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The DAILY EASTERN NEWS

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY, CHARLESTON

TUESDAY | 6.3.08

VOL. 96 | ISSUE 6

Making history

Exposing unsafe children's products earns Eastern alumnus, coworkers a Pulitzer

By Thomas Stevens
Opinions Editor

Of hundreds of newspapers in the country, only two each year are deemed worthy of a place among the eternal pages of history for investigative reporting.

Ted Gregory, an Eastern alumnus of '81, was one of six Chicago Tribune reporters who won the 2008 Pulitzer Prize for Investigative Reporting for their work on the "Kids at Risk" series that exposed a shocking lack of oversight in the manufacturing of children's toys and products.

The Pulitzer Prize is widely considered to be one of the highest honors a journalist can earn in the line of professional work, and often comes with a substantial cash award.

The award is named after Joseph Pulitzer, former owner of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch and the New York World, who founded the first school of journalism in colleges nationwide at Columbia University.

Gregory and other members of the Tribune staff accepted the award last Thursday at the annual Pulitzer luncheon in New York City.

The series has led to widespread toy recalls and governmental investigations.

The first story appeared in May 2007 and the final follow-up stories appeared in early 2008.

Gregory worked with fellow Tribune reporters Patricia Callahan, Maurice Possley, Sam Roe, Evan



SUBMITTED PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Eastern alumnus and *Chicago Tribune* reporter Ted Gregory was one of six reporters to be awarded the Pulitzer Prize for investigative reporting for the "Kids at Risk" story.

Osnos and Michael Oneal on the project.

Callahan was the lead reporter for the series.

"She started the ball rolling and it was her idea to find out some real curiosities and shocking information about the lack of oversight in children's products," Gregory said.

In the summer of 2007, Callahan went on maternity leave and the project was passed to Maurice Possley, who wrote a few more stories. But Possley had a safari planned in Africa for the summer.

"So they just sort of tapped me on the shoulder," Gregory said.

Learning investigative tricks of the trade

In September of 2007 he was trained to use a lead scanning gun, which Gregory described as looking a little like a blow drier. He then brought it to retail outlets to perform in-store tests for unusual amounts of the metal.

"Everything from Toys R Us, to Babies R Us, mom and pop dollar stores in the inner city of Chicago, to the Museum of Science and Industry," Gregory said. Everything he could get his hands on to test.

If products registered a high lead content, Gregory would purchase the toy and send it to Scientific

Control Laboratories, Inc. for further testing.

The curiosities Callahan first looked for showed up with a variety of results. Among the toys tested had differing colors based on different levels of lead, or varying lead quantities in identical toys from the same package.

"It was a really eye-opening experience and I think it shows just how complicated the problem is and how difficult it is for folks to get a handle on it," Gregory said.

Gregory collaborated with Sam Roe for the final stories in the series.

» SEE HISTORY, PAGE 5

'Budget' deficit unclear

Lawmakers avoid tough decisions on new Illinois budget

The Associated Press

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — Illinois legislators faced two options on the state budget.

They could make politically dangerous decisions to raise revenues and cut spending, or they could endure months of politically embarrassing gridlock.

So they found a third option: Slap something together, call it a budget and skip town.

They didn't even bother to pretend the budget they approved Saturday is balanced.

The only question is just how big the deficit really is — \$400 million? One billion? Two billion?

It's an indication that last year's fiasco of gridlock and finger-pointing shattered the old rules for drafting a budget and state leaders haven't settled on new ones.

Legislative leaders largely operated independently of one another, with the Senate passing a series of revenue measures that were doomed in the House. Gov. Rod Blagojevich delivered his annual budget address and then vanished, his spending proposals disappearing with him.

House Speaker Michael Madigan argued lawmakers don't need to worry about producing a budget where expenses match revenue. In his view, the Legislature approves everything it wants and then the governor determines what the state can really afford.

"That's a decision for the governor to make," the Chicago Democrat said. "The Legislature is not involved in spending decisions."

It was an extraordinary argument from a man who regularly complains that Blagojevich can't be trusted and doesn't respect the Legislature's authority.

It makes more sense, however, if seen as a bit of payback.

Last year, Blagojevich used his veto powers to slash hundreds of millions of dollars in spending sponsored by his political enemies, as Madigan reminded reporters. So now Blagojevich is stuck with a \$59 billion budget he can slash all he wants — and irritate the interest groups that want to protect their particular piece of the pie.

The Democratic governor could choose to veto the whole thing and try to force lawmakers to pass the revenues needed for a balanced budget.

If not, a lot of Illinoisans could feel the effects.

Closing the deficit might mean slowing down payment of Medicaid bills, leaving doctors and hospitals waiting longer and longer to be paid for the care they provide the poor.

Some of those doctors will probably stop seeing Medicaid patients.

And some of those hospitals might close their doors entirely.

CAMPUS | PREVIEW

Students find Eastern Debut helpful

Eastern holds one of its debuts this summer to help students adjust to campus before the fall

By Kristina Peters
Campus Reporter

Five hours and a flat tire later, Anne Hallgren entered Coles County Wednesday for her EIU Debut.

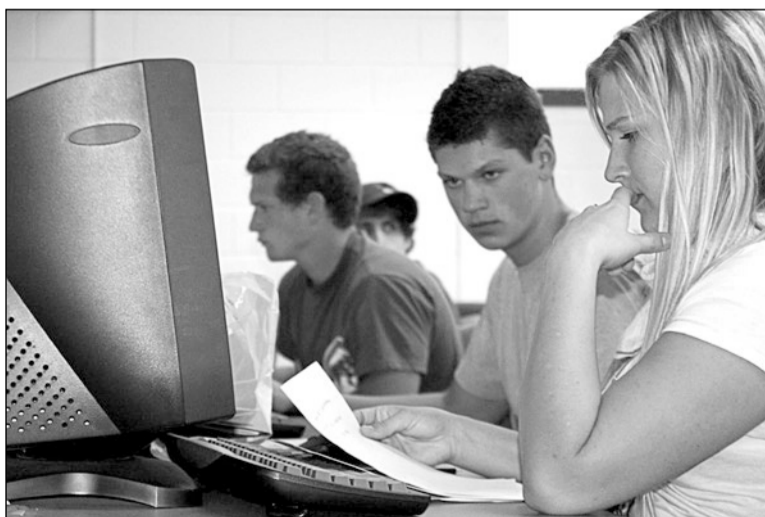
Hallgren, an incoming freshman majoring in broadcast journalism, arrived at Eastern at 7:20 a.m. for the required freshman orientation after staying in a Mattoon hotel the previous night.

Orientation began at 8 a.m. and it was the first of 23 EIU Debuts that will happen throughout the summer.

Hallgren, who is from Elmhurst, said the drive to visit Eastern was worth it even though it was her second time on campus.

"This was a lot more informative," she said.

At EIU Debut, students go around campus with a team of



KRISTINA PETERS | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Incoming freshman Grey Genenbacher from Quincy, Matt Deloian from Lansing and Katie Kaye from Lemont register for Fall semester classes in the basement of 9th Street Hall during Monday's EIU Debut, a required orientation program. Monday marked the second EIU Debut of 23 to take place this summer.

debut leaders and see academic advisers, register, get their e-mail and panther card, learn about Paws and receive the book "Mountains beyond Mountains" by Tracy Kid-

der for the EIU Reads program.

Kimberlie Mook, director of orientation, said that is the central point of the day.

The debut leaders also tell the

incoming freshman ways to get involved and how to relate to faculty. Mook said, the staff wanted to get all their questions answered and the debut leaders can do that.

Hallgren said the leaders were helpful and friendly.

Joe Hernandez, an incoming freshman undecided major from Wheaton, also attended Thursday's EIU Debut.

Hernandez has been to Eastern four times — twice for orientation and other times to visit his sister Jaime, a senior who attends the university.

Despite his frequent visits, Hernandez found orientation useful.




"I thought it would be lame at first," he said.

However, Hernandez said it was nice that they were able to interact with other students and he also met some people who will live on his floor.

Hernandez decided to come to Eastern because he liked the campus the first time he visited.

» SEE DEBUT, PAGE 3

EIU WEATHER

<p>TUESDAY</p>  <p>85° 69°</p> <p>Scattered Storms</p>	<p>WEDNESDAY</p>  <p>85° 73°</p>	<p>WEATHER THIS WEEK</p> <p>Scattered heavy storms are to be expected throughout much of the week. Temperatures will continue to rise; expect temperatures in the high 90s on Thursday - be sure to water your plants. Storms should let up by Thursday.</p>
<p>THURSDAY</p>  <p>90° 74°</p>		

ENTERTAINMENT | A DAILY LOOK

Kirk to Enterprise, beam me up... to lunch

The Associated Press

STUDIO CITY, Calif. — The Volkswagen Touareg pulls to an abrupt stop on Ventura Boulevard. In the middle of the westbound lane is a man in a loud shirt, darting across traffic toward a strip mall. Without the hasty application of power brakes, one of the most recognizable faces in the history of American television would have become one with the road.

But it's lunchtime, after all. Good sushi is across the street. And a guy like William Shatner is not about to be stopped by something as mundane as traffic.

Colbert going on 400

NEW YORK — Jon Stewart calls the studios of "The Colbert

Report" "bizarro world." The walls are littered with artwork and letters mailed from loyal fans.

In one painted portrait, Colbert, astride a horse, is subbed for George Washington. Colbert's bid to run for president may have failed, but he still plans to have a say in this year's election. As the host celebrates the 400th episode of "The Report," we go backstage to find out where his "bizarro world" and the real world meet.

Porn trial draws tears

CHICAGO — A star prosecution witness cried Monday as she alleged at R. Kelly's child pornography trial several three-way sexual encounters with the R&B superstar and the alleged victim, some of which she said Kelly vic-

eotaped.

Lisa Van Allen, 27, the last witness before prosecutors rested their case, also told jurors in more than three hours of graphic and dramatic testimony that Kelly last year offered her \$250,000 to recover a tape of one of the trysts.

During cross-examination, a defense attorney accused Van Allen of plotting to extort money from the singer, a claim she denied. Under further questioning she admitted she once stole Kelly's \$20,000 diamond-studded watch from a hotel.

The state, which called more than a dozen witnesses over two weeks, rested its case after Van Allen's testimony. Jurors will get Tuesday off before the defense begins its presentation Wednesday.

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PHOTO OF THE DAY

Drumroll, please...



ROBBIE WROBLEWSKI | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

The Cavaliers marching band of Rosemont, Ill practice in O'Brien stadium Monday afternoon. The marching band is preparing for a tour around the midwest later in June.

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CHARLESTON | CONSTRUCTION

Bridge nears completion

Severe weather hasn't slowed down schedule for Fourth Street or Jackson Avenue Bridge

By Kristina Peters
Campus Reporter

Charleston continues to take shape with construction moving forward on Fourth Street and the Jackson Avenue Bridge.

Both projects are expected to be complete on time.

Fourth Street will be widened to 26 feet and resurfaced.

Phase One, which includes work from Polk to Harrison Avenue, will be completed by July 15.

Curt Buescher, director of public works, said the date should be met.

Phase two, which includes work from Harrison to Madison Avenue, will also be completed on time.

Buescher said it should be done by Nov. 30.

On a cost basis, Buescher said the project is about 10 percent complete.

Construction to Fourth Street is a \$1.45 million project. So far, not many problems have been encountered.

"The somewhat wetter spring has been the biggest problem slowing progress, but even this has been minimal," Buescher said.

The street is currently blocked off from Polk to Harrison Avenue, but the residents along that area have been cooperative of the work.

Buescher said the residents have been great.

"The have put up with water and electrical outages with only questions and very few complaints," he said.

Construction to Jackson Avenue Bridge has also gone smoothly. Buescher said no troubles have been encountered.

Construction began Feb. 26 and is expected to be complete by June 30.

Buescher said the bridge, which was built in 1937, is being renovated because the structure and bridge is deteriorating.

The structure is being removed and replaced with a three-sided pre-cast structure and improvements are being done to the curb, sidewalk and pavement.

Jackson Avenue from Division to Second Street is closed for the construction.

Kristina Peters can be reached at 581-7942 or at kmpeters2@eiu.edu.



ROBBIE WROBLEWSKI | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Laborer Brian Wagonear watches as laborer Jason Griffin and operator Charles Jones prepare to lay more pipe during construction at Fourth Street on Wednesday, May 28.

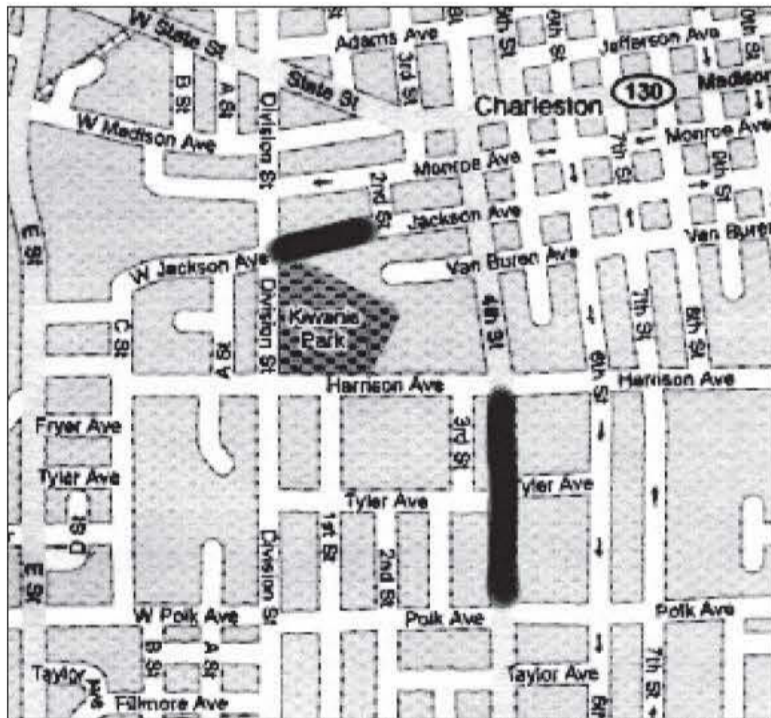


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY CHRIS WALDEN | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Fourth Street is currently blocked off from Polk Avenue to Harrison Avenue. Jackson Avenue from Division Street to Second Street is also closed.

» Debut

FROM PAGE 1

It is homey, comfortable and laid-back he said.

Hallgren also said she likes Eastern even though some things are not as close as she would like.

"I really like (the campus) and it's easy to navigate," she said. "I don't like how far Carman is though."

EIU Debut is for parents as much as it is for incoming freshman.

The orientation has a special parent's program designed to help parents as their child enters college.

Hallgren's mother Terese said the counseling session was informative.

Terese said it included informa-

tion on suicide, things to expect after your child leaves home and how to say good-bye to your child.

LeAnn Zimmerman from Palentine is sending her last and second child off to college. Her son Michael will be attending Eastern in the fall. Zimmerman and her husband Dave are happy with Eastern as his choice.

"We're happy he is going to be able to come to a wonderful college," she said.

According to his mother, Michael also seems happy with his choice.

"We got very positive responses from him over lunch," Zimmerman said. "We can already see the excitement in his face and his voice."

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CHARLESTON | CITY COUNCIL

City property to get checkup from appraisal company

Charleston to hire insurance experts to evaluate land in case of future problems

By Ashlei Maltman
City Reporter

The Charleston City Council will approve a three-year contract with Industrial Appraisal Company at tonight's city council meeting.

Having the appraisal done will protect the city from over-insuring or under-insuring city properties, City Manager Scott Smith said.

This is to find the current value of city properties to safeguard its assets, according to City Clerk Deborah Muller.

A number of significant projects have progressed in Charleston's properties in the past few years, Smith said.

Therefore the city wants to be

properly protected from any accidents.

The appraisal is not necessarily going to lower the insurance rate of the city, which is currently around \$197,000 for liability insurance, Smith said.

Nearly 50 structures are being appraised in Charleston at this time.

IAC has worked with Taylorville, White County and in school districts around the Coles County area, according to employee Jim Karagianis.

The company currently works with Bushue Human Resources Inc., which is an insurance consulting company.

A fire in 2003 that caused \$500,000 worth of damage to City Hall highlighted the city's need to have its property values updated, Smith said.

The insurance matter has been ongoing since the fire occurred and values will be figured out in the fall,

when the construction is complete.

In other business, The Panther Prowl, will be held on July 12.

The event is a 5K or 15K race -1.2 or 9.3 miles respectively - which will award prizes to the top five male and female competitors.

The \$5 entry fees will go to the Charleston Parks and Recreation Department.

The top five men and women, as well as the top two competitors in each age group, will receive prizes.

Fourth Street, University Drive and Lee Nursery Road will all be closed as needed but not for the whole duration of the race.

The council will vote on closing these roads for the event during tonight's meeting.

There is a housing option for participants at Eastern in Lawson for \$20 per person.

Ashlei Maltman can be reached at 581-7942 or anmaltman@eiu.edu.

The DAILY EASTERN NEWS

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

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Other views on news

GIVE TROOPS AN EDUCATION

Going back on your word may be considered a faux pas. And while President Bush isn't completely reneging on national policy that has been in place for nearly half a century, his unwillingness to expand it will do more than turn up a few looks of disdain.

Starting with World War II, veterans could look forward to a free college education thanks to the G.I. Bill. But some who currently served in Iraq and Afghanistan may not receive the same benefit as those who served in Korea and Vietnam—a move that calls into question just how much appreciation our troops receive today.

The House of Representatives passed legislation this month that would expand funding for the G.I. Bill, specifically to pay four-year public university fees for those who have served at least three years since Sept. 11, 2001. It's a reward the patriotic men and women who had signed up to fight on behalf of the United States undoubtedly deserve.

Instead, Bush is threatening to veto the bill, which would place him in an odd paradox: a very pro-war president who has consistently given the green light for measures to further the effort suddenly skimps on a key benefit for soldiers.

Regardless of personal feelings about the war, it is still important to support the troops who are fighting and sacrificing for this country.

Granted, the reasoning behind the veto is fear of a potential wave of departure that could leave our forces understaffed.

There is perhaps no greater disregard of veterans' services than to scale down their compensation. The military has always been touted for its pledge to give soldiers a better chance at education, and it's a promise it should keep.

Daily Californian

EDITORIAL POLICY

The editorial is the majority opinion of the DEN editorial board. Reach the opinions editor at: DENopinions@gmail.com

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Drawn from the news | Dylan Polk



STAFF EDITORIAL

Spring '08 graduates still taking summer classes

At the commencement ceremony this past spring, 505 participants were slated to graduate after they complete summer classes. This is a sizeable chunk of summer enrollment, and many people may not realize that the person sitting next to them in a summer senior seminar or other higher-level course is counting down the days until the end of their collegiate career.

This may be one of the more anticlimactic ends to any four, oftentimes more, year endeavor. All the pomp and circumstance is reserved for May's graduation. All the cheers and adulation has its time, which has since passed.

For the 505 students, they get a week of relaxation, and then it's back to the grind. Four week classes or six week classes; the length doesn't matter. The condensed courses force the students to focus their attention more so than the typical 16-week semester.

A common misconception is that one of the main purposes for summer sessions is remedial. Quick calculations reveal that students may often gain a sizeable cache of credits for sticking around and fighting their way through multiple summer classes.

Assume that for the first two years of an undergraduate's curriculum he or she heads home and takes a summer class at a community college, just a basic gen-ed. The student now has six additional credits.

Over the next two summers, the last two sum-

OUR VIEW

• **Situation:** Many of the students enrolled in summer classes walked in the spring commencement.

• **Stance:** Summer classes are an ideal time to get ahead or even graduate early.

mers of college, say they bump up their load to two classes each summer. Now they've got 12 additional credits, or the equivalent of being enrolled full-time for a regular fall or spring semester. In total, they're coming away with 18 credit hours.

Now you may be thinking, how could a student leave early if they are sticking around to get enough credits to graduate? If you're headed to the five-plus year plan, leaving a semester early may seem nothing short of miraculous. These 18 hours gained by taking summer classes are more than enough to leave a semester early.

Many, if not most students are milking their college experience for all it's worth, opting to stay around as long as possible.

This can backfire, especially if mom and dad's argument to finish school begins to ring true, or if a student simply tires of college and wants to finish their degree as quickly as possible.

If academia has grown tiring after two and a half years of lollygagging and a student wants to get their degree and get out as fast as possible, summer classes may well be a viable option.

Get it together, Illinois

Ask someone from Illinois how the state is going and they'll tell you what Jay Sherman would about a sub-par movie: it stinks! While Sherman is a fictional, the state of Illinois is abysmal.

A recent press release from the office of the governor revealed that the budget for 2009 fiscal recently passed by the General Assembly "contain(s) \$2.1 billion more in spending that anticipated revenue will support."

The result? The budget has been deemed unconstitutional.

"Unfortunately, because the House did not pass new revenue as the Senate did, I have a budget on my deck that jeopardizes the State's ability to meet its core responsibilities like providing healthcare, educating our youth and protecting the public," Gov. Rod Blagojevich said.

What's that, Mr. Sherman? Oh yeah, it stinks! Perhaps reeks may be better suited.

The governor is worried about meeting responsibilities, which sounds good until you take a closer look at the things he has recently done.

How about the last third of 2008's last quarter funding to community colleges being cut? Is that how you educate the youth? Maybe he thinks that a lesson in frugality is what we need.

He's worried about providing healthcare in 2009, but delayed the payment cycle from three

months to six for nursing homes, which cost \$375 million. He delayed the payment cycle for paying pharmacy bills from three months to six

OUR VIEW

• **Situation:** Last summer's budget approval process was horrible and this year is shaping up to be no better.

• **Stance:** The Illinois government needs to work together before it is too late.

months, which cost \$450 million. This is providing healthcare? Maybe he knows that his actions are laughable and subscribes to the belief that laughter is the best medicine.

Last summer, Blagojevich refused to sign the budget because it lacked programs that he wanted to include. Squabbling ensued. It would be called petty, but during that time state employees went unpaid.

The deficit in last summer's proposed budget was about a quarter of the proposed FY09 budget. Will the holdout be four times longer this summer?

\$2.1 billion more in spending than in earning is alarming enough, even without the pesky little recession the U.S. is facing.

Legislators, put aside your personal agendas and biases and get this figured out before it is too late.



CHRISTOPHER KROMPHARDT

The Myth of Democracy

The quickly dwindling days of the primary season have raised a number of difficult questions, and the one getting the most attention at the moment — thanks primarily to Hillary Clinton's insistence on the seating of the full delegations from Florida and Michigan — is the position democracy holds in American government.

Harold Ickes, an adviser to Senator Clinton, following the Democratic National Committee's decisions to allow those states' delegates half a vote each, said "This body of 30 individuals has decided that they're going to substitute their judgment for 600,000 voters...now that's what I call democracy."

Now pardon me, but is that not the idea behind Congress? 535 democratically elected representatives whose collective will is taken to represent that of the American populace? I acknowledge that the concept of a ruling body's will trumping that of the People isn't democratic; it's republican, a concept equally if not more integral to the federal government.

Democracy means rule by the people, whereas republicanism means rule by elected representatives. Even a cursory glance at the structure of American government shows that at every level representatives act on behalf of their constituents, and rarely are citizen's opinions considered on major issues.

The foremost exception to this rule is the initiative, which allows proposed laws to be placed on voters' ballots for approval. Like Congress, a majority of votes in favor leads to the proposal's adoption as law. Several states have adopted this form of governance. The initiative is the closest America comes to democracy on a large scale, but critics of it point out the considerable role money plays in statewide initiatives. Because the road from idea to law involves extensive signature-gathering, lobbying, and get-out-the-vote efforts, those proposals with significant financial backing stand a better chance of emerging from this gauntlet successful, while proposals with only modest funding typically suffer an ignominious fate at the hands of voter ignorance.

So is democracy really the ideal form of government? Clinton argues as such, and the American people seem to believe that America is the great bastion of democracy. However, examples such as Congress and the Supreme Court show that America relies on much more than democracy to function, and those states violated established rules by moving up their primary dates. Even the Clinton camp, back in September 2007, issued a statement approving the DNC's proposed calendar, which barred actions like Florida and Michigan's, and claimed that the calendar would "provide the necessary structure to respect and honor that role." It is only after the popular vote of those states became a crucial determinant in her quest for the nomination that she became such an advocate for the people.

This begs the question: does Clinton truly support democracy in all avenues of government, thus betraying her September statement, or is she taking advantage of the heartstring pull the ideal of democracy has on the American people? You decide.

Christopher Kromphardt is a senior Political Science major.

» History

FROM FRONT PAGE

Working on something not just big, but important

As he was filing the main story about the lead content in toys last November, Gregory received an e-mail from an editor at Columbia University.

Someone from the Pulitzer organization was asking for biographical information among other things – about Gregory, specifically.

“I sent her an e-mail back saying you’ve got the wrong guy,” Gregory said. “I don’t know what you mean because I’m not working on anything that’s a Pulitzer Prize nominee.”

In his response he added she might be mistaken, since the previous year he was involved with a Pulitzer-nominated project about the hazards of teen driving. The story preceded sweeping changes in Illinois teen driving policy.

But it didn’t quite end there. More e-mails followed, each contained more text than the other.

“I finally got it through my thick skull that what I was working on was part of a Pulitzer project,” Greg-

ory said.

It wasn’t all glory, working on a story about safety of children’s toys and equipment. Sometimes guts were called into question.

“There were times when the stress of it became a little difficult, particularly toward the end when we were receiving threats from lawyers for different toy manufacturers,” Gregory said. “That was rough. Then the last weeks were particularly long hours where we were putting the finishing touches on stories and reviewing the graphics and photos.”

Even more stress followed in the weeks before the Pulitzer winners were announced, especially the weekend leading up to the announcement.

“You try not to think of it at all but it just doesn’t ever go away in the back of your mind,” Gregory said.

Anticipation and anxiety

The sun rose Monday morning oblivious to the expectant Pulitzer nominees.

It was April 7, 2008 – the day the winners were announced. But Gregory’s hopes began to fade. He was thinking about it all morning.

“I thought, if I don’t hear anything by 10 o’clock then I’ll know, because the announcements are

made at 2 o’clock Chicago time. So 10 o’clock passes and I think if I don’t hear anything by 11, I’ll know for sure. And then 11 o’clock passes and I thought if I don’t hear by noon then that’s it. I know if I don’t hear by noon we haven’t won it,” Gregory said. “So noon passes and no word.”

While Gregory was out to lunch that day, his wife had left him a message telling him to not get too down on himself, that being a finalist was something to be proud of and that they’d go out to dinner that night.

While munching on his meal, Gregory noticed that he had, in fact, two voicemail messages. The following voicemail was from the managing editor of the Chicago Tribune – his boss.

“I was working out of the suburbs at this time and the message was, ‘Ted, I’ve been trying to get a hold of you, where are you? Call me right away. So I called him right away, and he tells me ‘You’ve got to drop whatever you’re doing right now, don’t tell anybody anything and come right downtown to the Chicago Tribune newsroom.’”

When Gregory arrived at the Tribune Tower, a party awaited him.

“I got into the newsroom, I see my colleagues standing in the middle of the newsroom and they’re

holding glasses of champagne and people are giving speeches,” Gregory said. “What was so funny to me was in the span of 45 minutes I went from really sort of feeling sorry for myself, to making a Pulitzer acceptance speech. It was a real head-spinning experience.”

From reporter to national award-winner

Last Thursday, Gregory and his colleagues accepted the award at the annual Pulitzer Luncheon in New York City.

The Pulitzer Prize comes with several things: a certificate, in this case made out to the Chicago Tribune staff; a \$10,000 check, also written to the Tribune; and a gold medal, which also went to the paper. Gregory takes his achievement in stride, and said he believes luck played a role in winning the Pulitzer Prize.

“It’s overall what you take away from an experience like this,” Gregory said. “A certain amount of pride in what you’ve accomplished, but you also understand that luck plays a great role in awards like this because there are a lot of people out there doing a lot of really great work.”

Gregory has not forgotten his alma mater, despite his lofty success. While at Eastern, he served as a staff

reporter, city reporter, managing editor and editor in chief for the Daily Eastern News.

After graduating in 1981, Gregory took a reporting job at the Winona Daily News, in Winona, Minn. for a year. Then he was hired at the Daily Herald in Arlington Heights, Ill., where he worked for nine years. In December of 1991, he began working at the Chicago Tribune, where he remains today.

The love of learning while reporting

Reporting isn’t for every journalist, though it’s certainly a fundamental part of the process.

“It’s the excitement of learning new things almost every day, and at the same time realizing that the public counts on you and places their trust in you to serve as a watchdog for their best interest,” Gregory said.

In addition to the Pulitzer Prize for the “Kids at Risk” project, the Chicago Tribune staff won a George Polk Award for consumer reporting, as well as a Scripps Howard Foundation Award for public service reporting. Gregory was inducted into Eastern’s Journalism Department’s Hall of Fame in October of 2007 for his continued contributions to the school.

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FROM PAGE 8

See "I've haven't seen anything like that before," Walton said. "The crew chief, I really respect him and he did a great job behind the plate in our loss last night, but that call wasn't right. That ball was going 100 miles an hour

up the middle."

When Eastern first encountered that rule against Jacksonville State in the winner's bracket of the OVC tournament, they stood to gain from a ground rule double. However, they prevailed to win, just as Oral Roberts did on Saturday.

"We had a runner who was supposed to score and they sent him back to third and I

said, 'Tony, come on. If they sent him back five days ago then what are you going to do, say your right they're wrong?'"

Schmitz was hoping to again benefit from the dead ball decision, but the Panthers could only rally twice when the game was tied 6-6 in the in the seventh inning and again at 7-7 in the ninth inning.

"As crazy as it sounds, that's exactly what

you do," Schmitz said. "That rule will be changed next year by the rules committee because it's pretty crazy if you think about it."

Without the removal of the extra runs, the Panthers may not have been able to rally and force extra innings, but Schmitz said he won't make any predictions because he's simply proud of what his team did with what they had.

NATIONAL SPORTS ROUNDUP

Penguins stay alive with triple-overtime victory

The Associated Press

DETROIT --- Not so fast Motor City. The Detroit Red Wings' road to the Stanley Cup has another stop to make.

Against all odds, the Pittsburgh Penguins stayed alive in the Stanley Cup finals with a 4-3 victory in Game 5 that ended on Petr Sykora's goal 9:57 into the third overtime Monday night.

With Jiri Hudler serving a 4-minute penalty for high-sticking, Sykora wound up in the right circle and ripped a drive past Chris Osgood to end the marathon that lasted 4½ hours, ending at 12:46 a.m.

The series heads back to Pittsburgh for Game 6 on Wednesday night.

Early on, that scenario seemed likely after the Penguins scored twice in the first period and carried a 2-1 lead into the third. However, the Red Wings tied it on Pavel Datyuk's power-play goal at 6:43 and went ahead for the first time 2:40 later when Brian Rafalski scored.

The party was on in the final minute. Penguins goalie Marc-Andre Fleury was on the bench, the Pittsburgh net was empty and the seconds ticked down toward Detroit's fourth Stanley Cup championship in 11 seasons.

Maxime Talbot put the fans back into their seats and saved the Penguins' season when he scored on the second whack of the puck at the left post with 34.3 seconds left in regulation. Fleury kept them alive with a brilliant 55-save effort, including 24 in overtime.

Now, the treasured trophy will go back into its crate and head to Pennsylvania where the Red Wings will have another shot at their 11th title in franchise history.

Sykora's goal ended the fifth-longest game in Stanley Cup finals history. The primary assist went to defenseman Sergei Gonchar, who missed the first two overtime periods after crashing headfirst into the end boards in the second period. Gonchar took the ice to help Pittsburgh's struggling power play.

Road teams have won 10 of the past 12 overtime games in the finals and are 15-4 since 1990.

Sharapova upset by Safina in Paris; Ginepri, Bryans lose

The Associated Press

PARIS --- Maria Sharapova did not go quietly.

No, her departure from the French Open was filled with sound and fury: her stroke-accompanying shrieks, her self-loathing shouts between points and the spectators' hearty boos and high-pitched whistles that ushered the No. 1-seeded woman to the exit.

One point from reaching the

quarterfinals at the only Grand Slam tournament she's never won, Sharapova allowed every bit of a significant lead slip away Monday and collapsed to a 6-7 (6), 7-6 (5), 6-2 defeat against No. 13 Dinara Safina.

"Oh, I was angry," Sharapova said. "I was angry for making unforced errors, for not taking some of those balls and just ripping them."

Her fourth-round departure was the most startling development on a day that included this footnote: The last U.S. man or woman playing singles at Roland Garros, 88th-ranked Robby Ginepri, was eliminated 7-6 (4), 6-3, 6-1 by No. 24 Fernando

The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0422

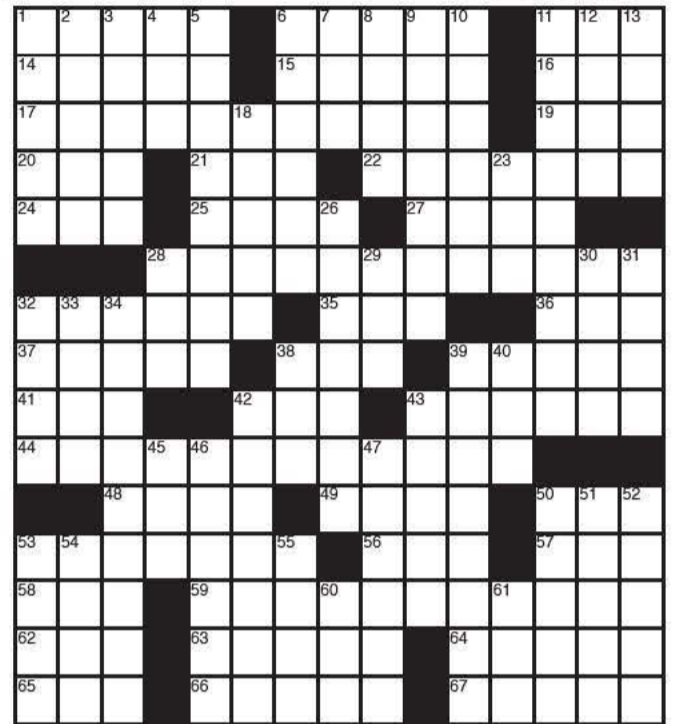
- ACROSS
- 1 What a gal has that a gent doesn't?
 - 6 Elephant of children's literature
 - 11 Church perch
 - 14 Correspondence sans stamp
 - 15 Muscat resident
 - 16 Mystifying Mr. Geller
 - 17 Fishing trawler's haul?
 - 19 Opposite of max.
 - 20 Board of directors hiree
 - 21 ___ Plaines, Ill.
 - 22 Needed fixing, as a faucet
 - 24 Suffix with east or west
 - 25 Lukas of "Witness"
 - 27 QB boo-boos: Abbr.
 - 28 Seat of government's acquisitions?
 - 32 Family cars
 - 35 Whichever
 - 36 1910s-'20s car inits.
 - 37 Upturned, as a crate
 - 38 Gallery display
 - 39 Parade entry
 - 41 Yeoman's agreement
 - 42 Caesar of comedy
 - 43 Big Easy team
 - 44 Publisher's windfall?
 - 48 Terra firma
 - 49 Money maker
 - 50 Celestial altar
 - 53 Getting slick during winter
 - 56 Funny Charlotte
 - 57 Business owner's dreaded ink color
 - 58 Jazz instrument
 - 59 Salary for selling insects as food?
 - 62 Big galoot
 - 63 "Snowy" bird
 - 64 Ryder rival
 - 65 "That's a go"
 - 66 Fakes out with fancy footwork
 - 67 By itself

DOWN

- 1 Therefore
- 2 Mideast pooh-bah
- 3 Betray, in a way
- 4 Gambler's cube

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

R	E	A	P	E	A	R	S	G	L	A	S	S		
A	X	L	E	S	T	E	P	A	U	D	I	E		
Y	E	A	R	C	L	E	A	N	S	L	A	T	E	
S	C	R	U	B	O	A	K	A	L	L	I	E	D	
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D	U	S	T	D	E	V	I	L	P	L	A	N	E	
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A	P	E	R	C	U	W	A	S	H	S	A	L	E	
V	A	C	U	U	M	T	U	B	E	A	J	A	X	
E	T	A	I	L	A	S	E	A	M	A	G	I		
S	E	N	N	A	P	S	S	T	E	R	S	T		



PUZZLE BY NANCY SALOMON

- 5 Campaigner's greeting
- 6 Dwarf tree
- 7 Parisian pal
- 8 Wedding reception staple
- 9 How curses are exchanged
- 10 On the upswing
- 11 Works out with weights
- 12 Lake next to Avon Lake
- 13 Kiting necessity
- 18 Harvests
- 23 Sch. monitor
- 26 "American Idol" quest
- 28 Pink-slip
- 29 Industrious insect
- 30 Spiffy
- 31 Elbow-benders
- 32 "General Hospital," for one
- 33 New Age superstar
- 34 Throws in the trash
- 38 Run on TV
- 39 Add some meat to the bones
- 40 Fleur-de-___
- 42 Go off a diet big-time
- 43 Mount of the Ten Commandments
- 45 Forever and a day
- 46 Manipulated, as an election
- 47 Many Guinness listings
- 50 Loud, as a crowd
- 51 Twin of Romulus
- 52 Fred's dancing sister
- 53 "Look here, old chap!"
- 54 Part of Batman's ensemble
- 55 "The other white meat"
- 60 "Didn't I tell you?"
- 61 ___ Guevara

For answers, call 1-900-285-5656, \$1.49 a minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-814-5554.

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VALLIANT BUT NO VICTORY

Rick Kambic
Editor-in-Chief

Pitching was the name of the game and none of the four seeded teams had it during last weekend's NCAA Regional tournament in Lincoln, Neb.

No. 4-seed Eastern (27-30) came into the tournament with more losses than wins, but neither opponent underestimated the Panthers.

"Eastern was playing its best baseball at the right time and they were going to give anyone trouble here at the tournament," Oral Roberts Coach Rob Walton said.

The Panthers were eliminated from the tournament after losing both its games against high profile teams. The initial loss was to no. 1-seeded Nebraska (41-14-1) on a windy Friday in which any fly ball had a chance to plate the batter.

"We're two teams who don't hit home runs, but we (collectively) hit seven home runs," Nebraska Coach Mike Anderson said. "I don't think it was the wind, but when it got humid the ball really started to fly."

The Panthers only hit three of the home runs. Eastern held a 5-3 lead going into the bottom of the fourth inning, but relief pitcher Brian Morrell allowed six runs to cross the plate in his two innings of work, including four runs in the fourth.

"I felt that everyone needed a turn through the batting order to get the jitters out," Panther center fielder Brett Nommensen said. "After that, I think we showed we could hang in there with the best of our region."

Eastern came within two runs after Nommensen hit a two run single in the top of the sixth inning, bringing the score to 9-7.

Two home runs and an RBI single later, the Panthers were down 13-7 to start the ninth inning.

"When they got two strikes, they really put the ball in play," Eastern Coach Jim Schmitz said of Nebraska's offense.



Robbie Wroblewski/The Daily Eastern News

Junior outfielder Ryan Lindquist walks to the dugout after flying out in the top of the ninth inning Friday, May 30. Nebraska defeated Eastern 13-0 in Lincoln, Neb. Regional of the 2008 NCAA baseball tournament.

Panther first baseman Alex Gee hit a three run home run with two outs, but it was too little too late. Right fielder Ryan Lindquist tried to keep the game alive with a line drive to deep right field, but Nebraska's DJ Belfonte lunged far enough to catch it.

Saturday's game also featured some power as Nommensen and Gee both hit home runs without the wind in the 8-7 loss to No. 3-seed Oral Roberts (47-13) in ten innings.

"We have some good arms, but we're not focusing on making quali-

ty pitches in the game," Walton said. "It's really been our Achilles heal all year, and I give Eastern Illinois a lot of credit because we made mistakes and they capitalized on them. That's what a good team will do to you."

A two out walk in the tenth inning by Panthers reliever Richie Durback put the game-winning run in scoring position for the Golden Eagles right fielder, Brendan Duffy.

Duffy then singled to center field and the throw home was wide of the plate and Ryan Groth of Oral Roberts scored the final run of the afternoon.

The Panthers rallied from a 6-1 deficit to tie the game at 6-6 in the seventh inning.

"The way we started wasn't good and I said some pretty not nice things in the fourth inning," Coach Jim Schmitz said. "I like the way they responded."

Oral Roberts capitalized on a walk, wild pitch and passed ball by hitting an RBI single in the top of the ninth to take a 7-6 lead.

The Panthers retaliated in the bottom of the ninth when Nommensen scored the game tying run on a passed ball.

But Eastern couldn't come back from yet another one run deficit and they went down in order in the bottom of the tenth inning.

"They were playing well coming into this tournament," Walton said. "When you start playing that well you're not very concerned about who you're playing, but how well you're still playing and I think they fed off of that (momentum) and played well late in the season."

Eastern qualified for the regional tournament by winning the Ohio Valley Conference for the second time since joining it in 1997.

BASEBALL | OFFICIATING

Heads up call provides Eastern with opportunity



Robbie Wroblewski/The Daily Eastern News

The umpiring crew discusses their decision with Oral Roberts Coach Rob Walton (center) and Eastern Coach Jim Schmitz (right) in which a scored run was called back because second base umpire David Savage was hit in the head by the ball. Walton argued for a ground rule double that would score two runs, but Schmitz reminds the officials about rule eight, section three that only allows the offense to gain one base after an umpire is hit by a ball in play.

Rick Kambic
Editor-in-Chief

Controversy and tragedy struck simultaneously during the fourth inning of Eastern's 8-7 loss to Oral Roberts in Saturday's elimination game of the NCAA Baseball Tournament.

Golden Eagle left fielder Ryan Groth was at the plate with runners on second and third and one out in the inning.

Eastern pitcher Scott Foley had one strike on Groth and his second pitch of the at bat was hit second base umpire David Savage's head. At the time, Oral Roberts was leading 6-1 and wanted more insurance runs.

The umpires allowed one run to score and left base runners on first and third. Eastern Coach Jim Schmitz argued the call, and after the umpires discussed the decision as a group, the run was called back.

The bases were then loaded and the next batter lined out to left field to end the inning.

Crew Chief Tony Walsh cited rule eight section three. Because the umpire was positioned in front of

the fielder, the ball would be dead and one total base would be allowed unless the ball was obviously heading into an open field.

"The rule clearly states that when the ball hits an umpire without passing an infielder that the ball is dead and the batter gets first base and runners only advance if forced," Walsh said to a pool reporter. "Because the ball had not gotten past any of the infielders, and hit the umpire prior to getting past the infielders, the ball became dead immediately and the batter gets first base and none of the runners advance, because they weren't forced."

"It happened in the OVC Tournament and I told Tony 'hey, come on, they have to come back,'" Schmitz said. So I really pushed the button as hard as I could and they met on it, got a little closer to what I said, and then agreed with me."

Oral Roberts Coach Rob Walton was on the field arguing for a ground rule double, which would have plated a second run. He said no Panther fielders were in position to keep the ball on the infield.

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