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Daily Egyptian 2011

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Daily Egyptian Staff

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# Faculty faced off against layoffs



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY PAT SUTPHIN | DAILY EGYPTIAN

Ninety-three non-tenure track faculty members received layoff notifications over winter break. The notices were rescinded Jan. 6. Many of the faculty who received

them are SIU alumni. For every one person photographed in this illustration, three others were delivered layoff slips.

## Faculty: Layoffs would have left departments 'in lurch'

**JULIE SWENSON**  
Daily Egyptian

The non-tenure-track faculty association said knowing a week before Christmas that some of its members and other faculty with continuing appointments could lose their jobs put a damper on their holiday spirits. SIU's bargaining team notified the non-tenure-track faculty association Dec. 17 that 93 faculty members with continuing appointments would be given layoff or reduction notices the next day, effective Jan. 18.

But the association and the university agreed Jan. 6 "that achieving the necessary savings through non-layoff means such as unpaid closure days or furloughs is preferable," according to a university press release. The university sent out notices rescinding the layoffs and reductions the same day.

The settlement agreement signed by non-tenure-track faculty association President Michael Smith and Associate Provost Susan Logue Jan. 6 showed that 11 of the 93 faculty members would have had their appointments partially reduced, their current appointments reduced to 0 percent or would not have been given a spring appointment. For example, a full-time equivalent faculty member who has his or her appointment reduced by 25 percent would get paid 25 percent less per month. The percentage may vary by semester, Smith said.

Chancellor Rita Cheng said the layoff notices were issued as a result of the university's bargaining units not being able to reach an agreement. Continuing faculty's contracts require layoff notices to be issued 30 days before the layoff date.

"We were coming up close to that 30-day notice and we did not have agreement on any alternative to layoffs," she said. "We notified the bargaining unit several weeks before and needed to trigger the layoffs when it looked like we weren't going to be able to come to an agreement."

Cheng said layoffs or a reduction in faculty workload were not the ways she wanted to reduce expenses, and unpaid closure or furlough days weren't either, initially.

"(Unpaid days or furloughs) are measures that many, many institutions across the country are using, and the reason universities are doing that is it's not permanent," Cheng said. "If you lay off somebody ... it's much more permanent than a furlough activity."

Although the association agreed unpaid closure or furlough days were preferable over layoffs, it did not make any tradeoffs or agree to the unpaid closure days, Smith said.

Conditions of the agreement included that the university rescind the notices and the association not file any grievances or unfair labor practice charges related to the university's actions taken before Jan. 6 or in relation to the university's action in December.

Please see AGREEMENT | 4

## Non-tenure-track faculty committed to negotiations

**BRANDON COLEMAN**  
Daily Egyptian

Everyone who comes back to teach at SIU after graduating from the university bleeds maroon, Jim Wall said.

Wall, a senior lecturer in radio-television, said a show of hands at a recent non-tenure-track association meeting showed that roughly three-quarters of the non-tenure-track faculty present were SIU alumni.

"Despite the fact that at most universities, those who are not necessarily on the tenured track are generally transient — they stay a year and they go somewhere else — the unique thing about this university is our non-tenure tracked folks have (a) huge commitment," he said.

Wall said after working for more than 20 years with KFVS Channel 12, WSIL Channel 3 and his own business, he leaped at the chance to teach at the university when the opportunity presented itself.

It was a bad decision for the university to issue layoff and appointment reduction notices Dec. 17 to non-tenure-track faculty association members because nobody else can cover a majority of the classes they teach, said Brooke H.H. Thibault, associate director of foreign languages and international trade.

The layoffs would have taken effect Jan. 18, but the association and the university agreed Jan. 6 "that achieving the necessary savings through non-layoff means such as unpaid closure days or furloughs is preferable," according to a university press release. The

university sent out notices rescinding the layoffs and reductions the same day.

Thibault said she is the only person in her department who can teach the foreign language cross-culture orientation class, in which she advises 67 students she sends on internships around the world to study business and foreign language.

Thibault said the university wanted to reduce her monthly pay by 25 percent, which would have made her unable to be in her office to help her internship students during the summer.

"(Students) need help when they're there. I had a student in Spain on an internship and she was actually being discriminated against," Thibault said. "I've had students on internships where the internship might provide housing and that housing is a very low standard that they really didn't feel comfortable living in (it)."

Anita Stoner, visiting assistant professor in journalism, said universities hire non-tenure track faculty to fill specialized positions.

"We all have our area of expertise, our niche," Stoner said. "Sending layoff notices the week before Christmas was not being a Saluki."

Normally a faculty member is given a nine-month contract, Wall said. Only in cases where someone plays a supervisory or recruitment role during the summer would he or she be offered a 12-month contract.

Please see COMMITTED | 4

The Weather Channel® 5 day weather forecast for Carbondale, Ill.

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The DAILY EGYPTIAN is published by the students of Southern Illinois University Carbondale 50 weeks per year, with an average daily circulation of 20,000. Fall and spring semester editions run Monday through Friday. Summer editions run Tuesday through Thursday. All intersession editions will run on Wednesdays. Spring break and Thanksgiving editions are distributed on Mondays of the pertaining weeks. Free copies are distributed in the Carbondale, Murphysboro and Carterville communities. The DAILY EGYPTIAN online publication can be found at [www.dailyegyptian.com](http://www.dailyegyptian.com).

**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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**Upcoming Calendar Events**

**Herrin Library book sale**  
Friends of Herrin Library are holding their holiday book sale from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Jan. 31 at the library, 120 N. 13th St. Come early for the best selections of new and used books, paperbacks, cookbooks, tapes, movies, sheet music, books-on-tape, aviation manuals, TimeLife Fantasy series, children's books, \$1/box bargain book, and more!  
Funds raised support the library's history room, large print books and fund special projects for the library such as book cases and computer upgrades.

**Carbondale civil union community forum**  
Celebrate and discuss civil unions in Illinois.  
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# Neighborhood could have stopped NeuroRestorative expansion

**KAYLA KEARNS**  
Daily Egyptian

Despite being denied its special request Tuesday, a group home company could have a second chance if differences with Arrowhead subdivision are reconciled.

"I do ask the applicant that, if you would have the ability to talk with the neighbors and see what their concerns are so that maybe some of these issues may be addressed or something can be done, you are welcome to come back," Mayor Brad Cole said.

NeuroRestorative, a company that assists patients who have experienced severe brain trauma and have undergone rehabilitation services, requested a special use permit from the city allowing it to build an additional group home on Clippewa Drive, within 300 feet of one of its pre-existing group homes in the Arrowhead subdivision. A city ordinance currently states no group home can be built within an 800-foot

radius of another.

"Many of these individuals have been in Carbondale for many years, living in townhouse-type settings. We seek to provide a more home-like atmosphere for these individuals by having the house located in the country, close enough to town to enjoy all the perks that Carbondale has to offer," Teri Hogan, deputy state director of NeuroRestorative, said Tuesday at the council meeting.

Dave Holt, a homeowner at Arrowhead subdivision, then provided Cole with a 25 signature petition against the proposal.

The City of Carbondale Planning Commission recommended the council move to approve the special permit, but NeuroRestorative's request was denied by the City Council Tuesday by a vote of 5-2.

NeuroRestorative declined further comment Thursday.

Jack Durbin, a planning commission board member, said his vote at the commission meeting would have been different if

neighbors would have attended.

"Had the neighbors who (came to council meeting) with the petition been present at the planning commission (meeting), I can't say that I would've voted the same way," Durbin said. "When this issue came before the planning commission, there was only one neighbor that came before the committee and he didn't have any opposition. He was just pointing out some of the problems of drainage that already occurred in the area."

Holt said the neighborhood already experienced many inconveniences from the existing group home, such as increased traffic and decreased property value.

"How can our residential values be enhanced when there are large asphalt parking lots, garbage dumpsters and commercial propane tanks in plain sight? Only a continued single residential family-style development will protect property values," Holt said.

*"It seems like the city was like, 'Oh, well, there's nothing really going on here; nobody cares, so what's the problem?'"*

— Jack Durbin  
Planning commission board member

Holt said safety was a concern as well, and if there was an incident at Arrowhead, the police would arrive too late.

"The clients at the group home are a substantially older, largely disabled people," Holt said. "There are no guarantees that the second commercial facility will not have younger, more aggressive, largely roaming clients that will pose a safety issue similar to those in other facilities in the area."

Jack Cromwell, a homeowner at Arrowhead subdivision, spoke for the neighbors on his adjacent

road. He said they knew the 800-foot ordinance existed and thought they were protected. He said the city posted the sign on Clippewa Drive, a road which those neighbors don't drive on, and took it down after one day.

Durbin questioned the council's motives in approving NeuroRestorative to build in the neighborhood in the first place.

"It seems like the city was like, 'Oh, well, there's nothing really going on here; nobody cares, so what's the problem?'" Durbin said. "But it's very clear that the neighborhood is having a problem with us going back on our own rule."

Kevin Baity, assistant city manager for economic development, said an 800-foot radius was chosen because that was a typical size of a block in the 1970s, the time the ordinance was written.

*Kayla Kearns can be reached at kkearns@dailyegyptian.com or 536-3311 ext. 265.*

**WASHINGTON**

Obama says US should not fear China's rise, points to \$45B in new business deals for US firms

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama is looking to assure Americans that they should not fear China's economic rise, using Chinese President Hu Jintao's high-profile state visit to announce job-creating business deals worth billions of dollars to U.S. companies.

On another big American concern, human rights, Hu conceded that "a lot still needs to be done" to improve China's record.

**WASHINGTON**

House GOP's health care repeal is only a first step; what's the replacement?

WASHINGTON — Now comes the hard part. One day after voting to repeal President Barack Obama's landmark expansion of health insurance coverage, House Republicans go to work on replacing it. Out with mandates, the requirements in the law to carry health insurance coverage. In with special purchasing pools for people whose medical conditions render them uninsurable.

**TUNISIA**

Tunisian army fires warning shots during protest march in the capital

TUNIS, Tunisia — The Tunisian army has fired warning shots during a protest march in the North African country's capital. Protesters were marching toward the headquarters of the longtime ruling party, which was founded by ousted President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. Demonstrators have criticized the new unity government announced Monday for being mostly made up of old guard politicians from the ruling party. Members of the government have been trying to distance themselves from Ben Ali, who fled to Saudi Arabia on Friday.



# Graduating May 2011?

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# Mitsubishi plans new model for Ill. plant

DAVID MERCER  
Associated Press

Mitsubishi Motors North America plans to produce a new model at its plant in Normal, Ill., extending the life of the facility just a month after employees agreed to lower wages the company said were needed to keep it open.

Mitsubishi announced the plans as part of new, global business plan aimed at revitalizing the troubled Japanese automaker.

"One of the main pillars of this (plan) is a transition from region-specific models with all of the specifics that entails — producing for a single market, single group of consumers, a single economy — to more global models that are produced for multiple markets," Mitsubishi spokesman Dan Irvin said. "And the new model will be one of those global models."

The company plans to announce what the new model will be in the next few weeks, he said, but all four models now made at the central Illinois plant — the Gallant, Eclipse and Spyder and the Endeavor sport utility vehicle — will be phased out.

Employees and local officials at the plant said they're still waiting for details on the new model and to learn whether it will keep all 1,300 plant employees on the job. But the news that one of the largest and

highest-paying area employers will stay open was a relief.

"These jobs are very hard to come by and, again, particularly in this economy when most companies of this nature are just hoping to sustain their current employment levels," city manager Mark Peterson said. "These would be, I hate to say impossible, but almost impossible to replace."

The United Auto Workers said Mitsubishi's announcement was a just reward for tough pay concessions its members had little choice but to accept.

"Considering the economy, the state of the economy right now, I think the decision was pretty clear for a majority of the members," UAW local President Ralph Tuman said. "It was a tough decision, and it came with sacrifices."

Two-thirds of the union's almost 1,100 members at the plant voted last month to cut a reported \$1.67 an hour from their wages after the company said it needed the concessions to remain competitive.

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity said at the time that it was talking with Mitsubishi about possible incentives. The agency and company continue to talk but so far no tax breaks or other incentives have been provided spokesman Mike Claffey said.

Like the auto industry in general, Mitsubishi North America

has struggled with slow sales. The company's U.S. market share for 2009 was just over one half of one percent — the lowest level since 1985, according to WardsAuto.com, a web site that tracks auto industry data.

The company's new business plan, which it calls Jump 2013, is aimed at producing more vehicles to sell in emerging markets such as China and Brazil. The goal, according to a company release, is to raise sales to 1.37 million vehicles in 2013 from the roughly 1 million it expects it will sell by the end of the current fiscal year in March.

The Normal plant started making the Gallant and the other three models it now manufactures in 2005, Irvin said.

"They've been very good to us for a very long time," he said.

The plant at one point employed far more workers, but 1,200 were laid off in 2004 as part of what Mitsubishi said at the time was its last chance for survival. Those layoffs have been followed by other wage and benefit concessions.

Peterson said Thursday that he's anxiously waiting for details about what the company's new model will mean for job numbers at the 22-year-old plant.

"The questions is: Now that's one model — is that going to sustain all 1,100 existing jobs, and could it mean more out there?" he said.

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## AGREEMENT

CONTINUED FROM 1

"We only agreed not to sue them," Smith said. "We didn't agree to furlough days, though that was misreported in a couple of news outlets."

Randy Hughes, president of the SIUC Faculty Association, said one reason he questioned the layoffs was because a large portion of continuing faculty members who received notices were paid by state funding or with grants. If those faculty were laid off or reduced, the university may not be able to use the money from the salaries for expenses because it may have to be returned to the state or an organization, he said.

Hughes also said a large portion of the faculty with continuing appointments who received reductions weren't teachers at SIU, but worked with pre-kindergarten children in southern Illinois via a program

through Murphysboro schools and also met weekly with at-risk children and their families at their homes.

Keith Wilson, past president and current grievance chair of the association, said the university's public missions — undergraduate education, research and community service — would have been seriously affected by the reduction of pre-K teachers and the layoff of faculty members with continuing appointments.

"By targeting this group so heavily, the university went after two of its three stated missions: undergraduate education and community service," Wilson said. "It didn't make any sense."

Smith said he still doesn't understand how the faculty members given notices were chosen. He said Logue told him a formula was used to determine which faculty would be reduced or laid off.

"This process happened without any review of, say, a person's

job performance or even how necessary their position was within a department. These were senior people with continuing contracts," he said. "That makes it really tough because after that many years, those people are integrated into the function of those departments, so suddenly having them cut to part time or totally removed really left the departments in a lurch."

Smith said department chairs and deans were worried about the effects of the layoffs on students. They asked how students were going to be able to take the classes they needed to graduate if faculty members were laid off and not replaced, he said.

"I tend to think one reason why the university wanted to settle with us was because ... there was a lot of pushback from below," Smith said. "The university must have realized the cascading effects that would have happened, and all the damage that was going to be done."

## COMMITTED

CONTINUED FROM 1

Some departments, such as English as a second language, had to scramble to find professional faculty to teach the growing number of sections the department had to add, said Colin Robinson, doctorate curriculum instructor for ESL.

Robinson said he thought it was odd he or anyone in his department would receive a layoff notice when the department has grown from roughly 100 students to 250 students during the last five years.

"I just did a double take," he said. "As an employee in this department, it's thriving, flourishing."

There used to be one section in each level of ESL as recently as 2006, but with

the increase in students the department had to add multiple sections of the same courses, Robinson said.

Students need faculty members who have an abundance of hands-on professional experience, Stoner said.

She said when she teaches classes she doesn't use hypotheticals, she speaks from her experience at the Palm Beach Post.

"That's why you hire NTT," Stoner said. "You hire NTT's because they have academic background and experience in the field."

Stoner said the memory of worry and shock days before Christmas would be burned in her mind forever, but she would be the first to forgive the administration once the negotiation situation passes. She said

the administration should have waited for the bargaining process to play out between Jan. 4 and 6 before taking any action, but is thankful to have the notices rescinded.

"If (layoffs) had gone into effect, you may have seen a situation where suddenly instead of a four-year program (students) would be in a five-year program," Smith said.

Wall said the students can still get the same professional exposure from someone in the field and other faculty members as well.

"The strength of many programs has been built on this unique nature of students having both pure academic exposure as well as more of a professional-based exposure ... and they work in harmony," he said.

# OOPS! Entertainment highlights issues through art

**BRENDAN SMITH**  
Daily Egyptian

Simone Biles says the way to provoke change is to provoke people's thoughts.

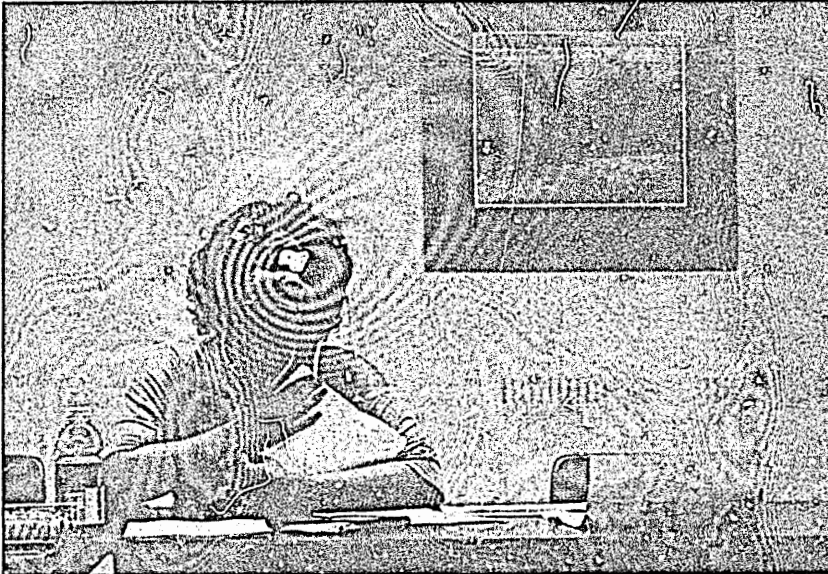
"Art is life and it really touches people," she said. "If you can get to somebody's head through art it's different than logic."

Biles, a junior from Country Club Hills studying theater, serves as president of the Our Organization Portrays Society, or OOPS! Entertainment. It is a student-run organization that combines various art forms such as acting, music, dance and poetry to perform works that entertain and educate its audience, she said.

The group was founded in 1996 by then-undergraduate student Jeff McGoy. After his graduation, the group was inactive until McGoy returned to campus to pursue his master's degree. It was through a 2009 production of "A Raisin in the Sun" that he met Biles and approached her about reviving the organization.

For Brian Nelson, a junior from Chicago studying political science, OOPS! Entertainment is about making people feel and think. Nelson, who serves as vice president of the group, said it unabashedly explores topics such as race relations, sexism and Greek life on campus.

"We've had instances with other RSOs that basically disowned us,"



Simone Biles, a junior from Country Club Hills studying theater, reads from her script "To Bangkok, With Love" Wednesday during the writer's production meeting for OOPS! Entertainment in the Student Center. OOPS! Entertainment is in the process of creating "It's Just College," a live soap opera that is scheduled to premiere in April. JESS VERMEULEN/DAILY EGYPTIAN

Nelson said. "Even faculty have come against us."

Despite the obstacles the group has faced, Nelson said members are determined to continuously express their perspectives through performance. He said the group follows its motto: "To educate and entertain to cause a revolution and find a solution."

OOPS! has more than 30 members and they all want a

different message conveyed, said Eric Clark, a junior from St. Louis studying civil engineering.

A few of those messages will be displayed Feb. 1 when the group debuts a series of works entitled "I'm Sick of This." The showcase will address many of the issues associated with being a college student, Nelson said.

"There might be things the university is ... against," he said.

"We try to bring it out there and not sweep it under the rug."

All controversy aside, Biles said the group is a collection of Innovators at its core. In addition to "I'm Sick of This..." she said the group is putting on Carbondale's first live-action soap opera, entitled "It's Just College."

The performance will debut in April, but auditions will take place Thursday and Friday. Biles said

artists from all walks of life are encouraged to attend, regardless of their level of experience or expertise.

"I'd really like to see a ventriloquist," she said. "That would be awesome. Or someone that plays the banjo or ukulele."

Brendan Smith can be reached at [bsmith@dailyegyptian.com](mailto:bsmith@dailyegyptian.com) or 536-3311 ext. 263.

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**PREVIEW WEEK**

SRC Members & SIUC Students will have to pay the daily guest fee.

**SIUC Student Recreation Center**

Session A begins January 31. You must register to participate. Register at the Administrative Office on the upper level of the Rec. Center, Monday - Thursday, 7:30am - 7:00pm; Friday, 7:30am - 6:00pm. Closed Saturday and Sunday.

Day	Activity	Time	Location
Monday, Jan. 24	Pilates I	7:00-8:00am	Dance Studio
	Gentle Yoga	8:30-9:30am	Dance Studio
	Boxing	5:30-6:30pm	Martial Arts Room
	Eng. Mid. Eastern Dance	5:45-6:45pm	Dance Studio
	Kung Fu	7:00-8:00pm	Room 158
Tuesday, Jan. 25	Vinyasa Yoga	8:30-9:30am	Dance Studio
	PiYo	5:30-6:30pm	Room 158
	Beginning Tap Dancing	6:00-7:00pm	Dance Studio
	Pilates Sculpt	6:30-7:30pm	Room 158
	Continuing Tap Dancing	7:00-8:00pm	Dance Studio
Wednesday, Jan. 26	Body Roll	5:30-6:30pm	Room 158
	Continuing Salsa	6:30-7:30pm	Dance Studio
	Swing	7:30-8:30pm	Dance Studio
	Beginning Salsa	8:00-9:00pm	Aerobics Room
	Continuing Salsa	9:15-10:15pm	Aerobics Room
Thursday, Jan. 27	Vinyasa Yoga	8:30-9:30am	Dance Studio
	Shotokan Karate	5:00-6:00pm	Dance Studio
	Youth Soccer	5:30-6:30pm	Racquetball Ct. 3
	Yoga for Seniors	6:30-7:30pm	Dance Studio
	Salsa	7:00-8:00pm	Racquetball Ct. 3
	Tai Chi	7:30-8:30pm	Room 158
Saturday, Jan. 29	Hoop Dance	8:00-9:00pm	Aerobic Room
	MMA Competition Training	8:15-9:15pm	Racquetball Ct. 3
	Youth Tap Dancing	3:00-4:00pm	Dance Studio

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# Voices

6 • Friday, January 21, 2011

www.dailyegyptian.com

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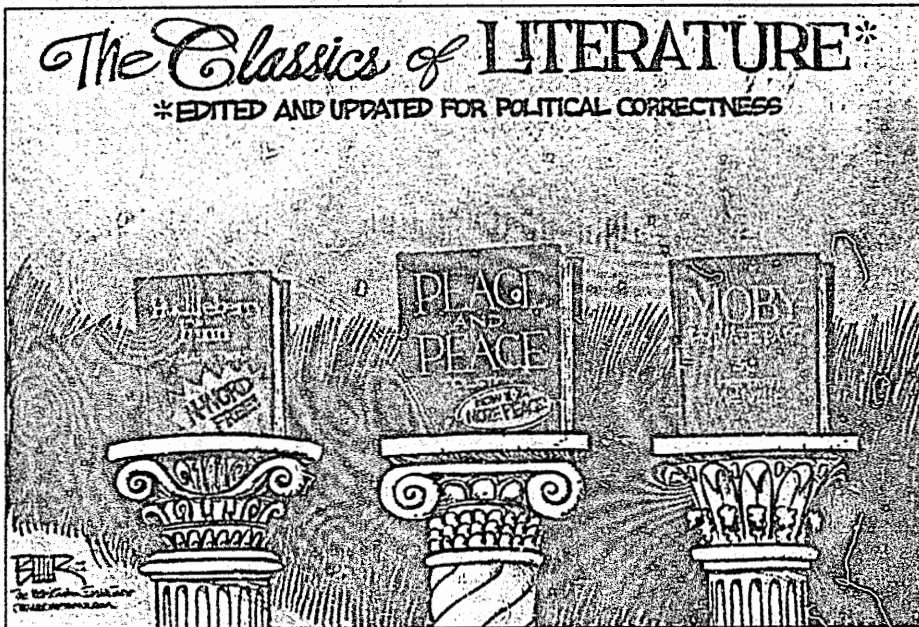
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## Editorial Policy

Our Word is the consensus of the DAILY EGYPTIAN Editorial Board on local, national and global issues affecting the Southern Illinois University community. Viewpoints expressed in columns and letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect those of the DAILY EGYPTIAN.

## EDITORIAL CARTOON



## GUEST COLUMN

# When it comes to opinions, we're all living in an intellectual Costco

STEPHEN RANDALL  
McClatchy-Tribune

You think too much. And you're not alone. Everybody's thinking too much. We live in an era in which it is important to have opinions. Not necessarily smart or original ones; almost any opinion will do as long as it's forcefully expressed. When it comes to opinions, we're all living in an intellectual Costco, where it's volume, volume, volume.

It wasn't that long ago that opinions were something carefully considered and weighed, so that they'd stand the test of time and reflect well on the author. Thinkers were like gourmet chefs laboring over an elaborate meal they wanted to be perfect. But today, opinions are Big Macs—thrown together hastily, served by the billions and not very good for you.

You probably don't want to have as many opinions as you have. But everyone around you has them. There's cable news, of course. Keith Olbermann and Glenn Beck each have plenty of opinions.

When you sell opinions for money, the way Keith and Glenn do, it doesn't take you long to

catch on that the more opinions you have, the more money you make. So, like radish farmers who grow more radishes in order to get rich, Keith and Glenn create dozens of new opinions per night.

But here's the problem: They're not very smart opinions. And they're forcing everyone around them, including you, to also have far too many opinions. We post them on Facebook; we tweet them; we express them in comments on Huffington Post. We've become junior-grade cable goons—but paid much less.

We get angry too, just like Keith and Glenn. What's the point in having an opinion if it's not an angry opinion? If something upsets us—like a member of Congress and a bunch of innocent bystanders being shot in Tucson—we don't mourn, we fulminate. We assign blame. Or we deflect blame—angrily.

It's hard to find the good guys when one side is self-righteously accusing the other side of lacking civility as if that were any more likely to spark violence than movies or video games, and the response is, weirdly, to defend a lack of civility as if it's a good thing.

Opinion inflation has invaded

every aspect of our lives. It causes us to post our opinions about our dry cleaner on Yelp. Did you use to have an opinion about your dry cleaner, or was he just sort of there, like a shrub or a parking meter?

Did you even notice what George W. Bush wore on his feet? Probably not, but half the country wanted to weigh in on President Obama's wearing of flip-flops to the beach.

If the Gap or Starbucks changed their logos a few years ago, would you have noticed? And more important, would you have run to Facebook (if it had existed) to cast your vote for the old Gap logo, as if it had always been a meaningful part of your life?

The Internet is a Petri dish of opinion inflation, breeding commentary like bacteria. Because few people do anything interesting or have anything factual to report, they toss off a short opinion. That, in turn, leads to opinion hyperinflation; just look at the comments sections on any blog. Opinions quickly devolve from Big Macs into rat poison. Civility makes only a rare appearance, and facts are no longer facts. Evolution, climate change, gravity—it's all one

point of view against another. Everyone gets a vote, even the people who aren't particularly sane.

There was a time when thoughtful people tried to be balanced. The old-style political columnists were famous for saying nothing. They presented both sides of any given issue in an "on the one hand/on the other" fashion, pretty much allowing readers to form their own opinions, which—lacking proper guidance—readers rarely did. Walter Cronkite voiced so few opinions that when he uttered one—about the Vietnam War—it changed the course of history.

Of course, those days were boring. Today's onslaught of nonstop commentary everywhere you look is significantly more entertaining. Walter Lippmann was boring; Arianna Huffington is not. Eric Sevareid could put you to sleep faster than Ambien; Sean Hannity is a shot of double espresso (with the new, not the old, Starbucks logo).

Now we're hooked: We don't go to a new restaurant to eat a meal; we go there to dissect it and then tweet about it. We can't post a link to an article without giving it some sort of grade. We criticize the music

we listen to and the TV we watch. Awards shows have been reduced to weird Joan Rivers screeds about what celebrities are wearing on the red carpet. Each dress has to be deconstructed by a panel of experts and found wanting.

It's all turning us into surly teenagers who disagree with everything.

There's a certain irony, I realize, to expressing an opinion about opinions. And perhaps I should be grateful: Not only am I more entertained these days, but when I'm feeling lazy, I can switch from thinking too much to not thinking at all. I am so surrounded by opinions that I don't need any of my own. I can turn on Fox or MSNBC and adopt an entire political philosophy without knowing a thing.

Of course, the problem is that when I share that philosophy, I don't sound intelligent, I sound like a drunk at a bar arguing with an empty barstool.

On his old HBO show, Dennis Miller used to end his trademark rants with, "Of course, that's just my opinion. I could be wrong."

He was right. I could be wrong too, but he was also way too opinionated.

## Submissions

Letters and guest columns must be submitted with author's contact information, preferably via e-mail. Phone numbers are required to verify authorship, but will not be published. Letters are limited to 300 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 [voices@siue.edu](mailto:voices@siue.edu).

## Notice

The DAILY EGYPTIAN is a designated public forum. Student editors have the authority to make all content decisions without censorship or advance approval. We reserve the right to not publish any letter or guest column.

# Bundled up for winter weather



LAUREN LEONE | DAILY EGYPTIAN

Shenika Hatcher, a senior from Chicago studying social work, walks home in the snow from Rainbow's End near Wall and Grand Apartments Thursday with her daughter, Jaiko. "Jaiko has about five outfits underneath and I have about four myself,"

Hatcher said. The National Weather Service predicts temperatures near 19 degrees today, with wind chills factors as low as minus 1 and a 20 percent chance of snow tonight. The NWS predicts a mostly sunny Saturday with a high near 31.

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### Miscellaneous

The Family of Orlando Lamont Clark wishes to thank everyone for their kind expressions during our time of sorrow whether it was in thought, your presence, or contributions in your own way. We are forever deeply grateful. Queenie Clark, Eugene Oats & Family.

### For Rent

PANAMA CITY OR Daytona Ocean front, 2-3 bedroom condos, March 12-13 \$1800 & less. (930-365-5668, scottstevens@gmail.com)

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## MEN'S BASKETBALL

## Salukis set to take on young Redbirds

**“When we are full strength, we are a pretty tough team to deal with.”**

— John Freeman  
senior guard

JUSTIN KABBES  
Daily Egyptian

SIU's men's basketball team held Evansville's leading scorer, Colt Ryan, to just six points Tuesday and will try to keep that momentum against Illinois State.

Illinois State (8-11, 0-8 Missouri Valley Conference) comes into the game on an eight-game losing streak, including a 63-59 loss against SIU (10-9, 4-4 MVC) Jan. 9 when senior forward Carlton Fay shot a game-winning 3-pointer during his season-high 33-point game. If the Salukis post a win Sunday, they will send the Redbirds back home with their worst conference season start in school history.

Illinois State comes into the game against SIU off a 76-68 loss Tuesday to Drake.

Illinois State is the youngest team in the MVC and the 23rd least experienced team in the nation. Going into the season, the Redbirds had only a combined 10 seasons worth of experience between all their players.

Illinois State coach Tim Jankovich said in his weekly teleconference. “We’re not going to feel sorry for ourselves. We’re not going to quit working.”

Sophomore center Gene Teague returned to action for the Salukis Tuesday against Evansville. Teague missed five of the last eight games after spraining his ankle. The Salukis have been 4-4 during that time, and two of the wins ended with game-winning shots by Fay.

Senior guard John Freeman said he is glad to have Teague back in the lineup.

“With Gene back, it is going to help us offensively and defensively,” he said. “When we are full strength, we are a pretty tough team to deal with.”

Coach Chris Lowery said the team suffered because of Teague's absence. Despite the hole Teague left, Lowery said good things have happened as a result. Inexperienced freshmen got experience and will be better bench players, and Fay has helped keep the team alive with his scoring performances, he said.

However, Lowery said it is frustrating not to have all the essential players in the game. The team's guards, he said, have been inconsistent. When those players succeed, the Salukis win games. The team struggles when they have underperformed.

“You have to understand that your value is not measured in your playing time, it's measured by what you actually do for the team,” Lowery said. “That is what we have to continue to get across to them.”

The Salukis will take the court at 7:05 p.m. Sunday at Redbird Arena in Normal, Ill., to play the Redbirds.

Justin Kabbes can be reached at  
jkabbes@dailyegyptian.com  
or 536-3371 ext. 256.



Senior forward Carlton Fay fights for a rebound against Evansville Wednesday at the SIU Arena. Fay scored his 1000th team point during the 67-55 home win over the Purple Aces. The Salukis travel to Normal to face the Illinois State University Redbirds Sunday. GEORGE LAMBOLEY DAILY EGYPTIAN

## TENNIS

CONTINUED FROM 12

Since many of the team's most experienced players graduated, the team is looking to new talent to improve over the fall season.

Nelson also believes the freshman players will compete well in the spring against the competition they will face.

“I expect to do better than last season. We’re

younger than they are, but we're talented enough to fight amongst the best team in the conference,” Nelson said.

The men's team will begin play Friday and continue both Saturday and Sunday in the Missouri Valley Individual Championships in Des Moines, Iowa.

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## BBALL

CONTINUED FROM 12

“I think we should always work on that every day in practice, every week,” she said. “It should definitely be at the top of our list.”

Tiber said the girls worked on breaking presses this week in preparation for the pressure they expect to face from both

Bradley and Northern Iowa.

The Salukis will hit the floor at 7:05 p.m. Friday at Bradley and will move on to play Northern Iowa at 3:00 p.m. Sunday in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

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Jacob Mayer contributed to this report.

## Bears-Packers: Fans say it's the biggest game

DON BABWIN  
Associated Press

CHICAGO — The Green Bay Packers are headed to town for the NFC championship game and Chicago Bears fans are starting to become, well, a bit unbearable.

Turn on the radio in Chicago and you'll hear no shortage of jokes about Packers fans, many of which have something to do with low intelligence. There's been plenty of laughs over a Green Bay newspaper headline that read “On To Chicago.” Many more center on the dietary habits of fans north of the “Cheddar Curtain,” like this one:

What do you call a 400-pound Packer fan? Anorexic.

All of this sniping, fun or otherwise, makes sense since the NFL's oldest rivalry has had 92 years to sim-

mer. Vince Lombardi, Don Hutson, Bart Starr, Ray Nitschke, Bronko Nagurski, Dick Butkus, Mike Ditka and Walter Payton — all of those names and more add to the rich history, but so does the relationship between the loyal fans in the two states.

John Cochara has been hearing from his so-called friends who decided he was celebrating a Packers win over the Bears a little too much in 1995 and duct-taped him to a stop sign.

“They're saying, ‘You better watch out, there are a lot of stop signs out there,’” said Cochara, whose punishment outside a bar just south of the Wisconsin-Illinois state line included a sign over his head that read “Packer Fan.”

The Super Bowl Shuffle video by the 1985-86 Bears is getting tens of

thousands of fresh clicks on YouTube. At least one Chicago TV station got texts imploring them to ask Packers fans to swear off cheese or, at least, cheeseheads, cheese ties and, honestly, cheese bras. A sign outside the Crystal Lake Rib House not far from the Wisconsin line warns that prices for Packers fans are twice the menu listing.

“They say, ‘We really don't have to pay double, do we?’” said owner Dave Faccione, who insists it's a joke. Still, some Bears fans have chimed in.

“I got a text saying, ‘You big troublemaker, charging them double. It should be triple,’” he said.

On the other side of the state line, Packers fan Frank Emmert Jr. of Superior, Wis., reminisced this week about the time he survived a small plane crash in 1995 thanks to the

foam cheesehead he put over his face seconds before impact.

“The FAA credited it, not me,” said Emmert, 52.

Mike Pyle, who played center for the Bears for nine years, including the 1963 championship season, recalled how his coach and owner of the Bears, George Halas, brought a message over to Packers coach Vince Lombardi before a game.

“He went to the locker room door at Lambeau and said, ‘We're going to whip your (expletive),’” said Pyle, 71.

Yet, with all that bad blood all those years, you'd have to go back to the week after the attack on Pearl Harbor to find the last time the Bears and Packers met in a playoff game. (The Bears won on their way to the championship).

This time around, the winner of

Sunday's showdown goes to the Super Bowl at Cowboys Stadium.

“There have been some highly hyped games that went splat, but this, they're playing for the Halas Trophy, to go to Dallas to win the Lombardi Trophy,” said Marc Silverman, the co-host of a radio show on ESPN 1000, Waddle and Sibley, with former Bears receiver Tom Waddle.

Not that the Super Bowl seems to matter much: Packers fans said beating the Bears at Soldier Field would be a wonderful cake, with a Super Bowl victory serving as the frosting.

“There would be nothing sweeter than to watch the Packers take that George Halas trophy at Soldier Field,” said John O'Neill, whose outfit at Packers games is a green bishop's costume and mitre, with Lombardi's face on it. He's appropriately known as St. Vince.

# DE Daily Bark

The Green Bay Packers head into Chicago to play the Bears at 3 p.m. Sunday to battle for the right to represent the NFC in Super Bowl XLV. Who wins?

Da Bears will win for sure. Defensive beasts Brian Urlacher, Lance Briggs and Julius Peppers will make dem Packers suffer. Since President Barack Obama is rooting for the Chicago Bears, cheering for the Packers is basically treason.

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Since I'm a Packers fan, I'm going to go with the Bears. Just kidding. I have the Packers by a field goal. My prediction: Pain



RYAN VOYLES  
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It was obvious the Bears' 10-3 loss to the Packers was on purpose. They did that to give the Packers confidence in this upcoming playoff game so their victory is just that much sweeter. Truth be told, when pride is on the line and Brian Urlacher is "let off of his leash," the Bears are going to step up their game and dominate the Packers.

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This question is like asking "Is the sky blue?" There's only one answer! Aaron Rodgers' arm, which is throwing a 134.5 QB rating, is like a precision-guided missile targeted at the endzone. And let's not forget the 600-pound gorilla on the field. Nothing instills the fear of God in a man quicker than witnessing Clay Matthews steamroll quarterbacks into the ground.

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## Salukis to take on young Redbirds



## BANTER Bears or Pack in NFC title game?

### MEN'S TENNIS

# Salukis look to start year strong

TREY BRAUNECKER  
Daily Egyptian

The SIU men's tennis team took lessons learned from the fall season and will look to improve in the spring semester as it heads into its first meet of 2011.

Coach Darrin Nelson said freshman Adam Fabik and senior Falk DeBeenhouwer led the team in the fall season.

Fabik became the all-time team leader in fall singles with 17 wins, and DeBeenhouwer came in second with 13 wins.

"We've had a pretty good fall," Nelson said.

With that kind of talent, Nelson said he expects the team to improve as the season progresses.

"We learned we're pretty young, but we also learned that we can achieve some pretty great things," Nelson said.

Nelson also said he was able to bring in two new players during break: junior Stanislas Rodier and freshman Jorge Cervera. He said Cervera was the

No. 3-ranked men's player in Peru. Nelson said the coaches made sure the team was ready to go coming out of Christmas break.

"As the coaching staff, we're on these guys quite a bit during the spring semester, because they do get six weeks off," Nelson said.

Nelson said training is important for tennis players. It's important for players to maintain their fitness levels and focus on being faster, stronger and more mobile.

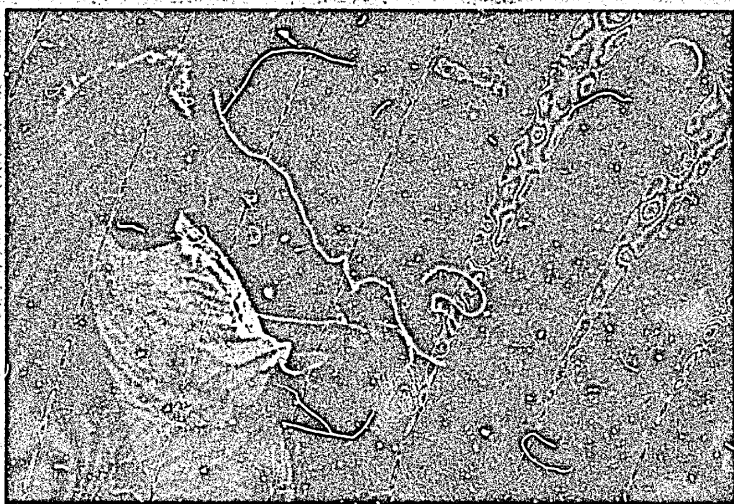
DeBeenhouwer said his scoring improvement in his play since fall because of the work he put in during spring break.

"We lift two times a week with conditioning as well," he said. "Since I've trained during fall, I feel I've improved my backhand since last year."

Fabik said he aims to do even better than he did in the fall.

"I hope to do better," he said. "My goal is beating my last season's record of 17-1 and doing as good or better than last semester."

Please see TENNIS | 10



Freshman Rafael Cuadrillero takes a swing during practice Nov. 8 at University Courts. The men's tennis team will compete in its first matches of the spring season in the Missouri Valley Individual Championships this weekend in Des Moines, Iowa.

JESS VERMEULEN | DAILY EGYPTIAN

### WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

# Women's team prepares for weekend road trip

AUSTIN FLYNN  
Daily Egyptian

After a 79-45 loss to Evansville Saturday in which it turned the ball over 39 times, the SIU women's basketball team has worked to eliminate turnovers when it faces the Bradley Braves Friday and the Northern Iowa Panthers Sunday.

To lower the turnover count, coach Missy Tiber said the Salukis need to improve their footwork and defensive rebounding this weekend.

Tiber said the Salukis have worked on their overall speed and she hopes it continues to improve.

"Speed is something that the girls are still working on," Tiber said.

When the team travels to Peoria Friday to take on the Braves (8-9, 1-5 Missouri Valley Conference), Tiber said the Salukis will need to stop guard Raissa Taylor, who leads the Braves with a 50-percent shooting percentage.

Freshman Cici Shannon said she thinks the Salukis are quicker than Bradley but will have to eliminate turnovers to be competitive against the Braves.

Tiber said Panthers guard

Jacqui Kalin, who leads the team in scoring and averages 15 points per game, will be a factor Sunday.

Tiber said it is difficult for the players to grow and mature on the court together because they have only three seniors to learn from. She also said anxiety runs high in the games since the team is so young, and this could play a role in the amount of turnovers the team allows.

Freshman guard Renee Reed said the team is ready to be competitive and play hard. She also said the team expects to be pressed by their opponents, and they have worked in practice to prepare for the pressure they might face this weekend.

"We just need to play hard and break the press," Reed said.

Tiber said the team shot well Saturday once it broke Evansville's press but has struggled to deal with full-court pressure throughout the season.

Freshman guard Sidney Goinis said the team wasn't prepared to handle Evansville's pressure, especially in the first half, and future opponents will continue to press if they know it's an area of the game where the Salukis have struggled.

Please see BBALL | 10



Freshman center Cici Shannon attempts to guard senior forward Nneka Nwanji during practice Thursday at the SIU Arena. The Salukis will face Bradley University Friday in Peoria.

JESS VERMEULEN  
DAILY EGYPTIAN