. “It’s going to be color coded, it’s going to be pretty easily.

— Dave Hug

The wall isn’t that good for teaching right now and when we get our new wall we’re going to have so many more possibilities,“ Hug said. “It’s going to be color coded, it’s going to be perky,” Williams said.

In the beginning of this semester, the number of students interested in climbing club was low, and Hug said he was coming up with ideas back and forth I would say roughly for about a year now, he said. “But actually designing and purchasing of the stuff probably started in August.”

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### The Weather Channel® 5-day weather forecast for Carbondale

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### About Us

The Daily Egyptian is published by the students of Southern Illinois University Carbondale 50 weeks per year, with an average daily circulation of 15,000. Fall and spring semester editions run Monday through Thursday. Summer editions run Tuesday through Thursday. All intercession editions will run on Wednesdays. Free copies are distributed in the Carbondale and Carterville communities. The Daily Egyptian online publication can be found at www.dailyEgyptian.com.

### Mission Statement

The Daily Egyptian, the student-run newspaper of Southern Illinois University Carbondale, is committed to being a treated source of news, information, commentary and public discourse, while helping readers understand the issues affecting their lives.

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### Publishing Information

The Daily Egyptian is published by the students of Southern Illinois University Carbondale and functions as a laboratory for the school of journalism in exchange for the room and utilities in the Communications Building. The Daily Egyptian is a non-profit organization that survives primarily off of its advertising revenue. Offices are in the Communications Building, Room 1259, at Southern Illinois University Carbondale, Carbondale, IL, 62901. Bill Freivogel, fiscal officer.

### Bitcoin campaign donations have regulators scratching heads

BECCA CLEMONS
Tribune Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — On the website for Jim Fowler’s U.S. Senate campaign, 34 letters and numbers appear in a string above the “Donate Now!” button. They are the code for his campaign’s bitcoin wallet, where holders of the so-called digital currency can send it to the Libertarian from Michigan — without a central bank. About 12 million bitcoins exist today. The transactions, although viewable in a public ledger online, are not tied to a person’s identity, as checks or credit cards are. That degree of anonymity made bitcoin the payment of choice on Silk Road, the website shut down recently that was linked to an afﬁl for drugs and other illegal activities.

“Bitcoins do raise some very interesting questions about whether disclosure can be adequately done,” Ellen L. Weintraub, the FEC’s chairman, said last week. “And I’m not prejudices the answer to that.”

Advocates for more disclosure in campaign donations are troubled. “We’re always interested in new ideas like this that can help new people into the political process, that I think bitcoin donations could,” said Adam Smith, a spokesman for the Public Campaign. “But there are some questions about transparency with these donations. We need to make sure those are addressed so that bitcoin donors don’t hide behind donations to remain anonymous.”

Bitcoin proponents say there is no fundamental difference between a payment with bitcoin and one with a prepaid money card or a gift card that is not tied to a person’s identity. In those instances, the onus is on the campaign or committee to get accurate donor information.
Now that the Food and Drug Administration has moved to banish most trans fats from the nation’s diet, some public health advocates are heartened that two other beloved ingredients — sugar and salt — will be subject to similar scrutiny. “Sodium is next,” said Dr. Dartush Mozaffarian, a Harvard University epidemiologist and cardiologist at Boston’s Brigham and Women’s Hospital.

In acting to remove artificial trans fats from the food supply, Mozaffarian said, the FDA has acknowledged a scientific consensus that they are hazardous to the public’s health. The same could be said about excess dietary sodium, and that should be an equally powerful prod to FDA action, he said.

Tom Nelner, an analyst with the Natural Resources Defense Council in Washington, D.C., said that sugar, too, may become a target in the wake of Thursday’s FDA action.

In regulating food additives, the FDA has historically taken care to remove chemicals that cause death and acute injury, Nelner said. Now the agency has demonstrated that it is willing to step in when a food additive contributes to chronic diseases that kill many people slowly.

“One hopes this presages a new willingness to regulate with an eye to these chronic illnesses,” Nelner said.

But if you inhibit the conversion of cholesterol to this molecule, nothing bad happens,” said McDonnell.

They also determined that raising cholesterol levels raised risk, and that reducing cholesterol had an effect similar to suppressing its dangerous byproduct, resulting in tumors that grew at significantly slower rates.

Also, the data study says that tumors are not reliant on the presence of 27HC in the blood.

As the number and variety of substances added to food in the United States has increased, there has been a corresponding increase in the number of requests, and announced that it would accept voluntary notifications of planned additives from food manufacturers.

“Among the facilities within a rec center, climbing is their top three things within a rec center that draws yearly student recruitment."

As climbing club president in 1989 and again on April 3, 1986, “It’s the climbing club for three years, said this new wall is this new wall is an opportunity to really explore climbing."

That means that the tumors can essentially feed their own growth.

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Experts hope sugar, salt are next on FDA target list

MELISSA HEALY
Los Angeles Times

JAY PRICE
The News & Observer

DUHAMEL, N.C. — Studies have long shown a link between obesity, high blood pressure and heart disease, and now scientists at Duke Cancer Institute have found one important explanation: a hyperactive form of cholesterol that fuels the growth and spread of tumors in some of the most common forms of the disease.

Pointed the way to the simple methods to reduce breast cancer risk, like using cholesterol-lowering drugs such as statins and eating a healthier diet. It also suggests that using statins could make regimens for treating many breast cancers more effective.

Results of the study, which are considered early because the study

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Administration considers whether to allow Shell to resume Arctic oil exploration

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration is weighing whether to allow Shell to resume drilling in Arctic waters after a series of mishaps halted its controversial oil exploration effort last year.

The decision is among the toughest issues faced by new Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, who portrays herself as both an advocate for the environment and a supporter of drilling.

Jewell's predecessor, Ken Salazar, allowed Shell to drill in the Arctic waters north of Alaska last year, only to later say the company "screwed up." Interior Department spokeswoman Kate Kelly said Wednesday that drilling will not resume until the agency has confidence that the effort addresses lessons learned.

A dozen environmental groups wrote the Interior Department this week, complaining that Shell's new exploration plan fails to show how the company would avoid problems it had during last year's drilling season.

"Nowhere does Shell describe how it intends to address the many problems exposed by its 2012 drilling season," wrote the environmental groups, including Oceana, the Sierra Club and the Natural Resources Defense Council. "Instead, the company seems simply to pretend the problems never happened."

Shell put forth the new exploration plan earlier this month. The document says, "Shell's 2012 exploration drilling operations in the Arctic were conducted safely, and with no serious injuries or environmental impact." The company hopes to resume drilling, possibly as soon as the coming year. Shell filed the exploration plan to keep open the chance of 2014 drilling but said the issue of safety will determine when it returns to the Arctic.

"We will continue to take a methodical approach to this exploration phase and will only proceed if the program meets the conditions necessary to proceed safely and responsibly," Shell said in a written statement.

Shell experienced a series of problems and accidents last year, among them the grounding of a drilling rig, the Kulluk, which was stuck for several days off Kodiak Island. The Coast Guard said it found 16 safety and environmental violations on the other drilling rig used by Shell, the Noble Discoverer, which the company hopes to use again if allowed to resume drilling in Arctic waters.

Regulators also charged that both drilling rigs violated air pollution permit limits. The Environmental Protection Agency imposed more than $1 million in fines in a settlement agreement.

Shell suspended its offshore Arctic efforts this year and said it was taking the time to review lessons learned. Shell's new exploration plan is only for the Chukchi Sea off northwest Alaska, while previously the company also targeted the neighboring Beaufort Sea.

The Chukchi Sea contains by far the biggest prize, the Burger Prospect, which the oil company says could turn into a world-class, multibillion-barrel discovery. Shell has spent more than $5 billion so far on its Arctic offshore effort and has yet to extract oil.

Shell's Alaskan efforts are part of a global race to harvest energy from the world's Arctic waters. It is a frontier region with potentially large oilfields but also high costs and substantial environmental risks, said a recent report from the International Energy Agency.

The IEA projects that, given the availability of other sources of oil, less than 200,000 barrels a day are going to be produced globally from Arctic waters by 2035.

"Some developments could go faster, in particular those spearheaded by Russia, in partnership with international companies, in the Kara Sea and the Barents Sea, or by Norway in the Norwegian part of the Barents Sea," the IEA concluded in its energy report.

Environmental groups are opposing Arctic offshore oil drilling across the globe. The dozen groups that signed the letter to the Interior Department this week said Shell's exploration plans for the Chukchi Sea include more pollution of the area than its 2012 effort.
The grass isn’t always greener on the other side

There are several avenues people take when it comes to Black Friday shopping. There are those who camp out on the concrete for hours in the cold waiting for an iPad. There are those who start at the 6 p.m. sale and stay awake all night long, or those who sleep until 4 a.m. and then spend the entire day in line. But there are also those often forgotten on Black Friday: the people who make the entire day possible.

I spent the first four years of my working life giving up family time to work on Thanksgiving Day and Black Friday off of work. That only meant one thing: I was going to join my stepmother and her friends for the biggest shopping day of the year. Being the veteran Black Friday goers that they are, I knew I was in for the full effect.

I kept saying I wanted to see how the other half lives, and I got my share of insight. Ironically enough, my stepmother is an avid Menards shopper, so the majority of her plan of attack consisted of the very items I used to stock.

Now, having seen both sides of the fence, here are the top three reasons why it is better to be working — preferably in the hardware department — than shopping on Black Friday.

1. People. When you have a job in retail, provided you are lucky, your employees become your friends and on some level everyone as a group becomes a family. It’s been almost two years since I saw some of those cast boys, and I got a hug and ‘how ya been’ as we left the store. The crazy ladies at Kohl’s, on the other hand, watch your back. There’s pushing and shoving, yelling and lines upon lines. No one says excuse me, and no one cares to. Whoever decided those crazy ladies should have access to carts needs to walk in front of them.

2. Lines. Even after being a part of the industry, the fact that Thanksgiving has become a “designated public forum.” Americans became so obsessed with the world of retail that it took precedence over sitting across the table from your grandparents.

3. Time. For some odd reason this year, Wal-Mark decided to set the trend of sales starting at 9 p.m. Therefore, lines had to start forming no later than 6 p.m. Call me crazy, but that's dinner time. I can recall as a child, long lines at 8 p.m.

I was in for the full experience. For some odd reason this year, I decided those crazy ladies should have access to carts. For the veteran shoppers, when one of the items you need is available 10 hours before the other one, shopping all night long is your only option. Being a college student, I am fully accustomed to not sleeping. However, seeing the entire mall bustling at 3 a.m. was a little unsettling. I haven’t been on this earth too long, but I would love to know at what point Americans became so obsessed with the world of retail that it took precedence over sitting across the table from your grandparents.

The fact that Thanksgiving has become nothing more than a precursor for Christmas shopping — and that Christmas is simply about shopping — is just a sad reality.

When you grow up with little to no presents, and then turn around and sell those present for seven years, there is a new perspective on the holidays. Our culture is so wrapped up in the gifts and the deals that we forget why we're here in the first place.

Even after being a part of the industry for years, I will never understand America’s fascination with the world of retail. There may be thousands of people who are cut out for Black Friday shopping, but I will never be one of them.
Hollywood is capping off a year filled with ’80s flashback blunders. Back in February “Bullet to the Head” tanked and “Escape Plan” barely made a ripple back in October. “Homefront” (Rated R; 100 Min.) is the ’80s action genre’s last stand in 2013. And in a totally unabashed, completely amoral way, it’s pretty fun. Just do not meditate on it for too long.

Phil Broker (Jason Statham) is an undercover DEA agent who retires from the game after bringing down a bikers meth lord. Turns out, “Homefront” traffics in biker meth lords. Gator Bodine (James Franco) is another such character. He lives in the small town Broker moves to and becomes entangled with him after Broker’s daughter beats up his nephew. Things escalate as Bodine tries to exact southern justice and Broker delivers a swift kick to Bodine’s ladies’ asses.

It is all contrived, but even though this movie only exists to keep Statham revved up ever since the “Transporter” franchise came to an end, the movie actually attaches some interesting performances to help it be more than one-dimensional. Franco is not as unhinged as you might think, which is slightly disappointing. He plays the character with a cool comparsure and doesn’t really go nuts until the climax.

The really interesting performances here come from the movie’s leading ladies, meth addicts Sheryl (Winona Ryder) and Gator’s sister Cassie (Kate Bosworth). Bosworth chews scenery as a woman on a warpath and makes the most of every scene she is in. Ryder is somewhat more reserved, but develops a character, something that has been missing in screenplays from Sylvester Stallone for years.

In fact, Stallone wrote the movie (adapted from Chuck Logan’s novel “Homefront”), but allows Statham to inherit the type of character that made Stallone a star decades ago. Instead of writing non-descript villains who exist solely as target practice, Stallone capitalizes on a novel idea and actually gives his characters motivations to play with. Gator is a recovering addict and is trying to get Cassie to give up her drugs. We see Cassie’s husband genuinely wanting to help her as well. The development is minimal and not allowed to flourish like it should have, but “Homefront” shows just enough initiative to be rewarded.

The characters make a valiant effort to rise above the stale plot, but the writing is not as successful in that department. This is a pulpy revenge story, nothing more. But the action is not inventive enough. The bad guys get what they deserve in true Jason Statham style, but by the end he’s punching them the same way over and over. And the final mano-a-mano fight between Broker and Bodine is great up until it decides to keep “Homefront” hummming when the plot starts to go through the motions. The movie shows promise that should have been developed more, but it takes enough initiative to rise above its kin.

Los Angeles County sheriff’s officials said Walker was apparently the passenger in the 2005 red Porsche Carrera GT3. The four-lane road up the hilly street has signs warning drivers to slow down as they approach an uphill curve near the site of the accident. The fiery crash north of Los Angeles left charred cars in the secluded area near a business park, and a burned smell lingered in the air Sunday. The car, which was reduced to an ash hull, had toppled a tree and a concrete lamp post, which crews from Southern California Edison removed Sunday. Looping tire tracks were visible on the asphalt nearby.

Investigators were looking at whether the tire tracks are related to the crash, but the investigation is ongoing, said Sheriff’s Deputy Peter Gomez. There probably will not be an update on the investigation until Monday, he said. Because of the condition of the bodies, which were badly burned, forensic testing will be used to positively identify the victims, said Los Angeles County coroner’s investigator Dana Bedrosian.

Karsten Burgstahler can be reached at kbburgstahler@dailyegyptian.com or 536-3311 ext. 261.

‘Homefront’ revels in trashy action

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Hollywood County coroner’s investigator Dana Bee. Identify the victims, said Los Angeles Dental records will be used to positively identify the victims, said Los Angeles County sheriffs’ department officials said Sunday. Speed may have been a factor in the crash, which occurred around 3:30 p.m. on Hercules Street, a normally quiet road with a 45-mph speed limit, in Valencia, California.

The accident shows black smoke billowing from the crumpled red Porsche, which caught fire, and debris scattered about the roadway. “The car is in half. I can’t tell if there is someone in there,” one person on the video is heard saying.

Seconds later comes an answer: “Yes, there is someone in there.” At least one person heard on the video expresses concern that the burning car could explode.

Cause of Walker crash is still under investigation

SAMA THA N SCHA EA FER
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — Investigators were working to determine the circumstances surrounding the single-vehicle crash that killed actor Paul Walker and another man Saturday. Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department officials said Sunday.

Speed may have been a factor in the crash, which occurred around 3:30 p.m. on Hercules Street, a normally quiet road with a 45-mph speed limit, in Valencia, California. Edison removed Sunday. Looping tire tracks were visible on the asphalt nearby.

Investigators were looking at whether the tire tracks are related to the crash, but the investigation is ongoing, said Sheriff’s Deputy Peter Gomez. There probably will not be an update on the investigation until Monday, he said. Because of the condition of the bodies, which were badly burned, forensic testing will be used to positively identify the victims, said Los Angeles County coroner’s investigator Dana Bedrosian.

Autopsy reports have not been scheduled. A video taken moments after the accident shows black smoke billowing from the crumpled red Porsche, which caught fire, and debris scattered about the roadway. “The car is in half. I can’t tell if there is someone in there,” one person on the video is heard saying.

Seconds later comes an answer: “Yes, there is someone in there.” At least one person heard on the video expresses concern that the burning car could explode.

Walker, 40, and his friend, whom witnesses Jim Torp identified as Roger Rodas, took a red Porsche out for a spin as a charity event held in support of Walker’s organization Reach Out Worldwide was winding down. Torp said he heard a loud boom, and knew in his heart his friends had been in an accident. The smoke from the crash was visible from Always Evolving Performance Motors, which Rodas owned, where car enthusiasts and supporters were still gathered — some thinking it was just a fire on a nearby hill.

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Volunteers search through debris of a destroyed home Saturday in Washington. An EF4 tornado blew through Washington on Nov. 17, taking the lives of seven people and damaging more than 2,400 homes in the area. Several organizations from around the country have provided disaster relief for victims of the tornado.

Megan Young, of Benton, fills a box of a dozen donuts Saturday at Dixie Cream Donuts in West Frankfort. Supervisor Laura Dunning said the donut shop makes up to 750 donuts each night for the next day. “They start around noon and go until the next morning making donuts, and we deliver to different places like gas stations and local stores throughout the entire night,” Dunning said. The store is open from 5 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily.

‘Mob City’ an offer TNT couldn’t refuse

Yvonne Villarreal
Los Angeles Times

On a balmy midsummer evening at Griffith Park, a game of TV cops and mobsters is about to begin.

Guns are holstered, trench coats are cinched and bruises are being smudged onto actors. And then, in mock dramatic fashion, Frank Darabont steps out of the shadows on the set of his 1940s L.A. noir drama “Mob City” and lights a cigarette.

“Time to play,” said the 54-year-old writer and executive producer of the upcoming series, which premieres Dec. 4 on TNT. “We want people to dig this show.”

It’s not the only one. For TNT, which has largely trafficked in middlebrow crime procedurals, sitcoms and reality programs, the new mob drama with an enviable pedigree among its creative talent represents a bold gambit into the world of prestige drama — the kind that draws widespread critical acclaim, enhances a network’s standing and garners award nominations.

Success may even be more important to Darabont, who in the mob-speak of “The Godfather” films, would like to send a message to his former employers at AMC, whom he now publicly refers to as “sociopaths.” Two years ago, the basic cable network unceremoniously booted Darabont from “The Walking Dead,” a powerhouse show he had developed for television and for which he had served as show runner. His latest program is billed as a limited series, but if sufficient ratings are generated, it could easily slide into a regular spot on TNT’s prime-time schedule.

“I needed a good experience after the last one,” said Darabont, most famous for directing a pair of prison dramas, “The Green Mile” and “The Shawshank Redemption.” “I had plenty of bad feelings about doing TV again. But look, a horse tramples you, you can get back on the horse and ride some more, or you decide you’re never going to ride again.

“I’m not going to just sit back and feel sorry for myself, lick my wounds. That’s ridiculous. You essentially have to move on.”

“Mob City” is loosely based on John Buntin’s nonfiction book “L.A. Noir,” which focuses on the tumult swirling around the Los Angeles Police Department during the 1940s. In particular, the long and often bloody struggle between LAPD Police Chief William Parker (Neal McDonough) and gangster kingpins Ben “Bugsy” Siegel (Ed Burns) and Mickey Cohen (Jeremy Luke) forms the narrative spine.

Breakfast by the dozen

ALEX ROGALS | DAILY EGYPTIAN

Megan Young, of Benton, fills a box of a dozen donuts Saturday at Dixie Cream Donuts in West Frankfort. Supervisor Laura Dunning said the donut shop makes up to 750 donuts each night for the next day. “They start around noon and go until the next morning making donuts, and we deliver to different places like gas stations and local stores throughout the entire night,” Dunning said. The store is open from 5 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily.
Egyptian assembly approves new constitution

NANCY A. YOUSSEF McClatchy Foreign Staff

Egypt’s Constituent Assembly on Sunday approved a new constitution that calls for more rights and freedoms as an increasingly police-state-like state tightens control in the wake of the 2011 uprising.

Protesters angered by the police killing of a student on a university campus last week took to Cairo’s Tahrir Square to demonstrate and were met by security forces who fired tear gas to disperse the crowd, and then moved military tanks into position to close off access to the downtown area.

Meanwhile, the government announced that it would hold for another 15 days Alaa Abdel Fatah, a blogger who was instrumental in organizing anti-government protests in 2011. Fatah was detained Friday when police raided his home.

All the while, the Constituent Assembly’s 48 members sat in a chamber licensed in the 247-article constitution was read aloud.

The new document promises freedom of religion, women’s rights and bans human trafficking and the sex trade. But it also enshrines the role of the country’s strongest, Gen. Abdel Fattah el-Sissi, as defense minister for the next eight years, forbidding his dismissal by anyone other than the country’s top military command.

The constitution also would prohibit religious-based political parties — a step that would make illegal any Muslim Brotherhood-based political group such as the now-banned Freedom and Justice Party, under whose banner deposed President Mohammed Morsi became Egypt’s first democratically elected leader. It would allow members of former President Hosni Mubarak’s government, who were banned from office after Mubarak resigned in 2011, once again to run.

The approval of the new constitution — it still must be approved by voters in a referendum — at the same time security forces were arresting demonstrators in the streets showed the bifurcated state of Egyptian politics.

The military-appointed government, scarred after Morsi’s July ouster, has presented itself as defenders of the 2011 uprising, though the proposed constitution. But on the streets, the government has increasingly suppressed individual freedoms.

What’s made the vaguely worded constitution something of a side issue, say democracy advocates.

“You won’t find anyone here concerned or paying attention to the constitution,” said Ali Hassan, 22, a member of the engineering students union at Cairo University who was among hundreds who refused to attend classes because of the death Thursday of one of their fellow students during an on-campus anti-government rally.

“We are fighting for the rights of our colleagues killed, injured and detained,” Hassan said, voting not to attend classes until students who had been arrested were released.

Egypt seems stuck between a government committed to reinstating old practices and an opposition that cannot move its cause beyond protests. In the past month, the government has allowed police to enter university campuses at any time to disrupt anti-government demonstrations. Interior Minister Adly Mansour enacted a controversial protest law, banning anyone from protesting without government permission. Two days later, roughly 200 protesters were arrested, including top opposition leaders.

“Have you to stop revolting,” Mansour said Saturday in a call to talk show. “Police will consider arrested and the president will call for new elections.”

Last month, the government sentenced 21 young women, including teenagers, to 11 years in prison for peacefully demonstrating in favor of Morsi.

In response, opposition groups have increased their protests around the country.

Ann Mousa, a former secretary general of the Arab League and of theByID document explicitly protects el-Sissi from dismissal for the next two presidential terms. Article 234 would not allow anyone to be dismissed without the approval of the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces. The article would also state that the president can promote or demote the constitution passes, ensuring that el-Sissi, who engineered the coup that ousted Morsi, will remain one of the country’s most powerful officials, even if he doesn’t run for the presidency next year, something many people here are urging him to do.

The constitution would appear to leave open the likelihood that there will be no heirs on the government’s current campaign against the Muslim Brotherhood, which has seen thousands of Morsi supporters detained under the military’s “war on terrorism.” The constitution says that “the state is committed to combating terrorism, incitement, and manifestations, and track sources of its funding as it is a threat to the homeland and citizens while ensuring the rights and public freedoms.”

“”This is what we see unfolding: an attempt to protect the regime from the democratic spell that is coming its way — one way or the other,” Hassan Balghat, prominent human rights activist and lawyer told Al Ahram online, the English version of the main state owned newspaper.

Jon Hilkewich

Texting at stoplight an accident waiting to happen

The light had turned green, but the driver preparing to turn left from Dearborn Street onto Upper Wacker Drive sat there for four seconds until a chorus of honks behind her jolted her out of her own world.

This scene and others like it involvings drivers who look at their phones while stopped in traffic are becoming increasingly familiar across the nation. And, according to transportation experts, police officers and researchers, the distracted driving is snarling traffic and causing many crashes, some of them deadly.

Illinois bans using phones in traffic in many cases and will crack down on it even more next year.

“’If you’re on the brake pedal, and you are texting, it is a violation’ punishable by a fine ranging from $50 to $100,” said Svetlana Bogdanov, a Chicago police Lt. Steve Seno said. ‘I’ve seen people texting and putting their makeup on while stopped. There are all sorts of scenarios that you can find right there.”

Traffic flow disruption occurs when fewer vehicles make it through intersections because drivers are texting — according to police officers who say they often observe more eyes at intersections pointed down on the road.

Traffic while stopped can also spark road rage in drivers delayed by the texting motorists and can lead texting motorists to pull jackrabbit starts and other erratic maneuvers once they snap out of their reverie, according to Fred Mannering, a traffic engineer director for research at Purdue University’s Center for Road Safety.

Put another way, it takes 4.6 seconds on average to read or send a text while behind the wheel, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. So in less time than it takes to type “AYTMTB” (shorthand for “And you’re texting me, this is bad”), any vehicle behind a driver texting in Chicago and the suburbs that react to vehicle volume can change from red to green.

And a slow reaction by a texting driver to start moving — whether the vehicle is in first on line or farther back behind the lead vehicle can instead send those traffic signals into thinking that vehicles on one street have cleared out and it’s time to switch the signal to allow cross

traffic to move, said Mannering, a civil engineering professor who studies driver behavior and the cause and effect of traffic accidents.

“If there is an ad-hoc as a two-second delay between cars, fewer cars make it through on a shortened green phase,” Mannering said. "The traffic signals become what we call 'gapped' or something, because the detectors in the pavement think the queue has ended and no more traffic needs to get through on the green movement.”

Smart-signals intersections have vehicle-detection systems that help determine the length of a green light, based on how many vehicles are present. The stopped vehicle of a texting motorist often creates a gap between vehicles during a green light, which triggers detectors into ending the green light, Mannering said.

Besides prompting traffic congestion, traffic while used in traffic is illegal in Illinois. Exceptions are if the driver is texting to report an emergency, using a hands-free or voice-activated device, parked on the shoulder, or stopped in traffic with the transmission in park (or neutral, for a manual transmission).

Illinois’ cellphome and texting laws are primary laws, meaning a police officer can pull over the driver without having to see another violation. Seventy-five Illinois municipalities, including Chicago, ban hand-held cellphone use for all drivers.

Effective Jan. 1, the use of hand-held devices while driving will be illegal in Illinois, except in the case of an emergency. Hands-free technology will be allowed.

Little data is available on drivers texting while stopped in traffic. But using cell phones and texting while driving, more generally, causes 3.6 million accidents a year in the United States, according to the National Safety Council.

In Illinois, almost 6,000 crashes have occurred from 2008 to 2012 in which some form of driver distraction involving a cell phone was cited by police, according to the Illinois Department of Transportation. The toll included 30 fatalities and more than 2,500 injuries, IDOT said.

IDOT officials call those numbers conservative and say the crashes almost certainly include drivers who were texting while stopped in traffic.

“The information is based on what police officers write on the crash reports,” IDOT spokeswoman Jae Miller said. “We think that distractions and phones as a cause are probably under-represented.”

In response to the problem of distracted driving, Illinois State Police and local law enforcement agencies in Illinois have been doing an increasing number of stings this year to catch drivers texting and engaging in other behavior that involves phones and electronic devices.

This year through October, state police troopers issued about 2,800 citations and more than 1,300 warnings for texting while driving.

Federal, state and local officials have shown a bright light on distracted driving. For instance, the U.S. Department of Transportation points out that people who text while driving are three times more likely to be in a crash. But awareness of that risk hasn’t reached enough drivers.

One of the problems was in a full view on a recent weekday in Chicago. At several intersections in the city, drivers were texting while stopped in traffic waiting for lights to change could be seen flecking their eyes up and down every few seconds.
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We Know SIU
Could BCS title game leave out the SEC? Auburn and Missouri say no way

The Cougars had six players score at least 10 points with Pippen leading them with 17. SIU was out-rebounded 32-28 in the loss. Hinson said he takes the blame for the way his team has been playing.

"I'm disappointed in our basketball team, I'm disappointed in myself," Hinson said. "When you have a team that's not very tough and doesn't play hard, that's on me." The Salukis have the week off before they welcome the Hilltoppers of Western Kentucky University Saturday at SIU Arena.

Hinson said he expects the schedule his team had in place was not going to be easy, but they will have time to work on things in the coming weeks.

"Our schedule wasn't really conducive to start off with a lot of success," Hinson said. "We get ourselves beat up. We don't have a lot of confidence right now. We have a stretch here where we can get a lot of practice.

Tylor Dixon can be reached at tdixon@dailyEgyptian.com or (618)-536-3111 ext. 282.

**Vikings top Bears 23-20 in overtime**

You're at an all-time high because you think you've got a victory, and then you're sitting there waiting for what the call is and you're at an all-time low.

— Adrian Peterson

Vikings running back

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Salukis fall in MVC Championship

TYLER DIXON
Daily Egyptian

For the first time in 11 meetings, the Cougars of Chicago State University beat the Salukis, as SIU had a .136 hitting percentage in the match and only had one set where they had a sideout percentage of more than 50 percent. Wichita State took the second set 25-17 and was able to get the sweep with a 25-18 win in the third set.

In the match against Bradley, it set up a match against the Panthers of Northern Iowa. The Salukis had already beaten UNI twice this season.

In the match against Bradley, the first three sets pushed both teams to the brink. The Salukis took the first set 26-24 and were looking to take a two set to none lead. SIU led 24-20 in the second set, but Bradley kept fighting and took the set 28-26. Whitehead had the final kill to win the third set for the Salukis 25-23, and take a two set to one lead.

"The team was really excited because we knew we were going to take this fourth set," Whitehead said.

SIU cruised to a 25-15 win in the fourth set to grab a spot in the semi-finals. Whitehead led all players with 25 kills in the match while Viggars finished with 10 kills and 10 digs. The win against Bradley was Coach Justin Ingram's 40th win as a head coach.

Despite the two wins against the Panthers, Ingram said just as he has all season that any team could lose on any given night.

"I think we need to retool some things and make sure we're playing a bit more loose, but loose with purpose," Ingram said.

The Salukis came out strong against Northern Iowa winning the first two sets, 25-21 and 25-20. Side out percentage, which has been a key stat for Ingram this season, fell below 50 percent in the third set while the Panthers went up to 63 percent. UNI took the third set 25-18.

"Our ability to sideout was low in the third set and we struggled with errors and serve receive," Ingram said.

SIU was able to get key service points from Kaminisky in the fourth set en route to a 25-21 set win and a 3-1 match win. The offense and defense were working for the Salukis in the match. They had three players with double-digit kills and four with double-digit digs.

The Salukis' final match of the season put them against the Shockers for the third time this season. Wichita State swept SIU in Kansas earlier this season, but SIU was able to get a five-set win at Davies Nov. 2.

SIU had a hard time finding its rhythm from the start of the match. They had a small lead in the first set until the Shockers went on a roll to take the opening set 25-20. The Salukis had a .136 hitting percentage in the match and only had one set where they had a sideout percentage of more than 50 percent. Wichita State took the second set 25-17 and was able to get the sweep with a 25-18 win in the third set.

Whitehead led SIU in kills for every match in the tournament; she had 11 kills in the championship match and had 55 kills in the tournament.

Whitehead and junior defensive specialist Alex Rivera each made the MVC All-Tournament team.

Ingram said the team proved a lot this season.

"When we look back at everything this group has done, these girls are proud of their accomplishments that have happened and certainly the level of play that the group has put forth," Ingram said.

SIU ends its season with a 20-13 record and will lose three graduating seniors this season, but have the rest of its roster returning.

Tyler Dixon can be reached at tdixon@dailyegyptian.com or 536-3311 ext. 269.

Defensive struggles hurt Dawgs in Windy City

TYLER DIXON
Daily Egyptian

For the first time in 11 meetings, the Cougars of Chicago State University beat the Salukis, as SIU had a season-high seven 3-pointers in the game. SIU (2-6) wrapped up a tough stretch Saturday during which they played six games in 11 days. Chicago State (3-4) took full advantage of the situation to get an 88-84 win in front of its home fans.

It has not been the start SIU fans expected, considering the last time the Salukis started 2-6 was the 1985-1986 season.

Coach Barry Hinson said several things accounted for his team's slow start this season. "When you're not very tough, you don't play with a lot of energy and you don't communicate, those are three ingredients for an unsuccessul recipe," Hinson said.

"We're not playing very good basketball right now," Hinson said. "I think we need to reset some things and make sure we're playing a bit more loose, but loose with purpose," Ingram said.

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