### Eastern Illinois University The Keep

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Eastern Illinois University, Charleston

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY

## **Coretta Scott King dies, leaves legacy**

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATLANTA- Coretta Scott King wore her grief with remarkable grace, and it made her one of the most influential figures in the struggle for civil rights.

The "first lady of the civil rights movement," who died in her sleep Tuesday at age 78, was a supportive lieutenant to her husband, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., and after his assassination in 1968, she carried on his work while

raising their four children.

"She wore her grief with grace. She exerted her leadership with dignity."

> REV. JOSEPH LOWERY, CO-FOUNDER OF THE SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Coretta Scott King died at an alternative medicine clinic in Mexico. Arrangements were being made to fly the body to Atlanta. She had been recovering from a serious stroke and heart attack suffered last August. Just two weeks ago, she made her first public appearance in a year on the eve of her late husband's birthday.

She pushed politicians for more than a decade to have her husband's birthday observed as a national holiday, achieving success in

Former Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young, one of Martin Luther King's top aides, said Coretta Scott King's fortitude rivaled that of her husband. "She was strong, if not stronger than he was," Young said.

News of her death led to tributes to King across Atlanta, including a moment of silence in the Georgia Capitol and piles of flowers placed at the tomb of her slain husband. Flags at the King Center - the institute devoted to the civil rights leader's legacy - were lowered to half-staff.

"She wore her grief with grace. She exerted her leadership with dignity," said the Rev. Joseph Lowery, who helped found the Southern Christian Leadership Conference with King's husband in 1957.

She supported her husband during the most dangerous and tumultuous days of the civil rights movement. After

SEE KING PAGE 7



IOHN SPINK/ATLANTA IOURNAL-CONSTITUTION/KRT NEWS

King Center employee Bobby Blalock brings flowers gathered by visitors to lay at the crypt in Atlanta. Coretta Scott King, who turned a life shattered by her husband's assassination into one devoted to enshrining his legacy of human rights and equality, died Tuesday at the

### Eastern campus reacts to King's death

BY PAT SCHILLO

STAFF REPORTER

Coretta Scott King, civil rights activists and wife of the late Martin Luther King, Jr., died in an alternative medicine clinic in Mexico early Tuesday.

King, who had a profound impact on the equal rights movement, had worked on improving civil, racial, and women's rights movements after the assassination of her husband in 1968.

The death of King has affected the campus

in a strong way.

"The death of Coretta is just like losing a Dr. King or Malcolm X. She is a big loss," said Mona Davenport, director of Minority Affairs. "She is a true leader."

Davenport also said that King was very instrumental in keeping the dream of her husband alive.

Ceci Brinker, director of Student Affairs, agreed the death of King is a tremendous loss.

"News of (her) passing is a sad occasion for the country; she was an icon leading the legacy of a King," she said. "Her place in his-

tory has been established; she served the country well, leading the fight for equality across all color."

Whether a memorial event will take place on campus to commemorate Scott King's life has not been determined, but both Davenport and Brinker said it would be beneficial to have something in commemo-

Today is the start of African-American Heritage Month, a representation of things that both King and her husband had worked to establish and preserve.

## MING OUT ISN'T EASY

lacktriangleq Students grapple with the challenges of a gay lifestyle in a small community

By JESSICA CANTARELLI **CAMPUS EDITOR** 

Coming out of the closet for Kris Wilhelmsen was not easy, and many students like him who discover their homosexuality in college are faced with many dilemmas.

Wilhelmsen, a sophomore marketing and political science major and vice president of EIU Pride, came out to a couple of his closest friends when he was a senior in high school. Until he arrived at Eastern, he tried to suppress his feelings, thinking maybe he was confused. One day, a friend encouraged him to talk.

"She just turned to me and said 'you know it's ok'," he said. "And that's when it hit me, and I got very emotion-

Wilhelmsen then went back home and worked to form a gay/straight alliance for students at his high school who have a hard time coming out. A story written about the alliance in his community newspaper provoked him to tell his parents before they read about it

He encourages others to come to terms with their sexuality.

"I believe a lot of people don't want to come out of the closet,"

want to come out of the closet. They'd rather stay in and be supressed, and not be who they are." KRIS WILHELMSEN, VICE PRESIDENT OF EIU PRIDE

"I believe a lot of people don't

he said. "They'd rather stay in and be suppressed, and not be who they are."

Doug Howell, resident director of Thomas and

Ford Halls, is the faculty advisor for pride He came to Eastern in 1997 and completed his undergraduate and graduate degrees here.

"I would say that the only noticeable thing that has changed is that the overt acts of discrimination aren't as prevalent as they used to be," he said.

Howell said he heard stories of many anti-gay acts around campus that had occurred before he arrived, such as prank phone calls to pride members, anti-gay messages written on sidewalks and silent protests at meetings, he said.

"It will definitely take time," Howell said. "I don't see (full acceptance and understanding of homosexuality) happening just in general, unless society becomes more tolerant."

Howell said with Eastern being a small community, it's hard for people to want to be different or be themselves.

Being gay at Eastern isn't easy, Wilhelmsen said. Other than pride, there are no local outlets for the gay community, because

SEE PRIDE PAGE 6A

TODAY

Partly cloudy

**FIVE-DAY OUTLOOK** 

**THURSDAY** 

Cloudy

**FRIDAY** 

Partly cloudy

SATURDAY

Snow showers Partly cloudy

SUNDAY

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

The Daily Eastern News is produced by the students of Eastern Illinois University. It is published daily Monday through Friday, in Charleston, Ill., during fall and spring semesters and twice weekly during the summer term except during school vacations or examinations. Subscription price: \$50 per semester, \$30 for summer, \$95 all year. The DEN is a member of The Associated Press, which is entitled to exclusive use of all articles appearing in this paper.

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#### **CAMPUS BRIEFS**

#### Grants reception to thank faculty

The Office of Research and Sponsored Programs will thank Eastern faculty members who applied for research grants at a reception on Thursday.

The reception is for faculty members who successfully applied for external grants and internal grants from the Council on Faculty Reasearch, said Bob Chesnut, director of the office.

In addition to faculty, the department chairs who have members receiving grants, deans

of the different colleges and members of the administration will be present.

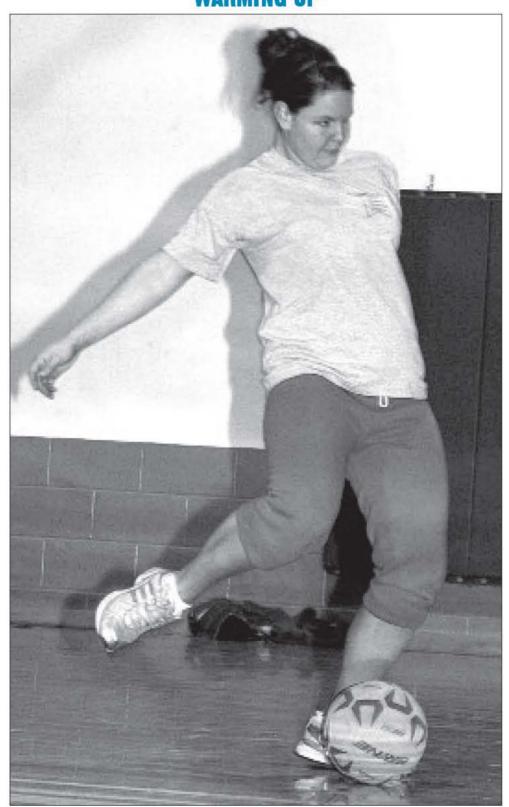
The reception will be at 3:30 p.m. Thursday in the University Ballroom of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.



#### EARLY HEADLINES

Listen to "Wake Up Live" with Rob and Jenn Monday through Friday for morning headlines on 88.9 or at weiuhitmix.net

#### WARMING UP



Senior recreation administrations major, Kindra Wetters, of the "We B Ballin" intramural soccer team, warms up before their game Tuesday evening in the Rec Center. Read more about the intramural sports online at http://www.dennews.com.

#### **TODAY'S EVENTS**

#### **Got Health?**

8 a.m. | Free Flue Shots are now available in limit ed supply for all Eastern students. Appointments available at 581 2727 Health Services - Medical Clinic

#### InDesign

10 a.m. | Introduction to InDesign CATS Training Lab, McAfee 1214

#### Dreamweaver

1 p.m. | Dreamweaver with Databases CATS Training Lab, McAfee 1214

#### Photoshop, Part 1

2 p.m. | This workshop will cover some fundamen tal components of Photoshop when modify ing an image CATS Training Lab, McAfee 1214

#### **Find Information Fast**

2 p.m. | Booth Library Reference Librarians will provide instruction on how to search the online catalog and databases. Booth Library e-classroom, Room 4450

#### **Study Abroad**

3:30 p.m. | Study Abroad Info Sesson Lawson Hall Basement

#### **Peace Corps**

6 p.m. | Information Session Martinsville Room Martin Luther King Jr. University Union

### Man in pokey after reporting purloined pot

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

OREM, Utah - A man who called police to report the theft of a quarter-pound of marijuana was arrested when police recovered the bag of pot and then invited him to come to the Public Safety Building to identify it.

Kory C. Tippetts, 18, identified the pot as his and then was arrested and booked into the Utah

County jail for investigation of possession of marijuana in a drug-free zone with intent to distribute, police said Tuesday.

Tippetts had called police on Monday evening after he returned home and found that someone had broken a window, got cut on the glass, and crawled into the house. Tippetts told police the only thing missing was the quarter-pound of marijuana he was selling.

Tippetts also told officers that earlier in the day a man had called him about buying some marijuana, but he was on his way to work and told the

Tippetts gave police the man's name.

Officers found Richard W. Hight, 23, at his mother's home in Provo. He had a cut on his arm and blood-soaked pants. Police also recovered six ounces of marijuana at the home.

## Will Rogers Theater

#### provides entertainment the old fashion way

STORY BY CATHY BAYER | STAFF REPORTER

Not much has changed since 1938.

At least not at the Will Rogers Theater in downtown Charleston.

A faded yellow sign with burnt orange stripes announces "Will Rogers," with rust encasing the edges.

Lights line the sign and the marquee, which lists the theater's two featured films.

The sides of the building continue the yellow trend with stripes. The bright colors stand out from the other buildings in Charleston's square.

For the most part, the theater is just as it was nearly 70 years ago.

Because of its style, the Will Rogers Theater is on the National Historic Register.



a bigger theater. In this case, Will Rogers and Showplace 10 work together, since they're both owned by Kerasotes Theaters.

It closed in the early '80s, was bought by Kerasotes Theaters, and reopened in 1984. The company changed the one-screen theater into two screens.

The remodeling upset many Charleston residents, said Robert Harrison, general manager at Will Rogers Theater.

The theater's art deco-style ceiling was also covered, in order to accommodate the theater-screen split. A plain drop ceiling was added.

People didn't want the art deco, 1930s, depressionera styles to be changed. So rather than tear down the ceiling, the drop ceiling conceals the classic ceiling, Harrison said.

The outdoor ticket box that protrudes from the building's front is no longer used. The concession stand changed locations, handicap-accessible restrooms were installed and the theater's balconies are no longer there.

However, that's where the changes end.

An art deco-style mirror occupies the wall across the two theater entrances. Adjacent to the mirror is a portrait that nearly takes up the entire wall. It's of Will Rogers, a famous actor and vaudeville star.

Rogers died in 1937, the same year the theater was built. The idea was to honor the actor, as well as attach a well-known name to the theater, Harrison said.

The theater can hold nearly 300 people.

"Walk the Line' filled quite a few seats because of all the baby boomers wanting to see the film," he said.

"Walk the Line" was showing for four weeks, while movies usually last only a week, because of the overwhelming demand of people wanting to see the movie.

Children's movies also do well.

There's only one problem: Students don't often go to the theater.

"I always say I'm going to (go), and then don't," said Kaitlin Kasper, a freshman math education major.

> When she does go to the movies, it's to do something outside Charleston, she

> > said.

said.
"I do intend to
go someday,
(though)," she

But not a lot of college students go to even the

evening or late night shows, Harrison said.

Melissa Veverka, a freshman elementary education major, said she didn't know the theater existed. She said she would definitely go, but had no idea about the theater.

"I love watching movies," she said.

When she wants to see a movie, she goes to Showplace 10 in Mattoon.

Jin Ma, a biology graduate student, said she also had never heard anything about the theater.

On a good weekend at Showplace 10, more than 2,000 movie tickets are sold a day, said Brandee Tywell, manager at Showplace 10. On a slower day, the theater sells anywhere from 1,000 to 1,500 tickets, she said.

Michelle Garrard, a junior math major, has heard of the second-run theater, but has no interest in going.

"They don't show the new movies," she said.

Currently, the theater is playing "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe," which opened Jan. 9, and "Cheaper by the Dozen 2," which opened Dec. 21.

A booking department in Chicago decides what movies will play at both Showplace 10 and Will Rogers theaters, said Dale French, area manager for Kerasotes Theaters.

The reason Charleston and Mattoon don't get certain films is just a matter of availability, he said.

Harrison, who has been working at the Will Rogers Theater since 2003, likes the laid-back feeling and atmosphere of the theater. He sees a lot of the same people come in to see a movie.

When regulars come up to the concession stand, he already knows what they want, which adds to the movie-going experience, he said.

The movies are also cheaper than at a regular theater because of the lack of stadium seating and the theater's single speaker.

#### **Will Rogers Theater Information**

- ♦ Matinees on Saturday and Sunday cost \$2.75 and begin around 2 p.m..
- ♦ Evening shows cost \$3.50 and begin at 6:45 and 7 p.m.
- ♦ Late shows generally start at 9 p.m. or later and cost \$3.50.
- ♦ Call 345-9222 for information.
- ◆ Located at 705 Monroe St. off the square.

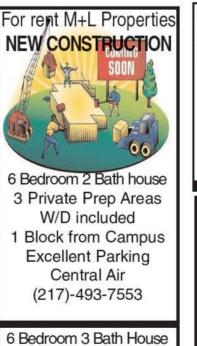
The sign of the Will Rogers Theater marquee are the same since 1938.



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# "Tell the truth and don't be afraid." PHINGS

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

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COMMENTARY



SERENA HEATH
GUEST COLUMNIST

#### The future: Not what it used to be

Why do people go to college? Well, I think it's because they want better jobs than flipping burgers at Dairy Queen or cleaning hotel rooms four years from now. A better future. Well, that's what I think, anyway.

For some, like my boyfriend for example – he only plans his lunch schedule ahead of time – or the "undecided" students – even thinking of "the future" scares the crap out of them.

After being at Eastern for a while, I realized that some people around here just think about the next paper deadline or the next party. And, believe it or not, I am one of those people, too.

I recently made a decision that altered the course of my life forever: I changed my major. Funny thing though: my advisor asked me, after she helped sort out my options, if I was "overwhelmed" yet.

Frankly, I've been overwhelmed since I set foot on this campus.

I've been confronted with my future since I first got to

"If you're not good at crunching numbers, don't be an accounting major. If the thought of dissecting a frog makes you sick, then pre-med isn't for you, either." Eastern to plan ahead for my future. In other words, my advisors and professors all wanted me to do something great like go abroad or do an internship.

And the harder I try to figure out what I want to do with my life and how I'm going to

get there, the more I feel like I'd rather insert a sharp stick into my eye!

All my professors keep asking me, "What do you want to do with your life?" to help me figure out my course of study.

I'd rather think about what movie I want to rent this weekend. But no matter what I try to do, I, like everybody else on this campus, have to decide what I want to do with my life.

But, when you think of it, my advisors are wrong about one thing: you shouldn't think about what you want to do with your life (that's too scary) but rather what you DON'T want to do with your life!

I thought about it, and I realized that I don't want to be stuck as a hotel housekeeper or minimum-wage office worker forever, so I have to go to school.

And since I don't want to be in school forever, I want to choose a career track that will lead to a secure job. So, I'm going to be a teacher. This is how I've faced the fact that my future depends on what I do now whether I like it or not.

That's what it comes down to in the end. Think of what your priorities are. If you're not good at crunching numbers, don't be an accounting major. If the thought of dissecting a frog makes you sick, then pre-med isn't for you, either.

Unfortunately, I don't think that you can get a bachelor's degree (or a job) in college partying, so if you'd rather just think about where your next beer is coming from, then happy burger-flipping, folks!

The DEN hold Wednesdays columns for guests.

#### EDITORIAL CARTOON BY DAVID PENNELL



**EDITORIAL** 

### Students aware of identity theft

On Jan. 25, a Counseling Center presentation on how to protect one's self from identity theft on the Internet when using networking Web sites like Facebook and MySpace drew no audience members, only a reporter and a photographer from The DEN.

"B4TKI — How to Protect Yourself in Cyberspace" failed to draw any student interest, mainly because most students who post profiles on either of the two networking Web sites think they already know the dangers of making personal information available on the Internet.

Common sense tells us not to post information like our home addresses, phone numbers or our social security numbers where someone might steal that information and use it against us.

A difference in security does exist though, between the two sites. MySpace profiles are available to the masses, as are photos posted on those profiles and any personal information that might be listed.

Facebook, however, has security settings for members who want to keep their information open to only an elite group of people. Under "My Privacy," users can set their profiles on one of four settings.

These range from "normal," which allows anyone from other schools to search for a particular profile, and for verified friends from other schools and anyone from a student's own school to

#### At issue

The lack of student attendance at the Counseling Center's identity theft presentation.

#### Our stance

Students should know most of the dangers of putting personal information on Web sites. While there are obvious security issues, students should know what they're getting into. access them, to "paranoid" which turns off a user's comment wall and allows only verified friends to view that profile. A custom setting is also available to allow users to choose their own level of security pertaining to different aspects of the site, like course listings. Users can also block people at will.

According to Norm Garrett, a computer information systems professor, most hackers will generally find a new, easier target instead of dodging hurdles like Facebook's Web site security, although that doesn't mean Facebook profiles are completely safe.

If a hacker wants a person's information badly enough, he can probably find a way, he said.

Garrett said students know the dangers of posting personal information, but let their guards down over

time when they don't become victims of identity theft or stalking, or they don't know any victims.

"They start putting things out there because they don't think it's going to happen to them," Garrett said.

Although generic identity theft workshops may not appeal to students, more specific workshops could still be relevant if they were given by professionals who are familiar with these popular networking sites and could let students know specific ways their information could be compromised on those particular sites.

> The editorial is the majority opinion of The Daily Eastern News editorial board.

#### YOUR TURN: LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### RURAL FASHION MORE PRACTICAL

I'm going to be honest, the article, "Fashion Isn't Everything, but Could Use Attention," is crap. I am embarrassed to admit that I read the article, but I was told I wouldn't like it.

People from rural areas tend to have to do actual work involving labor, which I'm sure Miss Smith knows nothing about. It's not that people from rural areas have a bad sense of fashion, we are more practical. If she would have said women from the city spend too much time and money on appearance then I would have to say I agree. If a college student has a \$1,500 bag ,they are an idiot and so is whoever bought it for them.

Thousands of people didn't eat last night because they couldn't afford food, and at the same time people on this campus were walking around wearing hundreds of dollars worth of clothes. Rural communities have their share of self-centered uncaring "trendy" people whose parents spend way too much money on clothes.

As for that better sense of fashion, what

is up with "city" girls wearing snow boots when there's no snow, or wearing baggy sweat pants when they spent at least an hour fixing their hair? That shows great fashion sense!

The Verge could be a great source of information about Charleston and its nightlife, yet it continues to fill its pages with garbage like the fashion section. Many people view The DEN as a joke because of trash articles like this.

KEVIN HARRIS JUNIOR, HISTORY MAJOR

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: The Daily Eastern News accepts letters to the editor addressing local, state, national and international issues. They should be less than 250 words and include the authors' name, telephone number and address. Students should indicate their year in school and major. Faculty, administration and staff should indicate their position and department. Letters whose authors cannot be verified will not be printed. We reserve the right to edit letters for length. Letters can be sent to *The Daily Eastern News* at **1811 Buzzard Hall**, Charleston IL 61920; faxed to 217-581-2923; or e-mailed to **DENeic@gmail.com** 

### TIME TO CLEAN UP THE TRASH AROUND HERE

Ry LAUREN MOORE

STUDENT GOVERNMENT EDITOR

Student Senate Speaker Sean Anderson met with the Allan Lanham, dean of Booth Library, to discuss the recycling opportunities, or lack thereof, for students in the facility yesterday.

Anderson said Stephanie Young, chair of the Recycling and Development Committee, along with committee members, evaluated the library to decide where the best areas would be to put recycling receptacles, and wrote a letter to Lanham proposing their idea.

"We went in there one night during a committee meeting and saw where there was most traffic," Young said. "We decided on four prospective areas, and the dean said he was willing to try two or three more recycling bins in the library, but just for a trial period."

Possible locations for the recycling containers are in the sitting area by the elevator on the fourth floor, the open area in the stairwell between the second and third floors, the magazine area on the lowest floor and by the bulletin board adjacent to the circulation desk in the south entrance on the main floor.

"If more (recycling) doesn't happen, (Lanham) won't keep them in there," Young said.

As chair of the committee, Young said she feels it's her duty to provide sufficient recycling bins to the students in the facilities.

"I know that a lot of students go to the library and there is a lot of paper used," said Young. "It's my duty to make sure the recycling is done and used to its effectiveness."



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ERIC HILTNER/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Senate members are pushing for recycling opportunities at Booth Library. Campuses are competing for cans and bottles.

Anderson said he originally talked to librarians and Allan Rathe, the university recycling coordinator, maintenance-grounds operation, to find out why there was only one recycling container, in the basement of the library. The librarians and Rathe had no comment, Anderson said.

Anderson said he talked with Lanham's secretary for an hour and she said Lanham wouldn't be interested in setting up more recycling bins. Despite these failed efforts, Anderson met with Lanham a few weeks ago to bring the problem to Lanham's attention.

"The dean got upset during the meeting, but after about an hour and a half he finally agreed to allow us to evaluate the library," Anderson said. BY MATT POLI ACTIVITIES EDITOR

For anyone who thinks recycling a plastic bottle or a piece of paper doesn't make a difference, think again.

For the next 10 weeks, Eastern is involved in Recyclemania, a contest among universities across the country to measure which institution can collect the largest amount of recyclables, produce the least amount of trash and have the highest recycling rate, according to www.recyclemaniacs.org.

"What we're putting in landfills could be hazardous 30 years from now," said Allan Rathe, recycling coordinator for Eastern. Rathe gave an example of how asbestos was used as a good form of insulation years ago, but turned out to be extremely toxic for the environment.

The main goal of this competition is to increase student awareness of campus recycling and waste minimization.

The competition started when Ed Newman of Ohio University and Stacy Edmonds Wheeler of Miami University decided to do something to increase recycling in the residence and dining halls on their campuses in February of 2001.

Since then, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in collaboration with WasteWise have sponsored the yearly event.

This year the competition involves nearly 90 schools including Harvard, Duke and Ohio State universities, among others, Rathe said.

The prize for the winner of the contest is a trophy, Rathe said.

By recycling more, the Eastern community will produce less trash, which will require less garbage to be shipped to landfills and, in turn, lower cost of tuition for students.

Brittany Ledford, a junior physical education major, said she recycles plastics and aluminum whenever possible.

"Reusing our resources will help our chances (of bettering the Earth)," she said.

Ledford also said she thinks Eastern does a good job making students aware of the recycle bins on campus.

"I think (recycle bins) are noticeable, and you can see them and are aware of them," said Ashley Mundell, a senior sociology major.

Recyclemania ends on April 8, 2006.

### \$50k may be used to ease cost of rock-climbing wall

#### Student Senate to vote on Apportionment Board recommendation

By Nora Maberry

STAFF REPORTER

The Student Recreation Center may be one step closer to getting a rock-climbing wall after the Student Senate's meeting tonight.

The senate will vote on the recommendation of the Apportionment Board that \$50,000 be allotted for a rock-climbing wall at the Student Recreation Center.

"The Rec did a survey, and I believe about 73 percent of students wanted the wall," said Kenney Kozik, co-chair of the Tuition and Fee Review Committee.

While \$50,000 may seem like a large amount, Kozik said he believes that the price is justified.

"They are looking for about \$90,000 to \$100,000 and they will save about half of that,"

Kozik said.

Students will also see spots soon around campus. More accurately, they will see Big Red Dots.

The Student Government plans to make Eastern students more aware of its presence on campus by placing a Big Red Dot on all publications that it gives to the public, said Cole Rogers, chair of the Student Senate's Student Relations Committee.

The aim of the project is to distinguish the organization's fliers from the hundreds of other ads on campus, said student senate member Eric Glenn.

The senate wants to spend \$176 for two vinyl signs to kick off the public relations campaign. Rogers said he believes that the campaign cost is justified.

"I think that the money is justified to be spent because the students will be more aware of their student government and they will be able to voice their opinions easier," Rogers said.

The campaign does contain controversy, in which some members of the Student Senate want clarification on how the dots will be placed on publications.

"There was some controversy on exactly how the Red Dot was going to be put on all the publications, but I do believe that once everything is said and done, the legislation will pass," Rogers said.

If the idea passes the Big Red Dot campaign will begin later this month.

Members will also discuss changing the name of the Student Government's diversity requirement, which mandates that members attend one event per semester that promotes diversity on campus, to the cultural awareness requirement.

Changing the name of the Committee on Diversity Affairs to the Committee on Cultural Awareness will be brought up as well.

#### Tonight's Student Senate discussion topics:

♦ Recommendation to

Apportionment Board to allocate \$50,000 for a rock climbing-wall in the Student Recreation Center.

- ♦ Big Red Dot campaign cost
- ♦ Student Senate diversity requirement





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#### NEW FACULTY WILL LEARN EASTERN'S SECRETS

BY DEIRDRE SHEAHAN STAFF REPORTER

New employees at Eastern can learn the secrets to success today at the New Employee Orientation Program.

The program's contents are based on topics employees have said they wish they knew about when they were first hired, said Sandy Bowman, coordinator of the program.

"One of our goals is to make sure new employees are welcomed enthusiastically and provided with employment and job information so they can easily become an effective member of the university community," Bowman said.

At this time, 18 new employees have reserved seats.

The agenda for the orientation includes a variety of speakers includ-

ing representatives from Benefits/Payroll, Information Technology Services, Recycling, the Student Recreation Center, Civil Service Employment, Classification/ Compensation and Judicial Affairs.

There will also be a campus tour.

Human Resources identified the need for this program and the information and activities that should be included.

"Surveys were also completed by interested university employees and compiled to arrive at the final program," Bowman said.

Julie Benedict, training assistant from the Office of Training and Development, said this training program is designed to give general information to new employees about their role at Eastern.

"Being with other new employees and building a base of contacts is a plus," she said.

Richard Jewell, an accountant in the Business Office, attended

this orientation program in June 2005.

Jewell said it was a mandatory introduction that all new employees had to go through. At the program, 11 resident employees from different areas on campus gave the new employees tips on how to succeed at Eastern, Jewell said.

"It conveyed that while there is and must be authority and responsibility differences in the employee community, that we share one job, serving our customers, our student body," he said.

Jewell also said he was pleased with the campus tour given at the program because it showed them how to navigate around campus

The program is scheduled from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. today in the 1895 Room in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

#### PRIDE:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

of Charleston's small size.

Craig Lanum, a fourth year architect major at the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago, said it is substantially easier to be gay in a big city because unlike at Eastern, the community is not severely limited to campus.

"It's more comfortable because the city is more diverse in general, and because the gay community in the city of Chicago is larger than the gay community in my hometown (South Bend, Ind.)," Lanum said. "The people in Chicago are more accepting because there's more of a presence."

\*\*\*

Wilhelmsen has the desire to teach people who have misconceptions about homosexuals through Pride

"Every guy that runs into me thinks I think they're hot and I want them, which isn't the case," he said. "That's the first thing people think, and it's hard to take that away from them. I know people on this campus and I'm the first gay person they've ever met. I can't believe it."

Wilhelmsen said he hopes more people join

Pride-homosexual or not, and allies are welcome.

"Anyone who supports us and the gay movement and activism is our ally," he said.

Wilhelmsen was hesitant to attend a Pride meeting at first, but encourages people who are hesitant to go just to talk to the members.

\*\*\*

Over the past eight and a half years, Howell said, acceptance of homosexuals at Eastern has improved, although it is not at the same level as other institutions yet.

The way homosexuals are depicted in the media has changed in the past 10 years. From television shows like "Ellen" to films like "Brokeback Mountain," Howell has noted a positive change.

In 1998, when Ellen DeGeneres declared her sexuality, viewers lost interest and the show ended, he said

Today, movies depicting homosexual relationships are being nominated for Academy Awards.

"Brokeback Mountain' was the first gay love story not involving someone with AIDS and has really hit mainstream media," Howell said. "Little bits and pieces like that are going to help tremendously."

Daren Clary, a senior business marketing major, has no close gay friends, but every gay person he's met is entertaining, very into fashion and speaks their mind well, he said.

Clary thinks the stereotypes for homosexuals are true, based on the people he has encountered.

"Stereotypes for gays are like stereotypes for anyone," he said. "They may be applicable to some or even most of that group, but doesn't necessarily reflect every individual in the group."

\*\*\*

Carissa Hallam, a senior communication disorders major, had a negative experience coming out to her family and friends last year.

"My biggest fear when I was coming out was that people would hate me and act like they didn't know me," Hallam said. "My closest friends needed a lot of time to get past the shock of it, but they realized they love me no matter what."

Pride was the first place Hallam felt she could go to be among people she could relate to.

Hallam feels the stereotypes people should stray away from are that gay men are feminine and girls are "butch."

"I really hate the stereotype that homosexuals don't have spiritual beliefs," she said. "I really wish people wouldn't think that because someone's homosexual, you don't love the Lord."

\*\*\*

Michelle MacLeod, an intern with the Counseling Center, prides herself on being a longtime ally for the gay movement.

MacLeod wants to raise people's awareness on gay issues, suppression and hate, during the Counseling Center's workshop titled "My friend said they're gay. What do I do? - Coming out" which takes place tonight in the Mattoon/Charleston room of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union at 7:30 p.m.

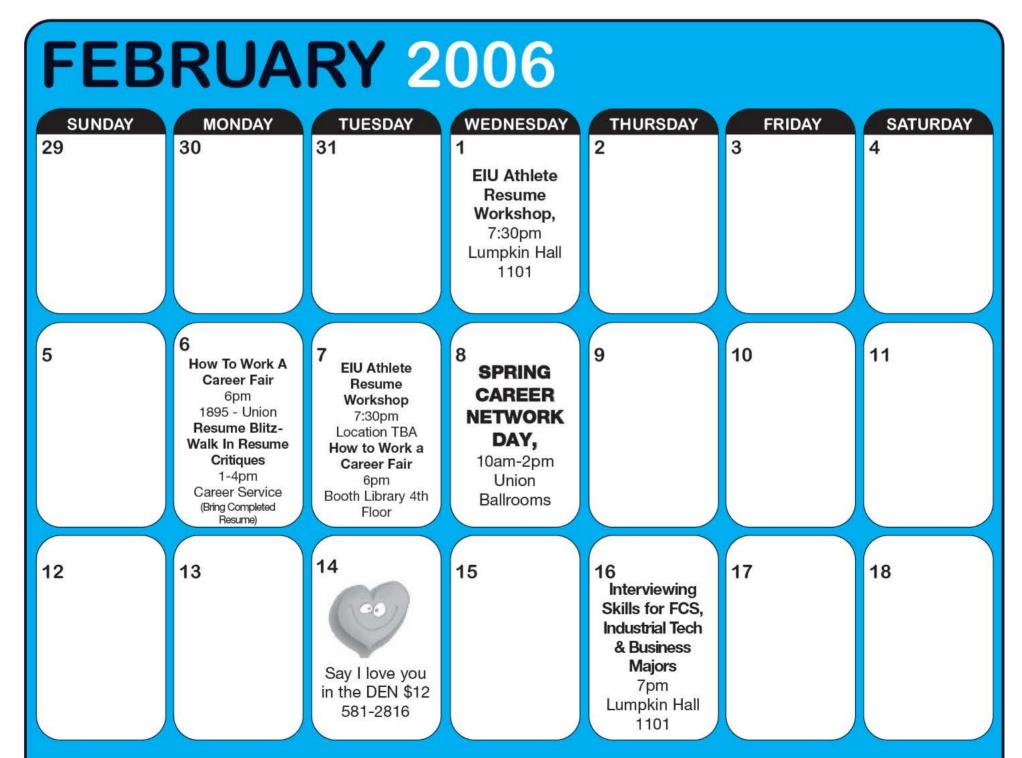
"I want to talk about the process of coming out," she said. "It's really a lifelong journey because a homosexual first has to come out to themselves, then their friends, family, co-workers..."

MacLeod hopes this workshop will help people embrace diversity while going through definitions, discussions of heterosexuality, homosexuality and homophobia.

"Roughly fourteen percent of the population is gay," she said. "We all know people, but we might not know they're gay. I want to promote activism and stop hate."

Hallam advises people to remember that it takes a lot of courage and trust for someone to come out.

"You need to be open-minded, be a friend."



#### Workshop will address AIDS in Black America

BY MICHELLE SIMEK STAFF REPORTER

Students will be given a chance to learn about sexual health and sexually transmitted infections at a workshop in honor of African American Heritage Month.

More than 75 percent of AIDS cases occur among racial minorities, mostly African Americans and Hispanic Americans, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Jay Blackwell, director of HIV Education and Training from the Office of Minority Health Resource Center, will cover recent trends and will let the students lead the session with questions and concerns.

The program will show the impact of STIs and sexual health not only pertaining to African Americans because of their higher risk of infection, but to all people, said Eric Davidson, assistant director of Health Service.

"People within the ages 18 to 24 have a higher risk," said Sherri

Abufakuseh, sexual health education coordinator for the Health Education Resource Center.

Abufakuseh said recently, safer sex has grown more common among students, but even with adequate protection, some diseases can still be spread unknowingly.

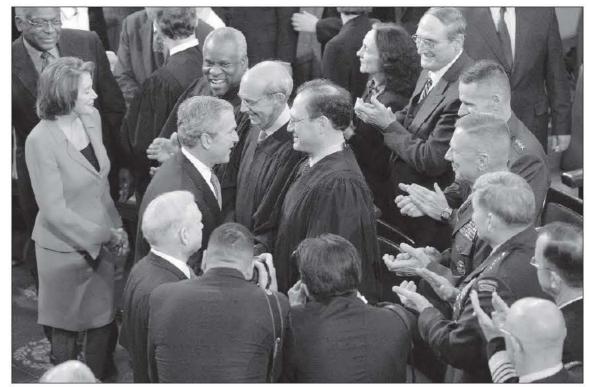
"If we're not educated now, the problem will keep perpetuating," Abufakuseh said. "It is very important for young adults to know the risks."

Abufakuseh also encourages those who are sexually active as well as those who are not to attend the

"Even if students are not engaging in sex now, this information is important to know now," she said. "This is knowledge will be with students for a lifetime."

"The Time is Now! The State of AIDS in Black America," sponsored by the African American Heritage Committee, will be held tonight in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union Grand Ballroom

#### STATE OF THE UNION



CHUCK KENNEDY/KRT NEWS

President George W. Bush greets Associate Justice Samuel Alito before he delivers his State of the Union address before a joint session of Congress on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., Tuesday.

### Bush speaks to divided Congress

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON- President Bush, mid-sentence in his State of the Union address, got an earful Tuesday night from both sides of the sharply divided Congress.

Democrats stood in unity and cheered when Bush lamented how Congress failed to act last year "on my proposal to save Social Security."

It was the Republicans' turn to cheer when Bush, shaking his finger, continued, "yet the rising cost of entitlements is a problem that is not going away."

Then, for a moment, there was bipartisanship.

Both sides of the aisle applauded when Bush asked them to join him in setting up a commission to examine the impact of aging baby boomers on Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid spending.

But with Congress facing midterm elections in November, the partisan mood clearly hung over chamber as Bush, hampered by big budget deficits, offered his modest program.

He declared that America must break its long dependence on Mideast oil and rebuked critics of his stay-the-course strategy for the unpopular war in Iraq.

"America is addicted to oil, which is often imported from unstable parts of the world," Bush said as he sought to drive the election-year agenda.

Rejecting calls for the withdrawal of troops from Iraq, Bush said, "There is no peace in retreat." He also slapped at those who complain he took the country to war on the erroneous grounds that Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction.

"Hindsight alone is not wisdom," Bush said. "And second-guessing is not a strategy."

In an unscripted moment, anti-war activist Cindy Sheehan, the mother of a fallen soldier in Iraq, was taken into custody by police in the House gallery just before Bush spoke to a joint session of Congress. She was escorted from the visitors gallery after she caused a disruption, a Capitol Police official said.

Bush declared that the "the state of our union is strong" despite Americans' anxieties about the war in Iraq, the economy and soaring energy costs. Oil prices are inching toward \$70 a barrel, throwing a cloud over the economy and pinching Americans' pocket-books.

Bush called for increased federal research into alternative fuels such as ethanol made from weeds or wood chips instead of corn.

Virginia Gov. Timothy M. Kaine, chosen to deliver the response for the Democrats, scolded Bush on the soaring national debt, the frustrated effort to rebuild the hurricane-battered Gulf Coast, Medicaid cuts and other issues. On Iraq, Kaine said that Americans were given "inaccurate information about the reasons for invading" and that troops were given body armor that was inadequate.

"The federal government should serve the American people," the newly elected governor said. "But that mission is frustrated by this administration's poor choices and bad management.

Bush's address came amid a changing of the guard elsewhere in Washington. Conservative judge Samuel Alito was sworn in as a new Supreme Court justice, replacing Sandra Day O'Connor, who has been a moderate swing vote. The Senate also confirmed Ben Bernanke to be chairman of the Federal Reserve, replacing Alan Greenspan after 18 and a half years in the influential job.

Alito was in the House chamber, alongside new Chief Justice John Roberts, another Bush nominee, and Justices Stephen Breyer and Clarence Thomas. The president was applauded 58 times in a speech that ran slightly more than 50 minutes.

#### KING:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

#### King's widow worked to fullfill his dream

his death in Memphis, Tenn., on April 4, 1968, the young widow said she was "more determined than ever that my husband's dream will become a reality."

In 1969, she founded the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change in Atlanta and used it to confront hunger, unemployment, voting rights and racism.

"The center enables us to go out and struggle against the evils in our society," she often said.

She also accused movie and TV companies, video arcades, gun manufacturers and toy makers of promoting violence.

King became a symbol in her own

right of her husband's struggle for peace and brotherhood, presiding with a quiet, stoic dignity over seminars and conferences.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson, who was with her husband when he was assassinated, said Tuesday that she understood that every time her husband left home, there was the chance he might not come back. Jackson pronounced her a "freedom fighter."

"Like all great champions she learned to function with pain and keep serving," he said, adding: "She kept marching. She did not flinch."

In Washington, President Bush hailed her as "a remarkable and courageous woman and a great civil rights

After her stroke, King missed the annual King celebration in Atlanta two weeks ago but appeared with her children at an awards dinner a few days earlier, smiling from her wheelchair but not speaking. The crowd gave her a standing ovation.

"I think you rise to the occasion in a crisis," she once said. "I think the Lord gives you strength when you need it. God was using us – and now he's using me, too."

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monkey's uncle!"

#### **ALONE:**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12A

## Panthers unite without coach to guide then

ings and they are united as a single team, Laird said. "We're part of the team. We hang out together, cheer on and help each other. There is not a diving team or a swim team. It's just the team."

The Eastern diving team is like many diving teams around the country: small. Eastern has a total of six divers, three men and three women.

In high school McKenze had the luxury of having a larger diving team at Naperville North than Eastern has.

But Laird has been a part of small squads throughout his career.

"I started diving my junior year in high school and the team consisted of me and one other guy," Laird said. "My coaches were my parents."

Eastern's six members is actually a large number compared to other teams in the Mid-Continent Conference.

#### "There is not a diving team or a swim team. It's just the team."

JOSEPH LAIRD, SOPHOMORE DIVER

The Mid-Con boasts 11 teams in 10 sports.

Of those 11 teams, seven have swimming programs and just five of them have diving teams.

IUPUI, Western Illinois and Oakland have diving teams and were joined by South Dakota State and Eastern just this season.

When looking at team rosters, there are only 22 divers in all of the Mid-Con conference.

Having such a small group of competitors makes for an interesting dynam-

"At competitions the divers from opposing teams get together and we have a good time," Laird said. "I really don't see divers on opposing teams as opponents, just people who know how to do what I do."

#### DEN Sports Staff Super Bowl XL predictions



MARCO SANTANA SPORTS EDITOR

#### Pittsburgh 21 Seattle 17

The Steelers are this year's sentimental pick. With Jerome Bettis and head coach Bill Cowher looking for their first rings after years of falling short, I think the Steelers will do it for them. Of course "Fast" Willie Parker will be the key to the game and the defense holding Shaun Alexander in check. Jerome Bettis gets his ring, Willie Parker gets the MVP and Ben Roethlisberger becomes the new Tom Brady until Brady returns next season.



MATT DANIELS

#### Pittsburgh 23 Seattle 17

Bill Cowher is due. The longest-tenured head coach in the NFL at one team and one of the best family men in the game, the Steelers will dispatch of the Seahawks. Led by a stout defense that has contained high-flying offenses of Cincinnati, Indianapolis and Denver in the play-offs so far, Pittsburgh will do the same against the NFC's most dangerous team. Jerome Bettis will deliver near the goal line and the Steelers will ride 'The Bus' one final time to victory.



DAN WOIKE

#### Seattle 27 Pittsburgh 24

Originally, I thought the Steelers were going to be my pick. They seem like they're the team of destiny with Jerome Bettis playing in what is almost certainly his final game. But, then I realized they're the darling of the general public (and a 4.5-point favorite). So, based on my distrust of the public, and even more so, my distrust of my instincts, I'm taking the Seahawks.

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#### FRESH:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12A

#### New Panthers make up diverse team

Walk-ons sophomore Samantha Lininger and junior Cristina Carillo join the women. Filling out the roster is transfer student Stephanie Harmazy who is also a Canadian native.

In addition to getting used to new teammates, the women will also have the obstacle that most players at the college level encounter when they enter a tennis program. Most players have had minimal team play experience from high school.

"They've all played tennis before but team tennis is very new to them," Blackburn said.

"The atmosphere alone will be something to get used to."

In college matches, spectators are allowed to cheer on the competitors

from the stands and they will now be playing for a team score.

Harmazy played individual in the past and transferred here to play tennis as part of a team.

"We have the same goals," she said. "It's easier to practice and more fun."

"My teammates are probably the best part of tennis," Will said. "Everyone is very supportive of each other and it is amazing how eight girls from different backgrounds mesh together so amazingly."

Blackburn admits the strongest point of this year's team is their chemistry. The women give credit to

"For being a new coach he's developed a great relationship with the team," Harmazy said.

She said he knows when to be strict and when to be fun on and off of the "He's really dedicated and helps us

Sasidharan said. In the fall and preseason the women have been working hard on mechanics

to maintain focus during practice,"

and focusing on individual needs.

"Personal goals for me are to just keep on improving my game to contribute to the success of the entire team," Will said.

Lininger wants to win as many matches as she can for herself and

The Panthers are trying to reverse a trend that goes back for a decade.

They have not been in the conference's top three since joining in 1997.

In 2003, the Panthers had their best finish after going 5-2 in the conference and finishing in fourth place.

Jacksonville State, Tennessee Tech and Eastern Kentucky have been the conference's dominant teams in

But the Panthers aren't giving any-

Eastern is likely to see the return of the Mambetova/Sasidharan doubles pair, who finished last season undefeated.

The OVC championship is the goal and if the team's effort is there the way it was throughout the fall, success will be there, Blackburn said.

#### **OVC NOTES**

#### **Bracketbuster games** announced for conference

The final piece of the Eastern men's basketball team's schedule fell into place Tuesday when Eastern Michigan was announced as the Panthers' opponent in the ESPN BracketBuster game.

The Panthers host the game Saturday Feb. 18 at Lantz Arena.

The Eagles (3-14) have lost 10 straight games. Senior forward John Bowler leads Eastern Michigan in scoring (18.8) and rebounding (9.6).

The two teams haven't met since the 1966-67 season, a game the Panthers (5-14) won 92-81. The two teams will meet on Eastern Michigan's home floor in Ypsilanti, Mich. sometime next season.

In pairings announced Monday, Samford will face another MAC team, defending conference tourna-

#### **OVC** Bracketbuster games

- UNC Asheville at EKU
- New Orleans at JSU
- Morehead at Central Mich.
- III. Chicago at Murray
- SEMO at UC Riverside
- ◆ UTM at Evansville
- Tenn. State at Ball State
- Tenn. Tech at Bradley

ment champion Ohio. The game, along with 12 others, will be televised on ESPN, ESPN2, ESPNU and ESPN360.

The games will all be played on Feb. 18; the times will be announced later this week.



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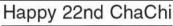
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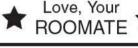
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## GOMES' LAST STAND

#### Postseason success only thing missing from senior's career

BY MATT DANIELS

ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

With nine games left in the regular season, Josh Gomes has one thing on his mind: Nashville, Tenn.

"Just to go to Nashville or farther, I've never been a part of that since I've been here."

The senior guard has piled up individual accolades during his career at Eastern but has never been part of a team that has made the Ohio Valley Conference Tournament semifinals in Nashville.

Entering Thursday's game at Jacksonville State, Gomes stands 16th on the all-time scoring list at Eastern with 1,231 points. He needs 178 points the rest of the year to be one of the top ten scorers in Panther history.

"Someone told me I was the 16th-leading scorer and I didn't even know that," Gomes said. "It's an honor because not that many players get that opportunity."

Morehead State head coach Kyle Macy saw Gomes' scoring prowess first-hand last Saturday at Lantz Arena.

"He's one of the best catch and shoot guards in the conference," said Macy, after Gomes torched the Eagles for 24 points in an 80-65 Eastern win.

That scoring has not always translated into wins for teams that Gomes has been on.

His freshman year the Panthers posted the best record during his four years here at 14-15.

"I've been part of some rough teams," Gomes said. "People aren't going to remember how many points you score and all that. They're going to remember whether you're a winner and what type of person you are."

The type of person that Gomes is off the court is somewhat of the same person on the court.

"He stays even-keel on the court," said Eastern head coach Mike Miller. "I think when people meet him, they know he's a genuine person."

Senior guard Jake Sinclair, Gomes' freshman-year roommate, can remember having to force words out of him trying to have conversations.

"He kept to himself and I'd have to sit there and talk to him for five minutes to get him to say something to me," Sinclair said. "Throughout the years, he's become a much more vocal leader on the floor and he's become a lot better basketball player since he's been here."

Gomes said he considers himself to be a funny person, one who is quiet around people he doesn't really know.

"I'm always joking around with guys on the team, instigating stuff," he said. "A lot of people don't know I'm a funny

Freshman guard Mike Robinson said he can't remember any pranks being pulled this year by the senior, but said he wouldn't be surprised if Gomes was planning one for him.

Robinson said he is trying to learn as much as he can from Gomes in their only year as teammates.

"I know I was very cocky when I first came in here," Robinson said. "Being around him, really humbled me. I don't have to talk so much about my skills, I just show it like he does."

When Gomes was a freshman, he had another senior who left an impression on him-Eastern's all-time leading scorer Henry Domercant.

"Seeing the way he handled himself and the way he came in, every day was just incredible," Gomes said. "Even when he had a bad game, he never let that get to him."

After not being in the starting lineup at all as a freshman, he became a fixture during his sophomore year, starting 23 of the 27 games. However, his sophomore year the Panthers finished 6-21, the team's fewest number of wins since being in Division I.

A year later, Eastern improved, thanks in large part to Gomes, who averaged 16.9 points and led the team to an eighth place finish in the OVC. However, the improvement that the team showed from his sophomore to junior year did not help head coach Rick Samuels keep his job.

"You heard rumors," said Gomes about Samuels' job security. "I didn't think that it was going to happen because we were 6-21 the year before and he didn't get fired that

Miller said Gomes made the transition from Samuels to himself smooth.

"He came in, very easy to communicate with and a very willing participant," Miller said.

With a little more than a month left in his college basketball career, Gomes is determined to finish the season strong but also thinking about the future.

"The goal would be to play professional basketball anywhere," he said. "As long as I'm playing basketball I'd be happy."

If basketball does not pan out, the sociology major plans to attend graduate school and possibly pursue a career as a social worker.

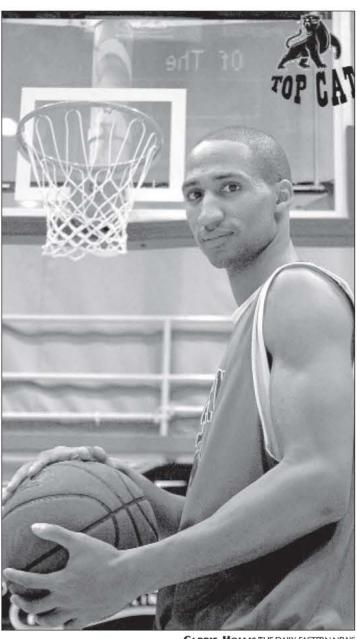
uncle is a social worker and it's something that I've always seen myself doing."

"I just always liked working with kids," he said. "My

Whatever Gomes does after his years at Eastern, he leaves with no regrets.

"These four years have been the best time of my life."

Gomes' career stats 2001-02 21-0 400 2002-03 27-23 13.6 .333 2003-04 28-28 16.8 .373 2005-06



CARRIE HOLLIS/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Senior guard Josh Gomes led his team to an 80-65 win over Morehead State on Saturday with 24 points, 5 assists and 5 three-pointers.

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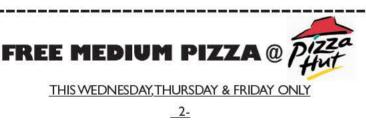
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# PORTS

#### PANTHER SPORTS CALENDAR

SAIUKDAT	SWIMMING VS. ST. LOUIS WRESTLING VS. NORTHERN IOWA AND WYOMING	noon 2 p.m.
SATURDAY	Construence on Continue	
FRIDAY	TRACK & FIELD AT INDIANA	through Sat.
	M-Basketball at Jacksonville State	7:30 p.m.
THURSDAY	W-BASKETBALL AT JACKSONVILLE STATE	5 p.m.

Eastern Illinois University, Charleston



OFF OF THE BENCH **MARCO SANTANA** 

### Running the super show

It's that time of the year again. The time to watch 12 hours of pregame shows for a three-hour

football game. Fortunately, it seems as if two angles will make this a great Super Bowl to watch.

Jerome Bettis is in Super Bowl XL. How perfect is this?

There are not many people out there who are not rooting for the robust running back to get his first career ring.

He is one of the league's all-time

This was the first season in his career that Bettis did not start any games for the Steelers.

"Fast" Willie Parker took over the starting job at the beginning of the season. Bettis humbly stepped aside and now has the best chance of his career to get a ring.

He only gained 368 yards this season while Parker rushed for more than 1200 yards.

But in the postseason, Bettis has shown that he still knows how to come through when it

He has 137 yards in the postseason while Parker has 132 yards. He has three touchdowns and Parker

To be able to follow John Elway as a player to win a ring in his final season would be the perfect way for him to end his career.

Another angle that will be watched is league MVP Shaun Alexander and his attempt at being the first league MVP to win a Super Bowl since Rams' quarterback Kurt Warner won Super Bowl XXXIV.

Alexander was the MVP after scoring a league-record 28 touchdowns (27 rushing) and rushing for 1880 yards.

A year after starting a mini-controversy by complaining that his coach didn't help him win the rushing title—he lost the title by a yard to Curtis Martin-Alexander is in a much better mood in Detroit this week.

These two reasons are enough to watch this Super Bowl. The fact that it should be a game that is close throughout just clinches it.

Marco Santana is a sophomore journalism major. If you think he shouldn't work Sunday and sit back and watch the Super Bowl, e-mail him at masantana@eiu.edu.

#### DIVING



Junior Dave Trabilsy, freshman Kara Kooker and sophomore Joe Laird discuss each other's dives during practice in Lantz Natatorium Tuesday evening. The divers would make their dives and then give each other pointers while watching the TIVO (a television recorder that plays back their dives).

## Eastern's divers go at it alone

#### Panther divers responsible to coach themselves

BY JOE WALTASTI

STAFF REPORTER

The Eastern Illinois football team has 90 players and 10 coaches.

The men's and women's basketball teams have a combined 23 players and eight coaches.

Eastern's diving team is a different story.

"We don't have an actual coach who can devote their time to us and watch us practice," freshman Allie McKenze said.

The Eastern diving team has six members and no coach. The divers are independent and in reality, coach themselves.

"We feed off each other a lot," McKenze said. "The older guys are experienced and we learn a lot from them."

Ray Padovan is the only coach for the 55-member swimming and diving team and it is difficult for him to help everyone individually each and every day.

Padovan was a swimmer in college, and, while he tries to help the divers as best he can, his expertise is with the swimmers.

"He comes by and watches a couple dives," sophomore Joe Laird said of Padovan. "He helps us out and gives us moral support, but most of the time we are on our own."

The athletes understand that one coach cannot keep an eye on a whole team.

"He does a lot for us," McKenze added. "But he has a big team to take care of. It's difficult."

To help the divers, Eastern purchased a video

camera system that records their dives in practice. Each dive is displayed on a television next to the pool a minute later and they can critique them-

During practices the swimmers do short, timed circuits and the divers have to wait to take a few dives in between these circuits.

"During practice I can wait up to 10 minutes between dives and that does not help me at all," said junior Dave Trabilsy. "Lots of times my classes conflict with practice so I go and dive during open swim. It's great to go then because I don't have to dive around the swimmers."

Despite the disadvantages, there are no hard feel-

SEE ALONE PAGE 9A

### A fresh start for fresh faces at Eastern

By KATIE ANDERSON STAFF REPORTER

The women's team came off of a losing season last year ranking eighth in the Ohio Valley Conference and going 5-14 overall.

This year things may change.

The team has a new coach and more than 60 percent of the roster is

At his previous position as head coach at Coker College in Hartsville, S.C., John Blackburn took a team that had taken a year off of competition and transformed them into seventh-place finishers in the Carolinas-Virginia Athletic Conference.

The finish was higher than any that Coker's teams had seen in over a decade.

Blackburn is optimistic about Eastern and his first season.

"We've committed to a real system," he said. "In the fall we were working on mechanics and trying to focus on individual needs and hopefully those things pay off for us in the spring."

"The weak point, if there is one, is probably just experience."

The women's team is new to each other. Senior Jill Wirtz, junior Madina Mambetova and sophomore Sandra Sasidharan are the only returnees.

The other five players on the team are all new to Eastern and a few are new to the country. Jenny Will and Canadian Natalie Martin are fresh-

SEE FRESH PAGE 10A



STEPHEN HAAS/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Eastern sophomore Madina Mambetova returns a serve during a singles match against Morehead State April 3, 2005, at Darling Courts. Men's tennis starts their season Saturday, while the women's season starts Monday.