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Eastern Illinois University

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CAMPUS | EVALUATIONS

Wanted: Student comments

Faculty Evaluations: An important document based on teacher's performance

By **JESSICA LEGGIN**
Campus Editor

The extra white space left at the end of teacher evaluations for students' comments is a major component in the student-teacher relationship.

Some students rely on these comments to make the classroom and learning experience better in hopes that the professor reads and takes them into consideration.

Gary Bulla, professor of biological sciences, said he absolutely takes all the comments he receives from students seriously.

"(Evaluating) is good because it highlights problems in the course, about things that are not taught as well," he said.

As a tenured teacher, Bulla said the evaluation system has a flaw when tenured teachers do not take student comments seriously.

Academic tenure means a professor's position is considered to be on a permanent basis without a renewal of contract.

"Once you are tenured, student comments do not have as much effect at times," Bulla said. "If (faculty) are not tenured, the consequences would be identified, and then they should carefully consider modifying the way they are teaching the subject."

Faculty evaluations must be done throughout the campus community because of Eastern's membership with the University Professionals of Illinois.

Provost Blair Lord, vice-president for academic affairs, said faculty evaluations are a part of the bargaining

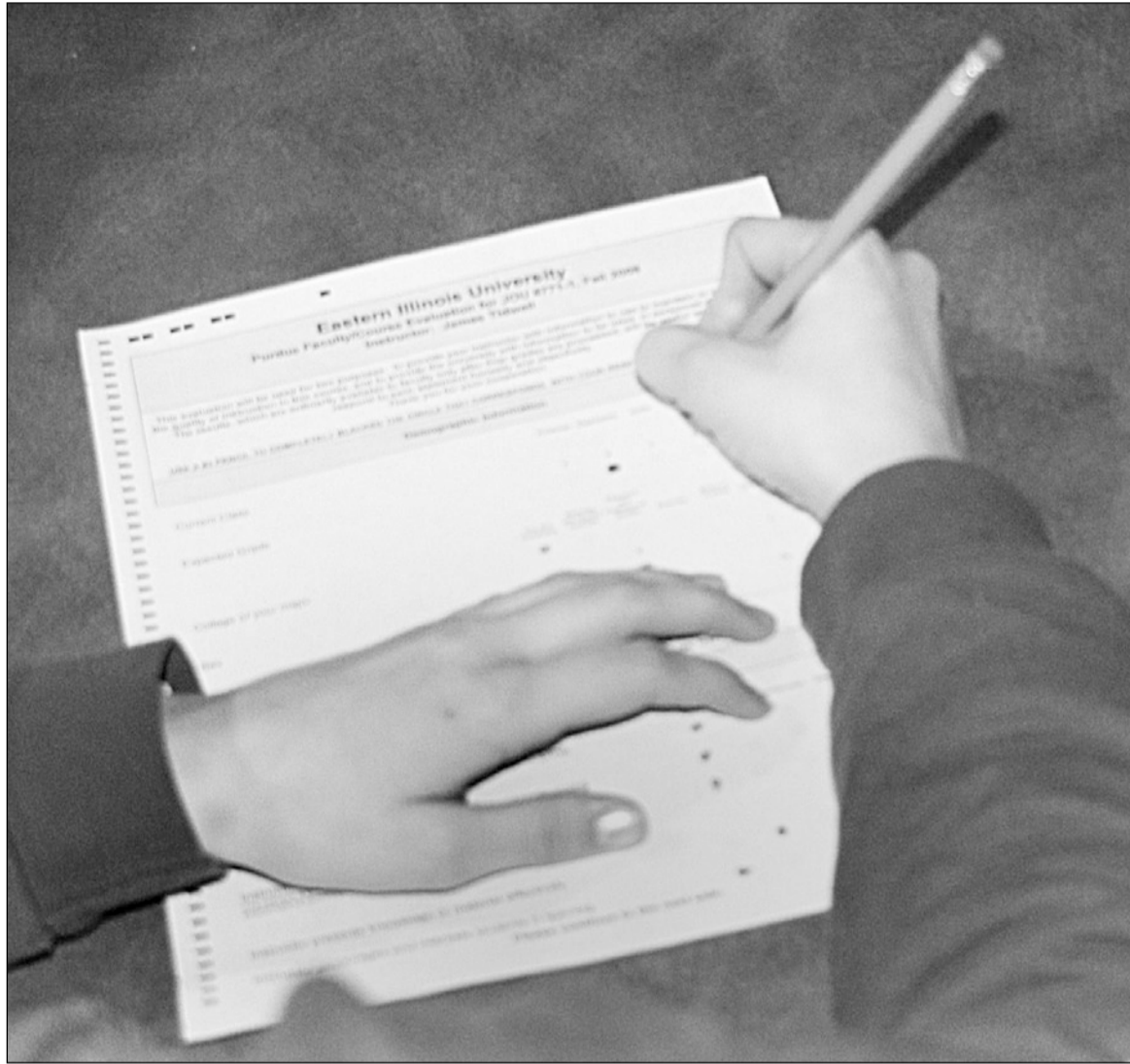


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY KELLY CREMENT | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Students fill out evaluations each semester even though they do not affect tenured teacher's positions. Gary Bulla, professor of biological sciences, is a tenured professor, but said he takes student comments seriously.

agreement the university has with the faculty union.

The contract between the union and university states: "At least once academic term, each employee who teaches a course or other instructional activity shall have his/her teaching effectiveness evaluated by students in accordance with methods specified in the approved statement of Departmental Application of Criteria."

"They are supposed to be done," Lord said. "We are primarily a teaching institution, which means that instructional obligations are mostly important."

Lord said student evaluations bring a variety of merit opportunities such as raises and faculty tenures.

"Student evaluations play a role

in this," he said. "It is continuously incentive that faculty pay attention to student evaluations and for them to be taken seriously."

Besides faculty evaluations, students are also able to critique their professors on Web sites such as ratemyprofessors.com.

» SEE EVALUATIONS, PAGE 5

CAMPUS | EVENT

Roediger speaks of the fate of racism

By **EMILY STEELE**
Staff Reporter

The election of President Obama has led many to believe that the issues surrounding race in America are over.

White and black are no longer factors that define or separate us.

But the induction ceremony is over and the daily truths remain.

Undocumented South American immigrants still work underpaid at dangerous factory jobs.

Just last week, a noose was found on an African-American's desk in Louisiana.

The hope of an entire culture has been placed on Obama's shoulders, but instead Professor Dave Roediger said we should look to history to ground our hope.

Roediger spoke last night about his experiences growing up in Cairo — a small town in Illinois where a daily 6 p.m. whistle would blow, signaling the time when African-Americans must be outside of the city limits.

His background and first hand experiences eventually led him to the field of "critical whiteness studies," or looking at "whiteness" as a problem.

A professor of history at the University of Illinois, Roediger spoke about the fate of racism in America and how it may be close to an end. However, it is not over yet.

By pointing out specific events in American history, including two racially charged court cases Lincoln was involved with, Roediger outlined the institutionalized origins and important landmarks in the development of American racism.

Dr. Klevor Abo, a professor in the African American studies department, brought Roediger to Eastern as part of the African American Heritage Month celebrations.

Race is fictional, it's about who holds the power, said Abo who eagerly introduced Roediger to the audience of more than 50 people.

"We all have prejudices, no matter the color of our skin," said Roediger, who also said there is no single



ERIC HILTNER | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Dave Roediger, professor of history at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana, talks about his book "How Race Survived U.S. History: From Settlement and Slavery to the Obama Phenomenon" in the Coleman Hall auditorium Tuesday evening.

solution to racism.

However, with the promise of change Roediger said people should push their hopes to the ground, to the people, making it possible for

the leaders to make the transformations the nation believes in.

Emily Steele can be reached at 581-7942 or at easteele2@eiu.edu.

CAMPUS | SENATE

Student Senate requirement to be reworked

Members say diversity bylaw needs clearer wording

By **BOB BAJEK**

Student Government Editor

The Student Senate diversity requirement might get a face-lift tonight at the Student Senate meeting.

The proposed bylaw change is a rewording of the diversity requirement to not attending culturally diverse events, but instead performing constituent and campus involvement requirements, effectively ending the requirement.

The diversity requirement requires senate members to either help facilitate or plan an event, program or meeting that promotes diversity in the Eastern or Charleston community per semester.

Student Senate members can also help facilitate or plan culturally diverse groups. If members are unable to do either of the two options, they would have to attend at least two diverse events a semester. Student Senate members experience would be reported and approved by the Diversity Affairs Committee.

Student Senate member Mark Olendzki is one of the writers of the proposed bylaw change. He said out of 26 members last semester, five completed the requisite. He wants more participation.

"It's a manner of clearing things up, fixing a program," Olendzki said. "The problem is that the word is open to interpretation."

Olendzki said part of the problem with the word "diversity" is it could almost mean anything and he does not want to restrict its meaning.

Student Senate Speaker Drew Griffin agreed with the bylaw's flaws. "The diversity requirement is wonderful in theory but the way it's being put into practice should be different," Griffin said.

Jose Alarcon, co-chair of Internal Affairs Committee, believes diversity is clearer cut than some of his colleagues.

"Diversity is the interaction with people of other cultures, creeds, skin color or sexual orientation," Alarcon said. "Something like the Democratic and Republican debate is not diverse."

In 2007, the requirement was increased to two meetings a semester, said Omar Solomon, chair of the Diversity Affairs Committee.

Olendzki said if the bylaw change passes, the Diversity Affairs Committee will be weakened, but maybe the organization would be more efficient.

He said last semester the Student Relations Committee had a complaint/suggestion box in the Martin Luther King University Union that was not used, so a box on Student Government's Web site e-mails the concern to the Student Senate Speaker and forwarded to the appropriate committee chairs.

» SEE REQUIREMENT, PAGE 5

EIU WEATHER

<p>WEDNESDAY</p>  <p>15° 10° Partly Cloudy NW 10-15</p>	<p>THURSDAY</p>  <p>40° 23°</p>	<p>WEATHER BRIEF</p> <p>Daytime temperatures will be on the rise tomorrow finally breaking the freezing mark. By Saturday temperatures will reach into the mid 50s.</p> <p>For current conditions visit EIU WeatherCenter at www.eiu.edu/~weather</p>
<p>FRIDAY</p>  <p>45° 32°</p>		

CAMPUS | MEETING

Student Senate wants visibility

Bylaw will require senate members to serve in the community, attend one other organization meeting that they are not affiliated with

By **BOB BAJEK**
Student Government Editor

Student Government is tired of Eastern students not knowing who they are. The Student Senate meetings are empty and voter turnout is about 10 percent or less at elections.

To change this downward trend in student awareness, Student Senate is going to introduce three resolutions and possibly a bylaw change increasing its visibility on campus at its meeting at 7 p.m. today in the Arcola/Tuscola Room at the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

Student Senate member Mark Olendzki is one of the authors of the bylaw change for campus involvement. It amends the requirements of members while in office.

The main change of the bylaw centers on a constituent involvement requirement. Off-campus senate members have to attend at least one student organization meeting that they are not affiliated with.

On-campus senate member will attend one Residence Hall Association meeting or a residence hall council meeting that they do not belong to.

At large members can chose either route.

Another change adds a campus involvement requirement requiring Student Senate members to participate in one event, program or meeting on campus that is not an organization the member belongs to. The Student Senate member would then submit a report monthly to the Internal Affairs Chairperson to complete the requirement. Each month the requirements are not completed, the member will receive an absence.

The bylaw change also encourages members to have the option of serving one hour outside the Student Activity Center to help complete their two mandatory office hours per week.

Olendzki said it could be a contentious decision on passing the bylaw change tonight. The past two meetings a bylaw change on restructuring the leave of absence policy

and a meeting attire resolution failed to pass. "I'm hoping to get high passage from Student Senate and be able to show support," Olendzki said. "If you don't go to your constituents, you will be kicked off. This bylaw change does have teeth."

Resolutions expanding campus and constituent involvement are accompanying the bylaw change. These have a better chance of being passed even if the bylaw change is not ratified because they do not have penalties.

"These resolutions are positive ways we want to interact with students," said Student Senate Speaker Drew Griffin.

Tiffany Turner, student vice president for business affairs; Ryan Kerch, student vice president for student affairs; Griffin and Student Senate member Jose Alarcon wrote the resolutions.

Alarcon, co-chair of Internal Affairs Committee, said the resolutions are needed.

"Visibility is the only way I think we could help the students (effectively)," Alarcon said.

Two resolutions are to get weekly feedback from students for the Student Senate meetings.

Griffin said this would be accomplished with setting up Student Government issue tables across campus at places like Coleman Hall or the union and asking their constituents about their concerns.

Another resolution is for Student Government to participate in community service. Alarcon feels very passionately on the topic.

"We want people to know that Student Government cares for the elderly, ill, the poor and anyone who needs help," Alarcon said. "We like to give back to the community because we take from the community; it's only fair."

In other business, Griffin said he will announce the appointments for the vacant Student Senate seats at the meeting. He said he was not going to fill all eight seats.

"The rationale was I wasn't going to fill them in for the sake of filling in," Griffin said. "I could tell the difference between the applicants and I knew the type of person I wanted to work with."

The Leave of Absence bylaw change will also be up for a vote again tonight.

The bylaw change has failed the last two times it has been up for a vote.

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

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

Pythons found after brief escape from home

The Associated Press

SAN LUIS OBISPO, Calif. — It's pretty difficult for a 23-foot, 130-pound python to hide.

The orange reticulated python, the world's longest snake species, and a second python, measuring 13 feet, escaped from a terrarium in their owner's home in San

Luis Obispo on Sunday night. Police warned residents that the snakes were large enough to make meals of young children or pets. But both had been captured by Monday afternoon. The 23-footer was found basking in the sun in a backyard several blocks away. The smaller python was spotted under the owner's porch. No injuries were reported.

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CITY | MEETING

Zoning ordinances for projects waived

JOE ASTROUSKI
City Editor

In a fifteen-minute meeting Tuesday, the Charleston City Council waived zoning ordinances for two proposed building projects.

One of those potential projects would build a two-story apartment building at 1701 and 1703 9th St., replacing two rental houses.

The building would have four four-bedroom apartments, though the lots where they would be built are only zoned to allow for eight two-bedroom apartments.

The council unanimously approved a "variance of title" to allow for the new apartments.

"(The variance of title) allows for the same number of bedrooms in this facility; it just allows them to be split up differently," said Mayor John Inyart.

The council also granted a "variance of title" to Kirby Johnson of Gavina Graphics at 1920

8th St. Johnson plans to build a 1,652-square-foot addition to the business.

With the new addition, the building would cover 37 percent of the land on which it is built, while the city's zoning ordinances only allow for 30 percent of land to be covered. In the variance request, Johnson said he plans to add more workers, though he did not say how many.

"We're glad to see you're doing well out there," Inyart told Johnson during the meeting.

The council also requested a grant from the Illinois Community Development Assistance Program. The grant would be used to help replace the 125-year old water main that runs from the water treatment plant on McKinley Avenue to Lincoln Avenue.

The city has also applied for federal funding to help build the new water main.

Joe Astrouski can be reached at 581-7942 or at jmastrouski@eiu.edu.



ERIC HILTNER | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS
Mayor John Inyart laughs following a comment made about his missing last week's snow storm during Tuesday night's city council meeting in City Hall.

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Meth Awareness Coalition to meet today

Coles County Meth Awareness Coalition will meet at 5 p.m. today in the main level conference room of the Charleston Carnegie Public Library. This meeting will center on the ongoing and future projects that include care packs for kids, alternatives for OTC medications and support for Coles County Drug Court.

UPI presents coal miners' documentary

University Professionals of Illinois is hosting the film "Harlan County, USA" as part of the "First Wednesdays" Labor Film Series. The documentary, which chronicles a bitter coal miners' strike in Harlan County, Ky., is at 4:30 p.m. today in Coleman Auditorium. Admission is free.

Faculty to discuss educational diversity

Faculty Development will host "Diversity in America and the Impact on Education" at 1:30 p.m. today in the Charleston/Mattoon room of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

— Compiled by Associate News Editor Emily Zulz

CAMPUS | EVENT

China's involvement with Africa to be discussed

By KARLA BROWNING
Staff Reporter

China's historical, economical and global issues within Africa will be discussed at the "China in Africa" panel tonight. English Professor Michael Loudon chose three other professors for their knowledge and research of the colonization of Africa.

"(The panelists) do not just have a culture overview of economics or history, they all have expertise in the area of Africa," Loudon said.

James Ochwa-Echel, coordinator of African-American studies; Roger Beck,

history professor; Teshome Abebe, economics professor; and Loudon will be the speakers featured on the panel. Each panelist will give presentation on a subject related to his field. Abebe will discuss the nature and depth of China's economic involvement in Africa from a historical perspective.

"I intend to argue that China's involvement in Africa is deep, well thought out and based on an African policy that began in or around 1955," Abebe said.

He also plans to touch on economic goals, objectives and motives that will outline the best relationship for

China and Africa. Beck will focus on the history between China and Africa.

"I am going to be talking about the history of China in Africa dating back 500 to 600 years to the cold war period," Beck said. "I am hoping to get across an awareness of African and Chinese involvement, along with all the things that are going on there."

An open discussion will be held for audience participation and feedback after the presentations. Loudon said he is hoping the audience will bring up the current issues between China and Africa. Loudon gave the example of China's investment in oil. While Chi-

na receives personal gain from the oil investment, it results in hardships for the African people.

The oil, which comes from pipes in south Sudan, causes conflict with North East Sudan pushing for separation within the country.

"We really want to make an awareness of the current global impact China is having in Africa," Loudon said.

The "China in Africa" panel will take place at 7 p.m. Wednesday in the Coleman Auditorium.

Karla Browning can be reached at 581-7942 or at DENnewsdesk@gmail.com.

CORRECTION

Student Senate members do not receive compensation for their work with Student Government, which was contrary to what was reported in an editorial in Monday's edition of *The Daily Eastern News*.

The DEN regrets the error.

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DAVID THILL

Hard partying
makes hard times

I walked out of the factory at 7 a.m. after a 12-hour shift and welcomed the freezing temperature outside as a needed relief from the 90-degree-plus temperature inside.

I walked with my fellow employees – like too many cattle, rank and file – through the turnstiles that allowed us access to the parking lot.

I looked down at myself, like every other day, and took in the sight. A disgusting mixture of motor oil, paper particle dust (it was a printing factory, after all), ink that painted my clothes and flesh like a dingy rainbow.

I breathed in the rancid stink of sweat, gasoline and regret and breathed out heavily, watching said breath turn to steam.

I sat in my car, waiting for it to warm up enough to make the 20-minute journey home to sleep and wake up just to do it all over again.

Many good people worked this job and provided a great life for their family. My own father did.

But it was not my dream. And it was not where I wanted to be.

Almost everyday, for a year, as I drove home watching the sun peek over the horizon, I asked myself, "How the hell did I get here?"

Oh, that's right, I drank my way right out of college. That was my story.

A young guy, within spitting distance of graduation, allowed personal problems to turn my better judgment against me and watch, as I gave less than a damn, and fail right out of college.

This is not to say the fault falls on anyone but me. This is to say, however, that all too many people can and do make the same mistake.

It is not my job to preach. I'll leave that to the preachers. It is not my job to teach. I'll leave that to the teachers. If I do have a job it is merely to warn.

College sucks. It takes time, commitment, hard work... horrible notions all, I know.

Why didn't "Animal House" or "Old School" ever tell me that college required more than an Olympic-strength liver?

I suppose it's because that distinction falls on you and I. As adults it's our job to realize what it takes to succeed in college and life.

Some learn this lesson on their own, some learn too late and some, not at all.

Studying for a test or actually working ahead on a project is boring.

Not fun in the least.

But it is necessary.

College can be fun and it is. But too much fun can lead to too much work. Not bad work, but perhaps work you don't want to do.

And as much as a hangover headache hurts, I can tell you that regret, shame and a frighteningly uncertain future hurt much, much more.

And no amount of Jerry's Pizza can fix that hurt.

David Thill is a senior journalism major. He can be reached at 581-7942 or at DENopinions@gmail.com.

Drawn to Amuse | Kyla Nance



STAFF EDITORIAL

Students should take course
evaluations seriously

Most of the student body has seen them before.

Those dreaded sheets passed out periodically by professors for department evaluation are looked upon as the low point of any given class.

Some students bemoan the sheets, calling them a waste of time and irrelevant to how the university functions.

Some don't even say a word and breeze through the evaluations with arbitrary "strongly agrees" regardless of how they honestly viewed a course.

In both cases, the evaluations are regarded as the bane of student existence, supposedly hindering students' thought and learning processes and an annoying interruption to valuable class time.

But are they really that bad?

Professors devote nine months out of the year to bettering students' lives in the future, but that training doesn't come without some effort from the students.

In a given semester, a student will face numerous exams and quizzes, midterm exams and papers, term papers, projects, speeches, presentations and a plethora of assignments to keep students busy.

On top of that, departments ask for the students' opinions of courses and the assigned instructors to each course.

It's not that difficult for a student to express his/her opinions of a course, especially since that student is guaranteed anonymity unless the student chooses otherwise.

By that logic, the student should not feel hindered to express whatever emotions and thoughts were imparted by the course. Still, students may just breeze through evaluations just to get out of class, marking every "strongly agree" bubble without conscious thought.

They may argue that the evaluations really play little, if any,

"If students have a problem with the course at the time evaluations are handed out, those problems should be reported for the department to fix."

part in how the department operates, but they couldn't be more wrong.

Departments and colleges look at these reviews as the voice of the students and are therefore compelled to take each evaluation seriously.

If a student says something is wrong with a course or some manner of education was impeded by the instructor's methods of teaching, the department can then pinpoint exactly what isn't working and can proceed to fix the problem.

That way, future students will not have to deal with the problems previous students had encountered but failed to report through department evaluations.

If students have a problem with the course at the time evaluations are handed out, those problems should be reported for the department to fix.

Even though students may feel impeded by one sheet of paper, the five minutes it takes to fill it out is greatly beneficial to the student body now and in the future.

EDITORIAL POLICY

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

YOUR TURN: LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PRIORITIES MIXED UP

The DEN editorial staff was absolutely right when they said Student Senate needs to put the student body first. There have been several internal issues that have been debated over in recent months that the senate could probably spend less time discussing.

That being said, it's good to see that the editorial staff is concerned with the issues that really matter to students. Forget campus safety, forget library hours, forget recycling, forget student input on

tuition and housing costs; what we really need is a Panther Card reader for the Pepsi machine in Buzzard. That's what the students of Eastern Illinois University should have as their top priority.

Also, it appears that Student Senate member are now getting paid, according to *The DEN* editorial staff. If that is the case then please tell me where I can pick up my paycheck, because the last I knew the members of Student Senate are only paid with the knowledge that they can potentially affect the student body in a positive way.

If students have a concern for their elected representatives, they are free to attend our meetings at 7 p.m. on Wednesdays, find us throughout the week in the Student Activities Center in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union, or even send us an e-mail.

Otherwise, you can get false information from blatantly misleading editorials written by *The DEN* editorial staff. Is that really what they get paid for?

Michael Whildin
Student Senate member

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

The DEN's policy is to run all letters that are not libelous or potentially harmful. They must be less than 250 words.

Letters to the editor can be brought in with identification to *The DEN* at 1811 Buzzard Hall.

Letters may also be submitted electronically from the author's EIU e-mail address to DENopinions@gmail.com.



ROBBIE WROBLEWSKI | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Firefighter paramedics Ryan Berkheimer and Brandon Helm tend to senior communication studies major Matt Draus outside of Buzzard hall Tuesday morning. Draus slipped on a patch of ice and was unable to move before medical assistance arrived. Draus said he fractured his back.

» Evaluations

FROM PAGE 1

Sometimes these Web sites are not fully legitimate, and some students wonder if faculty evaluations can be made public on a university monitored Web site. Mary Bianchi, junior foreign language major, said she would prefer to use a monitored site when it comes to faculty evaluations.

"It would seem more valid than ratemyprofessor.com, and have facts and percentages," she said.

If faculty evaluations were made available for students to view, Bianchi said she would use them to help choose what classes to take.

Lord said in order for faculty evaluations to be posted on a monitored university Web site, an agreement has to be made with the faculty union.

"For us to make those evaluations publicly available, a formal agreement with our faculty union has to be made," he said.

Bulla said he really never thought about faculty evaluations being made available to students, but said he does not oppose it. "It might be useful for students to know just how difficult a class is going to be when coming in

to it," he said.

Bulla said he does not think this will affect a faculty member when it comes to students enrolling in their classes. "I do not think it will affect him or her because those courses are already in place based on student enrollment," he said. "They have to eventually take the course from someone."

Bulla said at times, the faculty receives a negative evaluation from a student who is just mad.

"Some students are just going to be mad because they realize that the course is more rigorous than what they expected," he said. "We just have to find a balance within these comments."

Kara Connolly, a junior family and consumer sciences major, said she believes some professors take faculty evaluations to heart.

"I have had some who say 'please write stuff,' then I hear horror stories about teachers that are just bad semester after semester," she said. "For some it does not matter how bad their evaluations are, they are not going to make a difference."

Jessica Leggin can be reached at 581-7942 or at jmleggin@eiu.edu.

» Requirement

FROM PAGE 1

In the fall, Solomon was on the diversity affairs committee, yet failed to finish the requirement.

"I, myself, forgot the requirement last year and I looked down on myself like I'm not doing my job because it is a requirement," Solomon said. "I'm not about to make any excuses. I didn't make it. However, I will fulfill the requirement."

"If people are not fulfilling this requirement, I will take full responsibility for it as the diversity affairs chair," Solomon added. "It's my job to be on everybody, and I'll do it. There are going to be a plethora of events this semester, so I don't want to see any excuses."

Solomon thinks part of the problem with Student Senate members not fulfilling the requirement stems from receiving only one absence per semester. For a member to be dismissed from the senate, there has

to be three absences in a semester, according to the Student Senate bylaws.

"Some senators think that they could take the absence," Solomon said. "Sometimes it seems as though they are apathetic to the fact that they have to complete it. This is in our bylaws, so we should fulfill this requirement. It's as simple as that."

New Student Senate member Brittany Wells said she thinks the bylaw is not hard to finish. Wells said other members cannot be forced to com-

plete it.

On whether imposing a stricter penalty for those who ignore the bylaw would happen, Wells does not think it would happen.

"A stricter policy probably won't help because there will be more opposition," Wells said. "Last week, people were nervous about the dress code. The more binding it is, the more people won't be on board."

Griffin does not want to enact a tougher penalty.

"It's a personal prerogative," Griffin said.

fin said. "Not completing the requirement makes you a bad senator."

Solomon pointed to Student Senate member Isaac Sandidge's challenge to the members during the Jan. 14 meeting to do more.

"I take his challenge and issue it back to the senators to fulfill this requirement this semester," Solomon said. "No more excuses; let's just get it done."

Bob Bajek can be reached at 581-7942 or at rtbajek@eiu.edu.

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M-W-F

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Saturday.....10:00am-4:00pm
Sunday.....Noon-4:00pm

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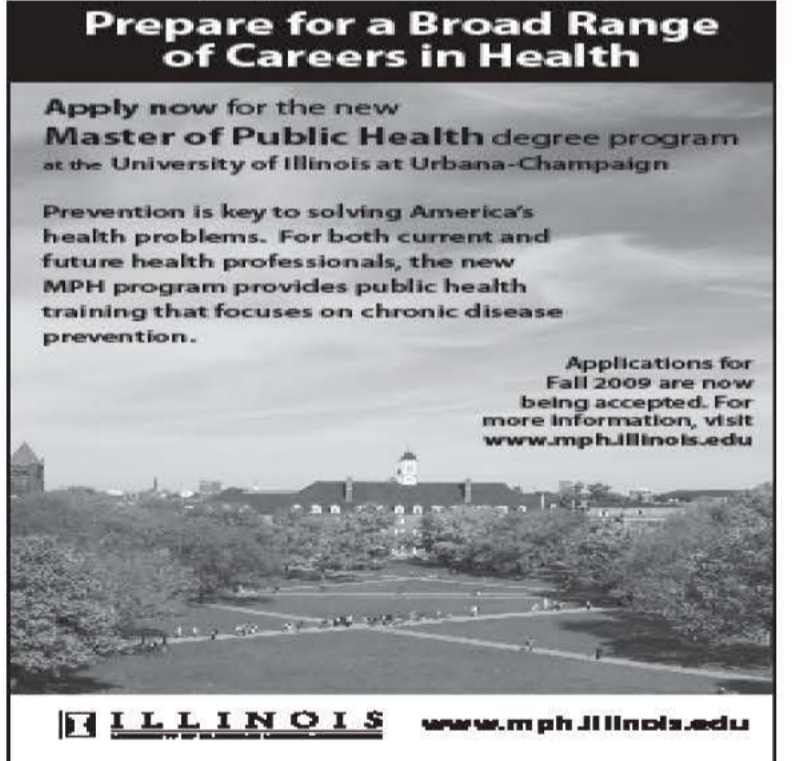
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WOOD RENTALS

» **Break**

FROM PAGE 12

They are holding their opponents to 37 percent shooting from the field and are averaging nearly eight steals per game.

Sallee said that the Flames' aggressiveness is something the Panthers will have to be concerned with.

"They just play their tail off and

the one thing you see with them is they compete with everyone," Sallee said. "They haven't been outclassed in one game. They've lost some, but none where they didn't belong."

The Panthers (15-7, 9-2 in the OVC) will conclude their four-game home stand against Southeast Missouri at 3 p.m. Saturday in Lantz Arena.

Collin Whitchurch can be reached at 581-7944 or at cwhitchurch@eiu.edu.

» **Revenge**

FROM PAGE 12

Parrish said he likes BracketBusters because this is his senior year and it is another chance to play.

This will be the third meeting between Eastern and Western Michigan, but the first since 1994 when lost in Kalamazoo 66-58.

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

» **Cusack**

FROM PAGE 12

The Gobs have the conference's second best record at 8-3 in conference and have competed in the most BracketBuster games. They will take on a Bulldog team that has been average in the Missouri Valley Conference with a record of 5-6, but overall is still 10-4. Drake won its conference a year ago and was a No. 5 seed in the NCAA Tournament.

The two top teams in the conference were paired together as Morehead State (13-10, 9-2 in OVC) will take on the MAC's top team in the West Division, Ball State (10-9, 5-2 MAC). Ball State has played two OVC teams so far this season, including a 72-59 win earlier this season against Eastern Illinois, and a 71-58 loss against Eastern Kentucky. The OVC will not play any televised games this season, but this is still an opportunity for the conference to showcase itself nationally.

These games come at a weird time as teams are battling for a conference championship, but have to take time out of their schedule for a glorified exhibition.

Although the OVC will primarily be playing the MAC, a conference similar in size and nationally recognition, a number of favorable match-ups the OVC's way it could be a good Feb. 21 for the OVC.

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

FOOTBALL VERBALS

High school football verbals/transfers

Name	Position	Previous School
Jake Odum	DL	Lakota West, Ohio *attending Eastern
Mon Williams	RB	University of Florida *attending Eastern
Kenny Williams	RB	Elgin *attending Eastern (grayshirt)

See dennews.com for full list of high school verbals. Today is National Signing Day for high school seniors. They will sign National Letters of Intent.

» **Season**

FROM PAGE 12

But Jordan was out most of this past season with a shoulder injury.

And with other injuries to the running back position - including Norris Smith, Eastern's running game faltered.

"(Spoo) just wants to get back where we could run the ball consistently," Jordan said.

A lot of eyes will be looking at red-shirt sophomore running back Chevon Walker and freshman running back Desmin Ward (short yardage situations). Ward had 11 touchdowns and 322 yards rushing. Walker finished with 365 yards and two touchdowns.

"A guy with speed like that doesn't come very often," Jordan said about Walker.

Walker was rated the No. 5 running back in the nation by Rivals.com as a senior, and was a part of Florida recruiting class that includes Heisman Trophy winner Tim Tebow and expected first round pick Percy Harvin. Walker red-shirted his first season and only appeared in five games a red-shirt freshman with the

Gators. He now competes on the Eastern indoor track team.

Other possibilities at running back include gray shirt freshman running back Kenny Williams and Mon Williams, also a Florida transfer in Walker's recruiting class.

Mon was rated as the No. 16 running back in the nation coming out of Mesquite Horn High School (Texas) in 2009. A first team All-State performer, he rushed for 1,672 yards with 17 touchdowns as a senior after a junior campaign with 1,499 yards and 13 touchdowns. Kenny was a three time All-Upstate Eight Selection rushing for 884 yards and 14 touchdowns as a senior.

The other running back on Eastern's roster is freshman Bobby Earnest. Other possibilities include verbal recruitments: those one person who should sign tomorrow is Antioch senior running back Cameron White. Ward hosted White when White came to visit, and they really connected.

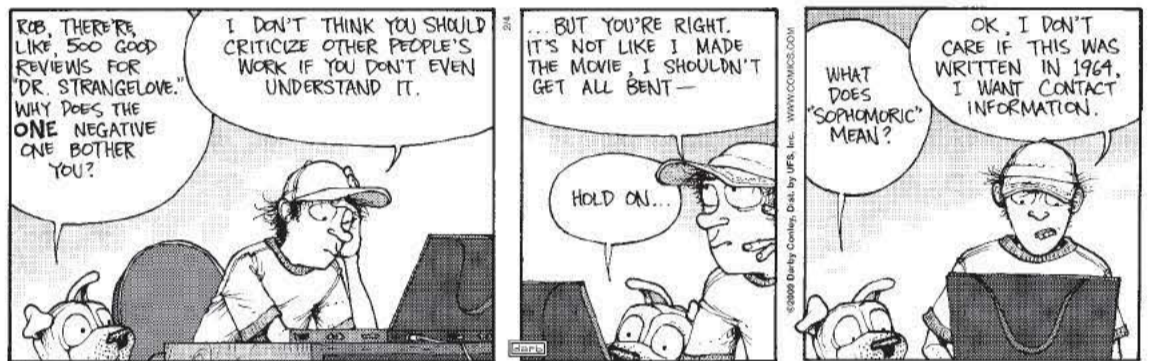
"He can help us out a lot," Ward said. "I like his film. He's a good all-around player."

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

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE | BY STEPHAN PASTIS



GET FUZZY | BY DARBY CONLEY

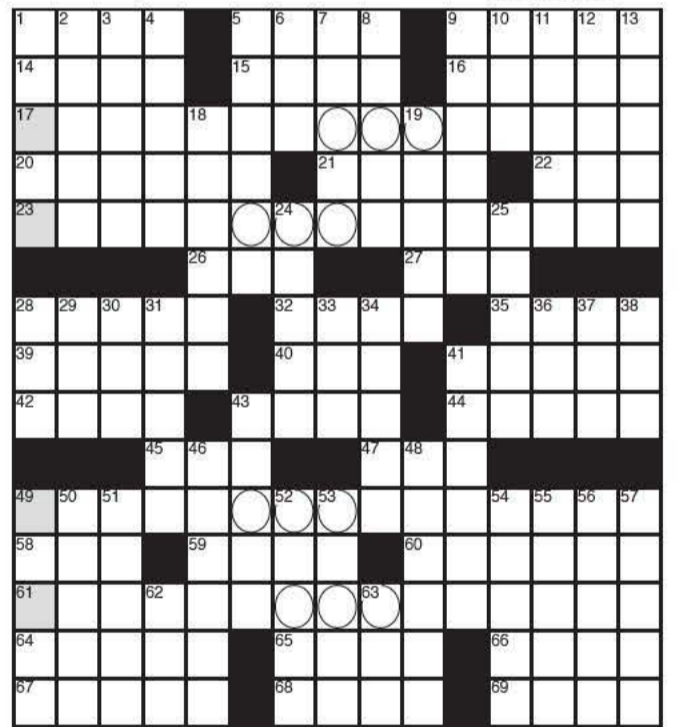


The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 1231

- ACROSS**
- 1 Gillette razor
 - 5 Meal-in-a-can brand
 - 9 Alarming
 - 14 In view
 - 15 Noggin
 - 16 Divided Asian land
 - 17 Feel like quarreling about something
 - 20 Gangster's code of silence
 - 21 On ___ with (even with)
 - 22 ___wester
 - 23 No halfway effort
 - 26 Rand who wrote "Atlas Shrugged"
 - 27 Sch. where Shaquille O'Neal played basketball
 - 28 Writer's guidelines
 - 32 Spanish uncles
 - 35 Mexican restaurant offering
 - 39 "Heads up!," e.g.
 - 40 Letters after two slashes
 - 41 Grounds for a good night's sleep?
 - 42 Dick Van ___
 - 43 Addlebrain
 - 44 Skilled
 - 45 "___ see it ..."
 - 47 Enterprise inits.
- DOWN**
- 1 Give ___ in the arm
 - 2 "I love you," in Spanish
 - 3 Support with stone, as an embankment
 - 4 "It's the end of ___"
 - 5 Monastic jurisdiction
 - 6 "Bus 9 to Paradise" author Buscaglia
 - 7 ___ Games
 - 8 Common lunch hr.
 - 9 Women's hybrid clothing
 - 10 Steal, slangily



PUZZLE BY TIM WESCOTT

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



- 11 Greet the day
- 12 A little advance work
- 13 Native of NE Siberia
- 18 "Finally!"
- 19 Call after a toss
- 24 When a football may be hiked
- 25 No longer bright, as colors
- 28 "___ but true"
- 29 Use diligently
- 30 "A cockroach!"
- 31 Alfredo sauce ingredient
- 33 "Sands of ___ Jima"
- 34 Confess
- 36 Dead man's hand card
- 37 Gown's partner
- 38 "How ___ Has the Banshee Cried" (Thomas Moore poem)
- 41 One of a seasonal octet
- 43 Use as a bed
- 46 "Obey your thirst" sloganer, once
- 48 Off the wall
- 49 Hedren of Hitchcock's "The Birds"
- 50 Activated again, as a burner
- 51 Range extending south from the Kara Sea
- 52 "At the Milliner's" painter
- 53 Auto route from Me. to Fla.
- 54 Did one's part?
- 55 Agitates
- 56 Okra stew
- 57 They're guarded at the Olympics
- 62 ___ Kippur
- 63 Annoy

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FALL '09: 3 bedroom house. C/A, W/D, Dishwasher, Lg room. No Pets. \$350 per person. 1510 B street. 348-3075

FALL '09: 2 bedroom 2 bath apartment. W/D, C/A. Large kitchen with spacious room and big closets. No Pets. \$300-\$325 per person. 1520 and 1521 C street. 348-3075

August 1st. 1 bedroom 1 bath Apt. W/D. Close to campus. 1011 Woodlawn. No pets, smoke free. \$395/1 person, \$445/2 person. 217-348-3075.

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for rent

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Lakeview College of Nursing: Representative available, Wed., Feb. 4 from 10a.m.-3p.m. in the Life Science Bldg., 3rd floor hallway. Find out what's

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The Warbler Yearbook- RSO & Organization Photos on Feb. 3, 5, & 10th from 5-8 in the Paris room, Effingham room, and Martinsville room of the MLK Union. Get your group photo in the yearbook.

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MEN'S BASKETBALL | UPDATE

Laser gets shot at revenge

Panthers get chance to enhance resume with BracketBuster

By DAN CUSACK
Staff Reporter

On Feb. 21 in Kalamazoo, Mich., it will be more than just a game for Eastern sophomore guard Tyler Laser. It will be about payback.

On Monday night, the Eastern men's basketball team was chosen to play Western Michigan in the ESPN BracketBuster and Laser, a Michigan native, said he was ecstatic when he heard the news.

"I can't wait," Laser said. "There's a lot more personally, than just playing in Michigan. Western Michigan's David Kool was an AAU teammate of mine, and I blame him for winning state my sophomore year."

Laser said Kool's high school defeated his team in the quarterfinals and went on to win state.

"I am not about to lose to him twice," Laser said.

Laser said he learned of Eastern's draw from teammate and sophomore center Matt Dorlack when he came into his room last night. He said he immediately called his dad after and expects a number of friends and family at the game to support himself and the Panthers.

"I'll probably have about (200 to 300) people out there cheering us on," Laser said.

He said he is excited to play his old AAU teammate and will start talking trash to him tonight on Facebook.

The announcement of the game was televised on ESPN at a selection show at 5:30 p.m. The game time has not been set. This is Eastern's fourth year in the BracketBuster event, an event designed by ESPN in 2003 to give mid-major schools a chance to play each other shortly before the start of the NCAA Tournament.

Eastern head coach Mike Miller said he had no idea whom the Panthers would draw and did not find out until the selection show aired.

He said he is excited to play against the Broncos and that this will be a good opportunity for his team.

"The point of BracketBusters is to have your team pair off with a similar team from a different conference," Miller said. "It is going to be a good experience for our team and a good opportunity to play a good team out



KARLA BROWNING | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Eastern sophomore guard Tyler Laser, left, moves past the Jacksonville State defense on Saturday in Lantz Arena. Laser and the Panthers will play Western Michigan in the ESPN BracketBuster event on Feb. 21.

Showcase time for the league

The ESPN family of networks' made-for-sub-par-TV event, the ESPN BracketBusters games, were announced on Monday night on ESPN.

The Eastern men's basketball team will play Western Michigan on Feb. 21 in Kalamazoo, Mich., and in return, will receive a home game for next year's set of games.

The games are selected from a pool of 102 teams from 17 conferences with half of them designated as away teams and half home teams.

The teams are then put together with 12 of the games airing nationally on ESPN 2, ESPN and ESPN 360.

This is the fourth time the Panthers have played in the Bracket-



DAN CUSACK

Buster games and Eastern got a pretty good match-up.

Most of the Ohio Valley Conference match-ups, including Eastern's, will be against the Mid-American Conference as eight of the 10 match-ups will be between these two conferences.

On the surface, Western Michigan (7-13, 4-3 MAC) do not look too tough, but the Broncos

are good in their conference and will pose a threat for the Panthers.

This will be the third MAC team the Panthers will play this season (10-11, 7-4 OVC).

Eastern has lost to Bowling Green and Ball State.

But the Broncos have also lost Ball State and a common opponent, Indiana-Purdue-Indianapolis. All 10 Ohio Valley Conference teams will be in action in the BracketBuster games, although none will be played on the ESPN's family of networks.

Austin Peay (12-9) at Drake (14-9) will one of the showcase games for the OVC.

>> SEE CUSACK, PAGE 7

of a good conference."

Senior forward Billy Parrish said he did not find out about the drawing until he read the newspaper this

morning.

"It's cool and I'm excited," Parrish said. "I know (former Eastern former basketball player Bam Willhite) lives

up there with his girlfriend, so I'm real excited to go up there and play them."

>> SEE REVENGE, PAGE 7

FOOTBALL | SIGNING DAY

Only two running backs return for next season

Transfer, freshmen could key backfield

By KEVIN MURPHY
Sports Editor

The Eastern football team has had 19 1,000-yard rushers since 1963. Seven of those running backs put up multiple years of more than 1,000 yards rushing.

It's been established that the Panthers need a running game in order for their offense to succeed.

They could get some more options with National Signing

Day today as dozens of high school seniors will sign National Letter of Intent to play football at Eastern next season.

But it's not always an easy process.

"It was hectic," said junior running back Ron Jordan during his senior year. "I did a lot of stuff on my own."

Jordan said he was the first Division I athlete at his high school to sign. There was a television crew, various newspapers and a giant assembly.

But a few weeks up to that point,

Jordan wasn't sure he was going to sign with the Panthers.

Jordan said the visit process was the most difficult.

Former Eastern assistant coach Noah Joseph and Eastern head coach Bob Spoo helped in the recruiting process.

Jordan visited Charleston the last weekend before announcing Eastern as his school.

But Jordan has numerous options including Indiana State, Illinois State and Miami (Ohio), which pulled its scholarship at the last minute, plus some other small schools in Ohio.

Although Jordan will not be playing this upcoming season because of another shoulder injury, he still has high expectations for the program.

"There should be no reason we shouldn't go for an (Ohio Valley Conference) run," he said.

Jordan said he had high expectations coming in as a freshman.

Jordan did play after expecting to red-shirt his first year. He also had a breakout game (115 yards) against Southeast Missouri in his sophomore year.

>> SEE SEASON, PAGE 7

NATIONAL SPORTS

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
West Virginia No. 20 Syracuse |
6 p.m. on ESPN

NBA
Chicago at New Orleans |
7 p.m. on CSN

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Illinois State at S. Illinois |
7 p.m. on FSN

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
No. 14 Michigan State at
No. 19 Minnesota |
7:30 p.m. on Big Ten

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
No. 3 Duke at No. 10 Clemson |
8 p. on ESPN

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www.dennews.com



WOMEN'S BBALL |
EASTERN VS
ILLINOIS-CHICAGO

Panthers welcome in-state foe

By COLLIN WHITCHURCH
Assistant Sports Editor

Eastern women's basketball head coach Brady Sallee scheduled a non-conference game in the midst of an Ohio Valley Conference championship race for one specific reason.

"This is one that can prepare us for a conference tournament," Sallee said as his team prepares to take on Illinois-Chicago at 7 p.m. tonight in Lantz Arena. "This will prepare us for the Murray States, the (Southeast Missouri's) and other high-level opponents with maybe a little less implications."

The Panthers face the Flames (11-8, 5-4 in the Horizon League), which are in the middle-of-the-pack in their league.

Illinois-Chicago feature two players who average double-figures in scoring average, but is known mostly for its defense as it tops the Horizon League in field goal percentage defense, rebounding and blocked shots.

Sallee said he sees a lot of athleticism with Flames, and their offense is run similarly to the Panthers in that they can score out of all four of their perimeter spots.

"They've got some size and really, really good depth," Sallee said. "They run a couple of things that are going to give us some problems and they're just pretty good at what they do."

The Flames are led by junior guard Jessie Miller, who averages 13.4 points per game, ranking her fourth in the Horizon League. Miller is averaging 21 points per game in her last two contests.

>> SEE BREAK, PAGE 7

EASTERN SPORTS SCHEDULE

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
Today vs Illinois-Chicago |
7 p.m. - Lantz Arena

WOMEN'S TRACK
Friday at Notre Dame Invite |
All Day - South Bend, Ind.

MEN'S TRACK
Friday at Notre Dame Invite |
All Day - South Bend, Ind.

MEN'S TENNIS
Friday vs Saint Louis |
Noon - Champaign

WOMEN'S TENNIS
Saturday at Northern Illinois |
2 p.m. - DeKalb