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## Daily Eastern News: February 05, 2004

Eastern Illinois University

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# THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

## Securing its football future



Eastern signs 22 high school football players and Spoon says he is satisfied with the choices.

Page 12 SPORTS

## Lots may be closed to ensure driver safety

By Eun-yeong Park  
STAFF WRITER

The parking lots on Ninth Street could be closed permanently in the coming weeks for the safety of drivers. As a result of the new street lights Charleston is installing on Ninth Street, the city may close the lots to ensure a safer route for drivers.

Charleston would close the parking lots on Ninth Street from Lincoln Avenue to Fulk Street to keep the expected increase in traffic more secure because of the new street lights.

### Actions on ordinance

- ◆ The Charleston City Council put an ordinance on file Tuesday that will close parking on Ninth Street
- ◆ The council will vote on the ordinance in two weeks.

"Different patterns of traffic will appear after the street lights will be put on," Charleston City Council member Lorcel Sims said.

New traffic patterns that will appear on Ninth Street need to function before the Seventh Street lights can be removed.

"The traffic signals have a better placement on Ninth Street due to the expectations of more traffic and the traffic flow will be better on Lincoln," Public Works Director Curt Buescher said.

Bodine Electric, contracted from Charleston to work on the street lights, started the delayed plans Jan. 7.

In a previous edition of *The Daily Eastern News*, Buescher said

Bodine will work steadily, weather permitting.

It will take eight to 10 weeks minimum to get things up and running, he said.

Once this happens, the city will have to go through the technicalities of changing the traffic control signals.

"The whole situation has a big domino effect on Charleston and Eastern Illinois University," Sims said.

Seventh Street will be relieved

SEE PARKING ◆ Page 7



METH PHOTO COURTESY OF STREETDRUGS.ORG AND STATISTICS COURTESY OF HTTP://PARENTING.TEENSABOUT.COM

According to the 2000 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, an estimated 88 million people (4.0 percent of the population) have tried methamphetamine at some time in their lives.

## Project X aimed at deterring drug abuse

By David Thill  
STAFF WRITER

Ecstasy and methamphetamine use is a rising trend in Illinois; a trend Gov. Rod Blagojevich is trying to battle with Project X. Tom Green from the Illinois Department of Human Services said that \$2.5 million in general revenue funding will go to nine different task forces throughout the state to help battle meth and ecstasy.

Agencies receiving money include those based near Eastern Illinois University, University of Illinois, Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville, Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, Northern Illinois University, Western Illinois University and Illinois State University.

The nine agencies are all based in or around college areas because "club drug" use is a problem mostly among people ages 18-25, Green said.

"(Meth and Ecstasy) are not a problem to the extent of marijuana, cocaine or heroine," Green said. "But it is a trend that is on the rise and we want to deal with it."

The project will work on a three-pronged offensive:

◆ **Enforcement:** The project will rely on police agencies to use tough law enforcement.

◆ **Prevention:** Prevention will come from raising public awareness to educate young people on the dangers of "club drugs."

◆ **Treatment:** By getting people into treatment, use of "club drugs" will likely decrease.

"The goal of the project is to stop the trend before it becomes an epidemic," Green said.

The Illinois State Police reported more than 93 grams of ecstasy submitted to Illinois crime labs in 1998. In 2002, more than 3,278 grams were submitted, a governor's office press release said.

Master Sergeant Rick Hector said 677 meth labs were found by state police alone in 2002. This number is up from 24 labs found in 1997.

Set, Steve Guess with the East Central Illinois Task Force said that in 2002, the task force found 118 meth labs and made 184 meth-related arrests.

"Methamphetamines are a huge problem," Guess said. "Of all arrests made by the East

*"When you talk about Communist ideas, you have to be careful where you are and whose company you are in."*

—Michael Strange, former Eastern employee



Charleston resident Michael Strange sits at his dining room table as he ponders his thoughts Wednesday afternoon.

## Spotlighting Strange's world

By Tim Martin  
SENIOR REPORTER

After reading his fiery letters to the editor, people often want to know: Who is Michael Strange, the man who bashes everyone and everything from President Bush to Mayor Dan Coughill to capitalism?

Is he American? Is he communist? Is he normal? Is he insane?

"If I were living in Tennessee and write like I write, I would have some redneck coming out to kill me," Strange said. "I wouldn't do what I'm doing now if I still were trying to raise a family. I'm 70 years old. What the hell do I have to hide from or to not articulate the ideas I think I understand properly?"

Strange, the controversial letters to the editor writer, believes a nuclear holocaust is now "hammering on civilization's door" and that

Coughill personifies "the embodiment of Chickin Little dressed up as Napoleon and acting like Spiderman trying to defy gravity."

In appearance, the man contradicts everything readers imagine of him. They envision the intense eyes of Charles Manson and the intimidating, Marxist persona of Joseph Stalin. Ostensibly, Strange is anything but: he looks and acts like any grandfather.

Strange, 69 (he turns 70 in June), is deaf in his left ear and wears a hearing aid in the other. He wears black Velcro shoes. A large magnifying glass rests upon a stack of newspapers.

"I'm rather soft spoken," said Strange, who worked at Eastern in food services for 18 years.

In delivering his left-wing views, Strange stands neither behind a podium nor on top of a soapbox. He chooses instead to utilize the power of the written word where the audience

reading newspapers, Strange says, is more universal.

He wants to educate through his words by antagonizing readers, especially college students, so much that it will drive them to the books. Strange shoots down any suggestion that he aspires to preach to the crowd or gain a following like a televangelist. He wants his readers to be peers, not disciples.

His intent is quite cyclical. He writes so others will read him and possibly read more. Strange reads to better inform himself when writing. To him, literacy is of the utmost importance. He found hope in his reading of Karl Marx, and he tries to spread that message through writing.

His message is often met with friction. Andy Caruso, a senior English major, was so pocked after reading one of Strange's letters

SEE STRANGE ◆ Page 7



## A clean cut

DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY JOSH REELEY

Daniel Loid (left) and Ray Wines (not pictured) of All Pro Tree Service were out on a limb trimming the trees at Bank of America on Lincoln Avenue Wednesday morning.

# Poets, rappers to honor blacks at open mic night

Courteny Jenkins  
STAFF WRITER

The University Board Mainstage and the African American Heritage Committee are hosting an Open Mic Night Tonight at 8:30 p.m. in 7th Street Underground. The purpose of this event is to pay tribute to African American heritage in honor of Black History Month.

Everyone from poets to singers and rappers are encouraged to participate. The event is free for students. Performers can sign up at 8 p.m. before the event.

"Participants must pay tribute to African American heritage," said Taisha Mikell, Student Life graduate advisor.

Performances have very few limits. "The main rule that we have is that the act will have to be limited to 7 to 10 minutes," Mikell said.

Cash prizes will be given to first, second and third place winners. Winners in other categories will also receive prizes.

Last semester 40 to 60 people attended the show,

and Mikell said she expects a great turnout this year.

"Many people are talking about attending," she said. "We expect at least 75 people on Thursday."

"I'm really looking forward to Open Mic Night. There is an immense amount of talent on this campus, and I hope a lot of people come out and perform," said Michelle Morcort, a junior Speech Communications major.

Jalal Williams, a sophomore graphic design major, said, "I expect to have a great time and look forward to seeing the performers."

The African American Heritage Committee helped plan the event.

The purpose of the committee is to plan activities for Black History Month. The committee consists of students, staff and faculty on campus. Joycelyn Phillips, academic advisor for the Gateway Program, said, "University Board came up with the idea, and the African American Heritage Committee supported it."

"We try to get students to be involved in the committee," Phillips said.

## STUDENT GOVERNMENT

# Proposed budget set to be discussed

By Brian O'Malley  
STUDENT GOVERNMENT EDITOR

The Student Government Thursday will be presenting their proposed budgets for next year to the Appointments Board.

Student Senate Speaker George Lesica said there is a motion on the Wednesday meeting's agenda to get senate to approve the budget request of \$37,214 to be presented to AB.

"It's a little higher than last year's budget," Lesica said.

Student Body President Caleb Judy is presenting the budget. He said, in the motion, they are requesting the funds, "to cover various costs associated with operating the organization."

Judy said he is aware the amount is higher than when they proposed this year's budget last year.

"Providing a \$2,314 increase from (last year's) allocation, this budget proposal will allow for the expansion of a few organizational initiatives while still

remaining fiscally conservative," Judy said.

The motion also explains that AB can ask any questions, and Judy said he will try to answer them.

"I would be more than willing to provide any additional information needed by the Appointments Board to make an educated decision," Judy said.

A representative from the athletics department will also present their proposed budget for next year, said Larry Ward, AB chair and Student Senate vice president for financial affairs.

Ward said AB funds five groups on campus. AB funds itself, Student Government, the University Board, the Athletics department and the Dramatic Player's Club, which is a group of people from the theater department.

AB and the Dramatic Player's Club presented their budgets last week and University Board will present its budget at a later date, Ward said.

The Appointments Board meets at 7 p.m. Thursday in the Arcola/Tuscola Room of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

# Council to discuss funding RSOs

By Brian O'Malley  
STUDENT GOVERNMENT EDITOR

The Student Leadership Council Thursday will discuss the funding of student organizations in their first meeting.

Lisa Flam, Student Senate vice president for student affairs, said she created the council to bring all Recognized Student Organizations together and help with the funding of their events.

"The mission of the Student Leadership Council is to help unify Recognized Student Organizations to help unify Recognized Student Organizations to help unify Recognized Student Organizations by providing support across our campus, by improving community service and fund raising projects and educational opportunities," Flam said.

The council wants every RSO to come to the meetings because every organization that attends will have a voice in the issues discussed, Flam

said.

"Representatives from all (RSOs) are invited to attend this meeting to find out more information about how the council will benefit their organizations," Flam said.

Student Senate Speaker George Lesica said other schools at the Illinois Board of Higher Education Student Advisory Committee meeting Saturday discussed that it's rare for a school to fund an organization.

"This is something that Lisa Flam has been working toward here at Eastern with her Student Leadership Council," Lesica said.

Lesica said the final goal will be to fund student organizations, so they can hold more events.

"The goal of that body is to eventually fund various RSOs," Lesica said. The Student Leadership Council will meet at 6 p.m. Thursday in the Arcola/Tuscola Room of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

## THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

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To ensure accuracy and improve our services to our readers, The Daily Eastern News reserves this space every day for corrections.

## SUGGESTIONS

If you have any suggestions or ideas for articles you would like to see in The News, feel free to contact us at 581-2812 or jchambers@eiu.edu



# IBHE adopts ethics law, grants

By Kevin Sampier  
ADMINISTRATION EDITOR

In addition to approving a \$2.34 billion budget Tuesday for public universities, the Illinois Board of Higher Education discussed a new ethics law and grants.

During the meeting at College of Lake County, Grayslake, the IBHE heard a presentation on a new law banning registered lobbyists from serving on boards and commissions in Illinois.

The presentation was given by IBHE general council, according to IBHE Chair James Kaplan.

The ethics law requires members of boards and commissions to now complete ethics training, Kaplan said.

IBHE spokesman Don Sevener said in addition to ethics training members will have to record their time worked, even though they are not paid. These new rules apply to the IBHE.

"Board members aren't even paid," Sevener said. "They haven't kept time sheets for their activity, but now they'll be required to."

"(The IBHE members) acted to adopt the policies," Sevener said even though, "a lot said they were reluctant."

The IBHE adopted the policies 12-1, Sevener said. "I think that the board members realized that this is an important priority for the board and the state government."

Approval of 14 new associate degree programs at several community colleges was postponed until the IBHE meets in April.

"Community colleges need approval from their board and

*"(The IBHE members) acted to adopt the policies ... a lot said they were reluctant."*

—Don Sevener, board spokesman

this board to start degree programs," Sevener said. "There was some concern of some (IBHE) board members."

Board members wanted to make sure graduates are fully qualified before they go into a classroom to work, Sevener said.

A change in the Illinois Student Assistance Commission's formula for giving students financial assistance was also discussed.

Several items on the agenda were only informational and required no action. These included a mid-term review of "The Illinois Commitment," Sevener said.

According to the IBHE agenda, the review of the commitment, "provides an analysis of environmental and other trends and challenges facing higher education for 2004 and beyond."

The goals of the commitment, which were made five years ago, will be reviewed "to see if they're still valid or if they need to be revised," Sevener said.

Other non-action items included discussion of the Illinois State Teacher Quality Enhancement Grant and establishing a committee to study policies affecting students with disabilities.



DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY STEPHEN HAA

## Nutty weather

A squirrel snacks on his recently unburied treat Wednesday morning in a tree on Seventh Street outside of Buzzard Hall. Wednesday's sunny weather saw a high of 30 degrees. Today's forecast includes a 70 percent chance of a wintry mix.

# Electronic deposits could lead to payment changes

◆ *Newly employed students have been paid electronically since August 1*

By Jaclyn Gorski  
STAFF WRITER

Eastern has required new students to be paid by electronic deposits instead of paper paychecks, a process that could lead to paying them twice a month.

Students have been paid electronically for six years, but it was not required until August 1.

It is safer for students because they will not have the chance to lose their paychecks since there are none, and it is faster, said

*"It's helpful because I don't have an account down at Eastern, so the money's automatically deposited in my account."*

—Jenny Zielzinski, student employee

Chuck Phillips, head of the office of Human Services.

Students no longer need to stand in line in order to deposit their paychecks. It is already done for them, First Mid-Illinois Bank & Trust, located in Martin Luther King, Jr. University Union, pointed out.

Phillips said when Eastern gets better at the automatic deposit system, "hopefully we'll be able to pay students twice a month,"

instead of once.

Electronic deposits save Eastern money and time because they do not have to replace lost paychecks and stock enough paper and envelopes to make paychecks for all its workers.

"The cost would double by producing paper paychecks," Phillips said.

Phillips said saving money is "not the driving force" of why Eastern is paying student workers

with automatic deposits. The university is doing this to bring the paying "system at Eastern into the 21st century." Eastern wants to come more into the age of technology.

"It's called progress," Phillips said.

Phillips also said the EFT system is better because Eastern can send the automatic deposit anywhere the student wants the deposit to go to.

"The only downfall to me with the whole paper paychecks was you had to have two bank accounts, so with direct deposit, I closed my account at Eastern," said Kennedy Allen, a student worker at Eastern.

The transfer is also immediate so if payday was on a Friday and that particular day was a holiday, a worker would not have to worry about putting the money in his or her account the following Monday, said Phillips.

"It's helpful because I don't have an account down at Eastern, so the money's automatically deposited in your account," said Jenny Zielzinski, a student worker at Eastern. "The only downfall is they don't have your hours on your check."

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**OPINION**

# The addiction of Internet testing



**John Chambers**  
News editor and semi-monthly columnist for *The Daily Eastern News*

Chambers also is a senior journalism major. He can be reached at johnchambers@edu.edu.

I signed online this week to check my e-mail, but was distracted by flashing letters. There it was, this pulsating Web page that had appeared behind my e-mail site.

The page read "The Classic IQ Test," and flanked with 40 questions down the middle and an ad for birth control on the side, it was a tempting square of fate.

I gave in and smiled that in five minutes I could have proof of an IQ level with far less hassle than what it would take to test my IQ professionally. I thought it couldn't be too bad.

Which one of these five is least like the other four: A horse, kangaroo, cow, deer, or donkey?

But the questions progressed. There were inquires of age, of math problems and weird comparisons.

I compared abstract heights of common-named characters Ann, Jill and Kelly. I defined the word "Inept." I measured the speed of cars. It was all like a bad grade school nightmare.

I started drifting asleep, sorting through the loopy questions the test wanted me to figure out. I lost interest.

I moved on to other Web sites in search of carefully planned quizzes to reveal to me my intelligence, inner-self and answers to the universe.

The IQ test had been a pop-up ad from www.tickle.com, a site that offers Internet players quizzes on their "ultimate personality." Tickle's "original Inkblot" test and ways to learn about choosing a career.

*"I compared abstract heights of common-named characters Ann, Jill and Kelly. I defined the word 'Inept.' I measured the speed of cars. It was all like a bad grade school nightmare."*

The site's sex tests were out of control. Want to know your sex IQ, ideal sexual partner, your destiny or the definition of Mr. or Ms. Right? It was all right there.

"Finding the perfect person to please you in bed," to find out this test detail and several others, Tickle requires you to register as a member, the sign of an addict.

I was quickly becoming one of them.

The Internet death test was interesting. If you're curious about how long you'll live, www.thespark.com feeds any morbid query with questions of past family diseases, whether or not one has nipple hair and how often you talk to strangers. Climb rocks or watch "South Park."

The questions were getting creepy so I dropped out of the test.

The site, www.allthetests.com, was probably the most unique.

It had all the traditional career and IQ tests, but also offered selective quizzes for only women and men, including how to tell if you're a man whore.

Want to be an entrepreneur? Check out www.2h.com to find if you have what it takes, while still entertaining yourself with all the usual Internet exams.

If you're looking for more of a family themed site, check out www.funtrivia.com. Like the Web address implies, the site offers topical trivia ranging from Seinfeld to particle physics.

I skipped over the learning opportunity to check out www.quizdom.com.

The latter site claims to be the world's largest testing center. It doesn't sound like much fun at first, but the sites alluring graphics and endless testing opportunities drew me in.

I signed up for the patience test to determine if I was a "Patient Patty" or an "Impatient Irma."

Prefacing the test with a short background on the psychology of patience, the quiz asked me what I did while waiting in line at the bank and about my usual phone demeanor.

These sites are just a few of the endless ways to waste time on the Internet. I fell asleep taking most of the online tests, often failing too early. But at least now with the magic of Internet quizzes, I'm one step closer to understanding my personality, knowing my IQ level, getting in touch with my better self and finding a mate for life.

**EDITORIAL**

## Budget will benefit university

The Illinois Board of Higher Education's budget recommendations Tuesday were all about compromise.

The board began planning budget requests with higher education bodies in August and initially proposed Eastern cut \$774,000 for this fiscal year from the amount the university received in state appropriations last financial year. Eastern then asked the board to reconsider.

The IBHE approved Eastern's budget of \$47 million from state appropriations, exactly the same amount as last year's funding.

The board made the best decision of where to put financial resources, considering the current state budget crisis.

"In view of the very difficult financial situation the state of Illinois is facing, the budget Eastern is recommended for is a good budget," Eastern President Lou Hencken said this week.

Although Eastern would have preferred to receive more money than last financial year for projects such as renovations on the Doudna Fine Arts Center, the university will not have to scrambling as much to cover cuts as long as the governor follows the IBHE's suggestions.

"I don't think (Eastern) got hurt too much. It's pretty flat funding," said IBHE Chair James Kaplan.

"Because there was not a cut, I was pleased when I saw the recommendations," Hencken said.

The IBHE recommendation now goes to the governor's Office of Management and Budget for approval.

It would be disappointing to see cuts made now that the decision sits in Blagojevich's hands.

Cutting the budget at this point would just be forcing Eastern to lose certain aspects of the university that are vital to its value as a whole. Hencken has said he plans on using the money on employee salaries along with other projects if the budget is approved.

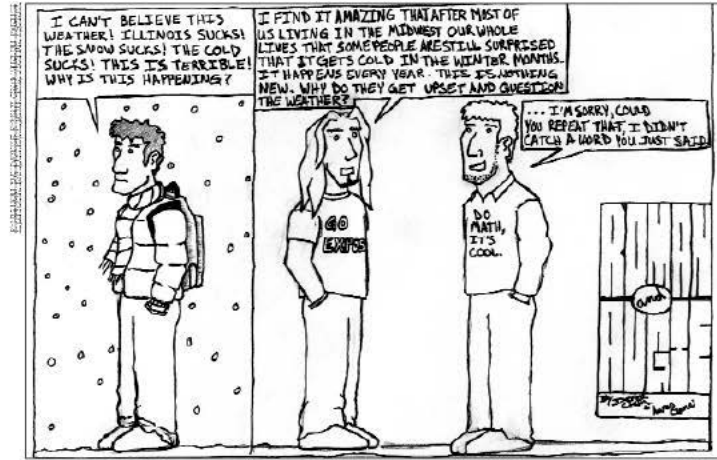
"There are many needs that that money," Hencken said.

The IBHE had a decision this week that will help Eastern handle the state's budget difficulties.

**At issue**

The Illinois Board of Higher Education did not recommend cuts from the amount of state funds Eastern received last fiscal year.

**Our stance**  
The IBHE made the right decision with the financial resources available in the state's current budget crisis.



**YOUR TURN: LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

## Mars travel started by movie

It's a well known and somewhat amusing myth that the movie "The Blues Brothers" cost Chicago's first female mayor, Jane Byrne, her reelection in 1983 due to her allowance of the film's directors to trash the Daley Plaza and cause chaos in downtown Chicago. On a less amusing note, President Bush's campaign to build living areas on the moon and frequent trips to Mars shares a connection to the movie "Mars Attacks," which will also most likely cost Bush his re-election this year. Maybe President Bush sat down

and watched "Mars Attacks" and saw that the president, actor Jack Nicholson, didn't side with the martians causing the Earth to be attacked, thus causing Bush to panic. President Bush's Space Exploration Act wants to raise NASA's yearly budget from \$1.4 billion to \$16.2 billion. Overall, officials say the total cost over the next few years will only be around \$1 trillion to reach Mars and set up living on the moon. So is all that money worth it? According to purifur.com, 6 million children under the age of

five die every year as a result of hunger. That's 16,438 children every day. Taking that \$1.4 billion and turning it feeding kids, you could feed 4.2 million children very well everyday for an entire year. So am I the only person here wanting to strap President Bush to one of his own moon rockets and send him off? What would you do? Save a child

who was going to die right there on your lap, or throw him to the ground and buy a half a gallon of shuttle fuel? Our great leader chooses the fuel. Then again, he also wanted to make Texas its own country.

**Mark Palahniuk**, junior premed major

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:** The Daily Eastern News accepts letters to the editor addressing local, state, and national issues. They should be less than 250 words and include the author's name, telephone number and address. Students should indicate their year in school and major. Faculty, adm.istration and staff should indicate their position and department. Letters whose authors cannot be verified will not be printed. Depending on space constraints, we may edit letters, so keep it concise. Letters can be sent to The Daily Eastern News at 1611 Buzzard Hall, Charleston, IL 61902; teled to 217.581.2922; or e-mailed to johnchambers@edu.edu.

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



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NEWMAN CATHOLIC CENTER

Jill Gates works with a Nicaraguan worker last year during a Habitat for Human by 2003 alternative Spring break trip.

# Taking an alternative break

◆ **Alternative Spring Break offers travel and community service opportunities**

By Ai Vishon  
STAFF WRITER

Alternative Spring Break is an opportunity for students, faculty and staff to get involved with community service around the country. Founded in 1993, Alternative Spring Break is a program allowing college students to travel across America and to Mexico to participate in community service projects. It offers 15 destinations around the country and in Mexico, and it allows people to "give back to the world that's given so much to you," according to a press release. Roy Lanham, director of the Newman Catholic Center, heads the program and says it is one of the largest in the Midwest.

"The reason it works so great is because of the students," Lanham said. Michael Ochs is a senior finance major who will be taking his third Alternative Spring Break trip to Alabama this year. "I definitely enjoyed it both times I've gone," he said. "You get to work with these people for a whole week, and you get to realize that people are pretty much the same, just born in different circumstances." Students from different college campuses around the country participate in the program, Lanham said. Preference for available spots lies with Eastern students, but others are also welcome to apply. Alternative Spring Break costs \$130 plus a \$25 application fee. Applications should be turned in by Feb. 13. The \$130 covers costs, including transportation to and from Eastern, lodging, on-site meals and a t-shirt. There is also a send-off dinner as well as a post-break party. Jennifer Hayes, chair of the Alternative Spring Break Committee, said it takes a special kind of student to do the kind of

work Alternative Spring Break entails. "It's a life changing experience," Hayes said. Alternative Spring Break assigns projects interacting with people with AIDS, Headstart, homeless people and abused or neglected children. Molly Henderson, junior economics major, has been the site leader of Alternative Spring Break for two years and said students should not be intimidated by the program's religious affiliation. "It's not a Catholic atmosphere; it's more of a reflection of self," she said. Henderson also said Alternative Spring Break is "a time to find out strengths and weaknesses and what you really want to do in life." The trips to Mexico are filled, but there are still 30 more available spots for around the United States. Students interested in participating in or needing more information about Alternative Spring Break should contact the Newman Catholic Center or stop by for a brochure.

# RHA to reflect on college life

By Brian O'Mahey  
STUDENT GOVERNMENT EDITOR

The Residence Hall Association is holding the "Spring Host Program" for the second semester which gives prospective students college life experience.

Megan Stepp, National Communications Coordinator/Illinois Communications Coordinator for RHA, said 50 high school students are coming on Feb. 15-16 to spend time on a college campus. "They can kind of get a feel of college life," Stepp said. About 35 students have volunteered to show the prospective students around campus. Each Eastern student is responsible for showing one prospective student a bit of college life, Stepp said. RHA is a little bit low on volunteers and Stepp said interested students could call the orientation office.

The event is held on a Sunday and Monday, so the host can take the student to a class on Monday, Stepp said. "They have the option to go to class, but they don't have to," she said.

RHA is also beginning work on "Kid's Weekend" to be held April 23-25 and will discuss it Thursday. RHA President Nachel Glynn said "Kid's Weekend" is an event that asks students to invite their younger siblings, cousins or any children they know to come to Eastern and spend a weekend playing games and bonding with other children.

"It's where we ask students to invite younger siblings," Glynn said. "The kids loved it last year." Glynn said the kids would come with parents or the student would be responsible for being their chaperone for the weekend. Housing will not be included in the money spent for "Kid's Weekend," Glynn said.

The event will have games seen at carnivals and festivals, Glynn said. RHA will discuss the games they will hold for the kids in the weeks to come.

"There will be old school block party kind of stuff," Glynn said.

RHA will also discuss Marvin Grayowl, whom RHA is sponsoring. Grayowl will speak about Indian tribes at 7 p.m. Feb. 25 in the Chestnut/Mattoon Room of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

RHA is putting together a Constitution Revision Committee which will look over the RHA constitution to find areas that could be improved.

"We'll be asking for representatives to look through the constitution to see what needs to be fixed," Glynn said.

Jenn Andersen, RHA vice president for programming, said Residence Hall Week will be held during the first or second week of March.

"It's still in the tentative planning stage," Andersen said.

Even though the event isn't fully put together, Andersen said she plans to have karaoke contests, bowling and bingo.

The Residence Hall Association meets at 5 p.m. Thursday in the basement of Andrews Hall.



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# Industry leader talks drug prices

By Nicole Nicolas  
FEATURES REPORTER

Common myths and realities of the pharmaceutical industry were talked about Tuesday night in Lumpkin Hall.

The first myth that Bob Ingram, Vice Chairman and former CEO for GlaxoSmithKline, spoke about is that drug prices are soaring out of sight.

The reality is volume and new products are driving costs, Ingram said.

"Thanks to medicines," he said, "we can manage diseases and people's lives are uninterrupted."

Another vital reason prices continue to rise is that more money is being spent on health care.

Ingram said the fastest growing population of people are ages 85 and up, which means more money must be directed to cover health care costs.

Another myth according to Ingram, is the idea that pharmaceutical companies spend too much on commercials for prescriptions and not enough on research and development.

In reality they spend over \$5 billion on research and development.

"(The government) doesn't discover and develop drugs, we do," Ingram said.

Many people today believe that much of the research and development is on "Me-Too" medicines, modified versions of existing drugs or products containing the same active ingredients as those already on the market, Ingram said. They are wrong.

*"(The government) doesn't discover and develop drugs, we do."*

—Bob Ingram, pharmaceutical leader

"Me-too" medicines are a small percent of research and development," he said. "And they offer important enhancements."

Ingram graduated from Eastern in 1965 with a degree in business administration.

He said his most memorable experience was when he helped a young girl named Elaine Urck who was 11 years old. She had bone cancer on her cervical spine, and the doctors, he said, were afraid because surgery would leave her neck in such a fragile state that if she were to vomit she would break her neck.

He came into the picture when he had a medicine to eliminate the vomiting so she would be able to have the surgery and tolerate the chemotherapy.

"Fifteen years later she is still cancer free," Ingram said.

He started his career as a sales representative in the pharmaceutical industry. On Jan. 18, Ingram accepted the King Legacy award honoring his efforts in national and international service on behalf of GSK.

Ingram's closing remarks were lessons he had learned along the way.

"I've learned the best classroom is at the feet of an elderly person, and all the happiness occurs during the climb," Ingram said.



DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY JOSH REELEY

## Measuring up

Four different companies try to decide what bid they will set in Carman Hall on Wednesday morning. They are bidding on replacing the doors with doors that will be capable of accepting ID cards instead of keys and extending the foyer to meet Americans with Disabilities Act standards.

# Senate approves budget

By Brian O'Malley  
STUDENT GOVERNMENT EDITOR

The Student Senate approved Student Government's proposed budget for next year to be presented Thursday to the Apportionment Board.

Student Body President Caleb Judy planned out the budget that he will present to AB Thursday, and he said next year's budget will be more expensive than last year's.

The budget was approved at \$37,214 after senate agreed to add \$3,000 to help Lisa Flann, student vice president for student affairs, pay for Unity Week to happen later in the semester.

Members of the senate asked why so much money was needed, and Student Senate Speaker George Lesica said they did not have to spend it all.

"Just because it's in our budget does not mean we have to spend

the money," Lesica said. "If we don't spend it, it goes back to AB."

Flann said last year EIUnity, a group that promotes unity on campus, helped her fund Unity Week by giving \$3,000.

"EIUnity paid for part of it," she said. "The entire event cost \$6,000."

After the addition was approved, a motion to add \$800 to send the student vice president for academic affairs to the Conference on Academic Integrity was denied, because senate members said it did not benefit enough people.

Amanda Sartore, student vice president for academic affairs, said the conference is important because it focuses on academic dishonesty.

"It's all about cheating and plagiarism, so it is important," Sartore said.

Last year, Sartore and another senate member went to the confer-

ence and had to ask Housing and Shirley Stewart, vice president for student affairs, to help with the funds.

Senate member Ryan Berger said it shouldn't be added into the budget because the students were still funded to go last year.

"It hasn't been a issue in the past," Berger said. "It's \$800 for impacting one student."

Larry Ward, AB chair and student vice president for financial affairs, said if the money is needed later in the semester, senate members can ask for an allocation from AB.

The senate also approved senate member Matt Kulp as the chair of the committee on Housing, which is the last senate committee that needed a chair.

The Student Senate meets at 7 p.m. Wednesday in the Arcola/Iuscola Room of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

# Career Guide Coming Soon.....

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### Strange: The Charleston resident worked for 18 years in Eastern's dining services

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

on Dec. 11, he had a 361-word response letter written by early morning.

Caruso wrote: "In then end, the only conclusion I can make is that you gesticulate wildly, frantically waving your arms in the air screaming 'look at me, look what I can write.'" Well, with all your vocabulary and word use, you have gained our attention, but have lost out by forgetting the fundamentals of an argument: a clear, concise point."

Although Strange says his Marxist beliefs rule everywhere he goes, he is not overt in spreading his message lobbying instead for small group discussions.

"I can read people," Strange said. "When I see that I have are uncomfortable with what I people are, I back off."

Beverly Sterling, the residence hall food services director when Strange worked there said: "He was very careful what he added around me, but around students he did speak a little more. I loved to get him to argue and talk to him, his written words."

But it's his written words that leave readers shaking their heads. Shock, confusion and anger are common emotions because Strange writes with the specific purpose of generating more questions than answers.

"Bye's not after the majority opinion," said Rob Woods, owner of Strange's Dry Cleaning where Strange has worked for the last 10 years.

"He's safer the people who can understand what he's saying in those letters. He's after those people, who when they read the letter it makes them think about that topic."

### Strange's father active in socialist party

When Strange worked by a Marxist, his message comes from a childhood raised in poverty, and by a father who was active in the Socialist Party.

He was born in 1934 and raised in Terra Haute, Ind., during the worst

years of the Great Depression. His father was a union worker, a laborer, who knew Eugene Debs, a native of Terra Haute, and a well-known Socialist who ran and lost for the U.S. presidency in 1912.

In school, Strange said there was the well dressed, the not-so-well dressed and then people like himself.

"When you're poor and all ragged and dirty and hungry that's all within one," Strange said. "But when you can see that in the social stratum of your environment, then you learn something. If you don't know you're being offered, and someone tells you that and you begin to examine that, then you understand where you are."

What Strange learned was the gap between the rich and poor. His confidence in capitalism lessened because he didn't think people like himself had much of a shot. That is why Strange is so opposed to the war with Iraq and grilled Cougill on the \$16 million spent on a new water treatment plant.

People at the bottom of the economic system tend to drift toward Marxism, a more advanced version of communism, said Dave Carwell, an assistant professor of political science.

"Marxism explains why you're poor, they're rich and why no matter what you do you're going to be poor," said Carwell, who discusses this topic in his third world political ideologies class. "They believe the economic system is fixed."

At 12, Strange joined the workforce pushing a three-wheel pushcart and selling ice cream. Two years later, he worked at a service station, and two years after that he celebrated the sweet 16 by dropping out of high school and running away from home.

Textbooks were too expensive, and his father was too abusive.

Strange's mother convinced him to return home after two years. By then, his father drank too much and couldn't maintain a full-time job. The financial burden would eventually fall on Strange's shoulders to support his wife and children and his parents.

"It's not one of those sympathetic stories. I don't want to portray it as that," Strange said. "Most people will respond that way. You do that you must when that's the situation you're confronted by. And that's kind of the way my political life turned out, too. You're confronted with those things and you need answers. You seek them, and you can find them if you

look enough, long enough." His interest in Marxism gained momentum in his mid-20s after he began reading Marx's books. Working at night as a truck driver, Strange reflected on his readings while on the road. It was how he dealt with the silence, as the trucks back then, he said, didn't have radios.

Strange desired more job stability and accepted a job at Eastern in dining services. For 18 years, he muffled his true thoughts and beliefs fearing a reduction in job security.

"Everyone I think sort of expected what he was going to say," said Sterling, an employee at Eastern for 40 years. "You took it all with a grain of salt."

### Who is Michael Strange?

Who is Michael Strange? He is a man with five daughters and two sons, who loathes the role of money in today's society. His house serves as the grand example of his thriftiness. Strange rummaged through the dumpsters and attended auctions to piece together the core pieces that built his home.

The wooden floor in one room came from two houses that were torn down so E.L. Kracker's could be built. The drywall, at the university's consent, was taken from the area where the Gregg Triad computer lab now resides.

About money, Strange said "It's a trick. Trickery. We have been tricked big time with the aid of all the social morality. We have been told members of the culture that you must have money."

Strange gladly admits he saved paying for his house three times over by building the house over a 12-year span. He had more time than money.

Who is Michael Strange? He is a man who doesn't salute the American flag. Instead, he salutes a red one; because, red symbolizes humanity. He practices Marxist-Leninism communism.

"Patriotism is a horrible thing if you really think about it," he said. Who is Michael Strange?

He is a man who expresses himself through writing. "I think everything in that Mike writes about is pure Mike Strange," Woods said.

### Parking: Seventh Street would inevitably become one-way street

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of some traffic through the new lights on Ninth Street. After the lights on Ninth Street work reliably, Seventh Street is going to be changed into a one-way street with the traffic leading southbound. "The majority of buildings on Ninth Street are rental student buildings and private houses next to the businesses, Family Video, Gasland and Jitters & Bliss."

"I definitely think that it will help our business," said Family Video manager Dan Chatman. "The majority of buildings on Ninth Street are rental student buildings and private houses next to the businesses, Family Video, Gasland and Jitters & Bliss."

"I don't really know. Usually we are pretty busy... and I hope it will work out well for our business but we don't know for sure," said Andrew Schneirs, Gasland employee.

Many businesses on Lincoln Avenue have similar opinions of the effects it will have. "The majority of buildings on Ninth Street are rental student buildings and private houses next to the businesses, Family Video, Gasland and Jitters & Bliss."

Students parking in front of Old Main or across will have to put up with available parking lots after changes are made.

### Meth:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Central Illinois Task Force, 75-80 percent are meth-related, he said.

Guess said that the task force will receive \$10,000 in advance funds for the purchase of illegal drugs and \$45,000 for reimbursement for expected overtime put in by members of the task force.

Guess said that the task force participates in two of the three-pronged offensive.

The task force will participate in the enforcement process by using funds to purchase illegal drugs and arrest sellers. The force will also participate in the prevention process through educational presentations to civic organizations as well as parent groups.

Two forums will be held February 5 to inform local communities on drug abuse. The first forum will be from 3:30-5:00 p.m. at the Sangamon Auditorium at the University of Illinois-Springfield.

The other forum will be held from 1:00-3:00 p.m. at the Levis Family Center at the University of Illinois-Urbana/Champaign.

Another forum is scheduled for 6:00 p.m., February 13, in the Carbondale Civic Center.

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4 Novelto  
5 Zool. of astron.  
8 Stiffness  
14 Street crossing  
15 Hollywood  
15 Razer-billed  
16 "Yeah, right!"  
17 X, for one  
18 Coast Guard rank: Abbr.  
19 One on the go  
20 Juicy fruit  
23 Hackneyed  
24 Took surreptitiously  
25 1953 Jean Simmons title role  
27 Discumber

**DOWN**  
28 Lighting bolts, in Germany  
32 Sirens, e.g.  
33 Fish eaten whole  
37 W. II map. Abbr.  
38 It comes to mind  
39 Owner of eight other answers in this puzzle  
40 Daring  
41 1960's Ralph Ginzburg magazine  
41.....  
42 Lincoln and Ford  
43 E a poor public speaker  
44 Cavorer  
46 Split into title role  
47 Prefix with meter

**48 Wild ones**  
52 Zulu, for one  
55 The Tigers  
57 Good-for-nothing  
59 Cable inits.  
60 Forever, (1996 humor book)  
61 California's Pass  
62 Take in  
63 One who waits in ambush  
64 Split-second  
65..... favor  
66 Stuff

**DOWN**  
1 Several czars  
2 Female fox  
3 Opposite of neat  
4 Stopping-off place  
5 Like some ground  
6 Matchmaker  
7 Religious image: Var.  
8 Tuff  
9 A'ha!  
10 Basketball datum  
11 German valley  
12 Chief Big Bear, for one  
13 Reindeer group  
21 Parallel

22 Rodgers' field, once  
26.....  
29 Cinder\* (old comic)  
30 School attended by Ian Fleming  
31 Rudolph's beacon  
32 It of a shock?  
33 Musk or must  
34 City near Phoenix  
35 Subordinate bureaucrat  
36 On a phone  
39 Mince meat ingredient  
40 Two-time U.S. Open winner  
42 Criminal defendant, with "the"  
43 Therefore:  
44 Fr.  
45 Nil  
46 Alleria  
48 Photocopy precursor  
50 Cleaning brand  
51 Net  
52 What gymnast's show off, slangily  
53 On  
54 Reindeer team, counting Rudolph  
56 Sound gravely  
58 Suffix with muck

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEF

# Court rules on civil unions

**BOSTON (AP)** — The Massachusetts high court ruled Wednesday that only full, equal marriage rights for gay couples are constitutional, clearing the way for the nation's first same-sex marriages in the state as early as May.

"The history of our nation has demonstrated that separate is not equal," wrote Justice John G. Roberts in the majority opinion, which the four justices who ruled in favor of gay marriage wrote in the advisory opinion requested by the state Senate.

After seven gay couples sued in 2001, the Supreme Judicial Court ruled in November that gay couples have a constitutional right to marry, and gave the Legislature six months to change state laws to make it happen.

The vague wording of the ruling leaves lawmakers uncertain if Vermont-style civil unions would

satisfy the court's decision.

The Massachusetts court said any civil unions bill that falls short of marriage would establish an "unconstitutional, inferior, and discriminatory status for same-sex couples."

The state Senate asked for more guidance from the court, whose advisory opinion was made public Wednesday morning when it was read into the Senate record.

The much-anticipated opinion sets the stage for next Wednesday's constitutional convention, where the Legislature will consider an amendment that would legally define marriage as a union between one man and one woman. Without the opinion, Senate President Robert Travaglini had said the vote would be delayed.

The amendment a constitutional amendment could end up on the

ballot would be 2006, meaning that until then the high court's decision will be Massachusetts law no matter what is decided at the constitutional convention.

"We've heard from the court, but not from the people," Gov. Mitt Romney said in a statement. "The people of Massachusetts should not be excluded from a decision as fundamental to our society as the definition of marriage."

Travaglini said he wanted time to talk with fellow senators before deciding what to do next.

"I want to have everyone stay in an objective and calm state as we plan and define what is the appropriate way to proceed," Travaglini said.

Conservative leaders said they were not surprised by the advisory opinion, and vowed to redouble their efforts to pass the constitutional amendment.

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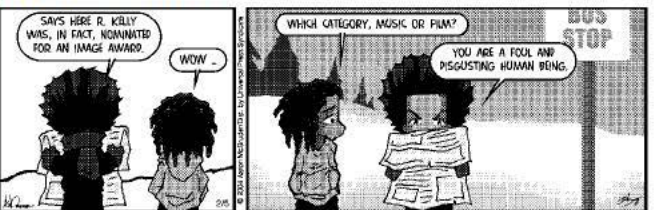
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## Recruits:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

didn't think we'd have a chance at him but we're more than thrilled to have him," Bellantoni said.

Whoever lines up under center next season for the Panthers may have a list of receivers to throw to in the future.

Wide receiver Terrance Williams out of Miami, Fla might turn some heads as Bellantoni stated he has the size and the speed to compete at the Division I-AA level.

"Terrance has big size for a receiver and has all the tools," Bellantoni said. "He played behind guys in high school that are at big time I-A schools and really came up on his own as a player."

Wide receiver Alicus Nozinger signed with Eastern after receiving offers from I-A and Mid-American Conference Miami of Ohio. The 6-foot-1, 188-pound receiver from Delray Beach, Fla. chose Eastern for the family ties in the Panther football program.

"Alicus is the cousin of (current Eastern linebacker) Lucius Pusey and he's another one we really didn't think we had a shot at," Bellantoni said.

Eastern finally declared what everybody in the Coles County area already knew when they announced the signing of running back D.J. Walker. It was confirmed Tuesday that Walker had made a verbal commitment to Eastern but...

"Everybody in the area knows the talent of D.J. and (Offensive line coach) Mark Hutson did really well to recruit him for us," Flinn said.

Eastern signed a signal caller to possibly compete with Andrew Harris and Andy Vincent for the starting quarterback job.

Quarterback Josh Moll out of Crestwood, Ken., signed with Eastern after breaking schools records for passing yards in a game (533), season (3169), career (6258), career touchdown passes (44) and was a three year starter at South Oldham High School.

Carr was unable to state whether or not Moll would be the starter on opening week.

"He'll get an opportunity but you just never know until they show up at camp and we see what they can do," Carr said.

Spoos and company beamed up special teams with the signing of a dual threat kicker in Oregon High School product Jander Gorzny who will compete for the starting punter and kicker for the Panthers.

The All-State selection will battle with Steve Kuehn and Matt Johann for the kicking responsibility and fight with Tom Schofield for the punting duties.

"We have to improve in the kicking game because that's how we win ball games and he will be giving an opportunity at both positions to earn a spot," Spoo said.

With 22 players signed Wednesday and another seven open scholarships available to more freshman or junior college transfers, the class of 2004 could be the most talented bunch in years but there's no doubt in the numbers being large.

"This is the largest group we signed in many years," Spoo said.

Last year's class will turn out to be beneficial this year and it's just too early to evaluate this group right now," Bellantoni said. "We hope some of them specifically on the defensive line can come in and contribute right away."

## FOOTBALL

## Number of Chicago players almost doubles

By Dan Renick  
STAFF WRITER

Eastern's football team picked up recruits from an annually updated resource on Wednesday's NCAA national signing day.

Of the 22 football players that signed with head coach Bob Spoo and the Panthers, six of them are Chicago area high school alumni. While Spoo is a Chicago product himself, hailing from St. Rita High School, the Panthers have only nine players on their current roster from the area. Last year Eastern didn't have any recruits from Chicago.

"We were recommended to focus on the Illinois product by (associate athletic director) John Spoo," Spoo said. "We're doing better recruiting up in Chicago with (assistant coaches) Jon Carr and Derrick Jackson.

All of the recruits came from positions Spoo and his coaching staff expressed concern in, wide receivers and defensive linemen.

## BASKETBALL

## Murray State coach proves versatile

◆ *First year coach's strong recruiting signals positive future for Racers*

By John Hohenadel  
SPORTS REPORTER

First year Murray State men's basketball head coach, Mick Cronin, has continued with the winning tradition he has learned from future hall of fame coaches Rick Pitino and Bob Huggins.

Cronin came to the Racers from the University of Louisville, where he was Rick Pitino's assistant coach, on April 5, 2003. Before that he was the University of Cincinnati's recruiting coordinator in which he signed four players who went on to play in the NBA.

In Cronin's first full year with the Cardinals, he helped attract a recruiting class rated among the nation's top ten.

This wasn't a new experience for Cronin. During Cronin's six years as recruiting coordinator at the Division I level, every one of his

recruiting classes has been ranked in the top 10 nationally by one major recruiting service or another.

In his second year with the Cardinals they went 25-7 on the season and were ranked as high as No. 2 in the nation. One of the key contributors was Cronin's signee, Francisco Garcia, who was honored with the Conference USA freshman of the year award.

This year was a different experience for Cronin.

He was used to recruiting the nation's top 50 high school basketball players. Needless to say, Murray State does not have as much to offer, basketball wise, as does a Louisville or a Cincinnati.

"We're obviously not recruiting the same guys," Cronin said. "The pool of guys is a lot bigger and at the other two schools it's necessary to get All-Americans."

Cronin said there is a lot more evaluating to be done at Murray State as opposed to the other two universities.

He said the way to be suc-

cessful in the OVC is to out-smart opposing programs with his evaluating skills and hard work.

Although Cronin has inherited most of Tevester Anderson's team, he has already brought in some guys of his own who are making great contributions.

Two of those contributors are Fort Scott Community College (Kansas) transfer, Kelvin Brown and Vincennes University (Indiana) transfer, Adam Chiles.

Brown is second on the Racers in points per game with 14.5 and Chiles is fourth on the team with 10.9 points per game and also leads the team in assists and steals.

More impressive, perhaps, is the fact Cronin was able to integrate Brown and Chiles into a starting five with three seniors.

"We rarely start the same five players," Cronin said. "We really play nine sometimes ten guys."

Brown and Chiles aren't the only players Cronin has brought into Murray State. He has three other players, who

will have to wait until next year to play for the Racers.

One of the three is junior college transfer, Pearson Griffith, who one recruiting service ranked the No. 8 junior college center in the country prior to his sophomore season.

The other two players Cronin recruited, Keith Jenifer and Trey Pearson both come to the Racers from more recognizable Division I basketball programs.

Jenifer comes from the University of Virginia, where he played all 29 games. Pearson comes from Ole Miss, where he started 24 games as a true freshman.

Cronin seems to have the Racers moving in the right direction as their record of 17-4 shows.

"The players have to believe in their team goals and their coach," Cronin said.

"I've been fortunate enough to put together a group of unselfish individuals to make a team.

"Individuals don't win games," Cronin said. "Teams win games."

## Eastern Illinois University

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**MEN'S BASKETBALL**

# Losing streak at seven as Cats host Racers

By Evan Bernier  
STAFF WRITER

There is no place like home and that certainly will be the case for the Eastern men's basketball team tonight against Murray State.

"It is always good to be back at Lantz playing in front of the home crowd," Eastern head coach Rick Samuels said.

The Panthers return to Lantz Arena winless after a tough four game road trip that took them to Ohio Valley Conference leader Austin Peay along with three other schools in the top half of the OVC.

Eastern will be looking to snap a seven game OVC skid that has seen them go winless since their last victory over Tennessee Tech which opened OVC play on Jan. 8.

The Panthers will host perennial conference powerhouse Murray State, which enters the contest 7-1 in OVC play and 17-4 overall. The Racers 7-1 conference mark is good for second place behind undefeated Austin Peay.

Despite losing the last seven games, Samuels remains upbeat.

"The kids are continuing to play hard, and they have not given up," Samuels said. Samuels has also seen some improvement among a few key individuals.

"Derik Holyfield has made some good plays recently and stepped up and Jessie (Mackinnon) has played solidly," Samuels said.

Eastern trails the all time series against

Murray State 20-7 and has fallen the last five times to the Racers, including the last two years to them in the OVC tournament.

"(Thursday) against Murray State we are going to need to have our best total game," Samuels said. "We are looking for anyone that can to step up for us."

Samuels stressed that rebounding and taking care of the ball against Murray State are two keys.

"Against Murray State it will be important to keep them from getting second chance opportunities, and we also have to do a good job of taking care of the ball," Samuels said.

Even though the Panthers have not been able to string together a OVC winning streak this year, Samuels will be looking to the Murray State game to swing momentum.

"With a win against Murray State there is no question that game would change the momentum of our season," Samuels said. "A victory tomorrow would put us in a much better position to get into the OVC tournament."

Right now, the Panthers are not eligible for the OVC tournament at the end of the season as the season comes to a close, Eastern could make a push to get themselves back into the tournament.

If the Panthers don't improve over the final nine games in the OVC standings, this will be the first year that Eastern does not participate in the post-season tournament since their induction in the conference in 1996-1997.



Junior guard Derek Holyfield and the Panthers will look to end their seven-game losing streak against Murray State. DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY STEPHEN HAAS

**Renick:**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

wrestling. It's man-to-man, nose to the grinding stone nonstop action.

Outside of Ziminski, who said earlier this year he's wants to be an All-American before he leaves, there is a pair of seniors who are also hoping to light up the mat on their way to the NCAA Nationals. Pat Dowty (16-7) wrestles 133 pounds and is a two-time NCAA qualifier and Matt Veech

(22-4) wrestles 165 pounds and is on the prowl for his first NCAA qualification since transferring from national powerhouse Iowa State 2 years ago.

The panthers also have a pair of red-shirts that look to have promising futures wearing the silver and blue. Junior Jim Kassner, in his return to the line up at 197 pounds after a season ending injury last year, is boasting an 18-12 record this season. Freshman Kenny Robertson started his career off on the right foot with a 24-15 record at 174 pounds this season.

Maybe the excitement level isn't the problem, and it's the lack of knowledge about the sport of wrestling. In most of Illinois, wrestling is pushed to the side for more main stream sports like basketball, and not many people ever get to see wrestling matches. But like anything else, the best way to learn is by watching, and what do you know there just happens to be a big meet coming up this weekend for the Panthers. Eastern will welcome in-state rival Northern Illinois to Lantz Arena Friday night at 7 p.m. in hopes to snap a

four game losing streak. The Panthers have some bad blood with the Huskies, who have apparently lured recruits away from Eastern, Kassner said.

"Beating Northern is the only thing I care about for the rest of the year," Kassner said. So this is your chance to get out and cheer on the Panthers in one of their biggest matches of the year, and possibly find an alternative to the 1987 World Professional Billiards Championship that's being re-run on ESPN.

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# SPORTS

Panther sports calendar			
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FRIDAY	Track & Field at Indiana	throughout day	
	M Tennis at IPPW	8 p.m.	
	W Tennis at IPPW	6 p.m.	
	Wrestling vs. N. Illinois	7 p.m.	Lantz Arena

## Strog recruiting class elates Spoo

By Matthew Stevens  
SPORTS EDITOR

Eastern officially welcomed 22 new players to its football program Wednesday afternoon as the coaching staff announced the recruiting class of 2004.

Panthers head coach Bob Spoo and his staff were thrilled with the talent they were able to sign including five running backs, four defensive linemen, four wide receivers, three linebackers and two offensive linemen.

"It's a well rounded list of signees," Spoo said. "We're confident we are providing some great competition for our current players on the roster."

Coming off its first sub .500 year in three years, the Panthers were proud of their performance in getting the specific positions they targeted in December which were running back and defensive line.

"We were thrilled to get so many good players at the defensive line position



because it's so hard to acquire talent there; because, everybody is looking for that," Spoo said.

It was the first season for assistant coach Brian Flinn as recruiting coordinator for Eastern and his boss had nothing but good things to say

about Flinn's performance.

"Brian should be commended for coordinating the recruiting efforts as he did with everybody else in evaluating the players we signed today," Spoo said.

An assumption could be made that the hiring of offen-

sive coordinator John Carr and defensive line coach Derrick Jackson means the beginning of laying a pipeline down in the Windy City.

"I think that's absolutely true, and I'm happy with the job they both did in Chicago and being a product of there myself it's good to see them coming back to Eastern again," Spoo said.

Eastern was able to land four Chicagoland area recruits and another six players from the state of Florida.

Defensive coordinator Roc Bellantoni made another impression in the Sunshine state by landing some nationally recognized talent.

The cream of the crop could be running back Norris Smith out of Ely High School in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Smith was ranked as one of the best tailbacks in the nation according to several recruiting rankings.

"Norris was rated as a Top 50 running back according to Rivals.com, and we honestly

SEE RECRUITS ♦ Page 10

### More Inside

♦ A close look at the Chicagoland recruits  
Page 10

### WHO HAS COMMITTED



### WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

## Cats home after road-trip split

By Matthew Stevens  
SPORTS EDITOR

Eastern will look to wash the taste of the 20-point Jacksonville State loss out of its mouth as the Panthers return home to face Murray State.

After four straight road games, Eastern returns to Lantz Arena after going 2-2 on the road trip that included wins over Ohio Valley Conference leader Austin Peay and Samford.

### More Inside



♦ Cats try to end basketball-losing streak at Seven  
Page 11

"I can handle us splitting the road trip, but I feel like we could've given a better effort against Jacksonville State," Eastern head coach Linda Wunder said.

The Panthers (6-13, 3-5) held a one point lead midway through the first half, but the Gamecocks scored 17 unanswered, handing Eastern an 80-60 loss.

"They got on a roll like good teams tend to do and we just didn't fight back," Wunder said.

Wunder has had the recent advantage of the visitors walking into Lantz Arena. The Panthers have won the past two meetings against the Racers (8-11, 4-4) as Eastern won 52-47 last season without junior center Pam O'Connor.

"They have put out a very historically successful program over the years," Wunder said.

"I should be an exciting contest." O'Connor will look to get the ball in the post against the vastly undersized Racers who only start one player taller than 5-foot-9.

The inside combination of O'Connor, who is averaging 16.6 points per game, and freshman Megan Soggs will look to dominate the experience of the Racers' senior Stacy Holmes and junior Kaleena Miller.

The key for Eastern will be to keep its turnover ratio in the positive category. Eastern recorded at least 18 turnovers in eight of the first 10 games. Since OVC play began, Eastern has had just one game with over 20 turnovers and averages 15.5 per game.

Murray State is coming off a two-game home stand where they blew out Eastern Kentucky 81-56 but fell to Morehead State 61-58 even though the Racers forced 22 Eagles turnovers. The Racers will rely on the perimeter play of Megan Fuqua who is averaging 10.5 points per game.

This is a crucial conference game for the Panthers because it's a contest against a foe in that tight group between third and ninth in the OVC.



"We need to take care of business at home and against teams in the same pack as us," Wunder said.

Traditionally, the second-largest attendance for the women's squad at Lantz Arena is the

contest against Murray State. Wunder expects a hostile environment to be a factor.

"We hope people will show up early and get involved in the atmosphere we're trying to create here," Wunder said.



### TWO POINT CONVERSION

Dan Renick  
STAFF WRITER

## Wrestling's take-down rivals others

How "bout this?" It's the weekend, and you're hoping to get your normal dose of athletic driven testosterone boost from a couple hours of camping out in front of the TV and watching ESPN deliver the best of college and professional athletics. But oh no. All that's on is the national curling finals.

Well, there are plenty of athletics right here at Eastern, as I'm sure you all know, and they all seem to be in need of more Panther pride cheering them on in the stands. While most people would like to go see a basketball game, Eastern's sub-par season has provided little excitement for the campus, but that isn't the only winter sport. There is of course swimming, indoor track and, my favorite, wrestling.

The normal response to wrestling is "two sweaty guys in spandex rolling around on the ground." Sounds a little... questionable. Tell that to heavyweight Pete Ziminski, who stands about 6'5" and weighs a little less than 285 pounds and has thrashed his way to a 29-10 record this season. The truth is, while Eastern's injury depleted wrestling team (4-8) may be having a below average year as a team, like men's basketball, there is still a chance to see some great competitors in action, and there is, in my opinion, no better sport than wrestling when it comes down to one-on-one competition.

Unlike other team sports where coaches can adjust strategies to cover up weaknesses, there's no hiding in

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