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Eastern Illinois University

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Panthers' last dance

Mens' and womens' basketball teams drop first round OVC tournament games.

Page 12 SPORTS

Students will travel, relax over break

By Kate Henderson
STAFF WRITER

During their week of spring break, students will travel to all corners of the United States and even other countries.

"Spring break is different for everyone," said Marquis Gilmore, a junior speech communication major. "It just depends on who you are and what you like to do."

Some students are ready to party, while others just want to relax and enjoy their time off.

"The partying part is cool and all, but I don't like to be around a lot of people," Gilmore said.

Gilmore plans to make the 11-hour drive to Alabama to visit his mom, relax, then travel to Atlanta to "kick it" with some friends.

Other students, however, are ready for adventure. Junior English major Elizabeth Janssen is ready to take on the challenges of rafting the Rio Grande River in Texas. She said the cost was only \$300 for her and a friend to camp and raft during the week.

The popular choice for break this year appears to be cruises, said Jennifer Carver of Arrow Travel, located on 620 W. Lincoln Ave. in Charleston.

"We have booked two Caribbean cruises for large groups," Carver said. "A four-day, all-inclusive cruise runs around \$600 per person including meals and airfares."

Carver said other popular destinations are Cancun, Mexico and South Padre Island, Texas; both spots are gaining their reputation by word-of-mouth. Arrow quoted a seven-day all-inclusive trip to Cancun at \$800, which includes airfare and hotel stay.

South Padre Island is less expensive, especially if students travel by land.

Only \$370 and gas money will get students there. That cost covers the hotel room for one person.

Beverly Pearson, a travel agent at All Around Travel, and Monique McDevitt of Effingham Travel Agency, said a week's stay in Cancun will run around \$1,000, if the hotel accepts students.

Both agencies said there are tough restrictions on age limits acceptable for hotel check-in.

SEE BREAK ♦ Page 7



STEPHEN HAAS/ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR

Eastern saves \$250,000 per year on utility costs with energy efficient lights, such as the one pictured above, that turn off when a room is not in use.

Eastern named a top energy saver

By Laura Palella
STAFF WRITER

Eastern's recent \$1.1 million campus-wide lighting upgrade saves the university \$250,000 a year on utility costs, said Power Boosters, an organization that promotes energy conservation.

The Safe Energy Communication Council, based in Washington, released a study last week of 22 Illinois businesses and organizations saving money and improving productivity by using energy more efficiently.

The lighting upgrade was part of a major infrastructure improvement program launched in October 2001 that also upgraded heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems and water systems, a Power Boosters release said.

"The main benefit of this program is saving energy," said Mark Hudson,

director of housing and dining. "There will be no tuition raise and in the future the money will allow the university to not increase room and board and speed up other base plans."

The release said Energy Investments, LLC, an Illinois-based services company, conducted the lighting portion of the upgrade. The project involved more than 1.5 million square feet of space in 30 university buildings, including residence halls, classrooms, dining halls, laboratories, offices, gymnasiums and other public spaces.

"The project is benefiting Eastern by standardizing the previously outdated lighting throughout the campus, simplifying future maintenance and inventory requirements," said Tim McKenna, Energy Investments president in a press release.

The work was done while school was

in session, requiring Energy Investments to upgrade classrooms and public spaces at night and residence halls after 9 a.m. each day.

Completed in August 2002, the project is expected to reduce electricity use by 3.7 million kilowatts per hour annually and reduce energy costs by \$250,000 to \$300,000 per year.

Based on the \$1.1 million cost of the lighting upgrade, the project will pay for itself in 3 to 4 years and will produce an annual return on investments to Eastern of 25 to 35 percent.

"The upgrade reduces our deferred maintenance needs and the savings generated by the project assure us the funds to support future repairs, allowing the university to reallocate resources to other priorities," utilities manager Gary Reed said previously.

Faculty Senate discusses amendment vote

♦ Members voice concern over change to chairs' involvement in councils

By John Chambers
ADMINISTRATION EDITOR

The Faculty Senate Tuesday voted to send two constitutional amendment revisions to interim President Lou Hencken for review without taking a position on either.

The senate held an election last week for tenure, tenure-track faculty and department chairs to vote on one amendment to change constitutional wording on university council membership, and a second to not allow department chairs to serve on senate and other major councils.

The first amendment passed by a vote of 34-17 and the second by 26-25.

The senate normally does not entertain discussion whether or not to ratify the vote before the president reviews the changes, and was not prepared for discussion Tuesday, said senate chair Anne Zahlan.

A motion was initially proposed to send the president a recommendation of the first amendment and a suggestion not to approve

the second regarding chairs.

"The senate as I understand has never recommended to counteract the vote of the faculty ... this is not the standard," Zahlan said.

A senate motion not suggesting to approve one amendment would undermine the election process, said senate member and English instructor David Carpenter.

"I find this outrageous," he said. "The people that went over to vote took the time to do that."

Physics professor and senate member Doug Brandt initially suggested not endorsing the second amendment because of impressions the senate was unclear about how it would affect chairs, especially acting chairs.

If approved by Hencken, the amendment will allow chairs to still vote for candidates to the senate and university councils.

"I don't think the amendment carries the will of the senate ... the amendment as we submitted it was ill-poised," Brandt said. "If we don't at least send this to the president, we may have a problem with holding elections."

More inside

♦ Faculty Senate discusses a testing proposal and IBHE proposal.
Page 3

"The senate as I understand has never recommended to counteract the vote of the faculty ... this is not the standard."

—Anne Zahlan

Faculty elections are March 25 and 26, and senate supervises membership selected for university committees filled by elected members. All the councils, except for the Council on Academic Affairs, are in the practice of specifying membership from specific colleges instead of at large.

The first amendment removed the wording "at large" and added "any elective council may limit particular seats and the electorate for those seats to faculty from particular academic units to ensure balanced representation."

Hencken will now see a motion basically reporting only the results of last week's faculty vote.

Essay contest deadline today

Today is the final deadline for all entries for *The Daily Eastern News'* African-American Heritage Celebration 2003 essay contest.

The deadline to submit essays is 3 p.m.

Prizes, including free movie rentals and food certificates from area businesses, will be awarded, and the top three essays will be published in *The Daily Eastern News* after spring break.

Interested students should submit an essay that correlates with the theme "The Ties that Bind: Culture and Heritage."

Essays should be between 500 and 600 words and can be turned in to Buzzard Hall Room 1811. Submissions also can be e-mailed to majones@etu.edu.

Three faculty members from separate departments will judge the entries.

Today
Snow showers
21° 10°
HIGH LOW

Thursday
Partly cloudy
42° 31°
HIGH LOW

Friday
Mostly cloudy
53° 32°
HIGH LOW

Saturday
Mostly cloudy
46° 21°
HIGH LOW

Sunday
Partly cloudy
29° 17°
HIGH LOW

Monday
Snow showers
31° 31°
HIGH LOW

Tuesday
Showers
43° 28°
HIGH LOW

Annual fair will showcase health

By Jennifer Chiariello
ACTIVITIES EDITOR

A variety of organizations related to health needs will present health information as well as employment and volunteer opportunities at Eastern's annual Health Fair.

"We've attracted over 55 organizations ranging from student groups, Recognized Student Organizations, on-campus departments and organizations, local community service organizations as well as a few state and national groups," said Eric Davidson, assistant director of health services.

Davidson said the groups do many things including providing factual information on a variety of services offered, while others involve fairgoers directly.

"Some (organizations) have interactive activities for partici-

pants to engage in such as active games and quizzes. Others have physical health assessments and screenings," Davidson said.

Plenty of nutrition, mentoring, substance abuse, sexual health and stress management information will be available at the fair, Davidson said.

"The event has been coordinated and planned by a student committee which has been meeting since late September," Davidson said.

The annual fair has been at Eastern since 1997, when Health Services provided services for the event, Davidson said.

Boxa is sponsoring the event and will provide free food during the middle of the day, Davidson said. Jitters and Bliss will also provide herbal teas.

The Health Fair will be held free of admission from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. today in the Student Recreation Center.

Roundtable on teaching techniques set for today

By Jennifer Chiariello
ACTIVITIES EDITOR

A "Talking About Teaching" round-table discussion will examine a variety of teaching techniques and strategies.

The round-table discussion will consist of four discussion groups, said Bonnie Irwin, English professor and member of the Faculty Development Steering Committee.

A discussion on "Critical Thinking" will examine ways to improve critical thinking in classrooms, Irwin said. "Student Engagement" will discuss ways to get students excited about learning and get interested in the process. "Small Group Learning/Assignments" will talk about using different small group assignments in the classroom. "Assignments/Testing/Problem-Based Learning and Student Engagement" will discuss different teaching strategies and examine collaborative testing and problem-based learning.

Irwin said each group will consist of four facilitators from different departments who were asked to present different questions related to the discussion table.

Participants may move from group to group as they see fit and are welcome to arrive and leave as schedules permit.

The event is organized by Eastern's Faculty Development Steering Committee.

"We, the Faculty Development Steering Committee, believe there is excellent teaching going on at Eastern, but we don't talk about it enough. The idea of this event is to share faculty expertise from across campus," Irwin said. The event is geared toward faculty, but students are welcome to attend, Irwin said.

"I'm excited about it, we are getting a very positive response," Irwin said.

The discussions will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday in the Charleston/Mattoon Room of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.



STEPHEN HAAS/ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR

Treva Anderson of the counseling center explains the signs and symptoms of grief during a workshop Tuesday evening in the Effingham Room of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

Workshop helps wipe away tears

By Ryan Fearday
STAFF WRITER

Students gathered Tuesday night to talk about the grieving process.

The "Healing From Grief and Loss" workshop, presented by Treva Anderson, a counselor at the counseling center, discussed the grieving process and how students can help themselves or support others through grief.

"I was trying to teach people what normal, healthy grieving looks like," Anderson said.

Anderson also said she wanted to teach people "how to deal with grief, and support other people who are grieving."

"Everyone's grief is unique," Anderson said. "Almost anything they are thinking and feeling is normal. People are often uncomfortable with grieving, but that doesn't mean you should ignore your feelings to make others comfortable."

Anderson said it is important to grieve because "it allows you to move on and freeze up emotional energy ... If you ignore or stuff grief, it will just come up in ways you don't want it to," Anderson said.

Students said the workshop was helpful.

Emily Brodaski, a junior family and consumer sciences major, said,

"The workshop was very informative. It was good for anyone that has a loss or someone going through a loss." Brodaski added, "The workshop would help (Anderson) lend people dealing with grief a helpful hand."

Arreona Watson, a senior family and consumer sciences major, said the workshop gave her "things to say to help with the grieving process."

Anderson went through many lists such as do's and don'ts for healthy grieving, common feelings in grief, and common behaviors in grief. Anderson also discussed things to say to people dealing with grief.

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Panel to speak on gender equity

By Jennifer Chiariello
ACTIVITIES EDITOR

A "Gender Equity in Athletics: Questions and Controversies" panel discussion will examine Title IX and gender equity issues in athletics.

The idea of talking about gender equity under Title IX came about because, "during this year ... there has been a national commission that's been reviewing the requirements for universities to comply with gender equity under Title IX and just gave their report to the U.S. Department of Education," said Cynthia Nichols, director of the

office of civil rights and diversity.

"Although the report is not directly about Eastern, we thought it would be a good idea to talk about gender equity under Title IX at Eastern and in the context of the broader national debate," Nichols said.

Jonelle Depetro, associate professor of philosophy and chair of the women's history and awareness month events, said panelists will be Deb Polca, associate athletic director; Brenda Winkeler, head volleyball coach; John McInerney, women's cross country head coach and student athletes.

Polca invited three to four stu-

dent athletes from different teams to participate in the panel discussion, Nichols said.

Panelists will consider how things have changed over the years and what may be the impact of proposed revisions by the U.S. Department of Education on women's opportunities to participate in intercollegiate sports.

The Office of Civil Rights and Diversity is organizing the lecture in part with the awareness events, she said.

The discussion will begin at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday in the Rathskeller Balcony of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

POLICE BLOTTER

Theft from a motor vehicle

A case containing 20 CDs was stolen Feb. 24 from a 1999 Honda while it was parked in the W lot, police reports stated. The incident is under investigation.

Illegal consumption of alcohol

Joseph Leo Gerardi, 18, of 299 Yarmouth St. in Elk Grove Village, was arrested Saturday on charges of illegal consumption of alcohol by a minor, resisting or obstructing a peace officer and on criminal trespass to

state-supported property, police reports stated.

Criminal damage to property

The rear view mirror of a 1996 Ford was damaged Sunday while it was parked in E lot, police reports stated. The incident is under investigation.

Aggravated battery

Eric Michael Mcadamis, 20, of 207 Delta Sigma Phi, was arrested at 1:35 a.m. Saturday at Greek Court on the charge of aggravated battery, police reports stated.



STEPHEN HAAS/ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR

Heavenly repairs

John Priest, electrician for the university, repairs a fire alarm fixture in the basement of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union Tuesday afternoon.

Senate discusses IBHE motion

By John Chambers
ADMINISTRATION EDITOR

The Faculty Senate agreed in support of an initiative proposed by another Eastern council Tuesday.

The Illinois Board of Higher Education advisory council is making a motion to the IBHE to add a seventh goal to what the board calls The Illinois Commitment, one of several issues discussed.

The commitment was adopted in 1999 and deals with values in Illinois education.

One goal is now being acted out with a testing pilot project fueled by the Pew Charitable Trusts. The pilot is introducing to Illinois standardized testing, similar to those given kindergarten through 12th grade, and will be in five states including Illinois. It will be optional to private and public universities.

English professor Bonnie Irwin

told the senate about the seventh goal: "The collective efforts of Illinois colleges and universities will enhance and enrich the quality of life for all Illinois citizens."

"The Illinois Commitment is a statement of the values of higher education in Illinois ... adding this goal adds another value," said associate psychology professor Steve Scher, senate member.

The council would be content with the IBHE not admitting the proposed goal into the commitment statement, "at least to get this attitude in the document ... that was the bottom line" even if it's not added as a goal, Irwin said.

The IBHE advisory council also recently discussed the existence of the Illinois Community College Board, she said.

"We had a very long conversation as to if we really need two ... boards in Illinois," she said.

Irwin said council members

questioned if it was necessary for the ICCB to have two voices, one also through the IBHE, but no recommendation was made on the issue.

Irwin, also on the university faculty development committee, told the senate the committee was working toward moving the faculty development office.

The committee has asked the office be moved from continuing education to the department of academic affairs.

The committee also previously asked for more gathering space and their own Web site, she said.

A survey will be distributed to all faculty, including non-tenured, toward the end of March on faculty needs or goals and activities to fulfill the needs.

"We are still trying to define faculty development," Irwin said. "We don't have a clear definition but we know it when we see it."

Faculty gives no position on new state testing pilot

◆ The Illinois Board of Higher Education presents testing to evaluate the first two years of college

By John Chambers
ADMINISTRATION EDITOR

A statewide testing pilot initiative is being introduced to five states including Illinois, but Faculty Senate does not have an official stance on the issue.

"We're remaining passive," said senate member and English professor David Carpenter.

The testing project was one of several topics discussed at Tuesday's senate meeting.

The senate asked English professors David Radavich and Bonnie Irwin to speak to the initiative, introduced by the Pew Charitable Trusts as optional to private and public universities.

The Illinois Board of Higher Education is pushing the pilot for testing similar to that used in kindergarten through 12th grade.

Each academic discipline is being asked to develop exams or other measures to assess what students have learned during the first two years of college and closer to graduation, according to an IBHE press release.

Radavich asked the senate not to endorse the testings project.

"There's a desire to measure student outcome ... which implies basically if you can't measure something it might not be valuable," he said. "There was a lot of concern that Eastern's mission is different (from other schools). These tests would not make a lot of discernment between that."

The pilot, designed to be an instrument developed by faculty, was discussed at the Illinois Federation of Teachers meeting last month, he said.

The testing will be a way to assess teaching and what students are learning at a time when Eastern is already going through assessment and self-study, Radavich said.

"We're undergoing our own (North Central Association) accreditation...I don't see how we could take on another assessment in addition to that," he said.

He said the electronic writing portfolio is another form of assessment at Eastern. The portfolio is a collection of submissions showing the progression of student writing over their college career.

The study also seems geared towards vocational learning, something better suited to junior colleges, Radavich said.

Black Hawk College, a community college in Moline, has

"I don't know what's really going to come out of this damn Pew project. At the moment I have no intention of volunteering the institution."

—Blair Lord, vice president of academic affairs

already advanced further toward the testing, which will lead to assessment even of teachers, he said.

"Tenure promotion is based on measurable student outcomes," he said.

If the pilot is meant to show student performance overall, Eastern might not perform as well if measured on a national level, said technology professor and senate member Mori Toosi.

He said Eastern can specialize more on a departmental level, such as in manufacturing.

Student Government representative Brice Donnelly said students might not see an incentive in the testing and not put forth effort for an assessment that won't directly affect their future.

"I just don't see how you can make students care so much about (testing)," he said.

"I'm against standardized testing, period," said sociology professor and senate member Reed Benedict.


The IBHE faculty advisory council did not reach a consensus on the testing, English professor and council member Bonnie Irwin told the senate.

"A majority of the people in the room thought this was a bad idea for a number of reasons," she said. "It's very murky right now."

The Pew Charitable Trusts proposed the pilot based on a model of a past standardized test, said Blair Lord, vice president of academic affairs Tuesday.

He questioned the possibility of measuring progress across the state and Eastern's involvement in the state.

"I don't know what's really going to come out of this damn Pew project," Lord said. "At the moment I have no intention of volunteering the institution."



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EDITORIAL

Distribute budgets fairly

The Apportionment Board has the responsibility every year of doling out budgets to five boards funded by the student activity fee.

Five boards funded by student activity fee will have to split \$462,375 for the coming year.

Four of the boards have given budget proposals thus far: the University Board, Student Government, Campus Recreation and the AB. Their proposed budgets have already gone past the allotted amount.

The last presentation will be made this week by the Dramatic Players.

After hearing these proposals, the AB has the ultimate responsibility of determining what amount each board will receive. This responsibility cannot be taken lightly.

While care is needed in deciding how much money to give each board, budgets cannot be slashed without reason.

As expected, each board thus far has asked for a budget increase.

The AB needs to look at these increases and decide if they are really needed, and even if they are really needed, all the boards will not get the amounts they want.

The UB has asked for a budget increase of about \$50,000 more than the current year's budget. The UB cited flexibility to attract larger acts as the reason for that increase.

Campus Recreation requested about \$20,000 more than its current budget and an allocation of \$25,000 per year for four years to purchase new rec equipment.

The Student Government and the AB also asked for increases but not as much as the UB and Campus Recreation.

In a perfect world with no budget crisis, all campus entities requesting budget increases would get what they want.

But Illinois is still in a budget crisis, so that ideal is not possible.

The AB needs to carefully consider the needs of each board before making the final cuts.

Each board asks for more than it can get to get as much money as possible.

While all items on the budget may be important, all boards will have to make sacrifices.

Each budget ultimately will have to be cut, and the AB needs to use wise judgment in making those cuts.

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

At issue
Extra funding request by Campus Recreation

Our stance
The AB needs to make careful considerations before distributing money to the various boards.

OPINION

Leisure time eases the mind



Matt Meinheit

Sports editor and bi-weekly columnist for *The Daily Eastern News*

Meinheit also is a sophomore journalism major.

He can be reached at 581-2812 or mmeinheit@eiu.edu

Should we go to war with Iraq? This is a profound question facing our generation. Our greatest thinkers and philosophers will ponder and contemplate what the United States should do.

And while they're thinking about that, I'll be executing a three-team trade where I ship off my sleeper draft pick to my friend Dave's brother, Dan, who sends his hot-hitting outfielder to Dave who sends one of his starting pitchers to me.

Confused yet? Allow me to explain.

Worrying about every problem facing the world for hours on end isn't good for people. Constantly worrying about a war we as individuals are too insignificant to do anything about or are to apathetic toward is futile.

Everyone needs a leisure activity that will take their minds off the troubles of the world, if not for five minutes a day. For me, that activity is fantasy baseball.

By no means should everyone drop their picket signs and register in a fantasy baseball league, but the ones who find a few minutes away from political strife to track Pedro Martinez's WHIP (Walks and Hits allowed per nine Innings Pitched — for those who don't know the incredibly nerdy language of baseball).

For everyone not acquainted

"The key to fantasy baseball is you're never out of contention until the last day of the season."

with the best daily break from the real world, here are a few pointers that will make your escape from reality more enjoyable.

No. 1: Join a league with people you know — In fantasy baseball bragging rights are always the most important thing. If you compete in a league with complete strangers, who are you going to brag to? There is no joy, no rapture, no sin greater than gloating to your closest friends and co-workers, proclaiming 'I'm king of the world' while raising the proverbial roof.

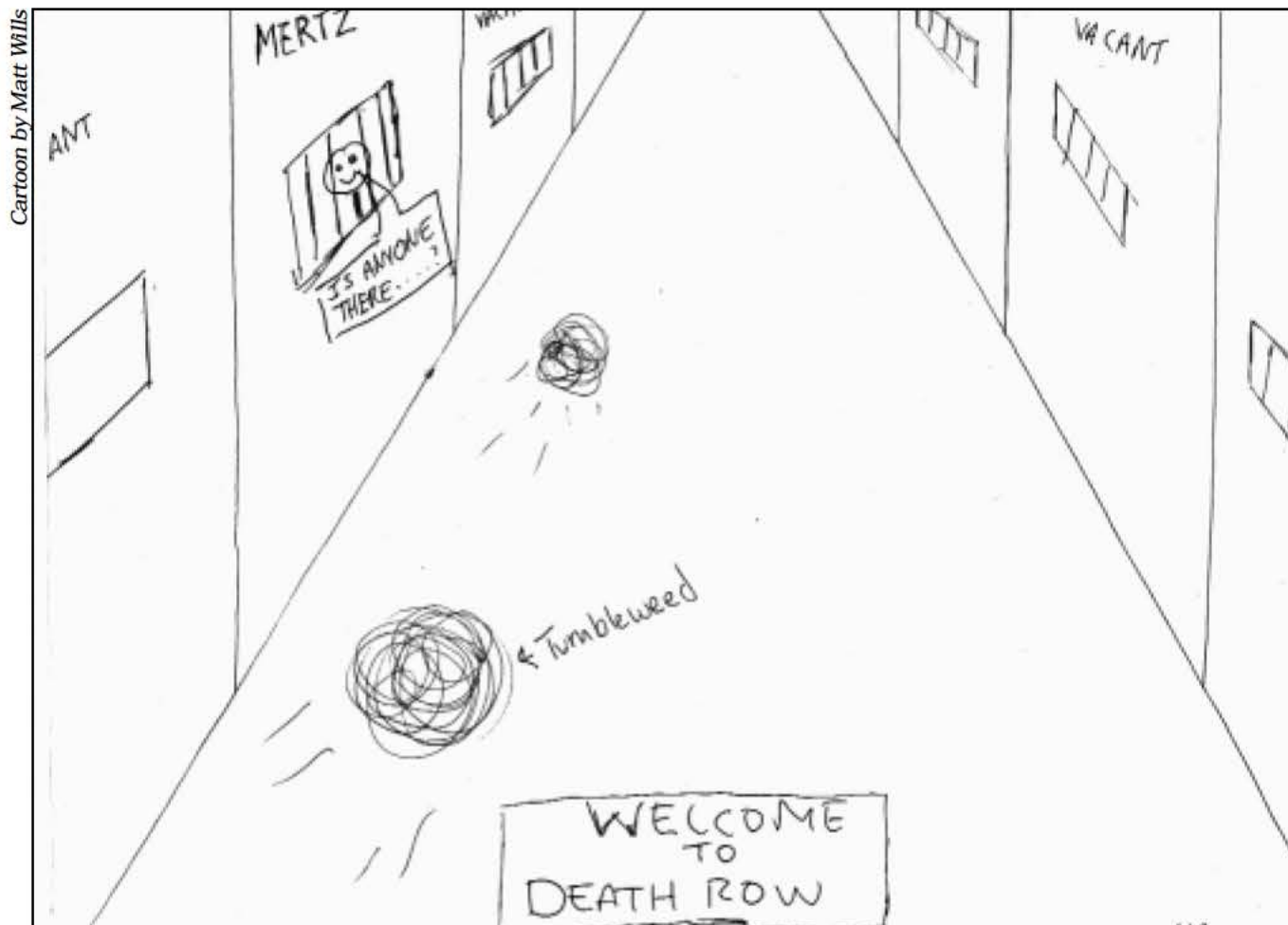
No. 2: Don't take crap from anyone — Your buddy from high school or the cashier at work might be in first place now, but just wait until Frank Thomas starts hitting like he did in the mid 90s (Disclaimer: do not draft Frank Thomas! He is dead weight that has not hit over .255 in two years.) The key to fantasy baseball is you're never out of contention until the last day of the

season.

No. 3: Throw in the towel if there is any glimmer of a chance you might lose — If you're out of contention in July, trade away all your best players to other teams that do have a chance. This move will save face because at the end of the season, you can tell the winner they would not have won if it wasn't for your generous help.

No. 4: Remember fantasy baseball is not real — If one of your players strikes out three times in a game and commits an error, he is not trying to sabotage your team. These players don't know who you are or if you have them on your team. Don't interpret your team's failure as your own personal inadequacy. The winners of fantasy leagues are usually some miser who spends an exorbitant amount of time researching players and teams, so they can win an insignificant competition and brag to their friends who they only know by their screen names.

No. 5: Have fun — Remember why you joined a fantasy baseball league in the first place. Do not let your team consume your life like the previously mentioned misers. Variety is the spice of life. Do not let one thing monopolize your time, whether it be fantasy baseball or the world's ills.



YOUR TURN: LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

If war happens, thousands may die

We need to get real. I can only say the draft may have ended with Vietnam, but I promise you, if things get bad enough, it will be reinstated.

And to respond to the letter to the editor published in the Feb. 24 edition of *The Daily Eastern News*, which cleverly makes light of the tens of millions of lives lost during World War II, I only can say the writer is comparing apples to oranges.

The world had reason to try to appease Hitler.

That reason was World War I, and it was still fresh in people's memories since their lives were filled with legless veterans and mentally incapable war-invalids. Sure, many thousands of American lives were lost during the first

World War, millions upon millions of French and British soldiers and civilians lost their lives. Millions of Germans died.

We, in this generation, have been lucky enough to see the direct result of war, but if a war erupts now, our luck will change. We'll see the basket cases and the amputees. We'll see Americans coming home with missing arms and legs.

And besides, historically speaking, two days after Hitler invaded Poland in 1939, Britain and France (as well as others) declared war on Germany.

And in 1991, when Iraqi armies occupied and annexed Kuwait, the world responded, just like it did in 1939. Reference has been made to "invasions"

that will cost American citizens their lives. These so-called invasions will take place when American soldiers converge on Baghdad. Iraqis will die.

Human shield volunteers will die, and our soldiers will die.

If people remember, we intervened in Vietnam in favor of a regime change. As a result of that regime change, the draft was reinstated, American cities burned, campuses erupted, 58,000 Americans died, millions of Vietnamese died and in 1975 our brave, and deserving soldiers

came home amidst public disapproval. Now, we are looking at a very similar situation. Speculate as we may about weapons of mass destruction, I guarantee an American invasion of Iraq will kill thousands of people!

There is no speculation about it. Most likely, more Iraqis will die than Americans, but who's to say our lives are worth more than theirs? Support our soldiers, not the war.

Josh Soptarz
Graduate English major

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: The Daily Eastern News accepts letters to the editor addressing local, state, national and international issues. They should be less than 250 words and include the authors' name, telephone number and address. Students should indicate their year in school and major. Faculty, administration and staff should indicate their position and department. Letters whose authors cannot be verified will not be printed. Depending on space constraints, we may edit letters, so keep it concise. Letters can be sent to *The Daily Eastern News* at 1811 Buzzard Hall, Charleston IL 61920; faxed to 217-581-2923; or e-mailed to majones@eiu.edu

Tuition increases reviewed

◆ *Student Action Team wants to cap tuition*

By Avian Carrasquillo
STUDENT GOVERNMENT EDITOR

The Student Action Team is currently examining state legislation that could have an effect on future and current Eastern students.

The team has at least one lobby date left this semester that could take place some time in April.

Marty Ruhaak, chair of the Student Action Team, said the team is especially focusing on House Bill 1118.

The bill calls for a limitation on tuition increases, beginning with the 2004-2005 academic year.

The bill states that the tuition charged to an undergraduate student who is an Illinois resident shall not exceed the amount the student was charged at the time he or she first enrolled in the university as an Illinois resident if that student enrolled not more than three-and-a-half academic years before.

"This tuition freeze seems good on the surface, but this does nothing for students that may be required to stay longer than four years to complete their degree," Ruhaak said.

The Student Action Team is also looking at House Bill 2924.

The bill states beginning in the 2003-2004 academic year, the governing board of a public institution of higher education shall not increase or authorize an increase in undergraduate tuition charged at any university under its jurisdiction. The increase is not possible only if it is an amount greater than the result obtained when the rate of tuition from the previous academic year is multiplied by a percentage that equals 2 percent plus the percent increase, if any.

The General Assembly by joint resolution can suspend the limitation in the bill in times of financial crisis. Despite the current crisis, House Bill 2924 is scheduled to go into effect on July 1, 2003.

Ruhaak said the team will continue to study these bills and decide whether or not to lobby against them.



STEPHEN HAAS/ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR

Catch!

Enjoying the mild weather, Shannon Maser, a freshman business management major, plays frisbee with friends Tuesday afternoon near the campus pond. Tuesday's high was 50 degrees, but a wave of cold air will hit the area soon, according to local weather observer Dalias Price.

Student Senate to hear budget presentation

◆ *Student Body President Alison Mormino to address the Student Government budget for fiscal year 2004*

By Avian Carrasquillo
STUDENT GOVERNMENT EDITOR

The Student Senate will hear a special presentation Wednesday by Student Body President Alison Mormino on the budget she presented to the Apportionment Board for fiscal year 2004.

The Student Government's budget request was presented to the AB last Thursday, ask-

ing for a total of \$31,894 for fiscal year 2004. Last year's allocation to Student Senate was \$31,035.

In old business the senate will examine a bylaw change that would increase the penalty for missed committee meetings.

The current penalty for missing committee meetings is an absence from one senate meetings for

every three committee meetings missed. A senate member is removed for missing three senate meetings, so it takes nine committee meeting absences to be removed.

The change would remove a senate member after three committee meeting absences.

Also, the Student Action Team is seeking approval of its bylaws.

Marty Ruhaak, student

vice president for public affairs and chair of the Student Action Team, said an approval of the bylaws would give the Team more structure and direction for the future.

"It organizes things a lot more for us," Ruhaak said. "It gives us a direction to follow year down the line, so that a future chair doesn't have to spend six weeks organizing a lobby date."

Speaker of the Senate Bill Davidson said Jenn Lampley has taken an indefinite leave of absence from Student Senate.

Lampley's departure has left an opening for the chair of the Shuttle Bus Committee.

Brian Scios will go up for approval as Chair of the Shuttle Bus Committee in Lampley's place in consent agenda.

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Happy 20th Giggles

We Luv You!
Amy, De, and Sarah

Fourth Street bridge to be repaired

◆ Charleston City Council authorizes plan for state-assisted financing for the project

By Carly Mullady
CITY EDITOR

Charleston City Council members passed a resolution authorizing an agreement for state-assisted financing of a Fourth Street bridge repair project.

"This is a formal document we need to approve in order to get state money on the Fourth Street project," council member Larry Rennels said.

The project will cost \$344,000 in federal funds plus \$86,000 of city motor fuel tax money.

Dean Barber, city public works director, said this project is strictly for the replacement of Fourth Street bridge south of Jackson Ave. and enough roadway beyond it to taper the new bridge's width back to the width of the street before it.

"It will take 100 to 200 feet in each direction to taper the bridge's thirty-foot width to the current width of the road," Barber said.

Council members said the bridge repair was part of a safety measure.

"Structurally, it is unsound," council member Lorelei Sims said.

Fellow council member John Winnett agreed, saying the bridge is bad under its current conditions.

Barber said the bridge now scores a 45 out of 100 on the state system of measuring roads and safety.

The bridge repair would also work to reduce flood problems in the Fourth Street area. Currently, the bridge does not allow enough water to flow through which causes excess water and flooding.

"It is very important that we get this bridge done now," Barber said.

The council unanimously agreed in favor of the state-assisted fund-

"Structurally, it is unsound."

—Lorelei Sims, council member

ing as well as purchasing property now owned by the Williams family in order to complete the project.

"Some of this property is needed on the northeast side of the bridge to complete this bridge," Rennels said.

The Williams property will cost the city \$4,000 plus a \$3,800 cash settlement for the impact on the property not used for the Fourth Street bridge project. Council members unanimously agreed to spend the \$7,800 on that property.

Council members also reached a consensus favoring the like kind exchange of real estate for the Corley property.

The Corley property will be used so the city will own land surrounding Lake Charleston. This land is part of the Woodyard Memorial Conservation Area project which will preserve land around the lake.

"This is the final step in setting up the area out by the lake with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources," Rennels said.

The council authorized exchanging city-owned property for the Corley property.

The council unanimously approved a \$2,000 expenditure on tourism funds for the Illinois High School Association Spring Spectacular. Illinois high school track teams will be competing locally again this year.

The money will be spent to provide additional entertainment for

competitors and visitors.

"The Spring Spectacular was an area isolated from the event that allowed attendees to participate for free in fun events and I am proud to have worked with that," Sims said about her experience in planning last year's Spectacular.

The Spectacular provides entertainment for the many people traveling to Charleston for the track meets.

"It brings a lot of money into town," Winnett said.

An ordinance amending the City Code Book's Title II on hazardous material and environmentally damaging substances has been placed on file for public inspection until the next council meeting.

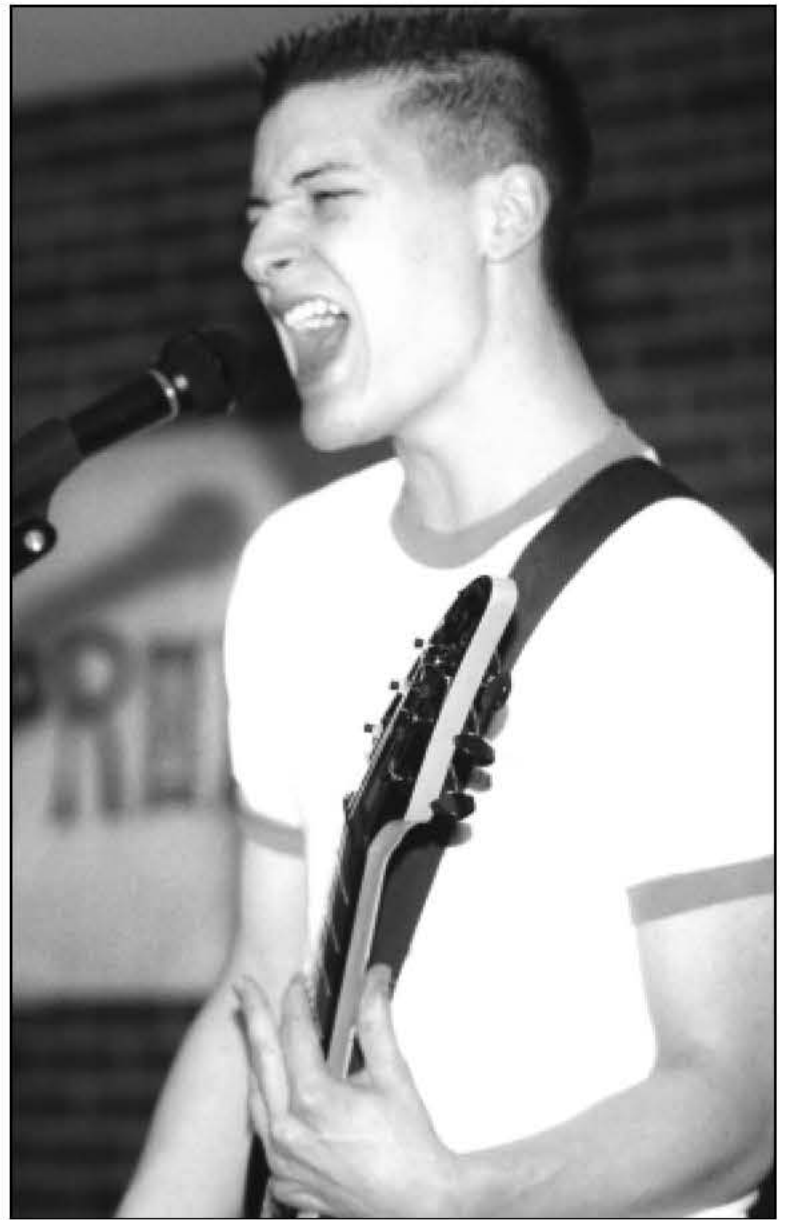
The ordinance outlines a "spiller's pay ordinance" which makes payment of cleaning and repair costs following a hazardous material spill the responsibility of the party who caused the damages.

"There are a lot of safety issues involved in this," Winnett said. "So, we should table it until it can be resolved."

Council approved an agreement accepting the bid from Eastern Illinois Precast for storm sewer materials at Charleston High School. Members also accepted the \$50,050 bid from Neoga's White's Lawn Service for the 2003 city lawn-mowing contract.

The city accepted a grant from the Illinois Housing Development Authority for single-family, owner-occupied residence financial assistance.

A \$50,000 loan fund request from Scholastic Recognition Inc., was placed on file for public inspection until the next meeting. An ordinance for ambulance service billing amendments was also placed on file for two weeks.



STEPHEN HAAS/ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR

Rockin' out!

Jim Markunas, freshman marketing major, belts out lyrics while playing with his band, Fadproof, in the dining center of Carman Hall Tuesday evening. The band was the entertainment for the Safe Spring Break event sponsored by Bacchus and the Carman Hall Council to promote safe activities for students on spring break.

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SHANGHAI KNIGHTS (PG13)
Daily 4:45, 7:20, 10:05 SAT SUN MAT 2:15

HOW TO LOSE A GUY IN 10 DAYS (PG13)
Daily 4:10, 7:10, 9:55 SAT SUN MAT 1:30

LIFE OF DAVID GALE (R)
Daily 5:00, 8:00 SAT SUN MAT 2:00

CRADLE 2 THE GRAVE (R)
DAILY 4:30, 7:30, 10:00 SAT SUN MAT 1:50

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DAILY 5:15, 7:45, 10:00 SAT SUN MAT 2:30

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AND

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STEPHEN HAAS/ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR

Brass act

Members of the Collegiate Band perform Tuesday evening in the Grand Ballroom of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union. The music department sponsored the event with the Collegiate Band and the Concert Band.

Break:

A good place for trip information is the Internet

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Money and restrictions are keeping some students home for break.

"I went to Puerto Rico last year, but this year I need to go home and

save some money so I can go again next year," said Jorge Padilla, a junior computer information systems major.

Like Padilla, Mike Holden, a senior finance major is staying in Charleston to bartend at Stix to save some money.

"I'm going home to work at the carwash," said Natalie Partenheimer, a freshman speech communication major. "I don't have any plans."

However, other students do have big plans.

Audra Koerner, a freshman health studies major, is going to Florida with the Eastern tennis team. The team will be in Florida for four days and Alabama for three days.

The team paid for the trip by giving tennis lessons in the fall and winter.

"I'm going to Disney World!" said Jenny Shon, a senior elementary special education major, when asked where she was going for spring break.

She said the trip will cost around

\$800 for her and her boyfriend. They found their tickets online.

Online sources also can be a good source for trip information.

An eastern Caribbean Cruise from March 9-16 for two adults costs \$749 on expedia.com.

The expense, however, does not include the airfare. The cruise leaves from Miami, but the cheapest flight on the Web site from St. Louis to Miami costs \$978 round trip.

But most students will not leave the United States during their

week off.

"I'm going to Scottsdale, Ariz., with my roommate to visit my family and some friends that go to Arizona State University," said freshman speech communication major Andrea Stankevych.

Some students are staying home to take care of important matters.

"I'm going home to Elburn to do lots of homework and get ready for a wedding," said Stephanie Nelson, a senior family consumer science major.

United States may reconsider war resolution

WASHINGTON (AP) — With other nations' opposition hardening, the Bush administration left open the possibility Tuesday that it would not seek a United Nations vote on its war-making resolution if the measure was clearly headed for defeat.

U.S. troop strength in the Persian Gulf neared 300,000, and President Bush and his advisers were looking beyond the diplomatic showdown in the U.N. to make plans for a public relations buildup to potential war with Iraq.

One option under serious consideration was Bush giving Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein a final ultimatum, perhaps with a short-term deadline, in an address next week, two senior White House officials said.

The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, stressed that a variety of options are on the table and all depend on the outcome of a U.N. Security Council debate on the U.S.-backed war resolution. In a new blow, Russia's top diplomat said Moscow may use its veto against the measure.

Even without a veto from Russia, China or France, the United States still doesn't have the nine votes needed to win approval of the resolution, according to both supporters and opponents. Many undecided council members are looking for a compromise.

Secretary of State Colin Powell, in an interview with RTL television of Germany, said that early next week U.S. leaders would "make a judgment on whether it's time to put the resolution up to a vote." But he also said the United States was inclined to push for a vote "in the absence of compliance on the part of Saddam Hussein."



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Noon

4:00 pm

6:00 pm

9:00 pm

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The New York Times
 Crossword Edited by Will Shortz No. 0122

ACROSS

1 Followers of Tyler and Taylor
 6 One-inch pencil, say
 9 To boot
 13 So out it's in
 14 Home to José
 15 Place
 16 See 48-Across
 17 Hurl a barb at
 18 Sacred creatures of old
 19 Woodworker's own tool?
 22 Oxy-5 target
 23 Takes off
 24 Main lines
 26 Boxing Day's mo.

29 Place for a ring
 30 Deliver by chute
 31 Son of Aphrodite
 33 City north of Nancy
 35 Trash hauler
 38 1990's civil war site
 40 Losing purposely
 42 Jam producer?
 43 Voice mail prompt
 45 Use binoculars, say
 46 P.T.A. and N.E.A., for two
 48 With 16-Across, places to pull over

DOWN

1 End of shooting
 2 Epitaph starter
 3 Road to old Rome
 4 Llano growth
 5 "Already?"
 6 Home builder's tool
 7 Jimmy Carter's coll.
 8 City on the Tigris: Var.
 9 Cookbook phrase

50 Baseball stat
 51 Slain
 53 Kansas motto word
 55 Cellular _____
 56 Apt title for this puzzle
 61 Label info
 63 Visitor to Cathay
 64 Talks non-sense
 65 Neutral shade
 66 Assist, in a way
 67 Concerning
 68 Letter opener
 69 French possessive
 70 They're verboten

10 Cost of a 19th-century composer's work?
 11 Brown pigment
 12 Gives the boot to
 14 Winter Palace throne?
 20 Campbell or Judd
 21 1964 Anthony Quinn role
 25 They may have forks

26 Fam. tree member
 27 Switch add-on
 28 Undistinguished poet?
 32 Le _____ (Buick model)
 34 Photo of the Panama Canal, once?
 36 Sports stuff
 37 Peak near Taormina
 39 Aristotle's forte

41 Bunting places
 44 Wise counsels
 47 Be short with
 49 "Iliad" warrior
 51 Gave medicine to
 52 In reserve
 54 _____ acid
 57 Soliloquy starter
 58 Flush
 59 Paradoxical Greek
 60 Fast fliers
 62 Where It.'s at

ANSWER TO TODAY'S PUZZLE

S O N O N S E I R V E D
 I N E N V I E B U R V E
 S E A I R O T O P E Z I S
 S Z W O S H C I A T I V E N O
 R I S Y N I E N O D
 E R A I R E S R S O R G S
 N Y C S E N O I O B W O C
 I E I D A N O V I T A W O S
 E I G V B Z I E W S O R E
 P O P D R E S O N S E C
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 I I Z Z D V T V N O S R E P
 S E S V G N I Z S V E A R
 U P I T A N S I C O R T I E R
 O S T V B N N S G I H M

Federal Appeals Court stays enforcement on pledge ruling

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A federal appeals court Tuesday put on hold its ruling barring the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance in public classrooms, pending an appeal to the Supreme Court.

The order followed a request by the Elk Grove Unified School District near Sacramento. The daughter of the man whose suit led the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to find the pledge unconstitutional attends school there.

Without Tuesday's stay, public schools in nine western states would have been banned - beginning next Monday - from reciting the pledge, with its reference to "under God." Those states are Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Montana, Oregon and Washington.

The stay gives the school district 90 days to ask the Supreme Court to review the appeals court's ruling. Elk Grove Superintendent Dave Gordon said the district will ask the court to hear the case by the end of April.

A Justice Department spokesman said the government had no comment on Tuesday's order, and said the Bush administration was still considering whether it would also appeal.

In June and again last Friday, the San Francisco-based appeals court ruled the pledge is an unconstitutional endorsement of religion when recited in public schools.

The Elk Grove district was the target of a lawsuit filed by Michael Newdow, a Sacramento atheist, who alleged that his daughter shouldn't be forced to take part in reciting the pledge.

In a case that bitterly divided the nation and the federal judiciary, the appeals court ruled in Newdow's favor. Attorney General John Ashcroft has said the Justice Department would "spare no effort to preserve the rights of all our citizens to pledge their allegiance to the American flag."

Newdow said he did not object to Tuesday's order. "I'll let it play itself out," he said. "There's no question I am going to win."

California law requires schools to conduct a patriotic observance at the beginning of each school day. Elk Grove officials had said they would have students sing the national anthem instead of the pledge if the appeals court did not delay its ruling.

Chinese legislature to name new president

BEIJING (AP) — China convened a landmark session of its largely toothless legislature Wednesday, preparing to anoint a new generation of leaders who will shepherd Asia's fastest-growing economy through fundamental economic and social change.

At the top of the agenda was the virtually certain ascension of Hu Jintao, the Communist Party's newly installed general secretary, to the presidency now held by Jiang Zemin. It will be the final phase of what is considered the first orderly transfer of authority since the communists took China in 1949.

The leadership walked into the Great Hall of the People in single file, led by Jiang. Wu Bangguo, a top Communist Party official expected to be the legislature's next leader, opened the meeting and a military band played

China's national anthem. Premier Zhu Rongji, in an address on the state of the nation, identified the struggle against poverty — rural poverty in particular — as China's top priority for the coming year.

"We should do everything possible to increase farmers' income and lighten their burden," Zhu said, according to a copy of his 55-page report that was obtained in advance.

He said the country was aiming for 7 percent economic growth in 2003. That figure is the minimum that China has said it needs to achieve for continued stability.

"This growth rate is both necessary and achievable through hard work," Zhu said, according to the transcript. He also said the country needed to raise revenue and cut spending.

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PERSONALS

Emily of KAPPA DELTA: Have a great spring break, don't have too much fun! Love, Erin

Thank you to the ladies of EIU for coming out to the Delta Tau Chi Spring Break 2003. Love, the men of Delta Tau Delta and Delta Chi

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91% of EIU students think that people risk harming themselves if they have 5 or more drinks in one setting. (n=471 representative EIU students)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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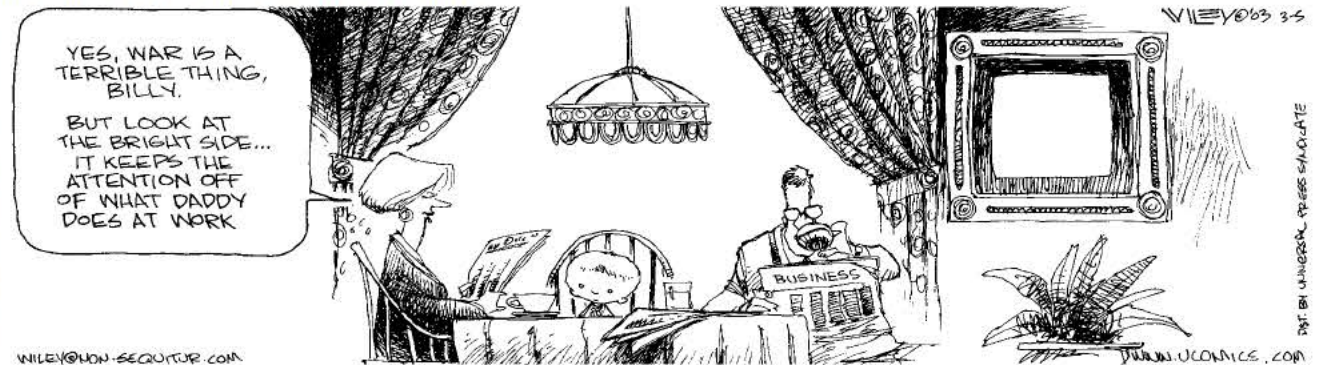
The majority of EIU students drink 0,1,2,3, or 4 drinks per week (n=471 representative EIU students)

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OVC MEN'S BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Closing seconds prove vital

◆ *First round tournament games decided in final seconds*

By Jamie Hussey
STAFF WRITER

Last-second shots and nailbiting victories seemed par for the course Tuesday in the opening round of the Men's Basketball Ohio Valley Conference Tournament.

Austin Peay pulled away a win from Eastern Kentucky in the last .9 seconds when freshman guard Corey Gipson made the game-winning three-pointer.

The final score was No. 1 Austin Peay (21-7, 14-3) beating No. 8 Eastern Kentucky (11-19, 5-12) by 83-80 in Clarksville, Tenn.

Gipson lead all scorers with 22 points for Austin Peay. The second leading scorer for Austin Peay was junior forward Adrian Henning, who finished the game with 19 points. Following close behind was sophomore guard Anthony Davis with 12 points.

Eastern Kentucky maintained the lead throughout the entire game until 10 minutes left in the second half when Austin Peay stole the lead. EKV made three different attempts to tie with Austin Peay, their final attempt being a three-point attempt by sophomore guard Ben Rushing with four seconds left in the game.

The Colonels' leading scorer was freshman guard Matt Witt with 20 points. Junior forward/guard Jon Bentley made a big impression in the first half with 16 points, but failed to score any points in the second half before fouling out.

Senior guard Shawn Fields assisted Witt by scoring 12 points. Fields also had six rebounds and four assists.

Austin Peay will advance on to play Murray State at 6 p.m. Friday at Gaylord Entertainment Center in Nashville, Tenn.

Second-seeded Morehead State (20-8, 14-3) was the first to claim a victory in the OVC men's basketball tourney, defeating No. 7 Southeast Missouri State (11-19, 5-12) by a final score of 91-84.

The game high was from Morehead

State's junior guard/forward Ricky Minard with 30 points. Minard also had 12 rebounds and was 12 of 20 from the floor. Senior guard Chez Marks was Morehead's second leading scorer with 22 points.

SEMO was able to fight back and cut the lead to less than two with a minute to play in the game.

SEMO's leading scorer was sophomore guard Brett Hale who made four out of eight three pointers to have 24 points for the night. Senior guard Demetrius King scored 18 points while sophomore guard Derek Winans finished the game with 15 points.

Morehead will advance to play at 6p.m. Friday against Tennessee Tech in Gaylord Entertainment Center at Nashville, Tenn.

Third-seeded Tennessee Tech held the lead until No. 6 Tennessee Martin fought back in the second half to almost steal the game.

But Tennessee Tech (19-11, 12-5) was able to win the game against Tennessee Martin (14-14, 7-10) with a final score of 76-62.

OVC WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Tech ruins Colonels' barbecue

◆ *Austin Peay, Tennessee-Martin move on to Nashville*

By Jamie Hussey
STAFF WRITER

No. 6 seed Tennessee Tech upset No. 3 seed Eastern Kentucky in the first round of the Ohio Valley Conference Women's Basketball Tournament Tuesday.

The first upset of the tournament came when the Golden Eagles (12-16, 7-10) defeated the Colonels (18-11, 10-7) in a close game in Richmond, Ky.

The Eagles shot 58 percent from the field compared to the Colonels' 38 percent.

Tech's leading scorer was freshman forward Emily Christian with 22 points. Sophomore guard Tynisha Alexander was the second leading scorer for Tech with 15 points.

Alexander was six of six for all of her free throws and was four-of-eight from

the floor.

The game high came from EKV's Katie Kelly with 23 points. Sophomore forward Miranda Eckerle and senior guard Teresa McNair helped out with 10 points each.

McNair also pulled down nine rebounds and ran away with nine steals.

Tech will play Southeast Missouri State, who defeated Eastern 79-76 Tuesday, at 2 p.m. Friday in the Gaylord Entertainment Center in Nashville, Tenn.

Top seed Austin Peay (25-3, 16-0) defeated No. 8 Murray State (8-20, 4-13) Tuesday in Clarksville, Tenn. After the game that started at 5:30 p.m. ended, Austin Peay became the first team to qualify for the semifinals.

The Governors topped the Racers by 21 points with a final score of 75-54.

Four players for Austin Peay were able to score in double figures against Murray State.

Junior forward/center Gerlonda

Hardin and freshman guard Ashley Haynes scored 8 out of 9 for the night. Hardin finished with 18 points and Haynes' final was 17 points.

Hardin also grabbed 12 rebounds for her league-leading 12th double-double this year.

Senior guard Brooke Armistead and freshman guard Kera Bergeron both scored 11 points to add to Austin Peay's total of 75 points.

Junior guard Megan Fuqua scored in the double digits against the Governors. Fuqua scored 11 points and was the only Racer to score in double digits.

Senior guard Beth Schnakenberg and freshmen center Lori Trumblee were the next leading scorers with nine points apiece.

The Governors outshot the Racers 55 percent to 38 percent from the field.

Austin Peay will play No. 4 Tennessee Martin on Friday at noon at the Gaylord Entertainment Center in Nashville, Tenn.

Top Cat:

Strongest team on the track

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

Panthers championship teams the last three years.

Despite their success in the distance medley relay, the crew is not always a fixture in the event. Akers said the group does not run together regularly and the competitors in the distance crew vary from week to week.

"Derks and Vance are seniors so they have been around for a while, but they don't always run together," Akers said. "Atkins and Jones actually competed against each other in high school, but don't run together. The distance medley is not always run all the time at each event."

While the four Panthers may not always be paired up to run together, Akers said the theory behind selecting them was rather simple.

"Obviously we wanted to put the strongest team on the track and that's them," Akers said.

"Derks and Vance have run the mile well all year long and we wanted to get them ready for the 3,000-meter run. Jones ran the 60-meter hurdles (later in the event) so this prepared him for that."

Akers strategy clearly worked because Vance and Derks finished second and third in the 3,000-meter run, while Jones won the 60-meter hurdles in a time of 8.19.

As talented as the Panthers' relay team is, Akers said they are just as good leaders as they are runners.

"Our seniors have outstanding leadership qualities," Akers said. "Not just Andy and Josh, but the whole senior class. We will be losing a big group (to graduation) after this year and we will replace them with new kids and existing members. They will be able to replace them athletically but we won't be getting the leadership back."

Meinheit:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

sophomore season from the bench in 1998-99 season while he redshirted. Then as a redshirt freshman, Domercant came off the bench behind Hill. Then Domercant and Hill became one of the best tandems in NCAA history when Hill finished second in the nation in scoring and Domercant finished fourth.

Despite his success, Hill did not necessarily have what it takes to play in the NBA.

He was drafted by Dallas, but wound up playing professional basketball in Europe.

Will this be Domercant's fate? We will have to wait till this summer to find out what's the next chapter in the Henry Domercant story. But while we wait, we'll wish we could have watched Henry play in a couple more games in a Panther uniform.

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Panthers can't hold on

◆ Eastern loses lead in closing minutes against SEMO on the road

By Matthew Stevens
SPORTS REPORTER

CAPE GIRARDEAU, Mo. - The glass slipper didn't fit Tuesday night as the underdog Panthers lost to the Southeast Missouri State Otahkians 79-76.

Eastern blew a 13-point lead with 13 minutes left to go after SEMO outscored the Panthers 25-11 over the next eight minutes.

"We simply don't know how to close out a game," Panther head coach Linda Wunder said.

Senior center Brooke Gossett said: "It's hell to lose by less than five points because it means you were in the game the entire way."

Gossett got into early foul trouble as Eastern's leading rebounder picked up her second foul with 15:29 left in the first half.

"I really think (the officials) had my number over the last three games," Gossett said.

The game was called tight as both teams committed 55 fouls and shot a combined total of 78 free throws.

"How many times do you see that many fouls in a NCAA basketball game," Wunder said.

However, while Gossett sat on the bench, the Panthers went on a 22-8 run to take a 27-16 lead with 7:17 left in the game.

The Panthers stunned SEMO early by shooting 61 percent in the first half. Junior guard Lauren Dailey scored 14 points in the first 20 minutes. Eastern's leading scorer was held to a single point in the second half on only two shot attempts.

"I'm pretty sure they overlooked us as a seventh seed coming in," freshman guard Megan Sparks said.

Sparks led the team in scoring with 18 points on five-of-nine shooting and made seven of 10 from the charity stripe.

Eastern went into the locker room with a 42-36 lead as the Panther defense held SEMO to 38 percent shooting from the field and one of nine from

beyond the arc. "I think this was the story of the entire season where we would build up a lead and then just give it away," Sparks said.

With 19:31 left in the game, Brooke Gossett committed her third personal foul and was forced to watch from the bench.

With her on the bench, Sparks stepped up to lead the Panthers on a 11-5 run to increase the lead to 11 with 12:32 left.

"Megan is a competitor who will do anything to help her team win," Wunder said. "I was not concerned about her being a freshman in this game."

The momentum drastically changed though as Eastern failed to score over the next seven minutes and suddenly the score was tied with nearly three minutes to go.

"We needed to compete with SEMO for 40 minutes and except for two small stretches we did a pretty good job of that," Wunder said.

Gossett, who was playing in her final game at Eastern, finally scored her first basket of the game with 2:52 left and rattled off a total of five consecutive points to keep the game tied with 1:22 left.

"It's always disappointing to see a senior's season end," Wunder said. "I really wish I would have been able to take them to Nashville."

Matchup breakdown

	at	
76 Eastern Illinois (6-22, 5-12)		79 Southeast Missouri (18-10, 12-5)

	FG/FGA	POINTS
EASTERN:	25-52	76
M. Sparks	5-9	18
L. Dailey	5-11	15
A. Collins	5-7	11
K. Meyers	5-6	10
B. Gossett	2-7	6
SEMO:	23-60	79
S. Costello	5-8	16
L. Chase	5-11	14
C. Souza	2-7	14
K. White	2-11	13
Y. Sidbury	3-11	10



NATE BLOOMQUIST/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Junior guard Lauren Dailey looks to pass the ball during the first half of Eastern first-round OVC Tournament loss Tuesday.

Denied:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

The Racers built a 10-point lead to take a 34-24 lead into the locker room. Senior forward Cuthbert Victor was strong for the Racers from the get-go, leading his team with 12 first half points on 5-of-7

shooting.

Eastern came out in the second half with a desire to make a comeback. It all started with senior guard Henry Domercant.

Domercant began to catch fire right after he broke the Ohio Valley Conference career scoring record with just over 15 minutes left in the game. During a five-minute stretch,

he scored 12 straight points for the Panthers.

"He is going to get his points," Murray forward Antoine Whelchel said. "Our job was to make sure he worked for every point he got."

Domercant said: "My heart is broken right now. All I can focus on is things that could have changed the game."

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March 6th

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SPORTS

Panther sports calendar

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THURSDAY	W Golf at East-West Rio Verde Collegiate Inv.
FRIDAY	M/W track at Last Chance meet
SATURDAY	Wrestling hosts NCAA West Regional Lantz Arena

LONG SHOT



Matt Meinheit
SPORTS EDITOR

Hope you enjoyed Domercant

Hopefully everyone witnessed at least one men's basketball game this season, because now its over.

The 2002-03 season will be remembered as the Henry Domercant farewell tour. Although head coach Rick Samuels might have tried to play down his star guard to promote a team concept, this was Henry's year.

Domercant passed up '80s phenom Jay Taylor as Eastern's all-time leading scorer in early December. After scoring 40 points in a pair of games, he exploded against Tennessee Tech for 46 points in the last regular season game of his collegiate career.

Domercant's name has become synonymous with Eastern. When I go home and tell people I attend Eastern, the most common question that follows is, "don't they have that Domercant guy on the basketball team? I hear he's good."

Yes, he is good. He's one of the best pure shooters in the nation. He can pull up from nearly anywhere on the court and find the bottom of the net three or four times out of five chances.

Henry is so good he has a legitimate chance of playing in the NBA. For some schools, having a player on the basketball team considered good enough to play in the NBA is a regular thing, but not at schools Eastern's size.

Look at three Eastern players prior to the 'Oh' Henry' days. Kevin Duckworth, the aforementioned Taylor and Kyle 'the Thrill' Hill.

Duckworth, who wore a Panther jersey from 1981 to 1986, had the most successful professional career of any Eastern player, but oddly enough he didn't have a very successful college career. Sadly, the most recognizable name in Eastern history is a player few associate with the school. Perhaps it's for the best considering Duckworth might be best remembered for playing with Portland in the 1992 NBA Finals when Michael Jordan and the Bulls stampeded over the Trailblazers.

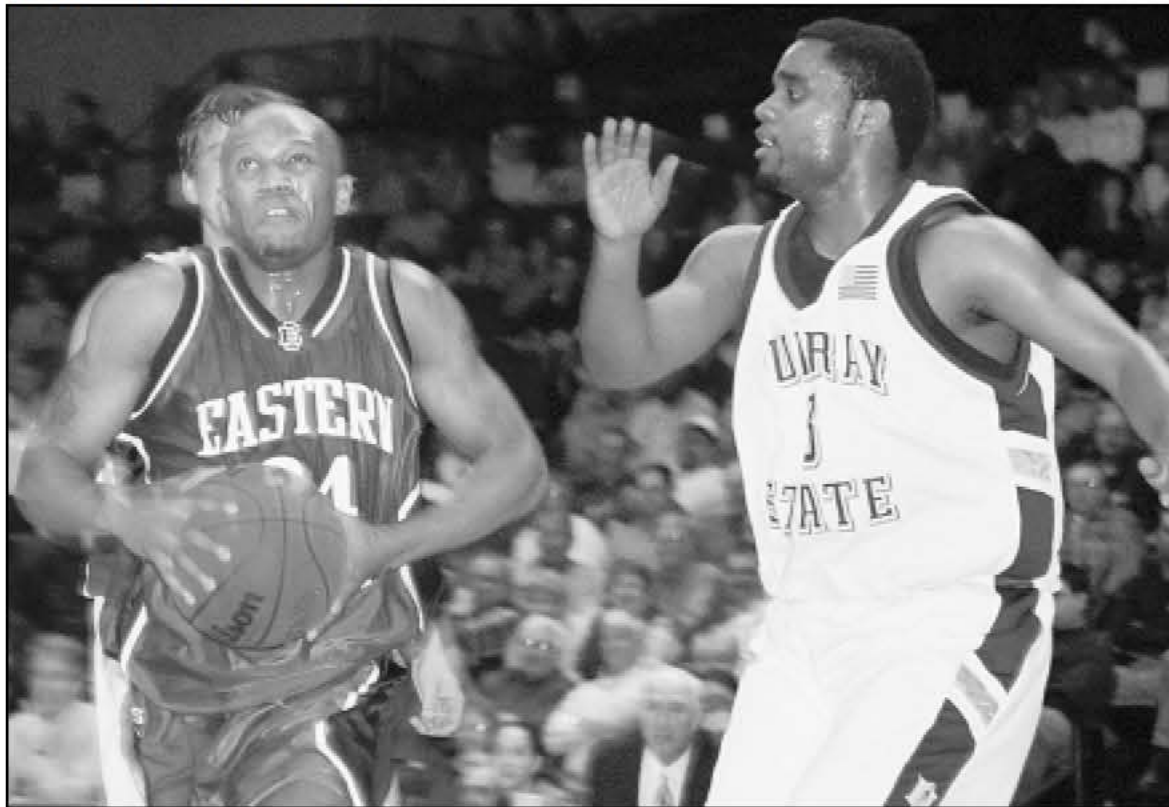
Taylor had a brief career in the NBA, but he didn't get into the league the way Domercant hopes to. Taylor was an undrafted free-agent signing by the New Jersey Nets, opposed to Domercant who hopes to hear his name called at the NBA Draft this summer. Taylor bounced around with a few teams, but never received much playing time.

Hill, the most recent of the three, played alongside Domercant for two seasons — or shall we say Domercant played alongside Hill.

Domercant watched Hill's

SEE MEINHEIT ♦ Page 10

MEN'S BASKETBALL



COLIN MCAULIFFE/PHOTO EDITOR

Senior guard Craig Lewis goes up for a shot against Murray State's Mark Borders. Lewis scored 10 points in the game.

Matchup breakdown



63 Eastern Illinois (14-15, 9-8) at 74 Murray State (17-11, 10-7)

	FG/FGA	POINTS
EASTERN:	21-54	63
H. Domercant	11-20	33
C. Lewis	5-10	10
J. Mackinson	1-4	6
Three players tied with 4		
MURRAY:	26-56	74
C. Victor	8-10	21
J. Singleton	4-9	13
R. Jones	4-11	12
K. Paschel	4-7	11
M. Borders	3-9	8

Denied in Murray

◆ Panthers' season ends with 11-point loss

By Matt Williams
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

The Eastern men's basketball team could not stop Murray State down the stretch run as the Panthers' season came to an end after a 74-63 loss.

The Panthers (14-15) had the Racers (17-11) on their heels with the score tied at 46 with 11 minutes remaining in the game, but missed opportunities and a late Racer run buried Eastern's hopes of going to Nashville.

The Panthers found themselves down 38-27 early in the second half, but they stormed back to tie

More inside

◆ Women's basketball falls at SEMO 79-76..

Page 11

the game at 46 apiece. From there the Racers took advantage of missed Panther chances and late free throws to seal the win.

"We just missed some opportunities when we closed the gap," Eastern head coach Rick Samuels said.

"They have got to look up with 10 minutes left in the second half and

we are still staring them in the face. When we got to that point we turned it over two or three times, we charged and we just didn't give ourselves the chance to keep them on their heels."

Eastern opened the game shooting the ball poorly, making just 33 percent of their shots in the first half.

SEE DENIED ♦ Page 11

"The whole team ran really solid legs from start to finish." - head coach Tom Akers

Hometrack security

◆ Eastern's distance medley relay team helped the Panther defend Lantz Fieldhouse with a first-place finish

◆ Editor's note: Top Cat is a weekly series taking an in-depth look at Eastern's top athlete from the previous week. Winners are selected just once. Selections are made by The Daily Eastern News sports staff.

By Mike Gilbert
STAFF WRITER

Led by an outstanding distance medley relay team, the Eastern men's track and field team defended its home turf and Ohio Valley Conference Indoor Championship by cruising to an easy victory in the eight-team event.

On a weekend in which the Panthers had many stars, the men's distance medley relay crew was among the brightest. For their efforts at the OVC Indoor Championship the relay team of Andy Derks, Jermaine Jones, Kevin Atkins and Josh Vance have been named this week's Top Cat.

The quartet has been around for all three of the Panthers' consecutive OVC Indoor Championships but this was no doubt their most impressive showing as they dominated a talented Eastern Kentucky squad by more than 12 seconds to win the event with a time of 10:20.05. After the performance, the team received rave reviews from their head coach Tom Akers.

"Obviously they did a fantastic job," Akers said. "The whole team ran really solid legs from start to finish."

Not only did the distance crew give the Panthers a win, but they did so by an eye-popping amount.

"I was a little surprised by the



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Eastern's distance medley relay team, (from left to right) Andy Derks, Jermaine Jones, Kevin Atkins and Josh Vance, took first place in the Ohio Valley Conference Indoor Track & Field Championships to help the Panthers earn their third consecutive OVC Indoor title in Lantz Fieldhouse.

margin of victory," Akers said. "I thought Eastern Kentucky would be a stronger team, but Derks, Jones and Atkins gave us such a big lead that Vance had no trouble. We were up by so much that the last runner from Eastern Kentucky gave up halfway through his run and settled

for second-place."

The four members of the distance medley relay crew knows how to win. Derks is a senior distance runner from Rochester who was named First Team All-OVC in both 2000 and 2001. Vance, who graduated from Normal High

School, is a senior who was the 2002 OVC Indoor Mile Champion and a member of the 2001 All-OVC Team. Jones (Belleville East) and Atkins (Granite City) are both juniors who have been a mainstay on the

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