12-9-2013

The Daily Egyptian, December 09, 2013

Daily Egyptian Staff

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Volume 99, Issue 61

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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.”

“Such a change, if it were to be upheld by the Illinois Supreme Court, would likely be a violation of the Illinois Constitution, which guarantees ‘the right to receive pension benefits which have been earned by prior service to the State or to any political subdivision of the State, and is a long and complicated process. 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. “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.

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.”

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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.

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MARTHA IRVINE
Associated Press

CHICAGO — Denon Allen went painstakingly through a door window at the school he used to attend. Those who live outside his gritty, violence-plagued neighborhood might dismiss the 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 understudied 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. Too many will be phased out by the end of the school year.

Allen left his school for the last time last summer, biding back tears as chaos and protests ensued. From that point on, the school, formerly known as Lafayette Elementary, became a synecdoche 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 denied 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.

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 name 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 Debra 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 support is making the transition rough.

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Chicago schools transition — effortless or jagged

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In honor of veterans around the world, the Saturday morning military merit basketball game held several festivities to recognize wounded service members and their families.

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 Allisson Lamp, a junior studying psychology from Polo, sang the national anthem. She said she selected her rendition in singing, her lifelong hobby, at the game.

“I had a video from a previous event I did,” Lamp said. “I thought it was a good fit, and I decided to do it. I 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, Lamp 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. … of the reasons I did choose ROTC was there were so many benefits to it, as a college I did 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 Chicago, studying business administration, received a two- and a-half-year Federal Scholarship, added to a total of almost $28,000 in ROTC scholarships.

“Instead of weighing off my parents too, you know,” Briggs said. “I don’t have to worry about tuition and have somewhere to live and have 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 applications minimum criteria are a 2.5 GPA, an ACT score of 90, 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 teams,” Sowards said. “All those things are accumulative 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 veterans and three local veterans were escorted to center court and greeted by Chelsea Rizzo Cheng, Athletic Director Mario Moccia and the Grassy Lake Hunting Club Owner, Gerald “Eagle” Cain.

Sgt. Michael Maddsen 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 provider 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 the Army and they get the healing that they need and they get back to active duty,” Maddsen said.

Handler said it’s never an easy decision closing the lever and watching the game, the best thing you might have,” Long said. “To get caught up in the atmosphere of a game, I think it could be beneficial for some of those veterans (veteran) might be dealing with from the war.”

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

Lube Nistiche can be reached at bnistiche@dailyegyptian.com or 536-3313 ext 254.

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 the case by the time it is enacted.”

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

Grabowski said he also had an alternative view of how the bill will ripple 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 benefit plan, 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.”

Setch Richardson can be reached at rischen@dailyegyptian.com or 536-3313 ext 254.

Snow

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“We look at campus conditions, the night before like what our preparation is, what kind of equipment we have, what kind of weather we have, and if 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),” Garton said.

“Since I had a test this morning, I figure they just mean you thank you and thank you and this is just so appreciative of everything. It makes you want to try to appreciate the fact that they’re done for us. It’s kind of like any other normal day,” Garton said.

“Overall, it was a great weekend of hunting for the Grassy Lake,” Long said. “I was thinking of the reasons I did choose ROTC was there are so many benefits to it, as a college I did get to know that I’m going to get out of college and have money saved up,” she said.

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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 as it is 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.

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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.

“You have no choice but to live in shacks with 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.”

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 videos. The victims 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.”
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:

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 different religious organization.

2. The Supreme Court has taken a dim view 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.

3. The 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

Like it or not, we as a society have decided that health insurance will be provided primarily by and through employers; until that change, 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.

A Hobby Lobby victory would mean a corporation potentially can claim that the First Amendment did not protect a belief-based reason they shouldn’t be compelled to pay for workers’ abortions even as it claims to uphold the mushy and muddled ideal of “freedom to worship.” In practice, such a “freedom” would mean continuing 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 compell’d 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 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.
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Bale, Harrelson on fire in “Out of the Furnace”

Almost one year ago, Brad Pitt’s “Killing Them Softly” melded 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 drinking. 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 Perry (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.

Russell is forced to head into the hills to discover what happened to his brother. Harrelson is a more accessible film than Pitt’s “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 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.

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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 become as faithful as it wants to be. But with stellar performances from its leading cast, it’s not one to miss. “Furnace” 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 become as faithful 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.

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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
Visiting veteran held by North Korea happy to be back home

Fabiola Sanchez
Associated Press

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," said Newman.

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 North Korea Central News Agency said he had entered the country under "the guise of a tourist to confirm and identify the whereabouts of the spys 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 Boa 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 immediately afterward.

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, Jeffery, 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 back in town, 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 shrinking media coverage of the government to owners who more often are business partners than critics.

"There's no campaign to intimidate media outlets," said Carlos Correa, of Espacio Publico, the nongovernmental organization that monitors the 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."
**Crossword**

**THE Daily Commuter Puzzle**

by Jacqueline E. Matheus

**ACROSS**
1. Story by Aesop  - 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. Splitting: ...  
24. Historical times  
25. Damsels  
26. Stopped  
29. Untue  
30. Pack animal  
31. Radio knobs  
33. Eat between meals  
37. Those people  
39. Semisynthetic textile filament  
41. Accurate  
42. Unicorn  
44. Of the kidneys  
46. Weep  
47. Work  
49. Wall recesses  
51. Capital of Wisconsin  
54. War-torn  
55. Subsidized  
56. The Adventure-blockbuster film about a sea  
60. Conscious state  
61. Notion  
63. “Remember the  
64. Cosmetics company  
65. Pony wagon  
66. Extremely cold  
67. ... off the deep  
68. Peepers  
69. Corrects a manuscript  

**DOWN**
1. Aluminium ... food wrap  
2. Facial problem  
3. Buzzing insects  
4. Backsliders  
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 cheat up  
21. Lowest point  
23. Woman’s title  
25. “Ty’s “Perry  
26. Cracker spread  
27. Arthur of tennis  
28. Consumer  
29. Handicap  
32. Moses’ brother  
34. Foot’s instep  
35. Remedy  
36. Opener  
38. Combative  
40. Grandmas  
43. At ... relaxed  
45. Family tree  
46. Upper part of a woman’s dress  
48. Formed a spiral  
51. Large parrot  
52. Over  
53. Actor Matt  

**Thursday's Puzzle Solved**

Created by Jacqueline E. Matheus 3/7/13

**SUDOKU**

1 9 2 6 5 8 4 3 7

**JUMBLE**

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

**Thursday's Answers:**

**Jumbles:**

ABATE  UPPER  INJURE  SCREWY

**LIBRA**

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.

**TOBYAN**

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.

**VIETIN**

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.

**TIGDI**

Today is a 6 — 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.

**BALMU**

Your drive along the Mediterranean gave suggested by the above cartoon.

**Answers:**

**TOBYAN**

**LIBRA**

**VIETIN**

**TIGDI**

**BALMU**

**HOROSCOPES**

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**Capricorn** — Today is a 5 — You can do this. Boost your assets (and pizzazz) 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

KENDALL HELBILG
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 doozy of a 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 “intransigent” to see how his team responded to the Tech loss.

“They 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 25 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 asemic 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 5 three-point attempts.

K.T. Harrell led Auburn with 25 points.

Illinois made 9 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 a 18-4 run that building a 26-13 lead, with Abrams and Ekey each making 2 of 3 attempts during that span.

Rice, who entered the season with expectations and was coming off a 1-of-10 shooting night against Georgia Tech, was 6 of 10 from the field in the second half with an 18-4 run that 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.

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**SPORTS**

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**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 5.65 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.

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**Hilltoppers stand tall over Salukis**

CHRISS ZOELLER | Daily Egyptian

Sophomore guard Jalun 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 loss for the Salukis. SIU will travel to Murray State University Dec. 17 to take on the Racers.

TYLER DIXON | Daily Egyptian

Salukis hurdle into season

Junior thrower DeAnna Price captured both the shot put and weight throw on the women's side. Her best weight throw was more than 20 meters, which was more than a foot better than the second place finisher, her teammate and fellow junior, Sophia Lovato.

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 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.

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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.

SUU 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 45-38 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.