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Daily Egyptian Staff

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# University reacts to pension reform

**SETH RICHARDSON**  
Daily Egyptian

The recent pension overhaul passed by the Illinois General Assembly is receiving criticism from university employees and administration.

The bill was passed Tuesday and signed by Gov. Pat Quinn Thursday. It includes changes to Illinois' worst-in-the-nation pension system such as reducing or eliminating the cost-of-living adjustment or COLA, increasing minimum retirement ages and placing a cap on pensionable salaries.

"This bill will ensure retirement security for those who have faithfully contributed to the pension systems, end the squeeze on critical education and healthcare services and support economic growth," Quinn said in a Tuesday press release.

However, some at SIU are critical of changes they consider too extreme.

Economics professor Richard Grabowski, said the plan was a roundabout way for the state to recoup funds.

"The way it tries to solve the pension problem is through inflation, basically by eliminating the COLA (cost of living adjustment) on most of the salaries that people get in retirement," he said. "Then rising prices will rob the value from those incomes and pass it on to the State of Illinois. This is an old trick governments have used for years and years. It is a redistribution-by-stealth."

Professors were not the only group critical of the bill. SIU President Glenn Poshard said he and other university presidents commissioned an analysis of the law and could not support the reform.

"We decided that the changes that had been made, none of us could support the legislation because it was made to be pretty onerous on state employees and particularly universities," Poshard said.

Steven D. Cunningham, vice president for administration at Northern Illinois University, authored the analysis. It cites concerns with the COLA and the cap on pensionable salaries as its main concern.

The university presidents and chancellors authored a letter to Quinn Dec. 2 saying these two factors were too extreme for the group to support their legislation.

"They will adversely affect our collective ability to recruit and retain the people we need to educate the next generation of workers and entrepreneurs, provide health care for the state's neediest citizens, and build new startup companies and create jobs through university research," the letter said. "The bill will be detrimental to higher education in Illinois and ultimately to the overall economy of the State of Illinois."

Grabowski agreed and said the new system would likely put a large strain on a large number of people.

"I don't know if it will be enough to solve the pension problem, but it will dramatically affect the people involved because they've been operating under the assumption that the cost of living adjustment is going to be a particular number," he said. "So all their plans now are wrong. So all the people getting ready to retire or are already retired, it's too late to alter their decision-making and puts them in a bind."

The constitutionality of the law is also a concern. Under the state constitution, pension benefits are guaranteed and cannot be "diminished or impaired."

Please see **PENSION** | 3

## A winter weekend



JOHN SCOTT | DAILY EGYPTIAN

**John Quillmen, of Marion, blows snow in a parking lot on South Graham Street in Carbondale Sunday after this weekend's snowstorm. Quillmen, who works for Five Star Realty, said he had to plow his way to get to customers. "From Friday to Saturday we worked 30 hours straight trying to clear things up and we are averaging about 22 lots per day," Quillmen said.**



**Jordan Lopez, a fourth grader at Lewis Elementary School, builds a snowman Sunday in his front yard. On his day off Friday, he said he enjoyed playing in the snow, which is something he does not get to do often. "The best part about it is getting to build cool things with my friends," Lopez said.**

REMY ABROUGHT  
DAILY EGYPTIAN

## SIU experiences first snow day since 2009, finals week on schedule

**LUKE NOZICKA**  
Daily Egyptian

Despite four days of treacherous freezing rain, frigid conditions, gusting winds and snow, this week's final exam will be unaffected.

However, University spokesperson Rae Goldsmith said she recommends students contact professors about final projects and exams.

"We do encourage students to reach out to their faculty members if they have concerns and we know a lot of faculty and students have been online by email, so we hope people will reach out to connect directly with their faculty," Goldsmith said.

SIU President Glenn Poshard said it is

rare for the SIU campus to close, as it did Friday. The most recent snow day at SIU was in February of 2009.

"We don't usually get this kind of severe weather this early, in terms of snow and ice and that sort of thing," he said.

Poshard said deciding if the campus would close was based upon the report given to the chancellor by physical plant services.

"A lot of times it depends upon, is it continuing bad weather, do we have a chance to get the sidewalks and the parking lots cleared without any piling back up right behind us," he said.

With finals this week, Poshard said it was problematic to close the university Friday, but the shutdown was necessary.

"This close to the end of the session you really want to get in all the classes you can because finals are coming up," he said. "But I think the risk was too great, I had to be pushed out of my driveway (Friday) morning."

Goldsmith said they are keeping an eye on the weather and do not see the need to reschedule finals week.

"Students should assume finals will take place as planned and we're pretty confident that we will be in good shape on Monday," she said.

Phil Gatton, director of plant and service operations, said the initial decision was made Friday morning around 4:30, and is a long and complicated process.

Please see **SNOW** | 3



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**Chicago schools transition — effortless or jagged**

**MARTHA IRVINE**  
 Associated Press

CHICAGO — Devion Allen peers wistfully through a door window at the school he used to attend. Those who live outside his gritty, violence-plagued neighborhood might dismiss this towering brick building as just another failing urban school. But to the eighth grader, the school across the street from his mom's subsidized apartment was a haven — “like a family,” he says.

To the administrators of Chicago Public Schools, though, the neighborhood school was underutilized and underperforming — one of 47 public schools that closed in the city in June, most of them in high-poverty neighborhoods with mostly minority populations. Two more will be phased out by the end of the school year.

Allen left his school for the last time last summer, holding back tears as chaos and protests ensued. From that point on, the school, formerly known as Lafayette Elementary, became a symbol in a citywide and even national debate about the future course of public education.

Soon, officials say, the empty building

will likely house an arts high school operated as a contract school, publicly funded but privately run.

“It’s not fair,” Allen said. He and many of his friends, meanwhile, have been shifted to a school about a half mile away, one that is smaller than their old school and jammed with twice as many students as it had last school year.

Officials have dubbed it a “welcoming school,” the name given to the Chicago schools that have taken in students from closed buildings.

The idea was to send displaced students to schools with better test scores, combining forces to give them a better shot at a good education.

That appears to be happening at some of the combined schools, where those involved say they’re making the best of a challenging situation.

“It’s going to be OK. It’s going to be OK,” grandparent Dexter Leggin tells students and parents when he works at an after-school program at Melody Elementary, a welcoming school on the city’s West Side.

To lighten the mood and promote unity, he’s taken to calling the school “Melano” — a combination of Melody

and Delano Elementary, the closed school. In this instance, the school took the Melody name because it was the higher-performing school, but kept the Delano building because it was a better fit. Leggin says that arrangement has helped.

Overall, Chicago Public Schools officials say the transition has been going smoothly and insist that, as they’d hoped, most students are in a better situation than they were before.

“We’ve kept that promise,” said Denise Little, who leads the team that oversees the district’s principals.

Some teachers and parents at welcoming schools, however, tell a very different story. They complain that overcrowding and an overall lack of support is making the transition rough.

The Chopin School, where Allen attends, is so packed that the staff there has had to give up the very amenities this transition was supposed to provide — the computer lab, the library and art and music rooms. The school’s psychologist, occupational therapist and speech pathologist also are working in windowless, unvented spaces that were formerly storage closets. Sometimes, students are tested there.



# SIU game honors wounded warriors

**LUKE NOZICKA**  
Daily Egyptian

In honor of veterans around the world, Saturday's military appreciation men's basketball game held several festivities to recognize wounded servicemen and women.

The game consisted of many soldiers, from cadets to veterans, who relaxed and were honored while watching Saluki basketball.

The event started when university Reserve Officers' Training Corps cadet Allison Lampe, a junior studying photojournalism from Polo, sang the national anthem. She said she told her sergeant she was interested in singing, her lifelong hobby, at the game.

"I had a video from a previous event I did," Lampe said. "They took a look at it and thought I was good, so they decided they would do it on the military appreciation game to honor ROTC and the military."

During a media time out in the first half, Lampe received a two-year Guaranteed Reserve Forces Duty Scholarship of \$5,000, leaving her with a total of more than \$25,000 in ROTC scholarships.

"It's going to be an immense help to me... one of the reasons I did choose ROTC was there are so many benefits to it, as a college kid I get to know that I'm going to get out of college and have money saved up," she said.

Earlier this week, two other ROTC cadets were awarded scholarships, while Tori Briggs, a junior from Sheridan, Wyo., studying biomedical science, received a two-and-a-half-year Federal Scholarship, added to a total of almost \$20,000 in ROTC scholarships. Otis Woods, a junior from Chicago studying radiology, received a three-year Federal Scholarship with a total of more than \$38,000 ROTC scholarships.

"It's definitely a stress relief off my parents too, you know," Briggs said. "I don't have to worry about tuition and have somewhere to live and have



CHRIS ZOELLER | DAILY EGYPTIAN

**Reserve Officers' Training Corps cadet Allison Lampe, center, receives a scholarship check Saturday during Military Appreciation Day at the men's basketball game at SIU Arena. Lampe, one of three cadets to collect scholarships this week, has received more than \$25,000 in scholarship funds. Lampe also helped kick off Saturday's event by singing the national anthem.**

to pay for that."

Lt. Col. Jon Sowards said the scholarships are extremely competitive and are awarded based on grades, physical ability and cadet's level of participation and commitment in the program. The application's minimum criteria are a 2.5 GPA, an ACT score of 19, and cadets must meet minimum height and weight requirements for the Army.

"It's for those students that are fully engaged in our program, which is a leadership program, in class, at lab, they're doing physical fitness in the mornings, they're coming out and doing extra curricular with us like color guard or drill team," Sowards said. "All those things accumulate and makes them competitive for scholarships."

While cadets were celebrated at the game, so

were those who have served before them.

During halftime, 12 wounded warriors and three local veterans were escorted to center court and greeted by Chancellor Rita Cheng, Athletic Director Mario Moccia and the Grassy Lake Hunting Club Owner, Gerald "Eagle" Cain.

Sgt. Michael Madden said veterans are able to come to events such as this weekend's through the Healing Outside of a Hospital Program, which is an organization that provides activities for injured veterans.

"Wounded warriors either get connected with services that help them outside the Army if they need to leave the Army, or they go through and they get the healing that they need and they get back to active duty," Madden said.

Sgt. Eric Lieber said his group of servicemen at the game is a part of a physical therapy group located in Fort Campbell, Ky.

"Basically what we do is we have soldiers from the WTU (Warrior Transition Units) who are all wounded warriors," he said. "Basically what it does is it gets them out, it gets them not thinking about their injuries and gives them something to do."

This weekend's events for the veterans consisted of not only the basketball game, but also the fifth annual Grassy Lake Hunting Club duck hunt.

Gerald Cain's son, Colin Cain, Grassy Lake Hunting Club co-owner said they hold a duck hunt for those wounded in Afghanistan and Iraq every year. The hunt was on Friday, where the 18 veterans shot and killed 151 ducks.

"It was the best day we've ever had..." Cain said. "Kindest group we have ever served, I mean they just thank you and thank you and they're just so appreciative of everything. It makes you want to cry because the fact that what they've done for us has made our life better and we're just showing them a good time for one day."

Cadet Operations Sergeant Major and SIU basketball player Colby Long said he is grateful for all the men and women who have served, and events such as a basketball game are great ways to keep the mind off physical and mental troubles.

"When you're at a game you're in the moment and you're not thinking about any of your problems you might have," Long said. "To get caught up in the atmosphere of a game, I think it could be helpful for any kind of issues (veterans) might be dealing with from the war."

Lieber said while it was a great weekend of hunting and watching the game, the best thing someone can do for a veteran is to simply thank him or her for his or her services.

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## Wind farms get extended leeway on eagle deaths

**MARIA L. LA GANGA**  
Los Angeles Times

SEATTLE — In a decision that highlights the clash between two cherished environmental goals — producing green energy and preserving protected wildlife — federal officials announced Friday that some wind power companies will be allowed to kill or injure bald and golden eagles for up to 30 years without penalty.

Conservation groups decried the Obama administration's new regulation as a "stunningly bad move" for wildlife, but wind industry officials said Friday that the rules from the Department of the Interior were far from a "free ride."

"Instead of balancing the need for conservation and renewable energy, Interior wrote the wind industry a blank check," National Audubon Society President David Yarnold said

in a statement. "It's outrageous that the government is sanctioning the killing of America's symbol, the bald eagle."

But Peter Kelley, vice president of public affairs for the American Wind Energy Association, said that for a wind farm to be permitted under the new rules, "you have to document all of the different ways you'll preserve the eagles. You'll be checked on every five years. Even then, if more eagles are dying than you expected, you have to do more things or lose your permit."

The federal Fish and Wildlife Service began issuing permits in 2009 to developers of renewable energy projects, allowing the so-called "taking" of bald and golden eagles, which are federally protected. The early permits lasted a maximum of five years, which the industry argued was not sufficient for long-term investment in wind power facilities.

The new regulations would extend

the permits to a maximum of 30 years and be issued only to "applicants who commit to adaptive management measures to ensure the preservation of eagles," the Interior Department said in announcing the rules.

Kelley said the new regulations would "increase the protection of eagles and will help develop more wind farms, a leading solution to climate change, which is the No. 1 threat to all eagles and all wildlife."

There are wind farms in 39 states and Puerto Rico, but much of the impact of the new rules will be felt in the West, experts say, where large-scale wind energy facilities and golden eagle habitat overlap. One of the earliest and largest wind farms is in the Altamont Pass, which connects the San Francisco Bay Area to the Central Valley.

Interior Secretary Sally Jewell described the changes as beneficial to wildlife and renewable energy efforts.

"Renewable energy development is vitally important to our nation's future, but it has to be done the right way," she said in a statement. "The changes in this permitting program will help the renewable energy industry and others develop projects that can operate in the longer term, while ensuring bald and golden eagles continue to thrive for generations."

Under the new regulations, permits will be re-evaluated every five years. At each interval, eagle death rates will be reassessed, along with population levels of the birds and the effectiveness of measures used to reduce fatalities. Federal officials could require companies to implement new conservation measures and could suspend or revoke their permits.

But the American Bird Conservancy argued Friday that the new guidelines are voluntary, not mandatory, and that the Fish and Wildlife Service was relying "almost exclusively on self-

reporting by for-profit companies to tell them whether or not they've killed threatened or endangered species."

As Michael Hutchins, national coordinator of the conservancy's wind energy campaign, put it, "(President) Reagan used to say, 'trust, but verify.' ... This ruling sets up a system of permitting that allows, for the first time, the legal killing of bald and golden eagles. We think it's a bad idea."

Kelley, of the American Wind Energy Association, said that wind farms had had a negligible impact on bald eagles and that only 2 percent of the golden eagles killed by humans died because of wind farms. In addition, he said, the population of golden eagles in the West is stable or increasing slightly.

Hutchins, however, pointed to a recent study in the Wildlife Society Bulletin estimating that 573,000 birds and 888,000 bats are killed every year by wind farms.

## PENSION

CONTINUED FROM 1

"This is definitely going to the courts," Poshard said. "I don't know how quickly the suits will be filed, but it will definitely be settled by the time it is enacted."

Poshard said he it was unclear how the courts would rule on the matter.

Grabowski said he also had an alternative view of how the bill will morph in the coming years.

"Ultimately, this is going to

go to a system where everyone has a defined contribution into their pension, but not a defined pension, and it will be portable meaning you will put it in a portfolio and watch your own portfolio," he said. "And then when you leave, you take the portfolio with you. That's where it is going to end up, and I think this is a long way around that."

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## SNOW

CONTINUED FROM 1

"We look at campus conditions, the night before like what our preparation is, what kind of equipment we have available, what the city and the county and the highway roads as far as what they are going to be doing," he said.

The physical plant services use 13 mowers with plows, two salt trucks with plows, a front-end loader, two tractors and five pickups with snow blades, along with brine sprayers to clean the sidewalks and roadways.

Gatton said the campus is not usually shut down strictly due to snow, as it is fairly easy to remove with the use of salt. Thursday's storm was an exception because salt is only effective in temperatures above 25 degrees. The campus generally can be open within three to four hours after the application of salt.

"It's never an easy decision closing campus but I think there was no choice (Friday)," Gatton said.

Taylor Ross, an undeclared freshman, said it was ideal for SIU to have a snow day, as a lot of students did not want to leave their dorms.

"I would have rather stayed inside. I mean even though I'm from Chicago I didn't expect Carbondale to have snow like this so I did not bring boots or anything, so I would've been walking to class in these moccasins."

Lentz worker Brittny Winston, a sophomore studying biological science said she didn't mind going to work, because it was a short commute, and it bettered her academic life.

"I'm pretty okay. I only live across the street," said Winston. "I had a test (Friday) so it gave me more time to study."



# South Africa struggles to live up to Nelson Mandela's legacy

**ROBYN DIXON**  
Los Angeles Times

JOHANNESBURG — Nelson Mandela didn't coin the term "Rainbow Nation" or the phrase "Proudly South African." But the optimism, determination and compassion of the country at its best owed everything to him.

In recent years, however, South Africa under the leadership of the African National Congress that Mandela loved is often quite different — shoddy, corrupt and incompetent. In short, depressingly like other African countries betrayed by liberation movements.

While life has gradually improved for many, problems once attributed to apartheid stubbornly remain. Nearly two decades after the ANC took power, poor education and health care systems still hold back many blacks. The police, no longer dominated by whites, are still brutal. Government departments still treat people with callous disregard.

Despite the existence of a powerful black elite and the growth of a modest black middle class, 40 percent of the population gets by on less than \$40 a month per family member. Whites still earn six times more than blacks. And some analysts say the absolute electoral

dominance of the ANC weakens South Africa's democracy.

Mandela, who died Thursday at his suburban Johannesburg home, is revered for his vision of South Africa as a prosperous nonracial democracy where blacks could take their place at the table without apology. His vision was bigger than racial harmony and peace, said political analyst Justice Malala — Mandela envisioned a country where blacks enjoyed the full benefits of equality and democracy.

"He went for reconciliation. He wanted to reassure particularly white South Africans that they still had a stake in the country," Malala said. "People thought, 'He's an ogre, he's going to do all those things that African dictators have done before.' He worked hard to say, 'No, that's not the way it's going to be.'"

Mandela initially supported the nationalization of major industries but changed his mind in the early 1990s in order to avoid scaring off foreign investors and triggering white flight. Rather than seizing farmland, the ANC embraced an effort to put together willing buyers and sellers that many dismissed as ineffective.

But people don't talk about the Rainbow Nation anymore, and when people use the term

"Proudly South African," it's often in irony.

Protests over government failures, which may involve roadblocks, tire burning and riots, are common.

"We've been betrayed by our brothers and sisters," said Sibusiso Zikode, spokesman for a grass-roots organization of shack-dwellers. "There's no difference from the apartheid government. It's a question of human dignity. Treat me as a human being."

"While I'm waiting 20 years for a house, give me water," he said. "Why would I not get water?"

Bongisisa Gwiliza, a laborer who lives in a shantytown outside Rustenburg, said South Africa's new leaders did not keep their promises to narrow the gap between rich and poor.

"There's no sanitation. The place is so dirty," he said. "The shacks have got holes. When it rains, it floods. There's a lot of rain coming in. When there's wind, there's a lot of wind coming in, and it's very cold."

Racial tensions persist. The levels of extreme violence and crime remain high, particularly crime against women. In several cases this year, teenage girls were raped, mutilated and left to die.

During the apartheid years, South Africans living in black townships feared and loathed

the police force that the white minority government used as a tool of oppression. When police killed 34 protesting miners outside Johannesburg in 2012, the echo of apartheid-era police brutality shocked the nation.

In early 2013, several police were charged with murder in the death of a Mozambican taxi driver, who was handcuffed to a police car, dragged hundreds of yards along a road and beaten, in an incident caught on cellphone video. The victim died that night of horrific injuries.

Statistics from the independent police watchdog group suggest those incidents are the tip of the iceberg, with 720 deaths in police custody reported in 2011-12. Analysts are uncertain why South Africa's police force remains so violent. Some blame the policies of former chief Bheki Cele, who sought more powers to deal with heavily armed gangs in a country with one of the globe's highest rates of violent crime.

For many, the education system is even more of a problem than the police.

One of Mandela's most inspiring quotations was his comment in 2003: "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

## Nelson Mandela: A lifetime struggle and triumph

*A look at his remarkable life and career:*

<b>1918</b> Born Rolihlahla Mandela in Mvezo, South Africa, July 18	<b>1942</b> Law degree, University of South Africa	<b>1951-52</b> President, ANC Youth League	<b>1956-61</b> Tried for treason, acquitted	<b>1992</b> Separates from Winnie Mandela	<b>1993</b> Mandela, South African President F.W. de Klerk accept joint Nobel Peace Prize	<b>1994</b> Elected president of South Africa	<b>2004</b> Steps down from public life	<b>2013</b> Dies at age 95
	<b>1944</b> Founds ANC* Youth League; leads strikes and boycotts against white rule	<b>1958</b> Marries Winifred Nomzamo	<b>1962</b> Imprisoned for life for sedition	<b>1990</b> Released from prison	<b>1996</b> Divorced from Winnie Mandela	<b>1997</b> Steps down as president of ANC	<b>2010</b> Makes surprise appearance at World Cup in Soweto	

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## THEIR WORD

# RedBlueAmerica—Which is more important: Religious freedom or access to health care?

JOEL MATHIS  
McCLATCHY TRIBUNE

Religious freedom is an important value, one that helped create this country. But it is not the only value, and (especially in this case) it must be weighed against other considerations.

Three reasons Hobby Lobby and its allies should lose in the court:

1. Businesses cannot go to heaven. We tend to lose sight of this fact — particularly in the post-Citizens United era — but corporations are not people. Individuals within a corporation can worship and believe as they wish, and they wrestle with cosmic notions of eternity, but Hobby Lobby itself cannot: It possesses no soul nor conscience nor consciousness. A corporation's "freedom of religion" is thus about as useful as its "freedom to swim." When Hobby Lobby can enter a confessional, let's talk. Until then, we should not treat a business as though it has substantially the same rights as actual people.

2. Women, on the other hand, are real citizens who deserve to control their own health decisions.

Like it or not, we as a society have decided that health insurance will be provided primarily by and through employers; until that changes, that means they must conform to certain expectations in providing that insurance. Individual women should not have to sacrifice coverage because, say, an accountant at the home office in Oklahoma City heard differently from his pastor.

3. A Hobby Lobby victory edges toward giving churches a de facto veto over secular policy decisions. It is not difficult to imagine, going forward, that many churches and church members would claim a belief-based reason they shouldn't be required to comply with certain laws. Which would leave officials with a choice of running policies past church leaders before passing them, or carving out exemptions for every halfway controversial measure.

Civil society will not much like one set of rules for secular people and one set for religious folks; it probably would not survive a landscape of a thousand different types of government for a thousand different religious organizations. The Obamacare mandate should stand.

BEN BOYCHUK

The Hobby Lobby case is not about carving out exceptions for religious people from the odious and ill-conceived Obamacare law, or extending special religious protections to businesses. It is about preserving fundamental, constitutional freedoms — something that liberals once had no qualms about defending.

Unfortunately, the Obama administration has gone out of its way to undermine religious liberty even as it claims to uphold the mushy and muddled ideal of "freedom to worship." In practice, such a "freedom" would mean confining one's religious beliefs to the church on Sunday and with little room to live a religious or moral life in the public sphere beyond what the government permits.

Fact is, the Supreme Court has taken a dim view of this administration's fast and loose interpretation of the First Amendment's protection of individuals' free religious exercise. For example, the justices last year unanimously rejected the federal government's claim that the First Amendment did not protect a church's right to choose its own ministers.

"The Establishment Clause prevents the Government from appointing ministers," Chief

Justice John Roberts wrote for the court in *Hosanna-Tabor v. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission*, "and the Free Exercise Clause prevents it from interfering with the freedom of religious groups to select their own." It should not be too difficult to extend that logic to Obamacare's employer health mandates.

True, women are equal citizens who deserve to control their own health decisions. But Hobby Lobby already provided birth control coverage for its workers. At issue is whether Hobby Lobby's owners should be compelled to pay for workers' abortions — a deeply divisive and moral question for most Americans. Hobby Lobby should be free to decide the question as its owners see fit.

Bottom line: the Hobby Lobby case is not about ensuring "access" to health care, or preventing some far-fetched sectarian encroachment on secular policy decisions. It is about government compulsion, pure and simple. The First Amendment is supposed to be a bulwark against government encroachment on the free exercise of religion. For that reason alone, Hobby Lobby should prevail and the Obama administration should lose.

### Submissions

Letters and guest columns must be submitted with author's contact information, preferably via email. Phone numbers are required to verify authorship, but will not be published. Letters are limited to 400 words and columns to 500 words. Students must include year and major. Faculty must include rank and department. Others include hometown. Submissions should be sent to [opinion@dailyegyptian.com](mailto:opinion@dailyegyptian.com).

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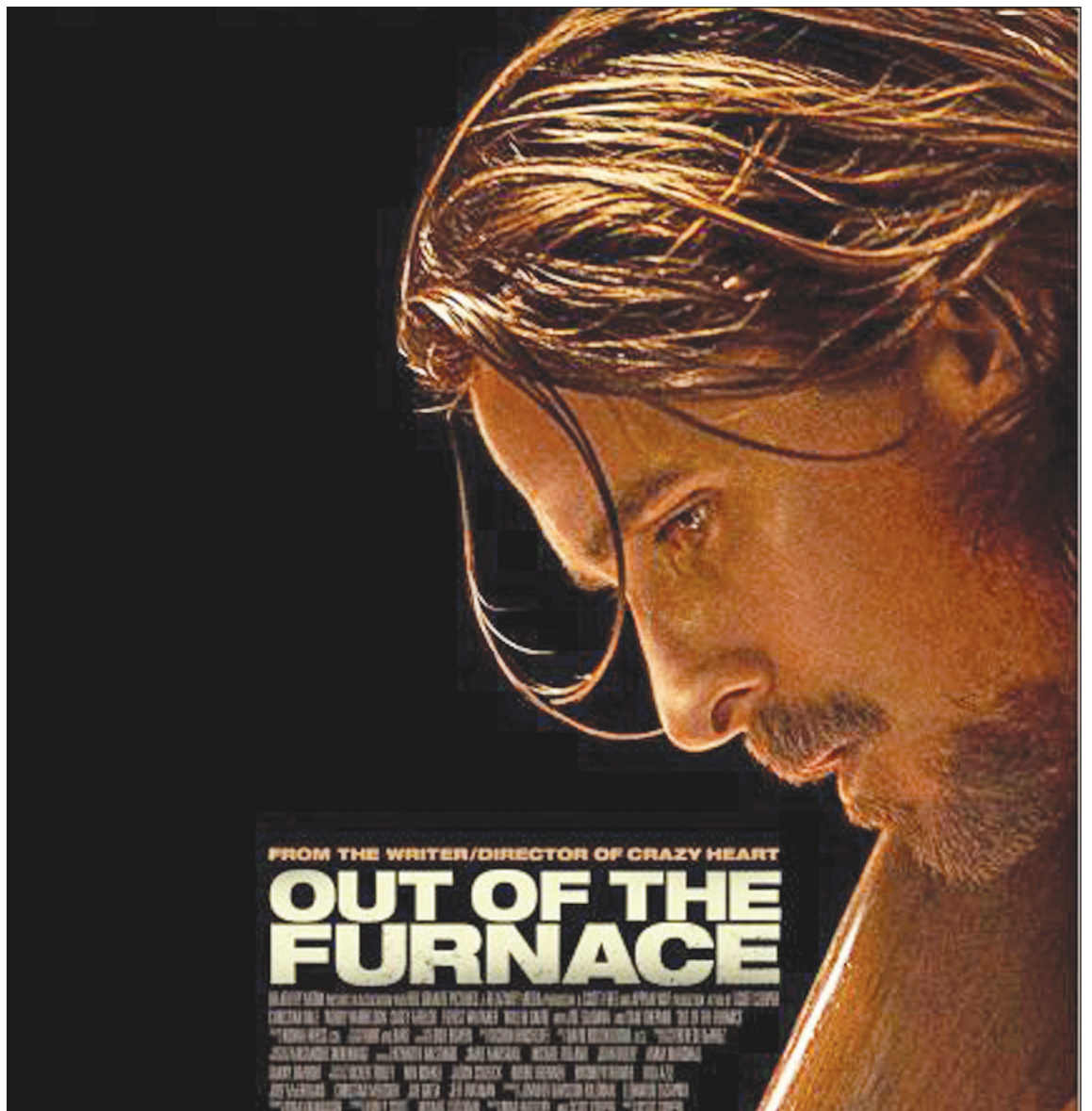
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## Bale, Harrelson on fire in "Out of the Furnace"

**KARSTEN BURGSTAHLER**  
Daily Egyptian



Almost one year ago, Brad Pitt's "Killing Them Softly" meshed politics and the economy of the torn city of New Orleans with stories of the characters within it.

This weekend director Scott Cooper's "Out of the Furnace" (Rated R; 116 Min.) enters the same territory, but this time the economy being addressed is that of rural Pennsylvania. "Furnace" is not quite as successful in making its political statement as was "Killing", but it features better performances and is a more accessible film than Pitt's heavily cynical work.

Christian Bale leads "Furnace" as Russell Baze, a quiet man living in the economically torn town of Braddock, Penn. Russell works at the steel mill, but as the company begins outsourcing to China, his job is in jeopardy. His brother Rodney (Casey Affleck) has recently returned from a tour in Iraq and is in heavy gambling debt. A drunk driving accident lands Russell in prison, and when he's released five years later Rodney is in even deeper. Rodney persuades fight organizer John Petty (Willem Dafoe) to set up a battle in the hills a few hours from town in the kingdom of Harlan DeGroat (Woody Harrelson). But the battle goes wrong and Russell is forced to head into the hills to discover what happened to his brother.

The problem with "Out of the

Furnace" is not that this plot is not unengrossing; Cooper never allows things to move too slowly. But the way the story moves from one scene to the next without a sense of direction is distracting. Cooper clearly has something he wants to say about the state of Braddock and the way things never change in the hills. The community only gets worse while Russell is locked away in prison. But a few scenes of shocking violence, a brief clip of the Democratic National Convention and several lines of dialogue about how hard things are do not prove a point. "Killing" was over the top in its politics but at least it had the determination to hit home. "Furnace" is certainly subtler than "Killing," but when it does choose to wear its intentions on its sleeve, the shots are powerful. One scene juxtaposes two fighters drawing blood from each other while two hunters skin and watch the blood drip from a deer.

Scott occasionally neglects his characters and the actors playing them, choosing instead to create a mood. This would be OK in a movie that lacks such explosive performances waiting to burst out, but more of a balance would have been nice. That being said, many of the shots are gorgeous and the mood is certainly right, if not required to represent a lot more than it actually does. If the whole thing flowed more smoothly, the cinematography would have fit better with the writing.

The performances more than make up for the meandering writing, however. Bale is reserved, but he

can say so much with just a simple expression. He keeps his cool even in the most dangerous situations.

On the opposite end of the spectrum, but just as impressive, is Woody Harrelson. Harrelson is having a good year, playing his signature sarcastic style in both "Now You See Me" and "The Hunger Games: Catching Fire." But "Furnace" gives him a chance to let his unhinged side come out, and he blows the roof off the movie. As DeGroat, a man who lives by his own rules and can't be controlled by the police, Harrelson dives deep into his performance. He's one of the best antagonists this year.

Affleck is a different case. He represents every veteran who has been let down by the government. He fights for his country, but also for his own life. He's the definition of a "scrappy underdog." But sometimes his attempts to come across as furious are somewhat laughable. Instead of adding a different dimension to the familiar character, just stays with the status quo. It's not a bad performance, it's just not stellar.

"Out of the Furnace" thwarts its own attempts to be as important as it wants to be. But with stellar performances from its leading cast, it's not one to miss. "Furnace" definitely has something it wants to say, but it asks audiences to understand it without giving them proper direction.

Karsten Burgstahler can be reached at [kburgstahler@dailyegyptian.com](mailto:kburgstahler@dailyegyptian.com) or 536-3311 ext. 261.



# Trained hands are key in chain of survival

**TIFFANY BLANCHETTE**  
Daily Egyptian

Allana Cronk, center, a sophomore from Plainfield studying physical therapy, and Kathryn Meyers, left, a senior from Sauk Village studying health education, administer Emergency Medical Responder treatment Thursday on demonstration victim David Peace, a senior from West Chicago studying therapeutic recreation, during the Health Education 434 advanced first aid final exam.

Peggy Wilken, assistant clinical professor, said the exam is a realistic emergency scenario and is often the first time students see the blood and moulage, or mock injuries.

"If they're going to make mistakes, I want them to make them in here with me," Wilken said. "I can correct it here and nobody dies."

Wilken said the shock and pressure simulated in the classroom prepares the students for real-life situations and helps curb a common mistake many young responders make, getting tunnel vision and focusing only on the blood.

One measure Wilken takes to ensure a realistic environment is having paramedics in the classroom during the exam.

The exam has been observed by Jackson County Ambulance Service Emergency Medical Technicians for 15 years, and the EMT presence is a key educational tool, Wilken said. The paramedics observe the actions of each team of responders and evaluate the proper completion of the team's assessment.

After the students believe they have completed the assessment, they must brief the paramedic as they would in real life. Wilken said the paramedics not only provide useful and kind evaluations, but also help to familiarize the students with the Emergency Medical Services system.

Nathaniel Dill, an EMT for Jackson County Ambulance Service, said the

evaluations can provide students with genuine and helpful information about their performance from paramedics that have experience in the field.

"It's easy to get tunnel vision in the field, so getting pointers on how to improve their performance is important," Dill said.

Having emergency medical responders on the scene helps save paramedics time and keeps everything flowing smoothly, Dill said.

He said having help with minor first aid also allows paramedics to get to the major injuries faster.

Wilken said the exam observed by the paramedics is not intended to embarrass the students, but to educate and train them.

"The mistakes they make here, they won't make again because they just had a paramedic looking over their shoulders and they have me standing there as well," Wilken said.

On Nov. 17 when Brookport was hit by a tornado, hundreds of emergency responders from southern Illinois and western Kentucky arrived on the scene to help.

Wilken said when a natural disaster hits, it is important for students to understand that it can overrun the EMS system and that they are commonly the first hands on deck before a paramedic or ambulance can arrive.

"Emergency responders are key people. It's part of the chain of survival," Wilken said. "Once they're there and they're medically trained, they can make a life or death decision for a person."

Emergency responders are often thrust into the middle of an accident or disaster and Wilken said her students will be able to walk out of the classroom and help save lives.

The main reason Wilken puts her students under pressure during the exam is because that is what it is going to feel like when they're out there, she said.

"The more hands on deck, the better the chances of survival," Wilken said. "Especially if the hands are trained."



TIFFANY BLANCHETTE | DAILY EGYPTIAN

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# WORLD & NATION

## Visiting veteran held by North Korea happy to be back home

**STEPHEN CEASAR  
BARBERA DEMICK**  
Los Angeles Times

Merrill Newman, an 85-year-old war veteran who was held prisoner in North Korea for six weeks, was greeted by his wife and son when he arrived at San Francisco International Airport on Saturday following his release.

"It's been a great homecoming," Merrill told reporters, with his wife, Lee, and son, Jeffrey, standing by his side. "I'm tired but I'm with my family now."

When asked what he planned to do once he got home to Palo Alto, Calif., Newman quipped: "Probably

take my shoes off."

Newman's flight from Beijing landed about 9 a.m., the San Jose Mercury News reported.

A retired tech executive, Newman was pulled off an airplane about to leave the North Korean capital of Pyongyang on Oct. 26 at the end of a 10-day tour, after speaking to his guides there about his service in a clandestine anti-communist army unit during the 1950-53 Korean War.

North Korean officials released a video confession in which Newman said he had been trying to contact survivors from his military unit and their families.

In a statement announcing

Newman's release, the official Korean Central News Agency said he had entered the country under "the guise of a tourist to confirm the whereabouts of the spies and terrorists who had been trained and dispatched by him."

"Taking into consideration his admittance of the act committed by him ... (the) apology made by him, his sincere repentance of it and his advanced age and health condition, (North Korea) deported him from the country from a humanitarian viewpoint," the statement said.

Newman was an officer in what was called the Mount Kuwol unit, which operated off the west coast of North Korea, conducting guerrilla raids

on communist military and civilian targets in the latter part of the Korean War and immediate aftermath.

Newman's decision to go to North Korea has been derided by many, but not by all Korea experts.

"A lot of Marines want to go back. They are haunted by what they did during the Korean War and want to bring closure," said Donald P. Gregg, 86, a former U.S. ambassador to South Korea. "I understand him. I'm the same age."

Gregg, who has visited North Korea five times, said Newman's release opened the possibility of a renewed dialogue toward reaching an interim nuclear accord similar to the one recently struck with Iran.

"I think the North Koreans did themselves a lot of good by returning him in a dignified manner," said Gregg. "I think we have no choice but to talk to these people."

Newman's son, Jeffrey, speaking outside his Pasadena, Calif., home on Friday, thanked the Swedish embassy in Pyongyang for helping his father while in custody.

"This is a great moment for us as a family, and it will be even better when we have a chance to be back together in a few hours," the younger Newman said at the time.

"After Merrill comes home and has a chance to get a well-deserved rest, we will have more to say about his unusual and difficult journey."

## Venezuela's president tightens grip on media

**FABIOLA SANCHEZ**  
Associated Press

As Gov. Henrique Capriles campaigned for president of Venezuela last April, he could not venture more than a few steps without being hounded by dozens of sharp-elbowed cameramen and photographers. Nearly eight months later, the visibly thinner and exhausted opposition leader is accompanied by just a handful of journalists at what was supposed to be one of the final, electrifying opposition rallies ahead of this weekend's mayoral elections.

Critics say the shrinking media coverage has been deliberate. Even while Venezuelans endure their toughest economic crisis in 15 years of socialist rule, the opposition has been largely knocked from public view by what it claims is a government-led campaign to intimidate media outlets that give airtime to the opposition and the nation's mounting woes.

Between January and September, the number of attacks on journalists, cases of harassment and reports of censorship have risen 56 percent compared with the first nine months of 2012, according to a complaint filed by press freedom groups in October to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

Even more damaging has been the sale of several media outlets once critical of the government to owners who more closely follow the official line.

Capriles calls it an "information blockade." He warns that President Nicolas Maduro's alleged attempts to silence the opposition signal a more authoritarian style of rule to come, unless they resoundingly reject his policies at the ballot box this Sunday. The election for mayors and city councils is a dogfight in this deeply polarized country. It is also Maduro's first electoral test since he defeated Capriles in April by a razor-thin margin following Hugo Chavez's death from cancer.

"Without a doubt, this is one of the toughest moments in our history to get our message out," said Capriles, who has been crisscrossing the country stumping for opposition candidates.

Yet for all the opposition complaints, analysts say the government's biggest trump card going into the vote isn't its grip on the media, but rather Maduro's political instincts. Facing a steady decline in the polls, Maduro on Nov. 9 seized control of several retail outlets, arrested dozens of store managers and slashed prices on plasma TVs and fridges to strike a blow against opponents he accuses of waging an "economic war" against his government. The measures have led to a steady improvement in the president's approval rating, said Luis Vicente Leon of Caracas-based pollster Datanalisis.

The most likely result from Sunday's vote, Leon said, is the opposition winning in Caracas and other big cities while the government remains dominant in the countryside, giving each side a claim on victory.

"There's an economic crisis in Venezuela, but paradoxically who has best capitalized on it politically is the government that generated it," said Leon. "They've combined rhetoric with action and, just as importantly, has managed to sell a narrative of who are the ones to blame for the economic troubles."

The government denies it is threatening journalists or forcing its viewpoint, and attributes the decline in coverage of Capriles to the fact that voters and media bosses alike were turned off by his unsubstantiated claims of fraud following his defeat in the presidential race.

"There's no campaign to make him invisible," said Igor Molina, a high-ranking official at telecommunications regulator Conatel. "Perhaps it is just that the overexposure, which he was accustomed to, is gone."

The most emblematic example of Venezuela's rougher media landscape is the takeover of TV station Globovision. When Chavez

refused to renew the license of independent broadcaster RCTV in 2007, Globovision remained as the lone voice broadcasting criticism of the government. But after being fined \$2 million last year for its coverage of the security forces' violent quelling of a prison riot, the channel was sold in May to three local businessmen with no prior media experience. Many veteran journalists were immediately fired or quit, and the channel overnight stopped broadcasting opposition news conferences and rallies.

"This is a sophisticated strategy because you're not closing down the company," said Carlos Correa, of Espacio Publico, the nongovernmental organization behind the complaint with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. "You're simply asking someone you're close to, or have business dealings with, to do a favor and buy a media company to neutralize its coverage."

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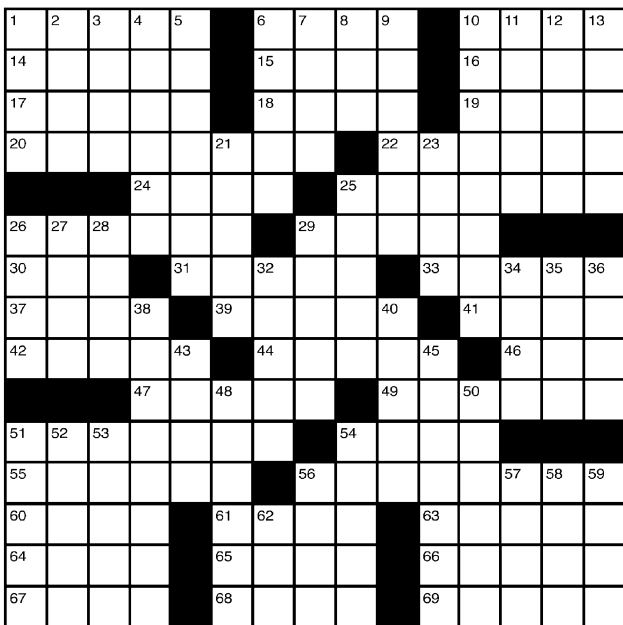


# Crossword

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## THE Daily Commuter Puzzle by Jacqueline E. Mathews

- ACROSS**  
 1 Story by Aesop  
 6 Food fish  
 10 Facts & figures  
 14 Arctic or Pacific  
 15 Singer Patti \_\_\_  
 16 Dutch cheese  
 17 Bumbling  
 18 Element whose symbol is Fe  
 19 Devil's food \_\_\_  
 20 Diminished  
 22 Spitting \_\_\_; exact likenesses  
 24 Historical times  
 25 Damsels  
 26 Stopped temporarily  
 29 Untrue  
 30 Pack animal  
 31 Radio knobs  
 33 Eat between meals  
 37 Those people  
 39 Semisynthetic textile filament  
 41 Accurate  
 42 Uncanny  
 44 Of the kidneys  
 46 Weep  
 47 Work  
 49 Wall recesses  
 51 Capital of Wisconsin  
 54 \_\_\_ War; famed thoroughbred  
 55 Subsidized  
 56 "The \_\_\_ Adventure"; blockbuster film about a sea disaster  
 60 Unconscious state  
 61 Notion  
 63 "Remember the \_\_\_!"  
 64 Cosmetics company  
 65 Pony wagon  
 66 Extremely cold  
 67 \_\_\_ off the deep end; lost it  
 68 Peepers  
 69 Corrects a manuscript



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 12/09/13

### Thursday's Puzzle Solved



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- DOWN**  
 1 Aluminum \_\_\_; food wrap  
 2 Facial problem  
 3 Buzzing insects  
 4 Backslides  
 5 Went into  
 6 Secret agents  
 7 Difficult  
 8 In the past  
 9 In \_\_\_; refusing to see reality  
 10 Self-indulgent  
 11 Proverb  
 12 Stolen  
 13 Left \_\_\_; didn't clean up  
 21 Lowest point  
 23 Woman's title  
 25 TV's "Perry \_\_\_"  
 26 Cracker spread  
 27 Arthur of tennis  
 28 Consumer  
 29 Handbill  
 32 Moses' brother  
 34 Foot's instep  
 35 Remedy  
 36 Openers  
 38 Combative

- 40 Grandmas  
 43 At \_\_\_; relaxed  
 45 Family tree  
 48 Upper part of a woman's dress  
 50 Formed a spiral  
 51 Large parrot  
 52 Over  
 53 Actor Matt \_\_\_  
 54 Ditches around castles  
 56 French father  
 57 Painter Salvador \_\_\_  
 58 Leave out  
 59 Gives a silent assent  
 62 24 hours

Pick up the **Daily Egyptian** each day to test your crossword skills

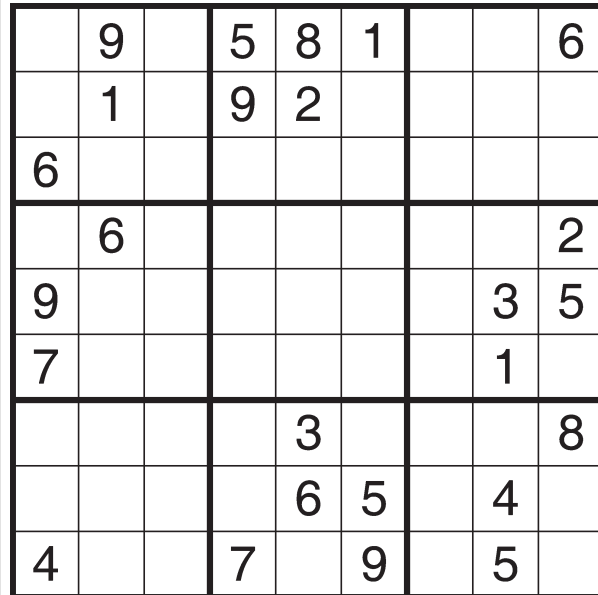
# SUDOKU

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Level: **1** 2 3 4

Thursday's Answers:

7	8	6	1	3	2	5	4	9
3	9	1	6	4	5	8	2	7
4	2	5	7	8	9	3	1	6
5	7	4	2	1	8	6	9	3
8	6	9	4	7	3	1	5	2
2	1	3	9	5	6	7	8	4
1	3	7	5	2	4	9	6	8
9	4	8	3	6	1	2	7	5
6	5	2	8	9	7	4	3	1

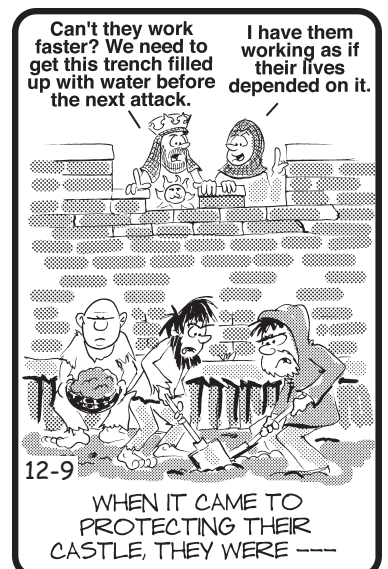
Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contain every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit [www.sudoku.org.uk](http://www.sudoku.org.uk).

# JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

**BALMU**  
 ○ ○ ○ ○ ○  
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**TIGDI**  
 ○ ○ ○ ○ ○  
**TOBYAN**  
 ○ ○ ○ ○ ○  
**VIETIN**  
 ○ ○ ○ ○ ○

Jumble puzzle magazines available at [pennydelipuzzles.com/jumb](http://pennydelipuzzles.com/jumb)



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: "○○○○○ - ○○○○○○○○"

Thursday's Answers: ABATE UPPER INJURE SCREWY  
 Their drive along the Mediterranean gave them a chance to enjoy the — "SEA-NERY"

# HOROSCOPES

By Nancy Black and Stephanie Clement

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**Aries — Today is a 5** — Don't let the haters get you down. If you stumble, make it into part of the dance. Boost your clout this week with small, additive steps. The more you learn, the stronger you'll become.

**Taurus — Today is a 5** — Decrease time spent in panels. Accept praise; you've earned it. But beware, costs are higher than expected. Use your wisdom to effectively plan. Stash away any funds.

**Gemini — Today is a 5** — A distant acquaintance makes a power play. Let another person argue for you. Use subtle persuasion. Consider a radical suggestion and maintain objectivity.

**Cancer — Today is a 6** — You can do a job yourself and save money. Plan for emergencies. Make the changes you've been contemplating. Keep increasing your awareness on a subject of passion.

**Leo — Today is a 6** — Firm up plans, and make sure to include a fun factor. Work out a new team budget. You're very attractive now. Stay cool and move quickly. Strengthen a loving relationship.

**Virgo — Today is a 6** — Invest in home improvements this week. The changes will benefit the whole family and you'll wonder why you waited so long to get started.

**Libra — Today is a 7** — Do your homework patiently. Stand firm for what you know is right and exceed all expectations. You have everything you need. The more money you save the better.

**Scorpio — Today is a 5** — Accept a good offer. You are rich in resources through your friends. Let others plan the details and route. Provide emotionally cogent content. Dig into a household project.

**Sagittarius — Today is a 5** — Your genius is revealed through surprising new information. Handle quarrels. Challenge your limits. Ponder the situation. Are you convinced about the direction to go?

**Capricorn — Today is a 5** — You can do this. Boost your assets (and poise) over the coming week. Your ideas are accepted. Discover hidden treasure. The action is behind the scenes. Spread out and get to work.

**Aquarius — Today is a 7** — Enjoy the applause as you power on. Keep your momentum. The anticipation builds. Private effort pays off now. Monitor results and stash income for an increase in value.

**Pisces — Today is a 7** — Persuasion works now. Increase your comfort level. Imagine how you'd love it to turn out. Decrease debts and your dependence on others this week. Free someone up.



# Illini rebound from Georgia Tech loss

MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM  
Associated Press

The Illinois men's basketball team was back in Atlanta a few days after its collapse at Georgia Tech and the Illini left town with little doubt they are back on track.

Illinois dominated Auburn for an 81-62 victory Sunday at Philips Arena to bounce back from its first loss of the season Tuesday at Tech. The Illini led Tech by 12 points with less than seven minutes to play before fading to a 67-64 defeat.

Illinois (8-1) showed no ill effects from that disappointing defeat while dispatching Auburn (4-3). Illini coach John Groce said he was "intrigued" to see how his team responded to the Tech loss.

"Mentally they seemed really good, but now let's see if we are going to be ready to go physically," Groce said. "Are we going to come out and put our money where our mouth is? And we did. I thought guys played with pride. They played hard."

The Tigers opened the season with victories in four of five games but tougher opponents have shown why SEC media picked Auburn to finish last in the league.

The Tigers lost 99-70 at No. 16 Iowa State on Tuesday and also were no match for the Illini, who beat Auburn 81-79 in Chicago last December. Auburn made just 6 of 23 field-goal attempts while falling behind 41-17 at halftime and the Tigers were down by as many as 32 points before Illinois went deep into its bench.

"We couldn't make layups, we couldn't make jump shots, we couldn't make anything," Auburn coach Tony Barbee said. "Give them credit; they made shots. But when you don't put any pressure on the opposing team by being anemic as we were on offense in the first half, then there is no pressure on them. We put them in their comfort zone." Illinois was paced by junior guards Rayvonte Rice (22 points) and Tracy Abrams (17 points, seven rebounds, five assists) while forward Jon Ekey made 4 of 6 3-point attempts. K.T. Harrell led Auburn with 23 points.

Illinois made 5 of 10 three-pointers while building a 26-13 lead, with Abrams and Ekey each making 2 of 3 attempts during that span. The Illini closed the half with an 18-4 run that Abrams capped with a 3-pointer at the buzzer.

"We just came out and threw the first punch," Rice said. "We were definitely mad about the loss at Georgia Tech but we came out and got the win."

Auburn had averaged 78.2 points in its first six games but struggled to score against the Illini. Guard Chris Denson, who entered the game leading the SEC with 21.8 points per game, scored just four points.

Denson couldn't find much room to drive to the basket because of Illinois' sharp help defense.

"He's really talented and has a great knack for drawing fouls," Groce said. "So we wanted to try to do the best we could defending him without fouling and I thought our guys did that."

Not many Auburn fans showed up to cheer the basketball team a day after the Tigers won the SEC football championship at the Georgia Dome. The basketball Tigers barely topped the 59 points scored by the football team.

The majority of the sparse crowd was pulling for the Illini, who also had a sizeable group of fans at the Tech game. Among the Auburn supporters was Charles Barkley, the SEC player of the year for the Tigers in 1984 and a member of the Naismith Memorial

# Obama celebrates hometown hockey champs at White House

KENDALL HELBLIG  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON—

President Barack Obama honored Stanley Cup winners the Chicago Blackhawks at the White House Monday, celebrating the only team from his hometown to win a big league world championship during his presidency.

That's no small feat, particularly since it was the second time Obama and the 'Hawks have celebrated a National Hockey League

championship together.

"Three years ago, the 'Hawks won their first Stanley Cup in 49 years," Obama said. "And keep in mind, the Cubs have been waiting for 105 — so 49 might have not seemed so bad."

Obama was impressed by the leadership of team captain Jonathan Toews, 25, who took his team to victory for the second time.

"Now, I don't remember everything I was doing when I was 25, but I wasn't doing that," Obama said.

Defenseman Duncan Keith had an exciting playoff season in more

ways than one, the president pointed out. He flew home between games three and four for the birth of his son Colton — who, the president guessed, later became "the youngest person ever to be hoisted by the cup."

Obama also recognized playoff MVP Patrick Kane, Bryan Bickell and Dave Bolland, whose combined two goals in the last 17 seconds cinched the cup for Chicago, and Andrew Shaw, who auctioned off his game-six-induced stitches and raised \$20,000 towards cancer research.

Before the White House, the

team went to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, where they visited with veterans and wounded warriors to thank them for their service.

"I love all my sports teams, but obviously our best team, our most important team are those folks who every day serve us in uniform and keep us free," said Obama.

Among the attendees at the ceremony were Illinois Democratic Gov. Pat Quinn, Sen. Richard Durbin, D-Ill., and House Hockey Caucus co-chair Mike Quigley, D-Ill.

## BASKETBALL

CONTINUED FROM 12



SARAH GARDNER | DAILY EGYPTIAN

**Saluki fans cheer for the video board during a timeout Saturday during the Salukis' game against Western Kentucky University at SIU Arena. The Salukis fell 69-60, leaving their record 2-7 for the season. They will take on Murray State University Dec. 17 in Murray Ky.**

"It means a lot to us," Pendleton said. "Coach talked about it before the game, those guys put their life on the line for us just to do what we could do to today, and today was military day so we just really wanted to win for those guys. If we would have won that game for those guys it would have been the best feeling, just couldn't get it done."

**"Somebody else has got to help us, we're riding those horses really hard right now. But we've got to have somebody that can score for us inside."**

— Barry Hinson  
SIU basketball coach

## TRACK

CONTINUED FROM 12

The men's 200-meter dash had three of the top four finishers.

Senior distance runner Alyssa Allison won the one-mile run with a time of 5:07.60 and said she used the opportunity as a winter warm up meet. Allison said she wants to improve

her times on the middle laps of longer races.

"I really want to work on those middle laps," Allison said. "Four through six is when the race gets the hardest, so I want to stay strong in the middle of the race and finish hard."

Coach Connie Price-Smith said overall, she was pleased with the team, especially the freshmen that had good performances.

"We have a lot of young athletes on the

team this year," Price-Smith said. "I was really excited to see the aggression they had and the intensity they had."

The Salukis will appear Jan 10-11 in Carbondale for the Saluki Open.

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agraff@dailyegyptian.com  
or 536-3311 ext. 282.





# Salukis hurdle into season

AARON GRAFF  
Daily Egyptian

The Saluki track and field team began its season with the Saluki Fast Start meet and swept both the high jump and pole vault events Saturday at the Student Recreation Center.

The team claimed a total of 10 events. Junior Alex Lietz won the men's pole vault with a height of 4.60 meters.

Freshman pole-vaulter Chad Weaver also cleared that height, but Lietz cleared it on his first try, while Weaver needed a second attempt.

Sophomore Kemar Jones successfully high jumped over 1.99 meters for first place.

On the women's side, senior jumper Kenya Culmer jumped 1.75 meters on her first attempt. Her teammate, freshman Katie Trupp finished third in the high jump at 1.65 meters, but also won the women's pole vault by clearing 3.65 meters.

Trupp said she was excited to win her first collegiate track meet, and did not know what to expect since she was not familiar with her competition. She said overall, she was not completely thrilled with her height, but she is going to work hard.

"I really want to jump around 13 feet this year," Trupp said. "If I'm jumping what I want to jump, it should place me in conference this year."

The Saluki throwing team also picked up two events. There were some unattached athletes on the men's side who won both the weight throw and the shot put, but the team had the highest collegiate finisher in both of those as well.

Junior thrower DeAnna Price captured both the shot put and weight throw on the women's side. Her best weight throw was 20.60 meters, which was more than a meter better than the second place finisher, her teammate and fellow junior, Sophia Lozano.

Sophomore thrower Josh Freeman, who won a gold medal in the Junior Pan American games this summer, was second overall in the meet. Freeman said overall, he was not completely satisfied with himself. He said he was happy with the team, and thinks both the men's and women's side has a great chance at capturing the conference title.

"As a team we competed really well," Freeman said. "We had a few people that came up and had some big (personal records)."

Several times at the meet, everyone started applauding. Freeman started clapping before his final throw, and said it usually helps him make better throws.

"You know everybody is watching you and you feel like you're in the spotlight," Freeman said. "It gets the adrenaline going. It's something in track and field that everybody does when it is a big moment."

The Saluki runners had a lot of close races as well. The women runners won a total of three events, and the men captured one.

The team placed five of the top seven finishers in the women's 200-meter dash, including junior sprinter Nirupama Sunderraj. Sunderraj sprinted to the finish line in 25.47 seconds, and was less than four thousandths of a second away from winning.

Please see TRACK | 11



ALEXA ROGALS | DAILY EGYPTIAN

Freshman pole-vaulter Katie Trupp makes a clearance Saturday during the Saluki Fast Start indoor track meet in the Recreation Center. Trupp scored a clearance of 3.65m, ranking her as the second-best indoor women's pole vault score in SIU history. The entire team finished with 10 event titles and ranked the highest collegiate finisher in three more events. The Saluki's next meet will be the Saluki Open on Jan. 10-11.

# Hilltoppers stand tall over Salukis



CHRIS ZOELLER | DAILY EGYPTIAN

Sophomore guard Jalen Pendleton goes for a layup Saturday during the Salukis' 69-60 loss to Western Kentucky University at SIU Arena. Pendleton tallied seven points and three rebounds during the loss, which marks the third straight for the Salukis. SIU will travel to Murray State University Dec. 17 to take on the Racers.

TYLER DIXON  
Daily Egyptian

SIU held Western Kentucky University's top scorer to only five points Saturday, but the Hilltoppers' unlikely leading scorer led the team to victory.

Hilltopper guard Brandon Harris averaged

4.8 points per game before Western Kentucky (5-3) came away with the 69-60 win over the Salukis (2-7). He finished with 30 points while the team's leading scorer, junior guard T.J. Price was held well below his season average of 17.1 points per game.

The Hilltoppers are the third team SIU has faced this season that competed in last year's National Collegiate Athletics Association tournament.

Scoring was not an issue for senior guard Desmar Jackson and sophomore guard Anthony Beane in the first half. Each player finished with 10 points in the half, but no other Saluki scored more than three points.

SIU was not able to get a lead in the opening half of play, but was able to tie the game at different points in the half. Beane hit a 3-pointer at the buzzer to pull even at 34 and helped his team get momentum at the break.

"I thought we had great momentum," Beane said. "I thought we came out strong and then the turnovers killed us down the stretch."

Sophomore guard Jalen Pendleton said it is key for his team to communicate when playing zone defense, especially when a shooter has the hot hand.

"It's just what comes with playing the zone, you just have to make sure you're there on the catch, as soon as he catches it make sure you have a hand in his face," Pendleton said. "If not he's going to burn you like he did us tonight."

The Salukis led 43-38 with 14:54 left in the game, but two minutes later were trailing again.

Coach Barry Hinson said turnovers allowed the Hilltoppers to regain momentum throughout the second half.

"We went up five, had the ball, had a timeout, called a play that we worked on, had a lay-up and get a moving violation screen on it," Hinson said. "It was a good call but we were just not smart enough."

Hinson said his team is relying heavily on Beane and Jackson to do most of the scoring.

"Somebody else has got to help us, we're riding those horses really hard right now," Hinson said. "But we've got to have somebody that can score for us inside."

Freshman forward Sean O'Brien had his first start of the season against the Hilltoppers and finished with five points and three rebounds in 25 minutes.

Hinson said O'Brien took an ill-advised shot late in the game, but it is still a learning process.

"(I) thought he was a freshman, for the most part (he) played OK," Hinson said.

Beane led the Salukis in scoring with 20 points while Jackson finished with 15 points on 12 shots.

Hinson said the main thing his team needs right now is to get a win.

"We don't have a lot of confidence," Hinson said. "Only a win is going to take care of this for us. I still like this team, I still think we have a chance to be pretty good but we just have to get a win and there's nothing that will take care of this, nothing that will take care of this fear that we have without getting a win."

The Salukis next chance to get a win is Dec. 17 on the road against the Racers of Murray State University.

Saturday's game was also Military Appreciation Day at SIU Arena. Several soldiers were honored for their service at halftime.

Pendleton said it would have made Military Appreciation Day even more special if they could have gotten a win.

Please see BASKETBALL | 11