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Eastern Illinois University

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THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS



Running up

Women's track and field take second place in weekend meet.
Page 12 SPORTS

Eastern keeps an eye on legislation

◆ Four bills in the Illinois General Assembly could impact how Eastern is governed in the future

By Kevin Sampier
ADMINISTRATION EDITOR

Administrators are currently tracking four bills in the Illinois General Assembly that could have an impact at Eastern.

If passed, House Bill 6843 would give the Illinois Capital Development Board control over construction projects on college campuses, even over smaller projects, said Jill Nilsen, vice president for external relations.

The bill was introduced last February and would take power away from universities and give it to the Capital Development Board, something Nilsen said she is against.

Nilsen said Eastern administrators are working with Rep. Kurt Granberg, D-Carlyle, the bill's original sponsor, as well as higher education liaisons in Springfield to change some of the bill's wording.

"As we try to do construction projects individually, having an outside firm might slow us down significantly," Nilsen said.

Eastern President Lou Hencken said when the university has control over a project, it gives more power and leverage to the university.

"When the (Capital Development Board) takes over a project, it becomes their project," Hencken said. "I personally like local control," over projects funded by student fees, he said.

When construction was being done to the Booth Library, the project was managed by the board because it was funded by state appropriated dollars. Projects funded by fees or private donations are not currently controlled by the board, which would change if the bill is passed as it is.

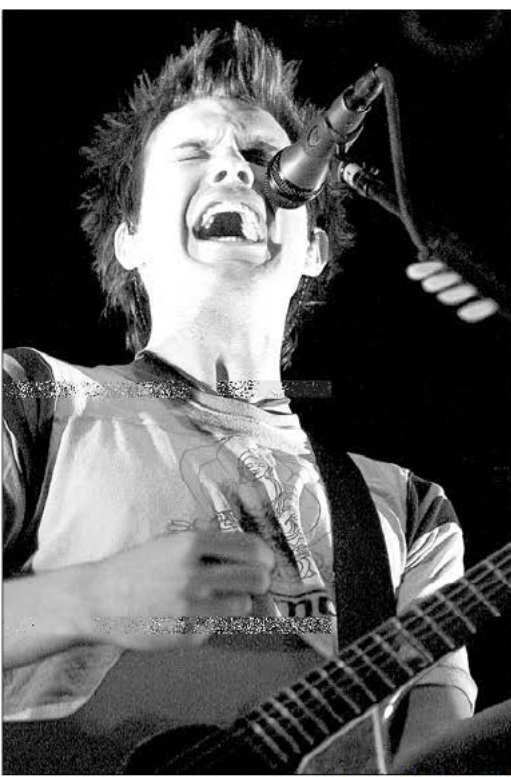
The college is also tracking Senate Bill 1074, which would create a professional teacher standards board. According to the bill, the board would consist of 11 members appointed by the governor. The board would be given all powers and duties currently exercised by the State Board of Education and would abolish the State Teacher Certification Board. The bill would also give authority over teacher certification.

Nilsen said if this bill is passed it will directly affect Eastern because "teacher education is a very big part of what we do on this campus."

Nilsen is also closely watching two appropriations bills that could affect the amount of state appropriated dollars Eastern receives.

In past years, administrators have tracked more bills than this year, she said.

"For higher education, the number of pieces of legislation we are tracking are fewer than last spring," and Eastern is currently working with other education institutions in the state, Nilsen said.



Singer/songwriter Howie Day performs Sunday night in Lantz Arena as the first show of the University Board Spring Concert series. He performed to a crowd of 715 fans.

DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY STEPHEN HAAS

Howie at quarter capacity

Fans only fill a fourth of Lantz Arena for singer's performance

By Evan Hill and David Thill
STAFF WRITERS

Howie Day brought his acoustic rock to Eastern's Lantz Arena Sunday for a crowd filling the room to about one-fourth capacity.

Joe Atamian, concert coordinator for the University Board, said between 600 and 700 tickets had been sold out of 2,800, as of Sunday afternoon. This show had sold less than other shows Atamian had worked on, but he said there is always a rush for tickets on the day of the show.

Atamian said the show required between 100 and 150 Eastern personnel on the day of the concert.

Day and company stepped out on the stage at 9:40 p.m., only 25 minutes after they were scheduled.

Although the crowd was less than half capacity, it visibly responded to Day and his band, rising and falling with the dynamics by the third song.

Fans came from as far away as Wisconsin to hear Day's show, which was part of his first tour with a band to back up his acoustic guitar and vocals.

Les Hall, Day's keyboardist hailing from Los Angeles, added various synthesized and electronic accents.

Day was also joined on stage with drummer Laurie Jenkins and bassist Simon Jones, according to a press release.

SEE HOWIE ♦ Page 7

GREEK WEEK

ΣΠ, ΑΦ spells tug winners

◆ Sigma Pi, Alpha Phi pull past other greek groups on campus

By Brittany Robson
ACTIVITIES EDITOR

Greek Week closed with a splash this weekend. Three greek groups were proclaimed the overall winners at the final Tugs tournament Saturday afternoon at the Campus Pond.

The winners of Greek Weeks Tugs tournament were Sigma Pi, who won first place over Delta Chi in the big and little men competitions. Sigma Phi Epsilon took third over Sigma Chi in the little men competition and Lambda Chi Alpha won against Sigma Nu for the big men's third place spot.

Alpha Phi won over Alpha Sigma Alpha for first place in women and Sigma Sigma Sigma won over Sigma Kappa for third place in the women's event.

Although Sigma Kappa lost Saturday, sorority member Danielle Stinkamp said the sorority was just happy to win its first game so it could be in the finals.

"I wasn't in the competition but the girls



The Alpha Phi sorority tugs team pulls its way to victory Saturday afternoon at the Campus Pond. Alpha Phi came in first place in the tugs competition.

DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY JOSH REELEY

started training in February with running and practicing tugging," Stinkamp said.

"I was so happy we made it past the first round," Schade said. "All of our hard work paid off."

They lost to their competition at Friday's race off but they now hold a new record time of six minutes and 18 seconds.

SEE TUGS ♦ Page 9

2004 Tugs winners

- Little man championship
Sigma Pi def. Delta Chi
- Big man championship
Sigma Pi def. Delta Chi
- Women's championship
Alpha Phi def. Alpha Sigma Alpha



DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY STEPHEN HAAS

Illinois State Police, Illinois Department of Transportation and emergency personnel from Mattson Fire Department respond to a one-vehicle accident Friday afternoon just north of Mattson on Route 45. Coles County Coroner Mike Nichol pronounced the driver, Nancy J. Kappes, 50, of Hindsborg, dead at Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center. Illinois State Police are looking into what caused the car to run off the road into the ditch.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT WEEK

Dancers to kick off celebration of foreign students

By Megan Jurinek
ACTIVITIES REPORTER

What: International Dance Performance

When: 7 p.m.

Where: Grand Ballroom of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union

Students are about to get a dose of culture as International Week begins today. It's a time when students can learn more about the world around them from their fellow students and a celebration of international students at Eastern, said Sue Songer, international students advisor.

"I want to encourage American students to participate," Songer said.

There is a different event each night for international students and American students alike to interact with each other and see one another's heritage.

There will be an international dance performance tonight to kick off the week.

"Basically, the first event will be a concert of international music," Songer said.

During this event, students will be able to see international students perform native dances while sporting native clothes.

"It should be really interesting and fascinating," Songer said. "It is a really great opportunity for students to enjoy."

International Dance Performance begins at 7 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

No events are scheduled for Tuesday.

Wednesday will include a dance night featuring a D.J. who will be playing all international dance music for students. All students are welcome to come and listen to what other cultures listen and dance to.

There will be European, South American, Asian and many other types of music, Songer said.

Thursday night features an International Quiz Show titled, "Who Wants to Be a Global Citizen?"

"It is patterned after the Regis Philbin show," Songer said.

The event is open to the public and volunteers who would like to participate in the game are still able to sign up. There are three to a team, and those interested can call Songer at 581-7487.

Friday night is International Recreation Night, or game night. All are welcome to the Student Recreation Center where various games will be played. Volleyball, table tennis and indoor soccer will be offered, Songer said.

Lastly, Saturday is International Pot Luck night, which will offer a wide variety of food and music.

"At each pot luck, I have had the opportunity to try a new kind of food," Songer said.

There will be Chinese, Japanese, Indian, South American, African and European food available for tasting.

Students will also be able to hear international music sung by their fellow students.

International Week is celebrated every year, Songer said.

"We are fulfilling part of Eastern's Mission Statement by having these events," she said. "We are producing global citizens."

All events are free and open to the public.

This week's activities

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Cosmic bowling 9 p.m. Monday at Charleston Lanes. The event is being hosted by 3K Eastern pub relations students to raise money for a scholarship in honor of retired Eastern journalism professor Mary Kelly Durkin. The cost for the event is \$15, which includes three games of bowling and shoe rental. There will be prize giveaways distributed throughout the night. A silent auction with a variety of items also is scheduled. ◆ The Department of Communication Studies is bringing First Amendment scholar Dorothy Bowles to campus for a lecture scheduled from 7-8 p.m. in room 2030 of Lumpkin Hall. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Greek Week awards night will begin at 6 p.m. Tuesday night. Dinner will precede all the awards and scholarships given out. The very last award announced will be the overall fraternity and sorority winners of Greek Week. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Eastern's Spring 2004 commencement fair will be held from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. in the Bridge Lounge of the Union. ◆ International Week continues Wednesday with a Dance Night at 7 p.m. in the 7th St. Underground in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union. ◆ Thomas Cheng, Taiwan Council General in Chicago will lecture at 1 p.m. Wednesday in the Charleston Mattson Room of the Union. The topic of the lecture is "What can the U.S. Do to Prevent the War Between China and Taiwan?" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Everyone can compete in a quiz show for prizes in honor of International Week. The "International Quiz Show, Who Wants to Be a Global Citizen?", starts at 7 p.m. Tuesday in Phipps Auditorium of the Physical Science Building. ◆ Unvers by Board Manstage will be hosting Open Mic Night at 8:30 p.m. Thursday at the 7th St. Underground in the Union. Applications are available at the Student Activities Center or that night in 7th St. Underground. ◆ The Simon Rowe Trio, an Eastern jazz band, will perform at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in the Grand Ballroom of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

COMPILED BY BRITTANY ROBSON

THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

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CORRECTIONS

◆ The notice of change in daylight savings time that appeared at the top of page 11 in Friday's edition of The Daily Eastern News should have reminded students to turn clocks one hour forward.

◆ The information on the same page should have reported the membership for the Council on Academic Affairs as 12 voting members, so the council would need seven members present to have a quorum. The Council on University Planning and Budget should have had the total membership of 19 present to have a quorum.

◆ In the concert calendar Friday, The Verge incorrectly reported tickets costs for the April 7 show of Local HI, AlienZ Liek and Ballpen in Sullivan. Tickets are \$12.

The News regrets the errors



Dancing on... X-tacy

◆ New dance troupe hosts statewide competition

By Jason Garner
STAFF WRITER

Rhythm & X-tacy danced on despite various obstacles to deliver its first performance. The night began slowly as the first dance-down hosted by Eastern's newest dance troupe had to overcome the tardiness of the event's DJ.

The program, which was scheduled to begin at 7 p.m., began at approximately 9 p.m. Saturday night. The group also had difficulties with the attendance of other dance groups, with only two of the six expected groups attending.

House Arrest 2, of the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, and Kwiet Storm, of Southern Illinois University, both delivered stylish performances. Despite the set backs, the performance was seen by an estimated 100 attendees.

House Arrest 2 put on a performance reminiscent of Michael Jackson's "Thriller," with approximately 20 zombies staggering out from the audience to the stage. Eastern's own Rhythm & X-tacy, acting as hosts to the dance-off, performed hip hop routines, but did not compete in the competition.

The \$300 first place prize was awarded to Southern Illinois University's Kwiet Storm.

The final event of the dance-

"We would like to add other forms, like classic ballet and tap."

—Jennifer Ether of Rhythm & X-tacy

down was a series of individual dance-offs. The prize for the winner started at \$10, but climbed to \$40 with audience donations.

Several members from each team and a few audience members participated in the freestyle dance competition. Nicole Galas, a varsity pole vaulter on Eastern's track team, came away with the green and an extremely red face.

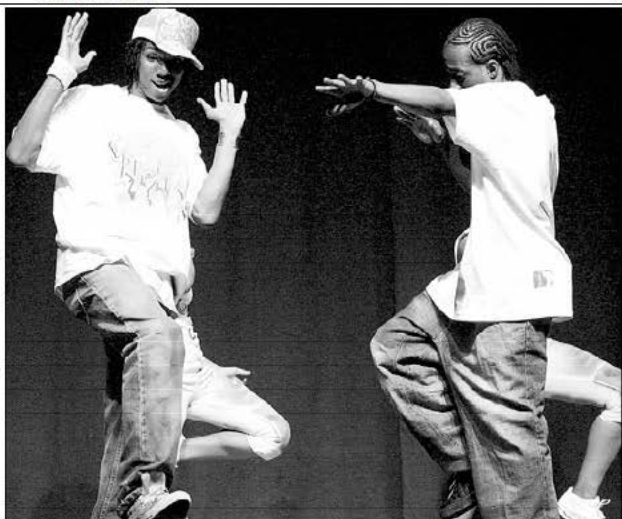
"My track girls and boys, my family, made me do it," Galas said in response to her victory.

Despite first-performance jitters, Rhythm & X-tacy's show went smoothly in the minds of its members. Rhythm & X-tacy team member Jennifer Ether, who has been dancing since she was three years old, said the strongest aspect of the group's performance was a connection between members of the team.

"We talk to each other without saying anything," she said.

Ether said the co-ed dance group is looking for new members to add diversity to the group.

Although the group currently uses a combination of dance styles, including break dancing, it does not discriminate against any



DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY STEPHEN HAAS

Above: Performers from Rhythm n' X-tacy dance competition Saturday evening in the Grand Ballroom of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union. Below: Rhythm n' X-tacy dance competition Saturday evening in the Grand Ballroom of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

dance form.

"We would like to add other forms, like classic ballet and tap," Ether said.

The team hopes in the future to collaborate with Eastern's Jolie in order to host shows, she said. Rhythm & X-tacy also may be performing at an upcoming fashion show.

The team hopes to host several dance downs next year as well as perform in shows hosted by other organizations.

"Now that we have our name out, hopefully we'll get more people coming to see us to perform," Ether said.



State shorts Eastern \$800,000 for Fiscal Year 2005

◆ Vacant positions will once again remain open to save money

By Kevin Sampier
ADMINISTRATION EDITOR

After Gov. Rod Blagojevich proposed Eastern take almost \$1 million in budget cuts, administrators are looking for ways to stretch remaining dollars to cover costs.

Jeff Cooley, vice president for business affairs, said he is worried about the possibility of a 2 percent recession, in which Eastern would have to give more than \$950,000 back to the state during fiscal year '04, but he has

n't heard if one will happen or not.

Cooley said the Illinois Board of Higher Education asked all universities to keep 2 percent of their budgets set aside at the beginning of the year in the case of a recession, which is where the 2 percent figure comes from.

Cooley said the saved 2 percent is not set aside in an account and if a recession does happen, the university would have to gather the money from departments on campus.

"We don't want to call Springfield and ask if we're going to have a 2 percent recession because they might say 'oh, what a good idea,'" Cooley said.

In April 2003, Eastern had a

recision of 2.9 percent, or \$1.5 million dollars.

Gov. Blagojevich recommended Eastern take the \$952,190 cut to its budget but his recommendation still needs approval from the Illinois General Assembly. The assembly could vote to accept the proposal or it could vote to replace some or all of the money, but Cooley is skeptical any of the funds will be replaced.

"Historically, as we look back, the General Assembly has supported the governor's decision," he said.

Jill Nilson, vice president for external relations, said Eastern administrators will meet with appropriations committees in both the House and Senate in late

April to discuss the proposed cut and try to get funding replaced.

For FY 05, Cooley said if the recession is approved, the governor would just cut the \$952,190 from Eastern's appropriations instead of asking Eastern to give it back.

Cooley said going into FY 05 Eastern will be short \$800,000 and said "we're hoping the General Assembly will take some steps to replace funding."

To help offset the \$800,000 difference, Eastern President Lou Hencken said open non-teaching positions will remain unfilled.

"You begin to cut the fat, which I don't think we have much of here, then you begin to cut the bones and then you begin to cut

the organs," Hencken said of the budget cut process.

Several University Police officer positions remain unfilled because of budget cuts and a lack of funds, Hencken said.

"We are four of five police officers short from positions we haven't filled. We've been lucky nothing has occurred," Hencken said.

Although a hold will be put on filling non-teaching positions, Cooley said about 20 new faculty members will be hired to offset the number of new students and said all university employees will receive a 2.5 percent raise. The cost of utilities for FY 05 will be approximately \$750,000, Cooley said.

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THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

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EDITORIAL

Attendance reflection of dedication

The Student Senate's failure to meet last week because not enough members were present reflects an apathy inappropriate for a governing body dealing with issues as important as tuition and fee increases.

Fifteen of the senate's 30 members failed to attend the meeting, one member short of meeting quorum.

The Daily Eastern News hasn't reported this happening in over 10 years.

Eastern President Lou Hencken and Blair Lord, vice president for academic affairs, attended the meeting, and the senate's agenda included discussion of the 2004-2005 tuition increase.

Hencken and Lord were to present the proposed increase of 7.5 percent for returning students and 16 for incoming students.

The senate was then scheduled to discuss the proposal and vote on a recommendation for approval.

"Each senator who wasn't there did a disservice to the student body. People who ignore important issues don't deserve to hold any office," Student Senate Speaker George Lesica said Thursday.

A Council on University Planning and Budget meeting Thursday failed to make quorum as well, with three Student Senate and CUPB members not in attendance. Student Vice President of Academic Affairs Amanda Sartore, Jeff Collier, chair of the Senate Academic Affairs Committee, and Kyle Donash, chair of the Senate External Relations Committee, were not present.

Despite students' involvement in the festivities of Greek Week, combined with the heavy academic work load common to this time of year, missing such important meetings is poor prioritizing. It displays an apathy to the university uncharacteristic of the Student Government's elected members.

While members are permitted three absences before losing their senate membership, Student Body President Caleb Judy said those should be reserved for emergencies.

Senate members failing to attend should at least offer prior notice so the senate can be prepared. An unexpected absence by half of the body was uncalled for, especially with the knowledge of Hencken and Lord's presentation on the very important topic of increasing tuition.

By voting senate members into office, the student body entrusted them to fulfill their positions and participate in significant decisions.

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

OPINION

Cell phone destruction therapeutic



Matt Meirheit
 Managing editor and semi-monthly columnist for *The Daily Eastern News*

Meirheit also is a junior journalism major

He can be reached at mmeirh1@yahoo.com

I have created a new expression everyone should embrace: pulling a "Howie Day."

The expression refers to the act of someone smashing a cellular phone to pieces in honor of the musician who visited campus last night.

For those who have not followed Day's activities in the past couple of weeks, allow me to explain.

After a concert at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, Wis., Day allegedly locked a female fan in the bathroom of his tour bus and wouldn't let her out until she agreed to perform some sort of sexual act. You can tell Day who is famous for his unique brand of wuss-rock, is a classsy guy.

The fan's friend, who was on the bus with Day, then pulled out her cell phone and attempted to call the police, but Day took the phone from her and busted it like *The Who* used to bust up guitars and hotel rooms.

In no way do Day's alleged actions deserve any sort of praise, but who out there hasn't wanted to take someone's cell phone from them and smash it into thousands of pieces?

Cell phones are a great convenience. Mine saves me the annoyance of paying Illinois Consolidated \$2.35 a month for

"The high-pitched chirp of someone's Nextel reverberating across campus makes my blood boil."

my couple of phone calls home. It also gives me peace of mind when I'm traveling.

Others, however, have turned a great technological advance for humanity into an abomination of common courtesy. As each month goes by, cell phone companies battle to outdo each other in annoying features for their devices. Now cell phones have digital cameras, stupid games and annoying ring tones.

Cell phones have become a status symbol. It's a contest to see who has the most obnoxious features. One of my professors brags about his Palm Pilot slash cell phone. Who needs all of these features?

By far the most annoying feature anyone has ever conceived for a cell phone is Nextel's two-way pager.

Initially, it seemed like a good idea. People can use their phones like walkie-talkies and they don't have to worry about dialing num-

bers. This once novel idea has been transformed into something more irritating than nails on a chalkboard. The high-pitched chirp of someone's Nextel reverberating across campus makes my blood boil.

If people used it as it was intended, I wouldn't have a problem with Nextel's creative gadget. It's just for delivering quick messages to people, but that is not how they are used.

Nextel users carry on long conversations via the two-way pagers. Last week I went to midnight pizza to meet some friends. I was early and had some time to kill so I decided to get some reading done for class.

I'd start to read and would hear the chirp. I'd look up and go back to my reading, only to hear it again. This went on for a good 10 minutes until my friends arrived.

Attention Nextel users: If your conversation is going take more than a minute, just call the person and save the people around you from the ungodly annoyance of your phone's stupid chirps!

Nextel users probably won't heed this sound advice. I must encourage everyone who wishes to stand for common courtesy to pull a "Howie Day" and thoroughly destroy someone's cell phone.

At issue

The Student Senate failed to have enough members present to meet last week.

Our stance

The low attendance at the meeting is a reflection of apathy unacceptable for a governing body.



YOUR TURN: LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Vegetarian menu misleading

I am writing in response to David Thill's March 25 article regarding vegetarian options on campus.

As a vegetarian of nine years, I am well aware of the scarce options available to vegetarians and vegans who decide to dine outside of the comfort of their own kitchens.

The vegetarian lifestyle is even harder when a person must give up all control of choosing and preparing food to large facilities that serve hundreds of people every meal.

While there is evidence on the behalf of Eastern's food services to provide "vegetarian options," these choices fall far from being vegetarian friendly.

The first major problem I have with dining options is the lack of consideration for vegetarian food options.

The vegetarian items at the food court, such as veggie burgers and grilled cheese that must be grilled on demand, cannot be considered vegetarian if grilled on the same surface where several meat products have been grilled, using the same utensils for meat and vegetarian products.

As an employee of Taylor Hall Dining, I noticed that the burritos labeled "vegetarian" actually contained tallow, a solid fat usually derived from cattle. I brought this to the attention of my supervisor, and signs were made to be placed on

the serving lines to inform vegetarians of the mistake. The burritos, however, still carry the label "vegetarian" on the weekly menu.

Another problem with the vegetarian options is the variety offered, as the article states.

Variety is not only necessary to keep from becoming bored, but it is necessary to meet a vegetarian's nutritional needs. Offering salads at every dining center for every meal as a way to offer a vegetarian option

looks good on paper, but it is also the best way to drive the vegetarians away from eating at dining services. Just because vegetarians and vegans are a minority on campus does not mean that such little consideration should be paid to their needs. Everyone can benefit from more vegetarian options, as they can be healthy and complement anyone's diet.

Courtney Crane,
 senior health studies major

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: *The Daily Eastern News* accepts letters to the editor for 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, staff members 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, S.C. 29302; faxed to 217-581-2923; or e-mailed to jgombard@eku.edu.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES CENTER RENOVATIONS

Boxes stack up as union offices shuffle

By Brian O'Malley
STUDENT GOVERNMENT EDITOR

A room usually filled with people and bustling with activity will be completely empty by Saturday.

The Student Activities Center, located on the third floor of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union, is being renovated starting this weekend.

The activities center is home to the Student Government, the University Board, the Black Student Union, the Pan-Hellenic Council, the National Pan-Hellenic Council, the Interfraternity Council and more than 150 Recognized Student Organizations.

The student body president, Student Senate speaker and four vice presidents for the Student Senate have individual offices inside the activities center.

Student Senate Speaker George Lesica said everyone using the activities center has been responsible for packing things from their offices to make it easier for the movers.

Lesica said the Sullivan Room in the Union will be the new home for the organizations until the renovations are completed in about a month.

"I think not having enough space to work will slow down some of the projects," Lesica said. "It might affect some of the progress."

Lesica said even though work might slow down, it will get finished.

"It's the end of the year, so work will slow down," he said. "There isn't anything that won't get done."

Adam Howell, Student Senate chair for the Shuttle Bus Committee and Union employee, said he will be helping with moving furniture and bins out of the activities center Friday to help begin the renovations.

Howell said the computers will be set up in the Sullivan Room.

"As long as we have access to the Internet and access to the secretaries we should be fine," Howell said.

The phone number leading to the activities center will either be wired up to the Sullivan Room or will have an answering machine, which will be responded to on a regular basis.

Howell said at this time of year the work



George Lesica, Student Senate Speaker and a junior political science major, looks for files in plastic containers Thursday afternoon in the Student 1a offices in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union. Student Life is moving to the Sullivan Room of the Union because of renovations.

DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY COLIN MC CALLIFFE

for the senate slows down, so the change won't greatly affect the groups.

"I think toward the end of the semester, work slows down anyway," he said. "Especially in an election year."

On Feb. 26, the Apportionment Board allocated more than \$44,000 to pay for the activities center renovations.

The money will pay for such things as labor, supplies and new furniture.

Spring break a time for charity, too

By Eun-yong Park
STAFF WRITER

A group of students volunteered during spring break to help others and change lives instead of the usual going home or wild partying on vacation.

During spring break, students helped build houses with Habitat for Humanity in Dothan, Alabama.

The Foundation, an ecumenical campus ministry organization sponsored by the United Methodist Church, is working in cooperation with Habitat for Humanity, which builds 50,000 houses annually for homeless people.

When The Foundation left Alabama, the exterior of the house was already done.

"When we first got to the place there was nothing but a concrete slab," said Tom Goodell, director of The Foundation.

As the students finished working on hanging on the windows, the owner-to-be showed up to work together with the team on the house.

"Richard, who we built this house for, was hugging everyone and had tears in his eyes," Goodell said. "It was a great!"

It was The Foundation's biggest project yet, but topped efforts such as visiting homeless shelters to serve food or sponsoring the Cunningham Adoption Home in Champaign.

Goodell said that in the interior of the house will be done in early May when the electricians and plumbers get their work done.

"We are going to this every year on spring break," Goodell said. "We got" the feeling of what we did was changing someone's lives forever, and we are responsible for that."

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<p>BLT Bacon, lettuce, tomato, mayo & mozzarella cheese</p>	<p>SOUTHWESTERN CHICKEN Chicken fajita breast, onion, jalapeno, lettuce, tomato, salsa, nacho, cheddar & mozzarella cheese</p>	<p>BOXA VEGGIE Mushroom, onion, green pepper, black olive, cheddar & mozzarella cheese Slice: \$2.95 12" \$8.99 14" \$10.99</p>	<p>CRAB SALAD Crab & seafood mixed with mayo, onion, cheddar cheese & fresh sliced tomato</p>
<p>PIZZA Pepperoni, pizza sauce & mozzarella cheese (add additional topping .50¢ each)</p>	<p>REUBEN Corned beef, sauerkraut, 1000 Island dressing & mozzarella cheese</p>	<p>BLT Striped bacon, lettuce, mayo, lettuce & tomato Slice: \$2.95 12" \$8.99 14" \$10.99</p>	<p>TACO SALAD Turkey, chicken, beef, meat, onion, black olive, cheddar cheese, fresh sliced tomato with salsa & sour cream served on the side</p>
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Student Government extends Service Day volunteer deadline

By Brian O'Malley
STUDENT GOVERNMENT EDITOR

The Student Government has extended the due date for applications to April 15, working to receive more volunteers and donations for Panther Service Day.

Panther Service Day, scheduled for April 24, is an event created to bring students and community members together to paint houses and clean yards for Charleston residents who can't get the work done themselves for a variety of reasons including disability or old age.

Student Body President Caled Judy said more than 300 volunteers have signed up to take part in the event. Judy said 300 was his original goal, but now he's aiming for 500.

"I've hit my initial goal, but now I'm going for 500," Judy said. "We need as much help as possible."

Judy said most of Eastern's sororities have provided a group of volunteers, but he still hasn't heard from any of the fraternities.

"I'd like to get them involved," he said.

Most of the 300 volunteers are students and Judy said he's been trying to get more Eastern faculty and staff and community members involved.

"A few administrators have donated money personally," Judy said. "But it would be great if they could pick up a paintbrush and paint with us."

"It would be really special to get students, faculty and community members working together. That's really my ultimate goal with this

project."

Judy said he is also looking for more donations to pay for supplies such as paintbrushes and rakes. More than \$400 has been raised so far, but Judy said more will be needed.

"Every little bit helps," Judy said. "Any excess money will go to a charity. If I had to do that, it would be great."

Panther Service Day was created last year by then-Student Body President Alison Mormino, who called the project Bucket Brigade.

Mormino said she got the idea from a program in her hometown of Alton.

"It's extended so far in Alton to the point where they paint about 30 houses a year," Mormino said. "I

thought it was something we could bring to Charleston."

Last year Mormino brought together 150 volunteers and said she is happy to see Judy aiming for a higher goal.

"I am very impressed," she said. "Caleb's trying hard to reach out to the community and you really need to get the community involved."

Mormino said she has signed up as a volunteer along with other alumni members.

"I'm working on a team," she said. "I am very ecstatic about it."

Adam Howell, member of the Panther Service Day committee, said he is hoping for as many volunteers as possible.

"I'd like to see 500 upwards of 1,000," Howell said. "We can handle

however many volunteers we can get."

Judy said anyone who has a problem with the relationship between Eastern and the community should get involved.

"This will help with the divisions in our community," he said. "If no one wants to do anything about it, then they should stop complaining."

Judy said programs like Panther Service Day are ways to make positive changes in the community.

"I'm not being overly-optimistic," he said. "If we want to make any positive change, little things like this are going to make it possible."

Application packets can be found through Judy and the Student Activities Center in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

Commencement Fair to serve students preparing for graduation

By Jessica Porillo
STAFF WRITER

It is the time of year when graduating seniors' thoughts begin to turn toward graduation.

A Commencement Fair will be held April 7 to help out these busy seniors. This fair will include tables and representatives from Eastern's Alumni Association, the Bursar's Office, Career Services, the Commencement Office, Financial Aid, the Records Office, the Graduate School and the University

Bookstore.

"What we're trying to do is create one spot to get any questions answered so that students don't have to go to five to 10 different offices," commencement coordinator Marty Hacker said.

Spring graduates are encouraged to attend the fair because of the abundance of information they will receive.

The Alumni Association will be providing information about GradMed. GradMed is a type of medical insurance that newly gradu-

ated students can take advantage of before they are employed, said Christy Kilgore-Hadley, assistant director of Alumni Services.

Students can also get information about joining the Alumni Association at the fair.

"Every new graduate gets a one-year complimentary membership to the Alumni Association," Kilgore-Hadley said.

The Bursar's Office will also be present to answer question about students' individual school accounts and balance.

Tina Edwards, loan counselor, will be present to do exit counseling for the graduating seniors with loans.

"Any student that has a loan through the Federal Direct Stafford Loan needs to go through exit counseling," Joan Zieren, director of financial aid, said.

Seniors can also get information on tickets, souvenirs, commencement and clear anything up with the records office.

"We're trying to make a place for students, not necessarily spring graduates, but anyone with questions

about graduation," Hacker said.

The deadline to order caps and gowns online was Wed., March 31. Graduating seniors who did not meet that deadline need not worry, though.

Hacker said she will make sure everyone gets their gowns and caps.

Hacker said students can go to Old Main in rooms 1117 or 2130 to pick up forms for ordering their gowns. More information can be accessed by calling the commencement office.

Order forms can still be picked up at Old Main in rooms 1117 and 2130, Hacker said.

need a job?

The Daily Eastern News is hiring advertising representatives and advertising designers for the Summer and Fall 2004.

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"Informational Meeting"

When: Wednesday, April 7, 2004, 7pm

Where: 3rd Floor MLK Bldg., Cumberland Room

This will be a time for questions and answers, Being a Pink Panther requires dedication, time, and involvement.

"Pink Panther Tryouts"


Date: Saturday, April 10, 2004

Time: Promptly at 8:00am-9:00pm approx.

Location: EIU Lantz Rec. Center (Enclosed Gym)

Pink Panther tryouts are open to any EIU full time student (Incomin 3 freshman, sophomore, junior, senior), GPA requirement=2.0 (Please bring proof), Proof of Ins and waiver

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WORLD POLITICAL ISSUES

Events discuss China vs. Taiwan

By Evan Hill
CAMPUS EDITOR

A panel of experts will be presenting varying perspectives on China's unresolved conflict with the Chinese province of Taiwan at a conference titled "The U.S. Policy in Asia: the Taiwan Crisis."

The conference is divided into two parts. John Faust, a retired political science professor and currently a research associate for Eastern's Public Policy Institute, will be giving a presentation and leading a panel discussion.

Faust's presentation is titled "Crisis Between Mainland China and Taiwan," and in it he said he will explain the history of the conflict between Taiwan and mainland China. The second part of the conference will be a presentation by Thomas Cheng, Taiwanese "Consul General."

Robert McClain, former director of the United Nations' Methodist Office, will also be participating by discussing the United Nations' impact and position on the issue.

The Public Policy Institute's purpose is to bring experts to campus to inform both the university and the larger community about

important world policy issues, Faust said.

However, the institute does not have an official opinion on the topics it discusses. Faust said the institute was meant to inform the community, not influence it.

The central issue to be discussed, the debate over the autonomy of Taiwan from mainland China, has a long and detailed history.

While Taiwan is part of China, the two regions are in a debate over how autonomous Taiwan will be.

The different factions currently debating are the government of mainland China, the government, led by recently elected President Chen Shui-Bien, and people of Taiwan, the United Nations and the United States' Government, Faust said.

When President George W. Bush took office in 2000, he declared his support for mainland China. Faust, however, said the United States' Government is stressing the need for a peaceful resolution of the conflict.

Faust also said stability is in the interest of all parties involved for economic reasons. He said a peaceful solution to the crisis is in the interest of the economies of Taiwan, mainland China and the United States.

Howie:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"It's tough to rock out on a Sunday night, but we're going to give it a go," Day told the crowd after his third song. "Sundays are mostly for hanging out and watching football."

Displaying a flexibility that comes with playing with a band, Hall switched to electric guitar for Day's fourth song "She Says" from his new album "Stop All The World Now."

After several songs with two guitarists, Day turned to the piano and after jamming the Paramount Movies theme and other teasers, singers lined in for the audience as Day accompanied his vocals on the piano.

For openers

Rob Nicholas and Owen Beverly opened the show.

The two opening singer-songwriters warmed up the crowd with a mixture of acoustic jazz and eclectic, introspective ballads. Sunday's performance was the only show they will play with Day.

Nicholas began playing to about 40 listeners, but the crowd quickly grew. By the time he finished his

set, nearly 200 people had assembled.

Nicholas, a Chicago native, has been playing in northern Illinois for three years.

Eric Roods picked up his demo and he was added to the bill for the show at Eastern, he said.

"I don't like to label my music," Nicholas said. "But I would call it acoustic music with a jazz influence."

"It swings and has a good groove," he said.

Nicholas said he prefers a smaller audience.

"With a small crowd, you can look right at them; there is raw energy," Nicholas said. "You can connect with them eye-to-eye."

"With a bigger crowd, it is a different kind of energy, but still a good one," he said.

Owen Beverly, who hails from Jackson, Miss., brought his mixture of eclectic ballads and slow, remorseful melodies to the stage after Nicholas's set.

Beverly just finished work on his debut album "The Drunk Lure EP" last year and has been touring for the past few months.

The concert was sponsored by the University Board.

What: John Faust; presentation and panel discussion
When: 1:30 p.m.
Where: Charleston/Mallory Room of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union

Also: Thomas Cheng, Taiwanese "Consul General"

When: 7:30-8:15 p.m.
Where: Lumpkin Auditorium

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 17 Film mt
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 20 _ _ f a kind
 21 Warp-r sest-ant w
 22T mptr se
 23 On wh w nt t ll th king th sky was falling
 26N 1 just ask
 29C mm t ns
 30 Family data
 31 Jul y tr pi al fruit
 33W at ring h
 36P f r ma dan with a shak
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 41Ha kn y d
 42Wall Str t
 43W m nts.
 43W ar m n
 44Ar hip lag parts
 46S m se-ing ar und
 49Narrate
 51Th "A" f ABM
 52Just gr at
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Members of the Sigma Pi little mens tug team take first place out at the campus pond on Saturday afternoon.

DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY JOSH REELEY

Tugs:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Schade said Sigma Sigma tugs started training two months before the event. "We divided up the sorority and tug against each other and practiced with other fraternities," she said. Schade also said women with the most strength in the legs are usually the anchor because they have to be able to keep their footing.

"Everyone on our team is strong, but usually the stronger people are in the back and women stronger in the arms are in the front because they have to hold up the rope," Schade said. Even though Delta Chi lost to Sigma Phi Epsilon Tony Matarese, president of Delta Chi, was gracious. "We are disappointed that we lost, but Sigma Phi Epsilon was pretty good," he said. Lambda Chi Alpha took third place in the big men competition but its members were disappointed they were not in the championship.

"It was a big disappointment because we were in it last year," PJ Caposey, a member of Lambda Chi Alpha, said. Caposey has been the anchor for Lambda Chi three years in a row and said there is definitely strategy for a competition like this. "You can't legally begin training for tugs until February but people lift weights for it all year round," he said. "Even though we lost to Sigma Phi Epsilon for the championship round, Sigma Phi Epsilon was far more superior. They were just stronger," Caposey said.

Group hopes to build huge wind farm in McLean County

ARROWSMITH (AP) — A Texas company is pushing to erect as many as 267 wind turbines in McLean County, signaling a growing interest in Illinois among wind farm developers. Zilkha Renewable Energy, a wind farm owner and developer, hopes to build the 405-foot high turbines on 22,000 acres eight miles east of Bloomington. The 432-megawatt project called Arrowsmith Wind Farm would produce more than 100 megawatts more energy than the largest current farm located on the Oregon-Washington border, according to the Houston-based company. Zilkha says the farm would produce more energy than any other wind farm in the world.

White supremacist going on trial

CHICAGO (AP) — Prosecutors claim white supremacist leader Matthew Hale wanted a federal judge murdered in the name of a "racial holy war" and said so on tapes made by an FBI informant. But defense attorneys plan to argue a jury at Hale's trial starting Wednesday to listen carefully to those tapes because, they say, the FBI's informant is the only one urging violence.

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BASEBALL

Eastern realizes OVC possibilities

By Michael Gilbert
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

The Eastern bats came alive and so did the team's chances of competing in the Ohio Valley Conference after a double header sweep of Murray State last Saturday in Kentucky.

The Panthers scored 28 runs in the two games, including 17 in game two to sweep the twinbill.

Eastern broke open game one with nine runs in the middle four innings to turn a 2-2 tie into an 11-2 lead. The big blows came in the seventh when seniors Chris Uhle and Kyle Haines combined for five of the six runs scored. Uhle singled to right center to score two and then his double play partner, Haines, connected on a three run gain to give Eastern a nine run lead.

The hit by Haines extended his hitting streak to 12 games and the shortstop currently sits fourth on the team with a .286 batting average.

"The thing Kyle realized during the streak is that he was trying to do too much at the plate earlier in the year," Panthers head coach Jimmy Schmitz said. "Now he just does what it takes to get a base hit and try to keep an inning going. He's doing what he can and has become a very consistent hitter."

Eastern picked up the victory after starter Kirk Miller went seven solid innings scattering nine and giving up five runs. The sopho-

more struggled with control (eight walks) but refused to let the Racers back into the game after Eastern broke open the game.

"We switched Kirk to leadoff the series and he did a nice job," Schmitz said. "We gave him a lot of run support and he held the lead."

With the win, Miller improved to 2-3 on the season. Murray State starter Jesse Rhoads took the loss as he allowed four runs in four innings and fell to 0-1 on the season.

In the game two, Eastern scored three in third and four more in the next frame to take an 8-3 in the middle of the fourth inning. In the third, Ryan Campbell delivered a RBI double and first baseman Kevin Carkeek chimed in with a two-run single. Uhle drove in two in the fourth with a ground-rule double to right and Haines and Campbell kept the runs coming with RBI singles.

The Racers came back with single tallies in the fourth and fifth to cut the lead to three, but the Eastern bats came alive again in the sixth and seventh, with nine total runs to cruise to a 17-6 victory.

Eastern starter Kyle Widgren pitched all seven innings to improve to 2-4 on the year. Murray State's Billy Fares (2-3) took the loss as he was hit hard to the tune of 11 runs in five innings.

Eastern moved into a tie for third place in the OVC with the sweep.

Overtime:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

"The thing we talked about was getting off to a good start in the conference this year and so far we have done that," Schmitz said. Eastern jumped to an early three-run lead in the first when Stone tripled to right field to score Marcus Jackson, Kevin Carkeek and Ryan Campbell.

The Panthers picked up another run in the second when shortstop Kyle Haines doubled to center field to increase the lead to 4-0.

Murray State came right back

in the third off Eastern starter Erik Huber with a three run homer from shortstop Alex Stewart to cut the Panther lead to one. The Racers manufactured a run in the fourth after Huber walked a batter. Murray State took advantage of the base on balls when centerfielder Tyler Pittman crossed home plate on a ground out to Haines.

The score remained even until the ninth when Eastern finally got to Racers reliever Bart Peach, who had previously pitched six scoreless innings. With runners on first and second, Campbell singled to right-center to score Chris Uhle and give Eastern a short-lived 5-4 lead.

Murray State led off the ninth with a double from Ike Bridwell, who advanced to third on a sacrifice bunt. Bridwell then scored on an infield hit from Clint Griggs. Vasculik sent the game to extra frames when he got Geoff Kirksey to pop out to first and Pittman to ground out to strand to runners on base.

In the Racers' tenth inning, Vasculik was again in trouble but induced catcher Chad Fogle to ground into a game-ended double play to give Eastern the road sweep.

"Vasculik's pitching was big plus for us today because now we know what he can do," Schmitz said.

Stevens:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

- The Masters - CBS sells the first golf major of the season as "a tradition unlike any other," and truer words couldn't be spoken. Talk about great stories, it's been about 20 years since Jack Nicklaus at age 46 won his final major. Jose Maria

Olazabal couldn't walk months before because of foot surgery before his first green jacket... and there is this player named Eldrick, who is a three-time winner and I've been told is pretty good. Every golf fan watches the most gorgeous golf course in the country play host to one of the biggest tournaments of the country. Story lines this week are Can Mickelson get that elusive major (no), can Tiger end his

media so-called major slump (no) and how well will John Daly do (will make the cut but won't contend). However, by Sunday, the top story will be the Augusta, Ga. native Charles Howell III winning his first major in front of the home crowd.

So, sit back and enjoy what April has to offer because March does have the madness but April has the drama for all kinds of sports fans.

Royals, White Sox set to open season

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Tony Pena figures opening day in Kansas City will hold special meaning for millions of Latin Americans.

With Pena's Kansas City Royals hosting Ozzie Guillen's Chicago White Sox, it will be a rare instance of two clubs with Latin managers opening the season against each other.

"It means a lot," said Pena, a Dominican native who was AL manager of the year last season.

"In the past, we didn't have too many Latin American managers. This year we are four. It means a lot. And I know it means a lot to Latin American people."

What do you want to see?

The Daily Eastern News is conducting a readership survey. Now is your chance to tell us what you think. Please fill out only one survey and return it to the newsroom in 1811 Buzzard Hall by April 30. Or you can fill out the survey online at www.thedailyeasternnews.com.

(Circle all that apply)

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TENNIS



DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY STEPHEN HAAS

C.J. Weber focuses to swing. The men's and women's tennis teams beat Austin Peay at Darling Courts this weekend. The men also dominated DePaul 5-2.

A beating from both sides

◆ Men's, Women's teams conquer Austin Peay this weekend

By Dan Reinick
STAFF WRITER

Eastern's men's and women's tennis teams dominated Austin Peay 7-0 after losing two in a row. The men carried their success over to Sunday to beat DePaul 5-2.

The women's team is turning things around, dominating Austin Peay 5-2, coming off a loss to Tennessee-Martin. The win keeps the Panthers in the hunt for the Ohio Valley Conference, improving them to 3-2. Seniors C.J. Weber and Brandon Blankenbaker helped the Panthers along with victories in straight sets.

"Each year they're getting better because they're playing top competition," Holtzgrafe said. "These kids just win every time. They're amazing players."

The tennis teams are coming up on a busy time of the season in the next two weekends. The teams will be traveling to three different sites for six different competitions over the next 14 days ending with the OVC Tournament in Nashville, Tenn.

"The kids are outside everyday on the court and it's helping them get more in touch with themselves," Holtzgrafe said. "They're getting sharper and sharper."

around in the teams demeanor. "We're getting close to tournament time and I think the seniors are feeling that," Holtzgrafe said. "They know they have to get things done and they're doing it. It's about accountability."

The men beat Austin Peay 5-2, coming off a loss to Tennessee-Martin. The win keeps the Panthers in the hunt for the Ohio Valley Conference, improving them to 3-2. Seniors C.J. Weber and Brandon Blankenbaker helped the Panthers along with victories in straight sets.

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"The kids are outside everyday on the court and it's helping them get more in touch with themselves," Holtzgrafe said. "They're getting sharper and sharper."

But that much play can take its toll on players and Holtzgrafe said the men need to get back to 100 percent health wise.

SOFTBALL

Panther's losing streak rallies into 14 of last 15 games

By Matthew Stevens
SPORTS EDITOR

After all the struggles of the Panthers softball squad this season, it appears luck may not be on the team's side either.

The losing streak has now stretched to the Panthers dropping 14 of last 15 games.

Late inning rallies cost Eastern Illinois softball in a doubleheader loss at Samford Saturday afternoon.

Despite getting nobits entering

the sixth inning of game one, the Bulldogs (11-23, 3-2 OVC) put up a pair on the board in the frame to win 2-0, and in the second game scored three runs in the final two innings to complete a come-from-behind 3-1 win.

The Samford pitching staff limited Eastern (9-22, 1-6 OVC) to only seven hits on the day. In game one, hits were at a premium for both teams. Eastern starter Andrea Darnell no-hit Samford while only allowing two base runners through the first five innings before the

Bulldogs finally got to Darnell in the sixth.

Eastern had a runner in scoring position in only the first and sixth innings. Jessica Irps was hit by a pitch and stole second in the first before being stranded. In the sixth, Cassandra North led off with a single and pinch runner Molly Rambo reached third thanks to a passed ball and sacrifice bunt. Samford got out of the inning on a double play off a ground ball hit by Kari Haggerty with Rambo getting tagged out at home.

Darnell's record fell to 2-6 after allowing only the three hits through six, but she did not strike-out a batter.

The Bulldogs won game two with a two-run fifth that featured four straight hits. Kelly Smith led off with a double and, after a sacrifice bunt, scored on a single to left by Abi Casillo. Bridgett Smith then doubled down the right field line and Liz Pearce singled to drive in Casillo. Eastern then actually lucked out because both the second and third outs in the inning

were made on the bases. Bridgett Smith was thrown out at third trying to get back to the base after rounding the bag on the Pearce single, and after a Trisha Holman single to center, North threw out Pearce at home.

For a while it appeared as though Eastern starter Brittany Whelan might make the one-run lead stand. Whelan pitched out of jams in the first and second innings, but then did not allow a hit until the fifth when Samford tied the ballgame.




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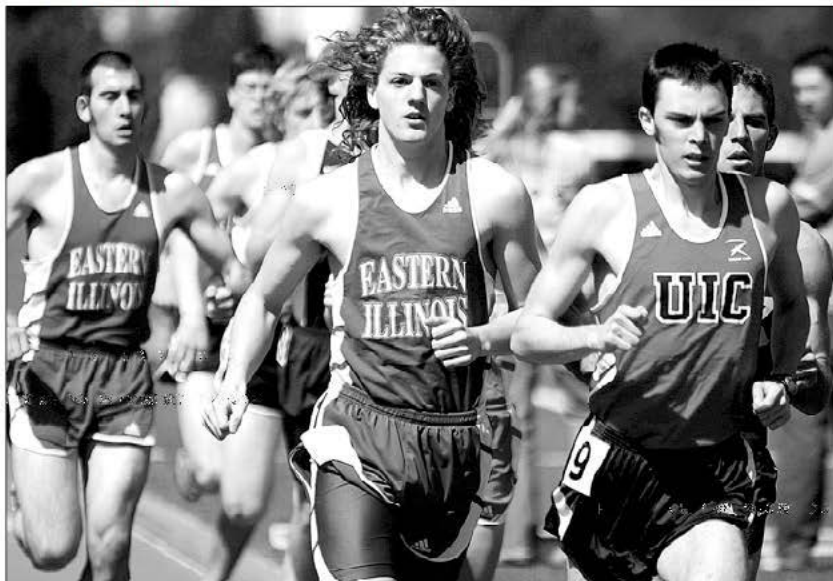
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SPORTS

Panther sports calendar

TUESDAY	Illinois at Western Illinois	3 p.m.	Away
WEDNESDAY	South at Butler	1:30 p.m.	Away
FRIDAY	Tenn. at Murray State	Noon	Away

TRACK AND FIELD



Andrew Newton (center) runs in the Big Blue Classic at O'Brien Field this weekend. The Panthers and the Indiana State Sycamores dominated the meet.

Men dominate home, women trail Indiana

By Dan Renick
STAFF WRITER

Eastern's men won their only home meet of the year while the women stepped up and beat Indiana State.

The Panthers and Sycamores led the field on both the men's and women's sides of the Big Blue Classic at O'Brien Field. Eastern's men topped the field with a team score of 260, beating Indiana State by 49 and the Eastern women were edged out seven points by Indiana State.

"When we have a head-to-head meet against them in December it wasn't close," Wallace said. "I think this is a sign that the team's picking up the pace."

And it's not the usual stars helping Eastern get things going.

"The kids that are helping us get going aren't the kids getting the glory every meet," head

coach Mary Wallace said. "We're counting on a lot of young kids and they're doing everything they can to win."

The Eastern women also received a lift from junior Alicia Harris, junior Denise Jones and senior Nicole Millic, who competed away from the team last week in the Bayou Classic in Houston.

Millic took first in the 1500 meter run with a time of 4:42.04. Jones cleared 5'5" in the high jump, good for a second place finish. Harris took second in two close runs against Alicia Miller of Indiana State. In the 200 meter run Harris ran a 24.66 while Miller edged her out with a time of 24.08 and in the 400 meter run by seven tenths of a second with a time of 1:04.63. The women also had help from their 4x800 meter relay team that took first with a time of 9:22.21.

On the other side of the competition, the men

had a good day with a convincing win over Indiana State, who head coach Tom Akers said would be a good challenge for the team.

The Panther men were led by their distance runners. In the mile run sophomore Jake Stout, Dan Strackeljah and freshman Eric Werden took first, second and fourth respectively. Stout also took second in the 3,000 meter steeplechase with a time of 9:16.18. In the 10,000 meter run sophomore Dave Carlson took first with a time of 31:29.94.

Senior Jermaine Jones took second in the 110 meter hurdles (14.55) and the 400 meter hurdles (53.83). Junior Aaron Grobengieser took first in the shot put (52.04), third in the javelin (186'10") and third in the hammer throw (160'03").

Next weekend the men's and women's teams will travel to Macomb to compete against Western Illinois.

BASEBALL ♦ PANTHERS 7, MURRAY STATE 5

Eastern takes Racers extra mile

♦ Panthers victorious in extra innings

By Michael Gilbert
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

Utility infielder/outfielder Jason Pinnell came up with arguably the biggest hit of the season as the Panthers closed out the sweep against Murray State with a 7-5 extra inning victory Sunday in Kentucky.

Pinnell entered the game in the ninth inning as a defensive replacement and stepped to the plate in the tenth with two baserunners on and two outs. The Charleston native delivered a double down the right field line, scoring Joe Hernandez and Pete Stone to give Eastern the extra inning lead. Reliever Chris Vaculik (1-1) pitched the final 3 2/3 innings to pick up the win for the Panthers.

"Pinnell went into the game as a defensive replacement and came up with a big hit in the tenth and Chris did a great job in relief giving up just one run and holding runners on base," Panthers head coach Jimmy Schmitz said.

With the win, the Panthers improved to 7-17 overall, but, more importantly, 4-2 and tied for third place in the OVC.

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Center fielder Jason Cobb swings at a pitch. Eastern tied for OVC third place after a 7-5 victory in Kentucky Sunday against Murray State.

THROWING HEAT
Matt Stevens
SPORTS EDITOR

April not only good for showers

Find your favorite chair, sit back and enjoy one of the greatest months of professional sports.

Don't get me wrong, March has the NCAA Tournament and there is no better time of year because everyone watches the madness because of it being the most pure athletic event in the world. However, when it comes to professional sports, April has all the months beat and it's obvious why.

♦ **NCAA Tournament Final** - Connecticut versus Georgia Tech for all the marbles. Like any tourney final, the Huskies are the 2004 version of Goliath but Tech may actually have enough weapons to make for a pretty competitive David. In 1983, it was N.C. State's Jim Valvano looking for someone to buy. In '86 it was Villanova's Rollie Massimino falling to his knees and even last year Jim Boeheim got his first national championship, so don't bet against the Jackets Monday night.

♦ **Major League Baseball Opening Day - Play ball.** It may be only one of 162 but as the old saying goes, every one used this day in its first place so optimism reigns supreme throughout every baseball fan and expert. ESPN analyst Tim Kurkjian had Oakland over Arizona in the fall classic last year. Nice one, Timmy.

In 2004, there may not be a bigger pair of stories than whether or not Yankees' owner George Steinbrenner's wallet can finally bring a title back to the Big Apple.

However, there are those (ESPN's Peter Gammons) who predict the "Evil Empire" won't even be around in the World Series. Then, there's that team from Chicago who hasn't won the championship in a really long time (1908). You heard it here first, Dusty Baker and the Cubs will not make the playoffs. How can I make such a prediction? Simple, it's opening day.

♦ **The NHL Playoffs** - Turn on the tube, buy yourself some Labatt Blue and watch the most exciting postseason in all of professional sports. The intensity never gets higher than in the hockey playoffs because every goal is magnified and a star is always born. Last season, the story was Anaheim goaltender Jean Sebastien-Giguere and this year it could be Tampa Bay center Martin St. Louis. The most exciting thing about these playoffs is that anybody can get to the Stanley Cup Finals no matter what seed you are. In the NBA playoffs, nobody plays hard until the fourth quarter and usually the most talented team gets pretty far. In the 2004 NHL Playoffs, the highly talented Detroit Red Wings could get beat by the little known Nashville Predators.