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VOLUME 91. ISSUE 56

TUESDAY

Eastern Illinois University, Charleston

## Charleston celebrates 175 years

Red, White and Blue days goes on with Fourth of July celebrations despite the threat of rain

BY ADAM TESTA

Not even poor weather could stop the residents of Charleston from celebrating the Fourth of July.

Despite the warnings of possible rain, hundreds of people attended the various events sponsored by the city during the 16th annual Red, White and Blue Days festival Tuesday.

"[The rain] might have affected our crowd in the park on the Fourth," said Betty Coffrin, member of the Red, White and Blue Days committee. "After the parade, some people may have been wet and gone home, but other than that, I don't think it had a big effect."

The highlight of the festival was the parade, which traveled from the Square to Morton Park. Hundreds of people lined the streets from Sixth Street to Harrison Avenue and onto Division Street.

"My favorite event is the parade," said Coffrin. "I like to see the veterans. They get excited to walk in the

Though it began to rain during the parade, most of the attendees stayed at the park to witness the annual bell ringing ceremony. The ceremony, as well as the rest of the festival, commemorated the 175th anniversary for the founding of Coles County and Charleston.

"It was an opportunity for a nice celebration. It's nice to note our history and background," said Coffrin. "The bell ringers were representative of the county and the city."

SEE 175 PAGE 5



Joh Anniversary

A young girl picks up some candy at the Fourth of July parade on Division Street on Tuesday afternoon. The festival commemorated the 175th anniversary of the founding of Coles County.

## Retired professor

By KATEY MITCHELL CAMPUS EDITOR

June 18 will never be the same again for the friends and family of Thomas Elliott.

Just days before, the retired Eastern professor was laughing and having fun with friends visiting from California.

He seemed healthy and vibrant, ready to take on whatever came his way. He are lunch with them and never lost his contagious joyful spirit. He cracked jokes and was the life of the party.

A few days later, while going about his normal business, Elliot suddenly collapsed on the floor at home from a heart attack. His wife, Betty, and friends rushed him to

Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center hoping he would make it through. After Betty and friends waited for what seemed like eternity, the doctors came to the waiting room with the news Elliott had died. He was 78 years old.

Elliott may have passed on, but his spirit remains in everything and everyone he was a part of. Family and friends chose to celebrate his life rather than mourn his death.

Ellior will be remembered for the amount of service he and his wife did for the community and the Wesley United Methodist Church.

Rosalie Addison, an employee for the church, praised the work Elliott has done for the church. He was

SEE PROFESSOR PAGE 5



JAY GRABIEC/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Treasurer Paul McCann stands in front of Old Main where his office is located.

## Eastern hires new treasurer

BY KRISTINA PETERS UNIVERSITY EDITOR

Eastern recently hired a new treasurer after going six and a half years without one because of econom-

Paul McCann, of Decatur, was appointed treasurer replacing Marlyn Finley who retired on Jan. 1, 2000. Finely continued working part time upon his

"Since he [Finley] retired, that's when we started the economic downturn," said Jeff Cooley, vice president of business affairs.

Many departments were cutting back on expenses and Cooley thought that he would take part by postponing the hiring of a new treasurer.

During the economic downturn, the university needed to save money for the budgets, Cooley said.

SEE TREASURER PAGE 5

## CELEBRATING THE FOURTH

Residents celebrated our country's Independence Day and the 175th anniversary of Charleston and Coles County.



ERIC HILTNER/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

A group of kids brace themselves under the spray from a fire hose set up on Division street for the Red, White and Blue Days on July Fourth.



TAY GRABIEC/THE DAILY EASTERN NEW

Josh Gracin of American Idol performs some of his songs for about 500 Charleston residence at Morton Park Monday evening.



Mayor John Inyart salutes the flag as the national anthem is sung Tuesday afternoon.



ERIC HILTNER/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

A crew raises the American Flag before the fireworks display at the Goles Gounty Airport Tuesday evening. According to Betty Coffrin, a member of the Red, White and Blue Days committee, the committee will begin meeting soon to begin planning the event for next year. . She says that support from the community is appreciated with the fundraising efforts.



JAY GRABIEC/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Four-year-old Caleb Hurst of Lerna is crowned "Mr. Little Firecracker" by Harold Hackett of Charleston on Monday.



ERIC HILTNER/THE DAILY EASTERN NEW

A couple watches the Fourth of July fireworks display Tuesday evening on the tarmac of the Coles County Airport Tuesday Evening. The fireworks started five minutes early in order to miss the rain that happened later in the night. Later that evening rain did occur, sending spectators running for their ears.

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## O'Brien rocked by drum and bugle corps

BY KEVIN KENEALY STAFF REPORTER

A perfect summer sun was set to the sounds of the reggae moroccas and bell beat as the Bluecoats Drum and Bugle Corps out of Canton, Ohio were warming up for the night.

The 135 drum, brass, color guard triple threat shook, cooled, and wowed the hundreds of color guard camper spectators at O'Brien Stadium during their Smith-Walbridge clinic last Thursday.

According to Christine Beason and Jake Stauffer, administrative assistants with Smith-Walbridge Clinics, the Corps rehearses 12 hours a day.

During one of their sets, a light jazzy number began tickling the xylophones, and proceeded to spread into trills and thrills as the brass entered and the Corps caught the jazzy fire in their movements. The color guard spun in pinwheel fashion, and later in the same piece, the brass would unconventionally sway to the meandering jazz.

Moving in a v-shape duck formation doesn't last long when you're the Bluecoats, as not even seconds later they are in a row, symbolizing an 18th century British army, came marching forward. In this number, they displayed how playing soft is just as powerful as playing loud, keeping everything light from the sounds of the brass, to the stretching motion of the color guard.

Dave MacKinnon, co-brass caption head, said he doesn't know if it's hard to be in the Corps, but that they've auditioned 605 kids for the 135 spots, all throughout the US.



ERIC HILTNER/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Members of the Bluecoats Drum & Bugle Core do the wave as a part of their performance at O'Brien Field Thursday night.

"It's quite a commitment, but there is a fair amount of time involved," MacKinnon said, "If they're selected for a position, and come May 20, they're asked to move in right up until August 15, which is the championships. We're a professional marching band seven days a week, except they don't get paid for it."

The average age of the players is 19, but regardless of age, hard work, dedication, and of course a good handle of their respective equipment or instrument come with the territory.

"Rehearsals start maybe around 9:30 [a.m.]," MacKinnon said. 'We

have an hour for lunch, and then from 1:00 to approximately 4:00 is the music portion of it."

"During those sessions, the brass will go by themselves, the percussion will be going by themselves, the color guard will be going by themselves and then later on after dinner, all three of those sections will get together from approximately 6:30 to 9:30 to start putting the marching and maneuvering on the field," he said.

This is the second time the 40 show a year group has been to Eastern, and Beason has said the Corps loves coming.

"They sleep on gym floors, they

travel on the tour buses," she said. "So for them to be here because they actually get to sleep in beds, they love being here."

The Corps is off next to Illinois State University and is gradually gearing up for their championships versus teams from all over the US and Canada in Madison, Wis. Next year, they'll be at the Rose Bowl in Anaheim.

"I think it's terrific that we allow for these kinds of things in the summer," said Dr. Milton Allen, new director of Bands at Eastern and one of the spectators on the night. "It's great for the school; it's great for the

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DENele@gmail.com

EDITORIAL

### City's planning made festival a big success

Charleston hosted its 16th annual Red, White and Blue Days festival Monday and Tuesday to celebrate Independence Day.

Charleston residents and Eastern students alike should appreciate the work that the city and community organizations put into the event.

According the Betty Coffrin, the Red, White and Blue Days committee worked with a budget of \$45,000 to put on the festival. Working with such a limited budget and still being able to put on an event of the magnitude of Red, White and Blue Days is remarkable. Citizens should be grateful for the committee's ability to provide two days worth of entertainment.

In addition to the musical talent of Josh Gracin, the city was also able to sponsor large-scale events such as the parade and the fireworks display. These events have become the cornerstones of the festival in recent years.

Additionally, the festival allows local organizations an opportunity to become involved with the community through sponsoring various events and fundraisers. Habitat for Humanity began hosting their "Four on the Fourth" foot race almost ten years ago, and the event has been instrumental in helping the organization fund their homebuilding projects. The Coles County 4H also uses the event to raise money to provide opportunities for its members. The Charleston Jaycees use the event as a way to provide a service to the community by sponsoring an annual Kid's Games event. This year, the Jaycees also provided a service to the community by selling child identification kits at a

By providing these services and offering opportunities such as the child ID kits, these community groups are allowing members of the community a chance to become involved.

The fact that the city, as well as these organizations, reaches out and tries to involve the community members is truly admirable.

The festival also gives the community an opportunity to reflect on the past and the history of the area.

Each year, the festival has a theme that it is reflected through the entire festival. This year's theme was the 175th anniversary of Coles County and Charleston.

The first ever theme of the festival was "Welcome Home Sons and Daughters of Charleston," when many soldiers from Charleston returned for Desert Storm.

Throughout the years, other themes have reflected issues such as Charleston residents in all different wars and the history of the local railroad.

People in the Charleston area should appreciate the fact that the committee works hard on preserving the rich past and history of the area.

For a town the size of Charleston, the festival is remarkable. Many larger cities, such as Champaign, do not host Fourth of July festivals on the same scale as Charleston.

Charleston's Red, White and Blue Days is something that residents and students should appreciate.

Not everyone is lucky enough to have these kinds of opportunities provided for free.

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



COMMENTARY

## I wish I could understand

**MAURICE TRACY** 

**GUEST COLUMNIST** 

Usually when I take the 10 minutes or so to sit down and type my little column I write from a self-appointed position of authority on the topic, but this week it is a little different.

Today my column is all about what I do not understand.

I do not understand how Log Cabin Republicans exist. In truth, I barely understand Republicans, but when it comes to gay Republicans, all logic seems to fly out the window. Who would willingly support a person or party that actively and consistently tries to discriminate against you and limit your rights?

I also do not understand why some religions act as if by saying that homosexual love is not a sin, just the sex they have is, then they should get some medal for being "progressive".

I do not understand why people assume that everyone is religious and when they talk about "God this" and "God" said that, that everyone actually believes in a God let alone their God.

I do not understand how women so often play into patriarchy and blame other women when their man cheats. In fact, why they blame other women for things in general.

I do not understand why me being a homosexual and talking about homosexual topics and ideas is considered one-

"I don't understand how **Christianity is supposed to** 

be based on love and yet

there seems to be so much

hate that comes from that

group of people."

dimensional when heterosexuality is thrust down the collective throats of gay America all day, every day.

I don't understand how Christianity is supposed to be based on love and yet there seems to be so much hate that comes from that group of people.

Honestly, people really get that saying "love the 'sinner' hate the 'sin" confused.

I do not understand how blacks, Asian-Americans, Arab-Americans, and other racial minority groups can actively discriminate against each other and seem to only care about racial discrimination when it pertains to them.

Why can't we work together?

I also do not understand how a group, say African-Americans, would normally vote liberal on practically every single issue, but when it comes to gay rights they become card carrying discriminatory homophobes, and yet they will, rightfully so, scream when they are discriminated against.

I do not understand why I have to type the n-word because it is deplorable, but the words fag and faggot are not.

I do not understand why taking advantage of my rights to dissent and be a vocal critic of my country automatically makes me anti-American.

Most of all, I do not understand why since I am black, gay, and effeminate I am expected to be tolerant of others who have no respect for me, excuse friends who have the nerve to "pray for me to find a woman" and think I am mentally ill for being homosexual, and think that being gay is something that can and should be changed if/when possible, or other homosexuals who deem behaving effeminately as a crime and whose idea of being masculine, for men, feminine, for women, is by acting straight. At the same time I am supposed to never publicly be critical of my race, my sexual-orientation based family, or the gender that I truly have the most respect and admiration for (women), and on top of all this I am supposed to be open-minded to conservative \*explicative\*.

> Got comments? Let us know at Deneic@gmail.com

#### YOUR TURN: LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

#### PROFESSOR:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

involved in an adult ministry program and has been involved with a men's breakfast group for 30 years, said Addison. He was one of the first members and remained with the program every week until he died.

She also said Elliott and Betty were in charge of the adult Sunday school classes.

June Cooper and her husband George have been friends with the Elliott family since 1962, when George came to Eastern as the new head of the department for Business Education. Both George Cooper and Elliot

worked as faculty in the Business Education department and both headed it at different times.

But what June Cooper really remembers Elliot for is his generosity.

"He would see things that people needed help with and he'd do it," said Cooper. Take us for example. We [her and her husband] were both having health problems and neither of us could drive. So one day Betty and Tom drive us out to the cemetery so we can visit our child who died."

Abdoulaye Traore, a junior finance major from Africa, met Elliott and his wife about three years ago when he moved to Eastern.

They met through the Wesley United Methodist Church, and when the Elliots found out he needed a place to stay, they opened their home to him.

Traore saw "a wise man, a mentor, a confidant and a father" in Elliot.

Elliott's daughter, Beth, remembers long family vacations each spring break and summer vacation while growing up, her father's love of history, his love of sports, especially college basketball, and his inability to play them and his love of Eastern.

"He loved Eastern," said Beth. "He was loyal to it and liked the size of it."

#### TREASURER:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Not having a full-time treasurer did have its effects, but with Finley's help they managed.

"Marlyn has saved me many times," Cooley said. "I'm really going to be saddened with his departure."

Cooley, as well as others, added additional responsibilities to their work to make up for not having a full-time treasurer.

Many people had to take on additional duties that the treasurer would have done, and everything did not get accomplished that were needed, Cooley said.

The duties of a treasurer include working with the business affairs office, payroll, the benefits office and purchasing.

The earch for a new treasurer began November 16, 2005, and led to the hiring of McCann who has been in office since June 19.

He is slowly taking on the duties of his position.

"I'm looking forward to working here," said McCann, director of business services and treasurer. "I think my general business knowledge and business sense will add to the team."

McCann received experi-

ence for the job of treasurer while serving as a partner with the accounting firm of Doehring Winders and Co., LLP and as chief financial officer with Behnke and Co., Inc., a Decatur insurance firm.

McCann previously worked with Eastern's audit team to do annual external auditing.

"My management experience really came from Behnke where it was my duty to manage the employees as well as the business itself," McCann said.

McCann is trying to get up to speed of how things

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#### 175:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Former Illinois Governor Jim Edgar took part in the bell ringing ceremony. Edgar was announced as being "Charleston's favorite son" during his introduction.

Caleb Hearst, 4, son of John and Melissa Hearst, was named Little Mister Firecracker. Jaryn Carter-Alvis, 4, daughter of Jamie and Erin Carter-Alvis, was named Little Miss Firecracker.

Finalists for the Little Mister and Miss Firecracker pageant are randomly chosen, said Coffrin. Then, buckets are placed out with the finalists' names, and whichever finalist earns the most donations is crowned with the title.

Another top winner was Jerry Halsey, who was named Coles County's 15th Farmer of the Year. Halsey was born in Douglas County, but he was raised on a farm in Coles County.

The highlights of the entertain-

ment at the festival were performances by country music artists Josh Gracin and Trent Tomlinson.

As Gracin, who earned his stardom from appearing on "American Idol," prepared to take the stage Monday, the crowd began to scream chants of, "Josh! Josh!" Once Gracin took the stage, the crowd completely roared with screams.

"We've never had the opportunity to do this in Charleston," said Christina White, president of the Jaycees.

The climax of the festival came with the fireworks display Tuesday evening at Coles County Memorial Airport.

Hundreds of people were in attendance at the fireworks, but many left early when rain began to downpour.

Madeline Babcock, 7, said she enjoyed the fireworks in Charleston but thought the one's in Arthur were better because they made shapes.

"I liked the oyal, pink and green ones best," Babcock said.



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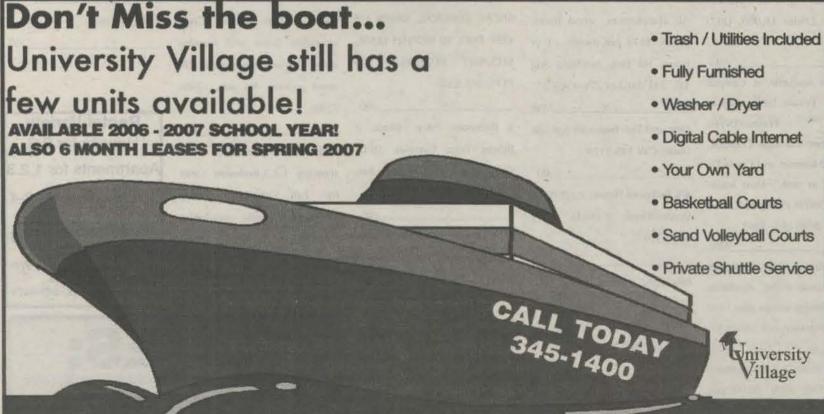
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## INTERNATIONAL INTONATION

# Musicans from around the world perform at festival

By Corey Grabiec

The Intonation Music Festival provided its Union Park audience with a somewhat effectively eclectic lineup of bands and artists, with acts ranging from heavy metal to British rap.

Oakland metal power-trio High on Fire got the crowd pumping their fists and putting up the horns with an aggressive Slayer-meets-Motorhead style that led to an entertaining one man slam dance pit near the right side of the stage, with such songs as "Cometh Down Hessian" and "Blessed Black Wings."

The Montreal-based Stills played a rather blase set of generic indie-pop, calling to mind almost every 80's-influenced New York "it band" of the past few years, complete with a "The" name; one can only hear retreads of The Smiths and The Caue so many times...

Following The Stills was Roky Erikson, former singer/guitarist of 60's psychedelic garage rock cult-band, The 13th Floor Elevators.

Erikson, performing with his backing band and a vicious mullet, entertained fans with a mix of his solo work and old songs from his previous band. However, Erikson seemed more than a bit past his prime as a performer; while his voice and guitar playing remained solid he rarely moved throughout his set.

As Erikson was finishing, many audience members relocated to the stage on the other side of the park in order to get a good place for a rare appearance by Japan's premier experimental band, The Boredoms.

The band's current live set-up features energetic front man Yamataka Eye adding heavily effected screaming and samples over a three-person drum circle while simultaneously keeping remarkably tight, trance-inducing beats.

Throughout the show. Eye moved to the center of the circle, composing the drummers with various barked vocal commands as he stood on top of two kick drums. Highlights from the set include an exceptional, jazzy solo by drummer Yo2ro and an uncharacteristically slow section featuring synth and vocals by Yoshimi, the group's only female member.

Veteran rapper Ghostface Killah began the hip-hop orientated block of the festival by performing songs that spanned old favorites from his days as a member of the highly influential Wu-Tang Clan to selections off of his new record, "Fishscale."

Midway through his ser, Ghostface paid tribute to late rapper ODB by having the crowd throw up their "W"." and rhyme along to the deceased rapper's hit "Shirmny Shimmy Ya."

Ghostface closed his show by having a throng of teenaged girls dressed in uniform hot pants and skimpy shirts dance with him on stage.

Following up was pint-sized British rapper Lady Sovereign. The self-proclaimed "biggest midget in the game," Sovereign played an infectiously danceable version of the British hip-hop sub-gente "grime," a mix of fast-paced rhyming and hardcore techno-like beats, in support of her first American single "Blah Blah."

Closing the festival was The Streets, the project of British rap artist Mike Skinner.

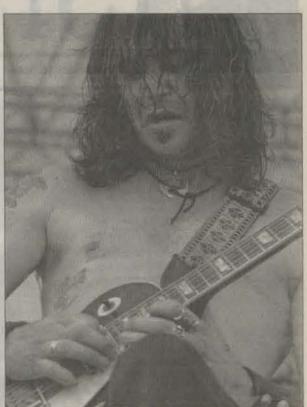
The autobiographical accounts of the stress sudden fame can induce on a person presented on Skinner's latest album, "The Hardest Way to Make an Easy Living," translated well onto the stage, with songs like "When You Wasn't Famous" sounding even more frustrated than on record.

However, the mood of the performance was generally light, with Skinner repeatedly pointing out an over-excited fan and telling the audience they should all be jumping up and down like him. Some theatrics entered into The Streets' set with Skinner's sideman dressing up like a boxer for one number as a metaphor for dedication. Before taking his encore, Skinner joked with the audience by saying he must have not filled his contractual obligations, so he would play a few more, ending with songs off of "The Hardest Way."



JAY GRABIEC/THE DARY EASTERN NEWS

Ghostface performs some of his songs and others in memory of Old Dirty Bastard at the Intonation music festival at Union Park in Chicago.



JAY GRABIEC/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

High on Fire guitarist and lead singer Mike Pike slays out a solo during a performance at Union Park in Chicago.



JAY GRABIEC/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

London rapper Lady Sovereign performs some songs during her set at the Intonation music festival at Union Park in Chicago.



JAY GRABIEC/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Front man of the Boredoms Yamataka Eye plays orbs of light, which resonate different guitar chords, as he screams at the top of his lungs during their set at the Intonation music festival at Union Park in Chicago on Saturday, June 24th.

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# SPORTS

THURSDAY, JULY 6, 2006

Eastern Illinois University, Charleston



ERIC HILTNER/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Lyden Foust, from Northeastern High School in Fountain City, Ind., takes a shot during the Boyo' Baskethall Team Camp in Lantz Arena Saturday.

## **Campers jam Lantz**

#### ■ Team Camp teaches teamwork and sportsmanship

BY BRANDON NETIUK SPORTS EDITOR

Lantz Arena was jam-packed with basketball action this past weekend and the Eastern basketball team didn't take a single shot.

Potentially, a few future Panthers may have been shooting their way into a bright basketball future as the Eastern High School and Junior High Basketball Team Camp II took place Friday through Sunday.

The camp was a place for 43 teams and an estimated 350 basketball players, grades 6-12, to come and play against teams from all over Illinois and Indiana.

"We try to tailor it for the team to come in here and improve themselves," Eastern men's head coach and camp director Mike Miller said.

The teams were placed in a division based on age. The divi-

sions were varsity, freshmen/sophomore and junior high. The high school divisions were separated in class A and AA.

Each team was guaranteed a minimum of eight games in the three days, which meant some teams were playing up to four games in one day.

Northeastern High School sophomore Mitch Baemar said that playing that many games gets to be very tiring but that the good competition and the variety of teams really stood out.

Teammate Tim Stickel liked the camp because it gave more playing time and allowed him to concentrate on team defense from his center position.

"It helped me learn to become a better team player," Stickel said.

Tim Cook was in attendance watching his 12-year-old son, Anthony, play for the Fillcrest Silver team in the junior high division.

"It gives the kids experience playing with different kids as well as against stronger competition from the different areas," Cook said. Cook said his son was very excited about the camp because he loves the game and wants to improve as much as possible.

Mike Kolton, the sophomore coach for Crystal Lake South, said that the school took teams from each level to the camp. Kolton felt that there was good competition, especially in the lower levels, and that the camp gives each team playing experience and an opportunity to come together as a team.

"We hope to improve over the summer and use this to build on for next season," Kolton said.

Miller thinks that the camp is a good opportunity to bring the different kids to Eastern's campus and give them the chance to see what Eastern is like.

Miller greeted the campers on Friday by talking to the kids as a whole and hoped that they understood the purpose of the camp.

"The most important things are being a good teammate, having a positive attitude and working hard," Miller said.

## Panthers prepare for Europe, leave last season behind them

By KEVIN KENEALY STAFF REPORTER

The Panther's girls' basketball team went 10-19 last season, with a 9-11 mark in conference and a 6th place finish overall.

Nine players are returning since last year and come August 7, those nine will be getting ready for the upcoming season in another hemisphere.

Rome, Venice, and Florence will be the destinations, in which the girls will compete in four or five games in 11 days and practices will begin around July 25 in preparation for the trip.

"It will be a great way to start the season off, get in shape," said Megan Sparks, a new addition to the Eastern coaching staff.

"I'm really excited to see what the competition will be like outside this country," said sophomore Meagan Edwards.

As far as the season is concerned, head coach Brady Sallee believes the youth of this team is the most exciting part.

Although there are nine returning players, there are six sophomores and five freshmen on this year's squad.

"Overall, I think we're a little immature, a little inexperienced," said Sparks. "We have a lot of freshmen and sophomores, but I would also consider them veterans because now they know the competition, and a lot of them have been playing with each other for at least a year."

Sallee has said one of the problems of last year was all the new kids coming in, and having to put into more of time management

"Success for us, I never really define it as wins/losses, but to walk away from the games feeling good about what they just saw, and the wins will take care of themselves."

BRADY SALLEE, HEAD COACH

with those players.

"Now we got it from the standpoint from now you know what OVC travel is about, what college practice is about, and it won't be that stress of last year of time management," Sallee said.

Although last year's season seemed somewhat of a disappointment, Sallee points out it was a season of firsts for his club, such as beating Southeast Missouri State, who ended up winning the championship.

One of the most important firsts to this year's team is the addition of Sparks as assistant coach. Sparks, who just finished helping run a girls' basketball camp with Sallee and the nine returning players, has said her role as a coach is "definitely sinking in."

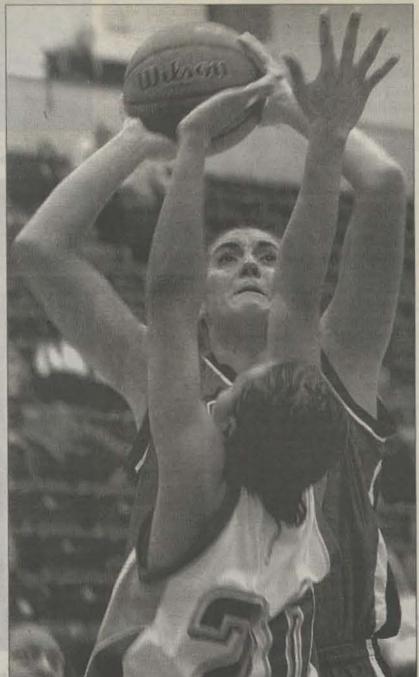
"She went out and ran it [the camp]; she had it well organized. I was extremely pleased; it was her first big test as a coach," Sallee said.

Unlike last year, where Edwards said physically and emotionally the team wasn't there when it needed to be, Sparks' plan for this year is working hard on team play.

"It's a lot harder to stop a team than with just one player, so we're trying to challenge the sophomores; it should be a challenge," Sparks said.

So how will the girls finish this season? Well Sparks' main goal is to win conference, and while that's probably Sallee's as well, he has a different way of looking at things.

"Success for us, I never really define it as wins/losses, but to walk away from the games feeling good about what they just saw, and the wins will take care of themselves," he said.



FILE PHOTO/THE DAILY EASTERN N

Freshman forward Rachel Galligan takes a last minute shot over Tennessee-Martin junior guard Kimberly Gox in Lantz Arena on Feb. 11, 2006.