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Daily Egyptian 2011

1-5-2011

The Daily Egyptian, January 05, 2011

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Volume 96, Issue 79

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ISAAC SMITH | DAILY EGYPTIAN

Leslie Duram, chair of the Department of Geography and Environmental Resources, organizes coupons while checking out at the Neighborhood Co-op Grocery Monday. Monday marked the third furlough day at SIUC and the second furlough day sale

at the Co-op. Francis Murphy, the store's general manager, said the store marked all merchandise down five percent to draw in people who may not have shopped because of the furlough day otherwise.

Furlough day discount reels in local business

LEAH STOVER
Daily Egyptian

On two days that SIU employees didn't work, they and the rest of the shoppers at the Neighborhood Co-op Grocery were given a discount on groceries.

On Dec. 23 and Jan. 3, the university's second and third of four furlough days, the Neighborhood Co-op gave a five-percent furlough day discount on all merchandise. Francis Murphy, general manager of the Co-op, said the objective was to give back to the community on days when some SIU employees were out of work.

The store made around \$20,000 Dec. 23, about 50 percent more than on a normal day, Murphy said.

"It was successful from the point of view that we were giving back to the community," Murphy said. "By any measure, it has been successful."

However, Murphy said the store had less bulk sales Jan. 3 because there weren't as many people in town. People tend to go out of town this time of year and all businesses within the

66 *The thing about SIU is that there are over 7,000 employees, so whatever happens to SIU has a huge impact on all of the other businesses in the community. The university is the economic engine for the whole region.*

community suffer, Murphy said.

As SIU's financial problems continue, Murphy said a lot of people are afraid of further cuts and are taking precaution by limiting their spending. In turn, he said, local businesses are hurting.

"The thing about SIU is that there are over 7,000 employees, so whatever happens to SIU has a huge impact on all of the other businesses in the community," Murphy said. "The university is the economic engine for the whole region."

Maria Martin, a high school teacher from Herrin, said the discount couldn't be anything other than a positive incentive for people to shop at the Co-op. Martin said the discount provides motivation to drive the extra mile

Murphy said the Co-op's business doesn't seem to be as greatly impacted by students being on break as it is by SIU's financial troubles.

He said 85 percent of the Co-op's customers have at least a bachelor's degree and 35 percent have advanced degrees. The store's customers are primarily employees of the university, not students, he said.

"It isn't until graduate school that students really begin functioning as a household would," Murphy said.

However, the Co-op does offer savings for students by putting on Sakuki Sunday every first Sunday of the month. Murphy said students receive 10 percent off their purchases by providing their student ID.

Martin said she has lived in the area

— Francis Murphy
general manager of the Co-op

for more than ten years and has seen the economic status of Carbondale noticeably decline. She said retail and grocery stores don't seem to be losing business, but the strip isn't as populated as it used to be.

She said the Dec. 15 reopening of Hangar 9, a bar that had its roof collapse during a January 2009 ice storm, is going to benefit Carbondale and hopefully bring more business to the strip.

Hangar 9 owner Sally Carter said she couldn't have asked for better business during break. Carter said there's been a band every night since the bar opened and the building has been filled with people.

"I think opening during finals week was great because it got enough of the college students interested," she said. "It

seemed like the entire student body was in there the first few nights and if they didn't get to make it, then they're going to want to check it out when they get back."

Carter said the main reason Hangar has received a lot of immediate business is because it is new, and she expects business to eventually level out.


Murphy said he thinks the reopening of Hangar is good for the community and will hopefully be an incentive for students to attend SIU.

He said the Co-op will offer the furlough day discount for the third time on March 15, the university's fourth furlough day.

"What happens in the community directly affects us, so we use the furlough day discount as a way to give back — and recognize that we've been here for 25 years (thanks) in a large measure to the university community," Murphy said.

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Mission Statement

The DAILY EGYPTIAN, the student-run newspaper of Southern Illinois University Carbondale, is committed to being a trusted 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. Offices are in the Communications Building, Room 1259, at Southern Illinois University Carbondale, Carbondale, IL 62901; Bill Freitvogel, fiscal officer.

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Israel focuses its energy on clean technologies

The Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — After a successful run of high-tech and computer-related innovation, Israel is focusing its ambitions on the next big thing — preparing the world for life without coal and oil.

Israel is driving to become a world leader in alternative energy, with the government throwing its support behind cutting-edge technologies. The number of private entrepreneurs entering the so-called "clean-tech" sector has swelled dramatically.

Already, a number of firms are moving to roll out new ideas. Perhaps the country's best known clean-tech company — Project Better Place — aims next year to activate a network of charging stations for electric cars across Israel, which would be one of the most extensive such grids in the world.

Others are still in early stages. On a 10-meter (yard) stretch of a north Israel highway, the firm Innowattech tested out its system of tile-like generators, which are installed under roads and convert the weight and motion of passing vehicles into electricity. It is now looking to expand, claiming that a kilometer-long (0.6-mile) lane of its generators could power more than 200 households.

Alex Klein, an analyst at Emerging Energy Research, a Cambridge, Mass., research firm, said Israel — a country of fewer than 8 million people — has in a way benefited from its small size, forcing it to develop products for

66 view this as a national goal of the highest importance because the addiction to oil has led to the Western world being dependent on the oil-producing countries and harms the standing and security of the state of Israel.

export.

"Given that it has a small market locally, its role will continue to be innovating new next-generation technology. Pound for pound it is a pretty key incubator of technologies," he said.

Israel already has a formidable track record. Bolstered in large part by veterans of shadowy high-tech military units, the country helped develop such innovations as instant messaging, Internet telephony and wireless computer chips.

The government is now pushing for that entrepreneurial drive to be directed into environmentally clean technologies, not only as an economic opportunity but as a necessity for an arid, resource-poor nation. Israel, which now depends almost entirely for its energy on imported coal and natural gas, has set a goal to have 10 percent of its electricity generated by alternative means by 2020.

In November, the government approved a plan to spend \$600 million over the next decade to reach that goal, with much of the money poured into encouraging green construction and development of new technologies.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu presented the plan as a security necessity.

"I view this as a national goal

of the highest importance because the addiction to oil has led to the Western world being dependent on the oil-producing countries and harms the standing and security of the state of Israel," he said.

Israel's green innovation dates back decades.

The country is the birthplace of drip irrigation, a technology that promotes agriculture in arid areas. Israel recycles about three quarters of its waste water for agriculture, and for decades the roofs of its homes have been fitted with solar panels that provide hot water.

Eugene Kandel, a U.S.-educated economist who spearheads the government's efforts, said the clean-tech drive has the same motivation as the earlier breakthroughs.

"In both cases it's a matter of necessity being the mother of inventions," said Kandel, who heads Israel's National Economic Council.

In real terms, the country still lags far behind clean-tech giants such as Japan, Germany and the United States. According to an analysis of the European Union's World Patent Statistical Database issued last month, Israel wasn't even among the top 10 countries patenting environmental inventions between 2000 and 2005.

But that may change as Israel's clean-tech sector revs up. In the third quarter of this year, investments in the sector totalled \$120 million, half of all private-equity investment in Israel.

In 2006, there were about 120 clean-tech companies in Israel, and 120 more have been established each year since, said Glen Schwaber, a partner at Israel Cleantech Ventures, the country's first and largest venture capital firm to focus exclusively on alternative energy.

"Per capita, we are head and shoulders above everyone else," he said.

Eight Israeli companies have been named in each of the past two years to the Global Cleantech 100 — a respected industry barometer of the top 100 companies worldwide. Only the United States and Great Britain had more companies named.

When General Electric Corp. handed out \$100,000 grants in July as part of its international challenge to companies to build the next-generation power grid, two of the five winners were Israeli companies.

Israel is starting to increase its solar energy sector. Last week, it dedicated its largest on-grid solar project — an \$8.5 million collection of 40 solar panel systems that

will supply 2 megawatts, enough to power about 500 homes, said Isaac Isman, vice president of business development at IC Green Projects.

This month, the government plans to issue bids for 10 more solar projects in the Negev Desert, with a total capacity of 60 megawatts.

An Israeli-based operation, Siemens AG's Solel Solar Systems, is helping build the Mojave Solar Park, a 6,000-acre power-producing complex in California expected to go online next year.

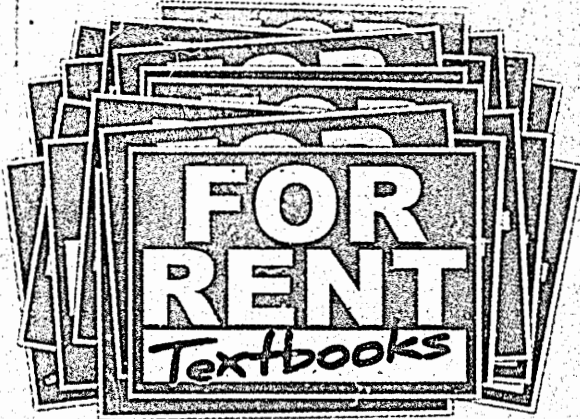
Israeli firm CellEra has joined the international race to develop viable fuel cells, a technology that so far has been too expensive for commercial use. It has built what it says is a working prototype of a hydrogen fuel cell that operates without using platinum, greatly reducing the cost. It is now aiming to develop a market-ready version.

Israeli-American businessman Shai Agassi, of Project Better Place, said Israel's small size and dense population, along with government help, made the country attractive for his firm's network for encouraging electric cars.

He predicts that about half the cars in Israel will be electric by 2015.

At a recent business conference in Israel, some 1,000 companies from around the world came to study Better Place's progress, he said.

"When China comes to Israel to learn about electric cars, then something amazing is happening in Israel," he said.



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WASHINGTON (AP) — A new administration proposal to beef up oversight of the food supply and allow mandatory recalls.

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IVORY COAST

Ivory Coast's transitional leader pushing out of office to accept extremely deal, rival warns

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (AP) — For the second time, Ivory Coast's transitional leader pushed out of office to accept extremely deal, rival warns.

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AUSTRALIA

152,000 residents of flood-affected areas to be evacuated in Australia

BRISBANE, Australia (AP) — A military night ordered Monday to rescue an Australian city before it was cut off by floodwaters that have turned a huge stretch of the Outback into a lake, while police confirmed two more deaths in the crisis.

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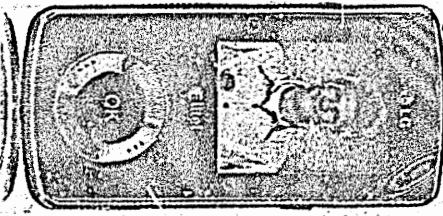
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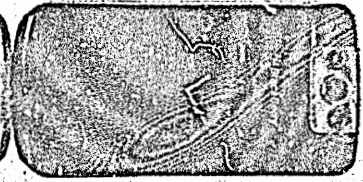
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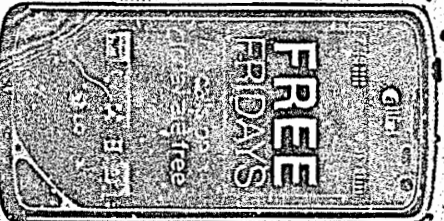
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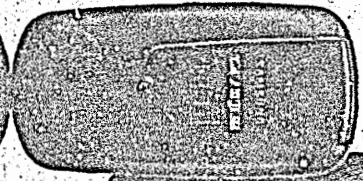
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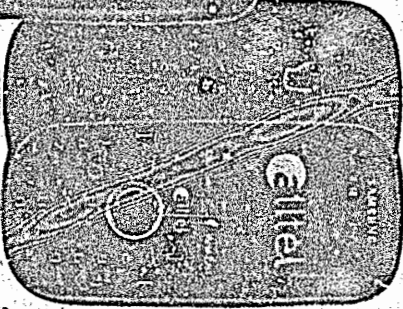
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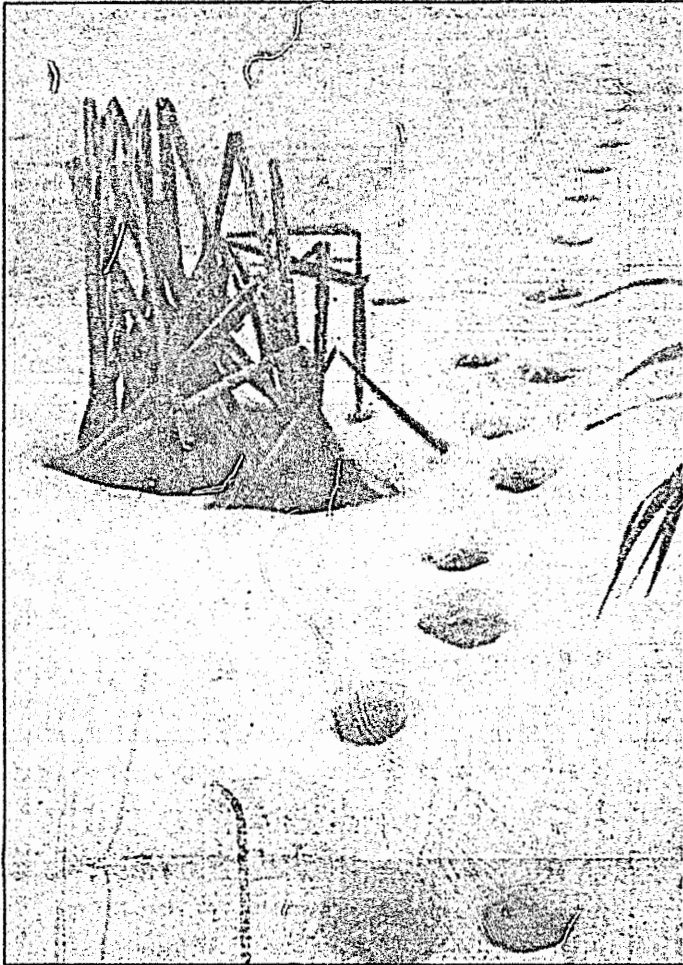
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Tracking through the snow



PAT SUTPHIN | DAILY EGYPTIAN

Animal tracks lie along the edge of a creek hunting ended Jan. 2 and will resume Jan. 14. Dec. 30 at James "Pate" Phillips Forest Preserve. Rabbit and quail seasons will continue until in Bartlett. The late winter season for deer mid-January.

Ill. Democrats edging toward vote on tax increase

The Associated Press

SPRINGFIELD, ILL. (AP) — Illinois Democrats are edging closer to a possible vote on raising income taxes during a lame-duck session of the state Legislature.

Senate President John Cullerton said Tuesday that Democratic leaders are studying whether they can pass an increase in the Illinois House. The Senate has already approved a tax hike of 2 percentage points.

House Speaker Michael Madigan

is pushing two constitutional amendments that might help win support for higher taxes. One would limit growth in state spending, while the other would make it harder to approve costly pension benefits for government employees.

Democrats are also pursuing deals on Medicaid costs, school reform and worker's compensation.

Together, the measures could be used to argue Democrats are serious about handling tax money more responsibly if an increase is approved.

Chicago mayoral candidates want a new police chief

The Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — No matter which of the four top candidates running for mayor in Chicago is elected, it's all but certain the city will soon have a new police superintendent.

On Tuesday, Rahm Emanuel told reporters it's important if he's elected to have what he called a "fresh start" and select a new police superintendent when Jody Weis'

contract expires in March.

Previously, candidates Gery Chico and Carol Moseley Braun said they want to appoint a new superintendent. And Tuesday, Miguel del Valle issued a statement saying he would replace Weis if elected.

Emanuel also says Weis has indicated he intends to step down when his contract is up. But while Weis couldn't be reached Tuesday, as recently as Friday he said he wants to keep his job.

Services set for Ill. Marine killed in Afghanistan

The Associated Press

BETHALTO, ILL. (AP) — Services are scheduled Thursday for a southwestern Illinois Marine killed last month during combat

operations in Afghanistan.

Twenty-three-year-old Lance Cpl. Kenneth Corzine of Bethalto died Dec. 24 of injuries he sustained 19 days earlier when a roadside bomb detonated in Afghanistan's Helmand province.

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Senator wants FTC investigation of helmet makers

HOWARD FENDRICH
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A U.S. Senator is asking the Federal Trade Commission to investigate "misleading safety claims and deceptive practices" in the selling of new football helmets and reconditioning of used ones.

In a letter dated Tuesday — a copy of which was obtained by The Associated Press on Monday night — Sen. Tom Udall, D-N.M., tells FTC chairman Jon Leibowitz that helmet companies "appear to be using misleading advertising claims" and that "some helmet reconditioning companies may be falsely selling used helmets as meeting an industry safety standard."

In his letter to the FTC's Lei-

bowitz, Udall says he is "troubled by misleading marketing claims by Riddell, a leading helmet maker that supplies the official helmet to the National Football League."

He quotes Riddell's website as saying that "research shows a 31 percent reduction in the risk of concussion in players wearing a Riddell Revolution football helmet when compared to traditional helmets."

Udall adds: "Yet there is actually very little scientific evidence to support the claim."

In the letter — which was first reported by The New York Times — Udall also refers to what he terms "misleading safety claims used in online video advertisements for helmets." He specifically cites Riddell and Schutt Sports.

"After reviewing Senator

Udall's letter to the Federal Trade Commission, we believe his statements and allegations are unfounded and unfair," Riddell CEO Dan Arment said in a statement e-mailed to the AP.

"Riddell has consistently maintained a policy of transparency with all of our research and products and participated in any helmet test when requested. Riddell has exceeded all of the industry standards and conducts and submits to more rigorous testing than most companies in other industries," Arment's statement added.

Arment continued: "We welcome any scrutiny and review. For the public's benefit, we hope that the FTC will provide greater scrutiny of all helmet manufacturers."

A Schutt Sports spokesman said the company was aware of Udall's

letter but declined comment.

In November, Udall asked the Consumer Product Safety Commission to investigate whether safety standards for football helmets are adequate to protect players from concussions. Udall serves on the Senate Commerce Committee, which oversees the CPSC.

His letter to the FTC's Leibowitz says the "voluntary industry standard for football helmets does not specifically address concussion prevention or reduction." That standard is set by the National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment (NOCSAE), a nonprofit corporation.

Helmets used in NFL, NCAA and high school football are supposed to pass a test developed

by NOCSAE. The group's website says it establishes "voluntary test standards"; that "manufacturers test their own helmets"; and that "NOCSAE does not possess a surveillance force to ensure compliance with the standards."

Udall also wants the FTC to "look into potential false and deceptive practices related to the reconditioning of used helmets."

He writes: "NOCSAE and the National Athletic Equipment Reconditioning Association (NAERA) do not conduct market surveillance or follow up testing of helmets to ensure compliance with their certifications. Moreover, there is no standard for how often used helmets must be recertified. Such potentially dangerous used helmets are commonly worn by players at all levels of football."

SPORTS IN SHORTS

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

GAINESVILLE, Fla. (AP) — Florida confirmed that former Notre Dame coach Charlie Weis will be Washington's offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach. Muschamp also hired Seattle Seahawks defensive line coach Dan Quinn as defensive coordinator and line coach. Quinn spent the past 10 years in the NFL and has seven years of college experience. Frank Verducci was added as offensive line coach and running game coordinator. Verducci coached at Notre Dame in 2009 after eight seasons with four NFL teams. Weis and Quinn will remain with their NFL teams through the postseason. Muschamp has eight assistants now, leaving one spot to fill.

BASEBALL

DENVER (AP) — Carlos Gonzalez and the Colorado Rockies agreed to an \$80 million, seven-year contract, pending a physical. Even before the agreement was reached, Fabiola Bohorquez, a publicist for the outfielder, confirmed from Venezuela the deal was imminent. Gonzalez will soon fly to Denver to sign the contract, she said. Gonzalez had a breakout season in 2010, winning a Silver Slugger award and a Gold Glove. The 25-year-old won the NL hitting title with a .336 average and also hit 34 homers and drove in 117 runs despite a late leadoff for 44 games early in the year.

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP) — Baltimore Orioles reliever Alfredo Simon surrendered to police to face an involuntary manslaughter charge after a fatal shooting New Year's Eve. His lawyer said he was firing celebratory shots in the air. A judge ruled that Simon could be held for up to a year pending trial. The Dominican pitcher is suspected of killing 25-year-old Michel Castillo Almonte and wounding his 17-year-old brother in the northeast coastal town of Luperon. The dead man is Simon's cousin, according to the pitcher's lawyer. Police said witness accounts and evidence support the involuntary manslaughter charge.

BASKETBALL

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — WNBA star Diana Taurasi's backup doping sample came back positive and she faces a possible two-year ban, Turkish news reports said Tuesday. The Turkish basketball federation and official at Taurasi's Turkish club, Fenerbahce, did not immediately confirm the report. The Phoenix Mercury standout and former Connecticut star tested positive for the banned stimulant modafinil while playing in Turkey's league. Taurasi was tested following a league game Nov. 13 and the positive result was confirmed last month. She has been provisionally suspended by Fenerbahce pending the result of her "B" sample test, which was analyzed at the doping lab at Hacettepe University in Ankara.

HOCKEY

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — Mark Visentin made 32 saves and Canada beat the United States 4-1 in the semifinals of the World Junior Hockey Championships. Curtis Hamilton, Quinton Howden, Ryan Johansen and Zack Kassian scored for Canada, which plays Russia for the gold medal Wednesday. Russia beat Sweden 4-3 in a shootout earlier Monday. The U.S. will face Sweden for the bronze, seeking its first medal on home soil. The tournament has been staged four previous times in the United States. Canada is looking for its 16th gold medal since the inception of the tournament in 1977 and will make its 20th straight appearance in the title game.

SOCCER

LONDON (AP) — David Beckham is still waiting for the Los Angeles Galaxy to approve a loan to a European club, with Tottenham among the clubs eager to sign the former England captain. Beckham announced two weeks ago that he needed to keep playing during the winter to stay in contention for an England recall. But the MLS club said Beckham wouldn't be allowed to go to Europe and it expected him back at the end of January for the season opener on March 15. The Galaxy's reluctance comes after Beckham injured an Achilles tendon last March while playing in the offseason for AC Milan. He missed the first six months of the Galaxy season. Tottenham wants Beckham even if he would only play two months for the Premier League club.

Anthony Kim wants to be about golf, not gossip

DOUG FERGUSON
The Associated Press

KAPALUA, Hawaii (AP) — Anthony Kim wants 2011 to be a season that changes his career.

He hopes it might be enough to change his reputation, too.

One of the most dynamic young talents in golf that's what people were saying two years ago, when Kim blew away the field with a record score at Quail Hollow, then shot 65 in the final round at Congressional to win the AT&T National. It made him the youngest American since Tiger Woods to win twice in one year.

If that wasn't enough, he brought energy and attitude to the Ryder Cup and was the catalyst of a rare U.S. victory.

That now seems like a long time ago.

It's not that the 25-year-old Californian has disappeared. He is still among the elite at No. 31 in the world, having reached as high as No. 6 toward the end of 2008.

And only PGA Tour winners enjoy the oceanfront room that Kim has at Kapalua, where the Tournament of Champions kicks off a new season Thursday.

But he has a bitter taste about his last year ended.

He won the Houston Open in a playoff, then closed with a 65 at Augusta National to finish third. Thumb surgery a month later kept him out of golf for three months, and he failed to make the Ryder Cup team when he couldn't make a cut upon his return.

Kim still managed to make news, or at least gossip columns.

He has a zest for living, which first came to life with tales from his Ryder Cup celebration at Valhalla and carried on through Twitter and blog reports from a night in the Las Vegas casinos in October.

Is he closer to being like Tiger Woods or John Daly?

"That's a hell of a question," Kim said, smiling at first before pausing to contemplate.

Daly makes more news off the

course these days, so it's easy to overlook an amazing talent that brought him a PGA Championship title as a 25-year-old rookie in 1991 and a British Open victory at St. Andrews. Kim found it coincidental that after headlines he made in Las Vegas in October, Daly was the only tour player who reached out to him in a text message.

"Both have majors," Kim said. "I think I'm closer to Tiger because I love putting in the time. Now, I've gotten away from this. But I definitely feel like I'm closer as far as the values of the Asian culture and putting in time, not worrying about tough times. In a lot of ways, I think people see me as a guy who likes to have fun, and that's it. But I care about a lot of things."

Kim is careful not to be motivated for the wrong reasons.

He has trimmed the number of his traveling party and has heard from enough people whom he trusts that plying with the purpose of proving people wrong is the wrong route. Even so, he

feels as though fans, the media and players are questioning his devotion to his sport.

"I have a lot of people doubting me, which I like," he said.

When asked why they are skeptical of his future, Kim first mentioned the arrival of so many players in his age group. Indeed, that's what makes golf more intriguing than it has been in years. Martin Kaymer, who just turned 26, last year became the youngest major champion since Woods in 2001. Rory McIlroy won at Quail Hollow at age 20. Ryo Ishikawa was still 18 when he shot 58 to win in Japan. Jason Day won in Dallas, and at 23 is the youngest player at Kapalua.

Slightly older than Kim, and still very young, are the likes of Dustin Johnson and Hunter Mahan.

"A lot of guys played well who are younger, and they're overlooking me, which is fine," Kim said. "It's not that I have something to prove. I know I'm capable of winning golf tournaments."

But it's more than the youth

movement bugging Kim.

When asked whether he was troubled about players doubting him because of his activity off the course, Kim's eyes widened and he turned in his chair away from the Orange Bowl game on television.

"One hundred percent. Couldn't have said it any better," he said. "I feel that is a major reason why people doubt me. They don't think I care about golf. It's hard for people who don't know me to say, 'He's 25, having a good time with his friends.' If anyone knows me, they know I'm willing to admit to my mistakes. But when I do something, I want to be the best at it. I'm going to scratch and claw my way up the ladder. People around me see that."

Kim doesn't see the need to explain what happened in Las Vegas. If there was a lesson that came out of that, it was understanding that it's better to be the center of attention inside the ropes than under a neon sign.

SPORTS

Senator wants to make football helmets safer

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Weis to become Gators' offensive coordinator

Salukis shake up categories for nationals

66 We're going back through and saying 'OK, we don't like that. OK, we do like this. Let's switch this, this and this.

—Tawmi Conley
Shakers coach

BRANDON COLEMAN
Daily Egyptian

The Saluki Shakers will switch up their routines for nationals Jan. 14 through 16 after a new pom category sparked their interest last year at the competition, said team captain Jamie Faucher.

The Shakers competed in the jazz and hip-hop categories Feb. 5, 2010 at the Universal Dance Association National Dance Team Championship, but the team will move from the jazz to the pom category in 2011, said Faucher, a senior from Lemont.

The Shakers hired a choreographer to help compose their routine for the competition, which will be held in Orlando, she said.

The Shakers will compete against similarly-sized Division I schools such as Murray State and Illinois State, said Shakers coach Tawmi Conley.

In preparation for nationals, Conley said the Shakers videotape practices to decide which routine is best.

"We're going back through and saying 'OK, we don't like that. OK, we do like this. Let's switch this, this and this,'" Conley said.

Megan Campbell, a junior from Wayne City studying health care management, said she had not



GENNA ORD | DAILY EGYPTIAN

Junior Saluki Shaker Megan Campbell hypes up the crowd at a basketball game Dec. 1 at the SIU Arena. The Saluki Shakers

competed on a school dance team until she came to SIU. She joined the Shakers because they compete against other schools such as Missouri State and Wichita State, she said.

Brittany Cheves, a senior from Algonquin studying speech communication, competed in state competitions in high school and said she was determined to join a dance team in college.

"I really like how the Saluki

Shakers offer a national competition," Cheves said. "(And) you get to do football and basketball games, so you get the best of both worlds."

Faucher said other schools' spirit teams are broken up for different seasons. Some schools may also choose to do nationals or football season only, she said.

"The way our school is set up, we do every single aspect," Faucher said. "When I was a freshman, we even danced at

will compete in pom pom and hip-hop competitions Jan. 14 through 16.

volleyball games."

Cheves said many people don't notice the amount of time that the Shakers devote to events outside of their performances such as ribbon cuttings, fundraisers, parades and other promotions for the athletics department.

As captain, Faucher said she is constantly involved with raising money for the program. Even on days where she doesn't have practice, she still found herself

thinking of more fundraising ideas for the squad, Faucher said.

"Every single month, we're doing different fundraisers. That's where most of our money comes from," Faucher said. "We're trying to raise money ... for plane tickets to get to nationals."

Brandon Coleman can be reached at boleman@dailyegyptian.com or 536-3311 ext. 269.

Swim teams get back to work during break

BRANDON COLEMAN
Daily Egyptian

The Saluki swim teams plan to use Friday's meet against the Washington University Bears and Lindenwood University Lions in St. Louis as a practice meet, says sophomore distance swimmer Kirsten Groome.

Swim coach Rick Walker said he plans to use the two weeks before classes to whip his swimmers and divers back into shape. Every swimmer will go into Friday's competition sore after the teams prepare for conference competition later this month, he said.

Friday's meet is the teams' first after a long rest and takes place in the middle of their training camp. If the Salukis perform well there, it will show the potential they have

66 When it all comes down to it you can only control the things that you do. I can't do anything about my competitors (but) I can try and prepare for my competitors.

—Rick Walker
SIU swim coach

when rested, Groome said.

Junior backstroke and individual medley swimmer Cesar Perez said Walker and coaches Scott Olson and Chunhua Zhao urged everyone to stay active during break by lifting weights three times a week and swimming daily.

"I think the most important part of the year is when we don't have to worry about school or anything else but swimming and resting," Perez said.

Junior freestyle swimmer Matt Parsons said the coaches have designed the first two weeks of prac-

tice in January to get everyone back in shape fast.

The Salukis will practice twice a day, at 7 a.m. and 3 p.m., in preparation for the spring season, Walker said.

"Historically, any meet that falls within the first 10 or 12 days after Jan. 1 is anybody's (meet)," he said.

Walker said the Salukis want to win Friday, but it doesn't matter if the team loses to Washington and Lindenwood because it's more focused on being ready for conference meets.

"We don't really have very high expectations at the time but I know that we should win the meet still," Parsons said. "It's going to be a test of how tough we can swim, how much we can tolerate and how tired we are trying to swim well."

The Saluki men's swim team is currently ranked eighth in the nation among mid-major programs and is the highest-ranked team in the Mid-American Conference.

Parsons said the men's team has a chance to end Eastern Mich-

igan's reign as MAC champions. There will be pressure on the Salukis to perform well, but more pressure will be on the Eagles because they are the defending MAC champions, Parsons said.

"When it all comes down to it you can only control the things that you do," Walker said. "I can't do anything about my competitors (but) I can try and prepare for my competitors."

Groome and Perez said the team will not focus as much on achieving certain times Friday as it will on improving form and technique.

The meet is set to begin 6 p.m. Friday in St. Louis.

Brandon Coleman can be reached at boleman@dailyegyptian.com or 536-3311 ext. 269.