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The DAILY EASTERN NEWS

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY, CHARLESTON

WEDNESDAY | 2.6.08

VOL. 95 | ISSUE 22

ILLINOIS VOTERS HAVE AN EARLY SAY

NATIONAL | PRIMARY

McCain, Obama win by wide margins

Primary, normally in mid-March, moved to Super Tuesday

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Buoyed by voters embracing his message of change, Barack Obama routed Hillary Clinton in the Illinois primary on Tuesday, a home-state victory that offered them one of the richest prizes in the nation. Sen. John McCain easily defeated Mitt Romney on the Republican side.

With 73 percent of precincts reporting, Obama had 948,243 votes, or 65 percent, and Clinton had 480,277 votes, or 33 percent. With 72 percent of precincts reporting in the GOP race, McCain had 276,367 votes, or 48 percent, and Romney had 163,179 votes, or 28 percent. Other candidates lagged far behind.

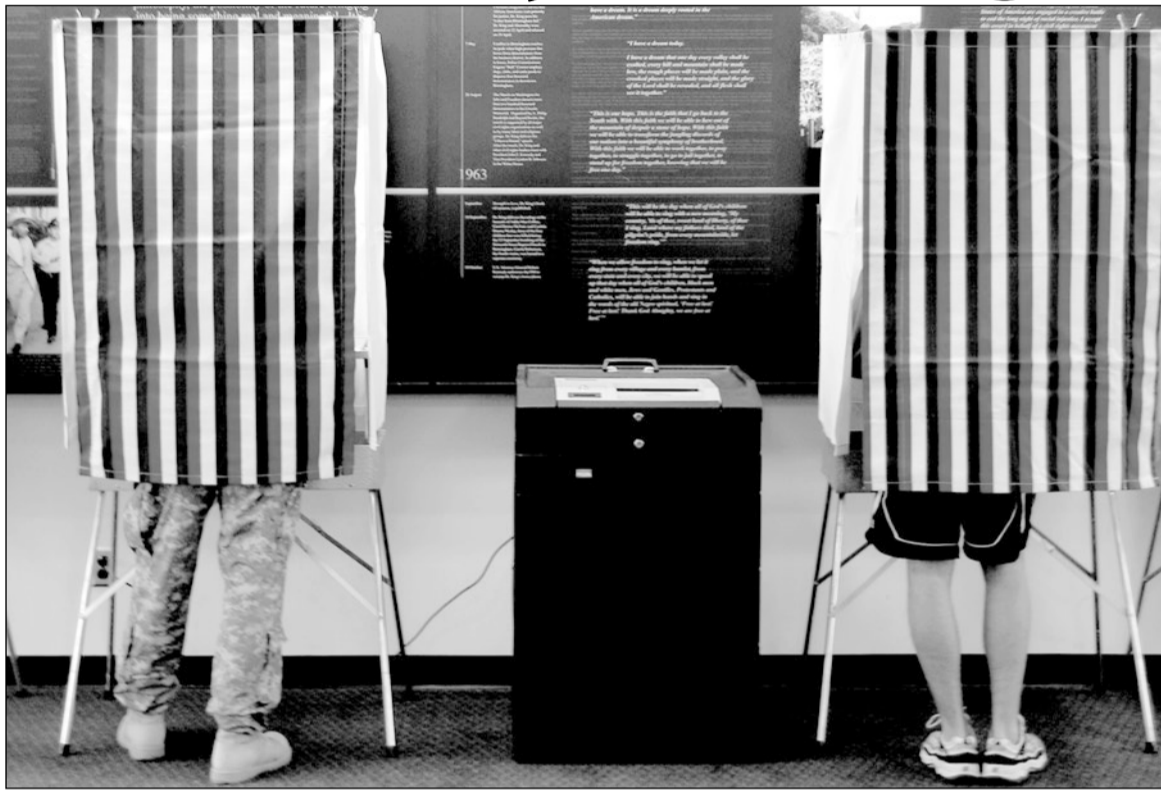
Obama and Clinton are locked in a nationwide battle for Democratic delegates in their historic bid for the White House.

Of Illinois' 153 Democratic delegates — trailing only California and New York in Super Tuesday states — 100 will be split based on the vote in each congressional district, and 53 will be divided based on the statewide popular vote.

The high-profile Democratic contest to pick the first black or female presidential nominee helped lure tens of thousands of early voters in Illinois, where bad weather arrived at the evening rush hour as some of the state's 7.1 million registered voters scrambled to get to the polls.

Casey Beck, a 19-year-old sophomore at Eastern Illinois University in Charleston, said he cast his first-ever vote for Obama — and against Clinton. His top concern was the war in Iraq, where some of his high school classmates are serving.

"I want us to get out of Iraq (but) I don't want us to just leave Iraq and it turn back the way it was," he said. "I don't think Barack would do that."



BRYCE PEAKE | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Voters cast their ballots on an on-campus polling place in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union Tuesday.

FOR A LIST OF NATIONAL PRIMARIES, SEE PAGE 7

Obama bested Clinton regardless of the voter's race, gender or age, according to exit polls.

John Topliffe, a 60-year-old retired Air Force pilot from the St. Louis area, previously voted twice for President Bush. But he backed Obama in the primary.

"Fairly early, I noticed that he kind of stood above the rest, above the fray and all the baloney," Topliffe said. "I put him with John Kennedy. I think he's got the same intelligence, the same charisma. I think he'd be a good president."

Illinois traditionally holds its primary in mid-March, when results in early states have often settled the nominees. This year, state lawmakers moved the primary up to give a boost to Obama, the freshman Illinois senator who launched his campaign almost exactly a year ago.

» SEE PRESIDENTIAL, PAGE 5



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY BRYCE PEAKE | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Voters in Super Tuesday's polls were given this sticker after the completion of their ballot. About 7.1 million Illinoisians are registered to vote.

COUNTY | ELECTIONS

Republican race down to the wire

Democrats, Greens run unopposed for local ballot positions

By Matt Hopf
City Editor

Paul Komada won the Republican state's attorney's primary with 50.2 percent of the vote.

With 100 percent of the precincts reporting, Komada led Duane Deters by 18 votes.

As results were being posted, Deters led with as much as 55 percent of the vote, but Komada pulled ahead with the last votes being counted.

The unofficial results have Komada leading 2,265 to 2,247.

Deters is a former assistant state's attorney in Coles County.

Deters works as a prosecutor in Macon County.

Komada is a former state's attorney and judge in Coles County. Komada did not immediately return calls for comment.

Komada will now try to unseat incumbent State's Attorney Steve Ferguson, a democrat, in November.

Todd Reardon is also running for state's attorney as a Green Party candidate.

In the Republican primary for a seat on the Coles County Board, challenger Jim Gire only received 27.2 percent of the vote running against board chair Jan Eads.

In the presidential primary in the county Sen. Barack Obama had about 60 percent of the Democratic vote in the county.

In the Republican primary, Sen. John McCain led the county with 44.5 percent of the vote.

Former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney was in second with about 25 percent and former Arkansas governor Mike Huckabee was in third with about 23 percent.

In the Republican primary for the U.S. Senate, Andy Martin led with 45.1 percent of the vote, with Steve Sauerberg having 44 percent of the county vote.

Some results from precincts were slightly delayed because of the weather conditions, said Sue Rennels, Coles County Clerk and Recorder.

Rennels visited polls in Charleston and Mattoon to check how voting was going.

"Everyone said they had a good steady stream of voters," she said.

Final reports from the precinct will not be available for a couple days, she added.

Matt Hopf can be reached at 581-7945 or mthopf@eiu.edu.

FOR A FULL LIST OF VOTES, SEE PAGE 6

COUNTY | ENERGY

Local officials optimistic about FutureGen

Fight over division of facility may continue to the next administration

By Marco Santana
Staff Reporter

Jack Lavin still thinks FutureGen will come to Mattoon.

Lavin, director of the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, said at a town meeting Tuesday that Illinois legislators were ready to put up a fight. The project was too important for it not to happen, he said.

"This is a fight we're going to

have in Congress," he said, "And I think — from the word we're getting from Congress — I think we're going to win that fight."

Lavin made opening remarks to more than 200 local residents in the cafeteria of Arland D. Williams Jr. Elementary School.

After brief remarks from FutureGen officials, including CEO Mike Mudd, who introduced FutureGen board members, the meeting became informal, with officials meeting the local residents. Numerous FutureGen officials and local lawmakers followed Lavin's confidence for a future Mattoon site.

Lavin said several factors contrib-

uted to his optimism: International support is strong, a sense of urgency in meeting energy needs exists and the project has reached an advanced stage of development.

"This is the only project out there that can move forward in an urgent manner," he said.

FutureGen is a project to create a coal-powered energy plant that will take carbon dioxide emissions and put them underground.

Secretary of Energy Sam Bodman announced a restructuring of the project last week. This plan would equip some coal power plants across the country with the carbon capture and sequestration technology.

This was about a month after a competition among four sites, including Tuscola, Mattoon and two sites in Texas, led FutureGen to choose Mattoon as the site for its facility.

If the Department of Energy restructures the project, the delay could push operations back three to five years, Lavin said. In his opening remarks, Lavin called for a change.

"I don't think there's too many people here that wouldn't say we need a change in administration, we need a new Secretary of Energy," he said.

» SEE FUTUREGEN, PAGE 5

EIU WEATHER

<p>WEDNESDAY</p>  <p>36° 27°</p> <p>Rain WSW 15-20 mph</p>	<p>THURSDAY</p>  <p>37° 27°</p>	<p>FRIDAY</p>  <p>40° 33°</p>
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WEATHER BRIEF

With the daytime high in the mid 30s the rain will continue today. Overnight temperatures will dip into the high 20s changing our rain into freezing rain and snow.

For current conditions visit EIU WeatherCenter at www.eiu.edu/~weather

ENTERTAINMENT | A DAILY LOOK

Spears' friend, Lutfi, accused of taking over her life

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A restraining order against the man who's been at Britney Spears' side during her downward spiral alleges that he drugged her, took over her finances and controlled the ravenous paparazzi "like a general."

The order against Sam Lutfi was based on a declaration from Spears' mother, Lynne, who says Spears met the 33-year-old in October 2007.

The documents released by the court Tuesday ordered Lutfi to stay away from Spears. In a section of the order detailing previous harassment, Lynne Spears says Lutfi "has cut Britney's home phone lines and removed her cell phone chargers. He yells at her."

Much of the 6-page declaration centers on the night of Jan. 28., a few days before she was taken to a hospital's psychiatric ward. She outlined increasingly bizarre behavior through the night.

Lynne Spears said she, her husband and a friend went to Britney's

home, but security guards kept everyone but her out. Once inside, Lynne Spears said she found several paparazzi, that there had been "a big fight" with Lutfi, and that her daughter was crying.

Conan, Stewart, Colbert unite in mock feud

NEW YORK — With teleprompters emptied by the writers strike, Conan O'Brien, Jon Stewart and Stephen Colbert have been transformed into a bloodthirsty, if well-dressed mob.

The trio appeared on each other's late-night TV shows Monday in a mock feud over who "made" Republican presidential candidate Mike Huckabee.

The fight began weeks ago, when O'Brien claimed responsibility for any success of Huckabee's campaign after Huckabee appeared on his "Late Night" show. While the rubble settled, Huckabee appeared by satellite to have the last word.

"Let's be clear: None of these guys made me. This great nation made

me," Huckabee said.

3-month strike may end in time for the Oscars

LOS ANGELES — An agreement to end the three-month-old Hollywood writers strike could be ready in time to avoid disrupting the Oscars, but studios and the union are still haggling over the precise language, two people familiar with the talks said.

The Writers Guild of America bargaining committee and board of directors received updates on the status of informal talks with studio executives, the pair said Monday. One of the people has said a formal deal is possible by the end of this week.

There was significant progress toward a proposed agreement last week on the toughest issues concerning compensation for projects distributed via the Internet. While specifics of the negotiations were not disclosed, the proposal agreement is believed to include significant increases in the residuals that writers get for online use of movies and TV shows.

PHOTO OF THE DAY

Appearing amongst the fog



BRYCE PEAKE | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

For the second morning in a row, dense fog has plagued much of central Illinois. Students are encouraged to be safe when walking during periods of such low visibility.

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

Boy stuck in washing machine freed with 'Jaws of Life'

The Associated Press

DOVER, Ohio — Talk about an oversized load: A 4-year-old boy got stuck when he climbed into his family's top-loading washing machine, and firefighters had to use a metal cutter to slice into the appliance to get him out.

Donovan Hasseman, who wasn't hurt by the incident, was wedged up against the agitator with a knee folded against his chest, while the machine was empty and not running Sunday night, Dover Fire Capt. Mike Mossor said.

Firefighters responding to a 911 call from the boy's

mother tried to help him wriggle out, but he couldn't move, Mossor said. The owner of an appliance store was then called in for advice on how to take the washer apart.

The fire department wound up using its hydraulic "Jaws-of-Life" tool normally used to remove crash victims from wrecked vehicles to cut through the machine's walls and plastic tub.

The child cried and screamed at times while stuck but was calm once he was freed, Mossor said.

A hospital looked him over then released him, and he was given a stuffed bear which the family has named Agitator.

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ABOUT THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

The Daily Eastern News is produced by the students of Eastern Illinois University. It is published daily Monday through Friday, in Charleston, Ill., during fall and spring semesters and twice weekly during the summer term except during university vacations or examinations.

One copy per day is free to students and faculty. Additional copies can be obtained for 50 cents each in the Student Publications Office in Buzzard Hall.

The Daily Eastern News is a member of The Associated Press, which is entitled to exclusive use of all articles appearing in this publication. **Subscription price** | \$50 per semester, \$30 for summer, \$95 all year.

COMMENTS / TIPS

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

CORRECTIONS

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

To aid the Daily Eastern News in its quest for accuracy, please report any factual error you find in any edition of the Daily Eastern News by e-mail, phone, campus mail or in person.

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• **Calendar** - Dennews.com's weekly calendar lists events in the Charleston/Mattoon area. Visitors can also add their own events to the calendar, informing the community of what is going on in the area.



BRIEFS

Services for Ash Wednesday today

Ash Wednesday masses will be held at the Newman Catholic Center today at noon, 5:30 p.m. and 9 p.m. At 4 p.m. the center will have a Liturgy of the Word service. St. Charles Church located at 921 Madison Ave. in Charleston will have Ash Wednesday Services at 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.

CORRECTIONS

On Page 6 in Thursday's edition of The Daily Eastern News, Matt Brunner's name was misspelled.

On Page 3 in Friday's edition of The Daily Eastern News, the HIV/AIDS testing sponsors were incorrectly listed. The event was sponsored by the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. in conjunction with African-American Heritage Month.

On Page 15 in Tuesday's edition of The Daily Eastern News, the photo of senior swimmer Tim O'Hagan was wrongly attributed. Erica Jones shot the photo.

On Page 5 in Tuesday's edition of The Daily Eastern News, Eugenia Jefferson's class rank was wrongly attributed. Jefferson is a senior.

On Page 9 in Tuesday's edition of The Daily Eastern News, Garry Moore's name was misspelled.

The DEN regrets the errors.

CITY | COUNCIL

LOCAL POWER COSTS MAY DECREASE

Guaranteed Energy Savings contract proposes renovation

By Jordan Crook
City Reporter

Charleston City Council voted last night to begin hearing proposals from contractors about possibly making the city more energy efficient.

The resolution, which approved the Guaranteed Energy Savings contract, deals with proposals for renovating the energy systems in all Charleston government buildings.

City Manager Scott Smith said a benefit is saving energy costs.

"That's the principle idea behind it," he said.

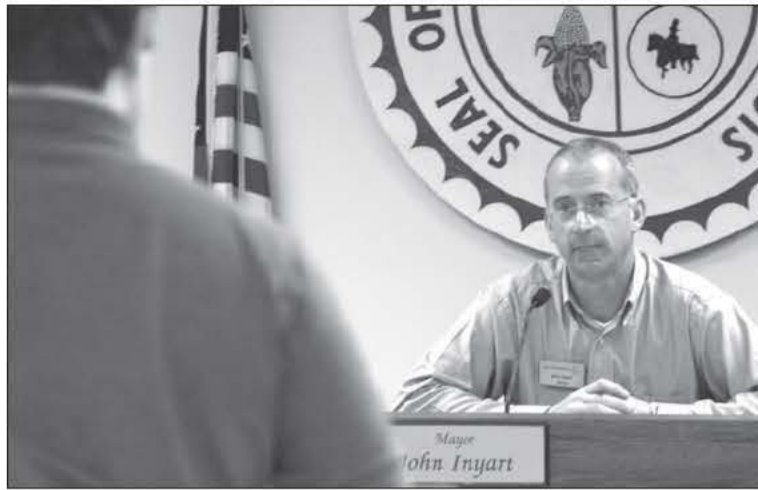
Smith said the amount of money saved on energy cost will make up for the cost of building renovations.

He said this contract might lead the city to switch from traditional energy sources to alternative forms. He said consultants might investigate the possibility of using geothermal heating, solar and wind power.

"There's a whole variety of opportunities for the consultants to consider," Smith said.

He said the idea of the contract came about last year when the city participated in an energy committee with Mattoon and Charleston school districts to discuss bidding on power costs.

"During those discussions, the school district brought in one of



MITCH SURPRENANT | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Mayor John Inyart listens as Campus Energy Coordinator Ryan Siegel thanks the council for passing the "neighborhood vehicle" ordinance.

their contractors to assist them in that process, and that's where we began to look more closely at this contract," he said.

Mayor John Inyart said this resolution only means the city can begin hearing proposals.

"This is the exploratory part of this process to give us an idea what areas need to be improved upon and how much it will cost to make the improvements," he said.

Inyart said he supports the resolution because it may help the city save money in the long run.

"Our hope is that we will find some savings there, and we will find ways to utilize them," he said.

Inyart said Charleston residents would likely support the contract.

"I don't think people will have any problems as long as we're trying

to save them some money," he said.

Other business approved at the city council meeting last night:

- The council approved the application for a \$435,000 Community Development Assistance Program grant. This is the second year the city has applied for this grant. If won, the grant would be used to replace a 125-year-old water line.

- The council voted to annex 2900 Fourth Street to allow the property owners, Henry and Nancy Tate, to tap into city water supply.

- The council approved an ordinance that would allow "Neighborhood Vehicles" from Eastern to drive on all city streets except for Lincoln Avenue.

Jordan Crook can be reached at jscrook@eiu.edu or 581-7942.

BLOTTER

On Friday, Aaron Purcell, 20, of Casey, was arrested about 3 a.m. at 18th Street and Lincoln Avenue on the charge of driving under the influence.

On Sunday, it was reported a rear window of a 1999 GMC was broken while parked in the W Lot.

On Sunday, it was reported a Nissan car was struck and damaged by another vehicle while it was parked in the W Lot.

On Monday, it was reported a radio/CD player valued at \$300 was stolen from a vehicle parked in a Greek Court parking lot.

An unidentified driver caused more than \$500 in damage between noon and 1 p.m. Thursday to a car parked in the Los Portrillos parking lot, 1305 Lincoln Ave. Police said yellow paint was on the silver 2001 Ford Mustang.

An unidentified driver hit a car parked in the County Market lot, 1460 E St. about 1:45 p.m. Friday. The car was parked for about 30 minutes when the driver noticed damage. Police said damage to the passenger door would cost more than \$500 to repair.

- Compiled by Police and Courts Reporter Cathy Bayer and News Editor Nora Maberry

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Sample

Will you be my valentine?
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The DAILY EASTERN NEWS

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

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Letter to the editor

Internet lag inconvenient and unfair

As a resident of Stevenson Hall, I am blessed with a spacious suite, a semi-private bathroom and five suite-mates.

The one thing missing is a decent Internet connection.

EIU recently acquired another server for the Internet, but even after that, the Cisco Clean Access Agent continues to wreak havoc on my everyday Web usage.

With frequent net outages and a lack of Wi-Fi compatibility anywhere other than Greek Court, I am left with no other option but to trek to the lobby with my laptop in order to pay bills, send and receive messages, and unwind after a stressful day of classes.

The EIU Open Access connections in the lobbies of the residence halls should be available everywhere in the building to students with laptops.

Housing and Dining should take the initiative to procure more wireless routers to place on each floor or make the existing network compatible with students' own routers.

Why should I have to buy an expensive Nintendo USB Wi-Fi converter to attach to my computer when I want to participate in online gaming?

I know it sounds like a petty reason to want Internet, but playing videogames with my roommates helps me relax.

It is ridiculous that any person off the street can come to the lobby of my building and use the wireless Internet I pay for with my \$48 network fee, but I cannot.

Brandon Hagan
Communications major

EDITORIAL POLICY

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

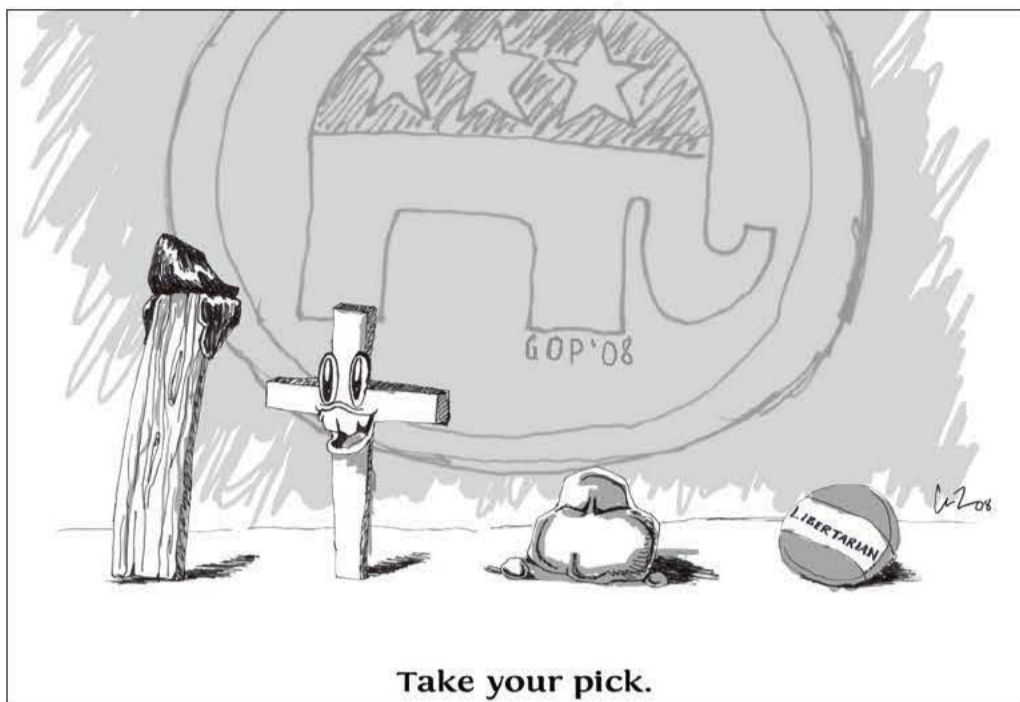
Letters to the editor can be submitted at any time on any topic to the Opinions Editor to be published in the Daily Eastern News.

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

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

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

Drawn from the news | Chris Lee



Take your pick.

STAFF EDITORIAL

Other ways to spend Student Government money

Student Government has \$119,000 "just sitting around" in its reserve account, Student Body President Cole Rogers said.

And \$10,000 of it is apparently burning a hole in its pockets.

Winter Wonderland, even at a cost of \$10,000, would no doubt be fun. But there's a group on campus that's already dedicated to putting on events just like Winter Wonderland.

University Board has its own funding and puts on its own events for students. Student Government is a different body than UB.

It has different responsibilities and goals than UB and should therefore spend its money differently than UB.

Planning events is not Student Government's responsibility.

Here's how the Student Government should spend its money instead:

Fund an apartment or house

In Article XII, Section E of Student Government's constitution, it states "Students have a right to live in an environment conducive to learning and growing, both academically and personally."

So make it happen. We want a house with the extra \$10,000 you have. Student Government could either buy one or rent one out – for at least a year or two.

Have students who are unable to pay the increasing room and board rates live here – free of charge.

It is the ultimate gift, and one that would gain votes in your favor.

Well, that is, if more students actually voted in the elections.

Regardless, we want a house. We'll get back to you with our other requests once you spend more of our money on pointless activities.

Take a trip (or two)

If Student Government invested its \$10,000 into a van or bus that seated 20-25 people, it would be easier to take trips to the state capital to lobby for state funds for Eastern.

Buses on www.nationsbus.com range from \$8,000 to \$10,000.

Maybe it wouldn't be a bad investment, and Student Government would be able to make the trip to Springfield more frequently to lobby for the funding that this school badly needs.

With its own bus, Student Government wouldn't just be limited to Springfield, either.

OUR VIEW

• **Situation:** Student Government wants to spend approximately \$10,000 on Winter Wonderland.

• **Stance:** There are better ways to spend the money and still focus on Student Government.

Members could take a trip to Washington, D.C., and attend a political rally or lobby in the nation's capital.

With a bus, the possibilities are endless, and so are the learning opportunities for the members of our Student Government.

Call it the Student Government Magic Charter bus.

Serve snacks

Another way to get students involved with Student Government, aside from spending \$10,000 on a one-day event, would be to serve snacks at meetings.

If there's free food, they will

come.

What better way to draw students into learning what Student Government is doing than to get them to come to the meetings?

It would accomplish more than a one-day Winter Wonderland stint if Student Government is looking to promote itself and get students involved.

Other miscellaneous items

Student Government can do plenty of things with \$10,000.

It should not, however, do the job of UB because Student Government is different than UB and has different responsibilities.

Pour it into the Student Recreation Center. Help students fund their college education. Lament and post a recap of meetings.

Heck, even buy the Chemistry Department some more Bunsen burners.

With \$10,000 to spare, you could buy the chemistry department 714 Bunsen burners from www.arborsci.com.

Or you could hire a webmaster – even if it's part-time.

Go to Student Government's Web site.

The picture of the Senate members are from the Fall 2006 semester. Last time we checked, we're in the Spring 2008 semester.

But if Student Government wants to live in the past, by all means, go right ahead.

Just don't do UB's job.

"It would accomplish more than a one-day Winter Wonderland stint if Student Government is looking to promote itself and involve students."

CONTINUE THE DEBATE



ONLINE
Visit DENnews.com to read Dylan Divit's movie review, "Walking Life, A Movie for Thinkers."



"In lucid dreams, the dreamer can consciously create any images or situations – no matter how unlikely."

-Dylan Divit



JOHN STROMSKI

Far from perfection

Although not all of us have watched the game, I'm sure all of us know by now what happened. The Giants beat the Patriots, or as some say, the Patriots failed to achieve complete perfection. But the Patriots were far from perfect not only because of the final score, but because of other ways in which the team displayed themselves.

Mainly, I want to discuss how Patriots' coach Bill Belichick and Tom Brady, in particular, along with several other Patriots players Patriots, left the field before the game was officially over.

Granted, there was absolutely no way that the Patriots could come back; everyone knew that with one second left on the clock, Manning would get on the field and take a knee, officially ending the game. But still, members of the Patriots did not stick around for the official end.

The Patriots are often talked about as being the best team in sports, or as on the road to perfection, and they were admired as role models by people across the country.

The actions of the team, though, in not staying to watch the end of their own game, made them anything but admirable role models, instead making them sore losers and far from a perfect team. Tom Brady especially, who was named the MVP of the NFL, deserved to have the title stripped from him by displaying such poor sportsmanship in the biggest game of the season.

One can only imagine how terrible the Patriots' defense felt as they took the field for the last second and looked to the sideline to see their head coach and half of their team missing.

Now, I understand how disappointed the Patriots must have felt in losing the game, but it sounds like they need to go back to youth football, where afterwards all the players line up and shake each others hands.

No matter the outcome, the players know that they gave it their best out there and respect that the opposing team just happened to give a little more.

I know that members of the Patriots congratulated and acknowledged the good playing of the Giants during interviews after the game, but they couldn't stay on the field one extra second to fully respect the Giants and the game.

Patriots proved to be sore losers and had no appreciation for the game or for other teams – only appreciation for winning.

I'm just disappointed that if the Patriots did win, they would have been viewed as the "greatest team ever" because of their perfect season, the Super Bowl and all of the NFL records they set.

I am glad, though, that they're not viewed as perfect because when it really came down to it, the team was far from it.

Instead of remembering the Patriots as the team that almost achieved perfection, or the greatest chokers, or the losers of the considerably best Super Bowl upset in history, I will remember them as the team that didn't deserve to be considered the greatest football team in the world.

Being the greatest or being perfect isn't just about winning; it's about your sportsmanship and your way of portraying yourselves as athletes and as a team.

John Stromski is a junior English major. He can be reached at 581-7942 or DENopinions@gmail.com

CAMPUS | FACULTY SENATE

Perry reviews, anticipates improvements

By **Brittini Garcia**
Faculty Senate Reporter

Eastern President Bill Perry thinks the university does a good job of planning and prioritizing its goals.

"It's a matter of people having time to do things," Perry said.

Campus-wide improvement was discussed with Faculty Senate on Tuesday.

Perry said deadline pressure and recent proposals might lead to the completion of more university goals.

Perry sent a letter to the university community discussing strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats related to Eastern's advancement in and out of the classroom last month. Comments and questions were directed to Perry regarding his letter to the community during the senate meeting.

Perry said the first priority is to enhance faculty research and scholarship. He stated that the university must prepare scholars for graduate study.

"I like the idea about what we want to do. One thing that bothers me is I don't see anything about



ERIN MATHENY | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Eastern President William Perry reviews goals at the Faculty Senate meeting Tuesday afternoon in Booth Library.

graduate research in the letter," said Bud Fischer, a faculty senate member. "It has a role for undergraduate students."

In his letter, Perry announced five university priorities: support for

excellence in faculty scholarship and teaching, undergraduate research and creative activities, enhancement of service and leadership opportunities for students, enhancement in the fine arts programming and out-

reach, enhancement in study abroad opportunities, and enhancement in honors programs.

Perry said these goals will help Eastern become a first-choice school for prospective students searching for an institution of higher learning.

"I have become convinced it's more achievable than I thought," Perry said. "Because of the foundation that already exists, we can be first-choice."

Perry said the meetings he held at the beginning of the school year were informative.

During the meetings, Perry and university members discussed a model for an existing grant and research experience for undergrads.

"Perry has caused change – and it's for the good," said John Henry Prommier, a faculty senate member.

Perry told the senate he is impressed with service from students.

"So many opportunities have come from Greek life, student affairs and faculty," Perry said. "It has occurred to me if we are more organized about what we do, we could get more involved."

Also at the meeting, Bob Chesnut, director of the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, delivered a presentation about publicizing and promoting faculty research at Eastern. Representatives from the National Writing Project also addressed the senate.

The program will benefit teachers ranging from kindergarten through university-level educators.


"There are benefits to your institution, primarily with the education department but specifically as professors," said Nancy Remington, founding member of the program. "You will get better-prepared undergraduate students and graduate students."

The program focuses on writing, reading, and teaching demonstrations. There are 200 sites nationwide and this year, Illinois has brought three new sites.

Members attended the meeting to propose the idea of Eastern becoming a National Writing Program site.

Brittini Garcia can be reached at 581-7942 or brmgarcia@eiu.edu

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» **Futuregen**

FROM PAGE 1

Board member Samantha Hoe-Richardson, manager of energy strategy at Anglo-American PLC in England, said she was disappointed when she heard of the Department of Energy's new plan.

"At the end of the day, (Mattoon) won a competition, a national competition," she said.

She said FutureGen Alliance could only do so much from here on out, and Illinois legislators would have to take up the fight.

"We're very much reliant on them pushing it forward," she said.

Paul Thompson, chair of FutureGen's board of directors, said the support FutureGen has received has been impressive.

"We are loving the support that we have had from all of you, from the Congressional district, the Congressional offices in Washington," he said.

The restructured plan shocked lawmakers, who had received a letter from Bodman on Nov. 30 that said the Department of Energy would issue a Record of Decision, which is necessary for federal funds to be appropriated before the end of December.

Lifelong Mattoon resident Mike Croy, 55, said the Dec. 18 FutureGen announcement might be the largest announcement in the area he has ever seen.

He said he is not entirely surprised at the developments.

"I think any time you're doing something this large, you're going to have some bumps," he said. "I just count it as a bump."

Mudd chose to have the board



KAROLINA STRACK|THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

After a few brief speeches, FutureGen officials, such as Mike Mudd, took time to talk with those in attendance. The meeting brought in a crowd of more than 200 people, a majority of which support the new energy project.

of directors meeting in Mattoon to show the board the community's support.

Rep. Chapin Rose, R-Mahomet, said it showed the commitment from the alliance to bring FutureGen to the city.

"The best thing I've seen in two weeks is the alliance coming here and saying 'We're with you,'" he

said.

After FutureGen chose Mattoon as its site for the facility, the Department of Energy decided to restructure the project.

Rose said the timing was unfair to the city.

"We won this thing fair and square, and it's wrong for them to, after the fact, change the rules," Rose

said. "We're ready to do whatever we can to take this fight to Washington. I think it's wrong for the Department of Energy to do what it has done, and we have to do everything we can to right this wrong."

Despite the restructured plan, Mudd still remained confident FutureGen would be built in Mattoon.

"I can't wait for the day that we're all sitting here for the groundbreaking; the board of directors, local politicians and the citizens," he said. "I hope I can get shovels for everybody."

Marco Santana can be reached at 581-7942 or at masantana@eiu.edu.

» **Presidential**

FROM PAGE 1

Clinton, the New York senator who grew up in suburban Park Ridge, focused her efforts on other states.

At Beulah Shoemith Elementary School on Chicago's South Side, Obama and his wife, Michelle, were greeted by cheers as they arrived to cast ballots. Obama shook hands with the crowd and shouted, "Are you fired up? Are you ready to go?"

Some 350 miles away, at the southern tip of Illinois, 49-year-old food inspector Willis Jackson of

Cairo cast his vote for Obama.

"I think he's somebody fresh," Jackson said. "We need somebody fresh in there."

Dan White, executive director of the Illinois State Board of Elections, said no major voting problems had been reported, though Cook County officials said at least two polling places in the Chicago area would stay open an hour later after getting a late start.

In previous presidential primaries, Illinois has had a voter turnout slightly under 30 percent. But an unusually large number of congressional races boosted interest in seats left vacant by Republicans

Dennis Hastert, Ray LaHood and Jerry Weller. Rep. Aaron Schock, a legislative youngster at 26, won the GOP primary to become the odds-on favorite to succeed LaHood. Democrats had some key primaries as well, though Rep. Dan Lipinski fended off three challengers.

Steve Sauerberg, backed by the Illinois GOP, won the chance to take on Democratic Sen. Dick Durbin this fall in what many believe will be an uphill fight against the well-funded incumbent.

In McLean County, officials said turnout appeared to be headed much higher than the 31 percent for the 2004 presidential primary.

UNOFFICIAL RESULTS

Republican Primary- States Attorney

Name	Votes	Percent
Paul Komada	2,265	50.2%
Duane Deters	2,247	49.8%

Republican Primary- County Board Member District 9

Name	Votes	Percent
Jan Eads	308	72.8%
Jim Gire	115	27.2%

Democrat Primary- U.S. President

Name	Votes	Percent
Barack Obama	3,113	59.9%
Hillary Clinton	1,867	35.9%
John Edwards	177	3.4%

Dennis Kucinich	18	0.3%
Bill Richardson	12	0.2%
Joe Biden	9	0.2%
Christopher Dodd	1	0.0%

Republican Primary- U.S. President

Name	Votes	Percent
John McCain	2,168	44.5%
Mitt Romney	1,224	25.1%
Mike Huckabee	1,124	23.1%
Ron Paul	195	4.0%
Rudy Giuliani	80	1.6%
Fred Thompson	49	1.0%
Alan Keyes	22	0.5%
James Mitchell Jr	5	0.1%
Tom Tancredo	0	0.0%

-Results provided by the Coles County Clerk's Office

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CAMPUS | STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Suggesting more diversity

By Rick Kambic
Student Government Reporter

A proposal to increase the cultural diversity requirement from three to six credit hours will be introduced to the Student Government during tonight's meeting at 7 p.m. in the Arcola/Tuscola Room of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

If approved by the senate, the proposal will be made to the Council for Academic Affairs on behalf of the student body.

"By researching peer institutions of Eastern Illinois University outside of Illinois, we were able to find many other universities have already established a cultural diversity requirement minimum of six credit hours," the resolution reads. "This encouraged us to expand the Cultural Diversity Requirement, bringing Eastern Illinois University to the same level of our peer institutions, while being at the forefront of Illinois institutions."

The university's catalog defines a cultural diverse course as one that has content relating to "the study of diverse peoples (including issues of race, ethnicity and gender) at home and abroad; the history, traditions and/or language of other countries or cultures; and the role or cultural sensitivity in making informed and ethical decisions."

Another resolution being introduced to the senate would permit the student shuttle bus committee to distribute surveys to students about shuttle bus usage.

Committee chairwoman Karen Armour told the senate during Thursday's meeting a third shuttle bus might be rented depending on further research.

Bylaw changes for the student Tuition and Fee Review committee will also be introduced for a vote. Levi Bulgar, student executive vice president, said the required representation for the committee would be changed if the resolution passed. One member in question is Eastern President Bill Perry.

Rick Kambic can be reached at 581-7942 or at rwkambic@eiu.edu.

ELECTION 2008 | RESULTS

RESULTS FOR TUESDAY'S DEMOCRATIC AND REPUBLICAN PRIMARIES/CAUCUSES

The following table shows the projected winners of each state and the known delegates each presidential candidate received as of 11 last night.

Alabama	Democrat	Barack Obama	Missouri	Democrat	late results
	Republican	Mike Huckabee	Republican	Republican	late results
Alaska	Democrat	late results	Montana	Republican	late results
	Republican	late results	New Jersey	Democrat	Hillary Clinton (8)
Arizona	Democrat	Hillary Clinton	Republican	John McCain (52)	
	Republican	John McCain (50)	New Mexico	Democrat	late results
Arkansas	Democrat	Hillary Clinton (4)	New York	Democrat	Hillary Clinton (20)
	Republican	Mike Huckabee (7)	Republican	John McCain (101)	
California	Democrat	late results	North Dakota	Democrat	Barack Obama
	Republican	late results	Republican	Mitt Romney	
Colorado	Democrat	Barack Obama	Oklahoma	Democrat	Hillary Clinton (4)
	Republican	Mitt Romney	Republican	John McCain (23)	
Connecticut	Democrat	Barack Obama	Tennessee	Democrat	Hillary Clinton (6)
	Republican	John McCain (27)	Republican	Mike Huckabee	
Delaware	Democrat	Barack Obama	Utah	Democrat	Barack Obama
	Republican	John McCain (18)	Republican	Mitt Romney (36)	
Georgia	Democrat	Barack Obama (14)	West Virginia	Republican	Mike Huckabee (18)
	Republican	Mike Huckabee (33)			
Idaho	Democrat	Barack Obama			
Illinois	Democrat	Barack Obama (16)			
	Republican	John McCain			
Kansas	Democrat	Barack Obama (6)			
Massachusetts	Democrat	Hillary Clinton (8)			
	Republican	Mitt Romney (5)			
Minnesota	Democrat	Barack Obama			
	Republican	Mitt Romney			

DELEGATE COUNT

Democrat	
Barack Obama	235
Hillary Clinton	306
Needed to nominate	2,025
Republican	
John McCain	406
Mitt Romney	151
Mike Huckabee	93
Needed to nominate	1,191

- information provided by www.cnn.com

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Richey

FROM PAGE 12

Freshman linebacker Alain Marcelin was one of the few true freshmen to play during the 2007 season when Thomas missed one game and part of another with an injury in the middle of the season. Marcelin had 12 tackles in those two games.

Marcelin's size is comparable to Thomas', and given the next three years to grow, he should turn into a more than suitable replacement.

An area where the Panthers might be thin is at wide receiver. Juniors Alicus Nozinor and Quinten Ponius will return for the 2008 season, but Rucker will not. He was Eastern's top receiving option, with 104 receptions, 1,743 receiving yards and 22 touchdowns in his two-year Eastern career.

A possible replacement for Rucker could be Von Wise, who has verbally committed to Eastern from Finneytown (Ohio) High School.

Eric Taylor, Wise's high school coach, said Wise would sign with the

Panthers today on National Signing Day. This confirmation is important because a verbal commitment is not binding.

Taylor said Wise, 6-foot-3, 193 pounds, has the frame and ability to stretch the field vertically.

"We have so many highlights of him going up and reaching a ball over a defender," Taylor said.

If Wise lives up to these expectations, he could be the perfect candidate to fill Rucker's role in Eastern's offense: a deep threat who can use his size against shorter defensive backs.

The real depth chart battle, however, will be in the Eastern backfield. Running backs Norris Smith (junior) and Travorus Bess (junior) will return next season. Smith missed almost all of the 2007 season with a knee injury, but rushed for 651 yards and six touchdowns in 2006. Bess rushed for 612 yards and four touchdowns this past season.

Joining them will be Florida transfer Chevon Walker. Walker rushed for 2,027 yards and 31 touchdowns as a senior at Riverdale High School in Ft. Myers, Fla., but received little

playing time at Florida.

But you don't become a Gator just because you live in the area. Walker has serious credentials, and Eastern offensive line coach and run game coordinator Jeff Hoover said Walker would be in the mix in the Panthers' backfield.

Despite losing several top players to graduation, Eastern's depth at key positions will help it stay at the top of the OVC.

Scott Richey can be reached at 581-7944 or at srrichey@eiu.edu.

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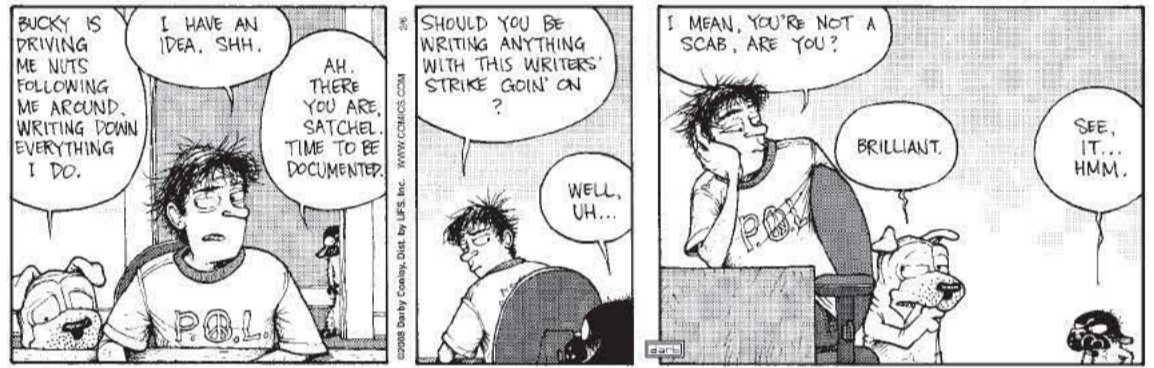
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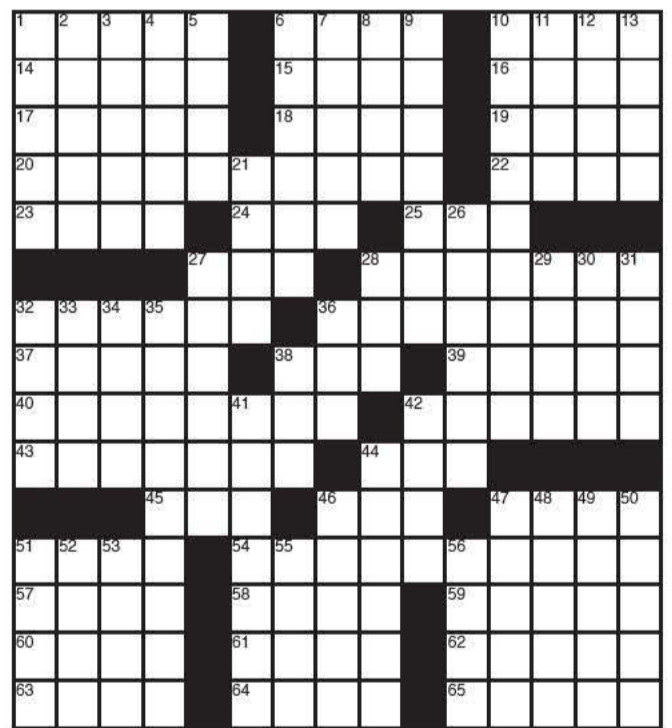


The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 1226

- ACROSS
- 1 Wrong
 - 6 Study hard and fast
 - 10 Daunt
 - 14 Game follow-up
 - 15 Sole
 - 16 Orsk's river
 - 17 Like Green Beret units
 - 18 The triple in a triple play
 - 19 Just beats
 - 20 "The Defiant Ones" co-star, 1958
 - 22 Rocket launcher
 - 23 Many an M.I.T. grad: Abbr.
 - 24 Brillo rival
 - 25 The second Mrs. Michael Corleone
 - 27 Felipe Calderón's land: Abbr.
 - 28 Sony music player introduced in 1984
 - 32 Delineated, with "out"
 - 36 Movie chase scene, e.g.
 - 37 Yo-yo
 - 38 Song from 65-Across that's hidden in 20- and 54-Across and 10- and 35-Down
 - 39 Just beat
- DOWN
- 40 Hashish source
 - 42 Massages
 - 43 Some socks
 - 44 Would-____ (aspirants)
 - 45 "____ Miami"
 - 46 Cross-referencing word
 - 47 Organ piece
 - 51 Pale hue
 - 54 Cornmeal dish often served with maple syrup
 - 57 Gore Vidal historical novel
 - 58 Langston Hughes poem
 - 59 Back biter?
 - 60 Not discounted
 - 61 Terse denial
 - 62 Trims in Photoshop, e.g.
 - 63 Itinerary data: Abbr.
 - 64 Heroic exploit
 - 65 Hit Broadway musical based on a comic strip



PUZZLE BY JIM PAGE

- 7 One-sided contests
- 8 Not backing
- 9 Field utensils
- 10 2003 Kentucky Derby winner
- 11 Andrea Bocelli delivery
- 12 Microwaves
- 13 "Lohengrin" role
- 21 Hand-me-down
- 26 Quakers in the woods
- 27 Most are good conductors
- 28 Boxing Day mo.
- 29 Prefix with bucks
- 30 Nailed
- 31 Beatty and others
- 32 Easily split mineral
- 33 Month after Shevat
- 34 Unwelcome auto noise
- 35 Vehicles at a petting zoo
- 36 Part of S.S.S.: Abbr.
- 38 Grafton's "____ for Noose"
- 41 2008 Olympics host
- 42 Razor-sharp
- 44 1984 gold-medalist marathoner Joan
- 46 Scoring attempts
- 47 Show contempt toward
- 48 Kite's clutcher
- 49 Six-foot-tall African animal
- 50 As such
- 51 Fit for duty
- 52 Conk out
- 53 "Superman II" villainess
- 55 Oklahoma tribe
- 56 Workout locale, for short

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



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FOOTBALL | CLASS OF 2004

Year of the leader

2004 was deepest recruiting class of past five years

By Scott Richey
Sports Editor

Eastern defensive coordinator Roc Bellantoni sat in his office thinking about the recruiting class of 2004. Names like Pierre Walters, James Larson and Norris Smith came to mind. The depth of that recruiting class surprised him.

"Wow," Bellantoni said. "We had a ton of guys. That's an unbelievable class."

Bellantoni said it takes four years to see a recruiting class develop.

He'll get his first glance at the 2008 recruiting class because National Signing Day is today.

The four years have come and gone for the recruiting class of 2004, and although some of the players will return after using red-shirt years, the ones that will be missed are the graduating seniors — especially three of the team captains from this past season.

Coach on the field

Eastern offensive line coach Jeff Hoover was succinct when describing senior center Drew Cairo-Gross.

"I don't think there was a better leader on the team than Drew," Hoover said.

Hoover said Cairo-Gross' pride, combined with his leadership skills made the Mundelein native a natural team captain.

"He wasn't afraid to speak his mind, but you definitely didn't hear him talking all the time," Hoover said. "It was really more by his action."

Hoover said Cairo-Gross set a good example on and off the field for the younger players on the team. But it was his ability at center on the field that led to Cairo-Gross' post-season honors. He was named to the Ohio Valley Conference second



Senior captains Drew Cairo-Gross, Micah Rucker, Donald Thomas and Tim Kelly walk from the locker room at Murray State on Oct. 13. Cairo-Gross, Thomas and Kelly are all members of the recruiting class of 2004.

team and was a Sports Network All-American honorable mention after the 2007 season.

Hoover said Cairo-Gross knew Eastern's offensive schemes in and out and was able to call out adjustments on the fly.

"As a center, you're kind of the quarterback of the offensive line," Hoover said.

Former Eastern offensive line coach Mark Hutson said Cairo-Gross' strong work ethic helped him become a top lineman in the OVC.

"He's not as tall as some of the linemen, but he was able to use that to his advantage because he could use his leverage," Hutson said.

The speed linebacker

Eastern head coach Bob Spoo said senior linebacker Donald Thomas has been clocked at 4.5 seconds in the 40-yard dash.

"That's running back speed,"

Spoo said. "When you apply that to that position, that's outstanding. So his ability to get to where he needs to get to — to cut off the ball carrier — is critical and, in his case, a real bonus."

Those skills translated to honors for Thomas. He was named a 2007 Sports Network All-American honorable mention and a 2007 All-OVC First Team selection to go along with his 2006 OVC Defensive Player of the Year award.

"You could tell he was going to be a really good player," Bellantoni said. "Once some of the older guys started leaving the program and graduating, Donald kind of took over that leadership role."

The four-year starter

Bellantoni said he expected senior defensive tackle Tim Kelly to be a solid contributor, but not a high-impact player when he was

recruited.

"When we had an injury to (Will) Bihun, he ended up stepping in and starting every game of his college career," he said. "That's why recruiting is not an exact science."

Bellantoni said Kelly's work ethic allowed him to become a four-year starter and great leader on the team.

"(Thomas and Kelly) were both a little more vocal than guys we've had in the past," Bellantoni said. "Both of them still were leaders by example first, but they weren't afraid to speak up if something needed to be said."

Spoo said Kelly was an outstanding worker from day one.

"He is a guy that I would like everybody to emulate on our football team," Spoo said. "He did everything necessary to make himself a better player."

Scott Richey can be reached at 581-7944 or at srichey@eiu.edu.

CLASS OF 2007			
Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.
L. Hockaday	QB	6-2	185
T. Mahou	WR	6-1	200
L. Ricks	WR	6-1	180
T. Haywood	WR	5-11	160
D. Brown	QB	6-1	180
R. Grossman	OL	6-4	302
S. Knolhoff	OL	6-5	300
E. Rettke	OL	6-3	280
C. Leman	LB	6-0	280
M. Klein	LB	6-0	215
A. Marcelin	LB	6-0	215
C. James	DB	5-8	170
N. Martinez	DB	6-0	208
W. Henderson	OL	6-2	270
N. Nasti	LB	6-1	227
R. Mammano	OL	6-4	270
D. Hood	RB	5-9	175
J. Harvey	OL	6-4	250
J. Jean-Charles	DB	5-10	193

CLASS OF 2006			
Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.
L. Cairo	SS	6-1	191
S. Campbell	LB	6-1	187
L. Edington	LS	6-4	220
N. Galan	DE	6-2	233
R. Haynes	CB	5-11	164
R. Jordan	RB	5-8	173
C. Luczynski	DE	6-1	219
B. Mercier	CB	5-10	172
J. Nelson	LB	6-0	202
R. Rigsby	DE	6-5	216
N. Shortridge	LB	5-11	197
D. Vehovic	WR	6-2	119
O. Palmer	DB	5-11	175
C. Meyer	OL	6-5	284

CLASS OF 2005			
Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.
A. Arrington	SS	5-11	187
J. Evers	WR	6-1	195
I. Jean-Charles	DB	5-11	191
A. Kesler	WR	5-9	180
S. Loftman	DB	5-11	191
C. Millard	OL	6-3	305
W. Norris	OL	6-9	315
M. Scheibel	OL	6-3	303
C. Vaccaro	OL	6-3	303
P. Lynch	DE	6-0	280
D. Moore	DT	6-2	240
J. Moore	DB	5-11	175
A. Morrison	LB	6-0	219
J. Coia	WR	6-0	180
K. Kniss	QB	6-0	205

CLASS OF 2004			
Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.
M. Adams	DL	6-2	282
T. Bess	RB	5-8	176
D. Cairo-Gross	OL	6-2	325
J. Campanella	TE	6-3	245
W. Hodor	OL	6-2	286
T. Kelly	DE	6-4	277
C. Keys	FB	6-2	249
J. Kosinski	LB	5-11	219
J. Larson	LB	6-2	217
R. Meyers	DE	6-1	253
A. Nozinor	WR	6-0	172
Q. Ponius	WR	5-9	197
N. Smith	RB	5-9	220
T. Steckel	TE	6-2	230
D. Thomas	LB	5-10	237
S. Turner	DB	5-8	162
P. Walters	DE	6-5	261
T. Williams	WR	6-4	195
R. Bethel	DT	6-4	260
T. Dwyer	WR	6-1	190
J. Gorzny	K	6-2	190
J. Valentine	WR	6-2	190
D. Walker	RB	5-9	195
J. Moll	QB	6-2	200
S. McPeak	OL	6-4	265
J. James	DT	6-4	260
T. Kaatman	DT	6-1	255

CLASS OF 2003			
Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.
A. Adeniji	RB	5-10	215
B. Berdis	WR	5-11	200
B. Brown	CB	6-0	184
B.J. Brown	CB	5-11	170
T. Burge	FS	6-0	214
D. Cummings	DB	5-10	164
K. Doby	LB	5-9	211
M. Donato	QB	6-1	192
M. Embry	SS	6-1	189
D. Jerome	CB	5-10	165
J. Mobley	WR	6-0	189
A. Parsill	TE	6-4	250
L. Seymour	LB	5-10	210
A. Rubican	OT	6-6	289
R. Schulz	C	6-3	266
M. Torres	DE	6-1	255
R. Voss	WR	6-5	194
S. Washington	LB	6-2	221
C. Jones	WR	5-8	160
L. Mutter	C	6-1	279
R. Nichols	DE	6-2	218
T. Pine	OG	6-3	273

*Italicized players did not finish career at Eastern

2008 EASTERN FOOTBALL VERBAL COMMITS & TRANSFERS

<p>Von Wise Height: 6-3 Weight: 193 pounds Position: WR High School: Finneytown (Ohio) HS Coach's take: "He has a real big frame. He's a kid that can stretch the field vertically right away." - Eric Taylor</p>	<p>Chevon Walker Height: 5-10 Weight: 193 pounds Position: RB College: Florida High School: Riverdale (Ft. Myers, Fla.)</p>	<p>Desmin Ward Height: 6-0 Weight: 203 pounds Position: RB High School: Milwaukee Hamilton (Wisc.) HS Coach's take: "He leads by example. He needs to be a step faster." - Jeff Wallack</p>
<p>Ben Olson Height: 6-3 Weight: 281 pounds Position: OL High School: Morris HS Coach's take: "He wanted to go to Eastern. He won't just be a number or on the B squad on the program, if he works hard at it." - George Dergo</p>	<p>Taylor Dunn Height: 6-4 Weight: 245 pounds Position: DE College: College of Siskiyous</p>	<p>Keagan Robinson Height: 6-5 Weight: 225 pounds Position: TE/LB High School: Petersburg (PORTA) HS Coach's take: "He's a big presence. He's able to shed blockers and pursue on the defensive side of the ball." - Rich McMahan</p>
<p>Gordon Kickels Height: 5-11 Weight: 204 pounds Position: LB High School: Lemont HS Coach's take: "He's just an athlete that wants to win. He'll hit whatever's on the field." - Eric Michaelsen</p>	<p>Doug Reynolds Height: 6-2 Weight: 190 pounds Position: QB High School: Colerain (Ohio) HS Coach's take: "He's the total package. He's got a cannon for an arm, and he can run a 4.6 (second) 40 (yard dash)." - Tom Bolden</p>	<p>Shawn Williams Height: 5-9 Weight: 160 pounds Position: WR/DB High School: Coconut Creek (Fla.) HS Coach's take: "He had a very good season. He has a lot more potential (because he plays both positions)." - Robbie Owen</p>
<p>Kenny Williams Height: 6-0 Weight: 211 pounds Position: RB High School: Elgin HS Coach's take: "He's a fast running back with a lot of power. He's a good downhill runner." - Tom Kim</p>	<p>Perry Burge Height: 6-2 Weight: 225 pounds Position: DE High School: Bolingbrook</p>	<p>Photos of Reynolds, Olson, Kickels, Burge and Wise courtesy of Rivals.com. Photo of Williams courtesy of the Elgin Courier News. Photo of Walker courtesy of Florida media guide. Photo of Dunn courtesy of Siskiyous media guide.</p>
<p>Kenny Kinchen Height: 5-9 Weight: 175 pounds Position: DB High School: North Miami Beach (Fla.)</p>	<p>Kevin Kappellas Height: 6-4 Weight: 270 pounds Position: OL High School: Archbishop Moeller (Ohio)</p>	<p>-Compiled by Associate Sports Editor Kevin Murphy and Sports Editor Scott Richey</p>

FOOTBALL | RECRUITING SPOTLIGHT

Eastern coaches recruit all around country

Florida a hotbed for Panthers recruits

By Dan Cusack
Sports Reporter

Assistant coaches have a tough job and often do not get the credit they deserve. They run practice and make game plans, but also hit the road after the season has ended to recruit.

The football team has players from eight different states, which were recruited by a number of different coaches in preparation for today's National Signing Day.

The main recruiters for the Eastern football team are offensive line coach Jeff Hoover, defensive backs coach Bobby Babich, defensive coordinator Roc Bellantoni and special teams coach Justin Lustig.

Bellantoni has been at Eastern for seven years, and he has been in charge of recruiting from the state of Florida. Bellantoni recruited guys from Florida at his previous school, Drake, and had a number of contacts in the state.

"It is all about personal relationships and getting to know people," Bellantoni said.

Eastern has 26 players from Florida, and Bellantoni said it is not hard to sell them on Eastern.

"Eastern is a great school, and we have a great program, but most of all we have great people," Bellantoni said. "Players from Florida know the second they get on campus they have (26) brothers right there for them – and that's something special."

Bellantoni said word of mouth about the school from athletes from the state has been important in recruiting from Florida.

Lustig has recruited three different regions since he started coaching



FILE PHOTO | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Eastern defensive coordinator Roc Bellantoni looks at his defense during Eastern's game at Tennessee State on Oct. 27. Bellantoni recruits the Florida area for high school players. He made a lot of contacts in the state when he worked at Drake.

at Eastern two years ago, but he currently recruits the northwest suburbs of Chicago and Wisconsin.

"Usually when you're new, they start you out with the worst areas," Lustig said. "So I started messing around in Wisconsin looking for talent."

Lustig said the success of former Eastern quarterback Tony Romo has made it easier to recruit in that region.

"A lot of people do not know he is from Burlington High School in Wisconsin," Lustig said. "Everyone

knows him up there, and it gives instant recognition."

Lustig also said Eastern's location is not too far of a drive from either northwest Chicago or even Milwaukee.

Hoover recruits the south suburbs of Chicago and has been recruiting the region since he started last spring.

"It is not hard to recruit kids from that region," Hoover said. "We have such a great school, a great football program and we are solid academically."

Hoover said the high number of students from the south suburbs who attend Eastern for both school and athletics helps.

"A lot of kids already have familiarity with the school," Hoover said. "There is no question word has gotten around."

Babich is in charge of recruiting central Illinois and Cincinnati.

Babich said he was introduced to the quality of high school football in the Cincinnati area when he coached a number of players from that area at Kent State.

"There is only one Division I-AA (now Football Championship Sub-division school) in the state of Ohio, and that area is saturated with talent," Babich said. "There are a lot of quality players, and we try to sell the winning tradition of Eastern Illinois."

Babich also said the proximity of Eastern to Cincinnati – about four hours – is also a major selling point for potential recruits.

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

» Freshmen

FROM PAGE 12

Marcelin played in 11 of the 12 games this past season and is projected to be in next year's starting lineup.

"It was definitely an older brother-young brother relationship," Marcelin said. "He tried to show me everything. You have an All-American showing you the ropes, giving you tips and hints. I hope to get to his status and heed his advice – play my way to the top."

Marcelin finished the season with 16 tackles, including five solo tackles. Marcelin's biggest game came against Tennessee-Martin when he started in place of an injured Thomas.

Thomas, a first team All-OVC selection who finished the season with a team-high 91 tackles, had to sit out because of his foot injury. Marcelin led the team with eight tackles.

"Alain had a phenomenal game," Thomas said. "(In that game), you could tell he was getting comfortable at the linebacker position."

Bellantoni said he thought Marcelin was key to the win in the UT-Martin game.

"If he hadn't stepped up, we wouldn't have won that game," Bellantoni said.

Freshman Nick Nasti found his idol in another linebacker: senior Matt Westrick.

Nasti was Westrick's backup during the 2007 season.

"He plays mad," Nasti said. "He plays angry. Just watching him, he's a beast out there. (I just want to) try and be like him, you know?"

Nasti also played in 11 games,

but mainly in a special teams role. The Plano native finished with eight tackles, including four solo tackles.

Nasti is a pure athlete. "His name defines his game," Thomas said. "He has a hard nose for the football. He has speed. He's the most physically fit linebacker I've ever seen."

Nasti, a two-way player like most high school football players, was also a standout wrestler and track athlete.

"He's got a little nastiness, no pun intended," Bellantoni said. "He wasn't exactly sure what his role was, but he always found a way to get to the ball."

Nasti admitted he had trouble adjusting to the college level.

"I didn't know anything about a real defense," Nasti said. "I thought I did in high school. The first year, (we freshman) kind of got it thrown on us because we were actually playing. The first year, you're trying to learn plays; you're thinking too much."

Bellantoni is excited about the young linebackers.

"We have the potential to be really good on defense," he said.

What excited Thomas was the dedication the freshmen class showed on and off the field.

"You've never seen so much enthusiasm from such a young group," Thomas said. "They really defined themselves from the first day of camp."

But Thomas is worried about one thing: Eastern opponents facing this freshman class.

"(These freshmen are) scary," Thomas said. "Not only are these guys fast – they're physical."

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

» Rules

FROM PAGE 12

Athletes can call the coach as many times as they want, said Jason Hall, Eastern's assistant athletic director for compliance and academic services.

Hall said if a coach calls the recruit, but doesn't talk about recruitment or the recruit isn't there, that call does not count against the one call per week.

"But if you talk to the mom and say this is Coach so-and-so, and I'm really excited to see your son play and I'm looking forward to meeting you," Hall said. "If he engages her in conversation, then (the call) would count. It counts for parent or guardian or recruit. But if it's just a message, and most likely what you're going to do is voicemail, that does not count."

The NCAA has split up the 2007-08 calendar year, which began Aug. 1, 2007 and ends July 31, 2008, into four periods coaches have to follow.

Coaches were in the contact period from Nov. 25 through this past Saturday. This means coaches can make off-campus visits and in-home visits to recruits, Hall said.

However, not all of the allotted time from Nov. 25 to Saturday was designated a contact period.

Quiet periods were designated for Dec. 16, Jan. 4-6 and Jan. 11-12. During quiet periods, coaches cannot make any off-campus contact with recruits, but recruits can make on-campus visits, either official or unofficial visits. Coaches can also make one phone call per week during quiet periods.

Also from Nov. 25 until Saturday, coaches experienced dates known as

ROC BELLANTONI | DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR

"We could go out in December and January and find good players. If you wait to do that now – and it's been a struggle because of our budget – you're behind the eight ball."

dead periods. Hall said during dead periods no on-campus or off-campus contact can be made with recruits and one phone call can be made per week. Coaches were in dead periods from Dec. 17 through Jan. 3. Today, coaches are again in the dead period, which started Monday, but with a twist.

Because today is National Signing Day, coaches have been able to make unlimited phone calls to recruits for the past two days, Hall said.

The other period coaches have is the evaluation period. Coaches can leave campus at this time to evaluate recruits, but cannot have any contact with the recruit or anyone within the recruit's immediate family, Hall said.

Coaches can send out as many e-mails as they want to the recruit, and this process is often done to set up visits to campus by the recruit.

Official or unofficial visits by a recruit can take place in any period, except a dead period.

Each recruit gets up to five official visits, which are visits paid for by the university, Hall said. The recruit can make five visits, but only has one official visit per school.

A recruit can make an unlimited number of unofficial visits to campus, Hall said.

But the university does not pay for any expenses on an unofficial visit, Hall said.

Eastern defensive coordinator Roc Bellantoni said he treats all the regulations and rules as "common sense type stuff."

Bellantoni, who has coached at Eastern since 2001, said recruiting has changed since he arrived in Charleston.

He said coaches have to start looking at recruits earlier than they have in the past.

"We could go out in December and January and find good players," Bellantoni said. "If you wait to do that now – and it's been a struggle because of our budget – you're behind the eight-ball. You have to get on guys in the spring of their junior year to be able to have a shot at them because everyone else is recruiting them earlier because of the Internet and these recruiting services."

Head coach Bob Spoo, who was an assistant at Wisconsin from 1973-77 and at Purdue from 1978-86, said the adjustments made in terms of recruiting rules have benefited the recruit.

"I think the rules came about because the prospective student-athletes were getting overwhelmed with that kind of stuff," he said. "There are rules in place, and we definitely have to abide by them."

Matt Daniels can be reached at 581-7936 or at mwdaniels@eiu.edu.

NATIONAL SPORTS

COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Connecticut at Syracuse |
6 tonight on ESPN

COLLEGE BASKETBALL
No. 2 Duke at No. 3. North Carolina |
8 tonight on ESPN

TRIPLE THREAT



Bob Spoo

Eastern head football coach Bob Spoo (above) and the rest of the staff have prepared for this day, National Signing Day, for four months. Eastern has had productive recruits sign in the past couple years, including sophomore running back Ron Jordan and senior offensive lineman Drew Cairo-Gross.

Here are the top recruits from the 2004-06 Signing Day classes.

1. Rashad Haynes ('06) — The red-shirt freshman from Rockledge, Fla., had five interceptions for 196 yards to lead the Panthers. His longest return was for 86 yards. Haynes also returned a punt for a touchdown and blocked a punt against Indiana State that was also returned by the Panthers.

2. Seymour Loftman ('05) — Although the junior had to red-shirt this season because of an injury, Loftman had an amazing sophomore season. Loftman, a free safety from Plantation, Fla., led the team with four interceptions in the 2006 season.

3. Donald Thomas ('04) — The class of 2004 was stocked, but if we have to pick one, it's Donald Thomas. The senior linebacker from St. Louis was one of 20 finalists for the Buck Buchanan Award and was the 2006 OVC Defensive Player of the Year. Thomas was a two-time first-team All-OVC honoree.

-Kevin Murphy



SCOTT RICHEY

Classes can make a difference

The cover of Eastern's game day magazine for the last football game of the 2007 season against Samford featured several familiar faces. Faces that will not be on the field for the Panthers' next season.

And these players were contributors. The starters. The leaders of the team.

Players like linebacker Donald Thomas, defensive tackle Tim Kelly, wide receiver Micah Rucker and running back Ademola Adeniji will all be gone. All had good seasons for the Panthers, and all must be replaced.

But good recruiting classes have put the Panthers with capable players waiting in the wings and in position to continue to excel in the Ohio Valley Conference.

>> SEE RICHEY, PAGE 9

FOOTBALL | CLASS EVALUATION

Mentored by linebackers



FILE PHOTO | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Freshman linebacker Alain Marcelin follows a play during a home game last season. Marcelin would be the backup to All-American and senior linebacker Donald Thomas. Marcelin and the rest of the Panthers will prepare for a new crop of freshmen that will sign today, National Signing Day.

Freshmen succeed through Thomas, Westrick

By Kevin Murphy
Associate Sports Editor

Freshman linebacker Alain Marcelin saw his mentor and teammate go down on the field last season when senior linebacker Donald Thomas injured his foot at Murray State on Oct. 13.

Marcelin would take Thomas' place and ended up with four tackles in the second half.

"The first thing is, is he OK?" Marcelin said. "And then the second thing, you're hearing your name called out to get in the game."

Marcelin was concerned about Thomas but also had to worry about the Murray State offense.

"Coaches always preach, 'You're one game away from playing,' and it came true," Marcelin said. "You grow up really quick. Before the play, everything is running through your head, but right when the whistle blows, it's back to practice. Instinct takes over."

Marcelin and other freshmen enjoyed a successful season as the

Panthers made the Football Championship Division Playoffs for the third year in a row. The Panthers will see a new crop of freshmen today on National Signing Day.

Marcelin and Thomas developed a relationship on and off the field. It translated into a bond Marcelin will find useful for the next three years.

"Alain Marcelin is the future of EIU defense," Thomas said. "He always wants to get better."

Marcelin said he would talk to Thomas all the time and constantly ask questions about how he could get better.

Thomas didn't mind the ques-

tions. He enjoyed them.

"He stepped up as a true freshman," Thomas said. "He stepped up on and off the field. I'm proud of him."

The off-the-field friendship between Thomas and Marcelin developed and led to a successful on-field performance.

"He's like my little brother," Thomas said. "I felt not only obligated to (Marcelin), but the rest of the linebackers. (The older players and I) just try to teach these young guys to make better decisions."

>> SEE FRESHMEN, PAGE 11

FOOTBALL | RECRUITING

Coaches have to abide by strict NCAA rules

College governing body limits when coaches can contact potential recruits

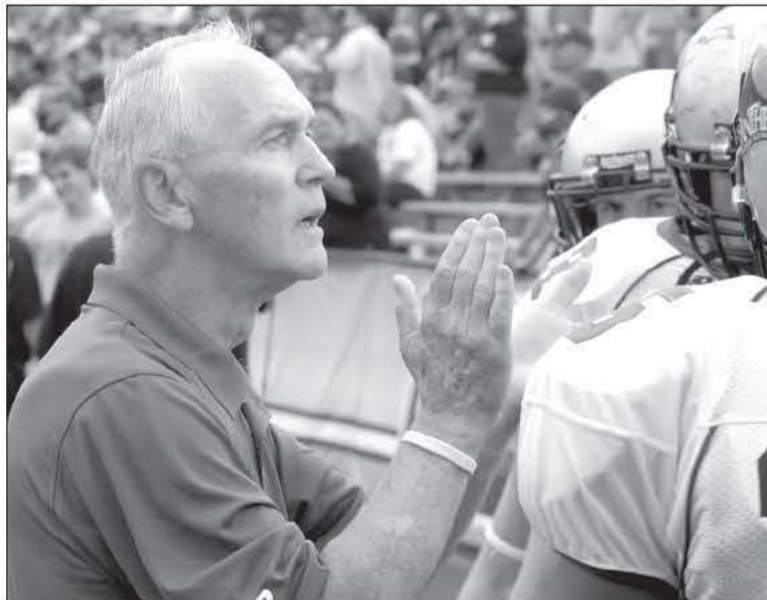
By Matt Daniels
Editor in Chief

Mike Lynch used to love text messaging recruits.

However, Eastern's wide receivers coach and the program's recruiting coordinator can't use this form of technology anymore.

The NCAA adopted legislation on Aug. 1 that banned coaches from sending unlimited text messages to prospective student-athletes.

"A lot of these kids don't want to talk on the phone anyway," Lynch said. "And all of a sudden, they made the rule that you can't text anymore. I definitely wanted to keep texting. It was just an easy way to say hello to a guy and congratulate him on a win the night before or let him know you were playing a game the next day without actual-



FILE PHOTO | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Eastern head coach Bob Spoo and the rest of the coaches have to follow strict rules on recruiting high school players.

ly having to dial up and talk to him for 10 minutes." National Signing Day is today,

and the ban on text messaging is just one example of the restrictions college football coaches face in terms of recruiting.

All coaches on Eastern's staff have to pass an open-book test every year regarding NCAA recruiting regulations before they are allowed to leave campus and recruit, Lynch said.

One main restriction coaches are placed under deals with telephone calls.

According to Bylaw 13.1.3.1.1 in the 2007-08 NCAA Manual, a football coach may make one phone call per week from April 15 to May 31 to discuss recruitment while the prospective athlete is a junior in high school.

However, after May 31, the coach may not call again until Sept. 1 of the athlete's senior year of high school.

>> SEE RULES, PAGE 11

EASTERN SPORTS SCHEDULE

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
Thursday vs. Austin Peay |
5 p.m. — Lantz Arena

MEN'S BASKETBALL
Thursday vs. Austin Peay |
7:15 p.m. — Lantz Arena

MEN'S TENNIS
Friday at Saint Louis |
4 p.m. — St. Louis

WOMEN'S TENNIS
Saturday at Northern Illinois |
2 p.m. — Rockford

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
Saturday at Tennessee-Martin |
4 p.m. — Martin, Tenn.