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Eastern Illinois University

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

VERGE ♦ Check out our staff's Oscar pics: page 4B

THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

VOLUME 91, ISSUE 38

DENnews.com

90th Anniversary

Eastern Illinois University, Charleston

FRIDAY
MARCH
3
2006

CAMPUS CRIME

13 violent crimes reported during 2005

BY JESSICA CANTARELLI
CAMPUS EDITOR

The University Police Department recorded 13 circumstances involving some form of violence in 2005, not including violations handled through Judicial Affairs via the Student Conduct Code.

Like all crime, violence among students is unavoidable, and the university expects occurrences each year.

Adam Due, chief of University Police Department, said officers cannot be everywhere all the time, so when a violent altercation breaks out, it is a bystander's responsibility to call the police.

"It's not something you can prevent," Due said. "There's been times we've been standing right there, and people keep on (fighting) with us standing right there."

Student Judicial Officer Keith Kohanzo, said Judicial Affairs has authority over all violent crimes committed on campus and most committed off campus.

Kohanzo said Judicial Affairs relies on the police to report any violent altercations, which is where they receive a good portion of their information. Sometimes, resident directors from residence halls contact Judicial Affairs and rarely, other students report incidences themselves.

Depending on the severity of violent situations occurring both on and off campus, students will have to deal with the Charleston Police Department as well as judicial affairs.

"I have to ask myself 'Do we want to get involved? Should we?' when those kinds of things happen," Kohanzo said.

In the past year, the Eastern the Charleston communities have experienced violent altercations ranging from a typical bar fight to more severe forms of violence.

Last September, a student was attacked in her home in Brittany Ridge Apartments just outside of campus.

Last October, a fight broke out in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union during the Battle of the DJ party, and police officers intervened. They said that was not the first time a fight has broken out at the Union.

Last Saturday, another incident broke out after the Miss Black EIU pageant outside the Union, sending one student, a football player, to the hospital after he was stabbed.

SEE CRIME PAGE 9

CITY AND UPD TEAM UP TO KEEP CHARLESTON SAFE

BY BRADEN LATHAM-JONES
STAFF REPORTER

The city and campus police have had to work together to solve the crimes on campus, but there is no stepping on the other's toes when doing their work, said Sgt. John Bennett of the Charleston Police Department.

The University Police Department carries just as much authority as the Charleston Police Department if not more.

Eastern's students may perceive the UPD to have a much smaller jurisdiction that is limited to campus, while in reality the UPD officers are sworn police officers and have all the same powers as those in other police agencies.

"I believe the campus police are limited only to the university," said Lindsay Woike, a sophomore business marketing major.

However, this is not the truth. The campus police have no boundaries at all.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY JAY GRABIEC/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

"Because we are bounded by the state, and not a city or county, our jurisdiction is everywhere," said Art Mitchell, crime prevention officer for the UPD. "But we typically try and stick to the campus only."

So, unlike the Charleston Police Department, the campus police officers are not forced to stay inside the corporate city limits of Charleston.

Another difference between the police agencies involves the policies of drinking tickets.

"Both departments can ticket that person with a city violation, but the campus police do not usually charge that person with a city violation," Bennett said.

If a student receives a drinking ticket from a UPD officer, an incident report is filed with the Judicial Affairs Board, which results in a \$25 fine for first offense. Students are then required to attend a program outlining the negative effects of drinking sponsored by Counseling Center. The program costs \$35 to attend. If the ticket is received from the Charleston Police, the first offense results in a \$251 fine.

Another common misconception is that the campus police call on the Charleston police frequently.

The UPD does call for information, but the Charleston Police Department actually calls on the campus police for assistance "quite often," Mitchell said, because of their police force often being short-staffed.

The University Police and the Charleston Police frequently get together on weekends and create a "Unified Patrol" made up of one Charleston Police officer, and one Campus Police officer.

This Unified Patrol responds to party calls and assists with fight and drinking violations.

"This is done so that we have a representative of the university when dealing with a student," Bennett said.

If the Charleston Police Department plans to go anywhere on campus they always notify the UPD, Bennett said. The campus police will often end up going with them.



Slapstick play comes to Village Theatre

BY MATT KELLY
STAFF REPORTER

Sexual innuendoes and ridiculous situations comprise "Menaechmi," a play opening tonight at the Village Theatre.

The Eastern Illinois Theater Department is putting on the Roman comedy.

Like most students, Katy Hawley, who will play Senex, had never heard of the play before.

Although the play is ancient and lacks name recognition among students, there are many aspects students can relate to.

"We have a 'lady of the night,' and her scenes have a lot of sexual innuendoes... sexual innuendoes that will appeal to college students," Hawley said.

Hawley said she thinks many scenes in this adaptation of

"Menaechmi" are risqué.

Farce comedies like this one involve a great deal of slapstick comedy, which is a style many people have seen in movies like "Airplane" and "Blazing Saddles."

Referring to the amount of slapstick in the play, Hawley said she would best describe it as being a live cartoon.

Scott Podraza, who will play Prologue and a ghost in the play, said students will enjoy the chase scene.

"It's very elaborate, and we managed to throw in any ridiculous parts we could at the end," Podraza said.

For Jake Senesac, who will play Peniculus, getting into character was easy.

"Peniculus is the funny fat guy, and I play that part almost every day," Senesac said.

Professor Jerry Eisenhour directed and wrote the adaptation of the



CARRIE HOLLIS/
THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Menaechmus, played by sophomore theater arts major Brian Aycock, and the mistress, junior theater arts major Stephanie Leasure, rehearse for this weekend's performances of "The Menaechmi" at the Village Theater.

"Menaechmi."

"Jerry Eisenhour's favorite thing to do is cheap comedy," Senesac said. "If it's slapstick and somebody's going to fall down, he loves it."

Eisenhour has been involved in

theater for over 20 years.

Today's performance is at 7 p.m. at the Village Theatre and is scheduled to run March 3-7.

For ticket information, call the box office at 581-3110.

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EVAN HILL
SENIOR
JOURNALISM MAJOR

"At least they have the money and capital to infringe on people's privacy property."

A quick scan of the dissidents in the United States will inevitably reveal a healthy dose of people who are eager to complain about the current state of privacy under Bush.



TIM MARTIN
SENIOR
JOURNALISM MAJOR

"Why is Anna Nicole Smith appearing in front of the Supreme Court?"

She wants money, the hard-earned inheritance she feels entitled to after marrying an 89-year-old billionaire industrialist named J. Howard Marshall in 1994.

WTF?

Punk band sticker causes bomb scare

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATHENS, Ohio— A sticker on a bicycle that said "this bike is a pipe bomb" caused a scare Thursday at Ohio University that shut down four buildings before authorities learned the message was the name of a punk rock band, a university spokesman said.

The sticker on the bike chained outside the university-owned Oasis restaurant near the center of campus attracted the attention of a police officer about 5:30 a.m., spokesman Jack Jeffery said.

Police blocked streets around the restaurant and the Columbus police bomb squad came from about 65 miles away.

The bomb experts hit the bike with a high-pressure spray of water, then pried it apart with a hydraulic device normally used to rescue accident victims trapped in cars, acting Athens Fire Chief Ken Gilbraith said. Once they had it open, they saw there was no bomb.

Woman Allegedly Fakes Death Over Tickets

DES MOINES, Iowa— Kimberly Du landed in a grave situation after police say she tried to avoid traffic charges by faking her death. Du, 36, of Des Moines, faked her death in December, court records show.

Someone claiming to be Du's mother used a pair of forged documents, including a death notice printed on a newspaper Web site and a letter purported to be signed by Du's mother, to persuade court officials that Du had died, records show.

DINNER TIME



JAY GRABIEC/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Myrna Thomason of Mattoon feeds her stray cat, Baby, outside of Weller Hall on Thursday afternoon. Thomason feeds the cat twice a day and even gets help from Eastern student Lauryn Kroger, a junior elementary education major, to feed to the cat on the weekends.

FIVE-DAY WEATHER

TODAY	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
42	42	43	43	45
22	32	29	27	28
Mostly clear	Mostly sunny	Chance rain	Partly cloudy	Partly cloudy

COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY NEWS

Underage ISU drinkers face consequences

BY TONY SAPOCHETTI
THE DAILY VIDETTE (ILLINOIS STATE U.)

NORMAL— Illinois State University students who get caught with alcohol in the residence halls will face consequences that will ask them to reflect on how alcohol plays a role in their lives. Punishment for first time offenders who are caught with either possession or consumption of alcohol in a residence hall includes a mandatory four-hour educational program, a \$50 fine for that program and having to write a reflection essay describing why they were drinking.

Assistant Director of University Housing Services Mboka Mwilambwe said there are different factors that must be considered when dealing with alcohol use in residence halls.

"There are two different things we look at when we discover a student with alcohol, and that is whether or not they were an active participant or a passive participant," Mwilambwe said. "An active participant would be found consuming or possessing alcohol at the time while the passive participant may have just been in the room while others were consuming it."

The punishment for an active participant includes a censure, or written warning, and they are sanctioned to attend one alcohol class. Punishment for a passive participant may include having that student write a reflection paper on how they found themselves in that situation.

Female newswriters face terror, editors

BY MEGAN YODZIS
THE BG NEWS (BOWLING GREEN STATE U.)

BOWLING GREEN, Ohio— When college students want to go to a different country to study abroad, they need nothing more than a passport. When a person from Tunisia, for example, wants to come to America, along with a green card, they need to obtain a "prestigious grant" from their country.

At least that is what Fatma Azzouz, assistant professor in the school of communication studies, had to do in order to come teach in the United States. Azzouz spoke about her experience Wednesday during the Brown Bag Luncheon in the Women's Center.

The "grant" she received is given to students in other countries who wish to come to America to teach. Azzouz made her way here by participating in the Global Vision Project. She is affiliated in the part which educates people about her country, Tunisia.

Azzouz's chosen teaching topic is female journalists in Arab countries. There are many female journalists out there who are Arab, she said.



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STAFF LIST
EDITOR IN CHIEF..... AARON SEIDLITZ
DENeic@gmail.com
MANAGING EDITOR..... SARAH WHITNEY
DENmanaging@gmail.com

NEWS EDITOR..... AMY SIMPSON
DENnewsdesk@gmail.com
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR..... LAURA GRIFFITH
DENnewsdesk@gmail.com
OPINION PAGE EDITOR..... BRIAN O'MALLEY
Bpomalley@eiu.edu
ACTIVITIES EDITOR..... MATT POLI
DENactivities@gmail.com
ADMINISTRATION EDITOR..... KAYLA CROW
DENadministration@gmail.com
CITY EDITOR..... KRISTEN LARSEN
DENcitydesk@gmail.com
CAMPUS EDITOR..... JESSICA CANTARELLI
DENcampus@gmail.com
STUDENT GOV. EDITOR..... LAUREN MOORE
DENstudentgov@gmail.com
PHOTO EDITOR..... ERIC HILTNER
DENphotodesk@gmail.com

ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR..... CARRIE HOLLIS
DENphotodesk@gmail.com
SPORTS EDITOR..... MARCO SANTANA
DENsportsdesk@gmail.com
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR..... MATT DANIELS
DENsportsdesk@gmail.com
VERGE EDITOR..... DAVID THILL
DENverge@gmail.com
ASST. VERGE EDITOR..... HOLLY MOHR
DENverge@gmail.com
PRODUCTION EDITOR..... LAUREN KRULL
DENonlinedesk@gmail.com
ASST. PRODUCTION EDITOR..... ANGELITA FALLER
DENonlinedesk@gmail.com
ADVERTISING MANAGER..... DAVID HANLEY
PROMOTIONS MANAGER..... BLAKE DONDLINGER
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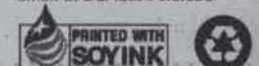
BUSINESS MANAGER..... BETSY MELLOTT
GRADUATE ASSISTANT..... HOLLY HENSCHEN
EDITORIAL ADVISER..... JOE GISONDI
cfjgg@eiu.edu
PUBLISHER..... JOHN RYAN
cfjmr1@eiu.edu
PRESS SUPERVISOR..... TOM ROBERTS
PHONE: 217-581-2812 **FAX**: 581-2923
E-MAIL: DENEIC@GMAIL.COM
NIGHT PRODUCTION STAFF:
NIGHT CHIEF..... EVAN HILL
COPY CHIEF..... KYLE MAYHUGH
INSIDE DESIGN..... MICHAEL PETERSON
SPORTS DESIGN..... DAN RENICK
NIGHT PHOTO EDITOR..... ERIC HILTNER
COPY EDITORS..... CASSIE ISAACS
CHRIS WALDEN

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Polar Plunge raises money for Special Olympics

By CATHY BAYER
STAFF REPORTER

Saturday's temperature is supposed to reach 45 degrees, and for nearly 75 people from Eastern, that's warm enough to swim.

The Polar Plunge is a statewide fundraiser benefiting the Special Olympics. Participants raise money to "plunge" into Lake Sara in Effingham.

Heather Janik, a junior special education major, is happy to hear about the mid-40-degree temperatures. She plans to bundle up in a few layers of sweatshirts and clothing to help battle the cold.

"You don't have to plunge," said Kimberly Abell, local Area Nine Special Olympics director. "Some people just say they're going to plunge; if they want to just stick a toe in, that's just fine."

Each participant must raise a minimum of \$75, and all the money raised will stay in the local area, which covers 11 counties.

This year with nearly 150 participants, Abell hopes to raise \$15,000, which would beat last year's \$7,500.

Janik has raised \$1,462 for the event. Her original goal was \$250. When her family alone donated \$330,



DAILY EASTERN NEWS FILE PHOTO

The Polar Plunge at Lake Sara in Effingham on March 3, 2005, where 55 plungers braved the 38-degree weather to help raise money for the Special Olympics.

she decided to push her goal up to \$1,000. She received \$100 from each of her aunts and uncles. Her church contributed to the fundraiser as well.

"I'm really active in my church, and we have lots of children with special needs," she said.

After calculating her church's donations, she had more than \$900. A few more donations tipped her over her goal.

People were asking her what she would do in return for their donation. She decided to actually swim in the

cold water, have someone record video and take pictures to prove she actually took the plunge.

The money raised will service 950 athletes who compete in swimming, snowboarding, basketball, volleyball, softball, bowling, soccer and other

events in the Special Olympics.

Abell won't be plunging this year since it is her first year as director. Her boss told her to stand back and watch the first time. Next year she said she'll probably join the plungers.

She will get there Saturday morning to rake the beach, clearing away the debris to make the beach safe for the plungers.

There is a costume contest again this year, with the only regulations banning nudity and wetsuits. Previous years have brought a University of Illinois sports fan, Catwoman and the Lone Ranger.

After the plunge at noon, the group will party at the Effingham Knights of Columbus Hall. Prizes will be given away, including the grand prize, a pair of Chicago Bulls tickets and two nights free in a hotel.

Other prizes include a home café system, diamond concept earrings and gift certificates.

This is the third year the program has been in the area, and this year's first plunge took place Feb. 15.

Abell said there is no record of anyone being injured, ever, at the event throughout the state.

For more information, call Kimberly Abell at 345-2424.

Account holds may mar registration Comedian comes back

By ASHLEY CORBETT
STAFF REPORTER

Registration for summer and fall classes starts Monday for students with priority registration at Eastern.

Regular registration starts March 20, starting with seniors, going by the last digit in students' social security numbers.

Students with priority registration include students in the honors program, athletics and various other groups across campus.

Monica Zeigler, assistant director for the Academic Advising Center, said it is important for students to know when they are supposed to register.

"Students should be ready to register when it is their date so they can get the best possible classes," she said.

Registration then goes to seniors who register March 20 to March 24 and ends with freshmen, who can start registering March 10 to March 14.

The complete list of dates is avail-

able on the registration Web site and is set according to a student's grade level and social security number.

Undergraduate students must see an adviser before they can register so the flags can be lifted from their account. Students are not able to register until the flags are lifted.

Zeigler said students should look through the course catalog before they go to their appointments to find classes they want to take. She also said to be sure to look at the prerequisites to make sure they are able to take those classes.

Sue Harvey, director of the Records Office, said all students have to go through the PAWS system to register for classes, but some have had problems in the past because they have had holds placed on their accounts.

Students are recommended to check and see if their record is clean with no holds on their account so they register on time.

"I find the registration process at EIU user friendly, but when a hold is placed on my account, I find it frus-

trating," said Sarah Gouskos, a sophomore special education major. "I try and register early and do what my advisers tell me to do but with the hold placed on my account I am unable to do so, and then I miss out on the classes I want and need."

Jenny Kaplan, a sophomore biology major, said she likes being able to register online unless there is a problem with the server.

"It's convenient that it's (registration) online, but I really don't like how bad the server gets," she said.

Ben Stover, a junior psychology major, said he likes being able to register online but does not like having to wait until the end of his designated week to register.

"I think the system that they have here works well; I don't favor it only being open for select hours at a time, although I imagine that there is some sort of reason for that," Stover said.

Zeigler said students should be aware that they must have 30 credit hours by end of the summer to take 3000-level courses in the fall.

ASHLEY WAGNER
STAFF REPORTER

Comedian Michael Dean Ester calls himself a professional college student, trading in his cap and gown for a microphone, having performed at more than 130 colleges nationwide.

Ester will make his second appearance on Eastern's campus tonight, and he plans to capture students' college experiences through his jokes.

Ester said he enjoys performing at college campuses because students are critical thinkers.

"They enjoy humor with a point of view," he said.

Ester has dished up over 1,500 live performances in the past 15 years, and he shows no sign of stopping now.

Even so, he said he still gets nervous before a show.

"The day I stop being nervous, is the day I quit," he said. "If you don't feel the bugs inside you before you go on, then you don't enjoy the applause and recognition the same way."

Unfortunately, a bug of a different sort struck Ester in the form of his most embarrassing moment on stage.

In 2004, Ester headlined the "Rhapsody of the Seas" for Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines and was the sickest person on the ship.

"I was so green, I had to hold my breath before every punch line just so I could get the words out," he said.

The show went on, however, and is something Ester can laugh about now.

He uses two extraordinary comedians for inspiration, Chris Rock and Dennis Miller.

Gretchen Claypool, University Board comedy coordinator, said she saw him at a programming conference in October and was impressed.

"I really liked him as well as the committee, so I took that into consideration," she said.

Claypool added that he was not only fun but very professional.

"He knows what he is doing," she said.

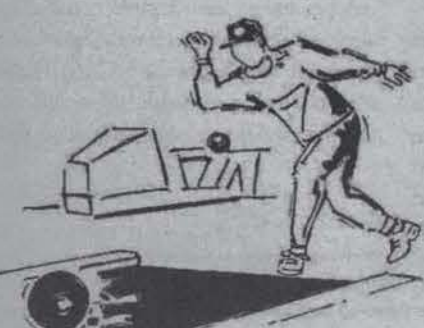
Ester said he is most pleased with the fact that he is able to show his friends and college advisers that he is doing what he said he wanted to do from the beginning, which is to make people laugh.

"When I would say I am going to be a comedian, everyone encouraged me saying how great it was, except they said it like a 7-year-old who wanted to be an astronaut," he said.

He proved them wrong, and will share his love for his work at 9 p.m. today in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union Ballroom.

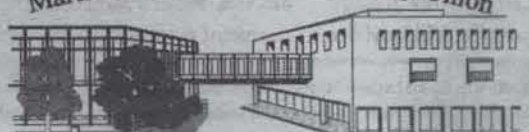
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OPINION

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

FRIDAY, MARCH 3, 2006

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COMMENTARY



SARAH WHITNEY
MANAGING EDITOR

SPOOF REVEALS TRUTH

College students aren't known for flocking to the polls on Election Day, and Gov. Rod Blagojevich has not done much to convince students that this year should be any different. His February appearance on "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart" stands as proof.

The show's spoof about Blagojevich's law requiring pharmacists to fill prescriptions for the morning after pill regardless of their religious beliefs, left the governor uncomfortable and confused when Jason Jones, the interviewer, asked him if he was "the gay governor." He then suggested that the two role-play with the governor being a "hot 17-year old" who was "knocked up" and Jones the pharmacist.

Last week, Blagojevich told the *St. Louis Post Dispatch* that he didn't know "The Daily Show" is a comedy spoof. OK. Forget for a moment that Jon Stewart was recently tapped to host this weekend's Oscars. Forget that the show is the number one source of news for college students and concentrate on the fact that the show has been on the air since 1996. That's 10 years! Under what rock has Blagojevich and his staff been hiding?

Obviously, he has not been keeping up with current events. Or as *Chicago Tribune* Eric Zorn suggested, he's lying.

"Blagojevich, of course Jones is not serious; someone just forgot to let you in on the joke."

course Jones is not serious; someone just forgot to let you in on the joke. The implication of the governor's ignorance concerns me—doubly so if it was feigned. But it suggests that he doesn't care—about me, the college student, the issues I think should be addressed politically and the way they should be addressed.

Take the governor's proposed College Tuition Tax Credit. It seems like a good idea. Give poor college students money by taking away their money in the future through selling their student loan debt. Not only is this going to make any future loan interest rates increase, but it's a temporary answer. Blagojevich will get an estimated \$500 million from the sale. It costs \$90 million a year to fund the tax credit. What happens after five years when that money is depleted?

There's more. The governor wants to take part of that \$500 million and increase funding for higher education, making his solution for funding the tax credit proposal run out of fuel that much faster. So why the sudden concern for Higher Ed? For the past four years, he hasn't even tried to increase its funding. And last November, he didn't bother to show up at a summit on Higher Education sponsored by the Illinois Board of Higher Education even though it was in Chicago—where he lives—and he was scheduled to appear.

Let's review: while in office 1) has not funded higher education nor 2) bothered to show an interest in it. In the past month, however, he's proposed giving money back to students and an increase funding for higher education. In addition, he's appeared on a show watched primarily by college students. Hmm ... it must be an election year.

Unfortunately for Blagojevich, I was paying attention before now. If the governor can't even show a polite interest in what higher education is doing before election time, why should he show an interest afterwards?

Blagojevich's appearance on "The Daily Show" had the potential to improve his image with college students. If that had been the case, then we'd be the losers. Instead, the result was an accurate reflection of Blagojevich's time in office. Thank you, Jason Jones and "The Daily Show."

Whitney, a junior journalism major, can be reached at DENmanaging@gmail.com.

EDITORIAL CARTOON BY ERIC HILTNER



MAN ... I AM **Soo** PUMPED.
GOLD MEDAL HERE I COME!!!

BODE, DUDE!
THE GAMES ENDED
LAST WEEK. YOU'RE
HORRIBLE!!!

EDITORIAL

Media had wrong Olympic focus

The 2006 Winter Olympics finished on Feb. 26 and, if you read the reviews, the U.S. team was a great disappointment.

But this disappointment is the product of the media force-feeding a select number of athletes down the public's throats, although sometimes it is self-inflicted by the athlete.

As is usually the case, the hype for American athletes in the Olympics was at a higher level than ever.

Bode Miller stole headlines and constantly proclaimed that he was "not confused about how good I am." That story appeared in *Sports Illustrated* on Feb. 6.

But Miller finished worse than expected and may not be as good as he thought. Miller was shut out of five events, including the Olympic downhill.

In that same race, Daron Rahlves of the U.S. team was the pre-race favorite. He didn't come close to a medal and finished tenth.

Todd Hays, who is a member of the four-man bobsled team, was coming off of a silver medal four years ago. But his four-man team finished in seventh place in Hays' final year of competition.

The trend of disappointments started early for the Americans. When Michelle Kwan strained her groin before

At issue

The media's take on the United State's performance at the Olympics.

Our stance

The media highlighted several U.S. athletes to represent the whole country instead of focus on the individual successes. The U.S. team was not a disappointment, but the media treated it like one.

the Olympics even started, it wasn't the best beginning.

The fact of the matter remains that although the hyped athletes disappointed, the rest of the U.S. team performed well.

They finished second in gold medals with nine and second in overall medals with 25. Seven of the medals were in snowboarding, which seems to be fulfilling its job of helping the U.S. team in the medal count.

Apollo Anton Ohno won gold in the speed skating short track and Shani Davis won gold in the 1000-meter speed skating becoming the United State's first African-American Winter Olympic medalist.

The curling team surprised everybody and finished in third place for the bronze medal.

When the hype machine goes crazy and picks a couple of people to focus on, the unheralded athletes who do perform well tend to get lost in the mix even though these should be the stories taken out of the Olympics.

So instead of focusing on Bode's mouth digging him a hole we should be talking about Davis' historic achievement and Ohno's gold.

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

YOUR TURN: LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

COMMUNITY SHOULD SUPPORT COACH MILLER

Rick Samuels is a good man. Some would say he's great. I'm OK with that. But Samuels was not a great basketball coach. If he was, he would be coaching somewhere today. Great coaches are in demand, folks. Let's not fool ourselves into believing they're not.

In 25 years at Eastern, he finished with an uncanny .500 record. The "Save Samuels" supporters are quick to point out that he's the winningest coach in Eastern's history. He's also the losingest. And it's not even close. Many are quick to point out that the new men's basketball coach, Mike Miller,

produced a 6-21 season this year. However, no one seems to remember that Samuels' Panthers went 6-21 just two years ago, in his 24th year at the helm. In his 24th year of coaching his program, recruiting his players and applying personality to the Eastern basketball program, he achieved a 6-21 record. Forgive me if I allow Coach Miller a little room here.

Perhaps the largest obstacle Coach Miller and his staff face here at Eastern is an overwhelming acceptance of mediocrity. For some reason, the men's basketball program isn't supposed to excel. I haven't quite figured this out. Eastern has been able to maintain competitive teams over the years in nearly

every athletics program it sponsors. In 25 years, Samuels' teams never won a conference championship. Not one. His teams did advance to the NCAA tournament on two occasions, by winning the post-season conference tournament. But never did a Samuels' team win a league title.

To assist Coach Miller and all Eastern coaches and athletes, Eastern needs to do us all a favor and take itself more seriously as a legitimate member of the NCAA. If Eastern sees itself as a small, weak and inconsequential, how should we expect others to view it?

RYAN WALKER

EASTERN ALUMNUS, 2002

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. We reserve the right to edit letters for length. 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 DENeic@gmail.com

Laws restrict student gun purchases

By BOB ROUBIK
STAFF REPORTER

Chris Miller, a senior history major, practices with his .40-caliber handgun at the shooting range to try and get a feel for what he may be using once he becomes a policeman.

Miller keeps his firearm in a gun safe with no ammunition in the box or in the house. He said the only time he has ammunition in the firearm is when he buys it and uses it at the range.

"This is a college town. I don't really feel the need to use it for self-defense," Miller said.

Laws restricting gun ownership are always controversial in rural Illinois areas.

The Illinois House of Representatives is considering a bill, which would put a ban on semiautomatic assault weapons, assault weapon attachments, and .50 caliber rifles after the 1994 nationwide Assault Weapons Ban expired in 2004.

"It had little, if any effect on crime," said Chief Deputy Darrell Cox of the Coles County Sheriff's Department.

If the ban is passed, Charleston would have to follow it because it does not have a home rule.

Because of this, the city must follow state laws.

"A home-rule municipality can legislate themselves unless the state says they can't," said City Attorney Brian Bower.

In order for a city to gain home rule, it needs to have a population of 25,000. Charleston just falls shy at

21,000, Bower said.

Owning guns is always helpful in keeping citizens' homes safe. Since residents often keep their firearms unloaded and locked up, when they are being robbed or attacked it is usually too late to use it for protection, said Officer Mike Lenart of the Charleston Police Department.

"When keeping guns at home there is no requirement for locking a gun at home, but the gun must be sold with a gun lock thanks to National Shooting Sports Association," Cox said.

Residents in Charleston looking to obtain a gun must uphold a few rules and regulations before doing so.

Federal Law requires that residents be 21 years of age or older to purchase handgun ammunition and must be 18 years of age or older to purchase shotgun or rifle ammunition.

In order to own a rifle, for hunting, or gun, for self-defense, a valid Firearm Owner's Identification card is required.

Federal law requires that positive proof of identification, proof of age and proof of residency are necessary to get a FOID card.

A valid driver's license is the most accepted form of identification.

When Miller was going through the four-week process of purchasing his gun, he had to have his valid FOID card and a full background check. When he purchased his gun he paid for it at the store and then also had to wait the 72-hour cool-down period, Miller said.

The purpose of the 72-hour

cool-down period is to prevent a buyer from shooting someone on impulse if a buyer is mad at someone, Cox said.

When a resident comes to purchase a long gun or handgun, the dealer calls the state police and they use a "Tips" program to run a check on the customer purchasing a gun.

The police have three days to let the dealer know whether the customer can purchase the gun.

The "Tips" program checks for criminal history, for a valid FOID card, if any order of protection is against the customer and any other database to see if there are other reasons for the customer to not be an owner of a firearm, Cox said.

"You can't be a felon, you can't have a domestic violence history and you can't be mentally ill if you are trying to get a valid FOID card," said Sgt. Brad Oyer of the Charleston Police Department.

Before someone is eligible to get a hunting license, he or she must take a hunter's safety course, which is provided by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, said Tim Dye, an employee of Wal-Mart's gun department.

Anyone suspected of violating Federal Firearm laws will be reported.

Violations include straw purchasing, which is lying on the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms' form about the identity of the actual buyer of the firearm.

Federal law states the result of this can be 10 years in jail and up to a \$250,000 fine.

Scholarship honors King

By LIZA BISHTON
STAFF REPORTER

Students who live their lives in the spirit of Martin Luther King, Jr. can be nominated for a scholarship this week.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship Award is presented each year to students committed to academic excellence and the desire to improve the quality of human life.

The scholarship was created after King's death by the Eastern Chapter of the American Association of University Professors to honor his memory and continue his ideals.

Students, faculty, administrators and staff may nominate full-time juniors and seniors with at least a 2.75 grade point average. Applications are due Monday to the Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs in Old Main Room 1020.

The name of the scholarship recipient will be announced prior to Spring 2006 commencement.

The Scholarship is just one of hundreds of scholarships offered through the university, said Cathy Gordon, scholarship clerk in the Office of Financial Aid.

Tracy Hall, assistant director of the Office of Financial Aid, said that during the 2004-2005 school year, 5,760 students of 11,245 average enrollment received \$24,544 in aid, \$887 of which was in university and government scholarships and grants. The students received an average of \$4,261 per student in scholarships and grants.

Gordon recommends that students use the university's scholarship search engine and look through Eastern's catalogue to find scholarships they qualify for. She also suggested checking with individual academic departments to find awards for specific majors.

In addition to Eastern itself, Gordon said many private organizations also offer scholarships. Clubs, like the Elks Club, or associations, like the Retired Teachers Association, often offer scholarships as well. Statistics concerning the number of students receiving private scholarships were not available.

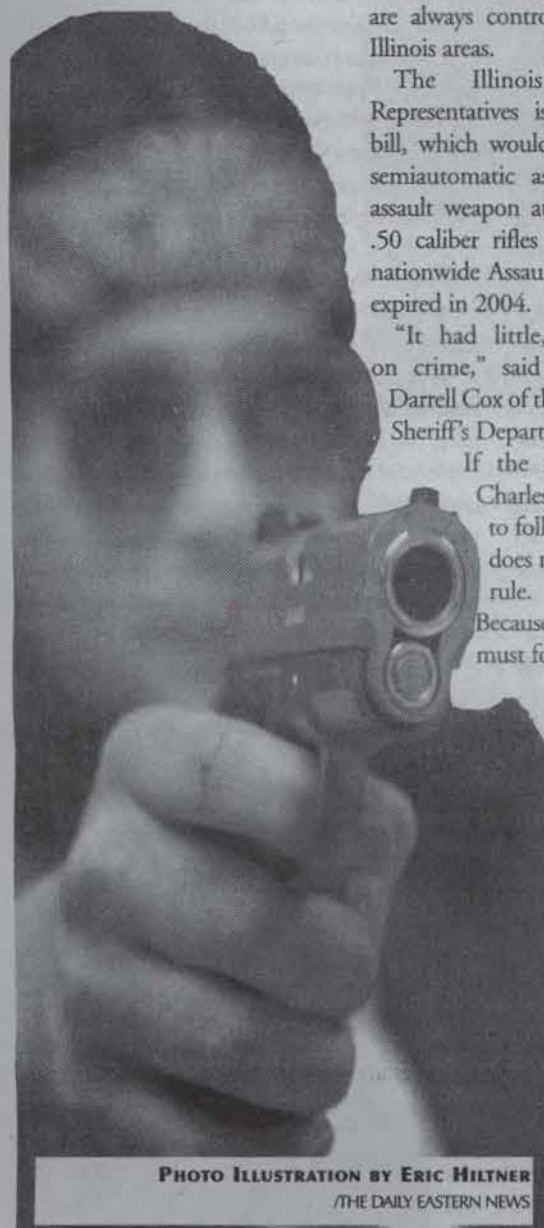


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ERIC HILTNER /THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

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16 BLOCKS (PG13) 4:20 7:00 9:40
SAT SUN MON MAT 1:45

END OF THE SPEAR (PG13) 3:50 6:30 9:10
SAT SUN MON MAT 1:15

AQUAMARINE (PG) 4:10 6:40 9:20
SAT SUN MON MAT 1:30

DOOGAL (G) 5:15 SAT SUN MAT 3:00

RUNNING SCARED (R) 7:20 10:10

MADEA'S FAMILY REUNION (PG13) 6:00 7:50 10:20
SAT SUN MON MAT 2:30

EIGHT BELOW (PG) 4:00 6:50 9:30
SAT SUN MON MAT 1:00

DATE MOVIE (PG13) 5:30 8:00 10:15
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CURIOS GEORGE (G) 4:30 SAT SUN MON MAT 2:10

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Student VP spreading Eastern lobbying know-how



JOSH REELEY/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Andrew Berger, student executive vice president, is trying to assemble a lobbying team similar to Eastern's Student Action Team at Carl Sandburg College.

BY ALEX HARRIS
STAFF REPORTER

Andrew Berger will be the feature speaker at Carl Sandburg College on March 11, where he will try to establish a student lobbying team in hopes of strengthening the voice of students.

"I planted the seeds for this effort, and I

would really like to be around to watch it bloom," said Berger, Eastern's student executive vice president.

The lobbying team is hoped to resemble Eastern's Student Action Team, of which Berger is chair. Eastern has the only student-run lobbying group in the state.

As a freshman it may be difficult to dedicate

a substantial amount of one's time to a single activity before finding all that campus has to offer, but Berger, current student executive vice president, said this was not the case for him.

Growing up, Berger said he always had a desire for leadership. As a freshman he got the chance to fulfill that desire by deciding to major in political science.

"I served on the Residence Hall Association and my hall council as a freshman," Berger said.

His roommate at the time, Ryan Berger, who is now the student body president and Andrew's uncle, was helpful motivation for him to succeed in the Student Government.

Since they were children Ryan Berger said he has always had great admiration for his nephew.

"When Andrew finds a problem, he won't sleep until it gets solved," Ryan Berger said.

Throughout his career in the senate, Andrew Berger has shown the same motivation and dedication to his job, his uncle said.

"Andrew won senator of the year a few years back and has always been very active in writing legislation," Ryan Berger said.

While Andrew Berger recognizes that being dedicated to his job is always important, he said he believes being dedicated to helping the student body always comes first.

"I will always stand up for student interests," Andrew Berger said. "I am here to make sure students have a voice."

Andrew Berger has set many goals to meet by the end of this semester.

"One of the most important things I have

learned through my experience on (the) Student Government is to set achievable goals," Andrew Berger said. "I would like to have the Student Action Team bylaws in place, and would also like to have a budget proposal ready for next year."

Throughout his years at Eastern, Andrew Berger said he has accumulated too many great memories for him to recall.

"When I first found out that I had been elected (as student executive vice president), and watching Ryan (Berger) cry during his state of the senate address were some of my best memories," Andrew Berger said.

Ryan Berger also remembers the moment when his nephew was elected as well.

"Andrew yelled when they announced he had won," Ryan Berger said.

Andrew Berger said he plans to attend law school in Illinois after he graduates in 2007.

"I really want to go to school in Illinois because I would like to eventually practice here," he said.

He said he eventually plans on opening a small firm in Illinois, a goal he is on his way to making achievable.

He has taken a strong interest in corporate law because he says he loves to work with contracts.

University Board presents budget request

BY LAUREN MOORE
STUDENT GOVERNMENT EDITOR

The University Board asked the Apportionment Board for an increase of \$1,971 for fiscal year 2007.

UB Chair Chris Stanfield and UB Vice-Chair JC Miller along with several committee chairs attended the meeting to provide information concerning the board's increase to the AB.

Stanfield and Miller provided a PowerPoint presentation, which broke down the different committees.

This included information on what each committee does, existing and new plans and what the board's

proposed numbers are for next year.

Stanfield said funding for the University Board comes primarily from a fraction of the student activity fee.

The highest increase the UB asked for was Quakin' in the Quad and Spring Fling.

"We had \$8,708 budgeted for last year, and this year we have \$22,500," Stanfield said.

He said UB members know this is a large number, but it was because they are including both Quakin' in the Quad and Spring Fling, which will be a new event this year.

The money pays for inflatables, novelties, performers, food and prizes, Stanfield said.

"Some new things we're looking into are the Amazing Race, Back to School, Rock and a carnival," Stanfield said.

Several members of the AB had questions concerning the carnival idea, and members of the UB said they would provide them later.

Other groups asking for an increase in budget include Comedy, Cultural Arts, Homecoming, Lectures, Productions, Mainstage, Movies and Marketing and Public Relations.

Amp and Special Events were two committees that have marked a decrease in next year's budget.

Last year, \$22,635 was budgeted for the publication, and for fiscal year 2007, \$20,061 is in the bud-

et, resulting in a decrease of \$2,574. New positions are expected to be filled for next year, which include distribution, a webmaster and a photographer.

AB member John Stimac said he thought the presentation went well.

"(They) answered all our questions," Stimac said. "A lot of the people on AB focused their questions on the carnival, and the UB said they would come back with additional information, which is what we're looking for."

The Apportionment Board meets at 7 p.m. on Thursday's when there is business on the table. Next week, the board will discuss all budgets presented so far this year.

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California campus riled by panel

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IRVINE, Calif.— A student panel discussion that included a display of the Prophet Muhammad cartoons descended into chaos, with one speaker calling Islam an "evil religion" and audience members nearly coming to blows.

Organizers of Tuesday night's forum at the University of California, Irvine said they showed the cartoons as part of a larger debate on Islamic extremism.

But several hundred protesters, including members of the Muslim Student Union, argued the event was the equivalent of hate speech disguised as freedom of expression.

Although there were numerous heated exchanges, no violence was reported.

The panel, which included one Muslim speaker, was sponsored by the College Republicans and the United American Committee, a group that says it promotes awareness of internal threats facing America.

During the discussion in a nearly packed 424-seat campus auditorium, six cartoons were displayed: three depicting Muhammad and three anti-Semitic cartoons.



LEONARD ORTIZ/ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER/KRT NEWS

Pedro Renteria, left, gives a thumbs up to police as they escort an unidentified man out of Crystal Cove Auditorium for disturbing a discussion on the Muhammed cartoons at the University of California-Irvine on Tuesday.

Semitic cartoons.

The discussion got off to a contentious start with the Council on American-Islamic Relations — an invited guest — boycotting the event and calling the United American

Committee a "fringe group."

Tensions quickly escalated when the Rev. Jesse Lee Peterson, founder of the conservative Brotherhood Organization of a New Destiny, said that Islam was an "evil religion" and

that all Muslims hate America.

People repeatedly interrupted the talk and, at one point, campus police removed two men, one of them a Muslim, after they nearly came to blows.

U.S. and India agree on landmark nuclear deal

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW DELHI— Reversing decades of U.S. policy, President Bush ushered India into the world's exclusive nuclear club Thursday with a landmark agreement to share nuclear reactors, fuel and expertise with this energy-starved nation in return for its acceptance of international safeguards.

Eight months in the making, the accord would end India's long isolation as a nuclear maverick that defied world appeals and developed nuclear weapons. India agreed to separate its tightly entwined nuclear industry — declaring 14 reactors as commercial facilities and eight as military — and to open the civilian side to international inspections for the first time.

The agreement must be approved by Congress, and Bush acknowledged that might be difficult because India still refuses to sign the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty.

"I'm trying to think differently, not stay stuck in the past," said Bush, who has made improving rela-

tions with India a goal of his administration. Celebrating their agreement, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said, "We have made history today, and I thank you."

New FEMA chief trying to increase staffing before hurricane season

WASHINGTON— The nation's beleaguered disaster response agency is frantically trying to fill hundreds of vacant jobs as the next hurricane season looms less than three months away, top officials said Thursday.

The staffing concerns, voiced by Federal Emergency Management Agency acting director R. David Paulison, came as the House passed legislation extending disaster unemployment benefits by 13 weeks to victims of hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The bill must still be approved by the Senate.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Paulison said "a couple hundred" jobs are open at FEMA, and he feared the vacancies could cause current staffers to burn out.

Iraq's prime minister says he will fight attempt to oust him

BAGHDAD, Iraq— Iraq's prime minister and his radical Shiite backers vowed Thursday to fight a bid by Sunni Arabs and Kurds to oust him, threatening to plunge the country into political turmoil, delay formation of a new government and undercut U.S. plans to begin withdrawing troops this year.

Meanwhile, gunmen attacked the disabled car of Iraq's top Sunni politician, Adnan al-Dulaimi, killing one bodyguard and wounding five after al-Dulaimi sped away in another vehicle. It was not clear whether the assault was an assassination attempt, and the Sunni leader refused to blame anyone. Altogether, 39 people died Thursday in a new round of violence.

A coalition of Sunni, Kurdish and secular parties formally asked the Shiite bloc Thursday to withdraw its nomination of Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari for another term.

The prime minister's adviser, Haider al-Idadi, insisted the bloc would stick by its candidate.

STATE NEWS

Hate crime panel loses two people

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SPRINGFIELD— The frenzy over Gov. Rod Blagojevich's appointment of a Nation of Islam official to the state hate crimes commission escalated Thursday as two Jewish members resigned in disgust.

"Having a top member of an organization that continues to spew out hate on a regular basis made it impossible for us to continue to serve," Lonnie Nasatir, a regional director for the Anti-Defamation League, told The Associated Press.

Another commission member, Richard Hirschhaut, executive director of the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center, resigned later in the day.

Blagojevich's office wouldn't comment on the controversy except to say the governor had accepted Nasatir's resignation.

He quickly filled the vacancy with Rep. Lou Lang — who a day earlier had been among the lawmakers criticizing Blagojevich's handling of the issue.

There was no immediate word Thursday evening on his reaction to Hirschhaut's resignation.

The appointment of Sister Claudette Marie Muhammad has slowly grown from a little-noted bureaucratic step to an embarrassment and political dilemma for Blagojevich.

Muhammad, who is director of community outreach for the Nation of Islam, was named to the Governor's Commission on Discrimination and Hate Crimes in August 2005.

Her presence was unknown to most people — including Blagojevich — until last month, when she invited members of the commission to attend a speech by Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan, who has often attacked whites, Jews and gays over the years.

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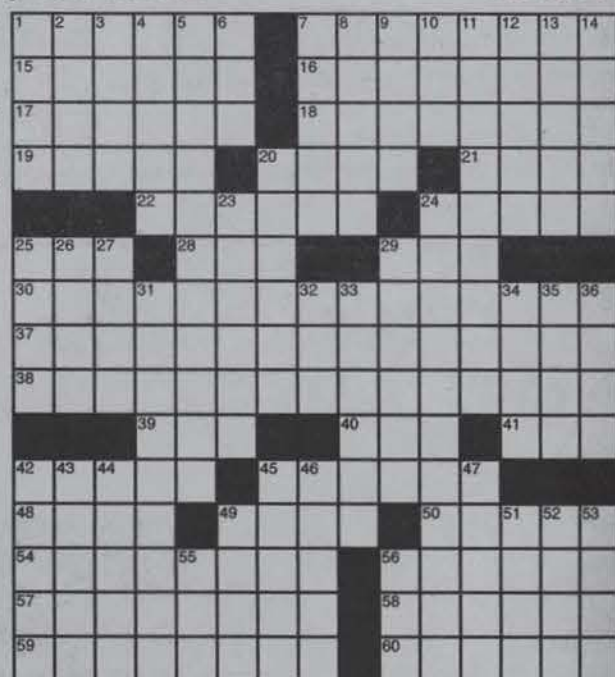


The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0120

- ACROSS**
- 1 Antique store?
 - 7 Violin components
 - 15 Make a ball
 - 16 Ladle
 - 17 Secrets
 - 18 Holder of an afternoon service
 - 19 French flag color, in France
 - 20 "Shoot!"
 - 21 Where workers may do the daily grind?
 - 22 Excited pointer's comment
 - 24 1999-2001 Broadway musical revue
 - 25 Editorial cartoonist Rall
 - 28 Listener
 - 29 From, in some names
 - 30 Former Washington duo
 - 37 Stepped in like Superman
 - 38 Somehow
 - 39 Resort of a sort
 - 40 Old TV control abbr.
 - 41 Old protest grp.
 - 42 2000 Olympic gymnast Ray
 - 45 Rhoda's sister on "Rhoda"
 - 48 Passiontide time
 - 49 Dogsboddy, so to speak
 - 50 Mark of distinction
 - 54 Isabel Allende's birthplace
 - 56 Meet, as expectations
 - 57 Child's cry at a parade, perhaps
 - 58 "Harrumph!"
 - 59 Kids' game sites
 - 60 Preceder of many a goal
- DOWN**
- 1 Unpopular worker
 - 2 Cast
 - 3 Sea predator
 - 4 National headquarters of J.C. Penney, Dr Pepper and Frito-Lay
 - 5 Paper strip for old computer data
 - 6 Energy Star org.
 - 7 Toledo twinkler
 - 8 Command to a dog
 - 9 Just so
 - 10 Fail to keep
 - 11 Surrounded by
 - 12 "Dona Pacem" (Latin hymn)
 - 13 Plays for a sucker
 - 14 Ancient burial stone
 - 20 Popular snack chip



Puzzle by Harvey Estes

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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

- 23 One of The Jacksons
- 24 Fates
- 25 Kind of salad
- 26 Zip
- 27 British title
- 29 Castle with many steps
- 31 Paper carrier
- 32 Part of a sentence: Abbr.
- 33 Showy bird's mate
- 34 Famous name in newspaper publishing
- 35 Like many a mistake
- 36 Kin of -ists
- 42 Fashion designer Perry
- 43 Olympus alternative
- 44 Hero of Charles Frazier's "Cold Mountain"
- 45 Topper with a tab
- 46 Voluptuaries
- 47 Places for many stained-glass windows
- 49 Tender in Tijuana
- 51 First name among clothiers
- 52 Huntsman Center players
- 53 Work with mail
- 55 Old TV's Club
- 56 Narrow waterway

CRIME:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Fights tend to be off-campus

"There's always been fights out here," Due said.

"A lot of them tend to happen off campus, where there's an escalation of violence, but we are seeing some on campus," he said.

Due said he thinks most of the violence in the past could be attributed to visitors, not Eastern students.

"Now we're seeing more student-on-student violence," he said. "Over the years there's been different cases where there have been people hurt badly enough. It's been a gradual increase to severe violence."

Judicial Affairs has a hierarchy of punishments depending on what kind of violation of the Student Conduct Code someone commits. These include anywhere from a reprimand and a fine to expulsion or suspension from the university.

In the 2003-2004 school year, there were four students expelled from the university, and 201 reprimands.

Samantha Karr, a junior communication studies major, experienced a situation earlier this year in which she was assaulted by another student at an off-campus location.

She said she was displeased with the handling of the situation by local police, but said the university was very responsive and supportive.

"My case was kind of dismissed by the police because I guess they felt it wasn't that important," Karr said. "But I had an injury, and the hospital bills to prove it."

Karr went to Judicial Affairs about her case, where she discussed her options. She was given the option to submit her attacker's name for suspension from the university.

"It was a process, and I could have gotten the ball rolling," she said. "But I said no to suspension because I believe in karma, and that was good enough for me."

Due said he wants students to avoid getting in violent situations as much as possible, and to not wait until after the occurrence to inform the police.

"In my 28 years here handling student conduct, we have a decent student body," Kohanzo said. "Our students, for the most part, avoid getting into trouble."

Topinka turns to Edgar for defense

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO—Republican gubernatorial candidate Judy Baar Topinka has turned to a familiar face to help make her case to voters and criticize negative ads by her opponents.

Popular former Gov. Jim Edgar stars in the latest Topinka TV ad set to begin airing statewide Thursday.

The ad comes one day after fellow GOP challenger Jim Oberweis began running ads critical of Topinka that featured made-up newspaper headlines.

The opening of Topinka's 30-second ad entitled "The Truth" features pictures of Oberweis and fellow challenger Ron Gidwitz, who was the first to go negative last month with an ad critical of Topinka on taxes and spending.

In Topinka's ad, the word "venomous" appears beneath Gidwitz's photo and "phony" underneath Oberweis'.

The words are from Chicago Sun-Times and Associated Press stories.

"It's more Judy hiding behind other people and trying to make this campaign about personality" rather than leadership and ideas, said Gidwitz spokesman Dan Proft.

Oberweis campaign manager Joe Wiegand said the campaign was disappointed in Topinka's

ad, saying it amounts to a personal attack on Oberweis.

In the commercial, Edgar acknowledges the negative ads attacking Topinka.

"They say more about her opponents than they do about her," he says.

Edgar, who is Topinka's honorary campaign chairman, goes on to praise her as a leader, saying "she'll always tell you the truth."

The ad features a shot of Edgar, Topinka and her running mate, DuPage County State's Attorney Joe Birkett.

Topinka spokesman Roger Germann could not immediately provide details about the cost of the ad buy.

As the front-runner, Topinka has had to deal with mounting criticism from her opponents as the March 21 primary nears.

One area where they have been critical is Topinka's acceptance of campaign contributions from banks doing business with her state treasurer's office.

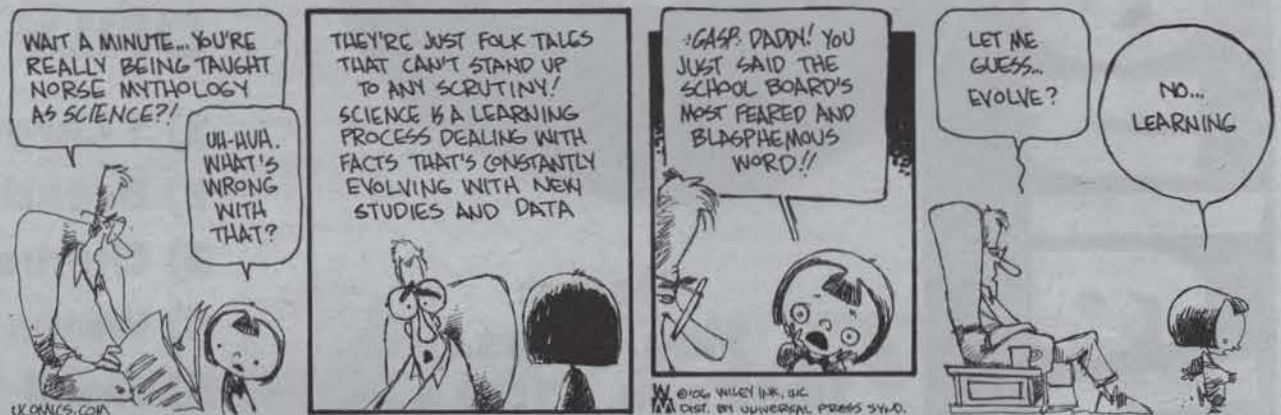
A recent campaign disclosure form filed by the Topinka campaign showed \$7,000 in donations from banks that do business with the state or one of the banks' political action committees.

Germann said the treasurer's office bids its contracts and there is no pay-to-play in accepting contributions.

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BOONDOCKS BY AARON MCGRUDER



NCAA hands out academic sanctions

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS— Teams at 65 schools — including Texas, Tennessee and West Virginia — failed to meet the NCAA's new academic standards and now face the loss of scholarships for their poor grades.

But don't look for any of the biggest names in football or basketball on the list released Wednesday by the NCAA of those lagging behind in the classroom.

The only school in the six biggest conferences to be sanctioned in football or men's basketball, the primary moneymakers for most athletic departments, was DePaul of the Big East. It could lose one scholarship in men's basketball next year.

Nationwide, 99 teams could lose scholarships as early as next fall.

The new academic points system requires each team to meet minimum requirements or face the potential loss of scholarship money

when academically ineligible athletes leave school. No school can lose more than 10 percent of its scholarships. And if the ineligible scholarship athlete stays in school, the NCAA will not take the scholarship away from the athlete's team.

Sacramento State had the most teams affected (six) and could face the loss of as many as 2.3 scholarships in football. Prairie View A&M in Texas was among the hardest hit schools. As many as 10 athletes in five sports could lose

scholarship money, including 5.3 scholarships in football alone.

The NCAA also released a list of schools that consistently outperformed its baseline standards. Among those were Brown, Harvard, Yale, Notre Dame, the three U.S. military academies and William and Mary. North Carolina and Illinois, the two teams that reached last year's NCAA men's basketball championship game, were both among the top 10 percent academically in that sport.

ATTITUDE:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12A

Panthers riding high going into Indiana State

who will pitch this weekend, as Kathleen Jacoby and Karyn Mackie are both pitching solidly. Jacoby sports a 4-3 record and has won three games in a row, lowering her ERA to 2.19.

Sophomore Mackie has been brilliant, lately: hurling two consecutive shutouts and not allowing a run in the past 17 innings.

Her ERA is slightly better at 2.14. Both pitchers aren't overpowering batters at the plate, as the duo has just 36 strikeouts in more than 57 innings pitched, but rely on the steady defense behind them.

Eastern has only committed 6 errors on the year compared to its opponent's total of 14.

"Our defense has gotten us out of a lot of sticky situations," Eichelberger said. And she credits Schuette for that asset.

"Coach sees what we need to work on and we work on it the following day," she said.

Eastern's Schedule for The Wolfe Sycamore Classic (Indiana St.)

- ◆ Saturday
at Indiana St. 10:30 a.m.
vs St. Mary's (Cal.) 12:30 p.m.
- ◆ Sunday
vs St. Mary's (Cal.) 12:30 p.m.
vs Western (Ill.) 2:30 p.m.

"People wouldn't dive for the ball, people wouldn't go for that extra effort (in the past), where this year we are."

Winning has not been something that is common for the Panthers, as the program has not had a winning year since the 1998 team finished 26-21.

That's seven straight losing seasons that Eastern softball players have had to endure—but with a new coach in place, the attitude is different this year for the Panthers.

"Everyday we can hopefully come through with a win," Schuette said. "And then all of a sudden, before you know it, you've won five in a row and you didn't even notice."

BASEBALL

Kansas State road trip will be 'a test' for the Panthers

BY MARCO SANTANA
SPORTS EDITOR

The Panthers goal this season is to win 18 Ohio Valley Conference games and win the conference championship.

To prepare to make the run, Eastern will take on a Big 12 team this weekend as they go to Manhattan, Kan., and play Kansas State in a four-game series that begins Friday afternoon.

"It's really going to be a test for us," head coach Jim Schmitz said. "They've won a lot of games in the Big 12. We're trying to test what we can do to be prepared."

The Panthers (1-2) started the season poorly last weekend as they lost two out of three games and scored just three runs.

The offensive struggles are one of a few things Eastern has to work on, Schmitz said.

"We'll be able to get more consistent with our offense," he said.

The four-day series will also help the team learn how to make adjustments within a series, which will be crucial down the road.

The third thing the Panthers want to do is give more guys a chance to pitch, he said.

Freshmen Brian Morrell or Jake Wade will start the final game of the series on Monday.

Kansas State (5-1) has won four games in a row after sweeping a two-game set against South Dakota State.

"They're a very experienced team with four or five juniors and seniors in their lineup," Schmitz said. "They're a well-coached team that will test all phases of our game."

Junior infielder Jared Goedert leads the Wildcats with a .650 batting average.

The Wildcats finished the 2005 season 30-25 and on April 3, beat the Texas Longhorns, who would go on to win the national title.

While Kansas State is in the middle of a 15-game home stand, the Panthers have 21 of their first 23 games on the road.

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- 7) 1 Medium 2 Topping

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TRACK AND FIELD

One more chance to qualify

Select few sent to Notre Dame for last chance

By KATIE ANDERSON
STAFF REPORTER

Six athletes from the men's squad and one from the women's have earned the honor of traveling to Notre Dame this weekend for a chance to qualify for the NCAA Division 1 National Meet.

Every athlete in attendance will be looking strictly to qualify. They will be running, jumping, and throwing not for their teams or to earn a place on the medal stand, but only to meet qualifying standards.

Eastern will send one hurdler, three jumpers and two milers to compete in the Last Chance Meet held at Notre Dame in South Bend, Ind.

According to head coach Tom Akers, jun-

ior Obe Eruteya is the most likely to qualify. His previous best triple jump of 50 feet, 7 inches is only 4 inches off of the provisional qualifying length of 50-10 1/4.

There are two ways to qualify at this meet.

An athlete can shoot for a time or distance that will qualify them automatically, or a time or distance of the provisional level.

A performance of this standard will earn the athlete a spot on a list that will be harvested to fill out fields at the national level. Eastern athletes will be going for the provisional times.

Triple jumper senior Jason Stark is also just behind the provisional distance. His season best is 49-3 1/2.

Junior Kyle Ellis and freshman Dorian White will go to the meet for the pole vault competition.

Sophomore Kirkland Thornton will compete in the high hurdles. His best time of 7.99 seconds, which was achieved at the EIU Mega Meet on Jan. 21, is right behind the provisional standard of 7.91.

Senior Dan Strackeljah's season best for the mile was 4:08.13. He needs to shave three seconds off his time to make the provisional mark of 4:05.70.

Junior Nicole Flounders will be the lone member of the women's team to go to South Bend.

She will run the mile and needs a time of 4:47.60 to make the provisional level. Her best time this season was 5:09.37.

This meet is especially challenging for the athletes, not only because of its highly competitive nature but also because it falls directly after the Ohio Valley Conference Championship meet, where athletes like Strackeljah gave exhausting performances.

The physical stress is slightly less on the field athletes, said Akers.

Coach Akers explains there is no team to push you and it is only your performance on the line, this makes for a lot more pressure.

The pole-vaulters compete Friday and the rest of the abbreviated squad will compete on Saturday.

TENNIS

Eastern smashes its way into SLU

By JOE WALTASTI
STAFF REPORTER

For the first time in over two weeks, the men's and women's tennis teams will take on the same opponent over the same weekend.

After taking solo trips to Northern Illinois and Northern Iowa, the men and women will get together to take on the Billikins of Saint Louis University.

The men will play first at 3 p.m. on Friday then the women will follow and take the courts 11 a.m. on Saturday.

The Panthers have had a ton of success at their top levels in singles and doubles.

Women's No. 1 singles player Sandra Sasidharan has been undefeated at that level for the season.

Men's No. 1 Chuck LeVaque has also been strong in singles and has formed a strong pair with Brandon Lenfert.

The Panthers are at the mid-way point of their non-conference schedule with only three weeks remaining before starting Ohio Valley Conference play at home March 25-26 against Tennessee-Martin and Tennessee Tech.

Two things to watch over the weekend will be the status of Chris Thomas and Ryan Blankenbaker's knee injuries as well as the continued success of the new doubles pairings of Madina Mambetova, Jill Wirtz, Sandra Sasidharan and Stephanie Harmazy.

While Thomas and Blankenbaker were cleared for singles play at their last match against NIU but Thomas especially felt his knee was still holding him back and it wasn't 100 percent.

With two weeks of rest since then, Blackburn thinks they should be better.

ROAD:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12A

Eastern faces familiar foes at NCAA Regional

Junior 174-pounder Kenny Robertson (23-7), sophomore 184-pounder Greg Perz (16-11), and junior heavyweight

Danny Perez (18-13) have been picking up victories to match the points given by the forfeit in the 125-pound bracket.

Eastern has not started someone in that weight bracket since the Nov. 20 Missouri Open.

The regional will include some previous opponents as well as teams that Eastern has not wrestled this season. Air Force, Fresno State, Northern Iowa, and Wyoming are among the teams expected to be at the regional.

The Panthers lost previous home matches against Northern Iowa 38-15 and Wyoming 32-14 on Feb. 4.

The Panthers will have two matches against ranked opponents.

Junior 141-pounder Casey Carrino (4-10) will wrestle Northern Iowa's No. 20 ranked C.J. Ettelson and senior 165-pounder Tyler Brucker (0-12) is scheduled to wrestle Northern Iowa's Nick Baima, who is ranked No. 5 in the nation.

Tues., Feb. 28 (games @ higher seed) Fri., March 3 Nashville, Tenn. @ Gaylord Entertainment Center Sat., March 4 Nashville, Tenn. @ Gaylord Entertainment Center

O'Reilly Baseball Championship

WOIKE:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12A

What to watch for in the OVC Tournament

◆**Team most likely to win the OVC Tournament without having a player I think is great: Murray State**

The Racers are so balanced to the extent I'm not sure who their best player is. This isn't necessarily a good thing in the postseason where individual performances can carry a team to wins. Junior forward Shawn

Witherspoon (10.7 ppg and 7.6 rpg) was named to the All-OVC First Team, but you could argue he isn't as valuable to the team as guards Trey Pearson and Darnell Hopkins.

◆**Team who could do the most damage in the NCAA Tournament: Tennessee Tech**

The Golden Eagles are my favorite team in the league. They're athletic, big, strong, and they're wildly inconsistent.

But, they're dangerous.

They have shooters who are streaky, but at this time of year, streaky is good. Getting hot at the right time almost assures that a team will stay in a game against a higher seed.

A friend of mine saw Tennessee Tech

play at Michigan State on Dec. 28, a game it lost to the Spartans 80-63.

But in the first half, the Golden Eagles looked like they could pull off an upset, as they trailed by just three at the break.

For 20 minutes, they played with one of the better, more physical teams in the country. If Tennessee Tech wins in Nashville, Tenn., then whoever draws the Golden Eagles could be in for an upset. You know that I will be watching that game.

Dan Woike is a senior journalism major. Email him at Woikedan@gmail.com if you think he's the guy most likely to care about the OVC Tournament.

University Board Weekend Events

COMEDY Michael Dean Ester
Friday, March 3rd
University Ballroom 9pm

MOVIES Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire
Saturday, March 4th
Buzzard Auditorium
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The men and women of the Interfraternity and Panhellenic Councils would like to take a moment to thank Bob Dudolski, Director of Greek Life, for his continued efforts to better Eastern's Greek community. Bob plays such an intricate role in the success of our campus, and without his love, passion, and wisdom our community would not be as strong as it is today. Thank you Bob from the bottom of our hearts, your work does not go unnoticed.

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SPORTS

FRIDAY, MARCH 3, 2006

PANTHER SPORTS CALENDAR

FRIDAY	BASEBALL AT KANSAS STATE	3 p.m.
	M-TENNIS AT ST. LOUIS	3:30 p.m.
SATURDAY	TRACK AND FIELD AT LAST CHANCE MEETS	All Day
	SOFTBALL AT INDIANA STATE TOURNAMENT	10:30 a.m.
	W-TENNIS AT ST. LOUIS	6:15 p.m.

Eastern Illinois University, Charleston



FROM LEFT FIELD

DAN WOIKE
SPORTS REPORTER

OVC guide to March Madness

Got big plans this weekend? So do I, and – for a change of pace – they won't involve stumbling around Charleston.

Well, let's not put that in stone yet!

It's March Madness, and with the first teams earning their berths into the NCAA Tournament this weekend, you just try to pull me away from the television.

One thing you won't get a lot of, besides sleep, is Ohio Valley Conference Tournament chatter — apparently Duke-North Carolina is a more intriguing matchup than Tennessee Tech and Samford.

Things get going today in Nashville, Tenn., with the men's semifinals starting at 6 p.m. First, it's Murray State and Jacksonville State, and then it's Samford and Tennessee Tech.

Fortunately for the 15 people in the country with the proper cable package, the semis will be televised live on ESPNU.

The finals will be much more accessible, though, with live coverage starting at 3 p.m. on ESPN2.

But before you immerse yourself in OVC Tournament-frenzy, there are a few things you need to know.

◆Team most likely to shoot itself out of a game: Samford

The second-seeded Bulldogs have been a great regular season team the past two years, entering the OVC Tournament with high expectations. But last year, Samford lost at home in the first round 71-60 to Austin Peay. Samford's slow-down offense relies heavily on perimeter shooting to open up paths for cutters in the lane.

The downside to this plan is Samford can go cold — really cold, like ice cold. Take their Jan. 30 game at Murray State when they scored a whopping 38 points and made just 7-of-28 three-point shots, ouch!

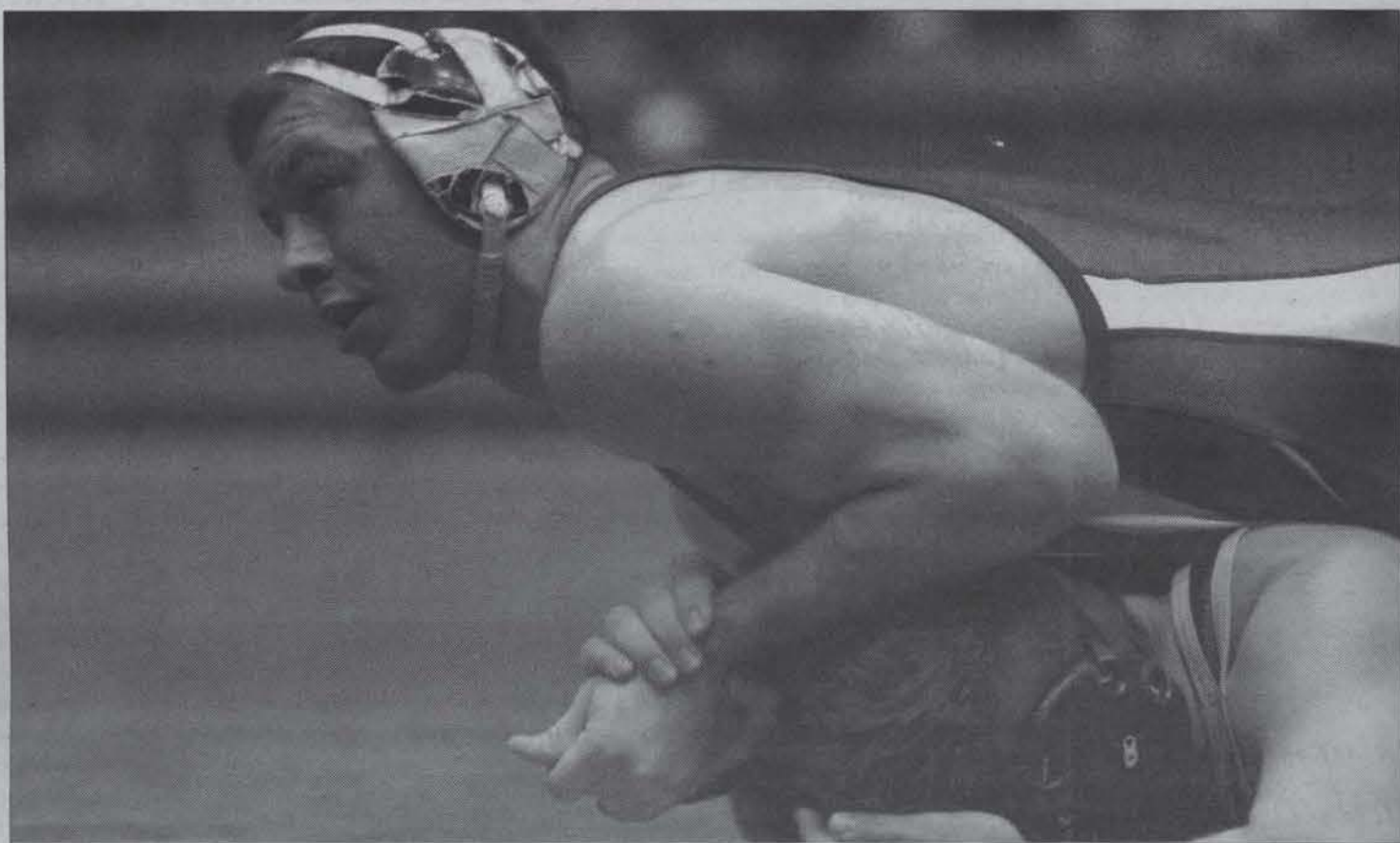
◆Team most likely to score 80 points and lose by 10: Jacksonville State

The Gamecocks score more points than anyone in the OVC, but in a cruel twist of fate, they allow more points than anyone in the OVC. Murray State's balance should outlast Jacksonville State's up-tempo game.

This brings us to...

SEE WOIKE PAGE 11A

WRESTLING



ERIC HILTNER/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Eastern 174-pound wrestler Kenny Robertson (23-7) will be traveling with the Panthers to the NCAA Regional tournament this weekend at Wyoming.

Eastern starts road to nationals Panthers head to Wyoming for NCAA West Regional

BY PATRICK VITT
STAFF REPORTER

After a two-week layoff, Eastern's season is on the line at this weekend's NCAA Western Regional Tournament.

They have a chance to redeem themselves after several sluggish home meets to finish the season.

The Panthers lost their final home meets of the season Feb. 19 against No. 24 Northern Illinois and Northern Colorado.

The team finished the season with a record of 3-12. There is a reason for

this poor record. For one, Eastern is wrestling with four freshmen in the starting lineup.

Tony Metzger, who wrestles in the 133-pound weight class, 149-pounder Jeff Tharp, 157-pounder Thomas Johnson and 197-pounder Terron Williams have combined for 38 victories out of 101 total matches as freshmen.

Those freshmen have offset consistent performances from their team veterans, all of whom goes into this weekend's regionals with winning records.

SEE ROAD PAGE 11A

Eastern wrestling sanctioned by NCAA for academics

The Eastern wrestling team has been academically sanctioned by the NCAA.

It will lose one-third of a scholarship for the 2006-07 season because of grades, the effect of a new NCAA program that promotes academic reform.

The team scored 851 under the NCAA's formula that determines academic progress.

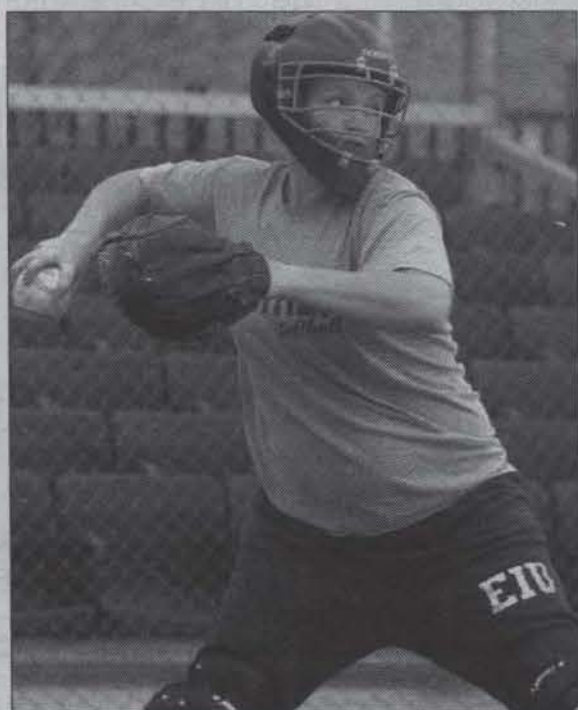
The formula the NCAA uses for the annual Academic Progress Rate gives one point per athlete, per semester, for being enrolled and one for being on track to graduate.

For example, a 12-member basketball team could earn 48 points. If the team only earns 45 points, then the result is 93.8 percent, or a score of 938. Penalties begin when a team is under 925.

The data was collected for the 2003-04 and 2004-05 seasons.

Eastern's indoor track and baseball teams also scored 925 but they fall under the squad-size adjustment. Programs with larger rosters avoid penalties until the first four-year period lapses.

SOFTBALL



JAY GRABIEC/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Junior catcher Sandyn Short makes a throw to second base during practice Tuesday afternoon at Williams Field.

New Eastern coach brings winning attitude to Panthers

BY MATT DANIELS
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

A new attitude is in the air for the Panthers at Williams Field.

"I think she's brought a lot of the older girls, a lot of the love of the game back," senior Nichole Eichelberger said.

That she is first-year head coach Kim Schuette, whose team is riding a five-game winning streak heading into this weekend's Wolfe Sycamore Classic in Terre Haute, Ind.

It is the team's longest winning streak since the 2004 season.

"I think a light-free environment with lots of spunk is our big thing," Schuette said. "Hopefully we bring in our personality and spunk every day to each game."

That spunk has been seen in practice, according to seniors Eichelberger, Jenny Cervetto and Ashley Condon.

"Now, it's fun to come to practice and do new things everyday, where the last couple of years it was a repetitive type thing," Eichelberger said.

Cervetto said that the team's recent winning streak can be attributed to a desire to do well for its new coach.

"We didn't have motivation last year and now coach is our motivation," she said.

One area that Eastern (6-5) is doing well in is capitalizing on scoring opportunities.

During the five-game winning streak, Panther opponents have rattled off 29 hits, while only scoring 4 runs. Eastern has had only four more hits (33), but have plated 18 runs.

Schuette said the team has done well keeping itself in games with its pitching and defense.

"And then our hits come through so we've been able to win some games," she added.

Schuette does not have a set rotation yet as to

SEE ATTITUDE PAGE 10A

HE SAID/SHE SAID

Who's got it better: Activities Editor Matt Poli and Associate Verge Editor Holly Mohr finally go head to head on the mother of all topics: who has it better, men or women?
Page 2

THE OSCARS

It's a red carpet night: Opinion Page Editor Brian O'Malley gives his prediction as to who will sweep the Oscars; "Brokeback Mountain" or "Capote?" **Page 4**

DANCE

I'm a maniac on the floor: The Eastern Dance Team will be holding its annual Spring Show this weekend and Associate Verge Editor Holly Mohr gets the lowdown.
Page 7

REVIEWS

Music snobs: Don't you just hate it when your favorite underground band becomes the next pop craze of 14-year-olds because of an appearance on "The OC." **Page 6**

DOWNDOWN

Marianne's Euro Deli: Mmmm...a taste of Europe. Good food and great service, what more could you ask for? **Page 2**

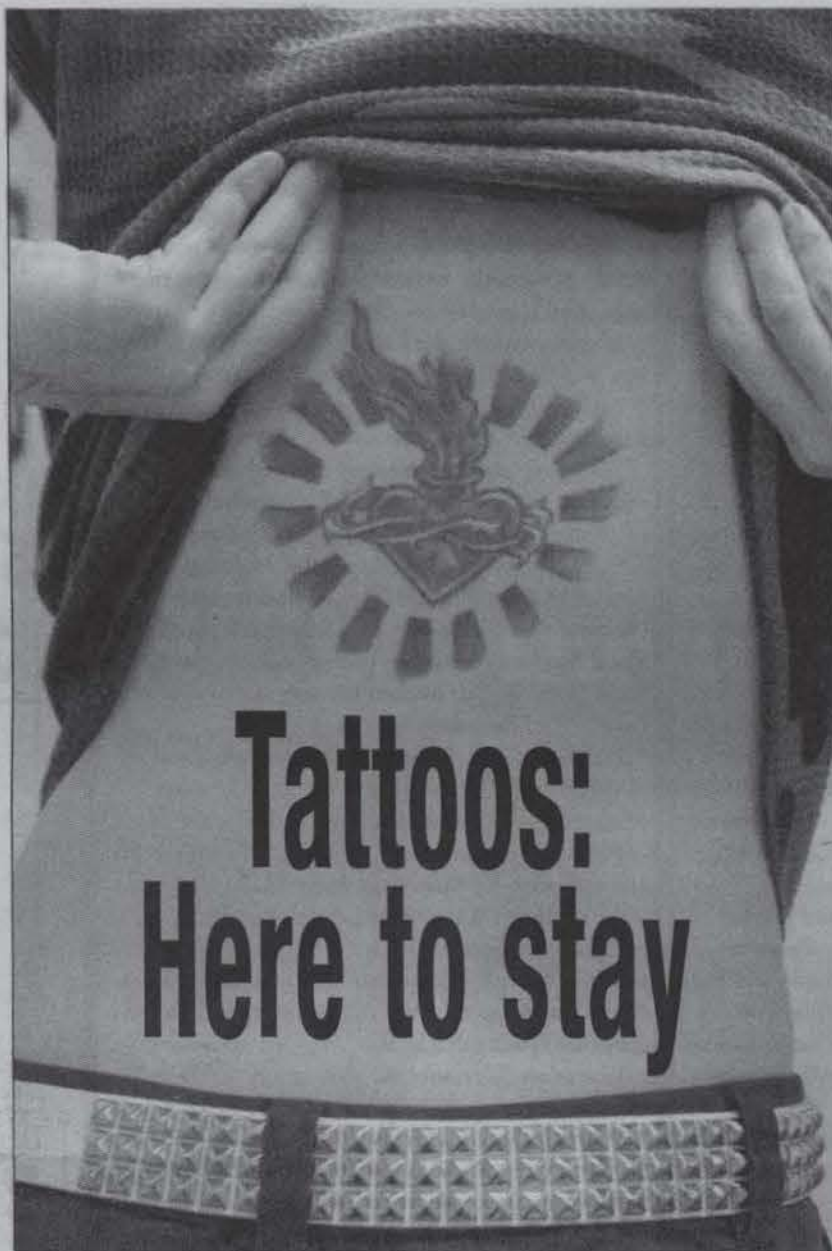


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ERIC HILTNER/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Tattoos: Here to stay

By CHRIS ESSIG
SENIOR VERGE REPORTER

Call it body art, physical graffiti or tattoos. Whichever you choose, it is an industry of art on the rise. Just here in the Charleston/Mattoon area are three tattoo shops: Burwell's Body Art, Finish and Touch Ink and Living Color Tattoos.

You may have a tattoo yourself. If not, look around. You're probably in the vicinity of someone with a tat right now. You may have visited a tattoo shop and/or looked at designs. You may be planning on getting one right now. The fact is... tattoos and college students go together like green eggs and ham.

With that said, here is what needs considering if one is in the market for a tattoo.

Ask anyone in the business; the first step is pivotal. The need for careful planning and thought can't be stressed enough.

"It isn't a sticker," said John Burwell, owner of Burwell's Body Art.

For disclosed reasons, the person wished to remain anonymous and will be referred to as Bill.

"Try not to pick anything off the wall," Bill said.

Some of the most common designs include portraits, memorials and monuments of some sort commemorating someone who has passed away.

Self-expression is a big part of the decision process, said Justin Nihiser, owner of Finish and Touch Ink.

"You basically own it forever which can be a drawback if you don't pick a good design," Nihiser said.

A good tattoo should remind you of someone or something because "it will always be

with you," Burwell said.

David Poggi, freshman psychology major, agreed.

Poggi has three tattoos: his name on his wrist, which he said is a family tradition; a rooster on his calf, his family's nickname for him, and a dragon on his back which symbolizes his nationality.

"You got to get something meaningful and not something you're going to regret," said Poggi.

"Most people come in with a purpose," Burwell said. "But some people need to put more thought into their design."

On top of precise planning, one must, as Bill put it, "have a good mind and check out the place they're getting their tattoo from."

And backdoor tattooists, even if substantially cheaper, may not be the wisest decision.

"There is a reason why some work for a business and some don't," Burwell said.

Some tattooists, while offering reduced prices, may be neglecting one very important aspect: safety.

"You don't want to get a crappy tattoo that will kill you," Baldwin said.

Nihiser agreed.

"I worry they don't have the proper equipment but it may bring us work if the design is messed up," Nihiser said.

Okay, so you've checked out the place, picked out a design, customized it and set an appointment. So what can you expect from your next visit?

You come in and tell the artist what design

you want and he will stencil it out, make an outline and after the skin is washed with soap, it is drawn. This is done with a small needle.

That area is then cleaned and a new, larger needle is used to color and shade, Bill said.

The amount of sessions to complete the entire process depends on the tattoo chosen.

"I did a back piece once that took 15 sessions, 8 hours a session," Bill said.

However, some smaller pieces will take substantially less time and may not need additional visits.

If you get a little heart you probably won't need a touch up at all, Burwell said.

For the most part, touch ups are recommended, even if they're just to make sure you're healing properly.

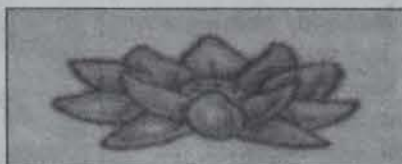
"It's not like six months down the road your going to have major problems," Burwell said.

Burwell also recommends applying some sort of moisture on the skin to keep from the skin from drying and peeling.

All in all, it is a simple but strenuous process that could cost anywhere from \$50 to \$5,000, depending on where you go and what you're getting. The easiest is just to go into a shop.

And if you spend enough time planning and picking a spot, you'll have no problem showing off what Burwell describes as "your life story."

"Most college students are pretty predictable," Burwell said. "We can pretty much tell which ones are getting tattoos and which ones are just looking."



HE SAID/SHE SAID

Battle of the Sexes



IT'S GOOD TO BE THE MAN

BY MATT POLI

"It's good to be the king," the old saying goes. Not queen.

Being male entitles me to certain characteristics women just cannot take part in. For example, I can pee pretty much anywhere. While the law may not allow it, I can still unsheathe my sword and do my business quickly as opposed to having to drop my pants to my ankles and pop-a-squat hoping I don't tinkle on myself.

I also don't have to spend a significant amount of time obsessing about what I'm going to wear or how good my makeup looks.

Another male highpoint, I take great pride in clearing out a room with a horrific-smelling fart.

I'm grateful I don't have to shop for bras, dresses or panties (although I might enjoy the last one). I do not have to purchase tampons, which I am ever so thankful for because that means I don't menstruate, ever.

I do, however, take great satisfaction when I'm in the checkout line and the clerk has to announce a price check for Trojan XL Magnum condoms.

Even as a child, I always felt important playing with toy guns and G.I. Joe's while the girls were combing their doll's hair and obsessing over Cabbage Patch Kids. It's almost like the toys we play with as children dictate how we should behave in society. Men are expected to act aggressively while women are expected to act passively.

Think about it. When it comes to relationships, men are usually the aggressor as far as approaching a woman and making the first move. Men always want to jump into the sack and bump uglies, while women (well, some women) choose to wait awhile before doing anything that they very well might regret. And that is their right.

While being a male is superb, it has its drawbacks.

We can't flirt our way out of a speeding ticket (unless the cop is George Michael). We are the ones who typically always have to pay for dinner, movies and God help us if we forget to get a card for some special event we probably will forget again next year.

In retrospect, I'd still rather be a male.

We don't worry about walking alone at night. We don't get scared when there's a tiny spider in the shower. And we don't put on makeup while talking on a cell phone and smoking a cigarette all while trying to make a left-hand turn during rush-hour traffic.

I'm not saying men are better than women; I'm just expressing why I'm glad I'm not a woman. Oh, and the whole nine months of pregnancy thing, too. I really dodged a bullet there.



OOOOHHH! IT'S A LADY!

BY HOLLY MOHR

"The queen is the deadliest of the pieces and the manly pawn is the weakest," is how the old saying goes. And it may be good to be king, but this queen can bank anything the king has to say about that in two words, multiple orgasms...checkmate!

That could end the debate on why it's good to be a woman, but I'll go on.

Traffic tickets. I don't know much about them because I've never gotten one. This can be accredited to the Oscar-award-winning performance all females can give, crying like a baby. Male cops fall for this all the time, and if you're unfortunate enough to be pulled over by a female cop, just bitch about feminist issues she's probably dealing with too. I have cried or bitched my way out of over 10 tickets. And the award goes to...

Drink prices at the bar. What? How am I supposed to know? I'm a girl. I don't buy my own drinks. Guys buy them for me.

PMS. Menstruating can be a pain, but I'll surf the crimson wave for three days to get out of class or work anytime I want to. No questions asked.

Paying for dinner. This is a great set up for women. We can "fake pump" and look like the generous date we aren't. He'll then reach quickly for the check and pay with a smile.

Protection. We don't have to wear any on the field or in bed. Playing soccer never called for me to wear a cup. I don't think I could have performed as well with one on. I think it would just annoy me. And speaking of annoying, I wouldn't want to be a guy and having to remember the condom, let alone wear it.

Relaxation. Women can go shopping, get a manicure, pedicure or their hair done for relaxation and not be questioned. They are all great ways to relax and relieve stress. Men should try to do them more often. Really, you could say shopping is almost therapeutic.

Zits. I can cover any zit I get with concealer and no one has to know it's there. I don't know of any cover-up cream a guy could wear and not get made fun of.

Being a lady. It's fun trying on dozens of outfits in front of a mirror, putting on makeup and fixing your hair various ways. I like the fact I can pamper myself or be pampered by others and it's perfectly acceptable.

Getting the gentleman service. Women also are on the receiving end of the gentlemen service. Guys hold doors for us, give us their jackets when we're cold and kill spiders.

Though we have hardships, men will never endure or understand, I still would rather be a woman. It may be a man's world, but who gave them life and something pretty to look at?

CBS sues Stern over breach of contract

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK—CBS Corp.'s radio division sued Howard Stern Tuesday, claiming its former star shock jock breached his contract with them when he moved to Sirius Satellite Radio Inc.

The lawsuit, which also names Sirius and Stern's agent as defendants, claims Stern improperly used CBS radio's air time to promote his new show with Sirius, which began last month. CBS also claims Stern discussed his plans with Sirius without disclosing them to CBS as required under his contract.

Even before the lawsuit was filed in New York State Supreme Court, Stern tried to upstage the action with a hastily arranged news conference in Manhattan Tuesday to strike first at his former employer.

Stern said the lawsuit was meritless, and said CBS was trying to "bully" him. He called the lawsuit a "personal vendetta" against him by CBS Chief Executive Officer Leslie Moonves, whom Stern said held a grudge against him.

Stern said CBS officials knew of his plans to leave for Sirius and also condoned his references to satellite radio on the air and did nothing to stop him when he spoke about it on his show.

CBS Radio had formerly been known as Infinity Broadcasting, part of the Viacom Inc. conglomerate before CBS split up with Viacom at the beginning of this year.

Stern called the news conference after The New York Post's widely read gossip column Page Six published an item Tuesday saying CBS was on the verge of filing a lawsuit against him.

Stern moved his popular and bawdy morning show to satellite radio last month after years of railing against decency restrictions imposed on terrestrial radio by the Federal Communications Commission.

CBS wants Stern, his agent, Don Buchwald, and Sirius to return any financial benefits they received from using CBS radio's air time to promote Sirius, including the value of a tranche of Sirius shares that Stern and Buchwald received early for exceeding a target for subscriber increases by the end of 2005.

THE LIST

Top Ten Cartoon Characters

Verge Editor David Thill pontificates on the greatest characters in the history of animation...ever.

- 1 **Homer Simpson**- "The Simpsons" As if there could be any doubt. D'oh!
- 2 **Stewie Griffin**- "Family Guy" Who could deny such an evil toddler?
- 3 **Carl Brutananadilewski**- "Aqua Teen Hunger Force" Never has a sweaty, Jersey guy in a tank top been so loved.
- 4 **Eric Cartman**- "South Park" The chubby little foul-mouth made it cool to be full of hate and swear words.
- 5 **Bugs Bunny**- I put him on the list just for aesthetic reasons.
- 6 **Wile E. Coyote**- Super Genius. Need I say more? How about the fact that I just feel bad for him?
- 7 **Captain Planet**- "Captain Planet" He's fighting on the planet's side. How could you not love him?
- 8 **Powdered Toast Man**- "Ren and Stimpy" He flies backwards and farts magic dust.
- 9 **Papa Smurf**- "The Smurfs" He led the Smurfs and was infinitely wise. And you know he was tappin' Smurfette on the side.
- 10 **Mighty Mouse**- He's so mighty! And a mouse. That's a double.

VERGESTAFF



Verge editor David Thill
 Associate Verge editor Holly Mohr
 Designers Megan Jurinek, Cindy Tanney
 Copy editors Chris Walden, Lindsey Dunton
 Verge photo editor Eric Hiltner
 Contact us DENverge@gmail.com or 581-7943

DARIMONT FOR 2006 SHERIFF

I am writing you today to ask if you would be able to help support Steve Darimont in his campaign to be the next Sheriff of Coles County. Steve has been with the Sheriff's Office for almost 30 years and has served in every merited capacity beginning with correctional officer in 1976 and now as a Captain of Patrol. During his career Steve has also been a patrol officer, Patrol Sergeant, Patrol Lieutenant, Detective, of course, K-9 officer.

Steve implemented the first K-9 program in Coles County in 1989 and assisted both Mattoon and Charleston Police Departments in eventually forming their own K-9 programs. Steve ended his K-9 career with the retirement of his original dog, Duke, who has since passed away. Due to the Sheriff's Office losing several officers (including the current K-9 officer) to the War on Terror, Steve once again accepted the K-9 assignment because he did not want to retire a very young dog or give it to another department.

Currently, Steve assumes the responsibility of K-9 officer in addition to being Operational Captain of Patrol. Steve's current duties include administrative duties and budget line item oversight. He is also responsible for fleet maintenance, County Ordinance enforcement, regular patrol duties, and purchasing equipment for the patrol section. He has obtained grants for the Sheriff's Office to purchase and upgrade equipment.

Steve lives in the rural of the county with his wife Lynn and their two children, Chris and Andrea. His daughter Stephanie lives lives in the Dallas Area.

Steve has plans to reorganize the department and make it both more efficient and effective without asking for the more money for additional personnel. He also intends to be a working Sheriff who is "out in the field" with his deputies while still handling important administrative duties. He plans on bringing his leadership skills and his experience in the Sheriff's Office to the Office of Sheriff.

I would appreciate any support you can give Steve in the endeavor and I am asking for you to vote for him. Steve is on the Republican ballot. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Steve or me.

Sincerely,

Maria B. Graziano

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ADVERTISEMENT

Nick at Nite stays classic

The shows may have been discontinued, but they still hold a special place and we haven't forgotten the classic lines

BY BRIAN GARTLAN | SENIOR VERGE REPORTER

Where can one find the adorable Olsen twins, wacky Aunt Jackie and cornball-cousin Carlton every single night?

Still thinking?
Give up yet?

The answer to this riddle is television channel "Nick at Nite," and it will turn 21 on July 1.

The home for sitcom classics has been popular for the last two decades, and although not everyone watches the nine-hour program, it is safe to say everyone has watched "Nick at Nite" at least once, said Tiffany Carter, a sophomore.

Carter said she watches "Roseanne" religiously; Nitasha Ali, a junior elementary education, has a boyfriend who knows every word in the "Fresh-Prince of Bel-Air."

The two agreed that "Roseanne" and "Fresh Prince of Bel-Air" are the most popular shows in the line up and "The Cosby Show" is high on the list.

Nickelodeon is known for its children television program in the daytime, but despite being shown on the same channel, "Nick at Nite" is judged separately in the Nielsen Ratings.

"Nick at Nite" has featured shows like "Welcome Back Kotter," "Dennis the Menace" and "Night Court."

The Summer Block Party of the late 90s featured "I Dream of Jeanie" Thursday and "I Love Lucy" Friday.

Alongside "Roseanne" and "Fresh-Prince," "Who's the Boss" and "Fatherhood" are currently aired on the program.

"There should be a 'Roseanne' marathon on all the time," Carter said. "I even have the DVD collection."

Situation comedies,



PHOTO COURTESY OF YAHOO!MOVIES

like "Full House" are starting to get older and making it to classic television.

"Mad About You" and "Home Improvement" will join the team later this year.

Drew Stiegemeier, a junior marketing major said it seems like some shows are becoming classics pretty quick.

"It seems like only yesterday 'Mad About You' was on television," he said. "I love that show."

Even though the series is popular, not everyone is a fan.

"I don't watch 'Nick at Nite' and I haven't in a long time," said Bronson Moreano, a junior Spanish major. "But there's not a particular reason why."

He said he has not watched it since he was in junior high.

Nick O'Hearn, a junior recreation administration major, said he would watch if he had cable, but that's where he says the problem lies.

Stiegemeier said he watches the program regularly.

"Classic shows make classic television," Stiegemeier said.



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Who'll get the gold?

On The Verge makes Oscar predictions

Best Actress

Will win — Reese Witherspoon for "Walk the Line"
Should win — Felicity Huffman for "Transamerica"
Should have been nominated — Joan Allen for "The Upside of Anger"
Should not have been nominated — Charlize Theron for "North Country"
Has the worst chance of winning — Keira Knightley for "Pride and Prejudice"

Best Supporting Actress

Will win — Rachel Weisz for "The Constant Gardener"
Should win — Rachel Weisz for "The Constant Gardener"
Should have been nominated — Taraji P. Henson for "Hustle & Flow"
Should not have been nominated — Catherine Keener for "Capote"
Has the worst chance of winning — Frances McDormand for "North Country"

Best Picture

Will win — "Brokeback Mountain"
Should win — "Good Night, and Good Luck"
Should have been nominated — "Match Point" or "Millions"
Should not have been nominated — "Crash"
Has the worst chance of winning — "Munich"

Best Director

Will win — George Clooney for "Good Night, and Good Luck"
Should win — George Clooney for "Good Night, and Good Luck"
Should have been nominated — Woody Allen for "Match Point"
Should not have been nominated — Paul Haggis for "Crash"
Has the worst chance of winning — Bennet Miller for "Capote"

Best Adapted Screenplay

Will win — Larry McMurtry and Diana Ossana for "Brokeback Mountain"
Should win — Larry McMurtry and Diana Ossana for "Brokeback Mountain"
Should have been nominated — Gill Dennis and James Mangold for "Walk the Line"
Should not have been nominated — John Olson for "A History of Violence"
Has the worst chance of winning — John Olson for "A History of Violence"

The 78th Annual Academy Awards
hosted by Jon Stewart
airs Sunday, March 5
at 7 p.m. on ABC



Best Actor

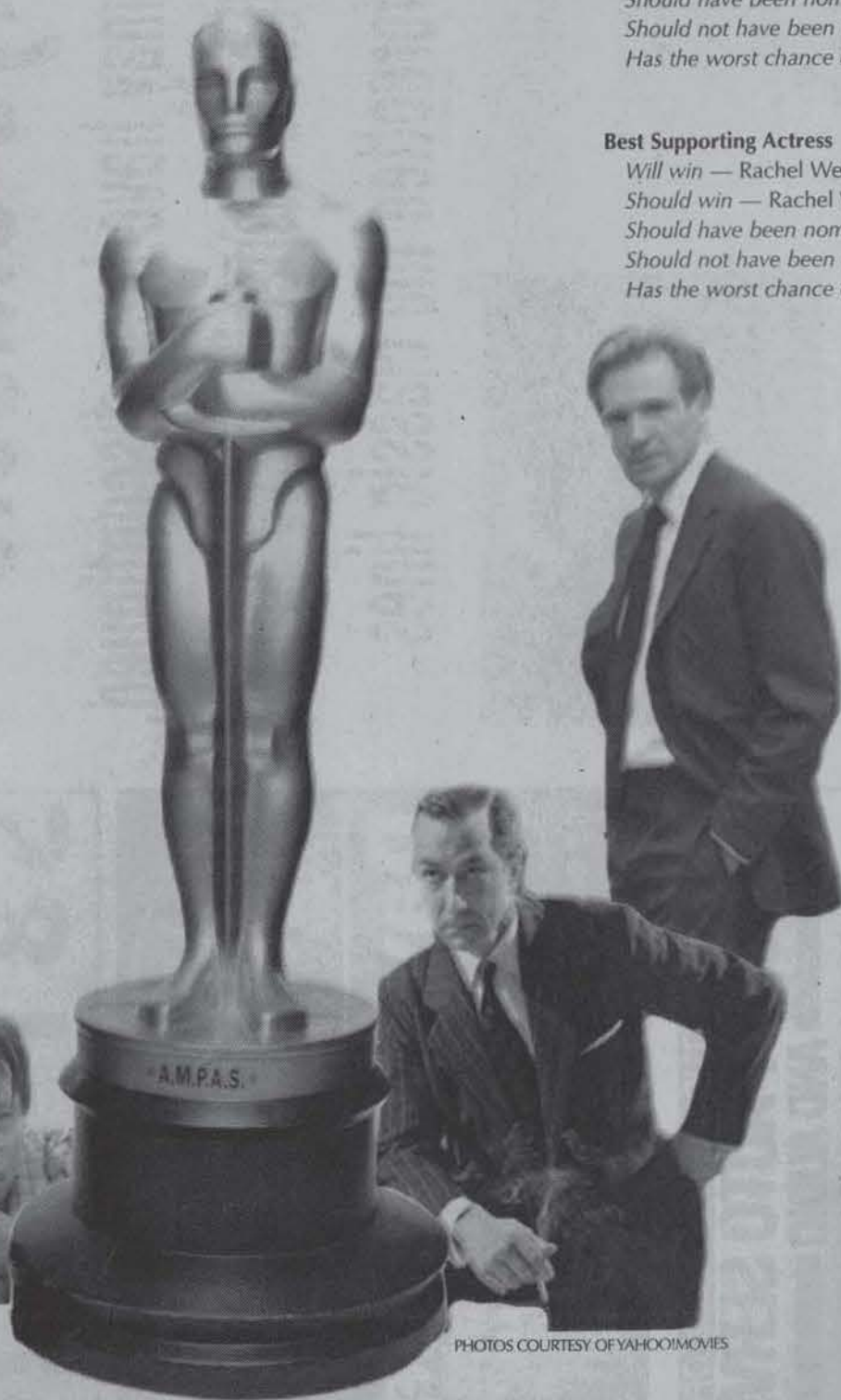
Will win — Phillip Seymour Hoffman for "Capote"
Should win — Phillip Seymour Hoffman for "Capote"
Should have been nominated — No one
Should not have been nominated — Best five choices
Has the worst chance of winning — David Straithairn for "Good Night, and Good Luck"

Best Supporting Actor

Will win — George Clooney for "Syriana"
Should win — Jake Gyllenhaal for "Brokeback Mountain"
Should have been nominated — George Clooney for "Good Night, and Good Luck"
Should not have been nominated — William Hurt for "A History of Violence"
Has the worst chance of winning — William Hurt for "A History of Violence"

Best Original Screenplay

Will win — Paul Haggis and Bobby Moresco for "Crash"
Should win — Woody Allen for "Match Point"
Should have been nominated — Frank Cottrell Boyce for "Millions"
Should not have been nominated — Haggis and Moresco for "Crash"
Has the worst chance of winning — Woody Allen for "Match Point"



PHOTOS COURTESY OF YAHOO! MOVIES

BY BRIAN O'MALLEY | VERGE REPORTER
PHOTO ARRANGEMENT BY CINDY TANNEY | ON THE VERGE

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MORE PREDICTIONS MADE BY LAURA GRIFFITH

'And the award goes to...'

Gearing up for Oscar night

By BRIAN O'MALLEY | VERGE REPORTER

He's two years older than Clint Eastwood, and he was already 58 when Keira Knightley was born. He's gold, he's bald, he's short and he's naked. His name is Oscar, and on Sunday at the Kodak Theatre in Hollywood, he turns 78.

At 7 p.m. Sunday, "The Daily Show's" Jon Stewart will kick off the 78th annual Academy Awards.

Ang Lee's drama, "Brokeback Mountain," leads the way with eight nominations and "Crash," "Good Night, and Good Luck" and "Memoirs of a Geisha" are tied for second with six nods apiece. However, "Geisha" was shut out of the eight major categories: Best Picture, Best Director, Best Original Screenplay, Best Adapted Screenplay, Best Actor, Best Actress, Best Supporting Actor and Best Supporting Actress. "Capote" and "Munich" both had five nominations, while "Brokeback," "Crash" and "Good Night" make up the nominees for Best Picture.

In a rare turn of events, all five Best Picture nominations were also nominated in the Best Director category. This has only happened three times since the 1944, when the Academy changed the Best Picture nominee total from 10 to five.

Of the 20 acting nominees, 14 are enjoying their first nominations ever. Joaquin Phoenix is recognized for his portrait of country music legend Johnny Cash in "Walk the Line."



Thandie Newton and Matt Dillon in Lions Gate Films' "Crash."

PHOTO COURTESY OF YAHOO!MOVIES

Phoenix was nominated in 2000 for his supporting performance in that year's Best Picture, "Gladiator."

Catherine Keener was nominated for her supporting role in "Capote" as "To Kill a Mockingbird" author Harper Lee. She was nominated in the same category in 1999 for "Being John Malkovich."

Keener and Phoenix are two of the six acting nominees who portray real people, which in the past has shown to give an actor a notable advantage.

Judi Dench, Best Actress nominee for "Mrs. Henderson Presents," received her fifth nomination, and William Hurt, Best Supporting Actor nominee for "A History of Violence," received his fourth. Both are looking for their second win.

The women of "North Country," Charlize Theron and Frances McDormand, have both won a Best Actress award. Theron won her award for 2003's "Monster" and McDormand won hers for 1996's "Fargo."

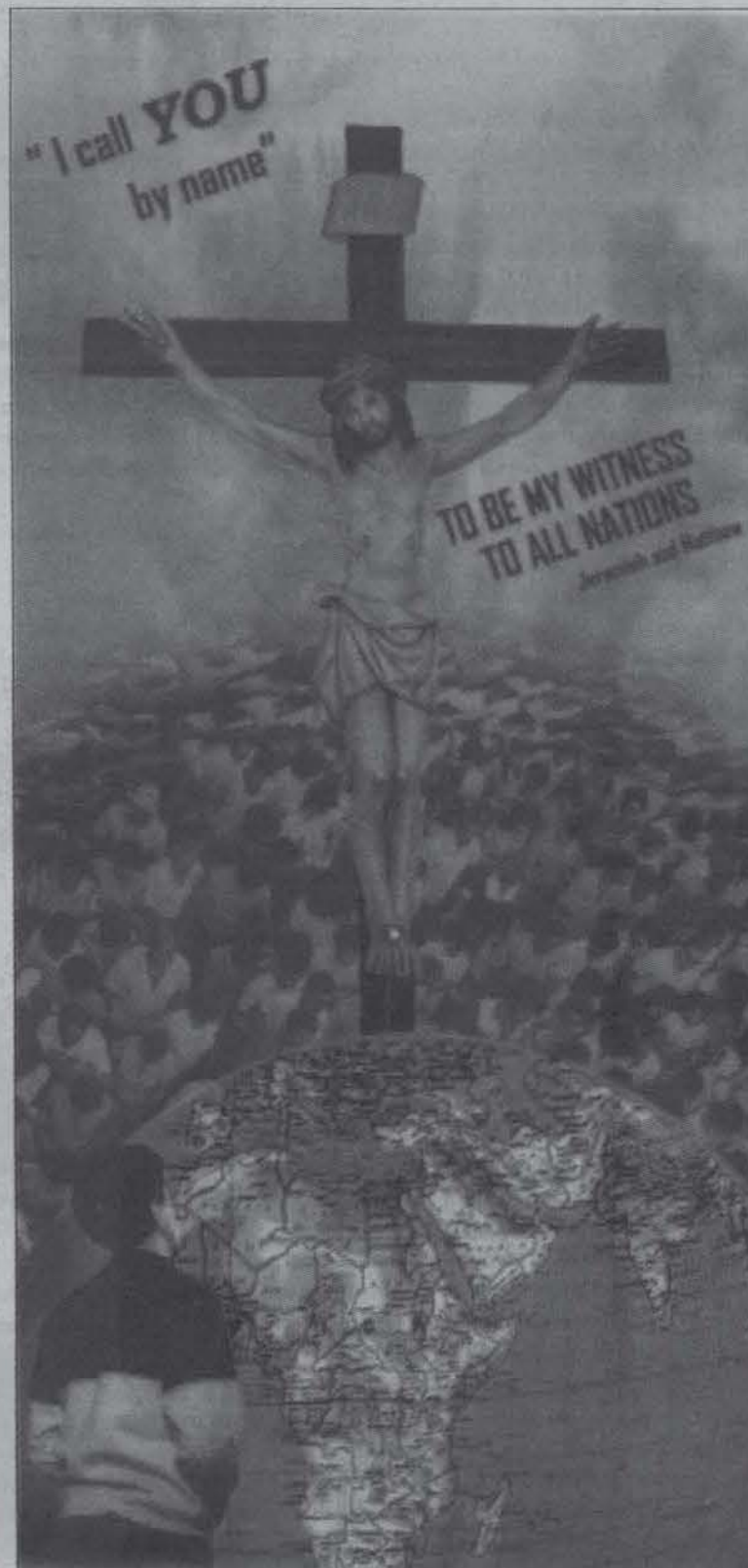
Knightley, 20, is among the youngest actors ever nominated for a leading role.

Prior to this year, George Clooney has never been nominated for an Oscar. He scored three nods this year: two for writing and directing "Good Night, and Good Luck" and one for his supporting role in "Syriana." Clooney becomes the first person ever to be nominated for directing and acting for two different movies in the same year.



PHOTO COURTESY OF YAHOO!MOVIES

Joaquin Phoenix and Reese Witherspoon in 20th Century Fox's "Walk the Line."



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in review



LISTEN UP, EVERYONE!
DAVID THILL
VERGE EDITOR



PHOTO COURTESY OF OUTSIDE MAGAZINE

Bands turning pop, losing the fans that got them there

People, by nature, are territorial. I state this not as an absolute fact but more as a personal observation. When you walk into a classroom for the first time, you find a seat and sit down. The next day you walk into the same classroom, you are most likely going to try to sit in that same seat. And after seating your hindquarters there for a few days, you may subconsciously establish that spot as your territory. That is your seat, regardless of whether or not it has your name explicitly on it. Many people, I have noticed, are the same way about their music.

While people seem to have no problem sharing certain music with others, there always seems to be one musical act that one wants to keep as their own. One unpopular band or one unknown singer that one person loves and no one else has heard of and that is the way they want to keep it.

I will give you an example of such a person.

No one ever seems to have a problem sharing the music of The Rolling Stones. It is a fantastic band with a worldwide audience and a seemingly endless repertoire of songs known by numerous generations. It would be not only pointless but just plain silly to become upset over having to share in the glory of The Stones with another.

However, let's say you had listened to an act such as The Weakerthans or The Postal Service for a long time and loved as your own little hidden treasure only to see the band rise meteorically to popularity.

On one hand, one may be very happy to see one of their favorite bands finally cashing in on all that hard work and musical awesomeness. Though, more often than not, people are angry to see others horning in on their favorite music.

In 7th grade, I saw Blink 182 on the very first MTV Sports and Music Festival, which was their first national appearance, and I was instantly hooked. From that date forward Blink 182 became my favorite band. No level of mockery, no matter what anyone said, I was loyally devoted to my band.

Then the group came out with "Enema of the State."

The first single off the album "What's My Age Again?" received fairly solid rotation on MTV and radio but it wasn't until "All the Small Things" came out that every teenybopper and prepubescent scamp sank their claws of musical unappreciation into my favorite band.

The very worst of this came when I attended a Blink 182 in Chicago and upon walking down to my seat, which I might add was deliciously dead center in the ninth row, I spotted a pre-teen wearing a Britney Spears t-shirt.

Needless to say, I was upset that someone like this would be allowed in the same country as my favorite band. In fact, I had to restrain myself from physically harming the young man. Oh yes, it was a boy wearing that Britney shirt.

So the next time you see your Dashboard Confessional or your Death Cab for Cutie or even your Alkaline Trio starting to blow up, just let them go.

Keep the albums you have and listen to them whenever need be, but please refrain from buying future albums, and save yourself the pain of seeing those who don't deserve your hidden pleasure from soiling your mental image of them.

Jack Johnson kids you not

Jack Johnson gives voice to both a cartoon monkey and the CD Review feeling of youth in his album/soundtrack "Sing-A-Long & Lullabies for the Film Curious George."

"Curious George," Johnson's first attempt at providing a musical backdrop for a children's movie, takes listeners into the whimsical world of a mischievous monkey who gets into trouble because of his misguided efforts to help.

According to mtv.com, Johnson did his fair share of homework in acclimating himself to writing from Curious George's perspective.

After reading the screenplay to become familiar with the storyline, he studied several black and white sketches to get some imagery of the animated character in his head. Pretty soon the music started to create itself.

Although the collection of songs is aimed towards a children's movie, many of the tracks appeal to an adult audience. During the somber tune, "Wrong Turn," George and the Man in the Yellow Hat, voiced by funnyman

"Sing-A-Long & Lullabies for the Film Curious George"

Release date..... 2006
Author..... Jack Johnson
Studio/Label..... Curious George ST



Will Ferrell, become separated.

The lyrics say, 'I'll wait here awhile, just long enough to be/ sure you didn't make a wrong turn/ and I'll wait long enough, maybe an hour or two/ before I decide it wasn't me, it was you.'

The darker track could be interpreted as a break up song, but when taken in the context of the movie, suddenly it feels different. The album's ability to speak to young and old makes it versatile, bridging the gap between parent and child and college student and younger sibling.

Johnson's tone is as soothing as ever, and his

melodies are just as quietly pretty. The tidy, acoustic grooves evoke the feeling of a lazy summer day, and the insightful lyrics can inspire a day-dreamy ponderousness.

"Upside Down," George's theme song, is especially bright and breezy as Johnson croons, "Who's to say / I can't do everything/ Well I can try / And as I roll along I begin to find / Things aren't always just what they seem."

In songs such as "Talk of the Town," "Questions," and "Supposed to Be," Johnson pushes the bill of what some would call easy listening with his big bag of melodies and simple and endearing lyrics. Appearances from Ben Harper, G. Love and Matt Costa add to the mix. There is also a cover of the catchy White Stripes song, "We're Going to be Friends," which is almost as charming as the original.

In writing the music for "Curious George," Jack Johnson's creative vision inspires listeners to think young with the tunes transcending age and adding a fresh breeze of warmth to the waning hours of winter.

-Brandon Hensley

Stereolab funk for music



CD Review

Stereolab finds pop sensibility without a formula in their latest album.

Vibe-synth strings evoke a distant memory of lounge crooner instrumentation, but curiously affected synth bits help propel this album into a more futuristic place.

Stereolab, a UK duo which began bringing the funk more than a decade ago, stich together lounge, pop and vibed-out space funk to establish a consistent groove on their latest album, "Fab Four Suture," which will be released in chain-megastores on March 7.

The bi-gender vocals of Tim Gane and Laetitia Sadier produces effective smooth transitions for the frequent-gear shifts throughout the songs on "Fab Four Suture."

While the swirling electronic bits may be disorienting to a

listener seeking a more straightforward pop band, they add density and a bit of mystery to the mood of the album.

Sadier's French vocals help add to the mysterious appeal of the lounge side of the band's influence. It also allows the listener to space out even further if he doesn't speak French. Music is one of the few times the lack of knowledge will help.

When listening to the album, one feels like he should be smoking a pipe and playing backgammon while sipping a martini ... in outer space.

The album was successful in putting the listener in a drift, spaced-out frame of mind.

In spite of its consistent pop sensibility, "Fab Four Suture" is not a top-40 kind of album but a solid album in the hands of the right audience.

-Evan Hill

New Funk Times funk for Internet



Web Site Review

Do you ever think modern technology is moving a little too fast nowadays? Do you wish things weren't nearly as confusing as the internet makes them out to be? Do you love funk? Then the New Funk Times is going to consume your life.

Determined to never let the funk die, New Funk Times delivers the latest in everything groovy in one neat little package. Whether you're looking for a little "p. wisdom," "some phunky fotos," or a "funky forum" to share your passion for the funk, New Funk Times has got you covered.

The site layout works perfectly for one reason: it's simple. Navigation in and out of this surprisingly deep Web site is a breeze. Links are on the left, news in the middle, and one's daily dose of the funk - quotes, pictures, and polls - are on the right. New Funk Times' intention is to be an online magazine and it is as every bit easy to read as an actual magazine. Even those who remember

funk's birth and may not be exactly internet-savvy will find their way in and out of this site.

While keeping an up-to-date site revolving around a genre that was created over 30 years ago is quite a task, New Funk Times does its best. If there is news in the funk world - whether it's the latest George Clinton tour, the newest CD from Bootsie Collins' Rubber Band, a documentary on a classic Parliament Funkadelic record or an interview with a P. Funk legend - it's here.

While one won't miss much if they don't visit daily - and funk isn't exactly newsworthy every day - they will if they only visit once. Plus there are enough soft new stories, discographies and interviews to keep one occupied on the laziest of Sunday afternoons.

When New Funk Times advertises that they have been "funkin' up the web since 1995," they weren't lying.

-Chris Essig



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Ladies of the dance

The Eastern Dance Team to hold one and only show of the year this weekend

By HOLLY MOHR | ASSOCIATE VERGE EDITOR

Bruises bulging up and down legs, sprained ankles and six hours of grueling practice every day. Is all this worth just one weekend of performances?

Krystal Gravitt, an EIU Dancer, thinks it is.

"We all have been working so hard," Gravitt said. "We have our injuries and our problems, but we're strong-willed girls and nothing will keep us from dancing."

The EIU Dancers is an organized club that's been around since 1981. The Physical Education Department sponsors the club and has had the dancers perform at the department's annual spring concert the department has put on since 1932.

Gravitt said of about 40 students auditioned for a place on the dance company last September, and only 15 made it. They joined the club's board of four to complete the company. Only one male made the company, but four guest male dancers will perform alongside.

Gravitt said all of the dancers have a background in dance somehow: pom-pom squads, dance teams or classes through a dance studio.

The board conducts the auditions along with Jeanne McFarland, the company director.

Taylor Tesdal, the club's vice president, said

Jeanne gets her point across when directing while maintaining a positive attitude and an understanding for her dancers.

"She's a coach; it's just more professional in dance to be called a director," Gravitt said.

Though McFarland directs, the members not only dance, but some choreograph as well.

Gravitt said at the beginning of the year dancers can audition their choreographed dances to the board members and the director. If the dance is approved, then they can choose how many and which dancers they want to perform it.

This weekend is the club's only time to spotlight at Eastern.

Tesdal said the performances are filled with a variety of dance and music.

"Anything from ballet to jazz to hip-hop, we'll be performing," she said. "The performance as a whole will accommodate to everyone."

The program consists of company dances, where everyone in the club participates, and private dances, where dancers are chosen by the choreographer.

Besides this weekend, the dancers will be working towards something the club has never been a part of: Broadway.

"We will be taking dance classes at the Broadway Dance Center in New York," Tesdal

said.

The EIU Dancers will be spending Spring Break in New York not only learning moves but also showing them off.

Lisa Walding, the club's treasurer, said they would be performing for an hour on the Intrepid, is an aircraft carrier, which contains the Sea, Air and Space Museum.

Walding said she found an article in a dance magazine about different dance team programs and that's when she found out about a New York package deal for dance teams like the EIU Dancers.

Other than performing and taking classes, the group will also take a tour of Radio City Music Hall, Ground Zero and attend the Today Show.

"We're all very excited because the EIU Dancers have never done anything like this," she said.

Gravitt said it would be an emotional trip because more than half of the company leaves at the end of the year.

"We've all worked so well with each other as dancers and friends," she said.

The EIU Dancers will perform at 7:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, March 3 and 4, and at 6 p.m. on Sunday, March 5 on the stage in McAfee Gym. The show is free and the doors will open 30 minutes prior to show time.



Marianne's Euro Deli
"A Taste of Europe"

Marianne Furrar is the kind of person who someone would feel they've known their entire life in just five minutes of talking with her.

Restaurateur serves Charleston a little class

STORY BY MICHAEL PETERSON | VERGE REPORTER
PHOTO BY ERIC HILTNER | ON THE VERGE

Wearing her hair pulled back, a flower-donned shirt and a brown apron that says, "When in doubt, smother it with chocolate" one would have never guessed that she just got out of the hospital from a 103.5-degree fever, leaking small intestines and a perforated ulcer.

"I was in the hospital for seven days," said Furrar. "I was so grateful that my kids took care of everything. I was lucky."

Furrar, who was born in Mannheim, Germany, is the owner of Marianne's Euro Diner located at 615 Monroe Ave. in the square. In fact, she is the only female restaurant owner in Charleston.

She said she came to the United States in the 1970s to work for her aunt who was the owner of the restaurant "Little Mexico" in Mattoon.

She opened her diner in 1998 because she wanted to have a European restaurant with an emphasis on quality rather than quantity.

"I don't have French fries and I don't have cheeseburgers. Sorry people," Furrar said with a smile on her face. "But I do have lots of vegetarian items as well as homemade food items."

"— As well as some of the smoothest coffee in Charleston," chimed in one of the customers sitting at a table while drinking his cup.

Furrar is constantly trying to find ways to get students involved.

For example, every Wednesday she serves \$3.95 all-you-can eat spaghetti, and on Friday's from 8 to 10 p.m. she features live music from local artists.

But probably the first thing one will notice when walking into Marianne's is the simple yet elegant European décor of the diner. Pictures of professors, friends and other customers hang from the peach-colored walls.

Another defining feature of the restaurant is something called the professor table. It is a specific table at Marianne's that is always reserved for the professors, many of whom have gone to the diner on a regular basis since it opened eight years ago.

"I've never been to the school, but I know all the professors. And I just love them to pieces," said Jasmine Mannin, an employee at Marianne's. "We've done catering for professors at other universities and they always act like we are below them. Here it's not like that."

Arguably the most important feature of the diner is the real sense of community. It feels like "Cheers" in the sense that when you go there everybody knows your name.

"Being here is like being part of a family," said Mannin. "When I got pregnant she was like, 'I'm going to be in the delivery room!'"

One thing Furrar does is hire people that other employers might find too risky because of their past. Furrar, on the other hand, hires them because she believes that everyone in life deserves a second chance. She thinks the world would be a better place if people learned to accept one another rather than pointing fingers.

"She also helped me find an apartment," Mannin said. "If it's in her power to help, she will do it."

So why does Furrar do this? For one, Furrar does not believe in coincidences. She believes that everything in life has a purpose. The hard times are just an obstacle that we need to overcome, and it is those times that make us who we are.

"I am a Christian, and I am very careful when I say this because the term has become so watered down," said Furrar. "But I do have a faith that allows me to draw from a higher power. I think that is part of what makes me who I am."

In addition to the restaurant, Furrar landlords a duplex as well as a room that is above her restaurant. In the 70s she owned a Mexican/German cuisine restaurant called Muchachos and in the 80s she owned a jewelry, gold and silver store called the "Gold Buyer."

"Because I am very outgoing and I have had several businesses before, I know a lot of people in this area and a lot of people know me," said Furrar. "My personality is what you see is what you get."