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

SPORTS ♦ Softball team drops a doubleheader: page 12

THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

VOLUME 91, ISSUE 56

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90th Anniversary

Eastern Illinois University, Charleston

THURSDAY
APRIL
6
2006

ILLINOIS BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Eastern has new nursing program

BY SARAH WHITNEY
MANAGING EDITOR

The Illinois Board of Higher Education approved Eastern's proposed nursing program at its meeting on Tuesday.

"Obviously, I'm pleased we have succeeded in moving this new degree program through the final approval stage," said Blair Lord, Eastern provost and vice president for academic affairs.

The program will create a partnership with local community colleges and Lakeview College of Nursing to provide continuing education for registered nurses.

Upon completion of the four-semester program, Eastern will award students with a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing.

IBHE approved the program without providing any additional funding.

"The IBHE made it clear from the outset that

it had no way to provide or ensure any state funding; hence, we were told not to ... request any," Lord said. "It is up to us to secure needed funds from public and/or private sources. We are working actively on both fronts."

Don Sevener, IBHE Director of external affairs, said in an E-mail that there was no special funding recommended in its budget for the nursing program because of the state's tight fiscal condition.

Despite this, the board still recognizes the importance of Eastern offering a baccalaureate degree in nursing option.

"The program was approved by the Board because a) there is a demonstrated need for additional nurses in the state, given the present and projected future shortage of nurses, and b) the EIU program was deemed to have merit," Sevener wrote.

State Rep. Chapin Rose (R-Mahomet) said he

was unsure about the program's chances of receiving funding from the state this year in the Capital Bill because Gov. Rod Blagojevich was in Springfield today for the first time since January. However, he expects that if Eastern were to get money it would be for equipping the Doudna Fine Arts building before the nursing program.

There are about 1,800 practicing registered nurses who hold associate-level degrees in the EIU area, according to Eastern's program proposal presented to IBHE. Also, less than 15 percent of area nurses have bachelor's degrees, far lower than the state average of 30 percent, and lower still than the average at model nursing departments in recognized hospitals, which is 55 percent.

"One of the charges we have as a regional comprehensive university in Illinois is to meet the professional needs of citizens of Illinois because we know that there's a shortage of nurs-

es and a shortage of baccalaureate prepared nurses in this part of the state and that is how this program is going to fill that void," said Mary Anne Hanner, dean of the College of Sciences under which the nursing program would fall.

While University administrators are pleased with the programs passage, they still have many things complete before fall 2007, when nursing classes will start.

"The next step is to recruit and hire a founding director," Lord said.

Hanner, who is involved with the search committee for the director, said a director should be hired around July 1 this summer.

In addition to locating funding for the program, developing the curriculum, becoming accredited, and arranging partnerships with local health care providers needs to be accomplished before classes can start, Lord said.



CARRIE HOLLIS/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

The Sigma Chi Big Men's coach urges on a teammate during their tug against Sigma Pi Wednesday afternoon at the Campus Pond. Sigma Chi won the tug and advanced on to the third round on Friday.

Sigma Chi tugs to third round

BY MICHELLE SIMEK
STAFF REPORTER

The Sigma Pi, Lambda Chi Alpha, Sigma Phi Epsilon and Sigma Chi are the only four competitors remaining in second day of little men tugs after their victory Wednesday at the Campus Pond.

Tugs has been a long time tradition at Eastern and is one of the most talked about competitions during Greek Week.

Little men tugs consists of teams of ten players who must weigh under 175lbs. each to compete. Players must drag at least three players into

the pond to win.

Paul Sanders, a freshman marketing major and member of Lambda Chi, found interest in tugs because it looked really fun. Practicing since the end of January almost every day for at least an hour, Sanders was excited to compete.

"Whoever wins gets bragging rights," Sanders said.

The second installment of the competition drew a large crowd around the campus pond even though the conditions were extremely muddy.

Sigma Nu and Sigma Pi decked out in their lettered T-shirts and colored socks were the first

to compete. After all requirements were met and the gunshot rang through the sky causing a cloud of smoke the crowd cheered the teams on.

In less that a minute, Sigma Nu was helplessly dragged into the pond as the third man in hung himself completely above water clenching onto the rope.

After such a fast heat, Andre Schaefer, a freshman physical therapy major and member of Sigma Nu, was not disappointed in their loss.

"I feel fine because were proud that we

State budget to go before senate

\$1,000 tax credit for B-students proposed

BY KAYLA CROW
ADMINISTRATION EDITOR

Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich's proposed fiscal year 2007 budget will go in front of the Illinois General Assembly for approval before it adjourns on April 12.

It is adjourning early this year, so the members can start campaigning for the upcoming election.

Tuition Tax Increase

The governor's proposed budget includes incentives for higher education in the state.

One of the main issues in the budget includes a \$1,000 tuition tax credit for all students in their first two years of college who maintain a B average. According to the budget released by the governor's office, more than 150,000 students are expected to qualify for the program.

The credit program would be funded by the sale of student loans that the governor is working on. The sale would not affect students receiving loans, representatives at the governor's office has said.

In a letter released on Feb. 14, nine presidents of public universities, including Eastern President Lou Hencken, expressed their support for the governor's plan for the tax credit and the sale of student loans.

"We also support your proposal of a College Tuition Tax Credit that returns to our students and their families a portion of their own investment in higher education," the letter states. "It is particularly pleasing to



HOLLY HENSCHEN
POLITICAL SCIENCE
GRADUATE STUDENT

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KYLE MAYHUGH
SENIOR
JOURNALISM MAJOR

"With fists of cash, Blago starts governing."

Governor Blagojevich finally got around to governing this week and his budget proposals are spend-tastic fun.

WTF?

Liquor good for plants?

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ITHACA, N.Y. - For home gardeners who don't want their flowers to tip over, a Cornell University horticulturist thinks he has the answer: Get the flowers a little tipsy with some hard liquor.

Giving some plants diluted alcohol - whiskey, vodka, gin or tequila - stunts the growth of a plant's leaves and stems but doesn't affect the blossoms, said William Miller, director of Cornell's Flower Bulb Research Program.

Miller reported his findings in the April issue of HortTechnology, a peer-reviewed journal of horticulture.

"I've heard of using alcohol for lots of things ... but never for dwarfing plants," said Charlie Nardozzi, a senior horticulturist with the National Gardening Association, a Vermont-based organization that promotes plant-based education.

"It sounded weird when I first heard about it, but our members say it works. I'm going to try it next year, just for curiosity," Nardozzi added.

Miller's study focused on paperwhite narcissus and other daffodils, but he's also had promising results with tulips.

"I think with a little jiggering - no pun intended - the method will work for tulips, though I think it will not be as simple as with paperwhites," he said.

Miller began his investigation last year after receiving a call from *The New York Times* about a reader who had written to the garden editor claiming that gin had prevented some paperwhite narcissi from growing too tall and floppy and asked if it was because of some "essential oil" in the gin.

Intrigued that diluted alcohol might act as a growth retardant, Miller began conducting experiments with ethanol. Because hard liquor is easier for consumers to obtain, he switched to alcohol and began trying different kinds, including dry gin, unflavored vodka, whiskey, white rum, gold tequila and mint schnapps.

ON THE ROPES



JOHN BAILEY/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Firefighter James Calverk checks out the rigging after the basket containing firefighter Shane Stork got stuck between the top of Stevenson Tower and the ground. The Charleston Fire Department was training for rope rescues Wednesday afternoon.

FIVE-DAY WEATHER

TODAY	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
68	72	57	62	67
56 T-Storms	39 Chance rain	33 Mostly sunny	41 Sunny	46 Mostly clear

PODCAST of the WEEK
National Geographic Photographer
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COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY NEWS

SIUC aims to get more women

BY ANDREA ZIMMERMAN
DAILY EGYPTIAN (SOUTHERN ILLINOIS U.)

CARBONDALE - Southern Illinois University has a far lower percentage of women undergraduates than any other public university in Illinois, with the exception of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. On average, the percentage of women undergraduates at SIUC is 14 points lower. The University, whose undergraduate population is about 44 percent female, trails the state's leader, Chicago State University, by about 26 percent.

Carmen Suarez, coordinator for the office of Diversity and Equity, said the University has formed a new committee to investigate the discrepancies.

The committee, which Suarez said hopes to have completed its work by the fall semester, is one part of the chancellor's Reflective Responsive University Initiative. This plan aims to make the University population mirror the diversity of the state. Illinois' population is 51 percent female - comparable with the nation's average.

Suarez said the committee, in particular, will examine the disparity between the number of women admitted and those who end up enrolling at SIUC.

"It's about having a healthy institution," Suarez said. "(Having women students and professors) adds to the life of the University and intellectual diversity of the University.

"All of you are future leaders. If we are leaving any group behind, it is a detriment to all of us," she said.

While the committee will be forming its own recommendations, some solutions may be nearby in SIU's School of Law, Suarez said.

The law school's gender diversity had reached one of its lowest points in 2003 when women made up less than 30 percent of its first-year class. The school's newly appointed dean, Peter Alexander, acted on this disparity, which also existed for ethnicity.

Mike Ruiz, the school's director of admissions, said Alexander's attention to the subject is the reason the law school's first-year class has had a 14 percent increase in women enrollment this year.



EARLY HEADLINES

Listen to "Wake Up Live" with Rob and Jenn Monday through Friday for morning headlines on 88.9 or at weihitmix.net

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Eastern reps to return to Capitol on behalf of students

By LAUREN MOORE
STUDENT GOVERNMENT EDITOR

Andrew Berger, student executive vice president, will attend a press conference next Wednesday to speak on behalf of Eastern's Student Senate in regard to House Bill 4221.

After making a trip to Springfield Wednesday with the Student Action Team, Berger came back to the senate and said he was very disappointed.

"Obviously higher education is not a priority in the state," Berger said.

Gov. Blagojevich's proposal involves selling the student loan debt to help fund higher education and the College Tuition Tax Credit proposal which would give students or their parents a \$1,000 tax credit if the student is an underclassman with a "B" average.

Berger had previously written a letter to Blagojevich, which expressed his disagreement with the selling of the ISAC portfolio, and had gotten the support of senate members before sending the letter.

Berger said he contacted the presidents of the University of Illinois and Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, and he said he gained support from the College Democrats and College Republicans. He encouraged senate members to support the item so he could speak on behalf of Eastern students.

"This is to show our disapproval, and this is an expression of our distaste," Berger said. "As your executive vice president I'm asking (the) Student Government to support me."

External Affairs chair Ben Marcy, who also felt strongly about the issue, said the item was most likely the most important piece.

"We had to get this done tonight," Marcy said. "Good things can happen from this."

Berger said the sale will happen no matter what, but what he is looking to do is show that he is going to stand up for the students.

"This is our last resort," Berger said.

The item passed unanimously.

Senate members also passed the approval of budgets for Fiscal Year 2007 for the Student Recreation Center, the Apportionment Board, the Student Government and the University Board.

Fee increases for Health Service from \$75.90 to \$82.90 and the University Union from \$75.45 to \$77.70 were also passed.

Senate discussed and voted on parts of a bylaw change, but the remainder was tabled until next week.

As the women of Alpha Gamma Delta prepare for a Tugs match against Kappa Delta Wednesday, they wear on the back of their jerseys, in tribute, the name of one of their sisters who passed away.

JOHN BAILEY/
THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS



BIG MEN'S TUGS:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

improved and worked our hardest, he said.

Schaefer's teammate Derek Frank, a junior music education major, agreed with Schaefer because "our competition (Sigmus Pis) win every year," he said.

"We thought we had them on the snap," he said.

In the second heat the Pikes

lost to Lambda Chi after a short battle. Lambda Chi started off strong and remained united as they won by a landslide.

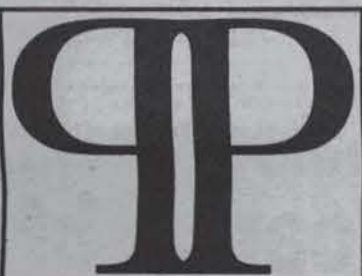
Sanders, who was out of breath, was thrilled at his team's victory but was upset because it was too muddy, he said.

The third heat Sigma Phi and Phi Kappa Theta battled it

out as Phi Kaps feet slipped smoothly through the mud as they slid into the lake.

Sigma Chi defeated Delta Tau Delta in the fourth and final heat that lasted only 35 seconds.

All winners will compete again in the little men tugs championship Saturday at 2 p.m. at Campus Pond.



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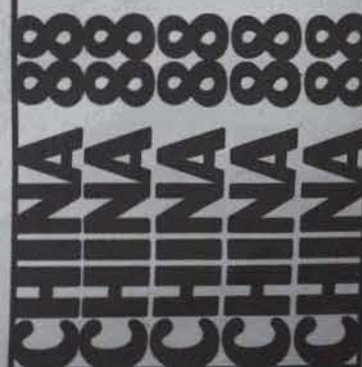
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OPINION

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

THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 2006

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COMMENTARY



MATT POLI
ACTIVITIES EDITOR

LET ME IN IMMIGRATION MAN

With all the protest rallies attracting millions of immigrants in major cities across the United States, it's no wonder lawmakers want to tighten security on the borders.

Now granted that most of these immigrants who are here illegally are hard working, decent people, but you cannot in good conscience call them honest.

They did not come to this country in an honest fashion by filling out the proper documentation to become American citizens. Rather, they crossed the border illegally from Canada and Mexico and dishonestly snuck into this country to bear children here whom will automatically become U.S. citizens.

With that plan, their U.S. citizen children will be entitled to the same benefits every citizen in America is guaranteed, such as health care and education.

There are roughly 11 million illegal immigrants – one third of whom are Mexican and the rest are from other countries around the world – which are living in this country.

When my grandfather wanted to come to this country from Cuba in the 1940s, he had to wait for three years before all of his paperwork could be processed. In addition, he had to have a U.S. citizen sponsor him in his citizenship, which entailed him to have a job already waiting for my grandfather when he moved here.

If the job fell through, the sponsor would have to support my grandfather so he wouldn't become a burden to the country. Also, he had to live in America for one year, separated from his wife in Cuba and maintain steady work.

I don't have a problem with a U.S. citizen reaping those benefits, but I do, however, have a problem with the people who essentially sponge off the system. These illegal immigrants do not pay taxes because they do not have valid documentation, so the people who do pay taxes are paying for these illegal aliens' children when they get sick.

Most of these illegal immigrants, in fact, purchase fake social security cards so they are able to work. And the argument that these people are taking the jobs that Americans do not want is simply untrue. I'm going to be graduating soon and I would be completely content working in a hotel, airport or hospital.

Of course, an employer doesn't want to hire a person like me, with a bachelor's degree, because that employer would have to pay me more money and give me benefits if I get injured on the job.

The reason some, if not most employers hire illegal immigrants to work for them is for the reasons that they can pay them less and make them work more and refuse them certain benefits if they get hurt on the job. Basically, employers treat these people like crap and, in turn, some of these people send their meager wages back to their country of origin for their families; it is not reinvested in the economy.

In a *Washington Times* article published Feb. 21, 2005, former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich called for "the United States to completely seal off its border along Mexico and Canada, deport illegal aliens within 72 hours of their arrest and exclude U.S. courts from reviewing such deportation."

Gingrich has recently appeared on cable news shows suggesting the same thing, except this time he added that they apply for a legal document and sign a contract to work here for a number of years, until they can legally become citizens of the United States.

I agree with Gingrich that we need tighter security on our borders, but I don't agree with completely sealing off our borders; immigration is what made this country what it is today.

But if the government does not pass stricter laws concerning immigration, we might find ourselves employing or harboring terrorists who came here illegally just like 10 million other people.

Poli, a senior journalism major, can be reached at DENactivities@gmail.com.

EDITORIAL CARTOON BY DAVID THILL



EDITORIAL

Students lose in sale of loan debt

As of Wednesday, it was proven that at least part of Illinois' student loan debt will be sold after all.

"This is going to happen," said Eastern Student Executive Vice President Andrew Berger. "There is no doubt in my mind that this sale is going to happen."

Currently, college students can take out loans from both state and federal loan programs. The Illinois state program is called the Illinois Student Assistance Commission. ISAC chairman Donald McNeil appeared before the state House Higher Education Committee Tuesday to discuss why the sale would work.

Berger, along with Eastern's student lobbying group, called the Student Action Team, traveled to Springfield to address the General Assembly about selling the student loan debt.

"The reason why this is such an important issue is that I think the Illinois State Legislature has forgotten about what the ISAC was created to serve – it was created to serve the students of Illinois," Berger said.

This entire situation is a loss for students and a win for politicians looking for an easy fix to their budget problems. The state budget and other state-funded programs should not be balanced at the students' expense. That shouldn't be how

At issue

A buyer for the student loan debt has been found, and its sale is almost definite.

Our stance

Selling the student loan debt is not the answer to the state's debt problems. But if it must be sold, the Senate should pass House Bill 4221, which will lock in current students' interest rates.

the state government should treat the student loan debt. But that is exactly what will happen, once this sale is made complete.

One small consolation for students in this whole political mess is House Bill 4221, or the Johnson Bill. It would amend the Higher Education Student Assistance Act, enabling stronger protection of current students' interest rates and loan terms when the debt is sold.

Unfortunately, the Illinois Senate could still fail college voters once again. The bill, which the Illinois House of Representatives passed in late February, has been locked up in the Senate rules committee since arrival. With the legislature's adjournment only a week away, on April 12, the chances of students getting this assurance is minimal.

The Senate needs to release the Johnson Bill from the rules committee for a vote. The legislature has already failed college students enough by allowing the sale of the debt to happen in the first place, despite several efforts by Berger and other public university Student Senate members' protests.

If this bill is not voted on before the Senate adjourns, they will make a bad situation even worse.

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

YOUR TURN: LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The staff at *The Daily Eastern News* wants to know what students think about current events, campus issues, college living and anything else.

Editorial cartoons run everyday, while guest columns run once a week on Wednesday. Anyone is welcome to write or draw a cartoon, but it is at the editor's discretion when to run the column or the cartoon.

COLUMNISTS NEEDED

Have an opinion? We want to hear it! *The Daily Eastern News* is looking for students interested in voicing opinions on campus, state, national and international issues through columns.

The DEN reserves Wednesday guest column spot for students, faculty and members of the community. Guest columns should be a minimum of 550 words.

CARTOONISTS WANTED

The DEN is interested in recruiting cartoonists that display artistic ability, particularly caricatures and tasteful humor as well as address campus issues. A grasp of the news and current events is necessary for cartoonists to be effective.

Columns, cartoons and letters can be submitted at room 1811 of Buzzard Hall.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: The Daily Eastern News accepts letters to the editor addressing local, state, national and international issues. They should be fewer than 250 words and include the authors' name, telephone number and address. Students should indicate their year in school and major. Faculty, administration and staff should indicate their position and department. Letters whose authors cannot be verified will not be printed. We reserve the right to edit letters for length. Letters can be sent to *The Daily Eastern News* at 1811 Buzzard Hall, Charleston IL 61920; faxed to 217-581-2923; or e-mailed to DENeic@gmail.com

Public voices concern for students to City Council

Former Eastern professor speaks out against proposed water/sewer ordinance

By KRISTEN LARSEN
CITY EDITOR

Ron Gholson, a former secondary education professor at Eastern for 25 years, spoke out about the ordinances discussed at the end of Tuesday night's City Council meeting.

He said it is not fair for students to deal with the additional fees they will have to pay.

"Everything is costing more; gas for my car, gas to heat my house and now water, yet I never got a raise in life," Gholson said.

Gholson explained that the council should be trying to help the residents of Charleston during this time of major price increase. In January, Gholson's heating bill went to \$201 from \$98 in December. He wrote to the U.S. Congress and spoke to the mayor and senator on how there should be forgiveness on late fees concerning water bills during the month of January through March because of

the increase in other utility bills.

The City Council placed on file all five ordinances so the public will have two weeks to react to them.

"When we have the opportunity to allow for public feedback and concern involving an ordinance, we like to place it on file," said council member Larry Rennels, who filled in for Mayor Inyart Tuesday night.

All five ordinances the council discussed involved water fees and billing. They not only affect the residents of Charleston, but also those students that live off campus.

The council placed on file an ordinance which will raise water/sewer rates 5.5 percent. After 1999, the council annually reviews the water and sewer rates after a 20-percent rise in 1999.

The council realized that fees being brought in did not cover the increasing cost to produce water for the community.

An ordinance to allow landlords to

"Everything is costing more; gas for my car, gas to heat my house and now water, yet I never got a raise in life."

RON GHOLSON, FORMER EASTERN PROFESSOR
SPEAKING ABOUT THE ADDITIONAL FEES STUDENTS MAY HAVE TO PAY WITH CHANGES TO CHARLESTON WATER AND SEWER ORDINANCES

pay a \$10 fee for a duplication of tenants' water bills along with a \$25 fee for water connection when a new account is opened was also placed on file. The \$10 fee will allow landlords to notice if a water bill is rising steadily is the result of a leak in the piping. This should allow the landlord to fix it before it becomes a big problem.

"It will allow landlords to monitor what they are legally responsible for," said City Attorney Brian Bower.

However, the \$25 water connection fee applies to residents who move into another house in town. It also applies every year to a student that

moves back into an apartment or house off campus.

"For someone who is working minimum wage, that is half the wages of an eight-hour day," Gholson said.

The clarification of language in Ordinance Title 2, Chapter 2C Public Health and Safety was also placed on file for public inspection. The ordinance clears up the redundancy of a \$25 fee on return checks. And also allows the water department to padlock a meter when the water is turned off or even pull out the meter if it is too old to be padlocked.

The council also placed on file for

public inspection a clarification of language of allowing the water department to change policies with the approval of the city manager. Currently any policy has to go through city council. Policies that could be changed could include changing the time when bills will be picked up or only allowing one check per bill.

However, any policy that might change rates for the consumer has to be passed through the city council. An ordinance also was placed on file for public inspection, which would remove water and sewer rates and billing responsibility from the city clerk and give them to the comptroller.

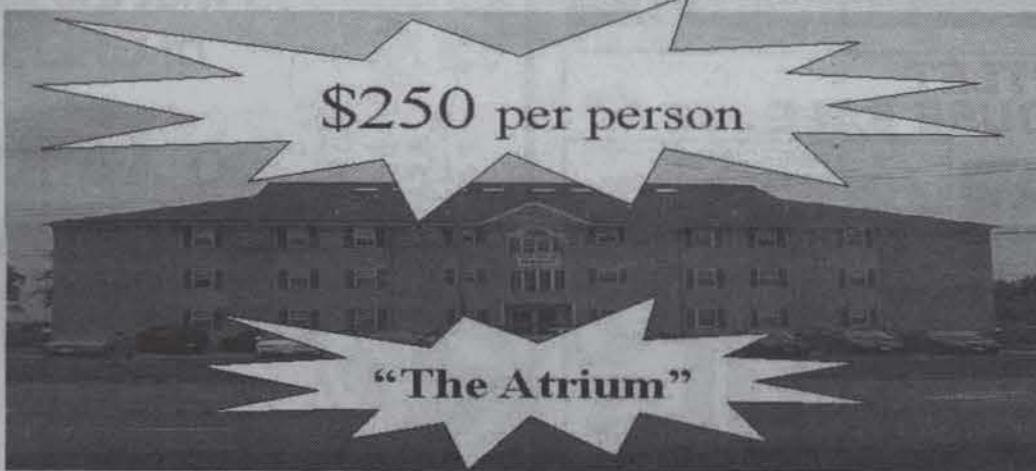
"This has already been changed but there has been no ordinance passed," Rennels said.

All the ordinances will be on file until the next city council meeting on April 18, when they will be voted on again.

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4:00 5:00 6:20 7:20 8:45 9:40

SLITHER (R) 4:40 7:30 9:50

LARRY THE CABLE GUY (PG13)
5:15 7:40 10:00

INSIDE MAN (R) 4:20 7:10 10:10

STAY ALIVE (PG13) 5:30 8:00 10:15

V FOR VENDETTA (R) 4:50 7:50

SHE'S THE MAN (PG13) 4:10 6:30 9:00

SHAGGY DOG (PG) 3:50 6:45 9:15

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EIGHT BELOW (PG) DAILY 6:45

THE HILLS HAVE EYES (R) DAILY 7:00

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State budget under debate

BUDGET:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to know that this new benefit would be available to students in community colleges, public universities and private institutions and in every stage of life."

State Rep. Chapin Rose (R-Mahomet) said he does not think selling student loans is a long-term way to pay for the tuition tax credit. He also said the loans should only be sold if they will benefit higher education.

"The only way this should be considered is if every last penny should go

back to high education," Rose said in the Feb. 27 edition of *The Daily Eastern News*.

Retirement

Payments

If an employee receives pay increases totaling more than 6 percent in the last four years they are employed, the institution would be required to pay the increase. The state would pay the regular pension, but the institution would be required to pay the amount caused by the increase. This could affect Eastern faculty and staff. At Tuesday's Faculty Senate meeting, Senate Vice Chair Jeff Ashley said a faculty member could go over the 6 percent simply by teaching summer school. If approved, the change

would apply to all contracts entered into or amended after June 1, 2005.

Grants

The Monetary Award Program will also receive an almost \$8 million increase. The MAP program provides grants to low and middle income students to help pay for college.

One million dollar increase to the Silas Purnell Illinois Incentive for Access Program are also included. This grant helps low-income students pay for books and other expenses during their freshman year.

Higher Ed Funding

The proposed budget offers a 1.4 percent increase in the operating

budgets of public universities, an increase of nearly \$18.3 million. The increase would be to help universities offer "competitive salaries to attract and retain the best and the brightest faculty," the budget report states.

Nursing

Steps to address the state nursing shortage are also included. The budget allots \$3 million to scholarships, fellowships and grants to encourage more students to study nursing.

Also, \$500,000 is proposed to go to the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation to create a center to gather data about nursing. The center would collect information on the nursing shortage and the profession and find ways to improve the situation.

Eastern

Eastern is one of the public universities that will see an increase in funding if the 1.4 percent increase is approved.

The budget guide put out by the governor's office states that the recommended amount that Eastern would receive for the FY 07, with the increase, will be \$165,516,000 including \$48,283,000 in general funds. Last year Eastern received only \$159,771,000 and in 2005 received \$159,414,000.

In comparison, Western Illinois University is projected to receive \$195,484,000 for 2007. Overall, if the budget is approved, state universities would receive a total of \$5,211,618 in state funding for the 2007 fiscal year.

The Illinois Constitution requires that the budget be passed by a simple majority of the legislature by May 1. If it is not passed by then a three-fifths majority of the General Assembly must approve the budget, according to the state Web site.

Once the legislature gets the budget, makes any changes to it and approves it the budget is then sent to the governor who signs or vetoes any of the changes.

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Cellular One-Installer- Cellular One is seeking Installers for our Wireless Internet division. Hours are very flexible. Excellent compensation opportunity. Send resume to: Human Resource Department, Cellular One, 28 Centre, Danville, IL 61832.

The New Rockome is hiring waiters and waitresses for its newly renovated restaurant. Applications are available at the Rockome office or on-line at www.rockome.com. Return applications in person-Monday through Friday, April 10-14. Call (217) 268-4106.

 **announcements**

ATTENTION ALL GRADUATING SENIORS! If you are interested in a yearbook of your senior year, and are not sure how to pick it up, come to the Student Publications office, Room 1802 Buzzard Hall, and for only \$6 we will mail you a copy in the Fall when they are published. Call 581-2812 for more information.


 **personals**

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1 Roomate for Campus Edge for Fall 2006/Spring 2007. Call Andrea (847)732-3597

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Sublessor Needed: 1 bedroom apartment. Water and Trash paid. \$225/ month. Call 217-821-6564.

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Brittany Ridge, 3-5 person, W/D, dishwasher, DSL wired, 10-12 mo. <http://rent.vtdj.com>, 345-9355.

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TRACK AND FIELD

'Intense competitors' wait for Panthers at Big Blue Classic

By DERRICK JOHNSON II
STAFF REPORTER

The Panthers are expecting to see an increase in competition as they host the Big Blue Classic track and field meet this weekend.

The meet is scheduled to begin today with the Neil Moore Multi-Events, followed by the Distance and Throws Carnival Friday and concludes with the Big Blue Classic Saturday. Overall

the meet is expected to bring in more than 600 competitors, said head coach Tom Akers.

Indiana State University will have no shortage of intense competitors waiting for the Panthers this weekend, long-distance coach Geoff Masanet said.

"Indiana State has good distance kids that they're bringing over," Masanet said. "A lot of them are going to be running the 5k, 10k and the steeple chase Friday night so those are going to be very good events.

"Marquette has some kids that they're bringing down, and they've always been a real strong distance program. Their women's cross country team is actually one of the best in the country.

"So those teams in themselves are going to bring in some really good competition."

The coaches are not the only ones who expect to see solid com-

petition to this weekend. Sophomore Brad Butler expects the competition in the 1500-meter run and the 5k to be intense, he said.

"The competition will be pretty good," Butler said. "I'm not worried about that. I will definitely have people there to push me and hopefully I'll be in the middle of the pack."

When the competition is expected to be this high, athletes tend to worry less about finishing in the top three and more about breaking their personal records.

By constantly lowering their times and extending their height or distance each athlete comes closer to everyone's ultimate goal of qualifying for Regionals.

Butler already has his personal goals set for the Big Blue Classic, he said.

"It'd be nice to get 15 (minutes) in the 5k and to just PR in the 1500 which would be 4:07 or under," Butler said.

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Houses for 4-7. 1/2 Block from Campus. Prices too low to advertise! Must have References. 345-5048.

ROOMS FOR MEN in my house. 1 block from OM. Summer, \$145. Fall/Spring, \$175. Most utilities included. Kitchen privileges. Leave message for Diane. 345-7266.

6 bedroom house close to campus, 3 bathrooms, 2 living rooms, Large Kitchen. Stove, refrigerator, washer and dryer. Available for the 06-07 school year for more info www.poteeterrentals.com or 217-345-5088

3 Bedroom, 10 month lease, \$250 each, 3 blocks from campus, 1521 11th St. Call 217-549-7242

5 bedroom house on 6th Street, 2 bath, Large bedrooms completely remodeled new carpet, stove, refrigerator. Enclosed back porch and dining room. Available for the 06-07 school year for more info www.poteeterrentals.com or 217-345-5088

Nice 2 & 3 Bedroom Apartments. Furnished, NO PETS! Utilities Included. 2121 18th Street. Call 549-2615.

Available May 1 and 2 Bedroom Large Apartments. \$360-400/mo per apt. Ideal for couple. Cat ok. Water and Trash paid. 743 6th St Call 581-7729 or 345-6127 eve.

Nice and Clean 5 Bdrm. House. Campus side. 2 Blocks from Campus. W/D, air, patio. 345-6967

Single Apt. For Rent. \$349. Charleston Square. Gas, Water, Heat incl. 10 or 12 month lease. Pets ok. 345-2171 Dave 9 am-11 am.

3 Bedroom. Nice House. 4 Blocks from Campus, W/D, Central Air, Dishwasher, Bar, Parking. 217-202-4456

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BOONDOCKS BY AARON MCGRUDER



The New York Times Crossword

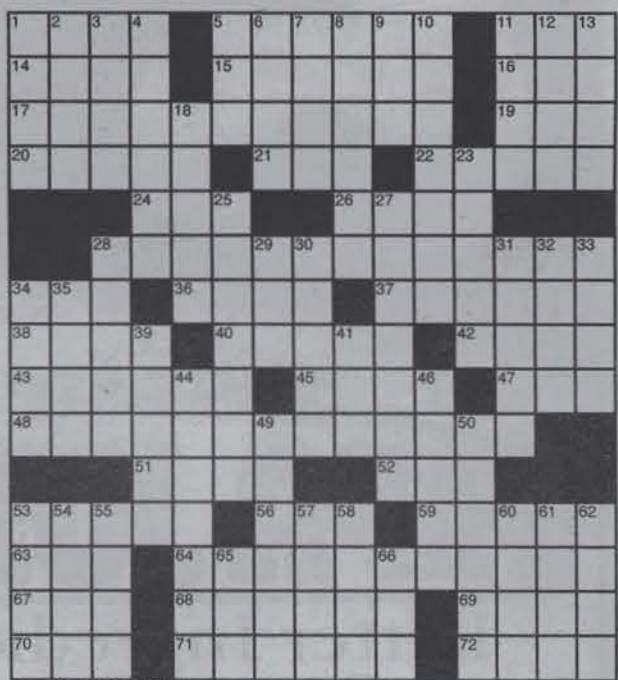
Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0223

- ACROSS**
- 1 Eliminates, gangster-style
 - 5 "The Jungle Book" hero
 - 11 Can
 - 14 2003 Pulitzer Prize-winning dramatist Cruz
 - 15 Noted resting place
 - 16 Breakfast buffet dispenser
 - 17 Deal in sweet tubers?
 - 19 "Awesome!"
 - 20 Classic muscle car, for short
 - 21 Fool
 - 22 Signs off on
 - 24 Martinique, e.g.
 - 26 Put away
 - 28 Long teenage conversations?
 - 34 Sneaky laugh
 - 36 Kind of sax
 - 37 Knickknack
 - 38 "The Dukes of Hazzard" spinoff
 - 40 Toshiba rival
 - 42 "The First ____"
 - 43 Threatened
 - 45 Submerge
 - 47 Call, as a game
 - 48 Usable connector for oxen?
 - 51 Sugar ____ of "Some Like It Hot"
 - 52 Tavern owner on "The Simpsons"
 - 53 Prominent
 - 56 "Funky Cold Medina" rapper Tone ____
 - 59 Queen's request
 - 63 Three-time Frazier opponent
 - 64 Gagarin's space flight?
 - 67 Holy Trinity part
 - 68 Bob who wrote "Catcher in the Rye"
 - 69 Uzbekistan's ____ Sea
 - 70 Curse
 - 71 Red Cross supply
 - 72 Snoopy
- DOWN**
- 1 "As seen ____"
 - 2 Can
 - 3 Out of fizz
 - 4 Lenient type
 - 5 Printemps month
 - 6 Shamu, for one
 - 7 "We have our ____"
 - 8 Former N.Y.S.E. chairman Richard
 - 9 Flee
 - 10 "That's all she wrote"
 - 11 A president usually has one
 - 12 Look inside?
 - 13 Purposes
 - 18 "The Most Happy ____" (Loesser musical)
 - 23 Enter, as a password
 - 25 Shiny wallet material
 - 27 Head to toe
 - 28 Birch of "American Beauty"
 - 29 School carnival planner, perhaps: Abbr.
 - 30 Civic-minded company?
 - 31 Earlier
 - 32 "The Mocker Mocked" artist
 - 33 "Note to ____"
 - 34 Old jalopy
 - 35 ____'acte
 - 39 Pervert
 - 41 Deborah's "Shall We Dance" partner
 - 44 Fledgling company
 - 46 Offbeat
 - 49 Toyota coupe
 - 50 Like many marathon winners
 - 53 Pulp
 - 54 Shaving gel ingredient
 - 55 Bringer of misfortune
 - 57 Acorn droppers
 - 58 Red Skelton's Kadiddlehopper
 - 60 Prefix with dollar
 - 61 The Cenozoic and others
 - 62 Easter sight
 - 65 Sem. topic
 - 66 Item with an underwire

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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



Puzzle by Todd McClary

Bulls overtake 76ers, move to eighth place in playoff race

ASSOCIATED PRESS

PHILADELPHIA — This is no bull: Chicago has climbed all the way back into a playoff spot and shows no sign of slowing down.

Andre Nocioni scored 21 points and grabbed 13 rebounds and Ben Gordon had 21 points to lead Chicago past the Philadelphia 76ers 99-92 Wednesday night in a game with major playoff implications.

Luol Deng and Kirk Hinrich both scored 14 points and Tyson Chandler grabbed 15 rebounds for the Bulls, who moved into the eighth and final playoff spot in the East.

The Bulls (35-40) own a half-game lead on the slumping Sixers (34-40) and the rematch is Saturday night in Chicago.

The Sixers host Boston on Friday while the Bulls don't play again until Saturday.

"A lot can turn on this game

tonight," Bulls coach Scott Skiles said before the game.

He may be right.

The Bulls have won four straight, six of seven and two in two nights on the road after winning Tuesday night at Indiana. The Pacers are the next team ahead of Chicago in the East.

The Sixers have gone into a nose-dive, losing 12 of their last 16 games, none bigger than a 33-point loss Tuesday at Cleveland.

Allen Iverson scored 26 points and Chris Webber had 23 points and 10 rebounds for the Sixers, who again got little offensive production from anyone else before it was too late.

With Gordon playing a sensational all-around game, even with a twisted ankle, and Nocioni having a sharp second half, the Bulls controlled most of the way and led by 15 early in the fourth quarter.

Perhaps unable to shake off the hangover from the blowout loss to

Cleveland, it took the Sixers nearly the whole game to really get going. Iverson made three baskets to start a spurt,

Samuel Dalembert converted a three-point play and Webber pumped his way inside for a bucket that cut the gap to 89-84 late in the fourth.

Iverson sank two free throws with 1:02 left that made it a three-point game. Nocioni, though, delivered again, taking a pass on the fly from Hinrich and scoring an uncontested layup.

Both teams seemed to have some early carry-over from the previous night, with the Bulls shooting a staggering 61 percent (14-for-23) in the first quarter to take a 32-18 lead.

Gordon again carried Chicago coming off the bench, and his 17 points in the first half helped stake the Bulls to a 48-43 lead at the break.

Gordon left with 51 seconds to go in the half after he twisted an ankle while trying to steal the ball just past



RON KORTES/PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER/KRT NEWS

Philadelphia 76ers' Allen Iverson is hammered by the Bulls' Luol Deng as Andres Nocioni, center and Michael Sweetney, right, watch. The Bulls defeated Philadelphia 99-92 Wednesday night.

midcourt.

Four times the Sixers pulled with- in one, only to be pushed back by

the Bulls. After Kevin Ollie's jumper made it 56-55, Nocioni hit a 3 to kick-start a 15-5 run.

CORRENTI:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

Campbell's split-season hitting streak is legitimate

In fact, the school record Campbell was trying to catch belonged to former Panther Jeff Camman, who hit safely in 23 straight games spanning two seasons.

If it's okay to count the 23 games Camman hit safely in, then there's no reason to discount Campbell's streak.

Would it be a similar situation to dis-

credit Orel Hersheiser's 59 scoreless innings pitched streak in 1988 if he did it between two seasons?

The only part I may disagree with Rollins' hitting streak is that in the opener against St. Louis, Cardinals manager Tony LaRussa told Adam Wainwright not to walk Rollins on a 3-0 count.

It is highly unlikely LaRussa would have done the same thing if the Cardinals were up by two runs instead of eight.

The record should be achieved during the competition of a game, not as a sign of gratitude.

But to the skeptics out there, Rollins still has 55 games to go.

Marc Correnti is a junior journalism major. He can be reached at EIU3583@yahoo.com.

SWEPT:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

Panthers lose nonconference doubleheader at Illinois State

overlook," Schuette said. "She has the ability to be a spotlight on our team, not just a good player. This game, this whole day, it finally showed."

Birk was in control in the first five innings, setting down eight in a row before Adams hit a solo home run in the fifth, her third of the year.

After the Panthers closed to within two runs thanks to Adams' solo shot to centerfield, Smith came through for ISU.

The 6-foot freshman hit a towering two-run home run over the left field foul pole, giving the Redbirds their 5-1 lead.

Schuette said that Smith's second home run was a miscommunication between Jacoby and her coach, with Schuette wanting to pitch around

Smith.

"She hit a ball that still hasn't landed," Schuette said. "She's a good hitter. Hats off to her."

Birk knew that the Redbirds had a special freshman in Smith.

"We knew she had a big bat and was coming in with a lot of power and so she's doing her job and doing great as a freshman," Birk said about the Fairfield, Calif., native.

The Panthers get back into action with a doubleheader Saturday against Samford at Williams Field. First pitch is scheduled for noon.

Staff reporter Katie Anderson contributed to this report

Hours: Mon.-Thurs.: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 a.m.;
Fri. & Sat.: 10:00 a.m. - 2:30 a.m.;
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6⁹⁹

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TENNIS

Captain leads team into big weekend of matches

BY ISRAEL CARRILLO
STAFF REPORTER

After winning their first Ohio Valley Conference match on Tuesday, the women's tennis team will be seeking its first winning streak of the season when it travels to Murray State and begins a stretch of three matches in three days.

They begin against Murray State today. Murray State is hosting Jacksonville State, Eastern and Samford this weekend.

The Panthers finally won their first match against Austin Peay at Darling Courts when they pulled off a 4-3 win.

Senior captain Jill Wirtz won both of her singles and doubles matches against Austin Peay on Tuesday.

"I feel this is the best I've been playing in all four years here," Wirtz said. Wirtz said the next match should be tough, but the team is up for the challenge.

The Panthers must show more consistency if they want to qualify for the OVC tournament, head coach John Blackburn said.

"We were definitely on a high (against Austin Peay)," he said.

Even though the Panthers have lost six of their last eight doubles points, Blackburn still thinks it is one of the team's strengths.

Wirtz has won three of her last four matches including a 6-3, 4-6, 7-6 win against Austin Peay.

Blackburn said she's been the leader of the team along with junior Madina Mambetova.

Mambetova is looking forward to getting

"I feel this is the best I've been playing in all four years here."

JILL WIRTZ,
SENIOR TENNIS CAPTAIN

back out there.

"I'm excited about this weekend," she said.

Mambetova said teamwork is what will allow them to win more and start to pick up the slack.

Another consistent player is Sandra Sasidharan, who won with ease Tuesday 6-0, 6-0.

The Panthers (1-4) have struggled in confer-

ence play but want to build on Tuesday's victory.

"As a team, we're getting better," Sasidharan said.

Sasidharan said that every player on the team brings something different to the table, and that each player has her own strength.

One of the goals for the team at the beginning of the season was to be one of the six teams to qualify for the Conference tournament.

Coach Blackburn hopes that they play the way they did on Tuesday.

"We need to start playing at a high level," he said.

Murray State is 4-1 in the conference. After the Panthers open the weekend against the Racers, they play Jacksonville State on Saturday and finish the weekend off with Samford.

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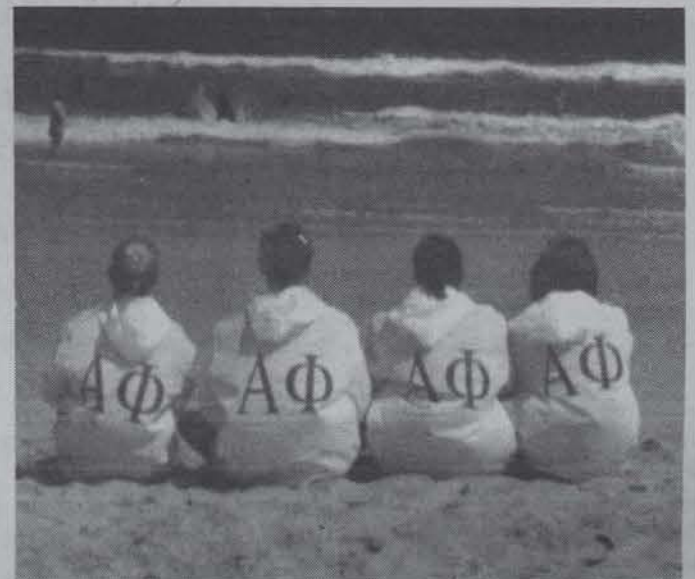
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FRIDAY	MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TENNIS VS. JACKSONVILLE STATE	4 p.m.
SATURDAY	SOFTBALL VS. SAMFORD (2)	12 p.m.
	BASEBALL AT MURRAY STATE (2)	1 p.m.

Eastern Illinois University, Charleston



THE SIXTH MAN
MARC CORRENTI
STAFF REPORTER

No asterisk necessary for Rollins

Amid some of the stories surrounding Major League Baseball players not named Barry Bonds was the 36-game hitting streak Jimmy Rollins carried into the season.

The Philadelphia Phillies' short-stop extended his hitting streak to 37 games with a double on opening day.

There are a lot of reporters and naysayers out there that believe Rollins' hitting streak should not count because he didn't do it in one full season.

To many reporters and baseball pundits, he currently has a one-game hitting streak.

But the truth is that he has a 37-game hit streak.

Why is it so wrong to carry a streak from one season to another?

The answer is simple: it's not wrong.

What Rollins' streak has done is take the focus, albeit slightly, off the Barry Bonds steroid investigation.

Granted, the fact that Joe DiMaggio's major league-record 56-game hitting streak was completed in one season is what makes it so special.

There may never be a player to ever come close to breaking that record, much like there may never be any players close to breaking Cal Ripken's iron-man streak.

Some say Rollins had a whole season to break the record last year, but failed to deliver in the other 126 games.

Rollins shouldn't be penalized for running out of games.

The season works in a way where it is difficult to put together any sort of hitting streak.

But for Rollins to hit safely in 36 straight games last year is an accomplishment in itself.

Not even such hitters like Bonds or the Cardinals' Albert Pujols have ever hit in 30 consecutive games.

It brings to attention a similar situation at Eastern.

Third baseman/catcher Ryan Campbell entered the season with a 14-game hitting streak, before adding on seven more games.

Although his hitting streak officially ended at 21 games, nobody was close to putting an asterisk in the record book in front of Campbell's name.

SEE CORRENTI PAGE 11

SOFTBALL: ILLINOIS STATE 6-0, EASTERN ILLINOIS 5-3

Nonconference game no relief

Illinois State uses the long ball to extend Panthers losing streak to five

By MATT DANIELS
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR



ERIC HILTNER/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Senior third baseman Rachel Karos makes a throw to first during the intersquad scrimmage during Tuesday afternoon's practice at Williams Field. Karos' hitting streak ended at 18 games in the Panthers' game two loss to Illinois State.

NORMAL — Rachel Karos sat outside the Eastern dugout by herself, contemplating what just happened at the Redbirds Softball Complex after game one of Wednesday's doubleheader.

"I was just thinking about pulling it back together," said the third baseman, who saw her 18-game hitting streak come to an end after going 0-for-4 in the second game.

Illinois State catcher Casey Gorrell deposited a Kathleen Jacoby pitch over the left field fence in the last inning of game one, giving the Redbirds a 6-5 walk-off win.

The Panthers could not pull it together in game two, losing 8-3.

The second game almost featured another dramatic comeback, with Eastern loading the bases, down 6-2, with no outs in the sixth inning.

"All we did was wait for strikes and pitches that we could hit," Panther head coach Kim Schuette said.

After Robyn Mackie was hit by a pitch to close the gap to 6-3, Angela Danca hit into a bases-loaded double play to end the inning.

On the play, Gorrell went down in a heap, clutching her left leg.

After Brittany Castle slid into her at home plate.

ISU head coach Melinda Fischer said that Gorrell, who already had a bruise on her shin, said that her catcher should be fine and is not expected to miss any games.

ISU held on, adding two insurance runs in the sixth, earning the sweep.

In game one, Jacoby escaped damage in the bottom of the sixth, forcing freshman Amber Smith to pop out to second baseman Sarah Coppert.

Smith had already hit two home runs on the day, giving her 12 for the year.

"I usually just think base hit and if the pitch is right there I hit it my hardest," Smith said, who was walked three times in the second game.

The Panthers couldn't capitalize on Smith's inning-ending popout as Karos missed out on a chance to give Eastern the lead in the top of the seventh.

The Ohio Valley Conference's leading hitter grounded out to first baseman Katie Guilabault to end the inning and strand the go-ahead runner, freshman Sarah Coppert, on second base.

The Redbirds appeared well on the way to their 20th victory of the season, leading 5-1 heading into the top of the sixth.

But the Eastern bats, which had managed only two hits prior to the sixth, exploded with four runs on five hits in the inning.

Junior Chelsea Adams delivered the key hit, a two-run triple to right field that scored Katy Steele and Sandyn Short.

Adams triple cut the lead to 5-4 and Brittany Castle drove Adams in with a single to right field on the next pitch from ISU starter Stacy Birk.

"Chelsea's a good hitter that a lot of people

SEE SWEPT PAGE 10

BASEBALL: EASTERN ILLINOIS 9, WESTERN ILLINOIS 7

Late-inning home run lifts Eastern past Western

Huber's two-out, two-run blast in eighth inning backs up relief corps

By MARC CORRENTI
STAFF REPORTER

The Panthers are getting pretty good at making comebacks.

After winning four of its last five games in the final at-bat, the Panthers got the job done in the eighth inning of a 9-7 victory at Western Illinois University.

With two outs in the eighth inning and the Panthers trailing 6-5, Bret Nommensen reached on a WIU error.

Mark Chagnon promptly made the Leathernecks pay for their mistakes as he doubled to left field to tie the game 6-6.

With the game tied, the Panthers continued their

two-out magic as Erik Huber hit a two-run home run that sealed the victory for Eastern.

Head coach Jim Schmitz is getting used to this.

"What a great job by everyone in the inning," Eastern head coach Jim Schmitz said. "I'm glad to see that we can come back against teams. It's a sign of a good team, when you can make a comeback."

While Schmitz said he would prefer not having to come back at all, he understands the situations the Panthers have been in.

"I'd like to have the games come a little easier," Schmitz said. "But I'm glad we can make a run when we have to."

Neither starting pitcher got off to a good start. Eastern's Mike Manns lasted only 1.1 innings, giving up three runs (one earned).

The Panthers got to Western's starter early as well, knocking Rob Johnson out of the game in the third inning.

The Panthers (13-12) got the relief they were looking for when they called upon Alex Guttsch.

He filled in nicely for Manns, pitching 2 2/3

innings, surrendering one hit and no runs.

Right-handed reliever Chris Vaculik was just as effective, pitching two scoreless innings. Vaculik picked up his third victory of the season.

"The bullpen was outstanding," Schmitz said. "We needed them to come in and be effective and pick our starters up. They did that."

The Leathernecks took a 6-5 lead in the bottom of the sixth inning on a sacrifice fly by Kelly Flanery, setting the stage for Huber's heroics.

"I'm so happy for him to come through at the plate and on the mound at the same time," Schmitz said of Huber recording his second save of the season. "Mark (Chagnon) and Brett (Nommensen) did a good job of getting on. We talk about two-out rallies all the time."

With the Panthers winning five of their last six games, they carry much-needed momentum into this weekend's three-game series against conference rival Murray State.

"We've set ourselves up nicely (in the non-conference games)," Schmitz said. "Now we have to take care of business in the conference."