

PUT IT IN PERSPECTIVE Citizens revolt against presidential tyrant

What is your concern about the uprising in Egypt?



DICK MERRIMAN

It is moving to see Egyptians trying to take control of their futures and pushing to create a political and social system that is less repressive. The Egyptian people have been under the thumb of Mubarak and his ruling party for many years.

My biggest concern is that the process of changing a political regime is complex, open-ended, and there are many opportunities for things to go wrong. Over the past couple of weeks I've been watching DVDs of the HBO series "John Adams." Looked at from a distance of almost 240 years, the success of the American war for independence

from Great Britain seems like a certainty, but it was anything but inevitable. Thirteen very uncertain years passed between the Declaration of Independence and the ratification of the U.S. Constitution.

It's not certain what kind of political change will come to Egypt. Mubarak may yet survive, though that seems increasingly unlikely. Even if Mubarak is forced out, it is likely that many vestiges of his regime will remain. Even if wholesale change comes, it is a lot to hope for that the result of change in Egypt will be the emergence of a multi-party representative government. A lot of the cultural ingredients for such a system of politics – like a free press, and a history of clean elections – are currently missing in Egypt. Whatever happens, U.S. influence in Egypt will be reduced. Mubarak was "our" guy. Egyptians aren't going to forget that.

Dick Merriman is the president of Southwestern College.



STEPHEN WOODBURN

Tourism is the basis of Egypt's economy. They have no comparable exports. Protestors in the street and political instability will keep tourists away. Journalists are flocking, the world is watching, but then angry mobs attack journalists for being foreigners. That's economic suicide. The loss of tourism will cripple the whole country, all

the way down to the beggars. The longer it lasts, the worse it's going to be. With the economy hurting, the state will be weaker. That means their government will be even more dependent on foreign aid from the U.S., which is already a source of public resentment. That's not a good basis for a new start, whoever ends up in power. Revolutions in other countries over the last decade have raised lots of hopes at first, but over time left the people all the more frustrated because changing the system is hard and slow. New leaders have it harder because they're expected to solve big problems fast. That may be impossible, if tourists wait and see how it all shakes out before going back.

Stephen Woodburn is the assistant professor of history.



ANDREW SHEPPARD

My biggest concern for Egypt is the world reaction to its political problems. We have already heard some pundits declare that what is happening in Egypt is on balance with the end of the Soviet Union. It is natural for people to seek

historical connections but the Egyptian people do not strike me as reflecting on the events of Nasser's nationalizing of the Suez Canal or Sadat's pro U.S. stance. Rather, I think they are responding to serious matters that are particular to civil society in that country. It is a political dialog that the Egyptian people need to have. So the challenge is for all of Egypt's neighbors and allies not to over-react, under-react, or dabble to the detriment of that society. That can be a very hard balance for national governments to achieve.

Andrew Sheppard is the vice president for academic affairs and dean of faculty.

New movie 'Roommate' released to horrified audience

SAMANTHA GILLIS

A blonde-haired girl stands in a small dorm room. Both her and her roommate have immaculate hair and poreless skin. They make forced "perfect" conversation and they smile and giggle on cue. Little do they know that they are trapped in the most wretched film of 2011—"The Roommate." But the viewer is in even more of a predicament because after just two minutes they realize they have just anted upped one-third of their bank account to endure 90 minutes of cinematic torture. Soon the viewer cannot take it anymore, their rage builds until finally it festers over, they unleash like a screaming whirlwind of green hulk fury out of the theatre, taking human causalities in the process.

Tragic yes, but viewers, producers, writers and actors alike can learn from this devastating movie so that it may never happen again.

Some students have discussed the urge to view the movie since our Christy stands proud on the "The Roommate" movie poster, behind the bi-polar, un-medicated, loon named Rebecca.

Well, I am here to warn you: DO NOT GIVE IN. Learned lesson No. 1: We should not reward these people for tarnishing our landmark building.

The movie, directed by Christian E. Christiansen and written by Sonny Mallhi, has potential to be decent or at least a cheesy horror film, but is far from either. Rebecca (Leighton Meester) moves into her dorm with her new roommate, Sara Matthews (Minka Kelly). Soon after, they start calling each other "besty," then Rebecca begins obsessing over Sara, who starts to notice her roommate's weirdo behavior. Rebecca begins inflicting pain on the people who threaten to take Sara away from her and from there it just goes down in flames.

Christiansen has also directed Zoomers and Mikkell og guldkortet, a television series which aired in Denmark. It received extremely poor ratings but somehow lives on.

Lesson No. 2: Do not kill off the star actor half way through the movie.

This is like injecting oxygen directly into the heart of the movie. Sara picked up the

PAIGE CARSWELL

The question isn't whether or not Hosni Mubarak is wrong, or should step down. The Egyptian youth who are protesting have never even had another ruler. They've lived under oppression for their whole lives, so it's no surprise that even when the president said he wouldn't run for re-election (after a week of protests), it wasn't enough. His country revolted.

Mubarak is famous for being the bully in the lunchroom. Rather than ask nicely, or think of anyone else, he'll just punch the smaller kid in the face.

But, it seems as if **EDITORIAL** Perhaps there this time, he's facing a much bigger opponent, and the more he waits, the worse it's bound to get.

However, how much could the United States really help in this situation? During the Pew Global Attitudes project in 2010, America was reported to have

a 17-percent approval rating in Egypt. That means they are in a tie for viewing America more negatively than any other country in the world.

Perhaps there is a coincidental link between Obama's famous speech he made in Egypt a year ago, but that doesn't seem to be helping anyone's view of the good ol' U.S. of A.

So, what will happen?

Perhaps the bully will finally step down, which is fortunate

for Egypt, but perhaps less fortunate for the U.S., since the group that is going to fill in his shoes is bound to be incredibly anti-American, and maybe even not as nice as Mubarak. The second-biggest bully takes the cake, before turning around and smearing it in the face of anyone else who wants it.

It's the cafeteria way.

Paige Carswell is a senior majoring in journalism. You may e-mail her at paige.carswell@sockans.edu.

Word on the Hill

By Korie Hawkins

Do you think sledding should be allowed on campus?



"No, I don't. I've seen students get hurt sledging down the hill."

Dick Merriman
president of the college



"I'm a mama, but if you are 21, you should be able to sled on campus."

Bobi Muldrow
payroll & benefits administrator



"I believe that sledding should be allowed on campus, but I understand why we can't do it because of the liability. But I used to do it, my kids used to do it. Now I can't anymore, so I'm sad."

Tad Humphrey
telecommunications specialist



"I don't think sledding is appropriate on campus because it's dangerous and we want to keep all the students safe."

Lai-L Clemons
director of campus life



"There are a few places on campus a person could sled, but not down the hill of Christy. Maybe down the soccer field. There is nothing there. If they really want to sled they should go over to Saint Johns."

Barbara Kaiser
finance office assistant



"I would love to have sledding be allowed cause it looks like great fun. But I also saw a kid crash his sled and end up bloody faced. I'm more worried about a student being crunched than having fun. I vote for safe."

Tami Pullins
associate vice president for advising and student success

Sledding ban prohibits innocent recreation



ALEJANDRA ROJAS

Close your eyes and imagine the feel of the sun's rays on your face, the feeling of the sand underneath your toes and the taste of ice-cold lemonade.

Now open your eyes. Unfortunately it's not the middle of summer, but it's what seems like the middle of winter. Although you won't be splashing in the pool anytime soon, freshly fallen snow flakes

invade the 77 and suddenly the thought of sledding seems just as fun.

Snow days makes us look back at the good times. The elementary snow days when school would be canceled making it the perfect chance to drink hot chocolate and stay warm inside. Not even close. How about making it perfect time to buddle up and grab a trash can lid and hike around to find the nearest hill. Oh, those were the days. Not giving a hoot if we were soaking wet and cold, making snowmen, throwing snowballs around and sledding were the highlights of being 10.

The thought of sledding and feeling young always comes to mind when we see snow on the ground. It's almost a part of life and an instinct to ask friends to

find a hill and sled down it as many times possible when the snow hits the ground.

How lucky are we to have such an amazing hill. We don't have to search very far, but can meet friends in middle. Although, we are considered "college students" from the ages of 18 and up, slopping down any hill on campus is considered dangerous. Sure I'll be the first to admit it is dangerous, but I don't think it's reckless. I believe college students are just as responsible as anyone and are more than capable of sledding down the campus hill without getting hurt or hurting anyone.

But why is it so difficult for anyone to believe sledding is a choice and those who participate are responsible for their own acts? I understand that while in middle school, throwing snow around became a nuisance for faculty members and in high

school jokingly messing around in the snow while at school was forbidden because some students at that age are considered immature, but in college this shouldn't be the case.

I understand that sometimes there is such thing as overly friendly fun, which could lead to real serious accidents. While I can't calculate the probabilities of an actual-major accident occurring, I feel snow days are meant to be stress relievers. While it's important to stay focused throughout college, little opportunities, such as snow days, are part of the college experience. Every experience, while at college, shouldn't be left unexperienced, but lived to the fullest. It's snow. A little bit of fun down a very important hill that we have trudged up and down every day should be allowed.

Alejandra Rojas is a senior majoring in communication. You may e-mail her at alejandra.rojas@sockans.edu.

PERSONAL COLUMN

Lesson No. 4: Stereotypes are annoying.

I understand that Hollywood has certain norms they have to adhere to, but to play on almost every stereotype is just lazy. Besides the kitten's performance, there were no signs of creativity.

Unfortunately this past weekend "The Roommate" hit No.1 in the box office stealing \$15 million from teenagers nationwide. Let's not have this happen again. I have already contributed too much to the revenue of this money. I hope you don't fall into the same black hole. Nobody deserves such torture—we owe it to each other. So, please spread the word to every Builder, stay away from any temptations to see the film. Do not hang out with anyone between the age of 13 to 17 and do not go to the movie theatre without first deciding on a movie (spontaneous decisions can be detrimental decisions). Your curiosity is not worth giving up your dignity.

Samantha Gillis is a senior majoring in convergent journalism. You may e-mail her at Samantha.gillis@sockans.edu.

The Collegian Staff

- Editor in Chief**.....Lea Shores
- Managing Editor**.....Samantha Gillis
- News and Opinion Editor**.....Inger Furholt
- Features Editor**.....Paige Carswell
- Photo Editor**.....Carly Budd
- Sports Editor**.....Clinton Dick
- Social Media Editor**.....Korie Hawkins
- Advertising Manager**.....Inger Furholt
- Online Editor**.....Alejandra Rojas

Staff.....Leslie Ash, Blake Carter, Maggie Collett, Erica Dunigan, Kyle Killgore, Erin Morris, Will Rosson, Jonathan Woon

Faculty Adviser.....Stacy Sparks

The Collegian is the official student newspaper of Southwestern College in Winfield, Kansas. It is published and distributed during the fall and spring semesters. News contributions will be accepted by sending an e-mail to collegian@sockans.edu or campus mail addressed to: The Collegian, Southwestern College, 100 College Street, Winfield, KS 67156.

Editorials are written by the Collegian staff members and do not necessarily represent the views of The Collegian or Southwestern College.

Letters to the editor are encouraged. To be published, letters must be verified, either with a signature or some other means of identifying the writer. All letters are subject to editing.

Subscription rates: first copy free to students, faculty and visitors to Southwestern College and \$35 per school year mailed.

The Collegian is also available in electronic version at scollegian.com and scupdate.org.

kacponline.org

