

1-27-2010

Daily Eastern News: January 27, 2010

Eastern Illinois University

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Recommended Citation

Eastern Illinois University, "Daily Eastern News: January 27, 2010" (2010). *January*. 3.
http://thekeep.eiu.edu/den_2010_jan/3

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UB brings Latin
rhythm and beats

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California thrower
sparks track team

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FACULTY SENATE

Structure,
function of
senate debated

Proposed bylaw would
give each college three
representatives; senate
wants voice heard

By Sarah Ruholl
Administration Editor

The Faculty senate is still trying to find its voice on campus.

The function and structure of the faculty senate was debated at Tuesday’s meeting, though no changes were made.

Currently, the senate is elected at large from the entire faculty, which has led to uneven representation from each college.

“When we look at the number of faculty senate representatives from each college; it’s not historically evenly represented,” said Dawn VanGunten, vice chair and secondary education and foundations professor. “Various colleges are very overrepresented.”

SENATE, page 7

CAMPUS

Capital improvements affect
housing, dining costs for fall

Students living
on campus in
fall will see 6.25
percent increase

By Sarah Ruholl
Administration Editor

Inflation rates and capital projects drive housing and dining costs up each year.

Students living on campus will pay 6.25 percent more for housing and dining in the fall, the smallest increase since fiscal year 2004.

“Of that increase, 3 percent is specifically designated for capital improvements,” said Dan Nadler, vice president for student affairs. “The other 3.5 percent covers inflation rates.”

Capital improvements include bathroom renovations, updates to dining centers and the installation

of new sprinkler systems in residence halls.

“Each time we have to install a fire sprinkler system we’re looking at \$1 million,” Nadler said. “We look at a two-year cycle in major renovation, it takes a lot of capital to do those kinds of renovations.”

Housing and dining is working off of a 10-year plan for improvements that was developed through student satisfaction surveys.

“The housing staff came up with a 10-year master plan of sorts addressing the concerns students consistently share about each residence hall,” Nadler said. “There’s about \$100 million in deferred maintenance in the residence halls, the (Student) Recreation Center, the (Martin Luther King Jr. University) Union and part of Lantz (Arena), the majority of which is in the residence halls.”

Rising food and energy costs are also contributors to the increases.

“An 8 percent increase in food costs is about what we plan for,

but you never quite know,” Nadler said. “We try to watch the market as closely as possible and try to not purchase much high market level foods.”

The university also participates in a consortium called the Illinois Public Higher Education Cooperative to keep costs down.

“Every public institution in the state of Illinois can participate in group purchasing of certain commodities, products, services and the like,” Nadler said. “We purchase the majority of our food through IPHEC and realize substantial savings. There’s more cost savings when there is more to purchase; it’s more buying power.”

The university also purchases coal for the steam plant through the consortium.

Bill Weber, vice president for business affairs, said rising utility costs also contribute to housing rate increases.

“We’re forecasting some increased utility costs, as this will be before our

new renewable energy center comes online,” Weber said. “Some of the energy savings we get from the new Renewable Energy Center will have to go to paying off the bond we got for that project, so I can’t promise the rates will go down.”

Before the rate increase was presented to the Board of Trustees for approval, a group of six students who form the bond revenue committee help develop the rates.

“We were going into the board meeting with a great deal of support from students,” Nadler said.

Mark Hudson, director of housing and dining, said “I think it is unique on our campus that the first to approve room and board rates is a group of six students who live in room and board environments.”

Campus Editor Jason Hardimon contributed to this report.

Sarah Ruholl can be reached at 581-7942 or seruholl2@eiu.edu.

CITY

Sales tax increase could benefit schools

\$4.4 million
will be divided
among 3 schools
in Coles County

By Kayleigh Zyskowski
City Editor

With their backs against the financial wall, the Coles County school districts will attempt to alleviate some of their debt through the 2010 primary elections.

A proposition will be on the ballot that calls for 1 percent sales tax increase and in return the Coles County School Districts have promised a property tax reduction.

“The (Coles) County Board put this on the ballot as requested by all three school districts within Coles County; Mattoon, Charleston and Oakland,” said Jim Littleford, the Charleston school district superintendent.

In Mattoon’s case, we basically will be reducing our property tax levy by \$.052, we would be knocking off about 23 percent in exchange for the 1 percent increase in sales tax, said Larry Lilly, Mattoon school district superintendent.

The items exempt from the Coles County sales tax will include drugs and medicine, farm equipment and parts, farm inputs, most motor vehicles and most groceries.

The extra money that will be put into the three county school districts will total \$4.4 million and will be divided between the school according to student



Houses on Grant Avenue (aka Panther Way) show their support for the 1 percent tax hike to provide more money for local schools Tuesday. The Coles County school districts will attempt to manage their debts with help from the 2010 elections.

enrollment within each district.

The Mattoon school district will receive \$2.3 million, the Charleston school district will receive \$1.9 million and the Oakland school district will receive \$148,000.

The sales tax money will only be

able to be used for facility-related issues, such as renovations, additions and ongoing maintenance.

“We have some projects we need to take care of, the first and foremost being our high school roof,” Littleford said.

Charleston High School’s roof is

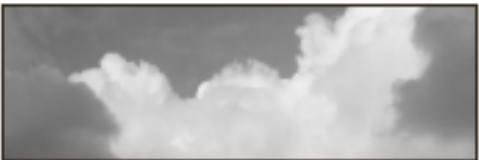
the original roof from 1953.

“It probably hasn’t been done in the past because it is obviously a high-dollar issue, but we have some roof issues in our district we need to deal with,” Littleford said. “We are constantly patching and repairing.”

The Mattoon school district, which has an enrollment of around 3,300 students, will receive the most money.

It plans to use the money to pay off debt from the construction of the Mattoon middle schools and to pay TAX, page 7

WEATHER TODAY



Mostly Cloudy

HIGH

34°

LOW

17°

We will see mostly cloudy skies for the majority of the day. There is a chance for some light snow flurries today as well, so don't be surprised if you see a little snow. The sun will come out as we get closer to the weekend, but with it, we will see temperatures drop into the lower to mid 20s.

WEATHER TOMORROW

	Thursday Partly Sunny High: 25° Low: 12°
	Friday Partly Sunny High: 24° Low: 10°

For more weather information: www.dailynews.com

MEETING

Senate considers supporting county tax increase

By Erica Whelan
Student Government Editor

The Student Senate will vote to approve Jared Hausmann as chief justice to the student supreme court at 7 p.m. today in the Arcola/Tuscola Room of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

Student Body President Michelle Murphy, who is responsible for appointing people to serve on the judicial branch, indicated the position as one that is traditionally assumed by an existing member of the court.

She will announce her nominations to fill the two remaining open seats on the court by Feb. 3 before student senate members cast their votes to elect two of the three candidates.

Student senate members will also consider a resolution to approve the Coles County Board of Education tax swap initiative that will appear on the Feb. 2 primary ballot.

Student senate members will also consider amending a bylaw to reflect the newly revised student body constitution, which eliminated the three districts that senate members could identify with when running for office. These included the at-large, off-campus and on-campus categories.

If approved, the bylaw will state that the organization of the senate “shall consist of 30 senators representing the student body at large.”

Erica Whelan can be reached at 581-7942 or elwhelan@eiu.edu

Clearing the path



JORDAN BONER | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

A building service worker clears the sidewalks and the parking lot outside Blair Hall on Tuesday.

DENNEWS.COM



Recycling plastic

Assistant online editor Julia Carlucci talks about recycling plastic in this "Go green" blog at DENnews.com.



How lucky are you?

Ever feel unlucky? Test your luck once and for all by taking this quiz at DENnews.com.

CORRECTION

In Tuesday's edition of *The Daily Eastern News*, a correction listing the funds collected by Haiti Connection as of Monday was incorrectly stated. At that time, the Haiti Connection raised \$16,000.

The DEN regrets the error.

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The Daily Eastern News is produced by the students of Eastern Illinois University. It is published daily Monday through Friday, in Charleston, Ill., during fall and spring semesters and twice weekly during the summer term except during university vacations or examinations. One copy per day is free to students and faculty. Additional copies can be obtained for 50 cents each in the Student Publications Office in Buzzard Hall. The Daily Eastern News is a member of The Associated Press, which is entitled to exclusive use of all articles appearing in this publication.

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\$50 per semester,
\$30 for summer, & \$95 year.

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Contact any of the above staff members you believe your information is relevant .

Corrections

The Daily Eastern News is committed to accuracy in its coverage of the news. Any factual error the staff finds, or is made aware of by its readers, will be corrected as promptly as possible.

Please report any factual error you find by e-mail, phone, campus mail or in person.
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STUDENT GOVERNMENT

One year later, court finds new purpose

Three applicants vie for open judge positions for new term

By Erica Whelan
Student Government Editor

Currently operating in its third semester following a 15-year hiatus in violation of the student body constitution, Eastern's student supreme court awaits the appointment of two new justices as well as a chief justice within the next week.

Application process

Under Article IV of the student body constitution, it is the student body president's responsibility to appoint individuals to serve on the judicial branch, whose nominations are subject to confirmation through a two-thirds majority vote by the student senate.

"According to the constitution, the president doesn't even have to do an interview process," said Student Body President Michelle Murphy. "They're straight-up appointments, so they could just appoint anyone at any time."

In the effort to better judge the potential competency of each candidate, however, Murphy said she accepts paper applications throughout a semester before conducting a one-on-one interview with each candidate.

Last semester, Murphy conducted a group interview prior to meeting with each applicant individually and reviewing their paper application.

This semester, she interviewed three applicants vying to fill two open seats in the court.

Murphy will also bring her nomination for chief justice, Jared Hausmann, before the student senate at today's student senate meeting in the Arcola/Tuscola Room of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

After the candidates are interviewed, they are invited to appear before the student senate, where Murphy will make her personal recommendations before the floor opens for a period of questions and subsequent discussion.

Once approved, new justices are immediately sworn in to complete a two-semester term to commence duties as defenders of the governing document on the student supreme court.

Reinstatement

Since reinstated in spring 2009 by former Student Body President Levi Bulgar, the student supreme court has endured a lengthy absence on campus that records cannot account for.

Bulgar said he experienced difficulty tracking down former student senate members from the early 1990s who may have been able to explain why the court was dissolved in the first place.

Working solely off old phone numbers, Bulgar was largely unable to

identify the cause for the court's disbandment.

"That is one of the very few things that we really didn't find out. We could really only speculate at that point," he said. "We guessed there was a possibility that maybe appointments weren't being made or somebody probably gave up and forgot about it. There was even the possibility that because the student body constitution and the student bill of rights was not being promoted to the students, they did not know what rights they had, therefore rights might have been infringed upon."

Though Bulgar describes the court as functioning in its infancy, he views its continued assembly as a necessary facet of the student body.

"Without having that important check and balance within the university, who knows exactly how far one branch of government could have gone or maybe even did go over the years that the student supreme court was not in function?" Bulgar said.

When he first began organizing the initiative to staff the court, he teamed up with members of the student senate to conduct research and compile information.

"In the past, the unfortunate thing was the student justices would be appointed and then kind of left to their own devices, and it just kind of failed," Bulgar said. "There was really no structure, no guidance, and it sure doesn't help you if there had been no claims, because very few, if any, students actually knew what rights that they had within the constitution in the student bill of rights, so obviously no claims had actually been made."

Recent cases

The student supreme court heard its first case since being reinstated during the second week of the fall semester.

Commencing the term with too few senators to meet quorum, the student senate was prohibited from conducting business and attempted to suspend their bylaws, Murphy said.

"The problem was that we couldn't suspend the bylaws because we didn't have enough senators to suspend them, and so we were in kind of a real bad situation just because we had so many senators who resigned or graduated that we just didn't have the 16 that we needed," she said.

Tiffany Turner, former student speaker of the senate, then appealed to the court to suspend the bylaws momentarily so as to induct the new senate members.

At the hearing of "Turner v. Student Body Constitution," the court unanimously pronounced this action unconstitutional and suggested that former senate members who had not submitted official letters of resignation temporarily sit in to meet quorum.

"We were able to conduct business that first week," Murphy said. "I thought they did a good job. It sets a dangerous precedent when you do

something that goes against the constitution or suspend the bylaws, because they're not there to be suspended. I think that it was the best thing they could've done."

In their second and final case for the semester, the court ruled that the method to revise the student body constitution was appropriate after a student expressed a concern that the senate's committee on constitutional oversight violated the student body constitution.

"In the constitution, there are three ways that the document can be amended," Murphy said. "The individual assumed that we had taken a particular method, and then accused us of being unconstitutional by that method of amendment."

A revision may be proposed by a constitutional review commission composed of seven members, including student senate members, student government executive officers and non-student senate members.

History major John Goldsworthy appealed to the court on the grounds that the active review commission was composed of 10 members, none of whom were non-senate members, or a member of the executive board, as required by the constitution.

The student senate, however, insisted the method of amendment used was, in fact, constitutional, as a constitutional review committee was not used to revise the document.

Instead, a commission on constitutional oversight, which is considered a proposal by submission to the student senate, was formed.

Before the error was identified, the court had served the student senate a preliminary injunction to remove the vote on constitutional revisions from the ballot.

Murphy said this request was ultimately ignored, as some members of the senate were passionate about keeping the vote on the ballot.

"It was awkward, it was a nice slap in the face, and it was at the last second," Murphy said. "The powers that be on the senate and the speaker decided that they were going to put it on the ballot anyway. It worked out in our favor, everything was fine, we were, in fact, constitutional, and the vote passed. In my opinion, had we not put it on the ballot..."

Review

In the effort to add an additional period of application and review to the process of selecting new court justices, student senate member Matthew Pickham, chair of the tuition and fee review committee, attempted to pass a resolution through the senate that would establish a senate judiciary committee.

The proposal was met with extensive debate from the senate, whose opponents deemed the committee an unnecessary step that would undermine the judgment of the student body president.

While proponents welcomed what they expressed as added scrutiny to the application process, the resolution

Jose Alarcon

Jose Alarcon is a senior English and foreign languages major with minors in professional writing and Latin American studies.

He has served on Eastern's student senate for three semesters where he acted as the chair of the internal relations and external relations committees.

Before attending Eastern, Alarcon served two years as the vice president for student organizations at Elgin Community College.

"I am a huge advocate for diversity, multiculturalism, welcoming environment and freedom of speech, association and choice," Alarcon said. "I always try to provide and support the structure of society. I believe in loyalty and generosity as part of my success, and I really care by making everyone

do the right thing."

As a self-described literary critic, Alarcon plans to use the originalism theory and approach to interpret the student body constitution is voted to the student supreme court.

Those who adhere to this theory believe that the U.S. Constitution should be interpreted in the way the authors originally intended it.

"This gives me a better understanding of original meaning and original intent in the text," Alarcon said.

He indicated that the most important job of student supreme court justice is interpreting the student body constitution fairly and taking each seriously.

"I plan on executing this responsibility, if appointed and confirmed, by exercising my strong code of ethics 'is it legal? Is it balanced? How will it make me feel about myself?'"

Molly Button

Molly Button is a freshman history major who intends to pursue a teaching certification in the subject.

As a newcomer to the political scene on campus, Button said the possibility of serving on the student supreme court initially sparked her interest because she saw it as an opportunity to immerse herself in student life.

"I have a great interest in history and political science and I am not afraid to express my thoughts and beliefs," Button said.

If appointed to the student supreme court, Button plans to utilize a combination of both broad and loose interpretation of the student body constitution to determine her judgment on cases.

tution to determine her judgment on cases.

"I really think it's a combination of both, you have to make sure that you are open enough to interpretation of the Constitution, but at the same time, not allow yourself to use too much imagination," Button said.

She feels that the most important job of a student supreme court justice is interpreting the student body constitution, especially when making laws and public policies.

"These laws will effect all of Eastern's students and need to be made carefully," Button said. "I can do this by listening to the student body and having a great understanding of the constitution."

Hakeem Smith

Hakeem Smith is a sophomore sociology major with a minor in political science and criminology.

"I have a passion not only for law, but law enforcement," Smith said. "All my life, I've always wanted to help serve the greater good when it comes to peoples' rights."

Even if it's on the streets of Chicago or the panther trail of EIU, law is in my blood and heart, and becoming a part of the supreme court would help me strive for better things in the end."

Having taken pre-law classes since high school, Smith believes that the passion he harbors for pursuing a career in the justice system will enable him to ensure that every student's

rights are upheld.

"This can be done by making sure the student body constitution is being interpreted in the right ways, and making sure there is no one part excluded in the interpretation," Smith said.

If elected to the student supreme court, Smith, who favors a loose interpretation of the student body constitution, does not anticipate that every situation he would encounter will be the same in the courtroom, and therefore intends to tailor his interpretation to each specific case.

"Our constitution is one of the most important factors in how we spend our time at EIU," Smith said. "I know I will bring great passion to making sure our constitution is upheld to the fullest of my abilities."

failed with a vote of 11-30-0.

If passed, the legislation would have established a committee composed of volunteer senate members who would evaluate the court nominees and report their recommendations to the senate

The committee would have also been in charge of investigating issues of constitutionality on the senate's behalf.

Murphy opposed the resolution particularly on the grounds that Pickham confirmed that part of its purpose would be to eliminate an intimidation factor he feels is present when openly questioning the candidates.

Murphy said it was not the job of the senate to ensure the comfort of the justices, as a real courtroom situation would be uncomfortable.

"To me, that's really cowardly and the fact that that is the reason only makes us cowardly," she said. "If you have a brave senate, they would ask the questions they wanted to ask. We

should have the opportunity to inter-rogate at anytime. We shouldn't have to do it behind closed doors."

As for the relationship that the senate shares with the court, Murphy emphasizes the need to remain separate but equal entities on campus.

"Really the only connection that the two have are the initial voting to get the person on court," Murphy said. "Outside that first endorsement, there is no relationship at all."

Murphy expressed her belief that the senate feels threatened because the court has kept a close eye on its procedure.

"The more eyes watching us, the more likely we are to do a better job," she said. "Ideally, if everything was functioning correctly, if people were always doing what they needed to do, there would never be a reason for court."

Erica Whelan can be reached at 581-7942 or elwhelan@eiu.edu

VIEWS



Sarah Jean Bresnahan

Let's talk about sex education

Sex. Whether the word makes you giggle, feel aroused or cower in fear, everyone in our age group is directly affected by that word.

In the entertainment world, using sex and its consequences is how television stations are grabbing and keeping the attention of us young bucks.

Shows like "Teen Mom" and "True Life" on MTV show the effects of sex, like having a child at young age, dealing with a sexually transmitted infection or how it changes a relationship.

And then we have shows like "Jersey Shore" and "The Real World," where these young men and women seem to use sex as a tool to gain power and influence over their peers.

It's a confusing time we live in.

On one hand, we're shown how cool and fun sex is. On the other hand, we're made to feel scared to death about what happens if we engage in sexual activity.

And the growing popularity of Disney stars in mainstream society is only making things even more confusing.

The Jonas Brothers, Demi Lovato and Miley Cyrus wear "purity rings" to show they won't have sex until marriage. And, since these artists are popular, they have the most influence over their fans' sexual choices.

Now, I'm not saying abstinence is wrong and everyone should go out and have sex. I'm just a firm believer in sex education.

I don't know about the rest of you, but in my high school, sex education was part of a unit of my required health education class, and this unit mostly consisted of showing slides of what different STIs look like and how they affect the rest of the human body — and that was it.

My *real* sexual education began around sophomore year of high school, when my good friend at the time told me of her sexual conquests. Needless to say, I didn't learn anything useful from her.

I didn't really learn any facts about sex until I took a human sexuality course at community college. That class was probably one of my favorites, too, because it was based on open discussion, and our guest speakers were a sex therapist, a member of the transgender community and a dominatrix.

It's great that so many colleges and universities have sex education classes and resources, like the Health Education Resource Center's Rubber Lovers.

It's also great that you can buy condoms from the Health Service pharmacy for fewer than \$2, and birth control pills for \$25.

However, some Eastern students are going from absolutely no education (or very little education) to being thrust into situations where they may not know the proper and safe way to engage physically or even how to use a condom.

As young adults, we like to think we're impervious to everything, but the reality is that more people our age are getting pregnant and acquiring STIs because of this belief.

Sex isn't power, and it shouldn't be scary. I believe sex should be a meaningful act to show emotional intimacy. It should be the end, not the means, to a relationship.

So, instead of looking to MTV and Disney for clues on human sexuality, students should seek out reliable sources to learn the actual facts about safe sex and what is right for them.

Sarah Jean Bresnahan is a senior journalism major and can be reached at 581-7942 or at DENopinions@gmail.com.

THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

"Tell the truth and don't be afraid"

DAILY EDITORIAL

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

Extension for men's basketball coach should be put on hold

The Board of Trustees approved a two-year contract extension offer for Eastern men's basketball head coach Mike Miller at Friday's meeting.

While the approval does not mean Miller has been given the extension, it does mean President Bill Perry has been given the power to award Miller with the extension if and when he finds it necessary.

With the board's approval, an extension appears imminent. However, we at *The Daily Eastern News* feel that given the current state of the men's basketball team, an extension to Miller past this season should not be granted. Instead, Perry should wait until the season plays out to decide whether an extension has been earned.

Miller is in his fifth year as head coach of the program and since his arrival, the team has been a model of mediocrity. While it is possible that this season may be Miller's best record-wise, we feel it is not enough to warrant an extension.

Miller's record in his four-plus years as head coach is 46-90 (30-58 in the Ohio Valley Conference), and while it is true his record has slowly improved over the past two seasons, going from 7-22 two years ago to 12-18 last year to his current 11-9 mark, he has not yet improved enough to warrant a commitment for two more seasons.

Likewise, his record last season and thus far this season, which have been his best two as coach record-wise, have been attained by scheduling teams like Manchester College, Eureka College and Franklin College, teams below the Division-I level that are cupcakes, to say the least, for a team playing a Division-I schedule.

"... But the fact is, losing quality talent on a consistent basis should not be tolerated — regardless of the reason."

Another discerning fact about Miller's tenure was demonstrated once again last week when Romain Martin, a senior guard who has been the team's leading scorer and arguably the face of the program for the past three seasons, quit for what was called "personal reasons."

While there is no evidence that Miller was a direct cause of Martin's decision to leave the team, Martin is the 15th player to leave the team under Miller's leadership. We understand there are various reasons for players leaving programs, but the fact is, losing quality talent on a consistent basis should not be tolerated — regardless of the reason.

It is true, however, that Miller is improving. His 8-10 OVC mark a year ago was the best during his tenure and also led to the first OVC Tournament appearance under his tenure. Likewise, he has had the team playing competitively throughout the season and in a position for a second consecutive OVC Tournament appearance.

But to reward Miller with not just a year, but two years for small victories like that seems unnecessary. Eastern has a proud basketball program and a proud athletic program and that has been the case for years.

Rewarding our coaches year after year when they have not succeeded in the way we had hoped is accepting mediocrity.

An extension for Miller has not been announced yet, nor should it.

Perry should wait until the end of the season to re-evaluate Miller and where the program is at, and make a decision from there.

FROM THE EASEL



ILLUSTRATION BY DAVID THILL | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Doudna's Red Zone a No-Zone?

When people think of the color red they often find themselves thinking of things such as passion, things to get hyped-up over, things that are exciting and things to make noise about.

Unfortunately, for those of you who had found yourselves hanging out in Doudna Fine Arts Center's Red Zone, you may have found that the doors have been locked.

Now, when Doudna was being built, many faculty members told me the Red Zone was designed to be a hangout, a place to let off steam and a place to go nuts.

In fact, if memory serves, Antoine Predock,

the architect behind Doudna, commented in his time here just last year that the Red Zone was designed for just that purpose.

In fact, he commented that the furniture was stackable and was designed to be moved about, rearranged and made to suit whatever purpose the students found.

However, at the start of this semester, students were greeted with signs saying something to the effect of, "This is a quiet area," "Do not stack the furniture," etc.

Sometime thereafter, some student allegedly stated that the Red Zone was for music stu-

dents *only*.

At this point, the people in charge locked it up to those students who are not a part of the music program.

Previously, the only place at Eastern I have ever been told, "This is for [insert department here] only" is in the Theatre Department Green Room.

So, if the Red Zone is locked for such, then the Theatre's Green Room should be as well.

Adam Chesi, senior business management major

BOOTH LIBRARY

Philosophical topics shed light on new, emerging ideas

Aristotle, law of sexual difference, ‘The Fate of the Image: Julia Kristeva on Intimate Revolt,’ among subjects discussed by philosophy department

By Sam Bohne
Staff Reporter

Students might have left Tuesday’s philosophy lecture a little confused, but with something to think about.

Students and faculty met Tuesday in Booth Library to listen to a lecture by Patrick Roney on “The Fate of the Image: Julia Kristeva on Intimate Revolt,” presented by the philosophy department.

The last two participants entered the room as Roney, an associate professor of comparative literature at KOÇ University in Istanbul, Turkey, was introduced.

“I can’t assume that everyone is familiar with the work,” Roney said.

Roney’s lecture focused on modern philosopher Julia Kristeva’s book, “Intimate Revolt,” as well as ideas from other philosophers.

Maria Rhodes, a senior communication studies major, was one of the participants who was unfamiliar with the works.

“It’s complicated; I’m not very familiar with psychoanalysis,” she said. “It’s interesting.”

Rhodes thought the process of artistic narrative as a whole was the most interesting.

Among other philosophical topics, Roney spoke of the law of sexual difference, explaining it as two doors, one labeled men and the other women.

“You will go in one door or the other for the rest of your life,” Roney explained.

Paige Mathis, a senior business management ma-

“Well, I’ve learned that I have a lot to learn”

Andrew Moran,
a sophomore philosophy major

jor, attended the lecture for her senior seminar class on the meaning of life.

“They touched on Aristotle,” Mathis said. “That’s what we were going over in class, so it reiterated what was going on in class.”

Mathis said she gained a good experience out of the event, although she has little knowledge in philosophy.

“I’m not educated enough to form an opinion,” she said.

Andrew Moran, a sophomore philosophy major, still learned a life lesson at the event.

“Well, I’ve learned that I have a lot to learn,” Moran said. “There are some interesting connections to be made between philosophers that span time.”

Most of what Moran learned related to the coursework for his major.

“There’s a lot of things that a normal person wouldn’t consider without knowledgeable people and philosophers to present them,” Moran said.

Sam Bohne can be reached at 581-7942 or shbohne@eiu.edu.

Adult fitness



DAVE PARKS | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Mark Kattenbraker presents his Adult fitness program Tuesday in the Arcola Room of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union. The program, sponsored by Eastern, has been ongoing for 40 years. It is open to all community members aged 21 and older. More than 200 active members participate in the program each week and engage in a wide range of activities such as, pilates, swimming, track running and various other exercises. “I thought the program was very interesting and it sounds like a great opportunity,” said faculty member Beth Craig. The cost of the program for employees is \$40 for a 12-month membership. The cost is \$70 for other community members.

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EVENT



CHELSEA GRADY | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Sophomore elementary education major Marcy Peters enjoys an evening of salsa with her dancing partner during "Teach Me Tuesday," a University Board cultural arts event in the University Ballroom of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union Tuesday.

UB spices up Latin rhythm, beats in dances

By Heather Holm
Activities Editor

Learn something new.

Three years ago, students and faculty were given the chance to learn how to salsa dance, line dance, hula dance, belly dance, make origami, meditate and learn how to crochet during "Teach Me Tuesdays."

The University Board brought the workshops back to the campus this semester.

Students could be part of the Latino culture Tuesday.

Couples learned how to move their hips to the rhythm and beat while they learned basic and advanced salsa dances like Merengue and Bachata steps.

At the end, a mini-dance off took place where students could implement moves they just learned and the winning couple received a \$10 gift certificate to Los Potrillos in Charleston.

During the contest, the couples were judged on how well they executed the steps they learned and their listening skills as far as beat rotation.

Megan Reilly, a sophomore elementary education major, and Will Hurley, a sophomore geography major, said they decided to come because they enjoy dancing together.

"We like to dance together in private, so we decided to come out and learn so we dance more at public events," Reilly said.

They won the contest that took place after the workshop.

Veronica Contreras, one of the instructors, said she was able to get a lot of one-on-one interactions with couples and liked how the dancing progressed throughout the evening.

"They learned how to mix moves together and stay on beat," she said. "The flow was great."

Contreras along with Mark Valencia, a senior psychology major, taught the moves.

"It's good to know different styles of dance, language and history," Valencia said. "Dance is rooted deeply into our [Latino] history and culture."

Contreras loves to dance, so she decided to share that piece of her culture with the student body.

Contreras said students could use these dance moves if they go out to a club and a Spanish song comes out instead of just standing in the corner.

These workshops were brought back by the UB as a way to bring diversity to the campus community.

"I liked how students had the chance to experience ways of other cultures during the workshops," said Xaviera Vasser, cultural arts coordinator for the UB. "Even though there is diversity, people don't experience the ways of other cultures often."

Heather Holm can be reached at 581-7942 or haholm@eiu.edu.

Next week's 'Teach Me Tuesday'

"The Sound of Music"

Students can learn how to play African Drums for Black History Month.

The event takes place from 4 to 6 p.m. February 2 in the University Ballroom of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

Students can bring their own African drums and play them.

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SENATE, from page 1

A proposed bylaw change would give each college three representatives, Booth Library one and at-large candidates would fill the remaining two seats.

"You would vote twice on at-large years, once for your college and then one at-large," VanGunten said.

John Pommier, the faculty senate chair and a recreation administration professor, said he believes the change would be especially beneficial when major issues, such as furloughs, come up and the senate wants its voice heard.

"When something major issue presents itself, you want to be sure you are properly represented," Pommier said.

Not all members agreed that even representation is the way to give the senate a stronger voice.

"I'm not so sure we've used our voice with persistence," said John Best, a psychology professor and senate member. "It's not a structural problem; it's a process problem. I think we've got a good structure. It'd be better to have more members from one college who are interested and engaged than someone who was just thrust into it."

Members described the senate as having a presentation followed by question-and-answer session format.

"I think what we are now is a big ol' Fender amplifier," Best said. "People come in with their guitar, plug in and we're just like 'OK, we'll put that out there real big and real loud.'"

The senate agreed it needed to find a way to increase its voice on campus.

"It's a dog and pony show," said Jonathan Coit, senate recorder and history professor. "We attend meetings and discuss issues, but then we don't come back and develop those issues."

Coit said one issue with having the entire senate made up of at-large elected members was a lack of accountability to groups.

"After the meetings, I don't know what I am supposed to do with what we discussed," Coit said. "I don't know who my constituents are."

No votes were taken on the proposed change, but a suspension of bylaws was unanimously approved to allow Amy Rosenstein, a special education professor, to serve as a tempo-

Faculty senate member distribution by college as of 2008-09

Education and professional studies, 7 members

Marie Fero—Early education/elementary/middle level education
Mei-Ling Li—Special education
Michael Mulvaney—Recreation administration
Kiranmayi Padmaraju—Early childhood/elementary/ middle level education
John Henry Pommier— Recreation administration

Joy Russell—Early childhood/elementary/middle level education
Dawn VanGunten—Secondary education and foundation

Sciences 4

John Best — Psychology
Andrew Methven — Biological sciences
David Viertel— Geology/geography
Andrew-White— Mathematics and

computer sciences

Arts and humanities 3

Robin Murray— English
Marjorie Worthington— English
Jonathan Coit— History

Library services 1

Ann Brownson

Business and applied science 0

rary replacement for senate member Kiranmayi Padmaraju.

Karen Drage, chair of the Council on University Planning and Budget, gave a presentation on the council's work on the furlough policy and said a finalized policy is expected within two weeks.

Drage said the council was told that the university would be looking at a \$3 million decrease in state appropriated funds for fiscal year 2011, a 6 percent drop.

President Bill Perry asked the council to collect comments on the policy

as the university faces a rough financial future.

"We all hope this is a policy we can develop, put it on the shelf and let it collect dust," Drage said. "It's a last resort."

The CUPB is also collecting cost-containment suggestions to help the university limp through the crisis and keep operating costs down in the future.

"We can make a dent in the budget, but we're also looking for a long-term cost containment plan," Drage said.

The senate will vote on a timeline for spring elections at its next meeting on Feb. 9.

An amendment proposed by Pommier to update the list of the senate's committees will also be discussed at that meeting.

"We have all of our committees listed, but many are omitted and some names have changed," Pommier said. "We would like to get our by-laws amended to reflect that."

Sarah Ruholl can be reached at 581-7942 or at seruholl2@eiu.edu.

TAX, from page 1

for the improvements made to the Mattoon High School, Lilly said.

"The remaining money would go to the ongoing maintenance of our facilities," Lilly said.

For the Illinois County Facility Tax Act to be approved in the primary election it must pass by 51 percent of the popular vote.

And, if the tax is approved by the public, it will go into effect July 1 and the school districts should receive money by October.

However, this money cannot be used for anything other than facility expenditures.

This will still leave the school districts in a tight financial position for the rest of the fiscal year.

The state owes the Charleston school district around \$1.5 million, Littleford said.

And, as of Dec. 31, halfway through the fiscal year, the state owed the Mattoon school district \$1.1 million, Lilly said.

The money owed by the state is for categorical funds, such as transportation funds and special education reimbursement, Lilly said. The sales tax increase will not be used to aid in funding these areas of the school district's budgets.

"If that continues for the rest of the year and we don't get any of those dollars (from the state), we could be in the rears of as much as

"It probably hasn't been done in the past because it is obviously a high-dollar issue, but we have some roof issues in our district we need to deal with."

Jim Littleford,
Charleston school district superintendent

\$3 million which takes care of any of the school reserves we have," Littleford said. "We are obviously very, very concerned at this time."

Kayleigh Zyskowski can be reached at 581-7942 or kzykowski@eiu.edu.

NATION

Obama's speech to tout plans to energize economy

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama will try to pivot past rocky times for the nation and himself Wednesday night in his first State of the Union address, offering a skeptical public repackaged plans to energize the economy, stem a tide of red ink and strengthen anti-terror defenses.

He'll also be trying to revive his own "yes we can" image.

One year into office, and a week after pledging to do better at "speaking directly to the American people," Obama faces urgent challenges as he stands before lawmakers gathered in the Capitol and a prime-time television audience at home for the constitutionally mandated ritual of U.S. governing. The country has lost more than 7 million jobs since the recession began two years ago, unemployment is stuck at 10 percent, and the government is grappling with a record \$1.4 trillion deficit.

Obama's presidency is troubled as well. The percentage of Americans

giving him a thumbs-up has fallen precipitously, from 74 percent when he took office to 56 percent now. He hasn't had a breakout legislative or diplomatic victory, and he's failed to break Washington's partisanship as promised. Then last week, an upset Republican victory in a Massachusetts Senate race threw Obama's signature domestic priority, a sweeping health care overhaul, into jeopardy and shined a spotlight on economic angst now being taken out on him.

Obama will be using one of the presidency's loudest and grandest megaphones to press several themes. They will be fleshed out in greater detail afterward as the president travels to Florida on Thursday and New Hampshire on Tuesday for jobs-focused appearances and when he submits his 2011 budget to Congress on Monday.

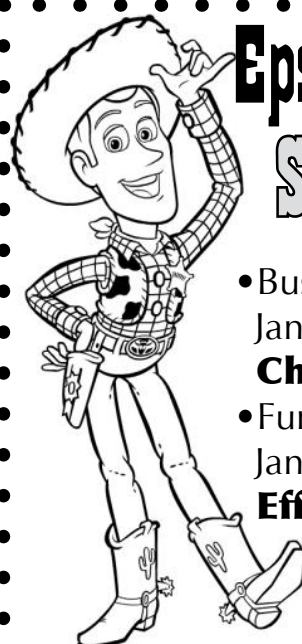
Republican Gov. Bob McDonnell of Virginia will deliver a televised response Wednesday night, two months after putting his state in GOP hands

in one of the party's major recent election victories.

Among the freshly sharpened messages Obama will weave through his remarks: He's a fighter for struggling families and against wealthy special interests; he relates personally to Americans' everyday concerns; he has come far in one year but has made some errors along the way and has much more to do. And he does not intend to fling aside an ambitious agenda on health care, energy, education, immigration and other issues in favor of trimmed-down goals.

In fact, Obama will argue that his sweeping ideas for change are as much a part of putting the economy back on track as more immediate job creation and economic security proposals.

"If we don't get that stuff right, then it's going to be very difficult for us to answer the anxieties that people feel over the long term," Obama said this week in an interview with ABC News.



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The New York Times
Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 1223

- ACROSS
- 1 "I dare you"
- 10 The Hawks of the Atlantic 10 conference, informally
- 15 This very moment
- 16 Conscious
- 17 1970 Santana hit
- 19 Orch. section
- 20 It might pass une loi
- 21 Reuters competitor
- 22 Tiny recipe amount
- 26 Idol worshiper?
- 28 Kind of pit, briefly
- 31 Burgundy or Chablis
- 32 Evidence in the Watergate scandal
- 39 "Without _____, the crudeness of reality would make the world unbearable": Shaw
- 40 Instantly fry
- 41 In vitro cells
- 42 Macho types
- 49 Lone Star State cowboy
- 50 Trekkies' genre
- 51 Impulsively
- 55 Medical insurance portion of Medicare
- DOWN
- 1 Pointed criticisms
- 2 Org. that used to bring people to court?
- 3 Stretch of grass
- 4 Sam Spade type
- 5 "Uh-uh, bad!"
- 6 Tach reading
- 7 Votes for
- 8 Gandalf, for one
- 9 Barely making (out)
- 10 Took care of business
- 11 See 32-Down
- 12 Become blocked
- 13 Animal with striped legs
- 14 Start of a counting rhyme

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

D	E	N	I	M		L	E	G	O		P	I	S	A
A	N	I	T	A		O	R	A	L		A	N	O	N
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64			65						66	67	68			
69							70							
71							72							

PUZZLE BY JONATHAN PORAT

- 18 Have turkey-serving duty, say
- 23 U.S. dance grp.
- 24 It facilitates replying to a MS.
- 25 Buckingham Palace letters
- 27 Article in El Mundo
- 29 Schmo
- 30 Campus areas
- 32 Card game for 11-Down
- 33 Onetime realm of central Eur.
- 34 "____ be an honor"
- 35 A writer may work on it
- 36 Washington pro
- 37 Christmas ____
- 38 Carrier to Copenhagen
- 43 "Oh yeah . . .," in a text message
- 44 France's second-busiest port
- 45 Nitrous ____
- 46 Brief swim
- 47 Design deg.
- 48 Lungful
- 51 1935 Triple Crown horse
- 52 Christopher who directed "The Dark Knight"
- 53 Finnish architect Alvar ____
- 54 Erin of "Happy Days"
- 56 Charlie Chaplin persona
- 57 Ball-rolling game
- 60 ____ Reader
- 61 Midwinter phenomenon, sometimes
- 63 Strangely, it's shorter than a day on Venus
- 65 Orthographer's ref.
- 66 Frequent Canadian interjections
- 67 Vim
- 68 ____ Fáil, Irish coronation stone

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DOMERCANT, from page 12

career free throws made and attempted.

He is the top scorer in Ohio Valley Conference history, was the leading scorer on the last Eastern team to make the NCAA Tournament in 2001 and was second in the entire nation in scoring average in both 2002 and 2003.

But despite all the accomplishments, Domercant said he never expected to make such an impact when he arrived in Charleston at the start of the millennium.

“I always hoped and strived for success in basketball, but I never could have imagined the awards and recognition I would receive just for doing something that I love to do,” he said.

While Domercant’s success at Eastern is well documented, he has made his mark playing overseas since graduating.

His Montepaschi Siena team is currently undefeated in the Italian

League and qualified for the Top 16 in the Euroleague.

Before playing for Montepaschi, he played for Dynamo Moscow in Moscow, Russia.

While in Russia, he was the Union of European Leagues of Basketball’s Most Valuable Player last season, averaging 20.6 points per game.

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

ROMERO, from page 10

right adjustments.

“Coming in halfway through the year, he is coming in at an awkward time and everything is a little fresh and a little new, especially because he is coming from the Bay Area to Charleston, hardcore Midwest,” Washington said. “He is adjusting nicely to a huge (social transition).”

Bringing intensity

One of Romero’s strengths is the intensity he brings to the ring.

“Throwing is more mental than physical,” Romero said. “To be in a ring and having people watching you, just you doing a certain turn is huge mentally because you don’t want to mess up in front of all those people.”

Romero said his intensity helps him focus as he shuts out everything outside the ring. Intensity is needed for a far throw, he said.

“You need to get hyped up and get that little fire in your stomach going,” Romero said. “You can’t go out in this event without any intensity because you won’t go anywhere.”

Washington has noticed the high energy Romero brings every practice.

Washington said it is the exact opposite of his own approach, which he described as low-key until he enters the ring in competition.

“Donald is more like a heart attack in the energy spectrum,” Washington said. “He is competitive in everything, which is great. He and I have the yin and the yang going on, so it is a balance.

“His competitive energy is like a heart attack, while mine is a flat line.”

Romero said he has made adjustments from community college training to Division-I workouts. In community college, the mechanics of throwing were studied.

“I’m pretty much sore after every day,” he said. “It’s tough, but at the same time, I like it. I like doing the hard

work. I know that being sore every day will benefit me in the long run.”

Starting track

Track was not Romero’s first love. Instead, his heart was set on the gridiron.

He played as an offensive lineman on the football team at Amador Valley High School in Pleasanton, Calif., all four years, but after his freshman season Romero changed his path.

Ron Romero, Donald’s father, wondered what his son would do in the spring instead of sitting around. Ron suggested for his son to do track. Donald said he did not want to run, but Ron said there are throwing and jumping events.

“I tried it out, and I liked it,” Donald Romero said. “It was a different event from football.”

Ron coached Donald in his junior and senior years in track.

Amador Valley’s shot put record belongs to Romero, with a distance of 58-6 3/4. He was also voted Male Athlete of the Year at Amador.

For college, Romero said MacKay’s national reputation drew him to Moorpark six hours from his home.

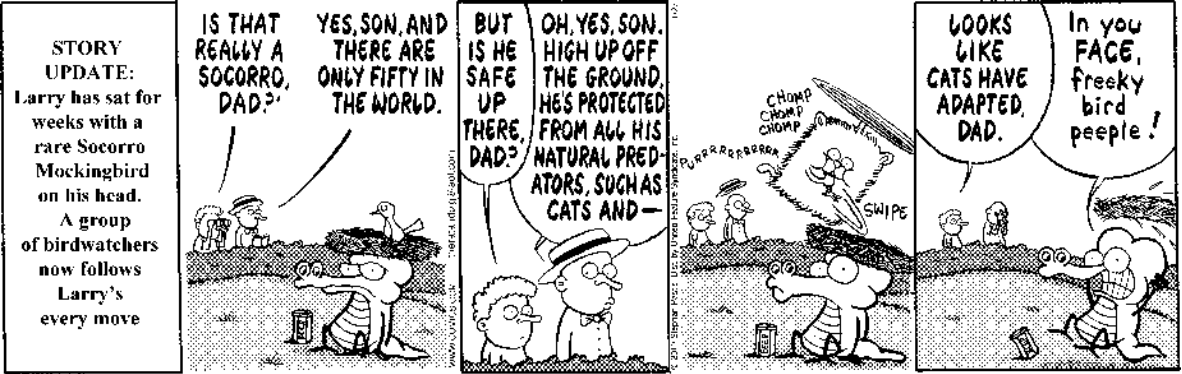
“I went to him, and he taught me all the fundamentals I needed to know about throwing, shot put, hammer and discus,” Romero said. “He was a great benefit to myself and all of my teammates there. I try to bring that here at Eastern Illinois.”

Romero would compete against USC, UCLA, Arizona, Arizona State and some Big 10 schools, so he has big meet experience.

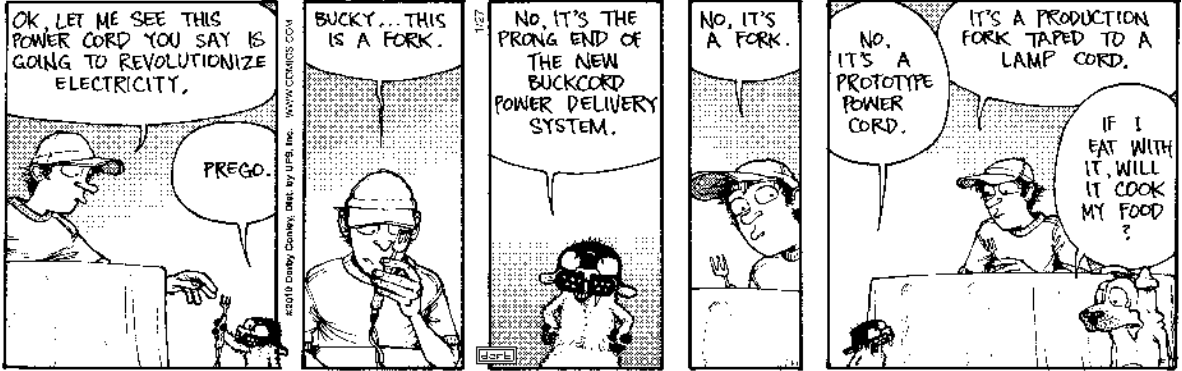
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All Access
with Matt Dorlack,
senior center

Height no problem for Dorlack

By Dion Martorano
Staff Reporter

One thing junior center Matt Dorlack never has to worry about is trying to stand out in a crowd — being 6'11" makes him stand out.

While being tall has its advantages, Dorlack also experiences some disadvantages.

"I am actually pretty good at ducking under doors but sometimes I still hit my head on doors," he said. "Buying clothes are horrible — I need to order them a lot, but that's the life of a 6'11" kid I guess."

While finding clothes is a challenge and ducking under the doors is a daily necessity, finding a car is the hardest thing he has to do.

"I went car shopping my freshman year and I could only pick out of three," Dorlack said. "I didn't fit in most of the cars. My dad and I went to a lot of places and he did a lot of research for it."

After much research, Dorlack found the car that he fit comfortably in — a Chrysler 300.

Not only is it hard to buy a car or clothes at his height but he cannot even ride on amusement park rides.

"I couldn't fit on the amusement park rides at Six Flags (Great America)," he said. "They didn't even let me get on."

Being the tallest person is nothing new for Dorlack. He said he has been the tallest person in his class every year he has been in school.

Dorlack was tall at a young age; in fact, one of his teachers in second grade thought he was in the wrong class.

"In second grade we had a new teacher and I came to class, and she thought I was [supposed to be] in fifth grade so she sent me to find the fifth grade class and I got lost," Dorlack said.

He tried other sports when he was younger including baseball, football



AMIR PRELLBERG | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Junior center Matt Dorlack stretches before practice Monday afternoon in Lantz Arena. Dorlack, standing at 6'11", has had difficulty when it comes to buying clothes, buying cars and riding amusement park rides.

and soccer. He ran into one problem, though, when it came to football.

"I was too tall for football," Dorlack said with a smile.

His height comes from his mom.

"I got my height from my mom, she is 6'1" or 6'2"," he said.

Dorlack said that one question he gets asked a lot is how tall he is since, for most people, seeing someone 6'11" is not a daily occurrence.

He said he gets stared at a lot when he walks around, especially when he is on road trips walking around the hotels.

"I don't mind people asking (about my height), but when people get excited I don't really have a response to them," Dorlack said. "I understand why people stare at me, it is not everyday you see someone as tall as me."

Dorlack decided he wanted to play basketball in the fourth grade. His

height was a great advantage since he was taller than every other kid.

Dorlack remembered one game when he was younger where he missed five shots in a row but, since he was taller than everyone else, he could just rebound the ball each time until he made the shot.

In his senior year at Eisenhower High School in New Berlin, Wis., he helped lead his team to a 19-3 record.

He was named to the list of honorable mention All-State Division-II players his senior year. Dorlack was also ranked the number nine prospect in Wisconsin. When he was being recruited, he found many things he liked about Eastern.

"It was close to home, only four hours away," Dorlack said. "I really liked the coaches and it seemed good academically."

Another big draw for Dorlack was

the pitch made to him by Eastern's men's basketball head coach Mike Miller.

"When I got here he seemed like he could make me a better player, make me stronger, and help me with my basketball skills," Dorlack said. "He seemed like he genuinely cared about me."

Now in his third year with the Panthers, Dorlack has also come to understand his role on the team.

"Every team member needs to know their role and I know mine," he said. "I understand Ousmane [Cisse] is the starter, but if he has a bad day I know I need to come in and change the momentum. If he is doing well I need to maintain the energy he has built."

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ROMERO, from page 12

know of possible athletes she can recruit.

In getting Romero, Sommerfeld said he is proficient at the shot put, weighted throw, hammer and discus and will be able to score points for the team.

"He just solidifies the whole group," she said.

Head coach Tom Akers said he too feels the transfer will improve the team.

"He is coming in as a real seasoned thrower for us and going to be a real quality across the board," Akers said. "He really helps us in the throws department right now."

Akers said that a few years ago the Panthers got Ron White, who set a school record in the javelin throw, from a California school.

Akers said Sommerfeld knows coach Bob MacKay of Moorpark, a nationally known track coach.

"Romero came for a visit in December and liked it," Akers said. "I think he really enjoyed what he saw here: the team, the atmosphere and the school."

Coming to Eastern

On the other side of the country, Romero said he came for a December visit to campus and loved what he saw.

"When I came here for the recruiting visit, I liked the teammates that I had here and not just the throwers, but the environment with the sprinters, runners and jumpers and the way they just wanted to win. And that's what I am; I'm a winner."

"I am going to try to give my best efforts to be the best I can be and benefit my team," Romero said. "When I met Akers, I told him that and he seemed to like that I was a competitor."

During his adjustment, Washington said Romero was a bit nervous his first few days, but then the California native opened up.

"I sat down and talked to him a couple days before we got going to see how he was adjusting," Washington said. "Normally, it takes a little while for a transfer to feel ready to open up."

Washington said the move was also challenging for his new teammate, but Romero, he said, is making the

ROMERO, page 9

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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL NOTEBOOK

Three-point shooting not up to par

By Alex McNamee
Assistant Sports Editor

Although Eastern is on a seven-game winning streak, it is shooting poorly in the first half of its games from three-point land.

During the win streak, the Panthers have shot eight-of-50 from three in the first half and senior guard Dominique Sims does not know what is going on.

"I don't know what's going on right now; we just aren't shooting the ball as well as we have been," she said.

Sims said she has been a part of the Panthers' dry spell, as she is shooting eight-of-19 from three-point land in the last seven games.

"For me, I just need to get in the gym a little bit more than I currently am," she said.

Eastern's long-range shooting has been improving once the team came out of halftime in the last five games, shooting 15-of-34 from beyond the arc.

Shooting 44 percent in the second half of the last five games put Eastern far over its average of 29 percent three-point shooting this season.

Sims plays possession shoeless

During Saturday's women's basketball game, Sims lost her shoe on an offensive possession, forcing her to play without a shoe on one foot.

"I was going for a rebound, but my teammate ended up getting it and a girl stepped on my shoe," Sims said.

Sims played on during the next defensive possession, but Tennessee Martin decided not to attack the Panthers' shoeless defender.

"I guess my shoes weren't tied all the way because it kind of fell out," Sims said. "So, I kicked the shoe to the bench and Ta'Kenya Nixon caught it."

Sims said she did not want to cost her team a timeout by taking one just so she could tie her shoe back on, so she just focused on making another

"For me, I just need to get in the gym a little bit more than I currently am."

Dominique Sims,
senior guard

defensive stop.

"I was just like 'OK, well I can't stop the game, I can't call a timeout,' so I just played through it," Sims said.

Sims finished the game with nine points and five rebounds as Eastern went on to beat the Skyhawks 74-47.

Around the OVC

Saturday was a busy day in the Ohio Valley Conference with three close games and a couple blowouts.

The third-place team, Austin Peay (7-13, 6-3 OVC) sneaked past Jacksonville State (6-13, 3-6 OVC) with a 78-70 victory.

Morehead State (14-7, 7-2 OVC) beat Eastern Kentucky (9-10, 5-4 OVC) 59-58 in a clash of two of the top four teams in the OVC.

Tennessee State (7-11, 4-5 OVC) defeated Tennessee Tech (8-11, 3-6 OVC) 65-62. Tennessee State is currently ranked sixth in the OVC, but it is tied with Murray State with a 4-5 OVC record.

Murray State (9-11, 4-5 OVC) defeated Southeast Missouri (6-12, 3-6 OVC) in a 90-72 rout.

Eastern defeated Tennessee Martin 74-47. The Panthers currently hold the first-place spot in the OVC.

The Panthers' next game is on the road against Tennessee Tech at 5:30 p.m. Thursday in Cookeville, Tenn.

Alex McNamee can be reached
at 581-7944
or admcmnamee@eiu.edu.



AUDREY SAWYER | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Head coach Brady Salley watches as sophomore guard Madeline Kish takes a shot during the second half against Tennessee-Martin Saturday in Lantz Arena. The Panthers are riding a seven-game winning streak as they get ready to play Tennessee Tech Thursday in Cookeville, Tenn.



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TRACK AND FIELD



AMIR PRELLBERG | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Junior thrower Donald Romero practices the weight throw Monday afternoon in Lantz Fieldhouse. Romero transferred from Moorpark College in Los Angeles midseason and is already helping the Panthers compete in three different throwing events.

A lion becomes a Panther

Highly touted transfer making immediate impact

By Bob Bajek
Sports Editor

Finding someone who is lion-hearted is hard to come by, but newly arrived thrower Donald Romero has that trait physically and mentally. Romero, a junior transfer from

Moorpark College in Los Angeles, has a tattoo of a lion on his left arm. "I have a tattoo of a lion because I have the heart of a lion," Romero said. "That's how I feel I should be. I want to bring that level of intensity so that Justin (Washington, senior thrower) could feed off me and my other teammates as well, so they could do well with their own throwing." The tattoo also represents Romero's physical strengths and talents he brings to the Panther track program.

The Eastern coaches and throwers are excited to have the 6-foot, 235-pound thrower on board and able to help the Panthers score points in conference. **Gaining a talent** Assistant head track coach and throwing instructor Jessica Sommerfeld said she is thrilled to have Romero join the team mid-season. "The big thing about Donald is that he can throw three events very well," Sommerfeld said. "He will be

at the top of our list for the guys we have. He will be competing with the best people in those areas. He will be very strong in all those events for our conference championship teams." Sommerfeld met Romero's coach, Bob MacKay at a camp in South Dakota during a high school coaching clinic. MacKay is one of the superstar coaches there. Sommerfeld said she keeps in contact with MacKay and he lets her **ROMERO, page 10**

ALUMNUS UPDATE

Domercant proud of recent honor

Eastern alum currently playing in Siena, Italy

By Collin Whitchurch
Managing Editor

The greatest scorer in Eastern men's basketball history is still making headlines. Henry Domercant, a 2003 alumnus and the program's all-time leading scorer, is currently playing for Montepaschi Siena in Siena, Italy. He made headlines earlier this month when the Web site Collegeinsider.com named him among its All-Decade Team for mid-major schools. While Domercant was honored with the selection, he said he was

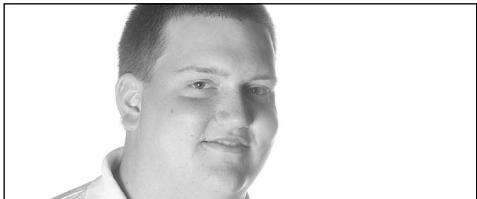
surprised and did not know about it until he received a congratulatory message. "I actually didn't hear about the honor until one of my former teammates, Jan Thompson, sent me a message congratulating me," said Domercant from Siena, where he is currently competing with Montepaschi in both the Italian League and Euroleague. "I am proud to represent both EIU basketball and the OVC." Domercant's accomplishments show why he was chosen for the team. Not only is he the program's all-time and single-season leader in points scored, he also holds program records in career games played, career scoring average, career field goals made and attempted, career three pointers made and **DOMERCANT, page 9**



FILE PHOTO COURTESY OF MOSCOW DYNAMO

Henry Domercant lunges for a ball during a game while playing with Moscow Dynamo. Domercant, a former Eastern men's basketball player, currently plays for Montepaschi in Siena, Italy. Domercant also played for some of the top teams in Russia, Greece and Turkey.

VIEWS



Collin Whitchurch

Getting over the hump

The Eastern men's basketball team was 7-22 two years ago. That season had the most losses in Division-I history for the program and arguably was the worst season in program history. It appears the tides may be changing and success is near, but more work is still needed before the team gets over the hump and can be called a truly successful team.

At 11-9 (5-5 in the Ohio Valley Conference), the Panthers are on pace to have their best record since 2000-01, and at least their best record since 2002-03. While that is all fine and dandy, these small successes should not be accepted, but instead used as building blocks to get the program back to respectability. It is almost there, but not yet.

The Panthers have reached the point where they are good enough to beat the teams they should beat. Teams like Tennessee Martin (0-9 in the OVC), Tennessee State (1-8) and Southeast Missouri (3-24 over the past season and a half) should be disposed of, and have been to this point. But the Panthers should strive for more.

The goal should be to be on the same level as Murray State, Morehead State and even Austin Peay, teams that regularly compete for OVC titles and make appearances in nationally televised games. Fans who were around nine years ago when the Panthers made their last NCAA Tournament appearance speak about it with such joy.

Men's basketball and football are kings in this area, just as they are throughout the nation, and while our football program has found success over the past decade-plus, men's basketball has not been able to keep up. A successful men's basketball program would drive school spirit to an all-time high. Fans and students love rooting for a winner, and a winner has yet to be produced during the current senior class's four years. Whether current head coach Mike Miller is the man to lead the program back to the promise land is debatable. But thus far he hasn't been able to get it done. That being said, his improvement over the past two years are a sign that things could be looking up in the near future. But regardless of what is done to revitalize this struggling program, something should be done. Strides have been made. Accomplishments, albeit small, have been found. But it is still not enough. We want more.

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EASTERN SPORTS SCHEDULE

Women's basketball
Thursday at Tennessee Tech
5:30 p.m. – Cookeville, Tenn.

Men's basketball
Thursday at Tennessee Tech
7:30 p.m. – Cookeville, Tenn.

Women's basketball
Saturday at Jacksonville State
2 p.m. – Jacksonville, Ala.

Men's basketball
Saturday at Jacksonville State
4:30 p.m. – Jacksonville, Ala.

Men's tennis
Saturday at SIU-Edwardsville
3:30 p.m. – Edwardsville

For more please see eiupanthers.com

NATIONAL SPORTS

College basketball
Illinois at Penn State
5:30 p.m. on Big Ten Network

College basketball
Notre Dame at Villanova
6 p.m. on ESPN

College basketball
Texas A&M at Oklahoma State
6:30 p.m. on ESPN2

NBA
Bulls at Thunder
7 p.m. on CSN

College basketball
Florida State at Duke
8 p.m. on ESPN