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THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

March 5, 2004 ♦ **FRIDAY**

Hittin' the hookah

Champaign hookah bar offers
good times.

Page 1B VERGE



Have a nice Day

Howie Day to headline UB spring concerts

By **Brittany Robson**
ACTIVITIES EDITOR

Songwriter and performer Howie Day, 22, from Bangor, Maine, will play April 4 at Lantz Arena as open for the University Board's spring concert series.

UB is paying \$28,500 for Day to perform at Eastern. Day independently released his first album, "Australia" in 2000. More than a year later, over 100,000 copies have been sold.

In addition to that, he has released "Madrigals EP" and his latest, "Stop All The World Now," which is now out following his signing to Epic Records.

Day's band features Jay Clifford from Jump Little Children, ex-Verve Pipe bassist Simon Jones, Los Angeles keyboard player Less Hall and London drummer Laurie Jenkins.

"In a weird way I've come full circle," Day said. "After high school, I decided to skip college, but wound up spending a lot of time touring college campuses. Four years later, I'm releasing a new record instead of getting my degree."

A press release said Day's music explores themes of love, regret and loss. He also incorporates a 25-piece orchestra in four of his songs.

"Going into the studio, I wanted to create a timeless record that will hold up 10 years down the road," Day said in a press release.

SEE CONCERTS ♦ Page 7A

Spring Concert Series

HOWIE DAY,
OPENING ACT UNKNOWN
Sunday, April 4

**SOMETHING CORPORATE AND
YELLOWCARD** WITH THE FORMAT
Sundy, April 25

WHERE TO GET TICKETS?
Howie Day tickets go on sale Wednesday. Something Corporate and Yellowcard tickets go on sale to students Monday, March 22 and to the public Monday, March 29 at the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union Ticket Office

HOW MUCH?
Both concerts are \$8 for students, \$15 for the public

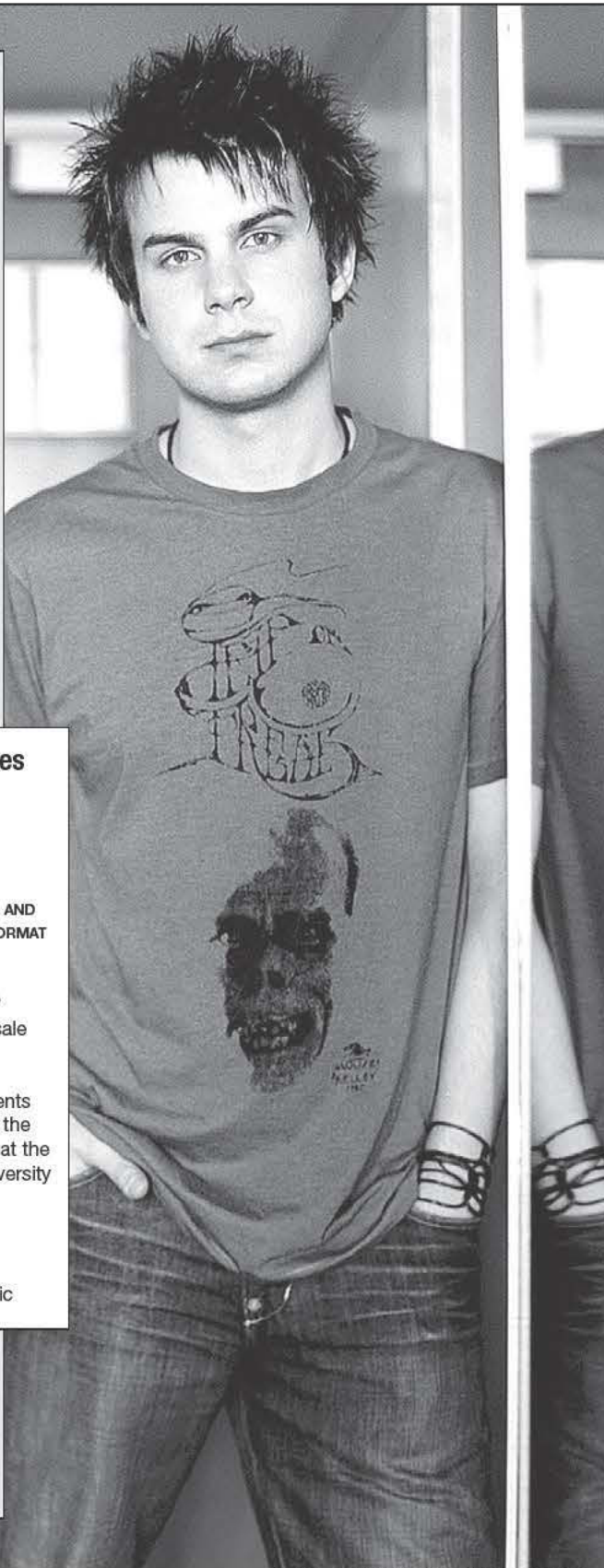


PHOTO COURTESY OF SONY RECORDS

Howie Day will be performing April 4 for one of two Spring concerts. His latest album, "Stop All the World Now," was released in October of 2003 and he has most recently toured with Barenaked Ladies.

APPORTIONMENT BOARD

Cuts made to budget proposals

♦ *Board will recommend budgets for
2005 to president's council*

By **Brian O'Malley**
STUDENT GOVERNMENT EDITOR

The Apportionment Board Thursday approved a total combined budget of \$477,000 for the five-fee funded boards of AB for fiscal year 2005, which they will recommend to Shirley Stewart, vice president for student affairs.

The total proposed amount was more than \$525,000, which is about \$7,000 fewer than last year's proposal.

AB, only having \$477,000 available to allocate, had to cut requested money from three of the groups.

The other groups funded by AB are the Dramatic Player's Club, University Board, the Student Recreation Center and the Student Government.

The Apportionment Board requested and was approved more than \$21,000. The Dramatic Player's Club requested and was approved more than \$8,000.

Larry Ward, Student Senate vice president for financial affairs and AB chair, said he thought it was a good idea to give the player's club and themselves the exact requests.

"It seems like a good idea to approve those two first," Ward said.

The University Board was approved more than \$210,000, which is about \$40,000 less than the group's request. The approved amount is still about a \$6,000 increase from the fiscal year 2004 budget.

The Student Recreation Center was approved an amount of more than \$200,000, when the group asked for about \$5,000 more. The rec center also has an increase of about \$6,000.

The percentages each group were given out of the allocations available were almost identical to the fiscal year 2004 budget's percentages.

"We could have just kept the percentages the same and ended the meeting in 30 minutes, but instead we went through budget by budget and worked the kinks out," Ward said. "I think we went about it the right way."

Sha Woodyard, staff clerk for Union General Operations and AB member, said AB only has the power to make recommendations.

"It's not our job to decide what exactly gets cut," Woodyard said.

Ward said some of the items taken out of Student Government's budget to add to the needed cuts were eliminating one registration to the Conference of Student Government Associations, removing the total per diem cost and some of the student airfare money.

Ward said he thinks the five groups expect certain costs to be eliminated, so he told AB to focus on costs that only benefit a small number of students.

"I don't think anybody would be unhappy with that," Ward said.

UB Chair Jenn Kieffer said she wished the approval for UB was a little higher, but was still happy to receive an increase.

"We can work with any amount," Kieffer said. "Obviously we would have liked to get a higher amount, but we can work with it."

Ken Baker, director of campus recreation, said the decrease in the rec center's budget was expected because AB didn't have enough money to give each group every dollar they asked for.

"We can always work harder," Baker said.

AB member Amy Leonard said the rec center should be the last budget to be decreased because the budget is similar every year.

"Every group usually is asking for stuff they didn't ask for last year," Leonard said. "The Rec Center really isn't asking for anything they didn't ask for before."



Larry Ward
Apportionment Board
chair

Cancer claims life of former professor

By **Julie Bourque**
CAMPUS REPORTER

Mrs. Mary Ellen Varble, a beloved professor, coworker, friend, mother, grandmother and wife, passed away in the early morning Wednesday.

Beginning her work at Eastern in 1988, Varble taught a variety of courses in the elementary education field with emphasis on language arts and reading, supervised practicum students in the schools and actively participated on a variety of committees for university, state and national teacher organizations.

From 1995-1998, Varble also served as the chair of the department of student teaching.

She has left a lasting impression behind on all of those who were graced with her presence.

"She dedicated her professional life to the preparation of exceptional teachers," said Charles Rohn, dean of the College of Education and Professional Studies. "Eastern Illinois University and the teaching profession have and will continue to benefit greatly due to her exemplar-



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Mrs. Mary Ellen Varble died from breast cancer Wednesday. Mrs. Varble was an elementary education professor at Eastern from 1988 to 2004.

ry efforts. She will truly be missed."

For the past two years, Varble had been battling breast cancer and it began to spread within the past year.

But, through it all, many faculty members said Varble still exuded her positive and inspirational aura that lingered wherever she went. Even when sick, faculty said she remained "positive and upbeat

with so much energy."

"Mary Ellen was such a warm and caring person and totally dedicated to supporting the university, the (education) department and all her students," Judy Barford, early childhood, elementary and middle level education professor, said. "No matter what, she was always there smiling and deeply caring."








Students remember Mrs. Varble for her genuine personality and her extreme dedication.

Graduate student Shannon Costello, who had Varble for four classes, said Mrs. Varble's hard work and dedication made her one of the best professors Costello had ever had.

"She really took a lot of time to get to know her students personally, and she always made sure we knew how important being a good teacher was and that we would become one," Costello said.

Barford said Mrs. Varble's teachings could easily be reflected through her students' motivation and appreciation for children's literature.

SEE VARBLE ♦ Page 7A

Today Partly cloudy  71° 38° HIGH LOW	Saturday Partly cloudy  46° 40° HIGH LOW	Sunday Partly cloudy  48° 31° HIGH LOW	Monday Partly cloudy  46° 28° HIGH LOW	Tuesday Partly cloudy  41° 29° HIGH LOW	Wednesday Partly cloudy  45° 35° HIGH LOW	Thursday Mostly sunny  55° 43° HIGH LOW
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DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY JOSH REELEY

Snail search

Nicole Flownders (left), a freshman biology major, scoops a sample from the Carman pond while Amanda Craig (right), a sophomore biology major, sifts through the contents to find snails for their animal diversity class Thursday morning.

Student stand-up opens busy weekend

Friday

Student Comedy: University Board will host Student Stand-up Comedy Night at 9 p.m. in the 7th St. Underground. University Board comedy coordinator Bill Welter said applications are available in the Student Activities Center and students can sign up before the show. All styles are welcome to participate.

Def Comedy and Poetry Jam: SD Entertainment and Sexy Sigma present Comics and Poets 2 Tha Stage. The event will begin at 9:30 p.m. Friday in the Grand Ballroom of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union. Admission is \$5 with an Eastern ID and \$10 without an ID. The event will be hosted by comic Sonya D. Performers include HBO's "Def Poetry Jam's" Danny Devine, "Def Comedy Jam" and "Comic View's" own Big O with a special poetic performance by Eastern's Veronique Gerring. Free giveaways include merchandise by RocaWear, Roc-A-Fella, Def Jam and more. Gerring, a sophomore clinical laboratory sciences major, said her poetry is about real issues in everyday life.

Saturday

Murder Mystery: Lake Land College's business and professional women department will

host "Final Cut," a murder mystery dinner, at 6 p.m. Saturday at the Time Theater in Mattoon. Guests will be served prime rib dinner over a murder scene. According to a press release, the dinner revolves around director Eddie Cheek looking for backers for his new movie, "The Zombie Was an Alien".

He is throwing a shindig for interested parties and all are invited. In return for financing his motion picture, Mr. Cheek will feature guests in his movie. All of the guests will become involved in trying to figure out who the killer is. Ticket prices are \$50 per person and \$80 per couple. Proceeds will benefit the Business and Professional Women Department Lake Land College Foundation Scholarship.

Movie: University Board will show the movie "Kill Bill" at 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday in Buzzard Auditorium. "Kill Bill" is based around lead actress Uma Thurman's character "the Bride", who emerges from a coma and swears to avenge on those who tried to kill her. In addition to Thurman, the movie features David Carradine and Lucy Liu.

Sunday

Music: Eastern's Symphonic Wind Ensemble will present American, French, Italian, Scottish, Russian and English

music from composers Louis Ganne, Malcolm Arnold, Ottorino Respighi, Nicolai Korsakov, David Gillingham and Morten Lauridsen. The concert is in observance of the Queen Elizabeth I exhibit in Booth Library. The concert will begin at 4 p.m. Sunday in McAfee South Auditorium.

Foundations of Life: What does it mean that human life has "intrinsic" value? Is the right to life something "endowed by our creator?" These are some questions Rev. James Lamb, executive director of National Lutherans for Life, will address when he speaks at 7 p.m. Sunday in Buzzard Auditorium. He will also talk about abortion, post-abortion trauma, assisted suicide and more.

Miss Black and Gold: A Miss Black and Gold informational meeting will be at 8 p.m. Sunday in the Scherer Room of the Union. According to Ricardo Jean-Pierre, a graduate student involved in Miss Black and Gold, the event is a pageant based on scholarship, beauty and service. It is presented by Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity. The meeting Sunday is for ladies to receive information on the pageant. The contest will take place April 23. For more information call 348-5335.

compiled By Brittany Robson

Newspaper editor gives ways to compete with TV and radio

By Jessica Perillo
STAFF WRITER

Kathy Best grew up in a newspaper family.

The assistant managing editor of Metro News at the St. Louis Post-Dispatch grew up in Sullivan where her parents owned the local weekly paper.

Best talked to about 50 Thursday in Buzzard Auditorium about the competition in newspapers.

Best finds competition within the first 90 minutes of the waking morning. She said the radio, television and Internet drive people away from reading the daily paper because those media can offer immediate news coverage newspapers cannot.

"A much greater threat is the competition we face in people's time," Best said.

The modern lifestyle in America is full of busy families coming and going. Television and radio are more and more accessible for these busy families.

"It's amazing they have time to sleep, let alone read," Best said.

To keep people interested in newspapers, Best suggested highlighting local events on the front page. People

are not going to learn the local news they are most interested in by watching television or listening to the radio. People care most about what directly affects them and their families.

"Localize, localize, localize!" she said.

Growing up, Best never dreamed of becoming a journalist.

"She wanted nothing to do with journalism," Marion Best, Kathy's mother, said.

But as she grew, things changed. Kathy Best wrote her first article in junior high school about her younger brother. Although Kathy Best grew up in the business, she was not influenced by her parents to pursue journalism as a career.

"We wanted our kids to do what they wanted to do and what they felt they did best," Marion Best said.

Kathy Best advises students pursuing a career in journalism to major in business writing. "The need is great in business writing, but the supply is not," she said.

Developing skills in an area other than journalism, such as business, will make a person more marketable when the time comes to get a job.

RESIDENCE HALL ASSOCIATION

Executive board requirements get easier

By Jaclyn Gorski
STAFF WRITER

The Residence Hall Association passed a motion Thursday stating a person must attend three meetings instead of seven in order to be nominated for an executive board position. The meeting requirement was stated in the RHA constitution.

An RHA member opposing the motion said it only mattered "how experienced they are, it should not be how many meetings they have been to."

Another RHA member said he didn't want to get rid of the executive board completely, but felt the higher end of the board like vice president could be eliminated.

According to Article Two of the RHA bylaws, executive board members must be "RHA members at the time of their election, have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.25, and must reside on-campus during term." These requirements will stay intact. Nominations for executive board positions will start March 11.

The RHA also made changes to their current constitution. There were changes to four articles and two sections within the same article. These changes include Article four, section six, subsection e, which states "the vice president of finance shall post campus voice posters before their slated due date each month."

The RHA passed a motion to support the National Residence Hall Honorary, the group in charge of recycling in the residence halls and in the Greek Court area. In the past week, Carman and Weller halls have started supporting the NRHH program.

Matthew O'Malley, vice-president of RHA, mentioned the national conference for RHA will be held later in the year. Applications to attend the conference will go from May 16-20. The cost is \$200 per person. The RHA will pay for one-third of a delegate's funds and two-thirds of executive officers' funds, "depending on available funds" in accordance with the RHA constitution.

THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

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

SUGGESTIONS

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

Homeland Security grant denied

By Erin Pittman
STAFF WRITER

Eastern officials were denied a federal grant to provide local homeland security training and aid in university building destruction.

Discussion began last January on how to correlate the demolition of the Doudna Fine Arts Building on Seventh Street and a federal grant that was up for grabs.

The Department of Homeland Security was offering four federal grants in which buildings would be torn down and emergency response teams could practice rescue procedures.

"This type of drill was established last year and was designed to resemble what occurred the hours after the World Trade Center collapsed," said Gary Hanebrink, chief environmental safety officer.

Three such demolitions have already occurred in Chicago, Washington D.C. and San Francisco.

Jeff Cooley, vice president for business affairs, said if Eastern received the grant, "they would have come in and knocked down the clinical services building and the counseling center.

"We were also going to demolish the glass wing, the east side of the fine arts center."

Cooley said because the government would have been paying for the demolition and asbestos removal, which were already necessary, money would have been saved for the renovation of the new fine arts building.

Area emergency responders would also have benefited from this grant.

Local agencies from across Illinois, including fire departments, police squads and ambulances, would have been able to train in a realistic debris setting, Hanebrink said.

Cooley said they would have brought in dogs and had them sniff around for survivors to simulate an actual disaster.

Hanebrink worked with James Reardon, president of the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association, on this project.

"They could only go to so many sites," Cooley said. The federal government only had enough money to fund four grants.

"This cycle is pretty well established," Hanebrink said. "They are setting up training sites across Illinois and we were bidding on one of the four that (Reardon) was proposing to operate in the state of Illinois."

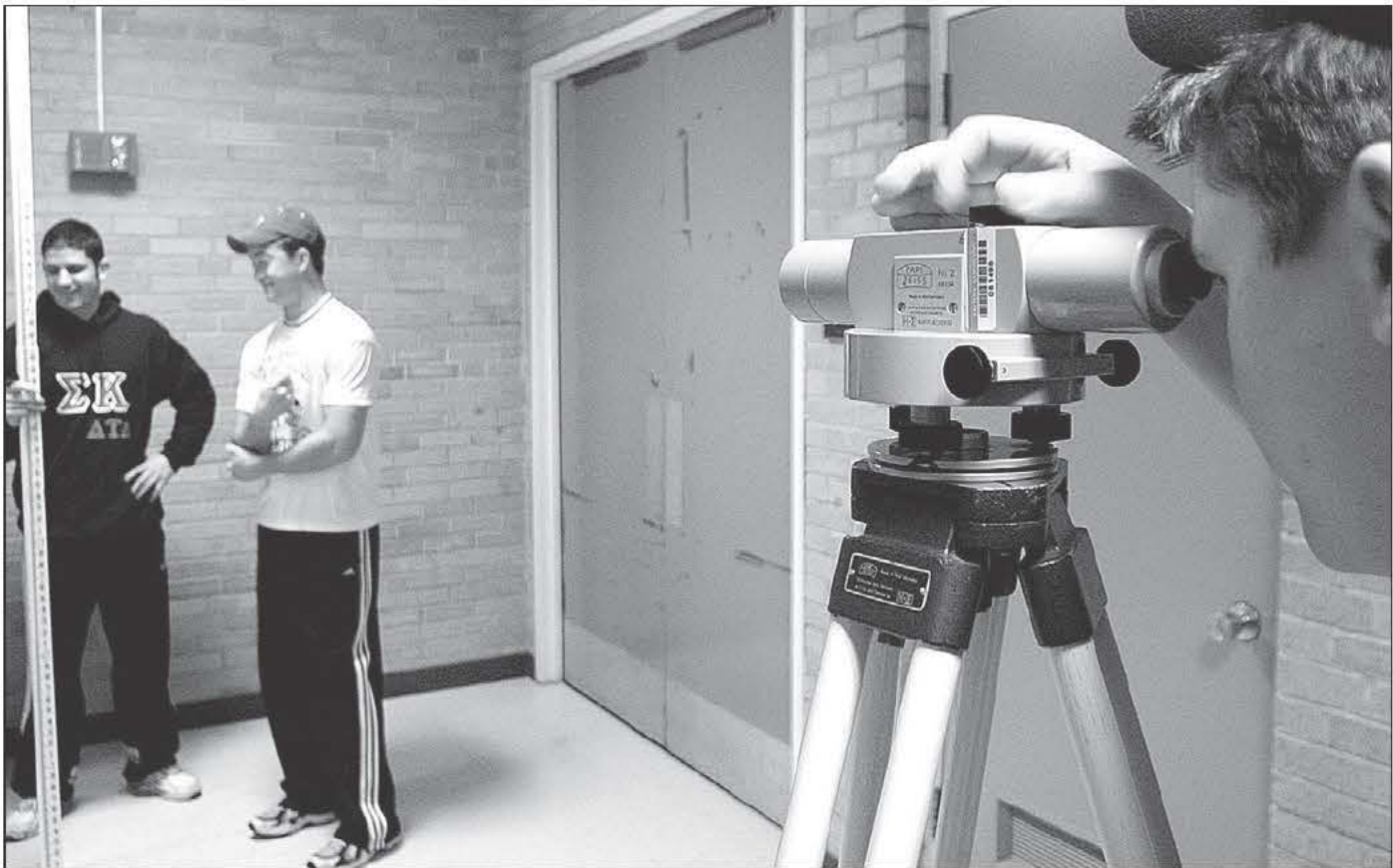
Eastern was not chosen to receive this federal grant because of a lack of funding, Hanebrink said.

"The Department of Homeland Security, and the coordinator there, indicated that he couldn't approve the use of federal dollars for local structures such as brick and mortar to be torn down, which is what we needed," he said.

With the grant no longer available, Eastern administrators must focus on the new fine arts building.

"Our main goal is getting the fine arts building done," Cooley said. "We want to do this when there aren't as many students on campus. It'll take a large crew, and we need places to house them.

"I'm hoping by next summer to be way into the fine arts project."



DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY STEPHEN HAAS

Just right

Dave Johanson (right), a sophomore industrial technology major, adjusts the settings on a transit Thursday morning while Joe Lange (center) and Joe Lukasik, both junior industrial technology majors, look on. The students were working on the second day of a class project in Klehm Hall Thursday morning for their surveying class.

STUDENT SENATE

Judy uses rare veto power for two motions

By Brian O'Malley
STUDENT GOVERNMENT EDITOR

Student Body President Caleb Judy exercised his veto power Thursday by putting two motions passed by the Student Senate on the table, which hasn't been done in many years.

Judy said he decided to veto the motions because the bylaws say new motions must be tabled one week before being voted on unless the senate votes to suspend the bylaws.

"This way all of the fee increases will be up for public scrutiny," Judy said. "Everyone should have sufficient knowledge of the bills before they are passed."

Judy said the senate can vote to overturn his veto decision with a two thirds majority.

"They can overturn my veto, and it will just go back to being passed," he said. "If they let it stand, it stays tabled."

Shirley Stewart, vice president for student affairs, said she has been attending senate meetings for six or seven years, but

"Everyone should have sufficient knowledge of the bills before they are passed."

—Caleb Judy, student body president



Caleb Judy



George Lesica

doesn't remember a past president vetoing any motions.

The two motions passed Wednesday were increases for the Health Service, approved 13-9-1, and Student Recreation Center fees, approved 19-0-2.

Student Senate Speaker George Lesica said the Tuition and Fees Review Committee held proposals earlier in the semester and decided Tuesday to place five fee increases on Wednesday meeting's agenda.

"We knew we were rushing it," Lesica said.

Nikki Kull, chair for the Tuition and Fees Review Committee, is responsible to give President Lou Hencken the senate-approved fees for the Board of Trustees.

Judy said even though a date is already set with the president, time is not necessarily a top priority.

"If we need more time, we need more time," he said.

Kull's report is due by the senate's March 24 meeting.

Ceci Brinker, director of Student Life,

said she does remember a student body president who used the veto power.

"I know Caleb was not the first one to use it," Brinker said. "That power has been evoked in the past."

Judy said either way the senate votes will work because both give everyone a chance to have their questions answered. Judy said he thinks the senate members might have been partially confused with the added motions.

"It's accomplishing what I wanted to accomplish," Judy said. "I feel very strongly that the decisions they made weren't the right decisions. But I do think they had the best interest of the students in mind."

Judy said the veto has nothing to do with the senate members or actual fees.

"It has nothing to do with the fee increases themselves," he said. "It has to do with the method in which they were passed."

Lesica said he told the senate if the organization was going to fail the motion, it would have been better to fail it Wednesday or put it on the table.

"If they were going to fail one, I wanted them to do it right now," Lesica said. "It doesn't make sense to fail it next week."

Judy said the senate was not trying to sneak motions in and vote on them behind the students' backs.

"We weren't trying to maliciously run this through senate without anybody knowing about it," he said.

Curious? See it for Free

Bring this ad to the First Christian Church booth outside the Mattoon Showplace 8 for your free ticket to the 3:45 P.M. showing of **"The Passion of The Christ."** Valid Sunday, March 7th at 3:45 P.M. only.

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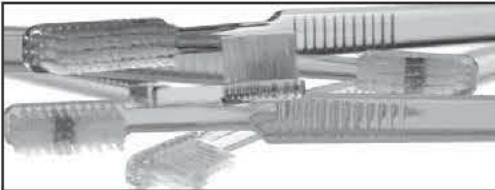
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WEEKEND @ STUS

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PREMIUM for less
\$3 Jager Bombs
\$5 Kettle One



THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

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EDITORIAL

Education remains a budget target

The governor's budgetary office wasn't that friendly again to higher education in its plans for the next fiscal year.

Gov. Rod Blagojevich entered office facing the worst budget deficit the state has ever seen, so cuts had to be made somewhere. Higher education has received a share and there doesn't seem to be an obvious end in sight.

The Illinois Board of Higher Education recommended Eastern receive \$47.6 million in state general funds for next fiscal year, what the university was allocated for Fiscal Year 2004.

Not following the board's suggestion, the governor then recommended a cut of almost \$1 million to \$46.6 million. Now it's up to the Legislature to approve the budget, but Blagojevich's suggestions would give Eastern

a decrease of more than \$5 million from FY 03 to FY 05.

The governor's plans for higher education, emphasize affordability, economic development and accountability. Blagojevich compared trying to balance the state budget to keeping track of a personal checkbook. Except the state's checkbook affects over 12 million Illinois residents.

David Onestak, director of the Counseling Center at Eastern, resigned from his position last month. He said Eastern is not well-funded. The Counseling Center does not have a sexual assault or drug and alcohol coordinator, positions other state schools have. The center is limited in the services they can provide and the issues they address because of a lack of state funding, Onestak said. He said he's transferring to a position at a university where there's more staff for every student.

Of course, the governor's suggested decreases for higher education in the next fiscal year have to do with the state's troubles, but campus departments still go without because there's just not enough state funding.

"I think it would be safe to say that the state's projected budget deficit for FY 05 contributed to the decision," Jeff Cooley, vice president for business affairs, said last week.

Blagojevich and the Legislature are now looking at turning the State Board of Education into a Department of Education, making it directly accountable to the governor. The governor has said higher education will be a continual focus in the future. With planned changes, Blagojevich needs to think of the students, faculty and university community who still do more with less.

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

OPINION

Bush owes America an apology



Jamie Fetty

Senior writer and monthly columnist for *The Daily Eastern News*

Fetty also is a senior journalism major

He can be reached at jfeasternnews@hotmail.com

March 19, 2003 was an eventful day.

Unbeknownst to me, renowned Second Wave feminist Gloria Steinem was speaking at nearby Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville that evening.

That afternoon, President George Bush told America he was pitching us headlong into a preemptive strike against Iraq.

Listening to the man speak usually turns my stomach, and that day was no break from swallowing back the acid that bubbled to the surface at the sound of his voice. But I wasn't going to let some coke-snorting, drunk-driving draft dodger get me down.

March 19, 2003 was my 21st birthday.

And while it is true that I drank one of every kind of mixed drink available in Charleston, forced nearly every one of my friends to make out with me, sang to whoever was listening at Jimmy John's, made my friend Meghann a coupon for "free lesbian sex" written in mayonnaise on a napkin, threw up and passed out naked from the waist down on my bathroom floor, I would contend that Bush made the bigger fool of himself that day.

Whether or not one believes in the preemptive war doctrine is

"Listening to the man speak usually turns my stomach, and that day was no break from swallowing back the acid that bubbled to the surface at the sound of his voice."

immaterial now. The fact is, our advance was based on intelligence that was sketchy at best. Maybe Bush didn't know his "intelligence" about weapons of mass destruction, uranium in Niger and everything else was a load of crap. But should we take an excuse like that from our president?

As the leader of the free world, America's president should be held responsible for intelligence failures—no excuses. And Bush has presided over arguably two of the largest intelligence failures in our history: a war based on a false premise and refusal to take seriously the TRUE intelligence that pointed to the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

Slightly more disturbing is the possibility that Bush flat-out lied about what he knew of Iraq's military power.

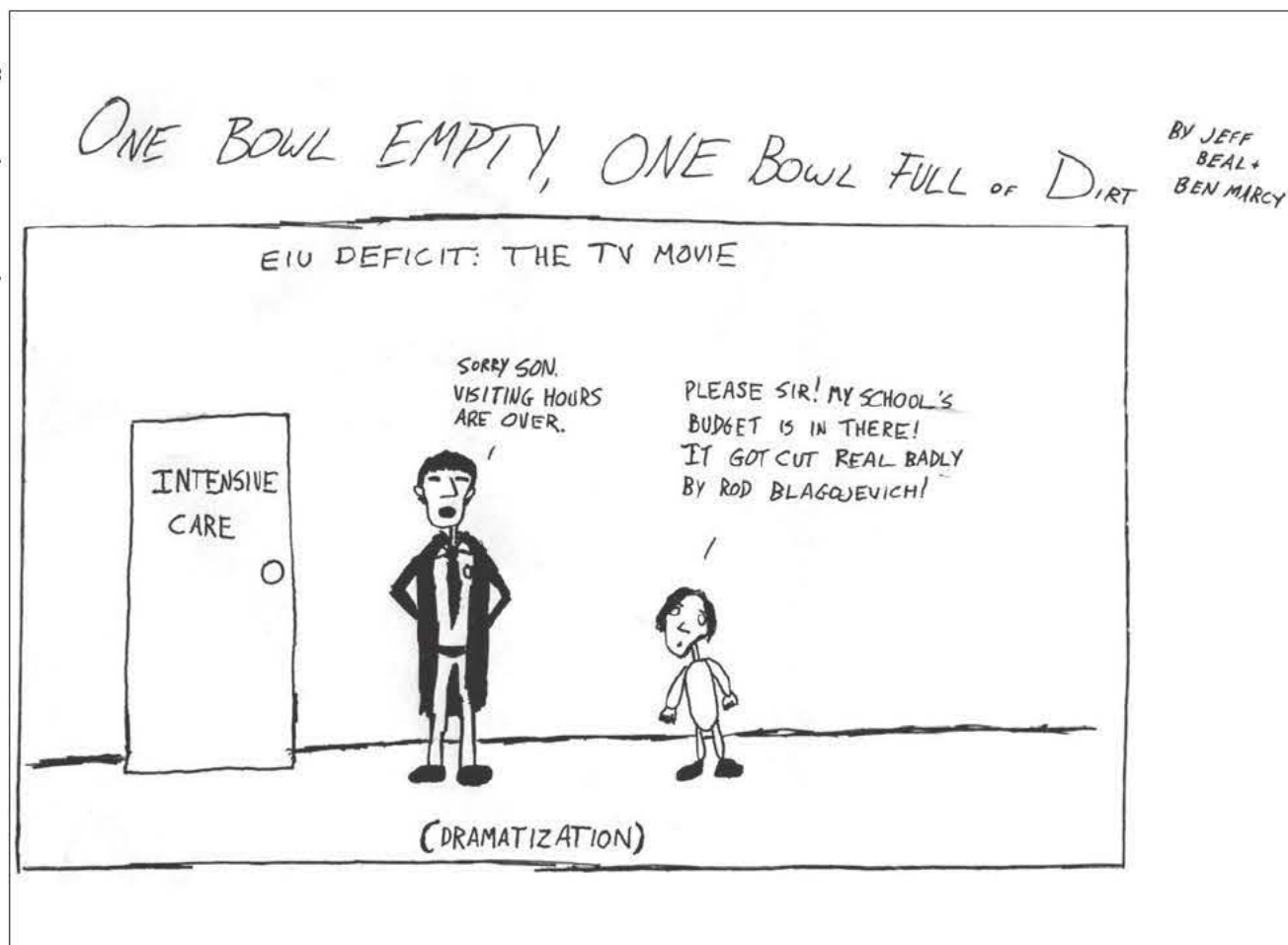
Where is the ever-vigilant truth squad that crucified President Clinton during the Monica Lewinsky scandal? The man lied about something far less serious. What kind of citizenry are we if the only time we demand truth and accountability from our leaders is when the lie involves a quarter teaspoon of man goo?

President Bush owes the American people. I think he should step down and go into exile, but I admit I'm somewhat of an extremist. At the very least, we should be demanding a censure. Go to www.moveon.org/censure to send a message to our elected officials urging them to censure Bush for misleading us.

While a censure doesn't come with any formal consequences, it sends a message that the American people aren't going to get snowed by an "independent inquiry" and that we hold our leaders to a higher standard of honesty.

Censure Bush now, and deny him the vote in November. It may be the only way to prove to him that he isn't ordained by God to lead our proud nation into disrepair.

Cartoon by Ben Marcy and Jeff Beal



YOUR TURN: LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Learn from mistakes of the past

In response to Ralph W. Rounds' letter to the editor on March 1, I am amazed at certain people's inability to evolve with the times and accept that our ancestors may have made a few mistakes. They were human and therefore fallible, right?

It is a known fact that what is unknown is feared.

Religious leaders forbade gay marriage most likely because they didn't understand it and continue to remain in their ignorance. The love existing between two men or two women was and is unknown to them, which is why they fear and reject it.

With the recent release of Mel Gibson's movie

"Passion of The Christ," one would think Jesus' message would be better understood. Jesus' words were, "love one another." He made no distinctions of where or where not love should or should not exist. Who are we to put restrictions on his meaning? Leave the decision making up to him because we are not worthy of such a task.

Not too long ago it was illegal for interracial couples to get married.

It's time to admit to our mistakes and correct them.

I attended Catholic school my entire life and went to church and Bible studies on a weekly basis as a child. Knowing the teachings of

the religion as well as I do, I am inclined to say, in many circumstances, their implications are misinterpreted. The Bible wasn't meant to be taken so literally. If you believe gay marriage is against God's plan, then do you also think Noah really fit all of those animals on that arc?

Also, the "man plus man does not equal baby" argument holds no water whatsoever. With the addition of new-age technology, allow-

ing conception without intercourse and the overwhelming amount of children in need of a home and loving family, Mr. Rounds' equation renders it obsolete.

I am not labeling him a homophobic by any means. I just think he needs to adopt a deeper understanding of love and what it really means.

Janine Grandsart,
junior journalism major

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: The Daily Eastern News accepts letters to the editor addressing local, state, national and international issues. They should be less 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. Depending on space constraints, we may edit letters, so keep it concise. 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 jpchambers@eiu.edu.

Local chambers looking to combine

By Courtney Bowers
STAFF WRITER

The long term ideas of the consolidation of the Mattoon and Charleston Chambers of Commerce were discussed in a meeting Thursday by President Paul Mejdrich and Treasurer Michael Smith.

The idea of creating a county chamber of commerce came out of a strategic planning session held in October of 2002 comprised of representatives from the various entities involved with economic betterment on Coles County.

Cindy Titus, executive director of the Charleston Chamber of Commerce, who has served on the committee since December of 2002, said, "At the beginning not one of the eight of us were 100 percent sure that this was the best idea, but over time and considering the possibilities of how this will affect the community and growth collaboration, we decided we'd be more powerful as one unit rather than two separate ones."

Mejdrich agreed with Titus saying he thinks the consolidation is a

good thing because it will help to bring unity to the community as well as more members..

Some of the benefits the committee hopes will come from the consolidation include a stronger and more stable financial organization, a comprehensive approach to economic betterment, a coordinated and focused marketing message for the county, a stronger voice for business advocacy and a regional approach for future development and growth.

With all the benefits that could emerge from the consolidation, there was fear the small business would get lost in the shuffle of the merge.

Mejdrich reassured the community this will not be the case.

"We plan to start a small business group to help the small 'mom and pop' type businesses," he said.

Ultimately, the small business member has the greatest voice in the organization with increased exposure for their business, Mejdrich said.

Members will have the opportunity to network with twice as many other business associates

and be promoted to a greater number of members if the chambers merge.

A main issue that seems to be standing in the way of the merge is the historical baggage as well as the problem of retaining each chamber's separate identity, Mejdrich said.

He said he has no fear the vote will pass, but people need to look more into the future and get over the emotional baggage.

The communities seem complementary to each other, making the whole greater than the sum of all the parts. The mission of the chamber of commerce focuses more on the broader concept of economic betterment, rather than just business recruitment and economic development.

The new chamber would be in a unique position to take a lead role in developing coordination and collaboration to promote a sense of community and cooperation in the county.

"I am cautiously optimistic that the vote will pass but it needs to be a significant vote, 2/3 needs to vote yes," Titus said. "We won't know

until the vote comes in on the 31st, but I am very optimistic about this."

The two chamber offices will serve as the polling places to cast a ballot from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Each member in good standing will have one vote to cast.

Prior to March 31, each member will designate one person from their organization to cast a ballot.

The votes will be counted by an impartial committee after the polls close with a review by a local accounting firm. A process for absentee voting will be detailed and shared with the members.

This process will allow members to vote prior to March 31 if they will be unable to come to the polling station that day. Absentee ballots will be placed in sealed envelopes and tabulated with the other ballots on March 31.

Members of both chambers are able to choose from a variety of ways to cast their vote from traveling to a polling place, designating a different person to cast the ballot at a station or voting via an absentee ballot process prior to March 31.



DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY
STEPHEN HAAS

Michael Smith, vice president and general manager of Consolidated Market Response Group, speaks Thursday morning at the Lincoln Fire Protection District Station 1 during an informational meeting for the proposed Coles County Chamber of Commerce.

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Fee increase threatens bar games

◆ *Coin-operated devices like pool tables could be removed if passed*

By Daniel Williams
STAFF WRITER

Local bar patrons could see the loss of some pool tables and other coin-operated devices if a proposal to raise the licensing fee on such devices is passed.

The proposal, which was originally considered Feb. 17 and was tabled at the last city council meeting on March 2, is propositioning a 300 percent increase to the licensing fee.

If passed, the proposal would raise the price of the licensing fee from \$25 to \$75.

The fee has been \$25 since the inception of the ordinance in 1945, Mayor Dan Cougill previously said.

Charleston currently has 217 licensed coin-operated amusement devices that collect a revenue of \$5,425 annually. The increase would raise the income to \$16,275, which is a cause of concern for local bar owners.

Mike Knoop, owner of Roc's Blackfront and a member of the Charleston Licensed Beverage Association, said the proposal would

"If the increase was as big as was proposed, then I'll get rid of one of my pool tables. The tables just don't see enough action."

— Paul Mejdrich, owner of Stu's Surf Side

basically be illegal according to Illinois codes.

Illinois municipal codes say it is illegal for non-homerule communities to use license fees as a source of revenue, which is the argument the beverage association is using against the city council, he said.

In a letter sent to the city about the issue, the beverage association said an increase of this magnitude is uncalled for. The letter said the licensing fees are "in line or higher than other non-homeruled communities in the area."

The association also said this proposal would discourage licensee's from retaining the machines in their businesses.

Paul Mejdrich, owner of Stu's Surf Side, said

if the fee is increased he will most likely pull one of his two pool tables from the business.

"If the increase was as big as was proposed, then I'll get rid of one of my pool tables," Mejdrich said. "The tables just don't see enough action."

The city council is currently researching more information related to Illinois codes and laws about this proposal.

Marge Knoop, a city council member, said the council was uninformed on many of the issues regarding this proposal, which was the reason for tabling the ordinance.

The city council is required to give a 30-day notice to the public regarding a public hearing before it can be passed, Knoop said.

Deborah Muller, a city clerk, said the public hearing will be announced in a matter of days, and local business owners will be personally informed through the mail.

Mayor Dan Cougill and City Manager Scott Smith refused to comment until after the public hearing.

Knoop said as the proposal rests right now, she is against passing it.

"If it can be raised at all, it's far too much," she said. "Even the cost of living isn't that much."

Varble: Colleagues express respect for Mrs. Varble

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

"I have to say it was always a pleasure to have students in class who had been (Mrs. Varble's) students because they were so motivated and had particular appreciation for children's literature," Barford said.

Mary Greenlaw, associate professor of secondary education, said Varble was the "epitome of teachers."

"(Mrs. Varble), in my opinion was the best professor Eastern has had," Greenlaw said. "She shared her expertise with her students in a way where they truly learned."

Though Mrs. Varble was dedicated to her students and Eastern, she was equally dedicated to her family.

Mrs. Varble was the wife of Dale Varble, associate dean of business at Indiana State University, the mother of four children and a grandmother to three grandchildren.

"While (Mrs. Varble) was concerned with her students, she was very focused on her family at the same time," Greenlaw said. "She was a wonderful mother, grandmother, wife and fantastic friend. Nobody who had ever met her felt shortchanged; she just gave so much."

Visitation hours will be Saturday, March 6, 2004 from 9 a.m.-11 a.m. and services will be held immediately after with a luncheon to follow the service.

All memorials for Mary Ellen Varble may be given to the following: Susan G. Komen Foundation for breast cancer research, United Methodist Temple Bell Choir in Terre Haute, Ind., and the Department of EC/ELE/MLE at Eastern.

Concerts: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

UB concert coordinator Joe Atamian said Day did well on the University Board concert survey and other offers they made were rejected.

"I think it's great that he's coming here," sophomore environmental biology major Trip Krenz said. "It's a really entertaining show. I saw him in Minnesota, he was amazing just by himself. He's just an amazing player."

Not all students were as psyched as Krenz.

"I think he is OK," junior psychology major Heather Beckner said.

Angela Wilbanks, a freshman early childhood education major who has never heard of Day, said

"I think it's great that he's coming here. It's a really entertaining show. I saw him in Minnesota, he was amazing just by himself. He's just an amazing player."

— Trip Krenz, sophomore environmental biology major

she would have Kanye West come to Eastern if she could because she is from Chicago and is doing positive things.

Stacey Livengood, a sophomore elementary education major, would like Good Charlotte to play because "they would put on a good show."

UB also announced who will play the second spring concert.

Something Corporate and

Yellowcard will do a dual headline show April 25 with opening band The Format. The cost for bringing all three bands will be \$25,000.

At age 21, lead singer of Something Corporate, Andrew McMahon, has released two major records, has been on MTV and has been part of the Vans Warped Tour.

Yellow Card, a Ventura, Calif. based punk band originally from

Jacksonville, Fla., has been together since 1997.

According to Atamian, UB tried to get the Rascal Flatts but the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign booked them first. UB also tried to bring Dashboard Confessional, but they rejected the offer.

Tickets will go on sale for students at the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union Ticket Office beginning Wednesday March 10. Ticket office hours are Monday through Friday, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Tickets will go on sale to the general public Monday March 22. Prices will be \$8 for students and \$15 for the public. The ticket office accepts cash, check and Visa/Mastercard.

Tickets are limited to six per person.

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12:45, 1:45

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Charleston, IL 61920. However, applications will be accepted until positions are filled. For position description or additional information, contact Eric Davidson by e-mail (csesd@eiu.edu) or by phone (581-3912).

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3/10
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ACROSS

10Old trail terminus

8Public hangings

15Pushes

16Race place

17Test-of-time passer

18Ends, e.g.

19"The Piano" co-star

20Supporter of a drop leaf

21Keep someone awake, maybe

22Order in the court

23Bit of elementary Latin

25Free

27About to explode

28Nonconformists

33They're related

34Kind of affiliation: Abbr.

35Stars, e.g.

36One raising Cain

37Municipal council mem.

38Something a company won't reveal

40Beersheba locale

42It may be between the seats

43Horned rock climber

44Times, e.g.

46Some are shaded

50Be granted

52Garam (spice mixture in Indian cuisine)

53Fast, agile runner

54Mrs. Grundy

55Where oils may be produced

56Over

57Going on the least

58Pass up

DOWN

1Draws (on)

2"One for My Baby" composer

3Marsh of mystery

4Beta release, essentially

5Product line

6Abbott, to Costello, e.g.

7Collier's, for one: Abbr.

8"Call to Greatness" author Stevenson

9Day's "The Pajama Game" co-star

10North Sea feeder

11Like an inscribed pillar

12Martha Stewart Living reader

13It's rarely found in the hospital

14Like some complexions

20A toy it isn't

22"I Wanna Be Bad" singer _____ Ford

24Rule to live by

26N.E.A. member

27"Something's not right here"

28Kharg Island resident

29Observe

30Coot

31_____ coming

32Old name in news

39Knocking off

41Doesn't do just O.K.

44Folder fodder

45Open

47San _____

48Something to resort to

49Kind of blond

51Medicine Nobelists Metchnikoff

52Remote option

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STATE BRIEFS

Senators grill Blagojevich on education plans

SPRINGFIELD (AP) — Gov. Rod Blagojevich's appearance before a rare, full-Senate hearing to defend his plan to take control of education policy gave the idea a boost as the Legislature gears up for the heavy lifting of its spring session, lawmakers say.

Blagojevich won laurels for taking the podium before a rare Committee of the Whole — the first such appearance since 1987 — to defend the idea of replacing the independent State Board of Education with an agency directly under his control.

“There is a majority of the members that want some changes,” said Education Committee Chairman Miguel del Valle, D-Chicago, who presided over the seven-hour session Wednesday. “Change here is inevitable. The question is, is the change that we end up adopting the change that has been proposed by the governor?”

Police: Man sought hit on girlfriend's fetus

PEORIA (AP) — A man faces murder conspiracy charges after allegedly asking a friend to punch his pregnant girlfriend in the stomach during a staged robbery so she would lose the baby, authorities say.

Police say Joshua Turner, 20, of Brimfield approached Zachary Beintema, 19, about the attack last month.

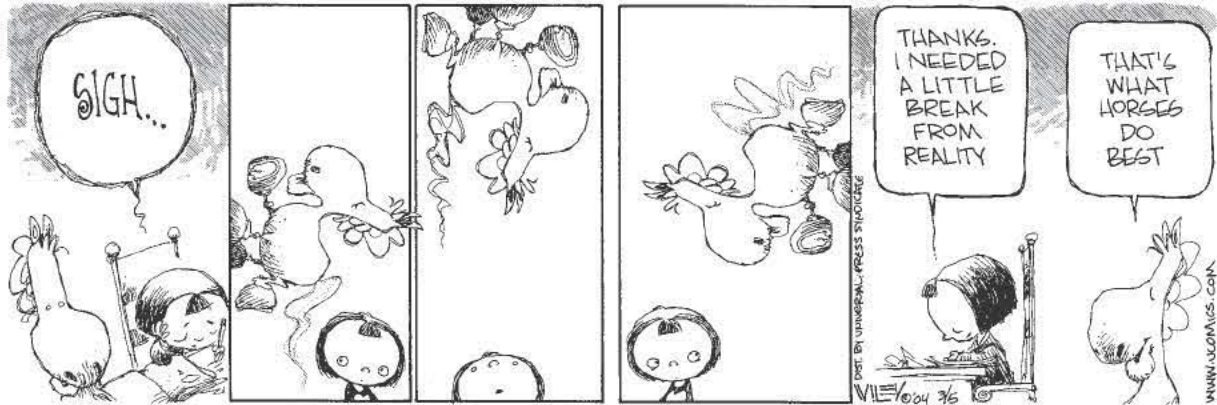
Beintema instead became enraged and beat up Turner, police said. After Beintema was arrested, police say, he told detectives about Turner's alleged plan. No charges have been filed against Beintema.

SIU point guard pleads guilty to misdemeanor for breaking window

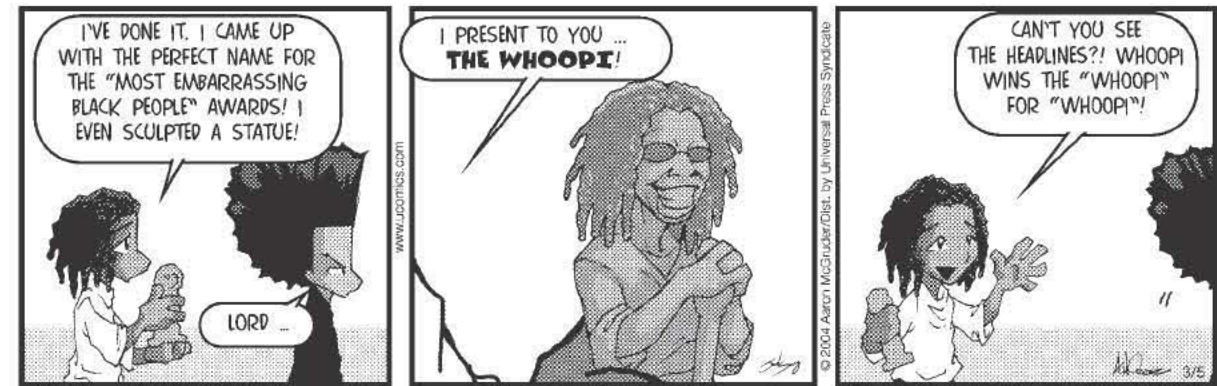
MURPHYSBORO (AP) — A Southern Illinois University men's basketball player has pleaded guilty to breaking a window at a police station.

Jamaal Tatum pleaded guilty Wednesday to a misdemeanor charge of criminal damage to property and was sentenced to 200 hours of community service and 18 months of court supervision, officials said.

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TENNIS

Tennis around for 2 matches

Men, women face IUPUI, Blue Jays

By Kurtis Allen
STAFF WRITER

The Eastern women's and men's tennis teams will head to Indianapolis, Ind. for another weekend of tennis action.

Both teams will be facing IUPUI over the weekend, and the men will stick around Indy for an extra day or two to take on the Creighton Blue Jays.

Eastern's women's team will play IUPUI at 6 p.m. Friday. Eastern tennis head coach Brian Holzgrafe thinks IUPUI will be a tough test for the ladies.

"IUPUI has a new, young coach that is filled with a ton of energy," Holzgrafe said. "They are going to be a good match for the women's team."

The Eastern women's team is on a three game winning streak after rolling through IPFW, Cleveland State and Northern Iowa. Holzgrafe has been pleased with the winning streak, but says he is more pleased with the amount of class, perseverance and focus the women have showed, something Holzgrafe hopes will continue.

"The teams we've beaten were teams that we were better than," Holzgrafe said. "I need the ladies to know that they are not an average team. They need to know that they are a good team."

The Eastern men have lost the last two matches to a couple of tough teams in Indiana State and Bradley, but will be looking to rebound in Indianapolis.

The men take on IUPUI first on Sunday and then will face Creighton Tuesday.

Coach Holzgrafe expects IUPUI to be a spirited match after Eastern beat IUPUI in the Rex Darling EIU Invitational tournament earlier this year.

"IUPUI has a ton of potential," Holzgrafe said. "They might have lost their focus earlier this year when they played us because of a couple of hotheads, but they will be ready this time."

On Tuesday, the men will take on the Creighton Blue Jays in Indianapolis. Creighton is a solid squad with tradition on their side.

"They have a coach that has been there forever," Holzgrafe said. "Because they have a solid program, they have depth on their squad."

And depth is something that Holzgrafe feels will give Creighton a bode of confidence. However, Holzgrafe has plenty of faith in his men's team.

"There aren't any easy matches for either squad," Holzgrafe said. "Both teams are solid tennis teams and both are going to play hard."

Eastern's women's tennis team currently has a record of 3-2, while the men are standing at 4-4 this year.

Wrestling:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12A

together more than once this year, Veach hasn't met up with Johnson before because he was out with injury.

Robertson is hoping to make a splash in a tough 174-pound weight class. In his first qualification attempt, Robertson

will see Air Force's Jacob Lillich (21-6) and Northern Iowa's No. 3 ranked Eric Hauan (27-4). Hauahan won the weight class at last year's tournament.

Kenny is not afraid of anyone, and he's only a freshman, McCausland said. His sights are set on qualifying.

Finally, heavyweight Pete Zimisnki (31-11) is hoping to make good on the statement he made earlier this year, saying he wanted to be an All-American. He

will have another shot next year, but don't expect him to waste this one. Ziminski's biggest challenge of the day will come from Fresno State's Clint Walbeck (26-3).

The Panthers also will send 125-pounder Kevin McNicholas, 141-pounder Bob Fangerow, Adam Beeler at 149 pounds, Clay French at 157 pounds and Jim Kassner at likely the top weight class of the day at 197 pounds.

Track:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12A

finished third behind Tennessee State and Southeast Missouri State University.

"It's tough how we decide to pick who goes but we thought the distance medley crew did well last weekend and could go after a top ten finish at the meet," Akers said. "We also took people

who looked good at the OVC Championship and (Becker) was one of those people."

As dominating as Harris was at the OVC Championship meet, she will face competition from all over the United States according to Wallace.

"I don't know any particular teams, but quite a few schools from all over come to this meet," Wallace said. "Probably 15 or 20 different schools send partial squads with athletes they think could qualify for the NCAA met."

Akers pointed out that only the best of

the best make the trip to South Bend and because of the competition he expects a barn burner in the distance medley relay.

"It's definitely high quality athletes because there are only a handful of these meets, and a lot of teams get into them trying to nip and tuck their way into the NCAA meet," Akers said. "With the competition involved, the distance medley relay on Friday night will be smoking."

The Last Chance Meets will start on Friday and continue all day Saturday.

Hohenadel:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12A

For those of you who don't remem-

ber, the Panthers have already pulled off one upset, beating Southwest Missouri State, who played in the College World Series just last season.

Let's recap all the advantages the Rebels have over the Panthers. They have home field advantage, last week's

SEC player of the week, good weather, more game experience this season and they're the 12th ranked team in the nation.

That leaves the Panthers with perhaps the most dangerous advantage of them all; nothing to lose.

Transsexual shoots 84 in Women's Open

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — Mianne Bagger was aware of all the attention on her at the Women's Australian Open, and it took a while for her to calm down.

"I was pretty numb the first seven holes," Bagger said. "I couldn't really feel much below my shoulders."

After a year in which seven women competed in men's tournaments, Bagger made history Thursday as the first transsexual to play in a pro golf tournament.

"I want to play professional golf and have the same opportunities as other women," she said.

Bagger struggled mightily, though, shooting a 12-over 84 to drop 16 strokes behind first-round leaders England's Laura Davies and Denmark's Christina Kuld.

"I didn't know where my swing was and it took a while to get rid of the nerves," Bagger said. "The greens were fast and it didn't help hitting a few quite a few feet past."

Marlins have winning touch

By The Associated Press

The World Series champion Florida Marlins lost several of their stars during the winter. Yet one game into 2004, they still have their winning touch.

Felipe Crespo hit an RBI single in the bottom of the ninth inning, and the Marlins won their spring training opener, beating Miami 7-6 on Wednesday.

"We had our magic going again," manager Jack McKeon said.

Damion Easley, a leading contender to make the Marlins as a backup infielder, hit a two-run homer to help Florida build a 6-1 lead at Jupiter, Fla.

The Marlins are minus Ivan Rodriguez, Ugueth Urbina, Derrek Lee, Mark Redman, Braden Looper and others this season.

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BASEBALL



Freshman Chris Vaculik winds to pitch during practice in O'Brien Field Tuesday afternoon.

DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY STEPHEN HAAS

Baseball heads into three-game series

By Aaron Seidlitz
SPORTS REPORTER

Before Eastern's baseball team heads out onto the road to go to Mississippi for a three game series with Ole Miss, their coach Jim Schmitz was quick to realize that their rank doesn't change from game to game.

"Three games; Ole Miss, Ole Miss and Ole Miss," Schmitz said. "They are ranked 12th in the nation for each of those games too."

Schmitz left no doubt he will find this three game series with his former school extremely interesting to see how his team responds to a team that is ranked so high in the nation.

The Bulldogs enter the game having already played eight games, and while the Panthers have lost two of the three games they have played this year, Ole Miss has yet to taste defeat.

"These kinds of series early in the year are my way of testing my team," Schmitz said. "I

think it really helps us to get into these game situations and iron out any problems our players might have with their swing or the way they're throwing the ball right now."

So far the Panthers have taken advantage of being able to practice on the football field, but they still haven't faced much game-time pitching. That is what Schmitz hopes will improve, so Eastern can be in top form once the Ohio Valley Conference schedule starts.

These early games also give Schmitz the opportunity to make changes to his players or his starting lineup if necessary.

"There are two basic purposes for us in these early games," Schmitz said. "First of all, our players can iron out any problems they are having. Secondly, I can take a look at the lineup and pitching rotation to see if there are any changes that are needed to be made."

Right now there are a few Eastern players who will have the chance to prove themselves to their coach.

This is especially the case for the pitching staff, which was a little short-handed during the Louisiana-Monroe Tournament.

Two young pitchers Schmitz felt could benefit the Panthers against Mississippi, that didn't compete in Louisiana, are sophomore Alex Chapple and freshmen Chris Vaculik.

Chapple pitched last year with the Panthers with limited results. The young hurler and his coach are excited to see what he can do with a new pitching motion by moving his release down a little.

Vaculik missed play in Louisiana and is an arm Schmitz feels will give a boost to both the depth and effectiveness of the pitching staff.

"I am excited to see both of those guys in action," Schmitz said. "It will be a great test to see exactly what they can do against some topnotch competition. They are talented but a little untested, so they should get some time against Mississippi."

SOFTBALL

Panthers coming off a loss

By Jamie Hussey
STAFF WRITER

Eastern's softball team may be coming off a loss against Saint Louis University, but the team has high hopes about the weekend at the Wolfe Sycamore Classic.

Head women's softball coach Lloydene Searle said the team handled the loss very well.

"We talked about things we need to improve upon and what they want to work on for the weekend," she said.

Searle is confident the team will pick itself back up and win again.

"This will be the test to see how we will bounce back and what our approach to bounce back from the two losses will be," Searle said.

The Panthers will be playing five games in the Classic. They will play Valparaiso, Central Connecticut State and Indiana State University.

Searle said the team played Valparaiso and Indiana in the fall.

"They are teams that we can compete with and we are going to go in with the mind set that we can take control and win this weekend," Searle said.

Valparaiso head women's softball coach Randy Schneider said he thinks Eastern will be comparable to his team, but the factor for his team is that these are the players' first games outside.

"We are just getting started this weekend, it is a matter of getting our feet wet and just getting used to the outdoors," Schneider said.

"Eastern has a good ball team; Searle will have her team ready."

Indiana State University head women's softball coach Brenda Coldren said she is preparing her team in every way possible to get ready for Eastern because the Panthers are good solid team.

"Searle makes sure they are always prepared when they step on the field," Coldren said.

The Panthers' first game will be Saturday in Terre Haute, Ind. at 11:30 a.m. against Valparaiso, followed by two games against Central Connecticut State starting at 1:30 p.m.

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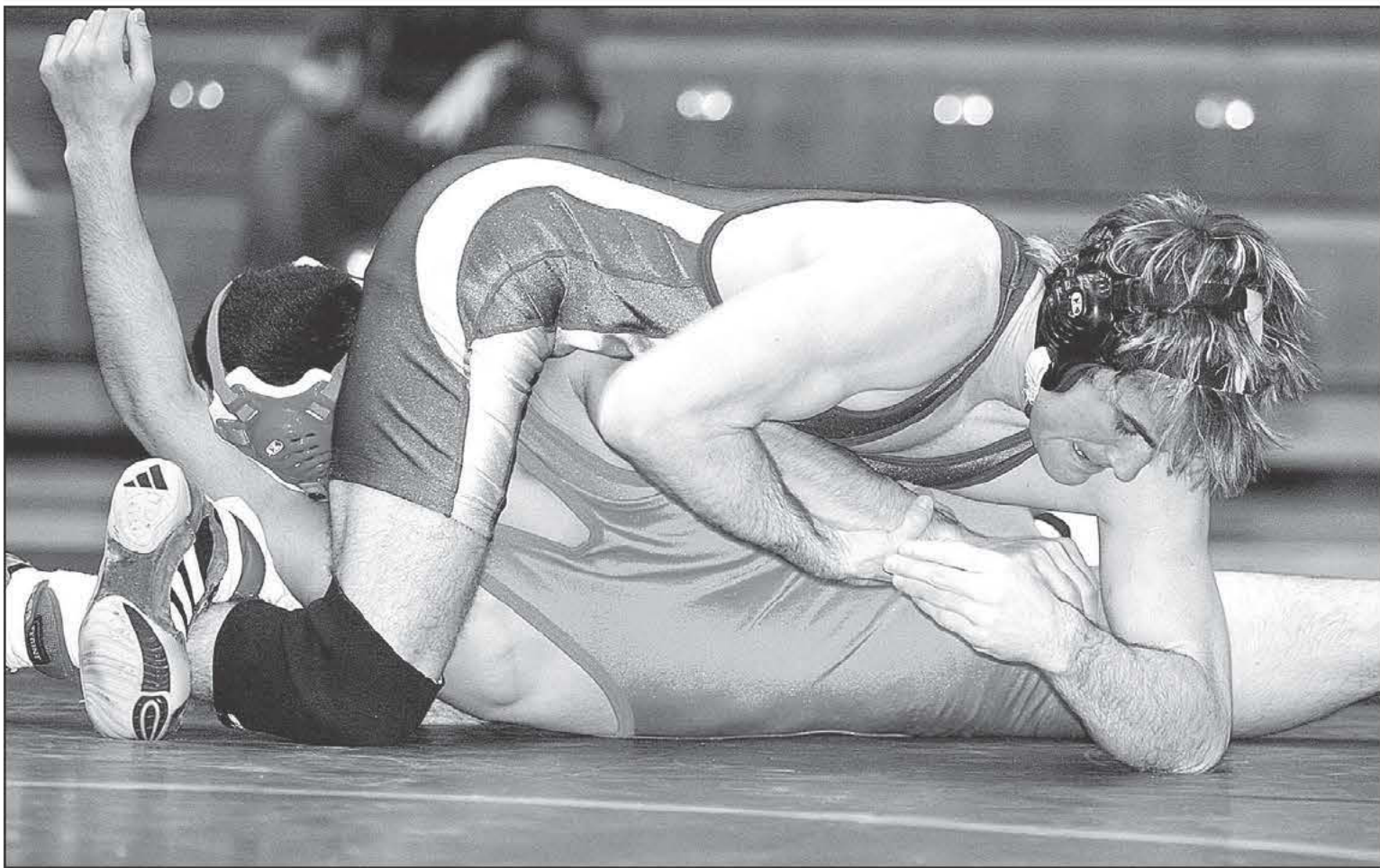
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SPORTS

Panther sports calendar

FRIDAY	W Tennis at IUPUI	6 p.m.
	Baseball at Mississippi	6:30 p.m.
	Track at Last Chance Meets	All day
SATURDAY	Softball at Sycamore Classic	11:30 a.m.
	Baseball at Mississippi	4 p.m.
	Wrestling at NCAA West Regional	All day

WRESTLING



DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY STEPHEN HAAS

Senior Pat Dowty wrestles against SIUE freshman Steve Chico in the 133-pound match Wednesday in Lantz Arena.

Panthers wrestle chance to advance

◆ *Team faces old rivals, big competition Saturday at regional meet*

By Dan Renick
STAFF WRITER

The Eastern wrestling team faces big competition at Saturday's NCAA West Regional.

The Panthers left Thursday morning for the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, CO. Meeting them there will be Air Force (3-7), Fresno State (7-11), Wyoming (10-5) and tournament favorite, No. 16 ranked Northern Iowa (10-6).

Northern Iowa came to Charleston to wrestle the Panthers on Jan. 9, and dominated Eastern 44-3. The team also handed a loss to Fresno State earlier this year. Northern Iowa is looking to win its 21st regional tournament in 24 attempts, including last year's title. But Wyoming will trail close behind as it's fresh off a win over Air Force.

"We believe we have four who have a legitimate chance to advance," head coach Ralph McCausland said.

Those four chances for the Panthers come from seniors Pat Dowty (17-8) and No. 19 ranked Matt Veach (25-5), junior Pete Ziminski (31-11) and red shirt freshman Kenny Robertson (27-27). All are looking to grab a champion or wild card spot that will send them to St. Louis on March 18, for the NCAA wrestling championships at the Savvis Center.

At 133 pounds, Dowty will be the most comfortable at this level, McCausland said, as he is looking to qualify for a third straight NCAA tournament. Dowty is looking to get past Northern Iowa's Pat Garcia (17-17), whom he lost to in the finals last year.

"I've wrestled him a couple times this year and it's always a 1 or 2 point loss," Dowty said. "He knows my style and I know his. I've changed some things up to get ready for it."

Veach is looking for his first qualification at 165 pounds and will have to go through Wyoming's Levi Provost (19-4), who won the weight class last year, and Northern Iowa's No. 11 Heston Johnson (17-5). Although Eastern and Northern Iowa have wrestled in competition

SEE WRESTLING ◆ Page 10A

Weighing the competition:

◆ **Northern Iowa:** Eric Hauan (27-4)-174 pounds.

-Sean Stender 910-6)-197 pounds.

◆ **Wyoming:** Bruce Leonhardt (20-3)-125 pounds.

-Andrew Shuler (26-5)-185 pounds.

◆ **Eastern:** Pat Dowty (17-8)-133 pounds.

-Matt Veach (25-5)-174 pounds.

◆ **Fesno State:** Casey Olson (25-8)-149 pounds.

-Clint Walbeck (26-3)-heavyweight.

◆ **Air Force:** Jacob Lillich (21-6)-174 pounds.

-Justin Gabbard (20-10)-157 pounds.

TRACK & FIELD

One Last Chance

◆ *Track qualifiers travel to Indiana for Last Chance Meet*

By Michael Gilbert
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

A select group of Eastern track and field runners will make the trip to South Bend, Ind., for the Last Chance Meets this weekend in an attempt to qualify for the NCAA Championships.

The women will be represented on the campus of Notre Dame University by sprinter Alicia Harris, while the men's team will send distance runner Jakestout along with their distance medley relay crew of Dan Strackeljahn, Kevin Atkins, Casey Becker and Erik Werden.

Harris, a junior who attended high school Wheaton North, has set four school records this year in the 60 (7.64), 200 (24.98), 400 (54.96) and 600 (1:34.36) meter dashes. At the Ohio Valley Conference Indoor championship meet, Harris was named women's 'Co-Athlete of the Meet' as she won the 200 and 400 meter dashes. Harris' time of 54.96 in the 400 meter was

a new Lantz Fieldhouse record.

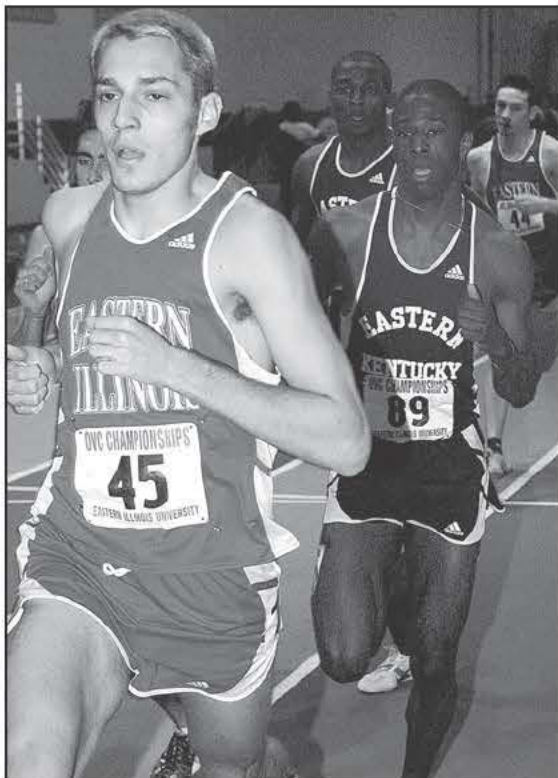
The Panther's women's head coach Mary Wallace is hoping with a superb time, Harris will be eligible for the NCAA Championship meet.

"Alicia is going (to South Bend) in an attempt to qualify for the standards set by the NCAA in the 400 and 200 meter," Wallace said. "The NCAA has automatic standards and provisional standards and we are hoping Alicia can qualify for the NCAA with a provisional time."

If Harris is to qualify for the NCAA Championship in the 400 meter, Wallace said she will have to improve on her performance on her record setting performance at the OVC Championship.

Men's head coach Tom Akers said his reasoning behind sending the distance medley relay crew and Stout was a reward for their showing at the OVC Championship. The distance crew bested Eastern Kentucky University 10:14.15 to 10:14.72 in one of the closest races at the meet. Becker ran the first leg of the 4x400 meter relay

SEE TRACK ◆ Page 10A



DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY STEPHEN HAAS

Dan Strackeljahn pushes forward in the OVC Indoor Track and Field Championship Saturday in Lantz Fieldhouse.



BALL FOUR

John Hohenadel
SPORTS REPORTER

Baseball schedule not hopeful

Eastern's baseball team will travel to Mississippi this weekend. What awaits it in Mississippi is some good weather and an even better baseball team.

In many circumstances, a trip to Mississippi may be a delightful getaway from a boggy little central Illinois town. However, if the Panthers don't bring their "A" game, the Panthers' number of wins may be the only thing that's bogged down.

Maybe all the Panthers have to look forward to on their trip to Mississippi is the weather. According to *USA Today* it is 75 and sunny in Tupelo, Miss., home of the 12th ranked Ole Miss Rebels.

The Rebels have won their first eight games, two against fellow Ohio Valley Conference opponent Southeast Missouri State.

Ole Miss also completed three-game sweeps of both Alabama and Birmingham South.

The Rebels were led by Stephen Head, who was last week's SEC player of the week. Head went eight for 12 with a homerun and nine runs batted in. Head will take his team leading .533 batting average, four homeruns, 21 RBI, 1.067 slugging percentage and 10 walks into the weekend series against the Panthers.

Head doesn't only lead the Rebels in most of the major offensive categories, he leads Ole Miss in saves and is tied for the lowest earned run average on the team with 0.00.

Another advantage the Rebels have over the Panthers is an extra five games. Living in Mississippi has its perks I guess. I'm sure it's no Orlando, but the weather is a little more consistent than Charleston's.

With all the advantages Ole Miss seems to have, why should Eastern even play the game?

Have you ever seen the movie "Miracle?" If you haven't, it's about the 1980 U.S.A. Olympic hockey team, who was given no chance to beat the Soviet Union team. The U.S.A. team could have forfeited, but they decided to go out and give it their all. And what do you know, they won! That's why you play the games.

Another reason the Panthers will play is Eastern head coach Jim Schmitz was an assistant coach under former Chicago Cub Don Kessinger at Ole Miss for four years, so he feels right at home in Tupelo, Miss.

Finally, the Panthers are playing this game because it is a good test for them. If they can hang with the 12th ranked team in the nation or do the unthinkable and pull out a win, it would be a huge confidence booster for them to take with them the rest of the season.

If they can hang with Ole Miss, who can't they hang with?

SEE HOHENADEL ◆ Page 10A



REVIEW THIS Vast gets 'Nude'

Underground veteran Vast mixes rock, tribal and industrial on third release.

Page 8B
GRADE: B+



Hookah bar pays homage to rich cultural history

◆ With hookah bars gaining popularity in recent years, Champaign's Nargile offers a taste of Middle Eastern culture and other atypical bar flavor
SEE NARGILE PAGE 3B

PHOTO BY VERGE EDITOR DAN VALENZIANO

John Bussema, a junior industrial engineering major at the University of Illinois, plays Texas Hold 'Em while smoking strawberry flavored shisha. Bussema said he's a regular at Nargile, the first hookah bar in Champaign.



ASK THE VERGE...

Balancing school, friends and activities can often be a daunting task.

◆
Page 2B

CD REVIEW

The Walkmen

◆
Page 6B

VIDEOGAME REVIEW

"Jet Li: Rise to Honor" has good storyline and graphics, but becomes repetitive quickly.

◆
Page 8B

CONCERT CALENDAR

Motherlode, Rural Kings, Slingshot 57, Kings in the Way and the Rumbleshack Orchestra to play this weekend.

◆
Page 8B

ADVICE COLUMN

Am I going insane?



Dan Valenziano
VERGE EDITOR

Dear Verge,
I think I may be going insane! All of my classes and extracurricular activities are overwhelming me. I have no free time. I can't even go out on the weekends because a) I don't have time, b) I don't have energy. I want to do all of my homework and go to all of my meetings, but it is draining me. Plus I have plans for spring break, so I won't get any rest then either. When it comes to the weekends and I want to get my built-up homework done, I feel like I have to have some free time or I will freak out!

I've been pulling all-nighters left and right, and I look like hell. I don't even have time to work out anymore. I really don't want to have a nervous break down, but it's getting to that point. I have never been so busy in my life, and it doesn't seem like this craziness will ever end! What can I do to chill out before I freak out?

Sincerely,
HELP!!!

He said:

I've been known to have a freak-out or two of my own. Sometimes it seems all that lies ahead of you is impossible to accomplish without doing anything short of putting a caffeine IV in your arm. If you have access to those aforementioned medical materials, by all means grab yourself a big can of Folgers and go to town. If not, you're going to have to do a little more planning to manage your time properly. Set up a schedule of all the things you need to accomplish each day. If you approach all the things you have to do systematically, then you're much more likely to get results. But if you can't get everything done, you might have to skip some of the less important things. The hard part is figuring out what is more important.

There are also a few little tricks to cut the lazy fat from your daily schedule. Take all the cushions off your couch and slide them underneath it. Take the batteries out of your television remote control. Temporarily delete all the instant messaging software off your computer. Buy another alarm clock and set it to go off five minutes after your primary alarm does.

This way, it's a lot harder to sleep in. Anything you can do to make yourself less comfortable in the places where you usually spend the most time procrastinating. Remember, however, that you do need time to relax. Sleeping does not count as relaxing. So set aside at least a 30 minutes each day to just chill out. Put at least one of the cushions back on the couch and become a vegetable. You can use that alarm here too, setting it to go off so you don't spend *too much* time relaxing.

She said:

Whoa! Take a deep breath. Now let it out slowly. Repeat this about 10 times before you continue reading...

With one week of classes left, everyone is feeling the day-to-day grind of classes, engagements and the like. Your best bet is to prioritize. Can you skip a meeting or two? Though it's easy to forget, the primary goal of attending college is to get an education. Like Rob Schneider says in multiple Adam Sandler movies, "You can do eet!"

One thing that helps me sort out the daily jumble of responsibilities is a list. For the last week of school, create a master list of everything you have to do that week. Then prioritize your most important to least important goals. Take this list and break it down into daily lists. Keep them in a place you glance frequently, like a bulletin board or academic planner. This may not ease your many things to do, but it will make you feel more capable.

You should pencil in at least a half hour daily for free time. You can take a nap, jog, play with a pet or get lost in some video games. But be sure to keep it to the restricted time period, or you will get off track – a dangerous place to be at a hectic time.

It's necessary to free your mind a little on the weekends, as well. The weather is nice, and it's ultra-tempting to just forget all the responsibility and run around outside like a care-free maniac; but carefree maniacs usually have to repeat flunked classes. If you go out on the weekend, try to keep it to a limit. Steer clear of after-hours, which may drag into the wee hours and destroy your study ethic.

Be sure to stay on a decent diet to keep your energy up. Constant pizza is not going to keep you in study mode. At least try and balance your all-nighter caffeine binges with some orange juice and water.

Since you're occupied over "break," as well, I would recommend tying up as many loose ends as possible before you jet off to a vacation spot or week of work. Try to forget about school for a day or two. It's the last chance you'll get until May.

Do no feel alone, my friend. Everyone is freaking out alongside you. From my experience, temporary stress-coping methods, such as excessive smoking and drinking, end up creating more tension in your life. It may sound lame, but I recommend finding a friend in the same situation (it won't be hard), and schedule a gripe-session. By the time you are done complaining to each other, you will be laughing at how whiny you sound. Then get to work; relief will come soon!

e-mail questions to Dan and Holly at eiuverge@hotmail.com

PREDICTIONS FROM THE ALL-KNOWING MAGIC EIGHT-BALL



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY DAN VALENZIANO

Oh to be 'Hung' like William

◆ Repercussions of William Hung becoming a full-on celebrity

1) Once and for all, everyone will admit that she does indeed bang.

Magic 8-Ball says: Without a doubt.

2) Because of the American public's obvious love for people who are so horridly bad at any given task, Britney Spears will gain public acclaim for her acting "talent."

Magic 8-Ball says: Most likely.

3) Following suit, the UPN network will create an American Anti-Idol series, showcasing the worst singers from across the nation.

Magic 8-Ball says: Without a doubt.

4) Instead of bobble head sports dolls and hula dancers, miniature hip-shaking renderings of William Hung will grace the dashboards of many cars.

Magic 8-Ball says: As I see it, yes.

5) Hawaiian shirts will dominate this summer's fashions.

Magic 8-Ball says: My reply is no.

6) The truth comes out: it was actually Jennifer Lopez that dumped Ben Affleck – for William Hung. Magic 8-Ball says: very doubtful.

7) Regis Philbin will lose Kelly Ripa as his co-host and pick up William Hung as his new sidekick.

Magic 8-Ball says: Outlook good.

8) William Hung for president! Magic 8-Ball says: It is decidedly so.

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THE DAILY
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Hookah bar Nargile lights up night life

History of the hookah:

Egyptians call it shisha, Lebanese refer to it as nargila, and in English it is known most commonly as hookah. No matter what name it is given, however, hookahs have been smoked by people of various cultures and nationalities for hundred of years.

For something with such widespread tradition, however, few smokers are aware of the rich history of the hookah under any of its many guises.

Accounts of the first cultures to use the hookah are debated, along with what constitutes a “modern” hookah, but a number of facts are well-known.

The original design for the hookah is believed by most to have come from India or Persia, but it was rather primitively made from a coconut shell. With two holes bored into the coconut’s husk, milk was originally used to filter hookah smoke. Although what this may have tasted like is questionable, the popularity of the hookah quickly spread to other areas of the Middle East.

Hookahs spread to Iran and then the rest of the Arab world. It was in Turkey, however, that the water pipe completed its revolution and has hardly changed its style for the last few hundred years.

Styles and materials are often interchangeable, but almost all hookahs traditionally consist of four basic pieces:

- ◆ **Agizlik:** the mouthpiece of the hose of a hookah
- ◆ **Lüle:** the top of the hookah or bowl
- ◆ **Marpuç:** the tube or hose
- ◆ **Gövde:** the body of the pipe which is filled with water

All pieces of the pipe were produced by special craftsmen, which were named after the piece they produced.

The shisha tobacco, also called tombac, gouza, moass or sheesha, is a blend of fresh, dark tobacco leaves, fruit pulp, honey or molasses and glycerin. It is rumored shisha tobacco originated when one smoker used molasses to give consistency to shredded tobacco leaves and a trend was born. The tobacco is available in a wide variety of flavors, including double apple, strawberry, melon, pineapple, vanilla, pistachio and rose, among many others.

Hookahs are traditionally smoked among groups, as participants discuss politics, religion and daily happenings. Coffee houses became major sources of news and gossip while smokers sipped strong coffee, puffed tobacco and conversed freely with people throughout the area.

Hookahs soon became important status symbols as well. Offering one to a guest became an important sign of trust, and withholding it could be taken as a serious insult. In 1841, a diplomatic crisis broke out between France and the Ottoman Empire after a sultan declined to offer the French ambassador a chance to smoke with him.

Hookah smoking is still largely social, though coffee houses are no longer as important to the spread of local news. The practice still offers social interaction and conversation.

By Ben Erwin
STAFF WRITER

As the door opens, notes of Frank Sinatra’s “My Kind of Town” waft through the wooden entrance and a day-glo green and pink “OPEN” sign offers more illumination than any light located inside. Flickering votive candles cast a dim orange warmth into the foyer, and a thin plume of smoke twists up like a writhing snake at the bar in the back of the room. It is clear this is not an average college bar.

Sitting on a quiet street away from Champaign’s main drag, Nargile, located at 207 W. Clark St., looks like little more than an upscale two-story home from the outside, until one notices the large signs and music drifting from behind the door.

Champaign is littered with bars and lounges of all shapes and sizes. What separates Nargile from the typical alcohol set is the atmosphere and a cadre of conspicuous hookahs lining the bar’s back wall.

The tradition of smoking a hookah while discussing religion, politics or current events among friends has existed for hundred of years, but the trend has slowly made its way to America only in the past few years. Nargile opened Dec. 5, 2003. It is the first hookah bar in Champaign, but is merely one of many like it popping up in cities across the country, from San Diego to New York City.

Bringing Nargile to life:

Nargile is owned and operated by Garenne Bigby, a Champaign resident who, just a few years ago, had little entrepreneurial penchant and no plans of bringing an emerging world trend to his hometown.

Before opening Nargile, Bigby said he worked a number of jobs, including stints as a musician and even as a maintenance employee for the University of Illinois.

It was a few chance occurrences, however, that spurred the idea to bring a hookah bar to Champaign.

On a trip to San Diego, Bigby had his first taste of hookah smoking and was immediately hooked on the mellow flavor and relaxing effect.

“It’s a cool thing to do other than smoking cigarettes. This is more of a social thing,” Bigby said, while taking a drag from a three-foot, egyptian-style hookah packed with double apple tobacco. “Cigarettes are pretty nasty; shisha is a much more pleasurable experience.”

After the trip to San Diego, Bigby came home and was offered a job as manager of another local bar. Despite having little experience, he took the job. The idea for Nargile was hatched one night while working there.

Bigby then had to search out a location, but fortunately a space was available only a block from where he was already working. Located near campus, but just far enough away not to be lumped in with other bars peppering the surrounding streets, Bigby said he had found the perfect place to set up shop.

He then set out to create the kind of atmosphere in which he’d most like to, in his words, “relax, kick back and have a good smoke.”

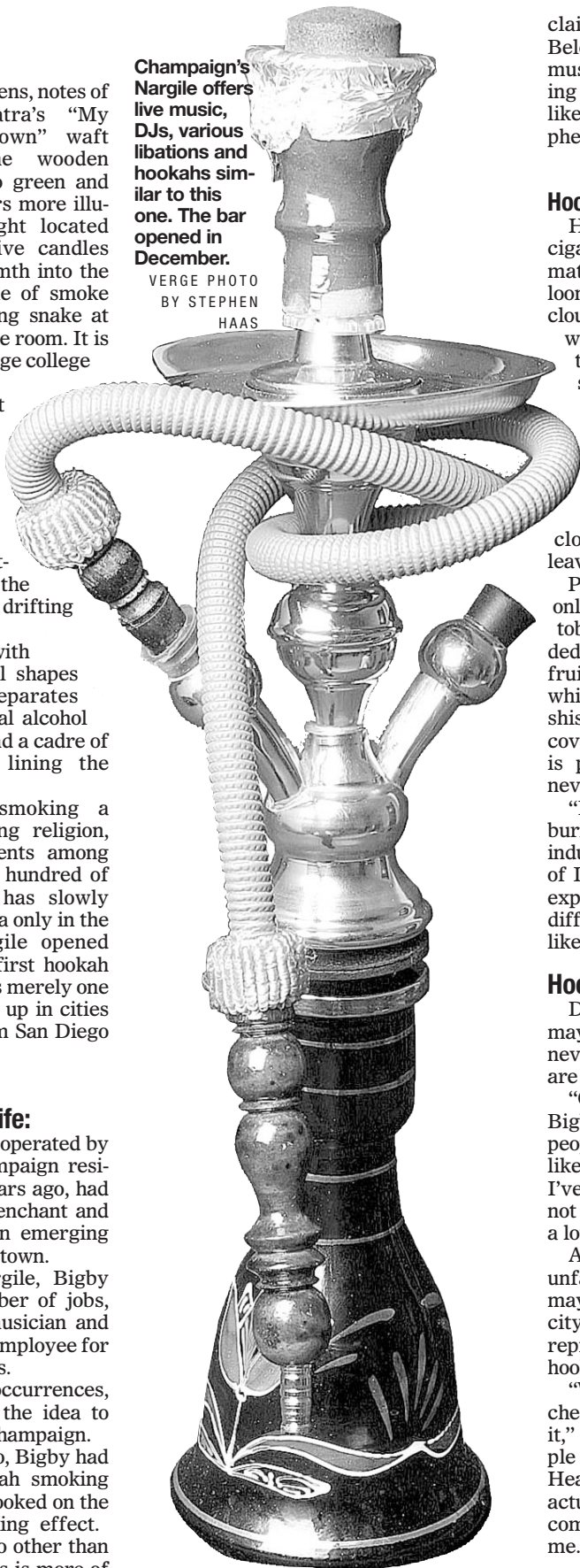
Setting the Mood:

The building was set on two levels, with an area for live bands, a lounge area and a downstairs dedicated to dance music and near- nightly DJs. Bigby said he now had plenty of space to set a relaxing atmosphere.

Nargile’s main floor is awash in a sea of art deco, curved-back white chairs and plush red couches resting inches from the ground. With dark red walls and green curtains, the walls are littered with posters

Champaign’s Nargile offers live music, DJs, various libations and hookahs similar to this one. The bar opened in December.

VERGE PHOTO
BY STEPHEN
HAAS



advertising future shows and nightly drink specials.

Comprised of the aforementioned three separate areas, the bar is a mishmash of styles, but is connected by Bigby’s vision of what a hookah bar should look like.

“I did it,” he said of the bar’s unique, almost bohemian look. “It’s a combination of all the kind of stuff I like.”

Bigby said the goal of Nargile was to create a relaxing atmosphere where people could come and lounge for hours, catch some live music, or dance to a DJ. The aesthetic seems to be working, as many patrons regard the bar as one of the best “chill spots” in Champaign.

“It’s just a good place to chill,” said Doug Matiassek, a junior English major at the University of Illinois. “I come here to relax and take the stress off,” he said while leaning back in an overstuffed red lounge chair and placing his shoes on the edge of the table.

Sophia Kahn, a waitress at Nargile since its December opening, also noted how the bar’s atmosphere differed from other Champaign nightspots.

“The ambiance is different here, she said. “(Nargile) is a lot more intimate than an average bar.”

Another element of Nargile is its dedication to music. If a band isn’t performing or a DJ isn’t spinning in the bar’s lower level, music is constantly playing on the juke box.

“(We offer) much more than other bars around here,” said self-pro-

claimed “hookah-tender” Greg Belcher. “This place is all about music. We have bands or DJs playing almost every night and music is like a complement to the atmosphere.”

Hookah vs. traditional smoking:

Hookah smoking, unlike cigars, cigarettes or pipes, is light and aromatic, Bigby said. Rather than looming like an impending storm cloud above heads of patrons the way cigarette and cigar smoke tends to do, plumes of hookah smoke dissipate into the air with the aroma of fruit and baked sugar.

“People walk in here, and they just smell the aroma and the flavor,” Bigby said of hookah smoke. “And your clothes don’t smell when you leave.”

Part of the difference is in not only the tobacco itself – hookah tobacco is a combination of shredded tobacco, molasses or honey and fruit pulp – but also in the way in which hookah tobacco (also called shisha) is lit. With perforated tinfoil covering the hookah’s bowl, a lit coal is placed above the tobacco, but never actually touches the shisha.

“It’s roasting the tobacco, not burning it,” John Bussema, a junior industrial engineer at the University of Illinois, said of a shisha smoking experience. “The concept is entirely different from smoking something like a cigarette.”

Hookahs in Champaign:

Despite their history, hookahs may look strange to those who have never seen one smoked. Hookahs are rather benign, Bigby said.

“Certain people are scared of it,” Bigby said of hookahs, “but most people who come here find out they like it. The only negative reaction I’ve received is from people who are not knowledgeable. And that makes a lot of people afraid to touch it.”

And while a strange look or an unfair connotation with marijuana may frighten some, everyone from city police to health department representatives have partaken in a hookah, Bigby explained.

“We’ve had some police stop by to check it out and they seem to like it,” Bigby joked. “We had some people from the Champaign County Health Department come by, and I actually got one of those guys to come in and smoke a hookah with me. And he really enjoyed it.”

The big picture:

Nargile currently offers alcohol alongside music and hookahs. Bigby said the bar also has plans to offer coffee, tea and even sell shisha tobacco or hookahs to customers. He explained Nargile’s customer base has grown steadily since the bar’s opening, as clientele is a mix of students, professionals and locals.

With hookahs available for \$8 in a variety of flavors, including apple, strawberry, cherry mango and banana, a night smoking hookahs and sipping coffee could be much cheaper than an average night at the bars. Bigby said the reasonable price and length of a smoke are part of the appeal, as patrons could spend most of the night at Nargile and spend less than \$10.

He explained that while weeknights between Sunday and Wednesday may be slower than the bustling weekends, business has been a testament to the appeal of hookah smoking.

“Business has been great,” he said with a smile. “It’s been better than I could have possibly imagined.”

With Nargile’s success, Bigby also said he is considering expanding business to other areas of central Illinois.

“I think this could work in places like Bloomington or Charleston,” he said. “Any place where people wanna get together and relax, have a smoke and enjoy a drink is a place where this could work.”

Hookah etiquette:

Hookah smoking is traditionally a mellow, relaxing process, as shisha burns slowly. A single bowl can last upwards of an hour when passed among a group of three or four. Because of hundred of years of tradition, however, numerous points of etiquette have been established.

Most hookah bars do not strictly enforce etiquette upon smokers though, as most patrons have never or rarely smoked. The guidelines are easy to follow and simply show respect for the history involved.

Proper etiquette varies between different cultures, but a handful of rules are relatively universal.

- ◆ Never set a hookah on a table or ledge. A hookah should traditionally be placed on the floor to avoid contacting the charcoal with anything flammable. This may be difficult when using a hookah with shorter hoses, but a burning coal is a fire hazard. And placing a hookah on a table (especially one containing food or drink) is considered disrespectful
- ◆ Never pass the hookah directly to another person. Always first put it down and let the next smoker pick it up at their leisure. Setting a hose directly on the table signifies one smoker is done and the next person may pick up the hose.
- ◆ Never light cigarettes using the lit charcoal that lights shisha tobacco. Although cigarette, cigar and pipe smoking may take place alongside hookah smoking, it is considered improper to use a coal as a lighter.
- ◆ Never use a self-lighting charcoal on top of the hookah. The extra smoke will overwhelm the tobacco flavors and may inhibit smoking. Low-smoke, flavorless charcoal specifically designed for shisha smoking is traditionally preferred.
- ◆ Do not blow smoke in the face of another person unless it is requested in order to taste the flavor being smoked.
- ◆ Never share your plastic mouthpiece with another person, as it does not promote good hygiene.
- ◆ When you are finished smoking hookah, wrap the hookah hose around the metal stem.
- ◆ Don’t smoke anything but tobacco out of a hookah. Hookah smoking may often be associated with other controlled substances by some, but hookahs are traditionally used only to smoke shisha tobacco.

Benefit to raise money for memorial scholarship

By April McLaren
STAFF WRITER

A benefit full of tunes will raise money for the David Danner Memorial Scholarship Saturday at Friends and Co.

David Danner, who lost battle with cancer in October 2001, was the coordinator of Pathways, an alternative school program for students who did not go to high school, or decided to drop out.

The event's coordinator, Althea Pendergast, took over Danner's position in 2001 and said there needed to be a scholarship established honoring Danner and the work he had done with the children of Pathways.

"Having the scholarship felt like a good way to honor him," she said. "He loved our kids a lot."

The amount of the scholarship is determined by how much the benefit will raise. In addition to the small admission fee, Pendergast will have a jar for open donations.

The scholarship is open to any student attending Pathways who is interested in continuing their education at Lake Land Community College.

In order for a student to be considered for this scholarship, he or she also needs to be recognized



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Members of local band Motherlode.

by a teacher and needs to be successful at Pathways, Pendergast said.

"They need to show they are determined to go to college," she said.

Last year was the first time this benefit took place. Pendergast said she chose to hold the event at Friends because it was a nice, intimate setting and "Jason (Kottwitz, Friends owner) was accommodating and willing to help us out."

She said Danner was a musician, and he often played at Friends which also helped her decide on a location.

Pendergast said \$15,000 was raised last year, and she was amazed with the total. She said she hopes that number will be matched this year, but she will be happy with anything.

The event will feature performances from The Danner Family; Nancy Marlow; The Rural Kings; Rumble Shack Orchestra; a trio of



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Members of local band The Rural Kings

John Bishop, Terry Harrison and Steve Harrison; Rockford Barnes and Pendergast's Motherlode.

Pendergast is Motherlode's lead singer and bass player, and has been with the band since it was established 14 years ago.

Motherlode's recent album is titled Fully Loded. Pendergast said their style of music is everything from folk to old time fiddle music to blues.

"We play whatever we want to," she said.

She said all of the performers featured at this event knew Danner or once played with him.

Pendergast said she hopes the event will get the good word out about Pathways, while remembering Danner in a positive way.

"He had an amazing attitude with the kids," she said. "I try to remember that when I am with the kids."

The event will begin at 8 p.m. Saturday at Friends. The cover charge is \$5.

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The Warehouse brings Slingshot 57 to town

By Jeff Stauber
STAFF WRITER

Slingshot 57 will bring its guitar-driven, edgy rock 'n' roll back to Charleston this Sunday. They will return to The Warehouse to perform along with Charleston newcomers Kids in the Way.

Having performed over 300 shows across 19 states in the past four years, Slingshot 57 has developed strong connections with their fans. Lead vocalist Ben Woods attributes this relationship to the band's work ethic. "We stay busy," Woods said. "That's our motto: stay busy doing rock shows and meeting people and building relationships."

Woods also said the band was looking forward to their return to Charleston after the warm reception they received last time the band was in town.

"Last time we were at The Warehouse it was great," Woods said. "I don't know how many people were there, but it was a pretty good turn out. And it'll be great to come back and see familiar faces."

Woods also said the band hopes to release its next album early this summer.

Following Woods on vocals are Nash Bruce on guitar, Neill Nation on rhythm guitar, Charleston native Paul

Stewart on bass and Nick McNeeley on drums.

Out of Noblesville, Ind., Kids in the Way released their latest rock 'n' roll album "Safe From the Losing Fight" in December 2003, which followed the release of their self-titled debut in 2002.

Kids in the Way lead guitarist Nathan Ehman said the band takes pride in its originality. "We're not a formula band," said Ehman. "We don't have any really strong or significant influences. We listen to all kinds of music from punk to rap to whatever."

Ehman said the band's spirituality also shapes their sound. "Our Christian faith definitely comes through in our music," said Ehman.

Ehman also joked about his band members' vertical challenges, but assured that the band would have a big stage presence. "We're all under six feet tall," he said, "but we're a very passionate rock 'n' roll group."

The band employs Dave Pelsue on lead vocals, Nathan Ehman and Austin Cobb on guitar, Nathan Hughes on bass and Eric Carter on drums.

The Warehouse is located at 102 6th St. Doors open at 6 p.m. Kids in the Way will perform first at 7 p.m., followed by Slingshot 57. There is no cover charge.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.KIDSIKTHEWAY.COM

Members of Kids in the Way. The band will play the Warehouse with Slingshot 57 on Sunday.

International blues stars to descend on Gunner Buc's

By Nicole Nicolas
FEATURES REPORTER

A band known internationally as a five-star blues outfit will play Friday at Gunner Buc's in Mattoon. The Dave Riley Band is currently composed of Dave L. Riley Sr., lead singer and guitarist, Dave L. Riley Jr. on bass guitar and one of three touring drummers.

"Blues is all about feelings," Riley Sr. said. "Mainly to get them [the audience] to feel what you're feeling."

The band not only plays blues, but Motown, country, classic rock, and some gospel, said Lauri Hoegger, Riley Sr.'s business partner.

It sounds like they have more people in the band because Riley Sr. plays two sounds at once on his guitar, she said.

Hoegger books Dave Riley Band

at local venues like Gunner Buc's when they are not performing around the world.

"A lot of bigger acts won't even give the moment of day to small places, but he'll play anywhere," Hoegger said.

Even Mattoon.

"I like to take the blues to small towns," Riley Sr. said.

Riley Sr. writes the majority of his songs. Most of them are about everyday life and struggles, he said. For example, a new song to be released on his upcoming CD "Runaway," is about a boy who can't face his parents because he's failing in school. The boy runs away from home, but realizes he must return and face them, because he needs their guidance. Riley Sr. has already donated the song to some lawyers for a CD to benefit charities fighting domestic violence.

Riley began playing guitar in a gospel group called "The Riley Singers" when he was 9 years old, according to the Dave Riley Band's official Web site. The band was made up of his family and played with artists such as Lou Rawls, Soul Stirrers and O.V. Right.

It was in 1967 when he was drafted into the military that Riley met up with Jimi Hendrix, Jimmy Reed, Howlin' Wolf and Albert King. They influenced him to start playing the blues, according to the band's Web site. He began playing bass in Chicago in the early 1970s with artists such as Buddy Guy, Junior Wells and Muddy Waters.

Riley Sr. stopped touring to raise his son. Riley Sr. said he never stopped playing and practiced whenever he could find time. After his son had grown up, he recorded his first album, "Living on

Borrowed Time," released in 2000, is about Riley Sr.'s personal tragedies, according to the band's Web site.

Under Cannonball Records, he recorded his second CD, "Blues Across America - The Helena Scene," which includes artists such as Sam Carr, John Weston and Frank Frost. Following the record, the band traveled to Switzerland to perform in 2000 at the Lucerne Blues Festival. The Switzerland performance earned Riley Sr. the rightful place within the top blues' groups in countries around the world. Dave Riley Band also played in the annual King Biscuit Blues Festival in Helena, Ark. His first



Dave Riley, Sr.

solo album, "Whiskey, Money, and Women" was recorded in 2001 under the Fedora Records label. The band has toured to countries such as France, England, Austria, Germany and Belgium.

In Canada in 2002, Riley received a Blues CD of the Year award for his fourth album, "The Delta Dukes, Working for the Blues," which features Sam Carr and John Weston. The album was produced by Riley Jr.'s record label, Aquatic Records, Hoegger said. This album, not yet released in the United States, can be found online.

"We're working on a couple different CDs," Hoegger said. Friday the Dave Riley Band will release their "Greatest Hits" album.

Dave Riley Band will perform from 9 p.m. to 1 p.m. at Gunner Buc's, located at 3020 Lakeland Blvd. in Mattoon.

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Walkmen race to fill rock niche

By Matt Rennels
STAFF WRITER

The Strokes sent a ripple through the mainstream of rock. This sent promoters scrambling to find these acts - too mainstream to be indie and too indie to be mainstream - who were hiding beneath The Strokes in The Big Apple.

Today the crop is bursting with acts such as The Yeah Yeah Yeah's, The Rapture, Enon and Interpol, making New York the hotspot for vintage leather jackets and suede kicks, comparable to how Seattle paved the way for flannel shirts and soul patches.

A band that is adding vintage sweaters and slacks to the mix is The Walkmen, five natives of Washington D.C. Three landed with the band following the break up of Jonathan Fire Eater. When the dust settled, The Walkmen took the rest of the cash Dreamworks sent them for Fire Eater's estate and rented out a space on Broadway and 133 Street in New York City, just off the 1/9 train, and plugged in an analog studio. Under the alias Marcata Studios, The Walkmen have recorded their first two albums for other primo acts such as The French Kicks and The Kills. Not only that, but according to the band's Web site, anyone can rent their services.

If you listened to the produc-

tion on their records, how could one resist. The Walkmen's new release, "Bows and Arrows," on Record Collection, is more of the same, and - more. The band reaches critical points of intensity on "Everyone" although singer Leithauser's crooning made it a hard fence to hurdle. On the standout track "The Rat" jumps every hurdle and, well, steals the cheese.

The drums on the track are pulsating, the guitar lines are up front and direct and the vocals are oh so heavy as he sneers "You've got a nerve to be asking a favor / You've got a nerve to be calling my number / I know we've been through this before".

"The Rat" is definitely the standout track as much of the album returns to the form of "Everyone," where The Samples meets Bob Dylan's "Highway 61 Revisited." But they didn't rewrite the album, they just shuffled it up.

The band's strengths are not elements given at any moment



"Bows and Arrows"
The Walkmen
Grade B+

of the album. When each member bends, the other members bend with him, filling in any holes left by the bend. "Bows and Arrows" is as solid - no filler, just solid. The New York scene is being built on this, and The Walkmen are possibly the frontrunner when it comes to solidity.

If you are near the New York area any time soon, with guitar in hand and in look of a lesson, The Walkmen's Paul Maroon is giving them and looking for students, according to the band's Web site.

Ireland P.M.'s daughter strikes it rich with first novel

DUBLIN, Ireland (AP) — In Ireland, a first-time author is reaping bucketloads of publicity, six-figure deals and Hollywood interest for her new tear-jerker novel. She's also the prime minister's daughter.

Cecelia Ahern, 22, who recently

spent time signing newly minted copies of "PS, I Love You," for several hundred fans at a Dublin bookstore, has rebuffed claims that her success is due to the high profile of her father, Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern.

"I think it's very flattering for

Dad, actually, to think he has all this influence with Hollywood and all over the world," she says.

She may have a point. The novel has already proved exceptionally attractive to publishers in countries where, as the young author puts it, "the reaction is, 'Bertie who?'"

Ellen DeGeneres gets multiple Daytime Emmy nominations

♦ *'The Young and the Restless'* tallies the most soap nominations

NEW YORK (AP) — Ellen DeGeneres' new talk show was nominated for 12 Daytime Emmy Awards on Thursday, and "The Young and the Restless" led the soap opera pack with 16 nods.

DeGeneres' show has been a hit in its freshman season, and earned the comedian nominations for best talk show and best talk show host.

"All My Children" and "As the World Turns" earned 14 nominations apiece, with "General Hospital" and "Guiding Light" joining DeGeneres with 12 nominations each.

The 31st annual Daytime Emmy Awards are set for May 21 at New York's Radio City Music Hall, telecast on NBC.

Wayne Brady earned nominations for best talk show and best talk show host. His show hasn't been renewed for a third year and will cease production this spring.

Other nominees for best talk show host are Dr. Phil McGraw; Regis Philbin and Kelly Ripa of "Live!"; and "The View" crew of Meredith Vieira, Star Jones, Joy Behar and Barbara Walters.

Vieira was also nominated for best game show host for "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire," and will compete against veterans Bob Barker of "The Price is Right" and Alex Trebek of "Jeopardy!"

Last year's winner as best

actor in a daytime drama, Maurice Benard of "General Hospital," will compete against castmate Anthony Geary this year. Other best actor nominees were Roger Howarth of "As the World Turns," Grant Aleksander of "Guiding Light," Thorsten Kaye of "Port Charles" and Eric Braeden of "The Young and the Restless."

Two other "General Hospital" cast members, Nancy Lee Grahn and Tamara Braun, will compete for best actress. Maura West of "As the World Turns," Kim Zimmer of "Guiding Light" and Michelle Stafford of "The Young and the Restless" were also nominated.

Among the missing were Susan Flannery of "The Bold and the Beautiful," who has won three of the past four years, and the frequently nominated Susan Lucci.

"As the World Turns," "The Bold and the Beautiful," "Guiding Light" "General Hospital" and "The Young and the Restless" were nominated for best daytime drama.

Martha Stewart was nominated as best service show host for "Martha Stewart Living."

The late John Ritter, the voice of "Clifford the Big Red Dog," was nominated for outstanding performer in an animated program. Among his competitors: veteran newsmen Walter Cronkite, who's the voice of Benjamin Franklin in PBS' "Liberty's Kids."

In the competition among networks, CBS had 53 nominations, ABC 50, PBS 35 and NBC 19.

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Greek Guide

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MacFarlane's 'Family Guy' may return to network TV

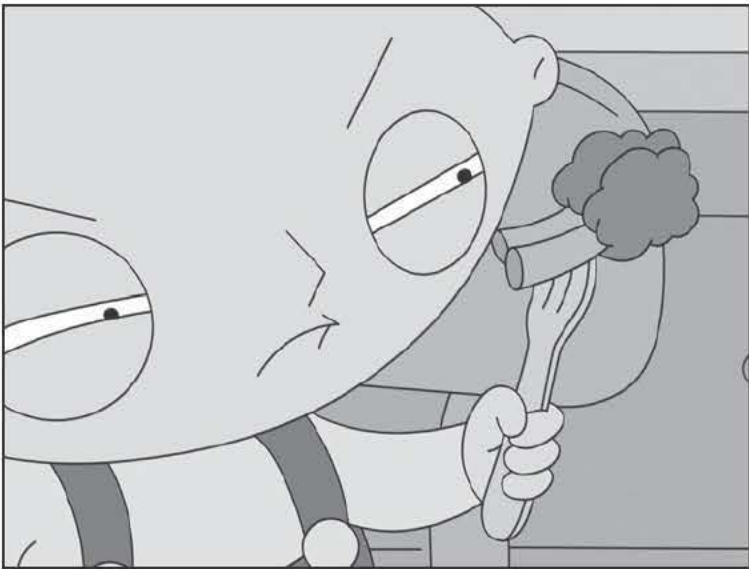
NEW YORK (AP) It's official: Stewie Griffin's plans for world domination shall continue!

Stewie, the animated ankle-biter with the killer vocabulary and the endless string of plots to kill his mom and enslave the human race, will return in all-new episodes of Fox's cult hit cartoon Family Guy, the show's creator, Seth MacFarlane, confirms.

Stewie, along with fellow Griffins Peter (the dad), Lois (the mom), sister Meg, brother Chris and gin-swilling family pooch Brian, is scheduled to hit the tube again in 2005—but exactly where channel surfers will spot the deliciously dysfunctional clan is still up in the air.

MacFarlane told IGN.com that he plans to begin production on new installments in April, but is unsure about whether the episodes will first air on Fox, which originally broadcast the series from 1999-2002, or the Cartoon Network, which has aired the show in repeats since April 2003.

"Cartoon Network will be involved regardless," MacFarlane told IGN.com. "Whether it goes there permanently or winds up on Fox first and then Cartoon Network remains to be seen. So, at the very least it will be on Cartoon Network, which is great, because at the end of the day, that's where



“Family Guy” set sales records when the program was released on DVD a year ago, and the show may return next year on Fox or Cartoon Network.

we built our biggest fan base. So I'm happy either way."

In November, a Fox spokesperson told E! Online that as many as 35 new Family Guy episodes could start airing on the network in January 2005.

The uncertainty of where Family Guy will land continues the show's erratic history. It premiered, post-Super Bowl in 1999 to 22 million viewers, received rave

reviews from critics, was bounced around the weekly schedule by Fox, got canceled in 2002, became one of the all-time bestselling TV shows on DVD last year, added to its fan base, as MacFarlane stated, when it joined Cartoon Network's "Adult Swim" lineup last year and, now, is getting an almost unheard of second shot at prime-time success.

MacFarlane indicated that he

has several leftover scripts that he will rework into episodes that will make up the fourth season of the show. And he hopes to reassemble much of the show's writing and voiceover talent (in addition to Stewie, MacFarlane himself provides the voices of Peter, Brian and randy neighbor Glen Quagmire), including Seth Green as Chris and That '70s Show star Mila Kunis as Meg.

Other celebs are also lining up to lend their voices to new episodes, joining the likes of Will Ferrell, Jay Mohr, Candice Bergen, Norm Macdonald, Luke Perry, Michael McKean, Ron Jeremy, Ray Liotta, Jimmy Kimmel, Bob Barker, KISS, Regis Philbin, Andy Dick, Jennifer Love Hewitt and the late Waylon Jennings who guested during the show's first three seasons.

"I told Mila not too long ago that Moby is interested in doing something with the show," MacFarlane told The Daily Princetonian. "People who you wouldn't even think would be fans [are interested]."

The Emmy-winning MacFarlane—he snagged a statue in 2000 for his Stewie voice work—is keeping himself plenty busy. Aside from writing the new scripts, he's currently producing another animated series for Fox, American Dad.

"American Dad is more heavily issue-related, in the same way as All in the Family was," MacFarlane told The Daily Princetonian. "We latch on to a cutting edge issue and build a story around it."

The show, which is expected to hit the air right around the time the new Family Guy episodes debut, also features a talking fish and a live-in alien for the family. MacFarlane said a crossover with the Griffins isn't out of the question for American Dad.

Meanwhile, Rhode Island School of Design grad MacFarlane will make his big-screen directorial debut with the Spyglass comedy Family Union, about a guy who goes home to visit his twisted family every five years. He's also doing voiceover work for American Dad, and there's still the rumor of both a big-screen Family Guy movie at Fox and a straight-to-DVD Family Guy release.

And speaking of straight...the best rumor about the plotline of The Family Guy movie? That, as has been hinted at in many Family Guy episodes, baby Stewie will realize he's gay.

"I sometimes wonder if all women are this difficult," Stewie once said of Lois. "And then I think to myself, 'My God! Wouldn't it be marvelous if I turned out to be a homosexual?'"

TELEVISION

Jane Goodall returns in new documentary

NEW YORK (AP) — A new documentary finds Jane Goodall telling a rapt audience how, growing up in England, she saw herself as the Jane who should rightfully have shared jungle life with Tarzan.

She already had set her sights on working with wild animals in their natural habitat. At 26, she headed to Africa to study chimpanzees at Gombe National Park in what is now Tanzania. That was in 1960.

Years of patient observation of these creatures' behavior led her to many discoveries. Among them: Chimpanzees eat meat, and they fashion tools out of twigs and blades of grass.

Along the way, Goodall the observer and scholar became Goodall the advocate. She founded the Jane Goodall Institute for Wildlife and Conservation in 1977. Then, at a conference a decade later, she was

shocked by fellow primatologists' reports of rampant poaching and habitat destruction. Her life as a field scientist had come to an end. She was now a full-time activist.

Since then, Goodall, who turns 70 next month, has maintained a punishing schedule of travel: for lectures and lobbying, for raising money and awareness, for signing books (she's written a dozen).

Driven by "genes and sheer determination," she is on an endless campaign trail that keeps her from the wilderness she's so committed to preserving. That is the story behind "Jane Goodall's Return to Gombe," a one-hour documentary airing at 8 p.m. EST Monday on Animal Planet.

The film follows Goodall on an all-too-brief, all-too-rare visit back to her favorite spot on Earth, where she reconnects with her beloved apes.

Eisner stripped of CEO title

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Responding to the ire of Disney shareholders, the media giant stripped CEO Michael Eisner of his chairman's title — a move some feel is unlikely to quell grumbles from the large number who voted to withhold their support for the embattled leader.

The Walt Disney Co.'s board voted unanimously Wednesday to sever the roles of chairman and chief executive, naming director George Mitchell as nonexecutive chairman. Eisner is keeping his job as CEO, and the board reiterated its approval for his leadership and the company's strategy.

Yet the change in management structure came only hours after a stunning number of Disney shareholders — 43 percent — did not support Eisner's reelection to the board.

Although the action curbs Eisner's previous control over Disney and addresses the concerns of corporate governance groups that had called for the change, it won't satisfy the company's most vocal critics.

Those include ex-board members Stanley Gold and Roy E. Disney, who have waged a three-month campaign to persuade shareholders to oust Eisner. The men have vowed to continue their fight.

In an interview with ABC's "Nightline" Wednesday, Eisner, 61, acknowledged the vote against him: "I do not belittle a large withhold vote." He also portrayed the jobs split as the result of wider reforms in corporate America.

"We should have been considering, and getting our company into contemporary governance and we did it today. We heard our shareholders who seemed to be interested in that, so we went ahead and did it," he said.

"And there are obviously certain people that are not happy with me personally, I guess," Eisner added.

Mitchell, a former senator from Maine, may also prove to be a controversial choice. Shareholders withheld 24 percent of their votes from his reelection Wednesday — the second highest total after Eisner.

Mitchell has been criticized by Gold and Roy Disney as being too close to Eisner and not independent enough because his law firm had worked for Disney in the past.

In its statement, the board said it understood that investors were concerned about more than just the issue of separating the chairman and CEO positions.

"We are aware that some voted for an immediate change in management and in the board," the statement said. "However, taking all these factors into account, we believe the action we have taken today is in the best long-term interest of the shareholders of the company."

Institutional Shareholder Services, a proxy advisory firm that had recommended its large investor clients withhold their votes from Eisner, said the Disney board's change was welcome, but insufficient.

"If the Disney board believes this is the silver bullet to fix all the problems, they are sort of mistaken," said Cheryl Gustitus, an ISS spokeswoman. "The level of the vote makes it clear that investors have a lot of more on their minds than just the splitting of the position."

Also Wednesday, Disney's board rejected a renewed overture from cable television giant Comcast Corp., saying it would serve no purpose to reconsider an offer already dismissed as too low.

Shareholders, following the advice of Roy Disney and Gold, also withheld more than 20 percent of their votes from two other board members: Judith Estrin and John Bryson.

Analysts had said that in the face of the votes, Disney's board either had to split the chairman and CEO jobs, do nothing, or fire Eisner, who has served as Disney's chairman and CEO since 1984. His contract expires in 2006.

Eisner, who chaired the meeting, showed little emotion, even as Gold and Roy Disney took the stage — an event marked by cheers and standing ovations — to call for his firing.

Eisner briefly defended himself and his fellow managers, saying he enjoyed an "excellent relationship" with the dissident board members until they disagreed with his handling of the company after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

"I love this company," Eisner said. "The board loves this company. And we are all passionate about the output of this company."

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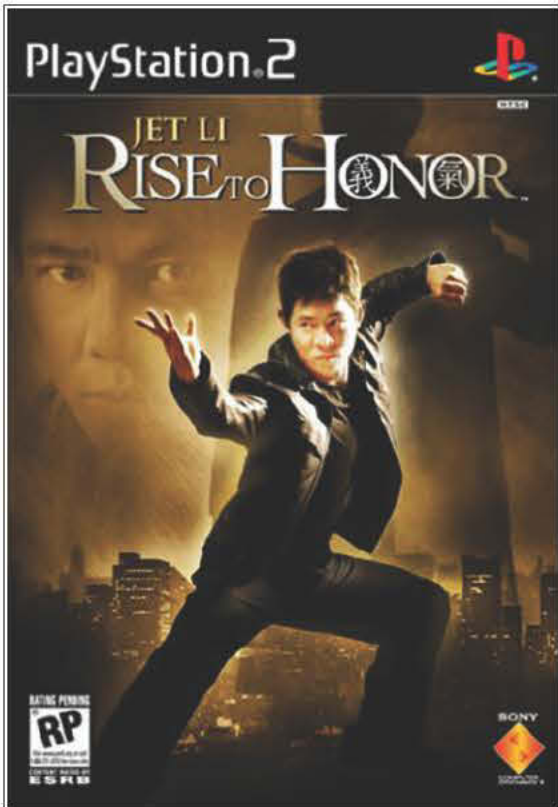
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“Jet Li: Rist to Honor”
Grade: B-

Martial arts star impresses with ‘Honor’

By David Thill
STAFF WRITER

Five-time National Martial Art Competition Gold Champion-turned actor Jet Li tries his hand at the world of video games with “Rise to Honor.”

In the Sony Computer Entertainment America game, Li plays Kit Yun, personal bodyguard to Hong Kong mob-boss Chiang. When Chiang is assassinated, Yun vows to carry out the man’s dying wish: go to San Francisco and find Chiang’s daughter, Michelle.

The plot is complemented by that old standard, an undercover cop. The player soon discovers Yun is not only an underworld bodyguard, but an undercover policeman for the Hong Kong police department assigned to the task of taking down the very crime syndicate he works for.

Yun’s sense of honor overrides his sense of duty, and he ventures to San Francisco to fulfill his promise.

The game plays like a cross between the 1970s martial-arts-film-oriented Dreamcast release “Shenmue” and “Enter the Matrix.” “Rise to Honor” has a good sense of movement, flowing into and out of cut-scenes without

pause.

The absence of a loading screen is a welcome change from most Playstation games that are riddled with delays, which often last for 30 seconds to one minute between actual play.

Strong points in “Rise to Honor” lie in the voice acting, which sound more like film dialogue, rather than lines being read specifically for the game.

The fighting also offers a fresh alternative to the endless button-mashing combos of most fighter games. Action is performed by tapping the right analog stick in the direction of the advancing enemy.

The motion capture technology works beautifully, utilizing Li’s experience and graceful movements. This offers “Rise to Honor” a sense of credibility other games cannot boast.

However, after about three hours of continuous play, one may feel boredom and monotony set in. Brawling with endless hoards of mindless drones who have the fighting ability of fourth-graders, and stringing together combinations of punches and kicks without aim becomes tiresome.

When a random attack finds the player, you may be bludgeoned with ran-

dom objects or fists and feet, as you lay on the ground unable to defend yourself.

However, “Rise to Honor” does not offer the player an option to beat the enemies while they lie on the ground, so you must wait for them to get back up to continue fighting.

The game may have jaw-dropping moves and eye-popping cinematic scenes, but it provides little variety in later stages.

There is some diversity in gun fights and run-and-dodge-the-bullet scenes, but even those become old hat tricks by the end of the game.

One truly fun feature is the “Adrenaline Meter.” After pummeling enemies mercilessly for a period of time, Yun’s adrenaline reaches its peak, and the world slows while his moves increase in speed and tenacity.

In a game genre, where most are overly critical, “Rise to Honor” impresses on a few levels.

Overall, the game has a relatively engaging plot and excellent voice acting. Its downfall, however, is the monotonous enemies and increase in difficulty towards the end of the game.

Vast’s “Nude” is anything but bare

By Holly Henschen
ASSOCIATE VERGE EDITOR

If a time machine were engineered to transport Depeche Mode and Nine Inch Nails back to a medieval church, wherein they would be locked until confessing their heresies, an unrepentant hybrid Vast would emerge.

Vast consists of one man: Jon Crosby from Humboldt, Calif. Guitar Player Magazine profiled Crosby at age 13 as a promising musician, according to realVast.com. Vast was signed by Elektra after his demos received heavy airplay on a local station. In 1998, Vast’s first release was “Visual Audio Sensory Theater.” The sophomore album “Music For People” was released in 2000. It gained more recognition than the first, though its title is telling of the album’s goals.

Touted in a biography as “one of the biggest underground acts in the world,” Vast returns with “Nude” and a whirlwind of harmonies, guitar, piano and digital ornaments.

Few musicians can pair synthesizers and acoustic guitar successfully,

but it seems like second nature for Vast. References to Nine Inch Nails made in conjunction with the band should be considered compliments rather than ripped-off, tainted insults. The similarities between the two are evident in the instruments used and the singularity of the band members. Crosby’s songs are less spiteful than Trent Reznor’s, but just as engaging.

Traces of light-core techno wrapped around honest acoustic chord progressions are reminiscent of Depeche Mode. Vast mixes ethnic beats and samples a Renaissance-style choir in many of the tracks on “Nude.” Combined with piano and string arrangements, one can imagine the music cascading around the ceiling of a cathedral.

The middle-Eastern tinged “I Can’t Say No (To You)” rests on a driving bass line and man-made, trip-hoppy drumbeat. The enigmatic verse builds to a chorus spiked with Cure-esque wistfulness.

Vast’s multilayered aura of precision is otherworldly. Through impassioned, energetic tracks like “Thrown Away” to ethereal marvels

such as “Japanese Fantasy,” the listener is led to believe each song was labored over intensively; but these seem more like labors of love.

The album’s closing track, “Desert Garden” is a hopeful invitation to run away into the distant future. Crosby’s voice portrays a sincere fragility that mirrors the single-guitar tune of the song.

An underground following reared its head as fans waited for a new release from Vast. Accordingly, two pre-“Nude” demos are offered online, titled “Turquoise” and “Crimson.” The best of each appear on the final album.

“Nude” is a departure from Vast’s more angsty background. The more evolved sound is not white puffy clouds and unicorns; the vibe is still introspective, yet universal.

Though far from household name status, Vast’s music should appeal to club culture and the rock crowd alike. This could be the release that gives Crosby well-deserved mainstream recognition. The optimal balance of electronics and acoustics on “Nude” compliment each other with perfect homogeneity.



“Nude”
Vast
Four Five Six Entertainment
Grade: B+

GUIDE TO BETTER LIVING

Get yourself ready for Spring

Well, it is warming up. The time to have cookouts and play bags is nearly upon us. So bust your Weber grill out of storage and dust the cobwebs off your football.

Beating the weather

Although spring represents all that is beautiful and new, it’s a messy friggin’ season. It rains *all* the time. Mud accumulates, puddles appear everywhere. Clothes and shoes get ruined. The best way to protect yourself and your clothes is to wear outfits and footwear you don’t care about. Short of that, there are a few more things you can do.

Obviously, you can buy an umbrella, but that’s too easy. If you’re going to have an umbrella, at least be an individual and wear one that is attached to a hat. I’ve found plastic bags to be a useful tool in beating the wettest of weather. Cut a couple holes in your favorite brand of large trash bag and you’ve got yourself a dandy poncho. By using the bags your newspaper subscriptions come in (I know you’re all good little readers) and a couple of rubber bands, you can create an inexpensive and disposable pair of galoshes.

Avoiding love

Spring is historically classified as the “season of love,” but not everyone wants to go down that road. Relationships take precedent in your



Dan Valenziano
VERGE EDITOR

life and make you blow-off things you really need to get done. Relationships take a lot of time and effort ... and who likes effort? I know I don’t.

Now you may say to yourself, “Self, we’re not going to get into a relationship this Spring.” But the birds will chirp, and the flowers bud – sometimes goals are forgotten and that which was written in stone crumbles into dust. Even the strongest of wills can be bent by a pretty face. So, you must guard yourself. Here are a few simple things you can do to make yourself less appealing.

It doesn’t matter if you’re a guy or a girl, you need to conveniently lose your razor. Guys, I’m not talking about having a perpetual five-o-clock shadow – some girls find that attractive. What I’m talking about is having that “transitional phase” beard that looks like the worst-kept thing you’ve ever seen. Wear your nastiest torn, stained clothes – and wear them until they stand up of their own accord.

I’m not telling you to forego basic human hygiene, I’m just telling you to purposely not try. Smells are the number one trigger of memory and I have also found them to be the most effective tool in repelling members of the oppo-

site sex. So, anything you can do to “increase the funk” would be to your benefit.

I would never ask you to deny yourself from a party or two just because you want to avoid interaction with members of the opposite sex. But while in this ultra-social setting you have to keep your wits about you. I definitely suggest upping your creepiness factor by at least two points. Developing a nervous twitch is an easy way to scare people off. Drooling is also a surefire repellent.

Looking for love

Obviously, don’t do anything I told you to in the previous section, “Avoiding Love.” That would just be counterproductive. In fact, do the opposite of everything I told you to do. If you have a nervous twitch, get rid of it. If you smell, take a shower. If your clothes are dirty, wash them. If your face is covered with hair, shave it. This is pretty common sense stuff people – I shouldn’t have to tell you this.

Guys, if you can, get a copy of Ben Erwin’s Feb. 20 Guide to Better Living about “Lookin’ for love in all the weird places.” It can be a helpful resource if you are “striking out” at all the conventional pickup spots. Girls, let’s face it – if you want to pick up guys, you’re going to do it. Men are the more pathetic gender, there I admit it!

CONCERT CALENDAR

Fri. March 13	Orchestra, Motherlode and many more Friends and Co. 8 p.m.
◆ Josh Jones Jackson Avenue Coffee	
◆ Bob Dylan Aragon Ballroom Chicago 8 p.m.	◆ Ziggy Marley and Spearhead Canopy Club, Champaign 8 p.m.
◆ Galactic Vic Theatre Chicago 8 p.m.	◆ Bob Dylan Riviera Theater Chicago 8 p.m.
◆ Neil Young and Crazy Horse Rosemont Theater Rosemont, IL	Sun. March 14
	◆ All Acoustic Sunday Ryan Groff The Uptowner
Sat. March 13	◆ Bob Dylan Vic Theatre Chicago 8 p.m.
◆ David Danner Scholarship Benefit with Rural Kings, Rumbleshack	

