Eastern Illinois University
The Keep

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"TELL **THE TRUTH** AND DON'T BE AFRAID."

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the DAILY EASTERN NEWS

WEDNESDAY 12.6.06

Eastern Illinois University, Charleston

Volume | 92 **Issue** | 71

cheatsheet

UNIVERSITY

Eastern renews contract with Lakeview College

» Eastern has agreed to extend its partnership with Lakeview College of Nursing in Charleston through 2011.

The extension gives pre-nursing students the opportunity to earn a baccalaureate degree from Lakeview while attending classes on Eastern's campus.

The primary focus of the agreement is that Eastern has agreed to continue to provide classroom space free of charge for the Lakeview program as it has for the last five years.

Page 2

CITY

Council approves electrical contract for new library

» The city council Tuesday night approved a contract between Bodine Electric and Charleston Carnegie Public Library for $413,000.

The project in all will cost $7 million.

The city will make also make a $16,400 contribution to help pay for the resurfacing of a parking lot used by the city but is owned by the Charleston school district. The parking lot, located between Putt-N-Swing and the Charleston Middle School, is used in the summer by the Rotary Community Aquatic Center.

Page 2

SPORTS

Graduate assistant has chance for UFC contract

» After Matt Hughes made the transition to Ultimate Fighting Champion, he developed many followers here at Eastern.

One of those followers is current graduate assistant coach Clayton French, who is trying to climb through the ranks to join the UFC.

After joining Mixed Martial Arts three years ago, French has fought in ten matches. His last match was a month ago against Shinya Aoki in Japan at the Bushido 13 event.

Page 12

SPORTS

Head football coach Spoo wants to avoid rebuilding

» Bob Spoo doesn't like to hear the "R" word.

Well, at least he doesn't like to hear the one that is usually reserved for teams that are losing a large group of seniors.

"I don't want this year to be a rebuilding year," Spoo said.

Although Spoo said he was hoping to go deeper in the playoffs, he still praised the coaching staff, which had to deal with more off-the-field issues than Spoo is used to.

Page 12

The word is out

Eastern waits for presidential applicants

By Ashley Rueff
Senior University Reporter

Applications from Eastern's prospective next presidents should begin coming in within the next few weeks.

The advertisement for the open position will run in the Chronicle of Higher Education, Black Issues in Higher Education and Hispanic Outlook Magazine, and will ask for applications to be submitted by Jan. 26.

"I would think that by the first of the year we'd be getting applications," said Robert Webb, Board of Trustees member and chair of the Presidential Search Advisory Committee.

The Committee met Nov. 21 with search consultant Elaine Hairston to look at the advertisement and the presidential profile the committee will use as a guideline to find a suitable replacement.

» SEE **WORD,** PAGE **7**

ERIC HILTNER | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Vanessa Perez, a freshman family and consumer sciences major, listens Tuesday in the South Quad as Jeffrey White explains where all the Student Government election polling places are on campus. White is a Student Senate candidate for the Student United Party.

Election results to be announced tonight

By Matt Hopf
Student Government Reporter

The results of the fall elections will be released at tonight's Student Senate meeting.

This will also be the last meeting for Student Senate members Carolyn Beck, Katie O'Grady, Shawn Ready and Donna Vitale. They did not seek re-election.

Student Body President Sean Anderson will preside over the meeting, as an election for Student Senate speaker will take place after the election results are announced.

Current Student Senate Speaker Kent Ohms hopes to retain his position.

For the first time this year, Anderson vetoed a proposal.

He vetoed a line-item transfer that would take the left-over money from the Tennessee-Martin football game buses to the Illinois Student Government Associations Conference (ISGAC) fund.

There was no way the funds could be transferred because the money that was left over was returned to Apportionment Board, Anderson wrote in the veto.

The leftover $4,000 would have been used to expand the conference to more schools. The money could be earned back from the registration fee.

The conference that will take place at Eastern will bring Illinois public schools together to attend workshops, share ideas and network.

"I am not opposed to ISGAC getting more money," Anderson said.

STUDENT SENATE MEETING

» **When:** 7 p.m.

» **Where:** Arcola-Tuscola Room, Martin Luther King Jr. University Union

» **On the agenda:**

» Election results for Fall campaigns

» State of the Senate Address by Student Senate Speaker Kent Ohms

» State of the University Address by Student Body President Sean Anderson

Student Senate member Kenney Kozik, a sponsor of the original bill, said that an additional allocation request will be submitted to Apportionment Board for the same amount.

If the additional money is needed before the spring semester, the student body president can convene a Student Senate meeting, Anderson said.

In other business, a final vote will be taken on two bylaw changes that will require Student Senate members to attend one Registered Student Organization or hall council meeting on a regular basis.

Also, Ohms will give the State of the Senate address and Anderson will give the State of the University address.

Student Senate meets at 7 p.m. every Wednesday in the Arcola-Tuscola Room of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

Poetry beats to rock campus

By Kristina Peters
Activities Reporter

The Mayhem Poets have traveled to various countries including Ireland and Canada as well as many states since forming, and its next stop is at 7 p.m. in the 7th Street Underground.

Kyle Sutton's appreciation for poetry started with hip-hop.

Sutton, who is one of three performers in the group Mayhem Poets has been into hip-hop since the age of 9.

Hip-hop and writing were a gateway, he said.

It was not until college that Sutton turned his hip-hop talent into poetry. After watching the 1998 film "Slam" and attending poetry slams in college, Sutton realized he might have a knack for the art.

The movie is about the character Ray Joshua, who uses slam poetry to cope with the poverty of his neighborhood.

Sutton describes slam poetry as, poetry with "a lot of hip-hop, stand-up comedy and theatrical influences."

It is slam poetry the Mayhem Poets perform and Sutton said most people do not understand it at first.

"Your general population doesn't get excited because they think it's boring," he said.

However, Sutton said that once people see the poetry performed their minds change.

Sutton uses hip-hop in his poetry performances, and he also used it to get dates.

"I didn't get a lot of luck with dating in high school," he said. "After a while, I fell in love with poetry."

Sutton was at Rutgers University in New Jersey when he met the other two members, Scott Tarazevits and Mason Granger, of the Mayhem Poets.

The Mayhem Poets perform slam poetry and was formed in 2001. Before that, the group held an open mic night called "Verbal Mayhem" in 2000.

"We started it in my dorm room," Sutton said. Sutton graduated in 2003, Tarazevits in 2002 and Granger in 2004, and each member has his own approach to poetry.

Tarazevits is big into theatre and Weird Al Yankovic and does a "parody of pop culture," Sutton said. Granger's performance on the other hand is similar to that of stand-up comics.

"You will see a lot of physical comedy in Mason's performance," Sutton said.

» SEE **BEATS,** PAGE **7**

UNIVERSITY | ACADEMICS

Nursing contract renewed

Lakeview College of Nursing will be on campus until 2011

By Nicole Weskerna
Education Reporter

Eastern has agreed to extend its partnership with Lakeview College of Nursing in Charleston through 2011. The extension gives pre-nursing students the opportunity to earn a baccalaureate degree from Lakeview while attending classes on Eastern's campus.

The primary focus of the agreement is that Eastern has agreed to continue to provide classroom space free of charge for the Lakeview program as it has for the last five years.

The Lakeview program started on the Eastern campus in 2001 with 10 students enrolled in its nursing program. Now, the enrollment of Lakeview students studying on the Eastern campus has increased to 116 students.

Eastern has just recently implemented a new nursing curriculum that will start in the fall of 2007. Dianne Nelson, director of Eastern's nursing program, said Eastern's new nursing program is only for registered nurses who are returning to school for a bachelor's in nursing.

"Most of our students will be nurses who have received an associate's degree from a community college," Nelson said. "Earning a bachelor's degree helps (registered nurses) to improve patient care, expand career opportunities and enter graduate school."

JAY GRABIEC | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Christina Lekki, a senior nursing major, takes notes while nursing professor Bunnie Roberts teaches class Tuesday in McAfee.

DIANNE NELSON | EASTERN NURSING PROGRAM DIRECTOR

> **"Both programs are focused on meeting the educational needs of students and the health care needs of patients in our region."**

Nelson also said that while both Eastern and Lakeview offer a bachelor's degree in nursing, Lakeview students will earn their degrees from Lakeview College of Nursing while Eastern's registered nurse (RN) to a bachelor's degree in science (BS) students will receive their degrees from Eastern.

"The two nursing programs are complementary but don't work directly together," Nelson said. "However, both programs are focused on meeting the educational needs of students and the health care needs of patients in our region."

Amy McFadden, coordinator of recruitment and marketing at Lakeview, said the Lakeview program has a different focus in that students don't have to already hold RNs to be admitted to the program.

"There certainly seems to be a great interest in nursing," McFadden said. "I think it's a great partnership that benefits everyone involved."

Mary Anne Hanner, dean of College of Sciences, said she doesn't expect much to be different with Eastern's new nursing program and the extended agreement with Lakeview.

"The students for both programs are typically at different points in their careers," Hanner said.

She said the new nursing curriculum at Eastern requires students to be an RN and the new program is for professional advancement.

An open house will take place 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Nursing Skills Lab.

City Council approves $413,000 contract

New library electrical contract among several

By Chris Essig
Senior City Reporter

The city council approved a contract between Bodine Electric and Charleston Carnegie Public Library for $413,000 Tuesday night. This is one of many contracts the council has approved for the reconstruction of the library.

The council has approved contracts for all of the following areas: general trades, steel and concrete, plumbing, a sprinkler system and now the electrical. In all the project will cost $7 million.

The city will make also make a $16,400 contribution to help pay for the resurfacing of a parking lot used by the city but is owned by the Charleston school district. The parking lot, located between Putt-N-Swing and the Charleston Middle School, is used in the summer by the Rotary Community Aquatic Center.

Carolyn Shobe, who owns a house on 11th Street, requested a zoning map amendment and received it Tuesday night. Shobe's house had been commercial property because she had a business in the house. But because she was having trouble selling it as such, she requested her house be switched to residential property.

"(Shobe's presence) was a wonderful business and we're sorry to see it go," said council member Lorelei E. Sims as she addressed Shobe directly.

The section of Garfield Avenue roughly between Route 130 and 11th Street, which has been maintained and plowed by the city for years, was officially dedicated to the city Tuesday night. Mayor John Inyart said the section must have been overlooked and was in need of official documentation.

The city also entered into a contractual agreement with Coles County Regional Planning and Development Commission. The commission applies for and administers grants and makes contracts with other municipals. According to the agreement, the contract must not exceed $7,000, Inyart said.

Jeff Holloway, owner of True Value, received a revolving loan fund from the city Tuesday night. The loan must not exceed $90,000 and have an interest rate of no less than 3 percent. The term of the contract is five years.

One item was brought back and will not be voted on until a later, unspecified date: approving a re-codified city code.

"Even though the company is done with it, we aren't," Inyart said. "We still want to have an in-house review, a legal review with our attorney and we also want to let the company finish its legal review which is a separate step."

Inyart said he thinks the council just got in a hurry and warned that if the proper time and consideration was not put into the re-codification of the city code that it could have backlashes. For instance, if there was an error in the new city code and it was approved, it would supercede everything the council has ever approved, Inyart said.

The city code, once approved, will be put online, making it much more accessible to the public, Inyart said.

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About The Daily Eastern News

The Daily Eastern News is produced by the students of Eastern Illinois University. It is published daily Monday through Friday, in Charleston, Ill., during fall and spring semesters and twice weekly during the summer term except during university vacations or examinations.

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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.

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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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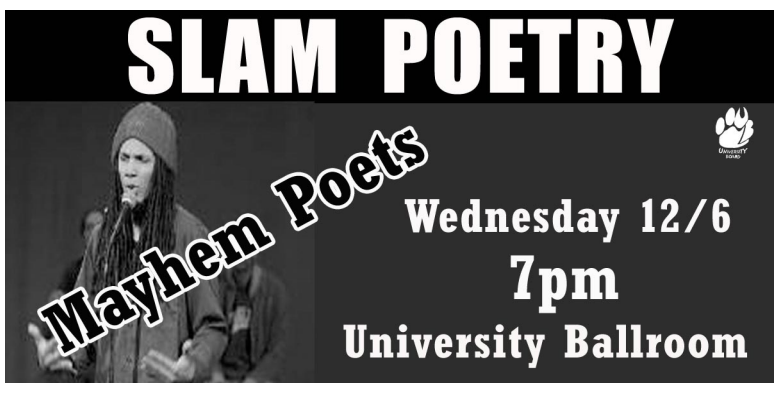

CAMPUS

WEDNESDAY
12.6.06

Eastern seeks toy donations

Students can give toys and get hot chocolate at Christmas party

Alumni Services and Panther Service Days are teaming up to help Eastern students, faculty and the community get into the holiday spirit with a toy drive.

Thursday is the last day for donations for the drive.

During the past two years local organizers have helped bring in thousands of toys for the area's children and hope to keep up the pace with this holiday's charity event.

Students can stop by and enjoy free hot chocolate and cookies, as well as help less fortunate children by donating food, clothes or new, unwrapped toys from 5 to 6 p.m. Thursday on the Cougill Foyer of Old Main.

Those who are participating are encouraged to bring friends and hang around for a little bit.

"This event is different because it encompasses everyone in the area and it is fun," said Assistant Director of Alumni Services Chelsea Frederick.

Frederick also said this is a good way for students to wind down before the rush of studying for finals begins and that this event is convenient for students who want to give back to the community they are associated with the most and get into the holiday spirit.

Faculty members are also encouraged to come so students have a chance to meet with professors on a different level, she said.

Frederick said this is a good way to network with the faculty and some of the nearly 3,000 alumni in the Charleston and Mattoon who can "show you the ropes" as they did with Frederick.

Items that are donated will be given to Public Action to Deliver Shelter facility in Mattoon, the Toys for Tots program and a clothing drive.

Most of the items will stay in the Charleston and Mattoon area, according to Frederick.

The Toys for Tots program began in 1947 when the United States Marine Corps Reserve in Los Angeles collected and distributed 5,000 toys to needy children.

That campaign was so successful that the Marine Corps adopted Toys for Tots a year later and expanded it into a nationwide campaign.

Since the program's inception, more than 313 million toys have been distributed to 151 million children.

"The best way to help out is to just show up and get to know the people and community," she said.

Other drop-off sites include the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union, Blair Hall, Textbook Rental and the Student Services Building.

A drop-off box will also be available at the University's annual Christmas party at 5 p.m. today in the Cougill Foyer.

– Compiled by Ryan Gaynor, staff correspondent

UNIVERSITY | FACULTY SENATE

ERIC HILTNER | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Faculty senate member John Kilgore reads over Campus Safety Initiative: Illinois, a program that will ultimately request the Illinois Higher Board of Education and the governor to make campus safety a priority. Student Body President Sean Anderson presented the initiative to the Faculty Senate on Tuesday afternoon in Room 4440 of the Booth Library.

Safety on the horizon

Student body president makes last-minute appearance for faculty

By Jess Kinsella
Staff Reporter

Student Body President Sean Anderson spoke to the Faculty Senate about making safety a priority for the Illinois Board of Higher Education.

After attending the IBHE meeting this past weekend, Anderson discovered there is no money appropriated for campus safety.

The senate approved a motion urging the Board of Trustees to ask the IBHE to engage in careful and thorough consideration of campus safety at Illinois universities and colleges.

The BOT will meet Friday where Senate chair Assege HaileMariam will represent the senate and announce their motion.

The issue of safety was completely left out of the 2008 IBHE budget, Anderson added.

SEAN ANDERSON | STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT

"I think safety is a concern among students, faculty and just among people in general."

Anderson has already contacted 27 other universities in Illinois who support the safety initiative, said John Stimac, senate record and chair of the geology/geography department.

The initiative involves informing and getting feedback from all Illinois universities, gain support and have those supporters of those universities from each campus to request their BOT to support investing in improving campus safety statewide, Anderson said.

"I think safety is a concern among students, faculty and just among people in general," Anderson said.

Lynne Curry, history professor, agreed with the initiative and mentioned how accidents may occur where there are no lights on campus.

Stimac then encouraged Anderson to speak to the city about placing lights around campus where there are dark areas.

The senate wrapped up their final meeting of the semester by discussing future agenda items.

HaileMariam said the year would kick off with a discussion and speakers on campus climate.

In light of the discussion on safety, the senate would also like Anderson to return to discuss the progress on the initiative.

Members also would like to invite a representative from the office of disabilities to speak at a future meeting next semester.

The next senate meeting will be at 2 p.m. Jan. 9 in the Booth Library Conference Room 4440.

Purchasing Department changes name

What's in a name? That must have been on the mind of members of the university's Purchasing Department when they decided to change the name of their department.

The name of the Purchasing Department has recently been changed to the Department of Procurement, Disbursements and Contract Services.

"We felt it was more descriptive to the services we provide," said Paul McCann, the director of the department. He said over the years the services that the department provides changed, and therefore it was necessary to change the name to match.

McCann said the change was to help people to understand the services of the department, particularly people from outside the university who may have not found the services as easily before.

Changing the name of a department could potentially become quite costly. There are so many things that contain the name of a department in an office.

Business cards, letterheads, envelopes and promotional items usually need to be reprinted when a name changes and could cost a department quite a deal of money.

McCann said that the department will use up all the items that still say Purchasing Department before printing up new items that say Department of Procurement, Disbursements, and Contract Services.

This gradual change will save a lot of money and effort leaving no reason not to make the change.

– Compiled by Sara Cuadrado, staff correspondent

weatheroutlook

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
40° | 18°	21° | 14°	34° | 22°
mostly cloudy	partly cloudy / wind	sunny

campusbriefs

Gregg Lab Open 24/7

» For the remainder of the Fall 2006 semester, the Gregg computer lab will be open 24/7.

We will not shut down the lab until 10 p.m. Dec. 15.

Booth Library holiday hours

» Booth Library will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday, Dec. 20 and 21, and on Wednesday and Thursday, Dec. 27 and 28. The library will be closed to the public on Dec. 18, 19, 22 and 29; however, faculty may call the Dean's Office (581-6061) for admission to use the collections. Desk services will be limited. Booth Library will reopen on Jan. 3.

"EIU 'Presents' The Holidays 2006"

» The Annual Old Main Holiday Party Community residents are invited to join Eastern's students and staff as the university "presents" its holiday "present" to its constituencies – a festive gathering today from 5-7 p.m. in the Cougill Foyer of Old Main.

The event is free, however, donations will be accepted for Eastern's 2006 Toys for Tots drive.

Flu Shot Clinic on Dec. 6-7

» Flu shots will be given Wednesday, Dec. 6 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. and from 1-3 p.m. as well as on Thursday, Dec. 7 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. in the Effingham Room, MLK Jr. University Union.

Current employees, as well as annuitants, are eligible to receive the flu shot free. Spouses and children of current employees/annuitants may also receive the flu shot at a cost of $30 for spouse and $8 per child.

Also available are pneumonia shots, which are available to current employees, annuitants, spouses and children at a cost of $30/adult and $8/child.

Questions regarding clinics should be directed to the Benefit Services Office at 581-5825.

GRADE AVAILABILITY ON PAWS

Students may view Fall Semester 2006 grades on PAWS beginning at 7 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 19.

oncampus

TODAY

Christmas Meal at all Residential Dining Centers

Time | Dinner Schedule

Location | All Residential Dining Centers

More info | 581-5733

COMMENTS | CORRECTIONS | EVENTS

To report any errors, local events or general suggestions for future editions please contact our news editor, **Sarah Whitney**, via:
Phone | **581-7942**,
E-mail | **DENnewsdesk@gmail.com**
Office visit | **1811 Buzzard Hall**.

VIEWS

WEDNESDAY
12.6.06

YOUR VIEW | LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Friends will not forget Mark Apa

There is an old saying that people in your life are seasons. They come and they go.

Well, if that is the case then Mark Apa would definitely have been summer. The kind of summer that provides a person with memories that they will cherish forever.

There is not one person that won't miss Mark Apa. He was that type of person. The type of person that people gravitated towards. He was the person that everyone wanted to be around, because no matter what was going on in our lives, for a brief moment Mark would get us to smile. He got us to smile because he always smiled. He had the uncanny ability to bring joy into people's lives. Everyone was glad to see him and he was glad to see everyone. I have yet to meet one person that knew Mark Apa and didn't like him. When it was time to hang out, you looked for Mark Apa, because when he was around, chances were it would be a night to remember. I'll bet any amount of money that Apa is in heaven right now listening to techno, text messaging people, and generally being the life of the party. Most importantly, he's looking down on all of us and encouraging us to smile.

I remember when I first heard that Mark had left us. I, like everyone who knew him, was in a complete state of shock. I was left speechless. My friend who I had seen less than 24 hours earlier was gone. It wasn't until later that night that it began to sink in that Mark wasn't coming back. I dropped to my knees and I pleaded for God to save a place in heaven for my friend. After that I turned to those who knew Mark best for support: all of my brothers in Pi Kappa Alpha.

When we sit around and we think about Mark, we think about how special he was to each member of our house. We remember how genuine of a person he was and how he was the truest of friends. We remember how he was more than our friend, he was our family. These memories have been a shining light during this time of darkness.

We ask all of those out there who are concerned to keep Mark Apa and his family in your prayers. With that said, on behalf of Pi Kappa Alpha I will state that we, the gentlemen of Pi Kappa Alpha, love and will greatly miss Mark Apa. We say that the way Mark would have wanted us to: with smiles on our faces.

Derrick L. Johnson II
John Garchie and Duane Kerner contributed

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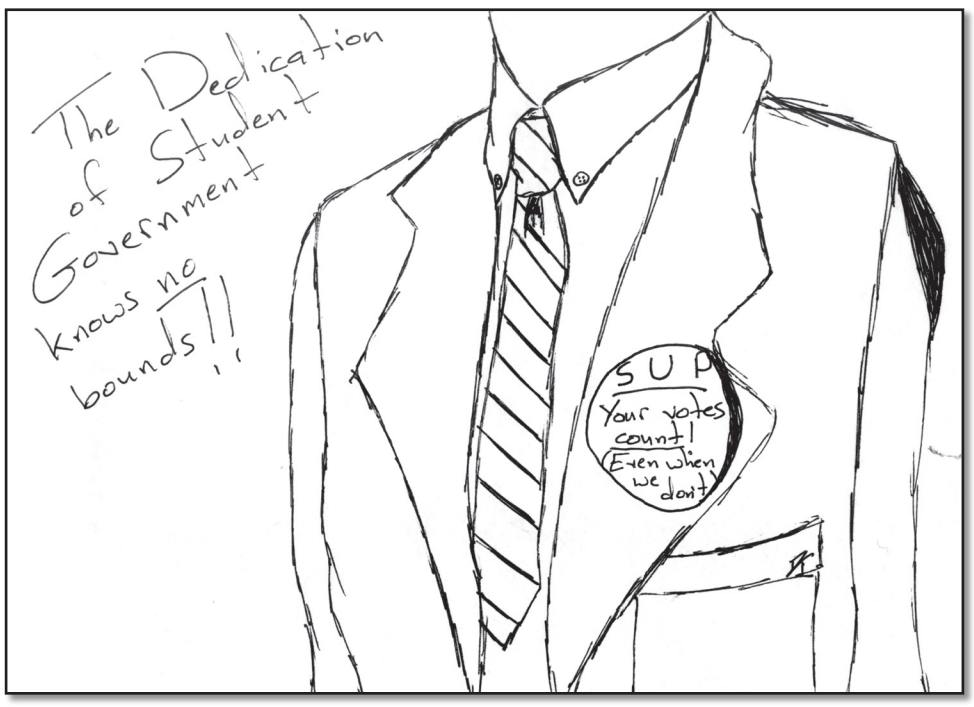

our view

'Colbert Report' a good mix of news and entertainment

ISSUE | Anchor Stephen Colbert is redefining news and humor

The *New Yorker* named him one of the top dozen influential people in the media. *Time* magazine named him one of the top 100 influential people of 2006. He is one of *GQ*'s "Men of the Year," as well as *Maxim*'s "Second Sexiest TV News Anchor."

The man is Stephen Colbert.

He is a rising star in the entertainment industry and provides many people – especially college students – with their only source of news.

The anchor of "The Colbert Report" acts just like Bill O'Reilly does on "The O'Reilly Factor," attacking Democrats for their lack of patriotism and anyone else that attempts to question the intentions of President George W. Bush and other powerful right-wing conservatives.

The difference between the two anchors, however, is that Colbert is joking.

Though he brings serious news issues to light, he is attacked by many in the media for being a comedian.

But this is part of his appeal. Colbert appeals to moderates and liberals by acting like a right-wing pundit.

For his fans, issues such as "The War on Christmas" are a ridiculous, laughing matter, but for many conservative Americans, this war is very real and very important. He attacks evolutionists, homosexuals, immigrants and flag-burners all in the name of satire.

It's a way for his fans to poke at the right and get the news at the same time.

People don't tune into his show just to see jokes. They tune in to hear about national and international news, as well as various local news stories around the country. He takes glory that all of the incumbent candidates he interviewed in his "Better Know a District" segment were reelected – although, on average, 90 percent of House incumbents are re-elected.

And his fan base is dedicated to his new style of journalism.

They have successfully named an eagle after him at the San Francisco Zoo. They have named the Saginaw Spirits' mascot after him in the Canadian Hockey League. They successfully met the criteria twice to name a Hungarian bridge after him, though both times the Hungarian government changed the criteria, and now will not allow fans to name the bridge in his honor until he dies.

Followers pour out to epitomize Colbert's fame in his "Blue Screen Challenges." The most recent adds him into a rock video by The Decemberists. Others have him fighting against Star Wars characters and popular people, as well as Democrats.

He even managed to invent the word "truthiness," which the American Dialect Society later named its 2005 "Word of the Year."

We at *The Daily Eastern News* urge other news agencies to be as open-minded as programs like "The Colbert Report," and we urge viewers to go out and find impartial news programs.

Partisan political pundits are rapidly gaining influence in the media. But Colbert has successfully shown many how ridiculous it is to even tune in to a couple minutes of their ranting.

The editorial is the majority opinion of The Daily Eastern News editorial board. Reach the opinions editor at **DENopinions@gmail.com.**

YOUR VIEW | LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Staff should be commended

For this, my first and last address to the student body, I feel it is my duty and obligation to recognize the contributions of a few of Eastern's finest faculty members and department heads. From the faculties of the Department of Sociology/Anthropology to International Programs and the Department of Political Science, these men and women of distinction have shaped and molded the future of thousands of Eastern students, year in, year out. This makes them stand worthy of all commendations herein expressed.

Teaching is a very noble job. The ability to impact the lives of others is, to me, one of the greatest successes a person can achieve, and collectively, these individuals have demonstrated a zeal and eagerness to the infusing and unlocking of knowledge in all those who have crossed their path. Their insatiable appetite for educating is the ingredient that has lead them to the success that they have today. We all are to be thankful to them for giving themselves unselfishly to us.

I believe it is hardly an exaggeration to say that while here at EIU, we have received an elite education, as it came from some of the most brilliant and intellectual minds of our time. Whatever becomes of us, and wherever we find ourselves, we'll always be associated with EIU. This is the root from which we have sprung intellectually and it is in our best interest to use what Eastern has taught us as a catapult into what promises to be a lifetime filled with many challenges and achievements.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my most sincere gratitude and appreciation to Dean Hanner, Dr. Foster, Dr. Eckert, Dr. Benedict, Dr. Swenson, and International Programs. Congratulations on a job well done.

Best Wishes,

Hopeton Dias | International Student

Fats should not be banned

By Alex Schaefer
University of Connecticut

(U-WIRE) STORRS, Conn. – New York City, the same city that brought you the indoor smoking ban, has found something new that is threatening the human race. Lawmakers have introduced a measure that would ban the 20,000 or so restaurants in the area from using ingredients that contain trans fats, a substance that is apparently the sole cause of the rampant obesity in this country. No, it's not that we are a nation of fast food gluttons who cannot keep our mouths shut for one afternoon. The reason there are so many overweight citizens, at least according to city officials, is because we didn't know that the foods that come out dripping wet in grease are actually not good to eat on an everyday basis. Trans fat is an artificial fatty acid used in many foods cooked today. It is found in dietary staples from donuts to pie crusts and French fries. It is useful to cooks because it increases the shelf life of products and, under heat, it is more durable than natural fat, making it a better product to use during cooking.

The main problem here is that while people are getting fat, nobody's committing crimes because of it – unless you consider a three hundred pound woman in a bikini an offense. The individuals are only harming themselves and this can be stopped without having to take the extreme route. Moderation is the key word when dealing with trans fat and most other damagingly tempting delights.

Gates wins Senate approval to be Pentagon chief

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON – Robert Gates, seemingly clinching confirmation as the new secretary of defense, said Tuesday the United States is not winning in Iraq and he's confident President Bush will listen to his ideas about forging a new war strategy.

He won speedy and unanimous approval from the Senate Armed Services Committee after five hours of testimony, a bipartisan show of support that suggested how eager many lawmakers are to replace Donald H. Rumsfeld at the Pentagon. The full Senate could seal Gates' confirmation as early as Wednesday.

"In my view, all options are on the table, in terms of how we address this problem in Iraq," he told the committee. But he also acknowledged the complexity of the challenge.

"There are no new ideas on Iraq," he said during a discussion of the bipartisan Iraq Study Group, which previewed its findings and recommendations to President Bush Tuesday and will release them Wednesday. Gates was a member of the group until Bush announced his nomination for the Pentagon job last month.

The senators voted 24-0 to support the nomination to replace Rumsfeld, who has become a symbol of the Bush administration's steadfast course in a war that has long since soured with the public and much of the world.

ROBERT GATES | FORMER DIRECTOR OF CIA

"It seems to me that the United States is going to have to have some kind of presence in Iraq for a long time ... but it could be with a dramatically smaller number of U.S. forces than are there today."

"I voted yes because in both the substance of his answers and the tone of his answers, he seemed open to course correction," said Carl Levin, D-Mich., who will be the committee's chairman when Democrats take control of the Senate next month.

During his appearance, Gates would not commit to any specific new course of action in the conflict. He said he would consult first with commanders and others.

Asked directly by Levin whether the U.S. is winning in Iraq, Gates replied, "No, sir." That response appeared to contradict Bush, who said at an Oct. 25 news conference, "Absolutely, we're winning."

Gates later said he believes the United States is neither winning nor losing, "at this point."

His statements on the war – and his professed openness to change – underscored pressures heaped on Bush since Democratic victories in last month's congressional elections, votes widely read as a rejection of the administration's steadfast course in the war. Unrelenting violence by insurgents and between ethnic groups, and a U.S. death toll that has reached nearly 2,900, have raised questions about the effectiveness of Iraq's government. Bush in recent weeks has expressed a willingness to consider a fresh course in the war, but has shown no sign of a willingness to heed Democratic calls to start withdrawal of the 140,000 U.S. troops.

Bush has said he wants to keep U.S. forces there until Iraq is able to govern and defend itself without being a haven for terrorists.

"It seems to me that the United States is going to have to have some kind of presence in Iraq for a long time ... but it could be with a dramatically smaller number of U.S. forces than are there today," Gates said.

Iraq dominated the hearing, which began with Gates saying, "I am under no illusion why I am sitting before you today – the war in Iraq."

Without mentioning Rumsfeld by name, Gates made clear that he hopes to find a strategy that is more effective in Iraq than the current Pentagon approach.

After lunch, Gates told the committee he wanted to amplify on his morning remark about not winning in Iraq. He said he did not want U.S. troops to think he believes they are being unsuccessful in their assigned missions.

"Our military wins the battles that we fight," Gates said. "Where we're having our challenges, frankly, are in the areas of stabilization and political developments and so on." He said other federal agencies should do more in Iraq.

Gates, a former director of the CIA, fielded questions with apparent ease, acknowledging at times that he simply did not know the answer or needed more time for study. He was armed with details, such as the exact U.S. death count in Iraq (2,889 as of Monday, he said).

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STATE | NOTEBOOK

Judge sets bond for Chicago police officers

CHICAGO – A judge set bond Tuesday for two Chicago police officers accused of joining other officers in using their badges and authority to shake down victims for money.

A Cook County judge set bond at $1.5 million for Frank Villareal, 38, and at $750,000 for Margaret Hopkins, 32, both of whom face official misconduct and home invasion charges. Villareal is also charged with armed violence.

A third officer arrested and charged with Villareal and Hopkins on Monday already appeared in bond court. A judge set bond for 40-year-old James McGovern – charged with official misconduct – at $50,000.

All three suspects, who turned themselves in on Monday, are members of the department's Special Operations Section.

"These police officers charged today betrayed their oath ... and their fellow officers," said State's Attorney Richard Devine at a news conference after Tuesday's bond hearing.

Prosecutors said the alleged crimes took place from December 2003 to November 2005.

In court Tuesday, prosecutors said on March 28, 2004, Villareal and other officers handcuffed one victim, took his keys and entered his home without a warrant or consent. The officers allegedly stole a rookie card of baseball legend Mickey Mantle, a gold watch and $200 in cash from an old safe in a bathroom.

"The defendants' actions were bold, brazen, malicious and without regard for the law or moral consequences," prosecutor David Navarro said in court Tuesday.

Prosecutors said Hopkins was present during some incidents, including one on Nov. 1, 2005, when officers allegedly told a victim who complained, "If you want to keep talking, we can make sure some dope or guns appear."

Attorney Joseph Roddy, representing Hopkins, said outside the courtroom his client "didn't play any role in any of the crimes."

The arrests are part of a corruption investigation conducted by police and the Cook County state's attorney's office, police spokeswoman Monique Bond said.

Pressure on the department to deal with corruption allegations has intensified. Besides the charges against officers, special prosecutors released a report in July claiming officers under former Chicago Police Lt. Jon Burge tortured suspects in the 1980s.

Chicago police officials have acknowledged there have been problems in the past. But they say they are intensifying efforts to root out corruption before it starts.

NIU professor charged in fight with another professor

DEKALB – An argument between two Northern Illinois University professors turned violent when one allegedly hit the other in the head with a metal bar, police said.

The incident occurred Monday at about 11 a.m. outside Associate Professor Radha Balamuralikrishna's office in Still Hall, where the school's technology department is located, police said.

During the argument, Balamuralikrishna allegedly grabbed a small aluminum bar and struck the other professor on the head, causing a cut that required several stitches to close, said Lt. Matt Kiederlen of the school's police department.

The other professor, whom police would not identify, was taken to Kishwaukee Community Hospital, where he was treated and released.

"The two professors were having a discussion and apparently one of them didn't like what the other said," Kiederlen told the Chicago Tribune.

Police arrived a short time after the incident and arrested Balamuralikrishna, 44. He's been charged with three felony counts of aggravated battery.

Kiederlen said there have been other arguments between professors.

"But this is very, very, very rare," he said.

The DeKalb County State's Attorney's office did not immediately return a call from The Associated Press Tuesday.

Judge: jury can convict mom of lesser charge in drowning

DECATUR – A woman on trial for murder in the 2003 drowning deaths of her three children could be convicted of child endangerment instead, a judge ruled Tuesday.

Judge Stephen H. Peters approved a bid by Amanda Hamm's attorney to add the lesser charge of endangering the life or health of a child, which carries a sentence ranging from probation to up to 20 years in prison, when the case goes to the jury on Wednesday.

Hamm, 30, is charged with nine counts of first-degree murder in the deaths of her children, Christopher Hamm, 6, Austin Brown, 3, and Kyleigh Hamm, 23 months.

The children died after Hamm's car sank at a Clinton Lake boat ramp on Sept. 2, 2003.

She could be sentenced to life in prison if convicted of first-degree murder.

Peters asked Hamm if she understood adding the new charge could mean she might not go free if the jury acquits her of murder. "Yes, sir," she answered.

Prosecutors allege Hamm and former boyfriend Maurice LaGrone planned the drownings because the children were in the way of their relationship.

Hamm and LaGrone have maintained the deaths were a tragic accident that occurred after LaGrone parked the car too close to the water during a family outing.

LaGrone, 31, was convicted of first-degree murder in the children's deaths last April and is serving life in prison without parole.

Peters rejected a bid to give jurors the option of involuntary manslaughter in LaGrone's case, saying there was no evidence LaGrone acted recklessly, a requirement for an involuntary manslaughter charge.

State Judge faces judicial misconduct complaint

SPRINGFIELD – A central Illinois judge faces a judicial misconduct complaint for allegedly having inappropriate contact with two women involved in family court disputes he was overseeing.

The state Judicial Inquiry Board filed the complaint Tuesday with the Illinois Courts Commission against Logan County Associate Judge Donald A. Behle.

The complaint accuses Behle of misconduct for dating a woman in 2003 while he presided over her divorce and child custody case.

Behle allegedly ordered the employer of the woman's ex-husband to withhold child support payments from his paycheck and did not recuse himself from the case until almost two years later, according to the complaint.

Behle also allegedly had inappropriate personal contact in 2005 with a woman who testified in her sister's child custody case, which he was overseeing. Behle did not recuse himself from the case until nearly two months after he awarded temporary custody of the children to the woman's sister.

Sean Burke, a lawyer for the inquiry board, said the investigation was confidential and he could not identify the women involved or say how the board learned of the alleged misconduct.

The complaint contends Behle violated several judicial rules, including those requiring judges to observe high standards of conduct and barring judges from allowing family or social relationships to influence their judgment.

Lawyers for Behle did not immediately return phone messages left at their offices seeking comment Tuesday afternoon.

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World powers progress, fail to agree on Iran

The Associated Press

PARIS – Six world powers made "substantive progress" but failed to reach an accord on a U.N. resolution to punish Iran for defying U.N. demands to halt its nuclear program, the French Foreign Ministry said after talks in Paris Tuesday.

Tehran made a new threat of retaliation if the powers opted for sanctions.

"We made substantive progress on the scope of the sanctions targeting proliferation-sensitive activities. There remain several outstanding issues, upon which we will reflect over the coming days," the French ministry said in a statement. "We are now close to a conclusion of this process."

FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTRY | STATEMENT

"We made substantive progress... We are now close to a conclusion of this process."

The talks brought together diplomats from the United States, Britain, China, France and Russia _ the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council _ as well as Germany and a representative of EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana.

The United States and France were hoping the Paris talks would secure agreement on sanctions against Iran. But Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said earlier that imposing wide-ranging sanctions would be "irresponsible."

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad vowed Tuesday to stick by the nuclear program and issued a new threat to downgrade relations with the 25-nation EU if European negotiators opted for tough U.N. sanctions. He gave no details on how ties might be downgraded. The EU is Iran's biggest trading partner.

The Security Council has been at odds over how to deal with Iran's defiance of an Aug. 31 U.N. deadline to halt uranium enrichment. Western powers accuse Iran of seeking nuclear bombs, while Tehran insists it only wants nuclear energy.

The Europeans and Americans want tough sanctions; Russia and China have pushed for dialogue, despite the failure of an EU effort to bring the Iranians to the negotiating table.

» Word

FROM PAGE 1

President Lou Hencken's contract expires June 1.

"(Hairston) had a pretty good idea of what Eastern is all about and what kind of person we think would make a good president to follow president Hencken," Webb said when she developed the profile.

It reads, "The University seeks an experienced, collaborative, outgoing leader whose resourcefulness, vision and engagement will move Eastern Illinois University forward for years to come."

The six-page document provides information about the university's location, history, programs, budget, faculty and more for interested applicants. It also describes attractions and opportunities for the next president, as well as the desired characteristics and expectations for Eastern's next leader.

ROBERT WEBB | PSAC CHAIR

"All members of the committee will be doing their own ranking."

All applications will be submitted electronically for the 16 voting committee members to review and rank as "yes, no or maybe."

"I'm hopeful that we get 50 applications," Webb said. "I think that would make a good, broad number of candidates to give us a good choice."

The next committee meeting will take place Jan. 31 when members will narrow the pool down to 15 applicants.

"All members of the committee will be doing their own ranking and hopefully we'll have quit a bit of agreement," Webb said. "That's the next big step."

Once the top 15 are chosen, committee members will divide the applicants to do reference checks.

"There ought to be one or more in the group of 50 applicants who could match our profile or meet most of the objectives that we set," Webb said.

Eastern is setting up a Web site with information about the presidential search to keep both applicants and the campus and community informed of how the search is progressing.

Jill Nilsen, PSAC member and vice president for external relations, said the link is expected to be on Eastern's homepage sometime this week.

» Beats

FROM PAGE 1

"We say we want to take over the world with poetry," Sutton said.

Although Andy Ho, cultural arts for University Board, did not book the Mayhem Poets, he is glad the group is coming to Eastern.

"Poetry is an art," Ho said.

"There are students I have seen at open mic nights that are interested in poetry."

Ho has seen clips of the Mayhem Poets and likes how the act seems improvised. He also said that it is possible that students might get involved.

The Mayhem Poets perform for all age groups and adjust the topics in its poetry to fit the geared audience.

"Our motto is we perform from prisons to playgrounds," Sutton said.

For a college audience, the Mayhem Poets include topics on romance, diversity, sexuality, post-college atmospheres and political issues.

"It has edgier themes," Sutton said.

The group sometimes includes poetry about the places they visit.

Sutton likes because he learns about the places he visits.

"It adds to the growth as an artist," he said.

Sutton likes traveling and enjoys being on the road with the group.

"I love traveling," he said. "I like the hotel beds better than my beds."

More information on the Mayhem Poets can be found at its Web site www.myspace.com/mayhempoets.

The group has a CD called "Reverse Birth" that is scheduled to be released in February 2007.

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» French

FROM PAGE 12

With this contract for the match against Aoki, French will have one more fight next year, which he hopes will be in May after classes are over. He hopes to win the fight in order to possibly be offered another contract.

Head coach Ralph McCausland thinks this is a great opportunity for him to continue fighting.

"There is no professional avenue for these guys," McCausland said. "For instance, with Matt Hughes, we talked about training for the Olympics."

Hughes, a 1992 graduate of Eastern, is currently the unanimous No. 1 welterweight in the MMA and is UFC champion.

Along with Hughes and himself, Clayton sees many more wrestlers in the future going to the MMA to continue fighting after college.

He thinks the two wrestlers right now who might go are senior 165-pounder Kevin Knabjian and freshman heavyweight Joe Trinka.

"That's all I want to do for a living is fight, and I know Kevin does to," French said. "We got a number of fighters on campus we train with. Kevin Knabjian, Chase Beebe, Derrick Noble. He's a grad assistant weight coach. He's a UFC veteran. Last year he fought in the UFC about this time."

Another reason for getting into MMA was his brother, Michael French, Clayton said.

"He started fighting in 2002, so I was wrestling here and he was fighting," Clayton said. "It looked fun."

Their father, Mark French, agreed that Michael's fighting influenced Clayton to fight.

"Michael, his older brother, got to be an ultimate fighter," Mark said. "He saw that his brother was getting good money out of it, so Clay took up the profession."

Michael is not surprised with Clayton's decision to continue fighting.

"He's wrestled his whole life," Michael said. "It's just another one-on-one sport and that's what he wants to do."

Michael has been helping him train throughout their lives. Currently, he mostly helps him with stand-up fighting moves, and Clayton shows him more wrestling moves.

Clayton thinks that wrestling is one of the most important parts of MMA to master.

"It's just my opinion, but it allows you to go where the fight goes," he said. "If you're fighting someone superior in stand up, take them down; and vice-versa if he has a good ground game."

Clayton's next major event will be Jan. 19, as he fights against Mac Danzig for the 'King of the Cage' title in Rockford.

Clayton said if he beats Danzig, he will be a legitimate contender in the MMA. Danzig currently only has two losses and a tie.

Clayton also thinks UFC might offer him a contract deal with a win at King of the Cage.

"They're going to offer me something," he said. "I got to win first. The guy I'm fighting is pretty good. Maybe like a four-fight deal with them if I win, because I'll be the champ. It's for the title 'King of the Cage' and it's a pretty big organization."

MARK FRENCH | CLAYTON'S FATHER

"Michael, his older brother, got to be an ultimate fighter. He saw that his brother was getting good money out of it, so Clay took up the profession."

FACTS ON FRENCH

» *Graduate assistant, assistant wrestling coach and MMA competitor Clayton French*

» **Record:** 8-2 (loss by armbar submission to Justin James and flying triangle choke submission to Shinya Aoki)

» **Age:** 26

» **Height:** 5-foot-6

» **Weight Class:** 155-160

» **Professional competition:** Three years

» **Wrestling since:** 8 years old

» **Eastern Stats:** Wrestled five years, graduate assistant three years

» **Favorite Fighter:** Matt Hughes

» **Next Big Event:** Jan. 19, 'King of the Cage', Rockford, against Mac Danzig

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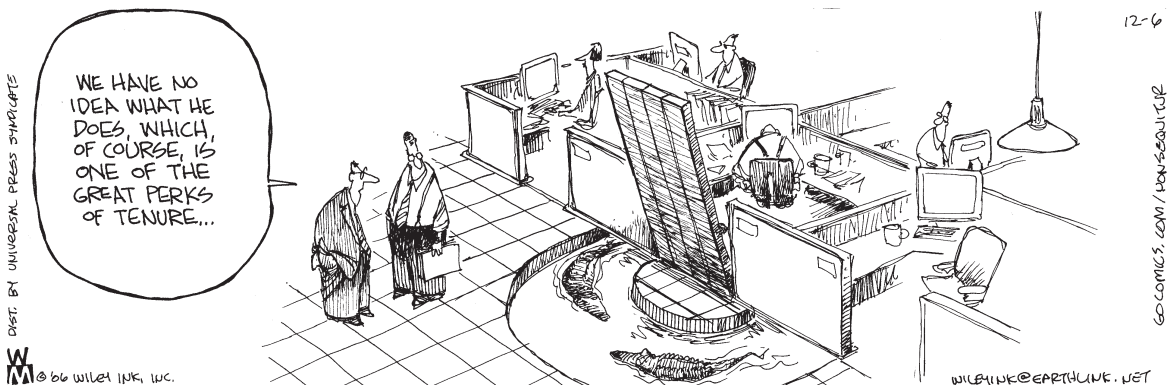

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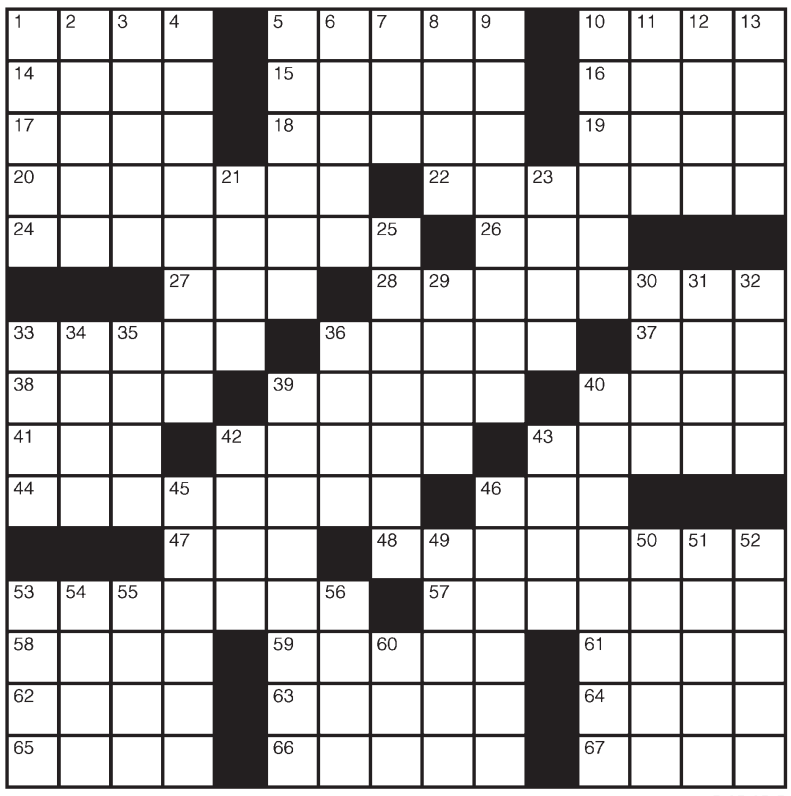

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12/6/06

ACROSS
1 Table seasoning
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15 Singer Fisher
16 __-Ude, Russia
17 Start of a motive?
18 Rides air currents
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27 Tolkien creature
28 Cabana site
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37 Atlantic food fish
38 Escapes
39 Loudness units
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41 Kimono holder
42 Males only affairs
43 Showy bloom
44 Body shop quote
46 Male heir
47 Instant lawn
48 Chosen one
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58 Mystique
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63 Intended
64 Well-known cartel
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66 Uses emery
67 Bivouac shelter

DOWN
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2 Baked brick
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10 Havana natives
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12 Remove a peel
13 Conclusions
21 Delicate color
23 "The __ of Genji"
25 Moochers
29 Underground assets
30 God's reproduction
31 Puts on
32 Tense
33 Burn ointment
34 Scientists' offices
35 Send out
36 Gravy server
39 Football milieus
40 Round Table knight
42 Polluted fog
43 Wordsworth or Tennyson
45 Middle Eastern country
46 Inclines
49 Large African antelope
50 Nonsense
51 Consumed
52 Vote for
53 Fish-landing tool
54 Currency introduced in 1999
55 Cookie treat
56 Kind of rug
60 Prohibit

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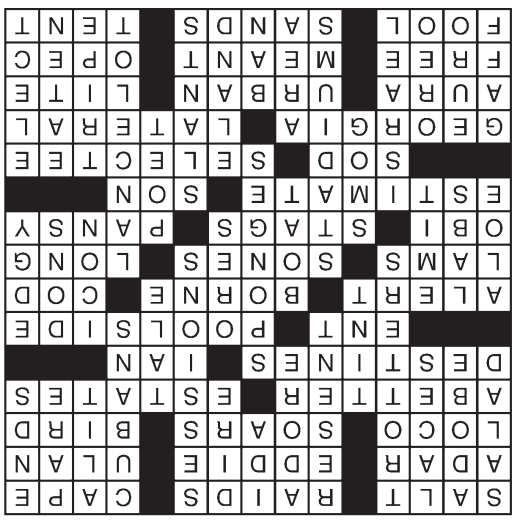

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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL | NOTEBOOK

Panthers limit opponents' shooting

By Joe Waltasti
Staff Reporter

After back-to-back 100-point games by Eastern opponents, the Panthers' defense improved drastically at the State Farm Tiger Classic in Columbia, Mo.

"It was a pretty enlightening weekend," said head coach Brady Sallee. "We showed that we are very capable of holding teams in the 30s shooting-percentage wise."

Alabama A&M shot 39 percent in Saturday's 67-66 loss, and Creighton was limited to 32 percent in a 81-71 victory Sunday evening.

While the defense stepped up its play in both games, head coach Brady Sallee said his team's overall play in the two games were "polar opposites."

"The first game we were lethargic and we lost by one (point) to a team we all feel like we should have beat," Sallee said. "The next day was 100 percent different and we put it on a solid Missouri Valley (Conference) team."

With it's defensive improvement, the Panthers lowered their points allowed average almost six percentage points, from 89 before the tournament to 83.2 after.

Galligan earns OVC award

Sophomore forward Rachel Galligan was named the Ohio Valley Conference's player of the week for her efforts in the Panthers' three games last week. Galligan turned in three straight 20-plus point performances and averaged six rebounds in those three games. Her best game came against Creighton on Sunday with a career-high 27 points to go with nine rebounds and nine of 10 shooting from the free throw line.

Ellen Canale

Galligan is now leading the OVC in scoring average, with 19.6 points per game.

Galligan made 17 of 18 free throws in the two tournament games and went 10 of 13 from the charity stripe against ISU. The last Eastern player to earn OVC player of the week honors was Megan Sparks early last season.

Line-up change

Ellen Canale's first game for the Panthers this season was against Indiana State on Nov. 21. After coming off the bench again against Illinois State, Canale was reinserted to the starting line-up against Alabama A&M and Creighton. The 5-foot-9 guard started all 29 games last season for Eastern as a freshman. Sallee pulled forward Meagan Scaggs from the starting line-up to make room for Canale.

The move has the Panthers using a four-guard line-up that includes fellow guards Jessica Huffman, Ashley Thomas and Meggie Eck. Galligan is the lone forward and the only starter more than 6-feet tall. The Panthers' small line-up could be an issue against Tennessee Tech. The Golden Eagles start two 5-foot-10 guards in addition to their post players.

One more road trip

The Panthers took part in the State Farm Tiger Classic not only to improve their play in Sallee's new offense but also to get another road trip under their belts. The Panthers open up their Ohio Valley Conference season Thursday night with a six-hour trip to Cookeville, Tenn., to play the Golden Eagles of Tennessee Tech.

Sallee said it was important for his team to gain experience playing in games on the road and in large arenas.

"It makes teams tougher, going out to battle on the road," Sallee said.

Eastern played both their games last weekend in the Mizzou Arena, which has a capacity of 15,061. The team has prepared for the beginning of the conference season by playing in larger capacity arenas because, while not as large as the Mizzou Arena, the majority of OVC schools do have larger facilities than Eastern's 5,300-seat Lantz Arena.

Tennessee Tech's Hooper Eblen Center has a seating capacity of 10,152.

» Murphy

FROM PAGE 12

It only gave the score. I was excited to learn the Panthers led 14-2 only to find out 15 minutes later, their lead was trimmed 14-10.

NCAAsports.com showed Eastern led 35-24 with 3 minutes and 20 seconds left in the first half. Yahoo Sports said the Panthers lead 43-27 at the break at 6:11 p.m. Really consistent, right?

"It used to be just big games covered, other than a box score," said Eastern head coach Brady Sallee about the print media.

The Missouri tournament had live updates for the previous game between Missouri and Alabama A&M.

Fans were able to listen to the women's basketball on WEIU 88.9 FM.

The radio station deserves credit covering the majority of Eastern women's basketball games. Ben Turner deserves credit for traveling with the team and announcing all home and away games.

The coverage became more consistent in the second half. NCAA Sports, Yahoo Sports and espn.com reported Eastern leading 60-43 with 11:05 remaining.

"Our challenge has to be where we have to get our game to a point where we're what people want to read about it," Sallee said.

Apparently the Eastern women's basketball game was not important enough for the espn.com to have consistent coverage and updated scoreboard.

One could follow a men's basketball game and not have the same coverage. The coverage of men's and women's sports in general vary with more media and hype focusing on the male athletic contests.

Why is that?

"I think in everybody's Utopia you would have equal coverage and balanced (of men's and women's basketball)," Sallee said. "It's made the great players that are maybe down in the South that people in the Midwest know who they are now because of TV."

At Eastern, there are plenty of resources for the Panthers including Sports Information, *The Daily Eastern News*, WEIU-TV and WEIU 88.9 FM.

The media coverage of women's basketball should improve at the national level.

A men's basketball game between Vermont (4-4) and Delaware (0-6) was constantly updated, much more consistently than any women's game.

One reason is the lack of interest in the game. According to a USA Today Poll published on Monday, 68 percent have some interest in college women's basketball. But in contrast, there is 94 percent interest in men's basketball.

Who wouldn't want to watch sophomore center Rachel Galligan score twenty points a game or senior guard Meggie Eck add to her 75 career 3-pointers at Eastern?

I would.

2006-07 Ohio Valley Conference Women's Basketball Preview

2006 OVC Final Standings
(Final Conference Records)

Tennessee-Martin 10th (6-14)

Eastern Illinois 8th (9-11)

Jacksonville State 6th (9-11)

Austin Peay 4th (12-8)

Southeast Missouri 2nd (16-4)

Tennessee Tech 1st (16-4)

Samford 3rd (15-5)

Morehead State 5th (11-9)

Murray State 7th (9-11)

Eastern Kentucky 9th (7-13)

Tennessee State 11th (0-20)

A Tall Order

OVC teams look post players for success

By Marc Correnti
Staff Reporter

When it comes to the Ohio Valley Conference, one cliche holds true: size does matter.

It's no coincidence that when the OVC preseason rankings came out, the top three teams – Samford, Morehead State and Murray State – feature playmaking guards with a dominant post player.

It's an OVC trend that has continued for years. It's no secret that in order to get to Nashville, Tenn., for the OVC Tournament, those teams must have someone that can control the paint.

In order to leave Nashville and go to the NCAA Tournament, that team is likely to be the team that can count on its dominant center to carry them through the tough games.

When describing the impact a dominant post player can have on the OVC, leave it to Murray State head coach Joi Felton to sum it up.

"It's huge," she said. "When you have a dominant post player, you wanna run your offense through her."

2007 PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH
(First place votes)

1 .Samford (12)	189
2. Morehead State (3)	158
3. Murray State (3)	154
4. Tennessee Tech (4)	152
5. Southeast Missouri	125
6. **Eastern Illinois**	**116**
7. Eastern Kentucky	87
8. Austin Peay	79
9. Tennessee-Martin	68
10. Jacksonville State	61
11. Tennessee State	21

The Racers won't have any problem running their offense this season, as they feature the OVC Preseason Player of the Year, Joi Scott.

The 6-foot senior averaged 20.3 points and 8.6 rebounds per game last season for Murray State.

It would prove wise for the Racers to use Scott as much as possible.

Nine of the last 10 winners of the OVC Player of the year have been taller than 6 feet.

It also coincides with the OVC Tournament champions, especially last season when Southeast Missouri and Tennessee Tech featured two of the most dominant post players in the league in 6-2 Tatiana Conceicao and 6-1 Emily Christian.

It's a fact that hasn't gone unnoticed by new Tennessee Tech head coach Amy Brown.

"When Emily (Christian) left, we kind of had to reconstruct our offense," Brown said. "Everything was based on her play. Now, we have to find different scoring options."

Tennessee Tech is one of the many teams in the OVC that prefers its post players play on the low block.

That's not the case for conference favorite Samford, who features 6-0 Alex Munday. While Munday will play in the paint, her role in Samford's Princeton-style offense is to constantly move and cut without fear of taking a jump shot.

She has proven to be a difficult match-up for OVC schools because of her three-point shooting (38 percent last season).

"Her versatility is what makes her so special," said Samford head coach Mike Morris. "She can handle the ball, has some perimeter skills. If your center is forced to defend her 20 feet from the basket, then it's in our favor."

The strenuous process of getting players like Munday, Scott and Morehead State's LaKrisha Brown to come to OVC schools involves intense recruiting and a little bit of luck.

Instead of being recruited out of high school, Scott (Northern Illinois) and Brown (St. Louis University) arrived via the transfer route.

"I think transfers can be real pivotal," said Morehead State head coach Matthew Mitchell.

Before coming to Morehead State, Mitchell was an assistant coach at Tennessee, Kentucky and Florida, three Southeastern Conference schools rich with post players.

With SEC and other major-conference schools having a surplus of post players, there tends to be unhappiness among the ones that sit on the bench.

That's where the OVC comes in.

"When I was in the SEC, we had a physical requirement of 6-3, 6-4," Mitchell said. "I think it's very hard to get that in OVC. When a team has that, it's obvious that they do very well."

Many of the OVC coaches argue that, while size is important, having a 6-3 player with no skills or ability is basically a wasted scholarship. A scholarship they would rather spend on a talented guard.

"Having size doesn't necessarily put you in Nashville," said Tennessee-Martin head coach Tara Tansil. "There are a lot of stiffs out there with size as their only attribute. To recruit someone just because they're big is a mistake. They have to have talent."

Not only talent, but also a supporting cast.

Tansil can relate to that issue, as her Skyhawks feature Andreika Jackson but little help in the backcourt.

It's something that Eastern Illinois has looked to improve upon. With sophomore center Rachel Galligan requiring more double teams each game, the Panthers will look to their guards to help spread the floor and create options.

The best way to make a dominant post player better is to have a playmaking point guard.

It's something the Panthers aren't short of on freshman Jessica Huffman off to a hot start in non-conference play.

"Everyone is trying to jump on getting the Rachel Galligans, Joi Scotts and LaKrisha Browns," said Eastern head coach Brady Sallee. "But you need guards that can get them the ball and help alleviate some of the scoring load."

With the amount of post players that graduated last year and the extra year of experience from Galligan, Sallee is hoping his Panthers can make the transition from also-ran to contender.

"This is a good time for us," Sallee said. "We've got the post player and some good young talent. We've got a great opportunity."

COURTESY OF SAMFORD SPORTS INFORMATION

Samford's forward Alex Munday has scored 10.7 points per game and averaged 4.9 rebounds per game this season.

COURTESY OF MURRAY STATE SPORTS INFORMATION

Murray State forward Joi Scott has scored 16.7 points per game and averaged 9.5 rebounds per game this season.

SPORTS

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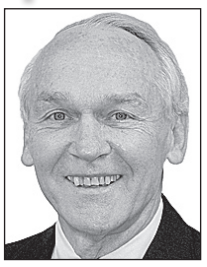
triplethreat



Eastern announced last week head football coach Bob Spoo (above) will return and coach next season. Spoo missed the entire season because of a medical procedure.

In Spoo's place this season, assistant head coach Mark Hutson led Eastern to an 8-5 record, a conference co-championship and a berth in the Division I-AA playoffs. Though it is rare, here are three other assistants who have filled in on an interim basis with varying degrees of success.

1. Pete Gaudet, Duke, 1995 – Mike Krzyzewski handed the Blue Devils reigns because of a back injury to his top assistant. Gaudet and Duke performed poorly, with Duke finishing 2-14 in the ACC a year after making the NCAA Title game.

2. Sean Sutton, Oklahoma State, 2005 – Sean took over in a less-than-ideal situation. His father, Eddie, the head coach at OSU since 1990, took a leave of absence after being arrested for driving under the influence last February.

3. Joe Vitt, St. Louis Rams, 2005 – After head coach Mike Martz left because of a heart condition last October, Vitt was the grand marshal of this circus. In place of Martz, Vitt led the Rams to a 4-7 record and was eventually fired, along with the rest of Martz's staff at the end of the year.

–Matt Daniels

KEVIN MURPHY | RUNNING WITH THE PACK

Women vs. men in the media

While sitting in the newsroom and cruising the Internet, I searched for an updated box score or a live game update of Sunday's women's basketball game Eastern and Creighton.

To my avail, there were few resources available.

When one goes searching for a live score for a women's basketball game, there are few places where it might be available.

I first tried Yahoo Sports and checked the scoreboard.

Live updates of ranked teams were abound as well as recaps of ranked teams games, but overall the quality was horrendous.

If a student from Eastern wanted to follow their school, it would be extremely difficult.

The Panthers-Bluejays box score was frustrating. There was no box score option available.

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FOOTBALL | BOB SPOO

Head coach looks forward to next season

By Marco Santana
Associate Sports Editor

Bob Spoo doesn't like to hear the "R" word.

Well, at least he doesn't like to hear the one that is usually reserved for teams that are losing a large group of seniors.

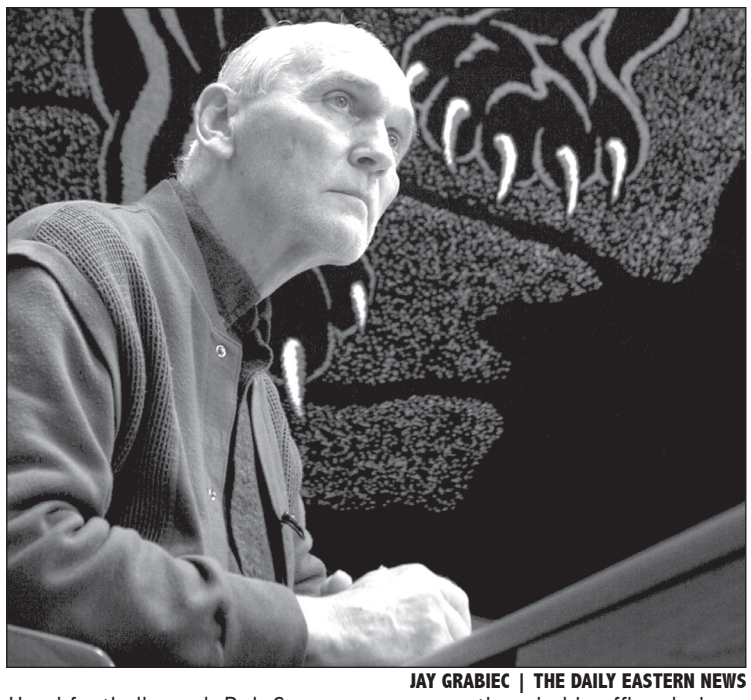
"I don't want this year to be a rebuilding year," said Eastern's head coach during his end-of-year press conference Tuesday. "I want this to be a year when we reload and get after it again."

The Panthers have four wide receivers, three offensive linemen and four defensive backs graduating after finishing the season 8-5, including their second consecutive first-round playoff exit.

Although Spoo said he was hoping to go deeper in the playoffs, he still praised the coaching staff, which had to deal with more off-the-field issues than Spoo is used to.

"It's been the most unusual season I've ever been through," he said. "I'm extremely proud of my coaching staff, the way they handle things."

The negative events began before the regular season even began. In late August, the Panthers announced Spoo would miss four to six weeks after undergoing surgery for a still undisclosed medical reason.



JAY GRABIEC | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Head football coach Bob Spoo answers questions in his office during a press conference Tuesday afternoon.

It was announced at the time that assistant head coach Mark Hutson would take over the head-coaching duties. Spoo's illness was often the target of speculation but he said his health continues to improve.

"I'm feeling better every day," he said. "I'm glad to be back in the swing of things, particularly at this time of the year."

When Eastern finally made it onto the field, it didn't take long for things to look even bleaker. Linebacker and Buck Buchanan Award candidate Clint Sellers injured his left shoulder on the season's opening kickoff against Illinois on Sept. 2.

"It was one of the great tragedies in football," Spoo said. "There's a guy that if you want to find an individual at the top of his game and in the best of health, it just goes to show you how quickly things can happen in the game of football."

Spoo said the operation weakened him but his return to the press box for the latter part of the Panthers season helped him cope with his health.

"It was good to be just around the environment and get a feel for what was going on and be able to be with the coaches," he said. "It was something that I missed tremendously."

Even though Spoo went through health problems and missed an entire season for the first time in his 20-year career, he still said he is ready to keep on going.

"I do feel competitive," he said. "I think those juices are still running deep in me. Whether it's one year or five more years, (Eastern's administration said) I would keep going."

He said the official announcement of his return should help in the recruitment process and other schools that are recruiting against Eastern no longer have it as a tool.

But he said it probably wouldn't stop other schools from trying.

"They will continue to, I'm sure, make comments. 'Well, he's on his last legs,'" Spoo said. "I assure you I am not."

WRESTLING | CLAYTON FRENCH

JAY GRABIEC | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Graduate assistant and assistant wrestling coach Clayton French demonstrates boxing techniques during wrestling practice on Tuesday afternoon. French can competes in Mixed Martial Arts and hopes to earn an Ultimate Fighting contract soon.

Coach clashes with martial arts

Graduate assistant has chance to earn UFC contract in January

By Adam Larck
Staff Reporter

After Matt Hughes made the transition to Ultimate Fighting Champion, he developed many followers here at Eastern.

One of those followers is current graduate assistant coach Clayton French, who is trying to climb through the ranks to join the UFC.

After joining Mixed Martial Arts three years ago, French has fought in 10 matches. His last match was a month ago against Shinya Aoki in Japan at the Bushido 13 event.

"I have a manager (Monte Cox) and he called me and told me there had been a big opportunity for me," French said. "He said there had been a cancellation and one of the fighters wasn't going to fight in the show, and they needed a good fighter on short notice so there's a list and I got picked from it."

Gilbert Melendez, who was originally scheduled to fight, was forced to withdraw because of injury.

French only had four days notice on this match, so he made a quick game plan and stuck with it.

Aoki, who went to the lightweight division in August, is one of the top in jujitsu, according to French. That is also one of his own strong points, he said.

"I tried to keep him standing, and in that part I did a good job, he couldn't take me down," he said. "I was making him pay with some shots. But in the end I got hit with a flying triangle, so by the time I hit the ground I was already in the submission. I fought out of it for a while but in the end I had to tap out."

The flying triangle choke is a submission move seen often in the MMA, and used by Aoki to win two matches. It is where the fighter locks his opponent's head and arm between his legs in a triangle.

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