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Keeping it in the family



Laura Roberts | Daily Egyptian

Alysha and Emily Bankester, along with Melissa Triplett, sing Sunday at Shryock Auditorium. The family band, called The Bankesters, opened for feature performers Dailey and Vincent. Emily Bankester received the 2012 International Bluegrass Music Association's Momentum Award for Vocalist of the Year, which highlights artists in the early stages of their careers. The band's next performance is Jan. 26 at the Missouri Area Bluegrass Committee Festival in Fruitland, Mo.

Legislators propose new pension plan

JACK ROBINSON
Daily Egyptian

A bill proposed Wednesday by Illinois legislators would cut annual cost-of-living increases for retirees, make government workers pay more toward their retirement and raise the age when full benefits can be received.

Rep. Elaine Nekritz and Rep. Daniel Biss drafted a bill to potentially help the state's \$95 billion pension debt. The proposal would raise employee beneficence, raise the age of retirement for government employees, and begin to share pension costs with school districts. It would increase the retirement age of new government employees as well. It would also allow the state to alleviate some of the future debt by having pension costs transferred to the school district.

The proposal would require state employees to contribute 2 percent more to their own retirement. It would also create a different system for retirement age eligibility. Older workers would be able to retire at the same age at which they presently qualify for, while younger employees would have to work longer.

Illinois legislators have tried to propose a new pension plan for the past year. Although the most recent proposal took place last spring, discussions were halted because of a lack of progress between political parties. In a press release from Nekritz, she said the plan can help state debt and state employees.

"(The proposal is) a balanced plan to simultaneously bring state pension costs under control for the long term and provide retirement security for hundreds of thousands of state workers and teachers."

The bill was proposed on the final veto day of 2012, which was Dec. 5, Nekritz said. Progress on the proposal isn't expected until January 2013.

With pension and benefit cuts, some Illinois legislators question whether the bill is constitutional.

"A unilateral reduction of pension benefits would be unconstitutional," Senate President John Cullerton said. "I thought all constitutional problems were averted in the last proposal."

Illinois teachers fall under the part of the proposal where school districts can decide what they will contribute to pension costs. The teachers' pensions will gradually pass responsibility over to school districts. Teachers will have pensions cut and will have to contribute toward their own retirement.

Some Illinois teachers think the proposal is the state's punishment for past blunders.

"They are making teachers pay for mistakes that we didn't make," said Christie McElwee, an English teacher from Decatur. "There is too much waste at the top, and something needs changed."

McElwee said the new pension change could potentially deter students from becoming teachers in Illinois.

"If I were just now starting, I would move," she said. "There is no advantage of becoming a teacher in Illinois, and the state will see the long-term effects of it."

Please see PENSION | 3

Recreation Center to increase class prices

RILEY SWINFORD
Daily Egyptian

Participants of some group classes at the Recreation Center will soon see an impact on their wallets as well as their bodies.

The Recreation Center will begin to charge for some classes in the spring through a new pricing system, though some classes will continue to be offered at no cost.

Sally Wright, associate director of programs at the center, said the fees

will be issued through membership pass sales or charges on the class by day. Students with a pass will have to pay a one-time fee of \$50 or \$125, and students without passes will have the option to pay \$8 a class, she said.

Wright said the charges are needed in order to ensure high-quality instruction in the classes. She said the certified instructors require higher salaries than the non-certified instructors.

"While the cost of doing

business continues to rise, we have made a commitment to not raise the Recreation Center fees to all students but rather look at other opportunities to generate revenue," she said.

Student fees will continue to give students full access to the facility's fitness equipment, courts, tracks and swimming pool, she said, and students will have the opportunity to participate in 19 free fitness classes.

The new charges will apply only

to the center's other options, she said, and Recreational Sports and Services divided the classes into three categories to decide how to charge for each class.

She said Tier 1 will include 19 basic classes a week at no additional charge. Tier 2, which will cost \$50 for a semester, will hold 21 classes a week, including Zumba, Cycle, TurboKick and other classes that must be taught by certified instructors. Tier 3, she said, will cost \$125 for a semester and include 13

classes a week such as Yoga, Pilates, PiYo and Mind-Body Fusion.

Wright said students who participated in Tier 2 or 3 classes in the past won't notice many changes because they have required some payment before. Wright said Tier 2 pass holders will have access to both Tier 1 and 2 classes, and Tier 3 pass holders will have access to all three class tiers.

Please see REC | 3

The Weather Channel® 5-day weather forecast for Carbondale

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
45° 26°	51° 28°	53° 32°	54° 41°	54° 38°
Sunny	Sunny	Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Showers
0% chance of precipitation	0% chance of precipitation	0% chance of precipitation	10% chance of precipitation	50% chance of precipitation

Pot legalized in CO

KRISTEN WYATT
Associated Press

DENVER — Marijuana for recreational use became legal in Colorado on Monday, when the governor took a purposely low-key procedural step of declaring the voter-approved change part of the state constitution.

Colorado became the second state after Washington to allow pot use without a doctor's recommendation. Both states prohibit public use of the drug, and commercial sales in Colorado and Washington won't be permitted until after regulations are written next year.

Gov. John Hickenlooper, a Democrat, opposed the measure but had no veto power over the voter-approved amendment to the state constitution.

Hickenlooper tweeted his declaration Monday and sent an executive order to reporters by email after the fact. He told reporters he didn't want to make a big deal about the proclamation, a decision that prevented a countdown to legalization as seen in Washington, where the law's supporters gathered to smoke in public to celebrate.

Fewer than two dozen people publicly marked Colorado's legalization day. A small group puffed away at 4:20 p.m. on the steps of the state Capitol, with no arrests and no police officers in sight.

"It smells like freedom," said a smiling, puffing Timothy Tipton, a longtime marijuana activist.

Colorado law gave Hickenlooper until Jan. 5 to declare marijuana legal. He told reporters Monday he saw no reason to wait and didn't see any point in letting marijuana become legal without his proclamation.

"If the voters go out and pass something and they put it in the state constitution, by a significant margin, far be it from myself or any governor to overrule. I mean, this is why it's a democracy, right?" Hickenlooper said.

Adults over 21 in Colorado may now possess up to an ounce of marijuana, or six plants. Public use and sale of the drug remain illegal.

Colorado and Washington officials both have asked the U.S. Department of Justice for guidance on the laws that conflict with federal drug law. So far, the federal government has offered little guidance beyond stating that marijuana remains illegal and that the Controlled Substances Act will be enforced. Of special concern for state regulators is how to protect state employees who violate federal drug law by complying with state marijuana laws.

The U.S. Attorney's Office issued a statement Monday shortly after Hickenlooper's announcement restating its position.

Hickenlooper also announced a state task force Monday to help craft the marijuana regulations. The 24-member task force includes law enforcement, agriculture officials and marijuana advocates.

The governor admonished the task force not to ponder whether marijuana should be legal.

"I don't think we benefit anyone by going back and turning over the same soil. Our job is to move forward," he said.

Hickenlooper told the task force to "work to reconcile Colorado and federal laws such that the new laws and regulations do not subject Colorado state and local governments and state and local government employees to prosecution by the federal government."

Colorado's marijuana measure, Amendment 64, was approved with 55 percent of the vote last month. One of the authors of Colorado's pot amendment, Mason Tvert, called the declaration "truly historic."

"We are certain that this will be a successful endeavor and Colorado will become a model for other states to follow," Tvert said in a statement.

Corrections

In Thursday's edition of the DAILY EGYPTIAN, the article "The Stage Company raises 'Spirit'(s) should have said the Stage Company will celebrate its 31st year this year, and student tickets are \$5 for the Sunday, December 9th performance only. The DAILY EGYPTIAN regrets the error.

About Us

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Mission Statement

The DAILY EGYPTIAN, the student-run newspaper of Southern Illinois University Carbondale, is committed to being a trusted source of news; information, commentary and public discourse, while helping readers understand the issues affecting their lives.

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Democrats want jobless benefits in 'cliff' deal

SAM HANANEL
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Hovering in the background of the "fiscal cliff" debate is the prospect of 2 million people losing their unemployment benefits four days after Christmas.

"This is the real cliff," said Sen. Jack Reed, D-R.I. He's been leading the effort to include another extension of benefits for the long-term unemployed in any deal to avert looming tax increases and massive spending cuts in January.

"Many of these people are struggling to pay mortgages, to provide education for their children," Reed said this past week as President Barack Obama and House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, rejected each other's opening offers for a deficit deal.

Emergency jobless benefits for about 2.1 million people out of work more than six months will cease Dec. 29, and 1 million more will lose them over the next three

months if Congress doesn't extend the assistance again.

Since the collapse of the economy in 2008, the government has poured \$520 billion — an amount equal to about half its annual deficit in recent years — into unemployment benefit extensions.

White House officials have assured Democrats that Obama is committed to extending them another year, at a cost of about \$30 billion, as part of an agreement for sidestepping the fiscal cliff and reducing the size of annual increases in the federal debt.

"The White House has made it clear that it wants an extension," said Michigan Rep. Sander Levin, the top Democrat on the House Ways and Means Committee.

Republicans have been relatively quiet on the issue lately. They demanded and won savings elsewhere to offset the cost of this year's extension, requiring the government to sell some of its broadcasting airwaves and making newly hired

federal workers contribute more toward their pensions.

Boehner did not include jobless benefits in his counteroffer response this past week to Obama's call for \$1.6 trillion in new taxes over the next decade, including raising the top marginal rates for the highest-paid 2 percent.

Long-term unemployment remains a persistent problem. About 5 million people have been out of work for six months or more, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. That's about 40 percent of all unemployed workers.

The Labor Department said Friday that the unemployment rate fell to 7.7 percent from 7.9 percent, the lowest in nearly four years. But much of the decline was due to people so discouraged about finding a job that they quit looking for one.

Democrats have tried to keep a flame burning under the issue. Ending the extended benefits would "deal a devastating blow to our economy,"

42 Democratic senators wrote Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., this past week.

The Congressional Budget Office said in a study last month that extending the current level of long-term unemployment benefits another year would add 300,000 jobs to the economy. The average benefit of about \$300 a week tends to get spent quickly for food, rent and other basic necessities, the report said, stimulating the economy.

The liberal-leaning Economic Policy Institute found that extended unemployment benefits lifted 2.3 million Americans out of poverty last year, including 600,000 children.

States provide the first 20 weeks to 26 weeks of unemployment benefits for eligible workers who are seeking jobs. When those are exhausted, federal benefits kick in for up to 47 more weeks, depending on the state's unemployment rate.

The higher a state's unemployment

rate, the longer state residents can qualify for additional weeks of federal unemployment benefits. Only seven states with jobless rates of 9 percent or more now qualify for all 47 weeks.

Congress already cut back federal jobless benefits this year. Taken together with what states offer, the benefits could last up to 99 weeks. Cutting the maximum to 73 weeks has already cut off benefits to about 500,000 people.

"Prolonged benefits lead some unemployed workers to spend too much time looking for jobs that they would prefer to find, rather than focusing on jobs that they are more likely to find," said James Sherk, a labor policy analyst at the conservative Heritage Foundation.

But Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, noted that unemployment checks add up to about \$15,000 a year. "That's poverty level," he said. "This is not something people just want to continue on, they want to get jobs."



Council to get strict with panhandlers

AUSTIN FLYNN
Daily Egyptian

Council members will discuss the issue of panhandlers, how they negatively impact the city and a newly revised code geared toward a solution to the problem at tonight's council meeting.

Councilman Don Monty said panhandling has been a city issue for years, so a way to get the offenders off the streets is needed.

The problem hurts city business and makes residents feel unsafe, he said.

"This has been an ongoing concern for several years," Monty said. "It turns into a significant nuisance issue in the commercial areas, and it can really become quite annoying to patrons."

According to the council's agenda, the revised code's change is one of location, and any person caught panhandling in certain areas will be in direct violation of it. The code states no person shall engage in panhandling when either the panhandler or the person being solicited to is on any publicly owned property. These locations include

bus stops, train stations, taxi stands, bathrooms and other commercial or government establishments.

Monty said the areas were chosen based on the areas panhandlers conduct business most often. They are areas where panhandling hurts the city the most, he said.

"Generally speaking, the activity tends to go on in high traffic areas where people will be more likely to encounter people who might give them money," he said. "I think if you restrict the activity from those high traffic, high visibility areas, then you're much less likely to have the

occurrence of the activity."

There used to be no restrictions on the matter, Monty said, but more laws and revisions had to be made to keep up with the complaints presented by business owners, citizens and patrons alike as the problem persisted over the years.

"It has been an incremental thing," Monty said. "There were restrictions put in place in hopes that that would deal with the issue, but then over time it became apparent that the restrictions put in place weren't having the desired effect."

Panhandling has been more of an

issue as of late because, according to the agenda, offenders have started to make the transition from nighttime to daytime solicitation.

There could be many different reasons for this change, Monty said.

"Maybe it's the economy, or maybe it's because people are becoming bolder," he said.

The changes will be effective immediately if the council votes to pass the revised code.

*Austin Flynn can be reached at
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REC

CONTINUED FROM 1

"To help put these fees in perspective, one could do the math and see that if a person paid \$50 for a Tier-2 pass and attended three Zumba classes per week, the cost per class over the 16-week semester is 96 cents per class," she said. "For Tier 3 classes, a person could attend three Yoga or Pilates classes per week over the 16-week semester at a cost of \$3.29 per class."

Without the charges, Wright said the center would have to reduce the amount of qualified instructors it employs.

"By implementing this system, we are able to continue offering the kind of high quality classes our students/members have come to expect," she said.

The center expects a large revenue increase because the classes have historically been very well-attended, Wright said. She said the classes typically fill to their capacity.

"The important thing about these classes is that they provide our customers with a variety of options to meet the many needs and wants of our diverse population," Wright said. "These classes also give our student instructors an opportunity to gain work experience and an income."

Andrew Durham, a junior from Naperville studying business management, said he doesn't think the new costs are fair. He said

students already have to pay enough for the facility through student fees.

"I could understand if they are expensive classes," he said. "I would have to look at how much they are charging compared to what I could get at a gym before I would pay for a class there."

He also said he doesn't like using the Recreation Center because it is too crowded. He said the center should look to extend its hours if classes are going to cost more.

James Cain, a doctorate in nutrition from Springfield, said students should take advantage of the Recreation Center because it will help them in all aspects of life.

"Quite honestly, you tend to eat better foods if you exercise," he said. "Then exercising will make you feel better, and feeling better will help you do better in school. Exercising tends to give you more energy and make you do better in school."

Ken Pruett, a senior from Woodlawn studying exercise science, said he uses the Recreation Center quite frequently. He said he likes the motivation and discipline the classes offer.

"It's a good place for students to work out and be healthy," he said. "I hope enough students take advantage of it because they have to pay for it each semester."



ALEXA ROGALS | DAILY EGYPTIAN

Grant Krumrey, 15, of Carterville, works out by boxing and kickboxing in a fitness room at the Recreation Center Sunday. "I try to come here and just box at least every Saturday or Sunday," he said. "It's nice to be able to go in here without a bunch of other people so I can get a workout in."

PENSION

CONTINUED FROM 1

State legislators understand the plan could potentially harm employees. However, Nekritz said she understands debt severity and the need for a change.

In a press release, she explained the need for

compromise throughout the Senate.

"I understand this is a difficult issue for all of us, and we do not approach it lightly," she said. "We have supported other reform legislation and would definitely consider other good ideas moving forward."

"They are making teachers pay for mistakes that we didn't make. There is too much waste at the top, and something needs changed."

— Don Monty
councilman

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WORLD & NATION

Hanukkah festivities begin with candle lighting

IAN DEITCH
Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Jews around the world ushered in the eight-day Hanukkah festival Saturday evening, lighting the first candles of ceremonial lamps that symbolize triumph over oppression.

In Israel, families gathered after sundown for the lighting, exchanging gifts and eating traditional snacks of potato pancakes and doughnuts.

Local officials lit candles set up in public places, while families displayed the nine-candle lamps, called menorahs, in their windows or in special windproof glass boxes outside.

Hanukkah, also known as the festival of lights, commemorates the Jewish uprising in the second century B.C. against the Greek-Syrian kingdom, which had tried to impose its culture on Jews and adorn the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem with statues of Greek gods.

The holiday lasts eight days because according to tradition, when the Jews rededicated the Temple in Jerusalem, a single vial of oil, enough

“Rather than blowing out 100 candles, he’d rather light one candle representing kindness and good deeds,”

— Areyah Kaltmann
Rabbi

for one day, burned miraculously for eight.

For many Jewish people, the holiday symbolizes the triumph of good over evil.

Observant Jews light a candle each night to mark the holiday.

Oily foods are eaten to commemorate the oil miracle, hence the ubiquitous fried doughnuts and potato pancakes, known as latkes.

In Israel, children play with four-sided spinning tops, or dreidels, decorated with the letters that form the acronym “A great miracle happened here.” Outside of Israel, the saying is “A great miracle happened there.” Israeli students get time off from school for the holiday, when families gather each night to light the candles, eat and exchange gifts.

Hanukkah — which means dedication — is one of the most popular holidays in Israel, and

has a high rate of observance.

In Ohio, the first public candle lighting on Saturday was done by Holocaust survivor Abe Weinrib, who turns 100 on Tuesday. Weinrib, who lit the first candle on a 13-foot public menorah at Easton Town Center in Columbus, says his biggest triumph was surviving the Holocaust.

Weinrib told The Columbus Dispatch newspaper he was arrested while working in Polish factories owned by his uncle when he was in his 20s. He spent six years imprisoned in camps, including the notorious Auschwitz.

“Rather than blowing out 100 candles, he’d rather light one candle representing kindness and good deeds,” said Rabbi Areyah Kaltmann of the Lori Schottenstein Chabad Center in New Albany, which sponsored the menorah lighting. “He wants

this to be the way he ushers in his next century.”

In New York City, Jews celebrated the holiday’s start with the ceremonial lighting of a 32-foot-tall menorah at the edge of Central Park. Rabbi Shmuel Butman lit the giant structure that weighs about 4,000 pounds and has real oil lamps, protected from the wind by glass chimneys.

“It was a beautiful event,” he said. “A wonderful way to start the holiday.”

In Florida, Gov. Rick Scott celebrated the beginning of Hanukkah with a menorah-lighting ceremony in his office at the state Capitol in Tallahassee. He was joined by a rabbi from the northwest Florida branch of the Chabad Lubavitch outreach organization.

“The story of Hanukkah reminds us that confidence in one’s identity and hope for the future are powerful forces that cannot be defeated — even in the darkest of times. Hanukkah is also a time to reiterate our support for the people of Israel,” Scott said, adding that he and his wife are “keeping our friends in Israel in our prayers for a future of peace.”

Rural America less relevant

MARY CLARE JALONICK
Associated Press

WASHINGTON— Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has some harsh words for rural America: It’s “becoming less and less relevant,” he says.

A month after an election that Democrats won even as rural parts of the country voted overwhelmingly Republican, the former Democratic governor of Iowa told farm belt leaders this past week he’s frustrated with their internecine squabbles and says they need to be more strategic in picking their political fights.

“It’s time for us to have an adult conversation with folks in rural America,” Vilsack said in a speech at a forum sponsored by the Farm Journal. “It’s time for a different thought process here, in my view.”

For the first time in recent memory, farm-state lawmakers were not able to push a farm bill through Congress in an election year, evidence of lost clout in farm states.

The Agriculture Department says about 50 percent of rural counties

“It’s time for us to have an adult conversation with folks in rural America,”

— Tom Vilsack
Agriculture Secretary

have lost population in the past four years and poverty rates are higher there than in metropolitan areas, despite the booming agricultural economy.

Exit polls conducted for The Associated Press and television networks found that rural voters accounted for just 14 percent of the turnout in last month’s election, with 61 percent of them supporting Republican Mitt Romney and 37 percent backing President Barack Obama. Two-thirds of those rural voters said the government is doing too many things better left to businesses and individuals.

In his Washington speech, he also cited criticism of a proposed Labor Department regulation, later dropped, that was intended to keep younger children away from the most dangerous farm jobs, and criticism of egg producers for dealing with the

Humane Society on increasing the space that hens have in their coops.

John Weber, a pork producer in Dysart, Iowa, said Friday that farmers have to defend their industries against policies they see as unfair. He said there is great concern among pork producers that animal welfare groups use unfair tactics and may hurt their business.

Vilsack, who has made the revitalization of rural America a priority, encouraged farmers to embrace new kinds of markets, work to promote global exports and replace a “preservation mindset with a growth mindset.” “We’ve got something to market here,” he said. “We’ve got something to be proactive about. Let’s spend our time and our resources and our energy doing that and I think if we do we’re going to have a lot of young people who want to be part of that future.”

Recession is worst ‘fiscal cliff’ outcome

SPRINGFIELD — Government experts who run the numbers estimate Illinois could lose about \$1 billion in federal revenue if President Barack Obama and Congress cannot reach a budget agreement and allow the economy to plunge off the so-called “fiscal cliff.”

But more unpredictable — and perhaps more worrisome — is what impact another recession, spurred by the possible federal free fall, would have on Illinois. The state could lose an additional \$1 billion because of sagging tax revenue beginning next month and running through at least mid-2014.

The national consequences are clear: Federal income taxes would increase by ending cuts implemented during President George W. Bush’s administration. There would be broad-based cuts to most federal agencies, including defense spending. But money for the federal payroll and major programs such as Social Security and Medicaid would be spared.

Bird said the state would lose \$740 million in defense money, although specifics aren’t known. A spokeswoman said officials at Scott Air Force Base in southwestern Illinois had not received any instructions about potential reductions.

A Pew Center on the States report in November found Illinois more vulnerable to the fiscal cliff’s impact than others because about 8.5 percent of its revenue comes from federal sources, above the national average of 6.6 percent.

“States have already had to make really tough budget decisions over the last couple of years,” Schroeder said. “This uncertainty about exactly what their revenue is going to be makes an already difficult process that difficult.”

— John O’Connor
Associated Press

“States have already had to make really tough budget decisions over the last couple of years.”

Ingrid Schroeder—
Pew Center Director

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**GIVE YOURSELF
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STUDY BREAK
ON PAGE 7**

OPINION

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STAFF COLUMN

Is journalistic integrity possible?

MATT DARAY
Daily Egyptian

The Dec. 4 front page photograph of the New York Post depicted a controversial photograph of a man, Ki-Suck Han, who was about to be hit by a subway train in New York after he was pushed onto the tracks after a verbal argument.

Han died from the incident, and the photograph depicted his last moments alive. This photo instantly sparked controversy among the public and journalists alike, even at SIUC.

"Publishing such a photo serves no purpose other than to be sensationalistic," said William Babcock, a professor in the school of journalism. "This amounts to cheap, gutter-mongering journalism."

This sentiment was shared by another field expert.

"Let's just say it falls in a gray area," said David Yepsen, director of the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute. "There's no one right answer. Different journalists see these questions differently, (but) I would not have run this picture."

Students had varied opinions about the photograph.

Cheyenne Albrecht, a freshman from Peoria studying architecture, said a photo such as the Post's should not have run, and a less graphic one should have been posted.

Alexis Greenberg, an undecided freshman from Olney, said the photo should not have run because Han's family would see it, and it doesn't depict the best final moments in someone's life.

While it's good to see some professionals and non-journalists frown on the incident, stories such as this don't sit well for someone looking at a future in journalism.

As journalists, we are taught to be public watchdogs. That is, we try to keep the public informed about important topics and protect them from content that is lacking news value and/or any sense of morality.

When something like this picture is posted, it means we failed at our jobs.

This is one of the first stories I have read that has made me question my professional field's morality. Is this the level of professionalism I can expect in the real world?

If I get a job with a newspaper, big or small, would they ever run something like this?

Can I have integrity in this line of work, or do I have to give up everything I believe to still be a journalist?

I would hope not.

I expect not.

A photograph such as this is an outrage to everything I stand for. It goes against everything I believe in and everything I've been taught about journalism.

Fortunately, it looks like most professionals

"There's no one right answer. Different journalists see these questions differently, (but) I would not have run this picture.

— David Yepsen
director of Paul Simon Public Policy Institute

also have the same mentality.

"(The Post) is a tabloid," Yepsen said. "They have different values than more traditional journalists."

Yepsen also said he shares different values from the ones the New York Post has, and he would not want to work there. He said his values would probably not allow him to be hired even if he wanted to work at there.

"The bar is set low for the New York Post," Babcock said. "You can't expect quality journalism from that publication. That said, even by their horribly low standards, this still was a shocker."

Babcock said photographs such as this hurt the integrity of journalists as a whole.

"Journalists purveying such photos make ambulance-chasing attorneys look good," he said.

Even though the Post is a tabloid paper that thrives off of milking tragedy and does not resemble what real journalism is, this is low.

Tabloids are the journalism world's "Jersey Shore," as they offer cheap entertainment with very minimal substance.

Real journalists don't do that. We don't publish entertainment; we publish news.

We establish a level of integrity so whoever picks up our paper knows before they open it that we can be trusted for news.

Umar Abbasi, who photographed the incident, told media outlets he took pictures so the subway train could see the flash and notice Han because that's all he could do in his position.

Was it possible for Abbasi to save Han? Maybe yes, maybe no.

Only Abbasi knows if he could have done something more. Did this photo have to be taken and handed in to be published?

I can't speak on his behalf, and I won't try.

But this isn't the first time controversial pictures have appeared in newspapers.

In 1975, photographer Stanley Forman took a picture of a 2-year-old and her 19-year-old godmother falling from a broken fire escape. The child lived, but her godmother died from the fall.

In 1963, journalist Malcolm Browne took a photo of a Buddhist monk who burned himself alive in protest about the persecution of Buddhists by the South Vietnam government. Both of these pictures won the Pulitzer Prize.

Yet these photographs accomplished a greater good and justified the last moments of these people's lives being immortalized.

Forman's photo helped pave the way for states to mandate tougher fire safety codes

because the image was visual proof of what could happen if shoddy fire escapes were not managed properly.

Browne's photo made the plight of the Buddhist monks become a world-wide issue, which put pressure on the South Vietnamese government to reform their ways and, in a way, honored the Buddhist monk who killed himself by having his cause be known and to open people's eyes toward the struggles Buddhists in the region faced.

These photographs made these people's last moments become a voice of change to try and better the world.

The photo published in the New York Post accomplished nothing except profit through shock value. It degrades journalism by making the public think journalists accept this kind of filth, and it degrades everything aspiring journalists are working to become — professionals.

Worse yet, it degrades the memory of this unfortunate man.

When it comes down to it, journalists are people, too. We all make mistakes, have judgment lapses whether moral or otherwise and try to do the best we can at what we love to do.

That does not excuse us from not doing our best to be public watchdogs. On the contrary, this is what motivates us to work our hardest. We try our best to be perfect, even though we know it's nearly impossible, because there are people who read our papers and count on us to be perfect.

The staff at the DAILY EGYPTIAN staff is no different.

We work hard to provide a great paper every weekday with as few mistakes as possible because this is our passion, and we strive to be perfect because it means a lot to us and to our readers.

We do this while holding true to our values as soon-to-be professionals and as ethical people in general.

Is it possible for journalists, professional and otherwise, to keep their integrity in this field?

Absolutely.

It's not always easy, but every journalist does it because we love this line of work.

All we can do now is look at this incident as an ethical lesson learned as well as a warning about what could happen if we lose the integrity we strive so hard to maintain. As journalists, it's the only thing that separates us from the tabloids, and it's the only thing that makes our readers pick up our papers over theirs.

THEIR WORD

Physicians' case for birth control

THE SEATTLE TIMES

Women's health groups long have advocated for making oral contraceptives available over the counter. Their argument received a significant boost this month from the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, whose physicians issued an opinion affirming the benefits of providing pills without a prescription outweighed the risks.

The pharmaceutical companies' participation is needed to begin a robust public-education campaign around a topic that is easily misunderstood.

The various brands available now through prescription will not be accessible over the counter anytime soon without Food and Drug Administration approval. Many women cannot afford the cost of birth control or the doctor's visit necessary to access the different methods sold on the market.

One consequence is that half of all pregnancies in the United States are unintended, according to the ACOG. That figure hasn't changed in 20 years.

The cost to society and taxpayers is high. In Washington state, for instance, Medicaid pays for more than 40 percent of births statewide. When children are born into poverty, they are at a higher risk for suffering health and developmental problems.

Research has shown that women who access birth control easily are more likely to use it consistently.

Other forms of contraceptives, including intrauterine devices and shots, are not part of this equation. But after decades of study, birth-control pills have proved to be a common, cost-effective method for many.

No drug is without risk, not even aspirin. Do we trust women to follow instructions? Are they capable of detecting adverse side effects and seeking help if they need it? The ACOG's decision was based on evidence that suggests they are.

In recent news reports, the FDA has signaled a willingness to explore the issue, even if no drugmakers have publicly expressed interest.

They must consider cost, whether the insured would still be covered and the role of pharmacists.

The bottom line is that access to family planning is essential to ensure children in Washington are born when their parents are ready.

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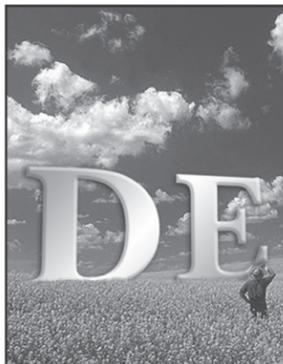
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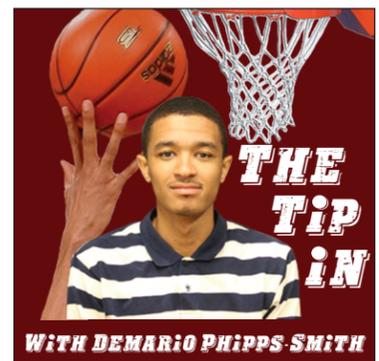
Semi-pros prepare for competition



TIFFANY BLANCHETTE | DAILY EGYPTIAN

Southern Illinois Blast player Tommy LaFontaine, of Bloomington, defends the ball Thursday against his teammate Adam Grabowski, of Carbondale, during a scrimmage at Sports Blast. The semi-professional indoor soccer team put field time to use after the exhibition game against Cape Girardeau was cancelled. "Scrimmages give the guys an opportunity to compete for playing time," coach and player Ortez Davis, of Carbondale, said. "It also provides the opportunity to mix and match to see what chemistry there is with different combinations of players." S.I. Blast will face Evansville on Jan. 20 for the team's next home match at Sports Blast.

Salukis' start could improve



After winning four of its first six games, the 2012 men's basketball team appears more talented than advertised.

But how good could the team be if more of its recent recruits were playing in a Saluki jersey?

SIU has rebounded well this season despite a lack of size at the post positions. Senior guard Jeff Early leads the team with 8.5 rebounds per game in his first season playing the hybrid position. The 6-foot-1 guard is usually defended by larger post players, but he somehow manages to out-hustle opposing team's big men.

Imagine how the team would play with its full stable of post players led by a healthy sophomore forward Dantiel Daniels, who said he still isn't in 100 percent condition after his Nov. 17 return to the court against Benedictine-Springfield. Daniels led the Missouri Valley Conference in blocked shots last season, and his production led him to an MVC All-Freshman team honor.

The sophomore forward has yet to reclaim his excellence from the previous season, as he averages fewer than three rebounds per contest so far. If he were healthy coming into the season, Daniels would be the Salukis' premier big man, as he's only 6-foot-5. He would be able to develop at a much more rapid pace because he would spend more time playing in coach Barry Hinson's brand new Kansas-style offense.

With junior guard Desmar Jackson and senior guard Kendall Brown-Surles' improved shooting from the perimeter, Daniels would add a more consistent post presence if he were back in shape.

Freshman forward Bola Olaniyan was recruited out of Richmond High School in Indiana. Originally from Lagos, Nigeria, the freshman would be a rebounding monster for the Salukis if not for an NCAA qualification stipulation that effectively made him redshirt his first season. The 6-foot-7 forward has been impressive in this season's practice. Early said Olaniyan is one of the best offensive rebounders he has witnessed, and he attributes this year's rebounding success to the freshman.

Early also said it is through Olaniyan's rebounding effort against him in practice that he has become a much improved player and rebounder.

Former Saluki center Gene Teague would also be a valued addition to the basketball team's rotation of frontcourt players. Teague transferred to Seton Hall University last season and is playing quite well for the Pirates this year. He is the team's leading rebounder and second leading scorer in his first season with Seton Hall basketball.

If Teague were still in a Saluki jersey, he would be a junior and possible team leader. He would lead a vaunted Saluki post attack and provide length at a position that doesn't exist on the current roster.

Junior guard Diamond Taylor is perhaps the best player the Salukis are without. Taylor was highly recruited out of Bolingbrook High School and was tabbed an SIU basketball savior when he transferred from Wisconsin in 2010. He is a versatile 2-guard who can score from the perimeter or slash to the lane.

With both him and Jackson at the wing position, the Saluki perimeter game would be as dangerous as its post.

Demario Phipps-Smith can be reached at dsmith-hipps@dailyegyptian.com or 536 3311 ext. 269.

SALUKI BASKETBALL BY THE NUMBERS

2- blocks averaged by 264-pound freshman forward **Chase Heins** at Trico High School last season

129- senior **Diamond Taylor's** national rank out of all high school seniors from Rivals.com during his 2009 senior year

79- additional inches 6-foot-7 freshman forward **Bola Olaniyan** would add to the team's rotation if he wasn't redshirted

14- points former 6-foot-9 Saluki **Gene Teague** averages per contest at Seton Hall

11.6- rebounds Olaniyan averaged at Richmond High School in Indiana

3.5- Salukis' average 3-pointers per game this season

31- Taylor's percent from 3-point range in 2011

46- blocks sophomore Dantiel Daniels accumulated last season