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Eastern Illinois University

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The DAILY EASTERN NEWS

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY, CHARLESTON

MONDAY | 3.3.08

VOL. 95 | ISSUE 39

CAMPUS | TRAGEDY

Student dies of unknown causes

Foul play or suicide not suspected, coroner says

By **Nora Maberry**
News Editor

An Eastern student died in an off-campus apartment on Friday.

The student was identified as 22-year-old Mark E. Schwartz, of Yorkville, by Dan Nadler, vice president for student affairs.

"Today, our thoughts go out to the family and friends of EIU student Mark Schwartz," Nadler said in a statement released Saturday morning.

Schwartz was a biological sciences major.

On Friday, Charleston Police received a call at 6:27 p.m. from 2400 Cambridge St., Apartment 804, said Interim Police Chief Mark Jenkins.

Schwartz's roommate found him in their off-campus apartment. The Charleston Fire Department ambulance responded, but Schwartz did not respond to resuscitation efforts.

Schwartz was pronounced dead at 7:09 p.m. at the Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center Emergency Room.

"The official time of death is what is on the death certificate," said Coles County Coroner Mike Nichols.

An autopsy was performed Saturday at Memorial Medical Center in Springfield.

The autopsy was done in Springfield because the center is the only location in the area qualified to do a forensic autopsy, Nichols said.

Forensic autopsies are used to find facts relating to the death, Nichols said. It also is used to determine the cause, manner and underlying mechanism of death. The procedure docu-

THE REMEMBRANCES

- **The wake** for Mark E. Schwartz will be held from 4-8 p.m. at Adams-Winterfield & Sullivan Funeral Home, 4343 Main St., Downer's Grove
- **The funeral** will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday at St. Mary's Catholic Church of Pecatonica, 126 W. Fifth Street, Pecatonica
- People can **share memories** by logging on to Facebook and joining the group "We will never forget Mark E. Schwartz"

ments the significant pathologic conditions of the body.

"It's not a routine autopsy by any means," Nichols said.

The official cause of death will not be available until toxicology and microscopic tests are complete.

Foul play and suicide are not factors in Schwartz's death, Nichols said. Nadler had no additional information about Schwartz's activities prior to his death or any previous medical history.

"Our focus has been on the tragic death of Mark and the immediate impact on his roommate," he said.

The Eastern Counseling Center offers individual and group support services. Any member of the Eastern community needing additional support should contact the Counseling Center during regular hours at 581-3413 or via the on-call pager at 348-2909 for emergencies.

"We extend our deepest sympathies and are offering our support to all those impacted by his death," Nadler said.

Nora Maberry can be reached at 581-7942 or at nemaberry@eiu.edu.

CAMPUS | SAFETY



BRYCE PEAKE | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

A domestic battery incident happened at Stevenson Hall on Saturday morning.

RA attacked in her dorm room

By **Nora Maberry**
News Editor

Scott Kooistra, 21, of Chicago, was arrested Saturday morning on a charge of domestic battery, stemming from an incident in Stevenson Hall, said University Police Chief Adam Due.

The University Police Department was notified of an incident in Stevenson Hall at approximately 4:04 a.m. on Saturday, Due said.

Dan Nadler, vice president for student affairs, confirmed the domestic battery in Stevenson and said the incident is under investigation.

According to Illinois statutes, a person can be charged with domestic battery if they intentionally or knowingly, without legal justifi-

cation by any means, cause bodily harm to any family or household member.

The female victim is a Stevenson Hall Resident Assistant.

The victim said Kooistra was visiting her at Eastern and was intoxicated before the alleged incident happened.

The incident was unprovoked, and the victim and Kooistra were not fighting or arguing before it happened, the victim said.

"It all just happened so fast," she said. "And that was it."

The victim, Nadler and Mark Hudson, director of Housing and Dining Services, described the victim's injuries as "not severe."

The victim said her injuries consisted of a few bumps and bruises.

After the incident, the victim

went into her suitemates' room and locked the bathroom door that connected their rooms.

Her suitemate called Stevenson Hall resident director Brittney Fentress.

The victim described the response from residence hall staff as "textbook."

"The director was immediately called, and she came to assess the situation," she said.

The victim said staffers told her the police were going to be called.

Fentress took the victim away from her suitemates' room.

The police then questioned the victim and took her statement.

After the statement was taken, the police arrested Kooistra.

» SEE BATTERY, PAGE 6

UNIVERSITY | TECHNOLOGY

Department expands technological education by using laptops

Program a pilot for a possible campus-wide requirement

By **Stephen Di Benedetto**
Associate News Editor

The communication disorders and sciences department will be the first department at Eastern to implement and use the laptop initiative. The program will start in Summer 2008 and continue through Fall 2008.

But the department might have to alter its plans for the summer if the university does not finalize the contract, which is still in negotiations.

Michael Hoadley, director of the Center for Academic Technology and Support, said there could be a delay in the process if the contract is not finalized.

Hoadley is a member of the Academic Technology Advisory Committee, which is in charge of putting the laptop initiative together.

March 1 was the original deadline



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY BRYCE PEAKE | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Sean Walker, an Apple representative at Eastern, poses with a laptop.

for the contract's completion, Hoadley said.

"For the fall, I just don't see that," Hoadley said of a possible setback for the CDS department. "Some of the grad students coming this summer could be affected."

The initiative started in Fall 2006, when the ATAC was formed to see if a laptop pilot project could happen at Eastern. Implementing the project is optional for departments, as it is not a university-wide requirement.

Hoadley said the CDS depart-

ment was originally only going to benefit from the contract, but the decision was made to make the deal available to any student.

The PC laptops or tablets would include software and an extended warranty once purchased at a discounted price, he said.

Students would also be able to service their laptops at the Greg Triad instead of taking it to a store or mailing it for repairs, Hoadley said.

He said he hopes that students will realize the substantial discount and extra benefits will make students considering buying a laptop through Eastern.

Hoadley could not say how much the discount will be because of ongoing negotiations, but was assured the discount was substantial.

Gail Richard, CDS department chair, said the laptop initiative will only affect the departments' juniors, seniors and graduate students.

"We are going to strongly, strongly recommend, but we are not going to require (it)," she said. "What I think they'll find very quickly is there is a little bit of a disadvantage,

as they will have to sit with a neighbor."

The department decided to start the pilot project to enhance hands-on learning. The project would also make learning easier for students in clinic-based courses, Richard said.

The CDS department assigns students to work in its clinic, which serves surrounding communities, and students can only access the clients' electronic records at the department.

Richard said the department has a computer lab with five computers and 40 students wanting to access them for their clinic-based courses. By having students use laptops, they can come in the department and access the wireless Internet, making it easier for students to access client records, she added.

Richard said freshmen and sophomores in the department will not be recommended for the program because they are pre-majors and will not be involved in the clinic-based courses.

» SEE LAPTOPS, PAGE 6

EIU WEATHER

MONDAY  51° 28° Rain then Snow 5 15-20/30	TUESDAY  32° 18°
	WEDNESDAY  39° 27°

WEATHER BRIEF

Winter makes an encore appearance with rain changing to snow overnight. Snow will dominate the weather today. The rest of the week's daytime temperatures will be in the upper 30s.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT US AT WWW.DENNEWS.COM

ENTERTAINMENT | A DAILY LOOK

Nicholson endorses Clinton with YouTube video

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — He was The Joker in Batman, but Jack Nicholson says he wasn't fooling around when he said in "A Few Good Men" that there was nothing sexier than saluting a woman.

Nicholson, who is backing Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton for president, took his endorsement to the Internet on Saturday with a humorous collection of clips that put his support into the mouths of his most film famous characters.

"And now folks, it's time for who do you trust. Hubba, hubba, hubba. Money, money, money," Nicholson, as The Joker, asks his audience in the video titled "Jack and Hill."

Then he goes on to make it clear he puts his in Clinton. He also makes it clear he isn't happy with the current administration.

"Things could be better, Lloyd. Things could be a whole lot better,"

Nicholson, as frustrated writer Jack Torrance, tells Lloyd the bartender in "The Shining." In the movie, Nicholson's character then goes on a murderous rampage. In the video, a message flashes onscreen saying Clinton "has a plan to deal with the nearly 47 million Americans without health care."

Lopez, Anthony name twins Max, Emme

NEW YORK — Jennifer Lopez and Marc Anthony have reportedly named their newborn twins Max and Emme.

Lopez' manager, Simon Fields, confirmed the babies' names to People magazine on Friday.

The twins were born at a Long Island hospital Feb. 22, with 5-pound, 7-ounce Emme arriving about 15 minutes before her 6-pound brother. The hospital's name was not disclosed.

Fields said then that Lopez, a first-

time mother at 39, was "thrilled" at the babies' arrival. The 38-year-old Anthony has three other children.

"Semi-Pro" scores first-place at weekend box office

LOS ANGELES — Will Ferrell's "Semi-Pro" dribbled to the top of the weekend box office, but it fell short of his previous blockbuster openings in the sports spoof genre, according to studio estimates Sunday.

The basketball comedy grossed \$15.3 million in its weekend debut. However, Ferrell's 2006 NASCAR parody "Talledega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby," opened at \$47 million, and last year's figure skating comedy "Blades of Glory," earned \$33 million in its first weekend.

Last weekend's top film, the Sony Pictures terrorism thriller "Vantage Point," dropped to second place with \$13 million in ticket sales, bringing its two-week domestic total to \$41 million.

PHOTO OF THE DAY

Put me in, coach



JOHN BAILEY | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Charlie Marshall takes a shot during the 'Panther Pack' half time hot spot competition during Saturday night's basketball game in Lantz Arena. Marshall won in the 9-to-11-year-old age group.

WHAT THE... | WEIRD, UNEXPECTED, BIZARRE NEWS

Arkansas feline down to 7 lives after surviving tornado, fire

The Associated Press

CLINTON, Ark. — Charlie Brown is down to seven lives.

Donna and Danny Pistole's black-and-white cat survived a February tornado that destroyed the family's mobile home, coming out of nearby woods skittish but no worse for wear.

However, the cat took up refuge in a large pile of debris from the storm that the Pistoles set afire last Sunday while cleaning up their property.

Thursday, Donna followed Charlie Brown's weak meows and found him stuck in briars.

His paws and nose were scorched, his eyes matted shut and his coat singed a dingy yellow — but he was alive.

That night, Charlie Brown underwent an exam by veterinarian Doug Mays.

"He smells like an old, scorched wool blanket," Mays said. "His feet pads are peeling off. But they'll heal. I think he'll be OK."

The Pistoles sought shelter in a storm cellar during the tornado.

Donna took one of their cats, Bubby, but couldn't find Charlie Brown and fellow feline Sanbo.

Sanbo is still missing. "I think the storm got him because we haven't seen him since the storm," Danny said. "Two's enough, I guess."

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Contact any of the above staff members you believe your information is relevant to at their provided e-mail address. You may also call 581-7942 or visit the student publications newsroom at 1811 Buzzard Hall.

CORRECTIONS

The Daily Eastern News is committed to accuracy in its coverage of the news. Any factual error the staff finds, or is made aware of by its readers, will be corrected as promptly as possible.

To aid the Daily Eastern News in its quest for accuracy, please report any factual error you find in any edition of the Daily Eastern News by e-mail, phone, campus mail or in person.

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EIU Student Film Festival
Mandatory Informational Meeting

Interested in filmmaking?
Interested in rewards?

Tuesday, March 4 - 9:00p - Greenup Room (Union)

BATTLE OF THE BANDS

Wednesday, March 5 - 7-10p - 7th Street Underground

2008-2009 yearbook staff forming

- Did you work on your yearbook in high school?
- Do you like to write, design, or take photos?

Come join us!
Anyone interested in working on the 2008-2009 Warbler yearbook is invited to attend an organizational meeting after spring break:

4:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 20 in 2522 Buzzard Hall

For more information contact editor Sara Cuadrado at slcuadrado@eiu.edu

EXTENDED COVERAGE AT WWW.DENNEWS.COM



• **Calendar** - Dennews.com's weekly calendar lists events in the Charleston/Mattoon area. Visitors can also add their own events to the calendar, informing the community of what is going on in the area.



GOT ADS?

CAMPUS | EVENTS

DAVID FACES THE MUSIC – AND WINS



BRYCE PEAKE | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Oliver David, a first-year graduate student in music/jazz studies won the Peck Music Competition at Tarble Arts Center on Saturday.

Prestigious Peck Music Competition rewards skilled students

By Ashley Mefford
Senior Campus Reporter

Once was enough for Oliver David.

David, a first-year graduate student in music/jazz studies, entered this year's Peck Music Competition for the first time. And in his first try, David won the prestigious award.

In Saturday's competition at the Tarble Arts Center, contestants were given 10 minutes to perform for three judges.

The competition featured two rounds. The first round began with 13 students and, by the second, only five remained.

David played the same piano piece for both rounds. He performed "Fantasy Pieces op. 6: III. Scherzo" by Charles T. Griffes.

"It was a dream-come-true; an incredible blessing," David said of winning the award.

Monetary awards were given to the top three contestants: \$1,000 for the first-place winner, \$500 for the second-place winner and \$250 for the third-place winner. David decided on the Griffes piece because he said he liked how it was musically arranged.

"I think it's a strong competition piece in that it has both elements of musicality and virtuosity," David said. "And since it's a piece that I love, I believe that I deliver it with conviction."

He created a new way to practice for the competition.

"I tried performing this piece at random times for random people, just to get used to performance situations, where you cannot correct mistakes and need to learn to stay focused," David said.

Michael Pond-Jones, a music major, played bass trombone for the



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competition and won second place.

Charity Carls, a senior music performance and music education major, won third place at the competition.

"I think I kind of knew after the first day of playing that this was my thing," Carls said. "I have loved music and the saxophone since the first time I made a sound on the sax."

For David, winning the competition was about how playing the piano allows him to express himself.

"When you have enough mastery of the piano, you have a certain freedom to play with ideas, emotions, sounds, expectations, and to express yourself in a unique way," David said.



BRYCE PEAKE | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Marimbist Ben Hall competes in the preliminary and final rounds of the Peck Music Competition.

Ashley Mefford can be reached at 581-7942 or at almefford@eiu.edu.

CAMPUS | EDUCATION

Historical women come to life for area schools

Eastern students play 'grown-up dress-up' for Charleston children

By Emily Zulz
Activities Reporter

Heather Carnahan brought Jane Austen to life Sunday afternoon, dressed in a long, black period dress, and a white shawl covering her shoulders.

Carnahan is part of the living history program, which celebrates the accomplishments of women and shares them with elementary schools in the area.

The program, sponsored by Women's Studies, featured its annual rehearsal Sunday at Greenwood School. The one-room schoolhouse became a time machine with three students transformed into Austen, Amelia Earhart and Mary Kay Ash.

Amelia Earhart, portrayed by Corey Holden, spoke of her disappearance in a brown leather jacket and tan scarf. Ash, played by Danielle Varecha, spoke of juggling her business and family life in a pink lab coat.

This year's program also features Emma Edmonds, Eleanor Roosevelt and Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

The living history program has taken place for the past 18 years during the month of March in conjunction with Women's History and Awareness Month.



KARLA BROWNING | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Danielle Varecha, a family and consumer sciences major, portrays Mary Kay Ash during the living history project dress rehearsal on Sunday.

About 29 teachers at area elementary schools have requested performances, which means approximately 600 students will see at least one living history character.

Showing the passion

Carnahan, a junior Spanish major, began her speech with the opening line from Austen's novel "Pride and Prejudice."

All student participants research their characters, prepare a 10-12 minute speech and present to kindergarten through sixth-grade students.

Carnahan started researching her character at the beginning of February. This is Carnahan's second year participating in the living history program. Last year, Carnahan played author Laura Ingalls Wilder.

She wanted to be Austen this year

because she has a passion for her and her books. Carnahan is giving 16 presentations, the most of all of the performers.

"For 20 minutes, you are Jane Austen," Carnahan said.

Playing grown-up dress-up

Varecha, a senior family and consumer sciences major, is participating in the living history program for the first time.

"It's very nerve-wracking," she said.

Varecha said she practiced many times until she started to feel like her character. Acting like a real person from history is different than playing dress-up as a child, Varecha said.

The living history program is like "grown-up dress-up," she said.

She is portraying Ash, business-



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woman and founder of Mary Kay cosmetics, Inc. Varecha said when people think of Ash, they often only think of make-up. Varecha said they don't realize the business side of Mary Kay and her accomplishments.

Varecha said now when someone says "Mary Kay," everyone knows what that person is talking about.

Showing what's missing

Gail Mason, a communication studies professor, has been the coordinator of the living history program for about eight years.

Mason said when students hear an Amelia Earhart figure talk about her experiences, it is something they will remember more vividly.

"It sticks with them," she said.

Mason also enjoys watching the growth of the Eastern students from when they first start to the end of the month. She said the students become more believable and passionate about their characters by the end of the month.

"It's a great opportunity for history to come alive for elementary students," Mason said.

Emily Zulz can be reached at 581-7942 or at eazulz@eiu.edu.

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Comedian cancels Friday's performance

Comedian Jordan Carlos' scheduled performance on Friday night at 7th Street Underground was canceled because of transportation problems.

Amy Baumgart, a graduate assistant in the Student Life Office, received a call around 6:30 p.m. informing her Carlos was still in Chicago. He could not reach Eastern in time. As soon as Baumgart received the call, she posted signs around the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union and at all entrances to 7th Street Underground.

She said there was no way to notify the entire campus.

"We're sorry that this happened to our campus," Baumgart said.

The cancellation was out of UB's control, she said. UB hopes to fill the schedule with another comedian, or possibly Carlos, she added.

Purchase spring textbooks this month

Students can purchase textbooks from the spring term during the month of March at Textbook Rental. Textbook Rental is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Textbooks must be brought to Textbook Rental at time of purchase. Students will not be allowed to purchase books at the end of the semester.

Call 581-3626 for additional information.

NPC members to celebrate Badge Day

Today the National Panhellenic Conference is celebrating International Badge Day 2008.

Eastern NPC members will wear their Greek badge or letters today to show their fraternal affiliations.

NPC was founded in 1902 and the group represents 3.8 million women at more than 620 universities.

—Compiled by Activities Reporter Emily Zulz and News Editor Nora Mabery

BLOTTER

On Tuesday, it was reported a vehicle was burglarized in the Greek Court parking lot.

—Compiled by News Editor Nora Mabery

CORRECTION

On Page 10 of Thursday's edition of *The Daily Eastern News*, the Eastern women's basketball assistant coach's name was misspelled. Her name is Quacy Timmons.

The DEN regrets the error.

COMMENTS, CORRECTIONS OR EVENTS

To report any errors, local events or general suggestions for future editions, please contact our Editor in Chief, Matt Daniels, via:

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The DAILY EASTERN NEWS
"Tell the truth and don't be afraid."

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Other views on news

FEELING SAFE AGAIN

Northern Illinois U. – Returning to campus after an event that shook the NIU community could be described as emotional, to say the least.

Between reliving the tragic shooting and reflecting on its implications on our personal and collective lives, it's hard to find the will to begin wrapping our minds around solid information and educational material.

Thus, the first few days of class were spent discussing the act of terror that senselessly took the lives of five beautiful Huskies. To me, this is understandable and completely appropriate.

However, I found that, in nearly all of my class discussions, little to no time was given to future prevention and security around campus.

I find myself tense on campus. After the shooting, that warm, cozy feeling has since been replaced with an anxiety that nearly makes my fists clench.

These feelings could, and should, be lessened by increased security measures around campus.

This event predictably drew comparisons to the shooting at Virginia Tech. After 33 lives were taken too soon by a gunman, security increased, including inside locks on doors and a more effective method – including a mass text-messaging system – to alert students, faculty and staff about possible threats.

I understand lobbying in this country for gun laws is strong, but let's not give into these lobbyists who insist "guns save lives," because, as we can surely attest, five lives dear to us were lost because of guns.

Whether in a residence hall, a dining hall, the gym, the library or a classroom, no one should be permitted without first identifying themselves.

I am a wounded Huskie desperately seeking some tender loving care from those with power to ensure our safety, security and peace of mind.

Jill Kozak
The Northern Star

EDITORIAL POLICY

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the editor can be submitted at any time on any topic to the Opinions Editor to be published in *The Daily Eastern News*.

The DEN's policy is to run all letters that are not libelous or potentially harmful.

They must be less than 250 words. Letters to the editor can be brought in with identification to *The DEN* at 1811 Buzzard Hall or submitted electronically from the author's EIU e-mail address to DENopinions@gmail.com.

Drawn from the news | Dylan Polk



ALAN BAHARLOU

Another chat with God

In my previous column in the Feb. 22 issue of *The Daily Eastern News*, I shared with readers a conversation that I had with God regarding the origin of life. As I wrote then, that conversation was not a verbal one.

However, by using my reasoning abilities, critical thinking and experiences as an Earth Scientist, I had profound exchanges with God.

The following is continuation of that conversation.

I asked God if I could take this occasion to verify some statements in scriptures that large parts of the world claim are your words.

"God did you create Adam and Eve, blind and dumb, put them in the Garden of Eden and forbid them to eat from the tree of knowledge, which would have made them to see and know good from evil?"

"And when Eve offered the fruit of the tree to Adam they ate it and their eyes were opened, and they knew good from evil?"

"Then you punished them by driving them out of the Garden and inflicted childbirth pain on women for eternity?"

God answered, "Why would I create this vast, incredible universe and make humans who are not able to see it or comprehend it?"

I asked God if he required Abraham, a father, to cut his only son Isaac's throat and burn him on an altar to prove his devotion? God said, "Why would I ask a father to commit such a heinous act and forgo the greatest love? What kind of message would that convey?"

Then I asked God if he drowned all living beings on Earth, including innocent children, except for Noah's six family members?

Again, God said, "What kind of message would that convey by killing innocent people indiscriminately?"

I thanked God but have always wondered for what purpose someone would tell such a story.

I said, "God, I have a few more questions: All of the prophets who claimed that they delivered your messages have been male.

"Did you say that the husband should rule over his wife? Did you say that a wife must submit to her husband's leadership?" God replied, "Would that not contradict that all humans are created equal?" I responded, "God, I have many more scripture-related questions, but now I anticipate your responses."

However, I do have three more questions: "Who gave you all these powers? Where did you come from? Who are your father and mother?"

God answered, "You have had many impressive accomplishments through time by being inquisitive and questioning. One day you will discover the answer to this question, too.

"Do you recall once you believed that when it is time for someone to die they will die; that is their fate? But you did not accept that and struggled to discover why people die so young.

"You learned many reasons; consequently, you have doubled life expectancy, and that is just the beginning."

Alan Baharlou is professor and chair emeritus of the department of geology and geography. He can be reached at 581-7942 or at DENopinions@gmail.com.

STAFF EDITORIAL

Reward Panthers' stellar season with your support Tuesday

If you're an Eastern student, you could have a free ticket to history Tuesday night. In conjunction with Tuesday night's first-round Ohio Valley Conference women's basketball game, Eastern's athletic department has 200 free tickets to give away to students.

Eastern's women's basketball team hosts Tennessee State at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the program's first-ever home OVC tournament game.

Eastern joined the league in 1996 and now, 12 years later, will finally host its first tournament game.

And starting at 8:30 a.m. today, students can stop by the Lantz Arena ticket office and pick up their free tickets.

That is, if they arrive to the Lantz Arena ticket office in time.

The tickets are handed out on a first-come, first-serve basis.

We encourage students to make a beeline to Lantz and pick up these free tickets.

And if they're all gone by the time you walk to Lantz, still buy a ticket. For students, they're only \$4 – mere pocket change. Plus, with mid-terms this week,

it's a perfect two-hour study break to get away from the stress of studying.

The OVC has an unusual tournament format compared to other Division I conferences. The conference only takes the top eight teams from its 11-member league for the postseason tournament.

Also, the league has its first-round games played on campus sites, with the semifinals and championship on a neutral floor.

Usually, most conferences have all their league members qualify for the tournament, and all games are played at one site.

But not the OVC.

This gives teams that finished fourth or higher in the regular season a first-round home game and more of an advantage.

Since the women's tournament expanded to eight teams in 1997, lower-seeded teams have only won eight of the 44 first-round games.

The odds favor the home team.

Eastern has played exceptionally well at Lantz Arena in conference games this season.

The Panthers have compiled an 8-2 home record when league foes come visit Charleston. Tennessee State has a respectable 5-5 conference road record, so the Lady Tigers are no pushover once they leave Nashville, Tenn.

But a formidable home crowd can have seri-

ous effects on a visiting team. The Lady Tigers are in their first OVC tournament since 2005, and no one on their current 12-player roster have ever experienced the postseason.

Nerves are heightened with the possibility of a season-ending loss, and players who've never experienced the postseason are more apt to make mistakes.

Attendance at Eastern's home games this year has averaged 624 fans per game, a respectable number.

The Panthers even set a program record for attendance this year when 2,358 fans made it into Lantz Arena for their season opener against Illinois. Even more need to come out Tuesday night.

The athletic department deserves kudos for making the 200 free tickets available to students. However, it's up to the students to

make sure the money spent on purchasing these free tickets isn't a waste.

In the past, free student ticket giveaways hasn't always been successful.

Eastern's football team hosted a first-round playoff game two years ago against Southern Illinois-Carbondale and offered the first 1,000 students back to campus free admittance.

All students had to do was bring their Panther Card and sign up outside O'Brien Stadium.

It ended disastrously, with barely more than 100 students there for what should have been a mad rush to grab up the free tickets.

Eastern has won 17 games this season – the most since the 1987-88 team that won 22 games. The 1987-88 team ended up winning the Gateway Conference and earned a berth in the NCAA tournament.

This year's team has the special tangibles to accomplish that task again.

So fill up Lantz Arena to its capacity Tuesday night. Eastern's women's basketball team has had its best season in nearly 20 years this year.

The least you can do is go out and support them.

"Eastern has won 17 games this season – the most since the 1987-88 team that won 22 games ... This year's team has the special tangibles to accomplish that task again."

CONTINUE THE DEBATE

ONLINE
Visit DENnews.com to read Kristy Mellendorf's blog. "Add some color for spring."



"Floral patterns are also taking off for the spring. These are not the dramatic floral prints of your mom's age. These are fun and flirty."

-Kristy Mellendorf

CITY | MONEY

Budget may limit county funding

Plans for state highway projects, construction may be put on hold

By Jordan Crook
Senior City Reporter

For the 2009 fiscal year Illinois state budget, Gov. Rod Blagojevich will allocate more than \$14 billion for road and bridge repairs across the state.

However, this money may not be used to help adequately fund Coles County road projects that are already

being constructed.

Coles County Engineer Rick Johnson said three county road projects may not receive the state funding they require as a result of the new budget.

"If we don't get a capital bill in place, there might not be enough state funding for the projects," he said.

The projects include the white topping of the concrete overlay for the Coles County station on Dole Road, and the extension of the Exit 192 interchange on Interstate 57.

The extension will connect the interchange, which leads directly into the industrial district of Mat-

toon, via County Road 1000 North to Charleston.

These projects are expected to cost between \$18 to \$20 million.

The construction of the original exit 192 interchange on I-57 cost \$20 million and was completed in January.

Johnson said county and local funds will be used to pay for roughly half of the project costs.

He said these funds come from tax levies like the motor fuel tax, a tax area motorists pay to drive on highways.

Johnson said he is hopeful that an adequate highway funds bill will eventually be passed by the state leg-

islature. That bill, if passed, would provide Coles County with enough funds to fully pay for these projects in concert with local funding.

Although Charleston is not directly involved with these projects, it could be affected by the new state budget.

Mayor John Inyart said he thinks the interstate project funding for the interchange project will have the greatest direct effect on the city of Charleston.

However, Charleston City Manager Scott Smith said the budget may cut into some of the plans the city has already laid out.

"I've been deeply concerned

about the various projects that we have going (or have planned) that would depend on state support and funding," he said.

Smith said state funding that would be used for local projects might not be provided by the new state budget – and would force these ongoing projects to be put on indefinite hold.

"Without a capital plan and the funding to support it," he said, "we're going to be forced to put some projects on the back burner for a while."

Jordan Crook can be reached at 581-7495 or at jscrook@eiu.edu.

CITY | MONEY

More than \$26,000 designated locally for food, shelter

Local organizations use funds to provide relief for the community

By Matt Hopf
City Editor

Rep. Tim Johnson, R-Urbana, announced nearly \$350,000 would be provided to 10 counties in the 15th Congressional District for emergency food and shelter assistance.

Coles County is receiving \$26,186 of the funds this year.

The money, which comes from the Emergency Food and Shelter Board Program, will be used to help

community programs.

The funds are part of \$153 million awarded to communities across the country, which was announced Feb. 26.

"These funds can make or break a lot of families who are not in a position to help themselves through no fault of their own," Johnson said in a press release.

The money will be distributed to local organizations.

Mattoon-Area PADS and the Charleston Civic Association are two organizations in Coles County that have received funds from the program in the past, said Kelly Considine, the EFS Administrator for Coles County Regional Planning.

PADS provides shelter and meals to the area's homeless.

The Charleston Civic Association offers a variety of assistance, like vouchers for grocery store items and rent assistance.

Considine said the organization also helps children get shoes.

The funds are only allowed for certain expenses.

"It's basically food, shelter, clothing and rental assistance," Considine said.

While organizations cannot operate off the award money alone, the funds are greatly needed.

Some funded organizations do not have a large budget, and the funds help them because they do not

EMERGENCY FOOD AND SHELTER FUNDS IN COLES COUNTY

- 2008 - \$26,186
- 2007 - \$26,662
- 2006 - \$27,430
- 2005 - \$27,970
- 2004 - \$27,330
- 2003 - \$33,231
- 2002 - \$33,200
- 2001 - \$24,607
- 2000 - \$18,025
- 1999 - \$17,200

The funding Coles County has received in recent years has been less than it has received in previous years.

Since 2003, when \$33,231 was awarded, the funds have dropped about \$7,000.

"The organizations have to find other resources," Considine said.

While federal funding has gone down, the needs are higher, she said.

The Emergency Food and Shelter Program started in 1983 and has distributed more than \$3.1 billion.

The program is part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

always have a large funding source.

Both large and small organizations receive funds.

Matt Hopf can be reached at 581-7945 or mthopf@eiu.edu.

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Battery

FROM PAGE 1

"They went downstairs to remove him from my room and the woman (a female police officer) just said, 'The door is locked and we need permission to get in,'" the victim said.

The victim gave her permission, and the police arrested Kooistra.

After the attack, the victim did not return to her room.

"I didn't sleep a wink," she said. "But my director took very good care of me."

The suitemate has been assured by Housing and Dining Services and the Counseling Center that a new lock will be installed on the conjoining bathroom door.

Hudson described the domestic battery as "very much an isolated incident."

The victim said she understood the incident posed safety concerns.

"I didn't think he would be a threat to me, and I was wrong about that," she said.

The victim said she had people supporting her after the incident.

"Today, I sort of wanted to go home, but I didn't," she said. "I have to stick it out."

Next week, the victim will be going home for spring break, and she plans on speaking to her alleged attacker.

"I'm not sure I can face him yet," she said. "When I sit down with (him), I don't want to be emotional. I want to be up-front and mature."

She said she has been told that her alleged attacker "feels very remorseful."

Domestic battery is a Class A misdemeanor and is punishable by serving time in a county jail for less than a year.

A fine of \$2,500, or an amount specified in the offense, whichever is greater, can be levied.

Kooistra attends St. Xavier University in Chicago.

He is a junior and a defensive end on the school's football team.

Kooistra, at 6 feet 3 inches and 240 pounds, had seven-and-a-half sacks this past season for Saint Xavier, who advanced to the quarterfinals of the NAIA playoffs.

He earned a bronze medallion for his GPA, which was between 3.25 and 3.49.

Nora Maberry can be reached at 581-7942 or nemaberry@eiu.edu

CAMPUS | EVENT

Vigil honors NIU victims

By Rick Kambic
Student Government Reporter

About 400 students attended Sunday night's candlelight vigil to remember the five victims of the Feb. 14 shooting at Northern Illinois University.

Three speeches were given, and a candle for each victim was lit in the Grand Ballroom of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

Eastern student Maggie Belpedio, an early childhood education major, submitted a speech written about NIU victim Dan Parmenter.

The speech was from Parmenter's friends, who are also friends with Belpedio.

Amanda Raz, one of the vigil's organizers, read the speech in his honor. The speech depicted the authors' feelings of brotherhood despite only being classmates and neighbors.

"On Tuesday, the six of us, his lifelong friends, carried Dan's casket out of the funeral and into the hearse," Raz read. "In our trembling hands laid our brother in his permanent bed."

The speech began to depict the scene in the classroom at Cole Hall on Feb. 14.

"His story is just starting to be reported by the press, but his final actions really define what it means to be a hero and a friend," Raz read. "After the first gunshot ran out, he grabbed his girlfriend and took her to the floor. He used his big frame to shield and protect her."

"He was hit five times," Raz read. "His girlfriend was also hit but survived, and if he hadn't used his body to shield her, she more than likely would not be here today."

Student Senate Speaker Megan Ogulnick, also an organizer of the event, was initially cautious of presenting the speech, but she felt the unfortunate story would help students appreciate life.

"I thought it was a very important part of the vigil," Ogulnick said. "Instead of just showing names, years and towns, it allowed those who attended to get to know one of the victims personally."

Rick Kambic can be reached at 581-7942 or at rwkambic@eiu.edu.

Laptops

FROM PAGE 1

Juniors, seniors and graduate students in CDS will also not be required to buy a laptop if they already own one, Richard said.

"They can buy the image that would be a download of the software that we're going to use within our classes," she said.

Incorporating the laptops in faculty members' lessons plans is optional, Richard said.

CDS also used a cart of 18 laptops from CATS this semester to see if faculty and students enjoyed the idea of using laptops as a part of the curriculum.

"The students have been able to experience it and, having done some of that in classes, they are really enthusiastic about it," Richard said.

Richard said if the contract is not finalized by the summer, or if the finalization of the contract is delayed longer, the department will be able to work around the summer by still providing graduate students regular classes.

She said, however, the fall could be hectic for faculty members, as they would be trying to orientate both graduate and undergraduate students to the project.

"Certainly, by fall, we want everything in place," Richard said. "We feel like we've done the right things to get ready, and now we just have to get some of the administrative paperwork caught up with it."

Hoadley said, so far, the contract would comprise five two-year contracts that Eastern has the right to renew with the vendor every two years.

All of the CDS department's clinic-based courses will use laptops as part of the curriculum, and the majority of the department's academic courses will use laptops as part of the curriculum as well, Richard said.

"I think we're really excited," Richard said of the project. "This is something the faculty has been working on for two years, and we're ready for it to come fruition."

Hoadley said other departments have expressed interest in implementing the initiative, but CDS is the only department that made a commitment to it.

He said he expects departments will commit to the initiative after it sees how the CDS department's experience is with the initiative. The earliest people will see other departments using the initiative would be Fall 2009, Hoadley said.

"The other part that everybody has to keep in mind (is that) you are getting more than just a computer," Hoadley said. "You're getting some extra things that normally you would have to pay on your own, anyways."

Stephen Di Benedetto can be reached at 581-7942 or at sdibenedetto@eiu.edu.



Students gathered for a candlelight vigil to remember the five victims of the Feb. 14 shooting at Northern Illinois University.

STATE BRIEFS

Chicago civil rights activist arrested

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Former Chicago alderman and civil rights activist Dorothy Tillman was arrested and charged Sunday with criminal trespassing in an incident at a hospital in her native Montgomery.

The arrest came after a confrontation with officials at Jackson Hospital about access to medical records for Tillman's 86-year-old ailing aunt.

Police Lt. Ron Cook said Tillman, 60, was arrested at 6:32 a.m. and released at 8:14 a.m. A pastor posted Tillman's \$300 bond and a March 31 court date was set, the *Chicago Tribune* reported.

Tinley Park killings still remain unsolved

TINLEY PARK — Despite 1,400 tips and detailed sketches, it's not clear Tinley Park police are any closer to catching the man who murdered five women on Feb. 2 at a Lane Bryant clothing store.

Police Chief Michael O'Connell has acknowledged the case could take years to solve.

While there were 50 detectives during the first three weeks of the investigation working with the South Suburban Major Crimes Task Force, there are now as few as 20 officers on any given day, Tinley Park Police Cmdr. Rick Bruno said.

And it's also not clear what, if any, DNA evidence is available.

E-mails threaten residents with death

JACKSONVILLE — Police in Jacksonville say two residents of the Morgan County seat received separate e-mail messages last week threatening them with death if they did not pay thousands of dollars to the sender.

The latest incident was reported Saturday by a Jacksonville woman who said the e-mailer said he or she had been paid by someone who knew her to kill her.

The message said that she would have to pay \$15,000 to cancel the "hit."

WORLD | RUSSIA

Putin's successor chosen

Medvedev, 42, youngest leader since Bolshevik Revolution

The Associated Press

MOSCOW — Dmitry Medvedev, the man Vladimir Putin hand-picked to be his successor, scored a crushing victory in Russia's presidential elections Sunday, a result that was long anticipated but that still raises questions about who will run this resurgent global power.

With ballots from two-thirds of the polling stations counted, Medvedev had 69 percent of the vote, according to the Central Election Commission.

Communist Party chief Gennady Zyuganov had 18 percent, it said.

Medvedev is expected to rule in concert with his mentor, an arrangement that could see Putin calling the shots despite his constitutionally subordinate position as Russia's prime minister.

Medvedev is expected to heed Putin's advice, continue his assertive course with the West, maintain state control of Russia's mineral riches and freeze out opposition movements.

"We will increase stability, improve the quality of life, and move forward on the path we have chosen," Medvedev said Sunday, appearing alongside Putin at a celebration at the Red Square outside the Kremlin. "We will be able to preserve the course of President Putin."

Putin said Medvedev "has taken a firm lead" and congratulated his protégé.

Medvedev ran against three rivals apparently permitted on the ballot because of their loyalty to the Kremlin line.

But the two candidates — Zyuganov and ultranationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy — still alleged violations after the voting ended.

Zyuganov said he would dispute the result, and Zhirinovskiy threatened to do so as well, before backing down.

Some voters complained of pressure to cast ballots for Medvedev, and critics called the election a cynical stage show to ensure unbroken rule by Putin and his allies.

Medvedev has said he would propose making Putin his prime minister, and Putin has said he would agree.

Putin already has shown signs of

discomfort with his new role as subordinate to his protégé.

When a reporter at his last news conference in February asked him whether he would put the new president's portrait on his office wall, Putin answered dryly he doesn't need to make such displays of loyalty.

Some officials who know Medvedev say privately that he is tougher than his appearance and demeanor may suggest and could show more resolve after his inauguration.

Medvedev has taken a liberal and pro-business posture during the campaign, avoiding Putin's harsh anti-Western rhetoric. But critics point that he helped engineer Putin's crackdown on political and media freedoms as one-time Kremlin chief of staff.

While most expect Medvedev to play second fiddle to Putin, the vast powers of the Russian presidency may tempt him to step out of his mentor's shadow.

Russian history shows that rulers often like to get rid of those who backed their ascent to power. Boris Berezovsky, who backed Putin's rise to power, fled abroad to escape money-laundering charges several months after his election.

WORLD | SOUTH AMERICA

Venezuelan president sends military to Colombian border

The Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela — President Hugo Chavez ordered Venezuela's embassy in Colombia closed and sent thousands of troops to the countries' border Sunday after Colombia's military killed a top rebel leader.

The leftist leader warned that Colombia's slaying of rebel commander Raul Reyes could spark a war in South America and the angry rhetoric sent relations between the nations to their lowest point in Chavez's nine-year presidency.

Speaking on his weekly TV and

radio program, Chavez told his defense minister: "move 10 battalions to the border with Colombia for me, immediately." He ordered the Venezuelan Embassy in Bogota closed and said all embassy personnel would be withdrawn.

Chavez, a fierce critic of Washington, called the U.S.-allied government in Bogota "a terrorist state" and labeled President Alvaro Uribe "a criminal."

Chavez condemned Colombia's slaying of Reyes and 16 other guerrillas on Saturday, saying they were killed while they slept in a camp

across the border in Ecuadorean territory. He said Colombia "invaded Ecuador, flagrantly violated Ecuador's sovereignty."

"It wasn't any combat. It was a cowardly murder, all of it coldly calculated," Chavez said.

"We pay tribute to a true revolutionary, who was Raul Reyes," Chavez said, recalling that he had met the rebel in Brazil in 1995 and called him a "good revolutionary."

Chavez said he had just spoken to Ecuadorean President Rafael Correa and that Ecuador was also sending troops to its border with Colombia.

NATION BRIEFS

Clinton gears up for Ohio, Texas primaries

WESTERVILLE, Ohio — Democrat Hillary Rodham Clinton argued Sunday that her campaign is "about solutions," not feelings, as she swept through Ohio on an intense push two days before the state's presidential primary.

Clinton opened an Ohio campaign marathon, sweeping across the state on appearances lasting until Monday.

She has lost the last 11 nominating contests to rival Barack Obama. Polls show tight contests in Ohio and Texas. Clinton is set to return to Texas late Monday for rallies in Beaumont and Austin. Aides said she would await Tuesday's election returns in Ohio.

Packers' great McGee had gambling habit

MADISON, Wis. — Former Green Bay Packers receiver Max McGee, who scored the first touchdown in Super Bowl history, had a gambling problem that the FBI tracked after his career ended, newly released records show.

Agents investigated McGee, who died in October, for about a year, from late 1972 through September 1973, before dropping the case for lack of evidence, according to records released to *The Associated Press* under the federal Freedom of Information Act.

FBI searches Utah house for hazardous ricin

SALT LAKE CITY — FBI agents on Sunday searched a Utah house and two storage units linked to a man whose hospitalization led to the discovery of deadly ricin in a motel room he had occupied on the Las Vegas Strip. FBI Special Agent Timothy Fuhrman said: "There is no indication of any terrorist act or activity."

Roger Von Bergendorff, the focus of the investigation, had lived in the Riverton house for more than a year before moving to Las Vegas about a year ago, said Tammy Ewell, who lives across the street.

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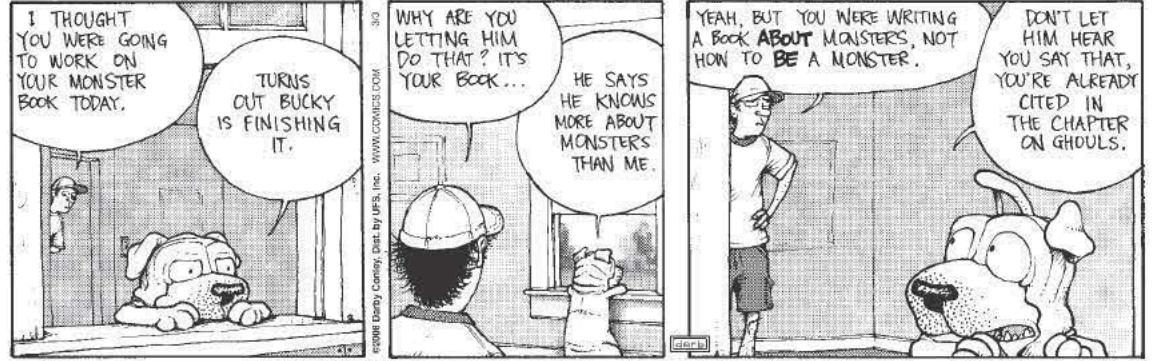
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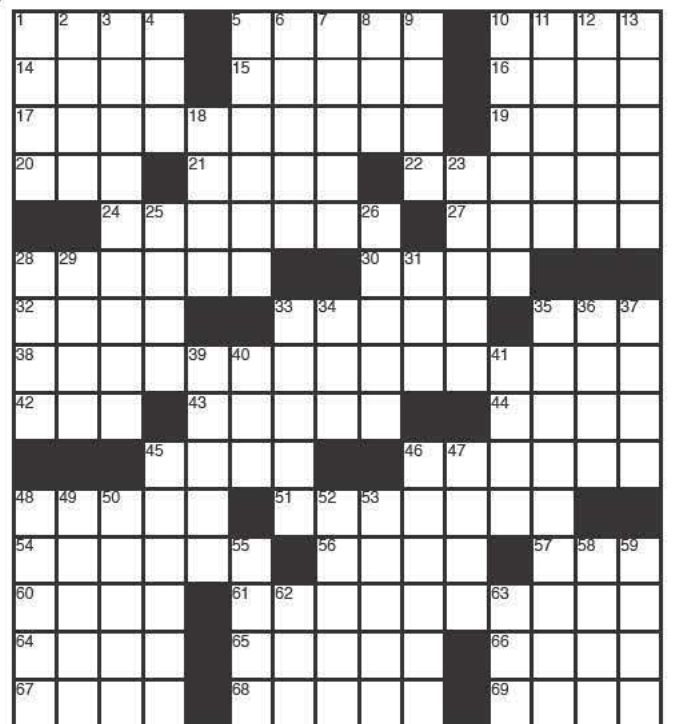


The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0121

- ACROSS**
- 1 Lascivious
 - 5 Dopey or Doc
 - 10 Say jokingly
 - 14 Zone
 - 15 More unusual
 - 16 Great Salt Lake's state
 - 17 Triumph, but just barely
 - 19 Hawaiian island
 - 20 Badminton court divider
 - 21 Actor Ed of "Daniel Boone"
 - 22 Declining in power
 - 24 False fronts
 - 27 God, to Muslims
 - 28 Smug smiles
 - 30 TV, slangily, with "the"
 - 32 Legal wrong
 - 33 Find a new purpose for
 - 35 Org. with admirals
 - 38 Fall off a beam, e.g.
 - 42 Baseballer Mel
 - 43 Ice cream holders
 - 44 Fussies
 - 45 Politico Gingrich
 - 46 Marks that look like inverted v's
 - 48 Pago Pago's locale
- DOWN**
- 1 Home turf?
 - 2 Shallowest Great Lake
 - 3 Led off
 - 4 Amount of hair cream
 - 5 All soap operas, basically
 - 6 Declined in power
 - 7 Got up
 - 8 Thing, in legal briefs
 - 9 Unoccupied, as a theater seat
 - 10 Popular newspaper puzzle subtitled "That Scrambled Word Game"
 - 11 Online commerce
 - 12 Finnish bath
 - 13 Chicken piece
 - 18 Talk idly
 - 23 Biblical tower site
 - 25 Comic Johnson
 - 26 Cigar ends
 - 28 Capital of Manche, France
 - 29 No longer worth debating
 - 31 "The Star-Spangled Banner" land
 - 33 Leases
 - 34 WNW's opposite
 - 35 Sworn to tell the truth
 - 36 Glaswegian, e.g.
 - 37 Loch ___ monster
 - 39 Atlantic or Pacific
 - 40 At this moment
 - 41 Swiss river
 - 45 Wanderers
 - 46 Trees whose wood is used for chests
 - 47 United ___ Emirates
 - 48 Lifeguard, at times
 - 49 Similar
 - 50 Meditated (on)
 - 52 City between Gainesville and Orlando
 - 53 Took a curtain call
 - 55 Fox hit "American ___"
 - 58 "Render therefore ___ Caesar ..."
 - 59 Scandinavian furniture giant
 - 62 ___ de Janeiro
 - 63 Actor Ayres



PUZZLE BY ANDREA CARLA MICHAELS

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

A Z T E C S S A M P A N S
 R E H E A T H A V E A C O W
 A R E O L E E X I T V I S A
 B O B L E E R D R E D A Y
 I Z O D P A C T O D I L E
 S E X E S T U R I M C T R
 T R E B L E L I M O S
 O R I E N T E X P R E S S
 S I T U P S T R A T A
 F G S G O G O L H I F I S
 L O A T H S I A M F E L L
 O N F I R E R Y E S A L A
 R E A D I N T O D E A R E R
 A I R E D O U T E N B E R G
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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL | REBOUNDING

Sims grabs key boards

Sophomore guard gives team extra offensive chances

By Kevin Murphy
Associate Sports Editor

Dominique Sims made sure she would not forget.

The Eastern sophomore guard wrote "offensive boards" on her left arm — and it worked.

Sims pulled down six offensive rebounds in Eastern's 68-60 win against Samford on Saturday night at Lantz Arena.

"So I (kept) looking down, and (every time I went) to the basket, I (would go) hard to the glass most of the time," Sims said.

Sims had eight total rebounds, with five in the second half alone.

Sims pulled down an offensive rebound with 59 seconds remaining in the game after she missed her own jump shot.

That gave Eastern (17-12, 15-5 Ohio Valley Conference) the ball for another 35 seconds with the Panthers leading, 62-56.

"I thought she was a big factor," said Samford head coach Mike Morris. "It seemed like every time she got an offensive rebound, something good happened."

Sims had another offensive rebound that found its way into her hands that helped Eastern.

Eastern junior forward Rachel Galligan missed a layup with 2 minutes, 51 seconds left in the game, but the ball bounced off a Samford player's hands and into Sims'.

"We really take a lot of pride in our rebounding," Galligan said. "We knew if we wanted to win this game, we had to rebound tonight."

The Panthers pulled down 29 rebounds, and Samford (22-8, 15-5) finished with 23.

"She listened (about the importance of rebounding) and to her credit, she executed," said Eastern head coach Brady Sallee.

Kevin Murphy can be reached at 581-7944 or at kjmurphy@eiu.edu.

MEN'S BASKETBALL | EASTERN 64, SAMFORD 61

Panthers finish season on high note

Eastern escapes Lantz Arena with win in final seconds

By Scott Richey
Sports Editor

Eastern held a 62-60 lead when senior guard Bam Willhite isolated his defender and drove toward the basket with eight seconds remaining in Saturday night's game.

Willhite got a step on the Samford defender but was unable to make the running floater. A tip by Eastern senior forward Jake Byrne also came up short. Samford drove the length of the court, and freshman forward Josh Davis was fouled by Eastern senior Bobby Catchings with 1.4 seconds remaining.

Davis made the first free throw to bring Samford within one point but missed his second, and the ball went out of bounds to the Panthers. Willhite made his next two free throws after being fouled by Davis and Eastern held on for a 64-61 victory at Lantz Arena in Eastern's regular season finale.

Byrne said he was not nervous when Davis stepped to the line because Samford (14-15, 10-10 Ohio Valley Conference) had missed its second free-throw attempt several times already during the game.

He said the first thought in his mind when Davis missed was, "Game over."

Samford made a full-court pass to their end of the court for a potential game-winning 3-pointer, but the shot fell short.

Eastern head coach Mike Miller said he didn't think Willhite was even trying to make the second free throw. Miller said the plan was to miss the second free throw to run the remaining five-tenths off the clock.

All of the Samford players on the block jumped into the lane before Willhite shot, which resulted in a lane violation, and Miller said they would have continued to do so if Willhite had missed.

Eastern senior guard Gino Myers-Kyles had a different thought running through his head when Davis missed his second free throw earlier.

"Get that rebound," he said.



JOHN BAILEY | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Eastern senior guard Bam Willhite drives over the Samford defense on Saturday night at Lantz Arena. Eastern won 64-61 and Willhite finished with 10 points in his last Eastern game.

The Panthers (7-22, 6-14) didn't get that rebound, but were able to knock it out of bounds off a Samford player.

Eastern did rebound the ball well against Samford though, out-rebounding the Bulldogs 35-27.

Freshman guard Tyler Laser's missed 3-pointer from the right wing with 11:32 left in the second half paid off for the Panthers.

Byrne pulled down the offensive rebound, but missed his put-back attempt. Willhite then missed a tip in of his own.

Byrne got another offensive

rebound, powered in a layup from the right block and made the ensuing free throw after a foul by Samford freshman guard Josh Bedwell, which gave Eastern a 40-36 lead.

Eastern had taken the lead on the previous play on a fastbreak layup by Laser after he stole the ball from Samford sophomore guard Trey Montgomery.

It was the first lead the Panthers had since Byrne scored the first two points of the game.

"I thought that was a key possession for us because we kept going," Miller said. "We were relentless

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Eastern 64, Samford 61

SAMFORD (14-15, 10-10 OVC)
Montgomery 2-6 0-0 5, Friday 3-7 6-10 12, Peterson 4-10 0-0 9, Davis 6-9 2-4 17, Merritt 2-9 0-0 6, Griffin 0-1 0-0 0, Bedwell 4-9 0-0 12, King 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 21-52 8-14 61.

EASTERN (7-22, 6-14 OVC)
Catchings 3-8 1-2 10, Byrne 6-11 4-5 16, Parrish 0-0 0-0 0, Willhite 3-9 3-4 10, Myers-Kyles 4-7 0-0 10, Cisse 4-6 1-4 9, Laser 2-5 5-5 9, Dorlock 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 22-46 14-20 64.

Halftime: Tied 29-29. 3-pointers: Samford 11-33 (Bedwell 4-9, Davis 3-6); Eastern 6-13 (Catchings 3-5, Laser 2-4). Turnovers: Samford 6 (Friday 3); Eastern 10 (Laser 5). Fouls: Samford 16, Eastern 16. Techs: None. A: 1,336.

going after the ball."

Eastern fell behind early and was down by 13 points near the midpoint of the first half.

Willhite said it was at that point, Eastern's game plan changed.

"What we did was decide to move the ball around a little," Willhite said. "Once the ball was moving and we were making shots, we had it."

Four Eastern players — all seniors — scored in double figures on Eastern's Senior Night. Byrne led the way with 16 points and 10 rebounds for his second consecutive double-double and sixth straight game to lead Eastern in scoring.

Catchings, Myers-Kyles and Willhite each had 10 points, and Laser and sophomore center Ousmane Cisse scored nine points each.

"It was a total team effort," Myers-Kyles said. "We needed everybody."

"I love it," Byrne said. "It wasn't a one-person effort. We found open guys and made shots."

Samford head coach Jimmy Tillette said he was disappointed with the loss because the Bulldogs had a chance to finish at .500. He said Eastern made the plays down the stretch to win the game.

"I thought (Eastern) had an outstanding offensive game," Tillette said. "Unfortunately for us, we missed some uncharacteristic 3's that we normally make. You can't go 11-of-33 and expect to win the game."

Davis led Samford with 17 points, and Bedwell and sophomore forward Bryan Friday both scored 12 points. All of Bedwell's points came from on 3-pointers.

Eastern's season is finished, but Samford will play a first-round OVC Tournament game at 7 p.m. on Tuesday at Tennessee-Martin.

Scott Richey can be reached at 581-7944 or at srrichey@eiu.edu.

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PANTHER BRIEFS

Softball team has success at Tennessee tournament

The Eastern softball team won three of its four games at the Tennessee-Chattanooga Frost Classic.

Eastern won both of its games Sunday. The Panthers (3-4) defeated Buffalo 9-1, and Jackson State 8-4. Eastern also defeated Indiana 4-2 on Friday.

Sophomore designated player Danielle Seerup went 2-for-3 against Jackson State with two RBIs. Junior center fielder Angela Danca went 3-for-4 and had four stolen bases against Buffalo.

Eastern senior Karyn Mackie pitched a complete game against the Hoosiers (1-6) and gave up two runs on seven hits with five strikeouts.

Mackie also helped her own cause with a two-run home run in the bottom of the fourth inning, driving in her twin sister, Robyn.

Eastern lost 4-1 to Kentucky (8-7) on Saturday. Karyn Mackie's double in the top of the second inning drove in sophomore left fielder Denee' Menzione, but Kentucky scored four runs during the next four innings to get the win. Saturday's game against Wright State and Friday's game against Marshall were canceled because of the weather.

Baseball loses sixth straight game to start season

Louisiana has not been good for

the Eastern baseball team.

The Panthers lost a three-game series for the second straight weekend – this time to Northwestern State in Natchitoches, La.

Eastern (0-6) scored seven runs in each of the three games – an improvement from its three-game series at Southeastern Louisiana – but it wasn't enough to beat Northwestern State.

The Demons (5-3) beat Eastern 8-7 in both Friday's and Sunday's games and did so in dramatic fashion, with a walk-off walk on Friday and a four-run ninth inning comeback on Sunday.

Eastern lost 15-7 on Saturday

after the Demons scored seven runs in the first inning.

Tennis teams lose road matches this weekend

The Eastern women's tennis team's undefeated streak came to an end Friday with a 5-2 loss at Illinois State.

Senior Sandra Sasidharan won at No. 1 singles, and freshman Abby Allgire won at No. 3 singles for Eastern (5-1).

The Redbirds (3-4) won the doubles point with 8-4 victories at No. 1 and No. 3 doubles.

Sasidharan and freshman Cara Huck won 8-4 at No. 2 doubles.

The Eastern women's tennis team

plays at Bradley 6 p.m. on Thursday. The Eastern's men's tennis team lost 6-1 against Northern Illinois in Rockford.

The Panthers (4-5) were swept in doubles play, and their only singles victory was freshman Felipe Gama's 6-3, 6-4 win against Northern Illinois senior Diego Zegarra-Balloon.

The men's team plays against Indiana-Purdue-Indianapolis at 5:30 p.m. on Friday in Champaign.

-Compiled by Sports Editor Scott Richey and Associate Sports Editor Kevin Murphy

» Richey

FROM PAGE 12

And the Panthers finished the year with a 7-22 record – one win better than the program low but also the program's worst in number of losses.

That didn't matter Saturday night after the game ended and the 1,336 fans in attendance had left Lantz Arena.

The season done and for the five seniors, so were their Eastern careers. For a team that has experienced little success, Saturday's win was bittersweet. All four seniors who played scored in double figures. The only senior who didn't, Julio Anthony, missed the game because of a collarbone injury.

However, the best-played game of the season came too late for the Panthers. It came after all the bad had happened. It came when it

didn't matter in the grand scheme of things.

The win, however, was a testament to the dedication of the team despite another disappointing season.

"I think you can learn so much from this year," said Eastern head coach Mike Miller. "We kept pushing to get better – make our team better and play good basketball. I think (the way the seniors played) shows the young guys the toughness you've got to have. That's a huge building block for the young guys."

The Panthers need every building block they can get their hands on. There are two paths for Eastern, which is 23-63 during the past three seasons. The returning Panthers can either build off the base the seniors have created, or they can remain stagnant and never advance the program.

Scott Richey can be reached at 581-7944 or at srichey@eiu.edu.

» Second

FROM PAGE 12

Junior distance runner David Holm won the 800-meter run to repeat as champion.

"I just wanted to go out there and give it everything I had," Holm said.

Holm was also a member of the men's winning 1,600-meter relay team with sophomore distance runners Pat Tortorici and Wes Sheldon and senior distance runner Chris Wesson. Senior jumper Obe Eruteya won the high jump and finished second in the triple jump. OVC Male Freshman of the Year Joe Noonan won the pole vault. Junior jumper Jenna Uhe won the triple jump and finished second in the long jump.

"I told the girls this week if we went it with a competitive mindset and attitude we would be able to reach our goals, and (Uhe) definitely

did that," Wallace said.

Sophomore thrower Kandace Arnold won the shot put and finished second in the weight throw.

Arnold said she was surprised she won by more than three feet.

"I was not expecting that at all," Arnold said. "I felt unbelievable coming into the weekend. I wanted to get a win so bad because I knew we were down in points and in numbers."

Junior hurdler Chandra Golden placed second in the 55-meter hurdles and fifth in the 200-meter dash.

Junior jumper Nicole Walcott finished second in the high jump. The OVC Championships was the final meet for the both teams this season, but some athletes will compete at the NCAA Last Chance Meet on Friday and Saturday in South Bend, Ind.

Dan Cusack can be reached at 581-7944 or at dcusack@eiu.edu.

AGATE

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
Eastern 68, Samford 60

SAMFORD (22-8, 15-5)
Okoli 5-7 1-2 1-3, Munday 2-7 1-3 5, Towns 2-3 2-2 7, Maxwell 4-15 2-2 11, London 3-7 2-2 10, Smith 1-1 2-2 4, Hill 4-6 2-2 10. Totals 21-46 12-15 60.

EASTERN (17-12, 15-5)
Klumpers 0-2 0-0 0, Galligan 9-16 4-5 22, Canale 4-5 0-0 11, Edwards 1-3 2-2 5, Sims 5-8 0-1 12, Hullman 1-4 3-3 5, Sturtevant 0-0 0-0 0, Thomas 0-2 3-4 3, Kloak 3-6 4-5 10. Totals 30-29 12-15 60.

Halftime: Eastern 30-29, 3-pointers: Samford 6-17 (Okoli 2-3, London 2-4), Eastern 6-13 (Sims 2-2, Canale 3-4). **Turnovers:** Samford 10 (Smith 3), Eastern 12 (Four tied with 2). **Fouls:** Samford 16, Eastern 15. **Teachs:** Samford - TEAM.

WOMEN'S TRACK

Saturday at Gentry Center – Nashville, Tenn

OVC Indoor Championships

1. Tennessee State 128, 2. E. Illinois 86.5, 3. Jacksonville State 78, 4. Murray State 74.5, 5 (tie). Samford 68.5, 5 (tie). SE Missouri 68.5, 7. E. Kentucky 48, 8. Austin Peay 42.5, 9. Tennessee Tech 28.5

MEN'S TRACK

Saturday at Gentry Center – Nashville, Tenn

OVC Indoor Championships

1. E. Kentucky 147, 2. E. Illinois 129, 3. SE Missouri 117, 4. Tennessee State 67, 5. Samford 16, 6. Morehead State 10

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NATIONAL SPORTS

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Pittsburgh at West Virginia |
6 tonight on ESPN

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Texas Tech at Kansas |
8 tonight on ESPN

TRIPLE THREAT



Casimir Pulaski

General Casimir Pulaski (above) was one of several foreign military advisers to the burgeoning United States during the American Revolution. Pulaski was commissioned into the Continental Army as a Brigadier General. March 3 was officially designated Casimir Pulaski Day in Illinois in 1973.

In the spirit of international cooperation, here are three Eastern athletes from outside the United States who are making their mark at Eastern this year.

1. David Holm — Holm, a junior middle-distance runner from Calgary, Alberta, won the 800-meter run at the Ohio Valley Conference Championships on Saturday. Holm is a two-time OVC champ in the 800.

2. Natalie Martin — The junior tennis player from Montreal is 5-0 at No. 2 singles this season for the Eastern's women's tennis team (5-1). Martin is one of three international players on the women's team and has a 25-3 overall record in two seasons at Eastern.

3. Mick Galeski — A senior midfielder from Blackburn, England, Galeski was named to the First Team All-Missouri Valley Conference Team and the MVC All-Tournament Team

-Scott Richey



SCOTT RICHEY

Win eases pain

Eastern senior forward Jake Byrne said Saturday night's 64-61 win against Samford erased everything bad that had happened to the Eastern's men basketball team this season.

And there's been plenty of bad. Three players suffered season-ending injuries at various stages throughout the season, and three others left the team or were dismissed in mid-December.

Eastern lost 11 straight games after starting the season with a win against Harris Stowe (an NAIA team). A six-game losing streak followed after the Panthers won their first game against a Division I opponent in an 83-80 overtime game against Murray State on Jan. 3.

>> SEE RICHEY, PAGE 11

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL | EASTERN 68, SAMFORD 60

Panthers shut down Bulldogs

Kloak, Galligan combine for 32 points as team prepares for conference tourney

By Kevin Murphy
Associate Sports Editor

Eastern capped off its regular season by doing all the little things correctly.

The Panthers took care of the ball, rebounded, defended and shot the ball well. All of this translated to a 68-60 victory against Samford on Saturday night at Lantz Arena.

The win moved the Panthers (17-12, 15-5 Ohio Valley Conference) into a three-way tie for second in the OVC with Murray State and Samford. Eastern will be the fourth seed in the OVC Tournament because, unlike Murray State and Samford, it did not defeat first-place Southeast Missouri.

Eastern will host fifth-seeded Tennessee State in the first round of the OVC Tournament at 7 p.m. on Tuesday at Lantz Arena. It's the first time Eastern has hosted an OVC Tournament first-round game.

"It was two really, really good teams in the league battling it out with a lot of pride and going into the tourney on a high note," said Eastern head coach Brady Sallee. "I think they are extremely good, extremely hard to guard and I think we're pretty good too."

Eastern limited Samford to 60 points, which is significant because the Bulldogs came off a big win on Thursday night when they defeated SEMO — the top team in the OVC — 73-50.

"We saw that and it was kind of like, all right, they made a big statement," said Eastern junior forward Rachel Galligan. "We told ourselves we want to make a big statement back."

The Bulldogs shot 52 percent in that game, but on Saturday night, were limited to 46 percent from the field.

Samford head coach Mike Morris said Eastern played tough, aggressive defense.

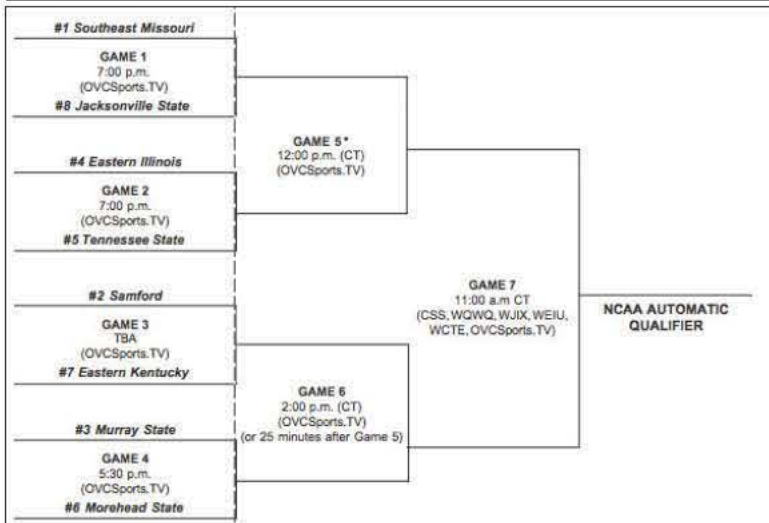
Eastern was also able to run both effectively.



JOHN BAILEY | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Eastern junior forward Rachel Galligan scores over Samford freshman forward Savannah Hill on Saturday night at Lantz Arena. Galligan led the Panthers with 22 points in Eastern's 68-60 victory.

OVC WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT BRACKET



The Panthers shot 50 percent from the field, and Galligan led Eastern with 22 points.

SEE BOX SCORE ON
PG. 11

Eastern sophomore guard Dominique Sims added 12 points, Eastern junior guard Ellen Canale scored 11 and Eastern sophomore forward Maggie Kloak chipped in 10 points.

Galligan, who normally scores within five feet of the basket, took an 11-foot off-balance leaning jump shot for Eastern's last field goal of the game that put the Panthers up, 62-56, with 1 minute, 51 seconds remaining in the game.

"Galligan is the best post player in our league," Morris said. "She has a lot of ability to create space (in the post)."

Galligan would emphasize Eastern's defense on Samford's next possession. Galligan took a charge from Samford's red-shirt sophomore guard Monica Maxwell that left both players on the floor for a few moments with 1:28 remaining.

"You got to step up and take a charge like she did," Sallee said. "For our best player to do it, it says a lot about the character of our basketball team."

"She's beat up right now. 'She's got the tar beat out of her all year and to step in and take that, and be willing to sacrifice for the basketball team is kind of a microcosm of how we've won 17 games this year."

Sims said Galligan has been a key to Eastern's success this season.

"She's always willing to dish the ball, make the extra pass and that makes a great player," Sims said. "That separates a good player from a great player."

Kloak and Galligan combined for 32 points on Saturday night.

"We felt we could go with the big lineup," Sallee said. "I didn't want to burn (them) out, I thought we went to it at right time and it's what pulled the game away and made it a little bit more comfortable."

Morris was more pragmatic. "(Galligan and Kloak) may be two of the top five post players in the league, and they play on the same team," he said.

Okoli led the Bulldogs with 13 points and Maxwell added 11 points.

Kevin Murphy can be reached at 581-7944 or at kjmurphy@eiu.edu.

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S INDOOR TRACK | OHIO VALLEY CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Both teams finish second

Eastern women without several athletes at meet

By Dan Cusack
Sports Reporter

For the first time in seven seasons, the Eastern men's indoor track team is not the Ohio Valley Conference champion.

Eastern (129 points) finished in second place behind Eastern Kentucky (147 points) this weekend at the OVC Indoor Track Championships in Nashville, Tenn.

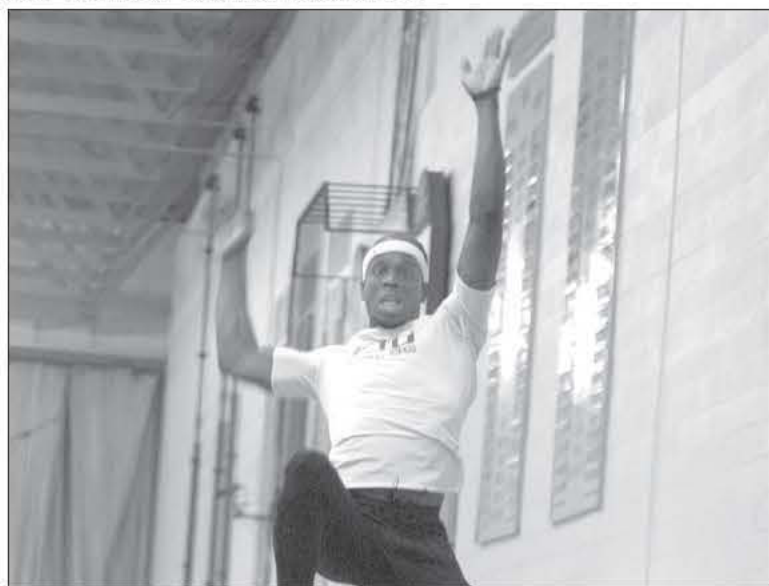
The women's team failed to repeat as OVC Champions as well, but still

managed to finish in second place behind Tennessee State, 128 to 86.5 points. Injury and illness forced the Panthers to compete with only 18 athletes for the women's squad.

"Overall, I am very proud of the girls' efforts, especially in individual events," said Eastern head women's track coach Mary Wallace. "Tennessee State was a formidable opponent."

The Panthers were still able to crown a number of individual champions on both the men's and women's teams despite not winning the team titles.

>> SEE SECOND, PAGE 11



JOHN BAILEY | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Eastern senior Obe Eruteya flies through the air during a recent long jump competition at Lantz Fieldhouse. Eruteya won the high jump and placed second in the triple jump at the Ohio Valley Conference Indoor Championships in Nashville, Tenn. The men and women finished second.

EASTERN SPORTS SCHEDULE

BASEBALL
Tuesday vs. Olivet Nazarene |
2 p.m. — Coaches Stadium

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
Tuesday vs. Tennessee State |
7 p.m. — Lantz Arena

SOFTBALL
Wednesday vs. IUPUI |
4 p.m. — Williams Field

WOMEN'S TENNIS
Thursday at Bradley |
Noon — Peoria

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S INDOOR TRACK
Friday at Last Chance Meets |
All Day — South Bend, Ind.