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Eastern Illinois University

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UNIVERSITY | MONEY

Endowment shifts to risky investments

Scholarship, grant effects unknown

By **KRYSTAL MOYA**
Administration Editor

Shifting small amounts of the endowment back to risky equities is the strategy to help quell the \$7 million loss in the endowment in the 2008 calendar year.

After Foundation President Tim Gover announced that the endowment lost 26 percent of its value in 2008 to the Board of Trustees, Hammond Associates, the foundation's hired investment consultants, have begun work on finalizing the fiscal year's data to give a better projection of the future of the endowment in the next fiscal years.

At the beginning of the 2008 fiscal year, the endowment funds allowed over \$780,000 in scholarships and more than \$1 million in grants.

However, because of the aforementioned losses, the amount of money that can be used for scholarships and grants could be greatly affected.

"At this time, we have little knowledge as to how this directly affects the students," said Patti Stratton, executive officer of the foundation referred by Gover because he was unable to comment. "We hope to know more after our plans take hold and Hammond can give us their presentation."

Stratton said that Don Gher, the investment committee leader, the committee and Hammond Associates are working together to develop strategic investment plans that allow more revenue flow into the endowment.

Gher explained the plan through

someone else's words.

"I want to quote Warren Buffett when explaining our investment theory: 'Be careful when everyone is greedy, and be greedy when everyone is fearful,'" Gher said.

Gher said that the strategy to move slowly back into equities comes at a time when "most investors are fearful." Under the advice of Hammond, Gher and the committee began to reinvest in stocks with money originally invested in treasury inflation protection securities, which yield a low return at a low risk.

Approximately two years ago, the committee had shifted the allocation of assets to investments that encouraged less risk.

Moving investments from equities, stocks and bonds, to hedge funds, or funds-of-funds, that accrued less loss than they would have had they stayed in equities.

It allowed the school to buffer the 37 percent loss in the S&P 500, an area that yields over 40 percent of its investment.

However, the actual effects of the plan are for the long-term, Gher said. Knowing how the plan will affect the endowment will take time.

"This is a complex situation that involves close to 500 endowments," Stratton said. "Our investment strategy is continuously evolving and because of that and our team, we will weather the storm."

Eastern's assets have lost value from \$52 million to \$45 million over 2008. The quarter of October, November and December showed a loss of 12.9 percent in Eastern's endowment.

» SEE ENDOWMENT, PAGE 5



KAROLINA STRACK | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

As the snow has been melting away Travis Trier, a Core Construction employee, drills holes in the Doudna Fine Arts Center's outside stairs to install new railing for when students begin to come back as spring arrives. The below freezing temperatures present in the past couple of week are predicted to rise into the mid-fifties by the middle of next week.

CAMPUS | EVENT

Heritage banquet to feature one-man play

Play featured is called 'A Killing in Choctaw' and performed by Carl Ray

By **HEATHER HOLM**
Activities Editor

In 1962, in the segregated Choctaw County, Alabama, 18-year-old Carl Ray responded to a white man's questions with just "yes" and "no" instead of "yes, sir" and "no, sir."

Ray was then severely beaten.

An hour later, the man went to Ray's home where Ray watched the man shoot his father.

Ray is the one-man act in "A Killing in Choctaw," which examines how this incident defined Ray's life, and how he eventually reached the point for forgiveness and healing.

The play, an autobiography of Ray's life, will be the featured entertainment for the 14th annual African-American Heritage Banquet.

The banquet will take place at 5 p.m. today in the Grand Ballroom of the Martin Luther King, Jr. University Union.

A question and answer session will follow the play.

"The play is of his real life," said Joycelynn Phillips, minority affairs director.

"He grew up in Alabama and in 1962, was stopped from going into a college from a white man and refused to call the white man 'sir.' There was a horrible incident after that. The story is about how he came to a place in life where he was healed."

Phillips hopes students will take away that people can forgive from the play.

"I hope they will learn that it is a process to get there, but forgiveness

"This play is of his real life. He grew up in Alabama and in 1962, was stopped from going into a college from a white man and refused to call the white man 'sir.' There was a horrible incident after that. The story is about how he came to a place in life where he was healed."

— **Joycelynn Phillips, minority affairs director**

is possible," she said.

Tickets for the African-American Heritage banquet were on sale until noon Wednesday, Feb. 4.

She said ticket sales peak right around the week of the performance.

"We rally right before the campus," Phillips said. "We expose the entire campus to race issues."

Phillips said she is hoping to have at least 200 people attend the banquet.

In the past, various entertainers at the African-American Heritage Banquet have included tap dancers, storytellers, a magician and Kenyatta Dancers.

» SEE BANQUET, PAGE 5

UNIVERSITY | ADMINISTRATION

One finalist remains in biology chair search

Schulte, Roberts withdraw from position

By **STEPHEN DI BENEDETTO**
Staff Reporter

Gregory Spicer remains the only finalist for chair of the biology department.

Mary Anne Hanner, dean of the College of Sciences, said finalists Bruce Schulte and Stephen Roberts withdrew from the open position before winter break. Charles Amlaner, the other finalist, e-mailed Hanner during winter break, saying he was pursuing a position at another university, Hanner added.

» SEE BIOLOGY CHAIR, PAGE 5

EIU WEATHER

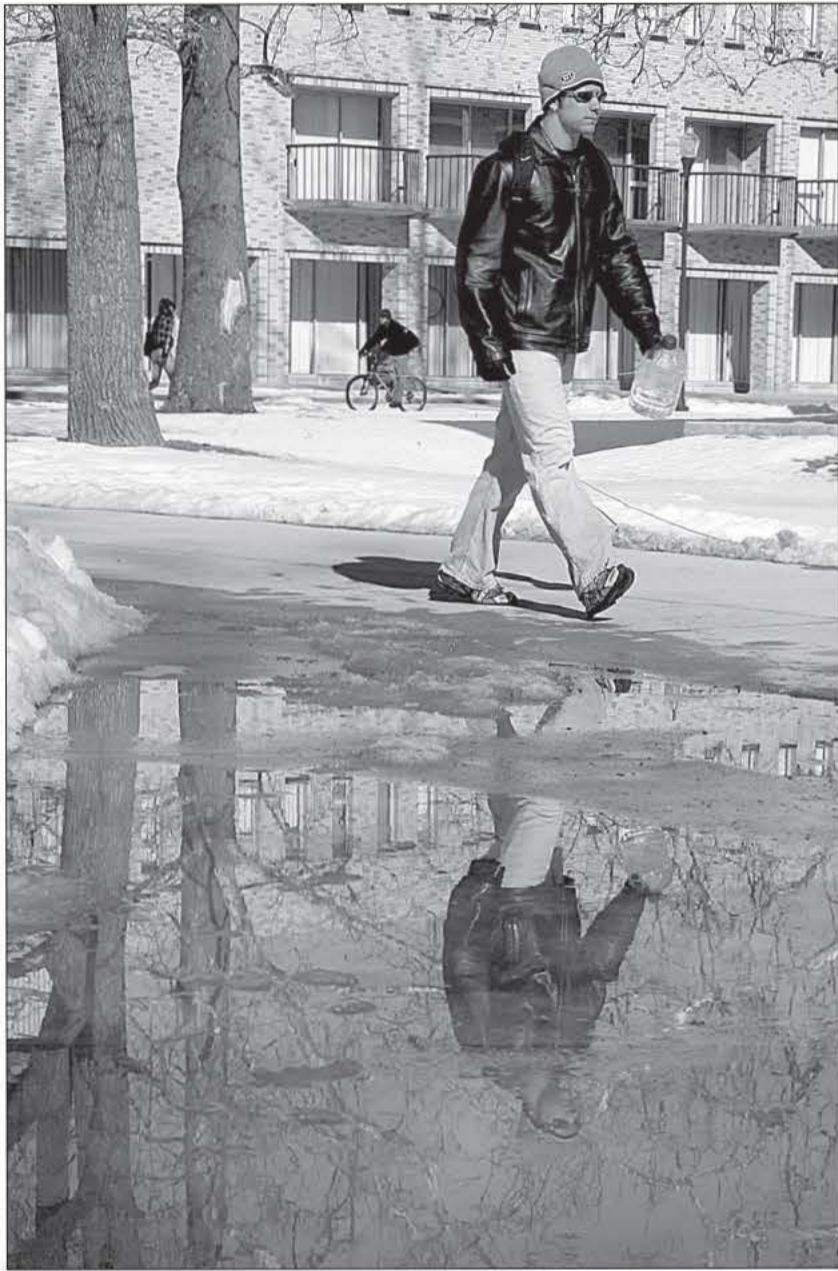
FRIDAY  44° 40° Partly Cloudy S 5-15/20	SATURDAY  53° 41°
	SUNDAY  46° 42°

WEATHER BRIEF
Warm conditions prevail over the weekend and the start of the work week. Expect a chance of rain Saturday through Monday with highs reaching near 60 degrees on Tuesday.

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

CAMPUS | PHOTO OF THE DAY

A reflecting walk



ERIC HILTNER | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Jason Abbate, a junior family and consumer sciences major, walks past a puddle of melted snow in the library quad Monday afternoon.

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

Inflatable rat cannot be declared a pest

The Associated Press
TRENTON, N.J. — Even a 10-foot inflatable rat has free speech rights in New Jersey, the state's Supreme Court ruled Thursday.

In a case that pitted an International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers union local against a central Jersey town, the high court ruled unanimously that the rulent is protected speech under the First Amendment.

"The township's elimination of an entire medium of expression without a readily available alternative renders the ordinance overbroad," Justice John E. Wallace Jr. wrote for the court.

The super-sized rat, sitting on its hind legs and bearing fangs, is a national symbol used by organized labor to signal a labor dispute.

It had been blown up and displayed at a 2005 labor event in Lawrence Township until police enforced a law that bans banners, streamers and inflatable signs, except those announcing grand openings.

A labor official was fined \$100 plus \$33 court costs.

ENTERTAINMENT | A DAILY LOOK

Zellweger parades around as Hasty Pudding

The Associated Press

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — Accompanied by Harvard men in drag, Renee Zellweger has been honored as the Hasty Pudding Theatricals woman of the year.

The actress rode in the back of a silver convertible Bentley during a parade through Harvard Square on Thursday. She waved to spectators who braved frigid temperatures and signed a few autographs, all the while capturing the event on her cell phone camera.

Hasty Pudding is the nation's oldest undergraduate drama troupe. By tradition, many of its male members wear women's clothes for the parade — one came dressed in a gold, sparkly dress. The 39-year-old Zellweger won an supporting-actress Oscar for the 2003 film "Cold Mountain."

Judge tosses lawsuit by 50 Cent's ex-girlfriend

NEW YORK — A New York judge has thrown out a \$50 million lawsuit filed by an ex-girlfriend of 50 Cent who claimed the rapper promised to take care of her for life.

Manhattan State Supreme Court Justice Carol Edmead dismissed Shaniqua Tompkins' claims to half of

50 Cent's assets. While the amount sought turned out to be irrelevant, the judge said the 32-year-old rapper's worth is "set at no less than \$50 million."

Tompkins says 50 Cent promised he would support her forever if he made it big. The judge said the relationship was "an unfortunate tale of a love relationship gone sour."

Tompkins and 50 Cent, whose real name is Curtis Jackson, have an 11-year-old son. Her lawyer, Paul Catandonis, said he will consider an appeal.

Lily Allen's new album gets bargain price

NEW YORK — Lily Allen isn't giving away her new CD, but at \$3.99, it seems pretty close.

The 23-year-old British star is teaming up with MySpace Music and Amazon.com in a promotion that will offer her sophomore CD, "It's Not Me, It's You," for that low price until Feb. 16. The CD is out Tuesday. MySpace Music has already been offering a free preview.

Allen is also planning to promote the album with free MySpace Music Secret Shows in London, Tokyo and New York City. While the Manhattan venue has been revealed

— the show will be held Tuesday at the Bowery Ballroom — fans have to go to the Web site for the location of the other two events.

The Pussycat Dolls and Dierks Bentley have also offered their CDs for \$3.99 on MySpace Music in the initial days of the albums' release. New CDs are usually about \$10 to \$20 in retail stores and on some online sites.

Franklin records new inauguration song version

DETROIT — President Barack Obama took a do-over on his oath of office. Now the Queen of Soul is following his lead.

Aretha Franklin has recorded a "preferred version" of "My Country, 'Tis of Thee," the song she performed at Obama's Jan. 20 inauguration at the U.S. Capitol in Washington.

Franklin said in a statement Thursday that she wasn't able to give her "very best" in the ceremony's cold weather. Franklin says she wants fans to have the best possible version of her singing the song.

The single will be released this week. It will be available online through iTunes, Rhapsody and other outlets. Student Entertainment.

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

CORRECTIONS

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

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

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Saturday at Leftys



\$6 Tropical Pitchers

LIVE
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10PM-CLOSE

NO COVER

UNIVERSITY BOARD EVENTS

A KILLING IN CHOCTAW
A ONE-MAN PLAY
WRITTEN AND PERFORMED BY CARL RAY
7:00P
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6
GRAND BALLROOM (UNION)



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CAMPUS | RHA

Halls to compete in contests

RHA plans competition, Sibling Weekend

By **TIM DILSAVER**
Staff Reporter

The Residence Hall Association has found a way to make a children's TV show relate to campus life at Eastern.

RHA met at 5 p.m. Thursday to discuss events, including the first-ever Double Dare competition between all the residence halls on campus.

Double Dare will be a week-long contest from Feb. 23 through Feb. 27 with different activities and games held on each day. The purpose of the contest will be to try and create a stronger bond between the residence hall's executive boards.

"It's a great opportunity for all the halls to come out and get to know each other," said Karla Browning, programming and diversity director for the RHA.

The executive boards will compete at each day's game or activity and will be judged based on performance. Points will be awarded for a variety of categories including team names, uniforms and ranking in each event.

The events for the competition will include a large game of twister, a talent show and challenges that mimic the Double Dare TV show.

"Double Dare sounds awesome because it has organized competition with a great diversity of people," said Corryn Moorman, president of McKInney Hall executive board.

The RHA is also sponsoring a Sib-



ERIN MATHENY|THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Residence Hall Association President Justin Schuch speaks during the RHA meeting on Thursday afternoon in the Carman Hall basement.

lings Weekend to be held March 6 through March 8. The weekend gives residents the opportunity to invite brothers and sisters to Eastern and participate in programs that each res-

idence hall holds. Activities for this weekend will include movies, games and a chainsaw juggler.

"Siblings Weekend is a great opportunity for brothers and sisters to

get to know Eastern," said RHA President Justin Schuch.

Tim Dilsaver can be reached 581-7942 or at tjdilsaver@eiu.edu.

UNIVERSITY | ENERGY CENTER

Energy center not on the back burner

By **DAVID THILL**
Senior Reporter

Concerns have been raised and heard: The current nature of the economy has been taken into account, and though plans to build the new Renewable Energy Center have been put on hold, they are by no means on the back burner, at least not to Gary Reed and Paul McCann.

After hearing the concerns of nearby residents over the course of five meetings, Eastern administrators have begun incorporating some of the suggestions into the design of the new energy plant, said Reed, director of Facilities Planning and Management.

"Some appearance changes are being considered in response to public forum input," he said.

Although, it may be the current nature of the economy that poses the largest concern to those in charge of building the energy center.

"Let's just say the financial markets are not being totally cooperative," said McCann, interim vice president for business affairs. "Interest rates for revenue bonds are still at unusually high costs. We are hoping costs will return to normal."

McCann said a revenue bond is one in which the recipient of the bond pledge to use the revenue generated by a project – in this case, the new energy center – is used to pay back the money loaned.

"We are just waiting to see what the 'new normal' (in the economy) will be," he said.

In the event that market does not level out in the foreseeable future, however, McCann said administrators

are viewing other options in order to keep the project on track.

"I'm optimistic that we've got some positive prospects," he said. "We backed off a bit to see if all our ducks are in order. We're biding our time to see what the market will do, though."

Reed added that while uncertainty in the markets has kept administrators from getting a "firm handle on the financial situation," Eastern administrators are committed to the project.

Reed and McCann both spoke about the need to search for additional avenues of revenue.

"We are seeking several alternate opportunities for potential project funding, including a request for federal stimulus dollars" Reed said.

And though the project may have been put on pause, progress is being made.

Reed said there is no timetable for the energy center as of yet, though "we are all heading in the same direction."

"As originally envisioned, the plant could be operational within 18 months of the start of construction," he said. "The key right now is to lock in on the funding and get approval to start."

As far as residents' concerns, changes to the design and layout of the energy center are being made to accommodate.

"We are considering the impact to project cost to place the energy center's entry on Edgar Drive rather than Route 130," he said. "We are also considering the application of some earthen berms and landscaping to help soften and shield the facil-

Current Political flux could be helpful

While the current flux and downturn to the economy has raised some questions concerning the new Renewable Energy Center, the current political flux within Illinois may turn out to be a positive for the project.

Reed said Gov. Pat Quinn has been a leader in advocating conservation and energy efficiency.

"He started the Illinois Sustainable University Compact, which sets certain environmental goals for universities to meet," Reed said.

A project Eastern is a part of, Reed added.

"(Gov. Quinn) is also very familiar with EIU's long history of aggressive energy conservation efforts," he said. "We have been asked to present a number of times at his Sustainable Government Symposium."

"Our proposed Renewable Energy Center should certainly meet his vision for sustainability."

— Compiled by Senior Reporter David Thill

ity from surrounding residential areas. In addition, a design change reducing the overall height of the fuel storage area is in process. The objective is to keep the fuel storage equipment the same height as the building if possible so that the building acts as a shield."

Residents' concerns and economic strife aside, both McCann and Reed spoke about the positive environmental effect the new energy center could have.

"The EIU Renewable Energy Center is a green dream project - fueled with renewable and sustainable biomass," Reed said. "The center replaces an obsolete plant located in the campus core. The location is ideal for handling truck traffic from an Illinois state highway."

He also said the operation will be quiet and "an attractive addition to campus."

As opposed to directly combusting coal to produce steam, the new plant

would operate using wood chips, heated to high temperatures, driving off synthetic gas, Reed said.

"Also, land-filling produces over 20 times the greenhouse gases as combustion of the wood by-product," he said.

Reed said the remote location of the new center would have no impact on facilities operation as a "shallow steam tunnel will be constructed connecting the new plant with the existing campus tunnel system."

And McCann said that along with the energy center itself, other technologies to be used on campus would make the campus more efficient, financially and environmentally.

"I'm very positive that we've got a good project going," he said. "It should be a source of pride for the campus."

David Thill can be reached at 581-7942 or at dmthill@eiu.edu.

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Apportionment Board meeting canceled

The first Apportionment Board meeting of the semester was canceled Thursday before it was set to meet at 7 p.m.

Student Senate Speaker Drew Griffin said Tiffany Turner, student vice president of business affairs, had personal matters to attend to.

Also, a request did not go through the proper channels, which needs to be done before it can be brought to the board for a vote.

Student Government requests feedback

To gather opinions on whether library hours are meeting the needs of students, Student Senate's Academic Affairs Committee sent a link to a survey in the EIU Events e-mail Thursday night.

Student participation helps determine the course Student Government will take.

Chris Kromphardt, the committee's chair, said the survey would be open throughout the month of February. Fliers and a possible Facebook group will also be avenues for the survey.

Kromphardt hopes to get feedback from 1,000 students.

Education conference to discuss diversity

Student Education Association, IEA/NEA, will host an education conference from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Saturday in Buzzard Hall.

Topics include diversity, reading comprehension strategies, hands-on activities and classroom management. Brent Carmichael, keynote speaker, will speak about gang awareness and diversity.

Registration begins at 9 a.m. Cost is \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members. Those interested can e-mail eiu_sea@yahoo.com.

Professor to speak about Charles Darwin

Timothy Berra, a professor at Ohio State University, will present "Charles Darwin: The Concise Story of an Extraordinary Life" as part of Darwin Day.

The event starts at 7 p.m. Sunday in the Coleman Auditorium.

— Compiled by Associate News Editor Emily Zulz and Student Government Editor Bob Bajek

BLOTTER

A cannabis complaint was reported on Friday in Thomas Hall, said the University Police Department.

A cannabis complaint was also reported on Saturday in Thomas Hall, police said.

A Gray Honda was reported struck on Saturday while parked at Carman Hall, police said.

COMMENTS, CORRECTIONS, OR EVENTS

To report any errors, local events or general suggestions for future editions please contact our Editor in Chief, **Kristina Peters**, via: **Phone | 581-7936, E-mail | DENeic@gmail.com Office visit | 1811 Buzzard Hall**

The DAILY
EASTERN NEWS

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

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Be active to
avoid the fear

Put down this newspaper and do something silly.

No, really. Go do something silly. Go to class and throw snowballs at your classmates during a quiz. Go construct a scale replica of the Leaning Tower of Pisa out of snow and lunch trays. Do something ridiculous. Do anything. Just don't read any newspapers or listen to or watch any news, whether it be on the radio or on TV. Read a book or, better yet, rock out to music in your underwear. Do anything, but be informed. Now, many of you, I'm sure, are wondering why I'm saying this, especially in a newspaper that I've just told you to put down. It's because of the recession. No, this isn't about being "green" or conserving energy. It's because we all know there's a recession. We have all heard the news reports about factories closing, people being laid off, rising cost of living expenses, the waning dollar and the strengthening euro. We know. If you don't know, welcome to the depressing reality.

Because we've all been informed of the recession, we don't need to be constantly reminded. Have you ever been dumped and your ex, bless his or her heart, decides that, right after your relationship ends, right then is the best time to gush about their new boy/girlfriend? If so, you know how hard it is to fight the urge to smack that person and retreat into a cave out of which you will only emerge to hunt. You don't want or need the constant reminder of what you lost. Listening to the news now is a lot like that, but with more emphasis on the "retreat into a cave" part.

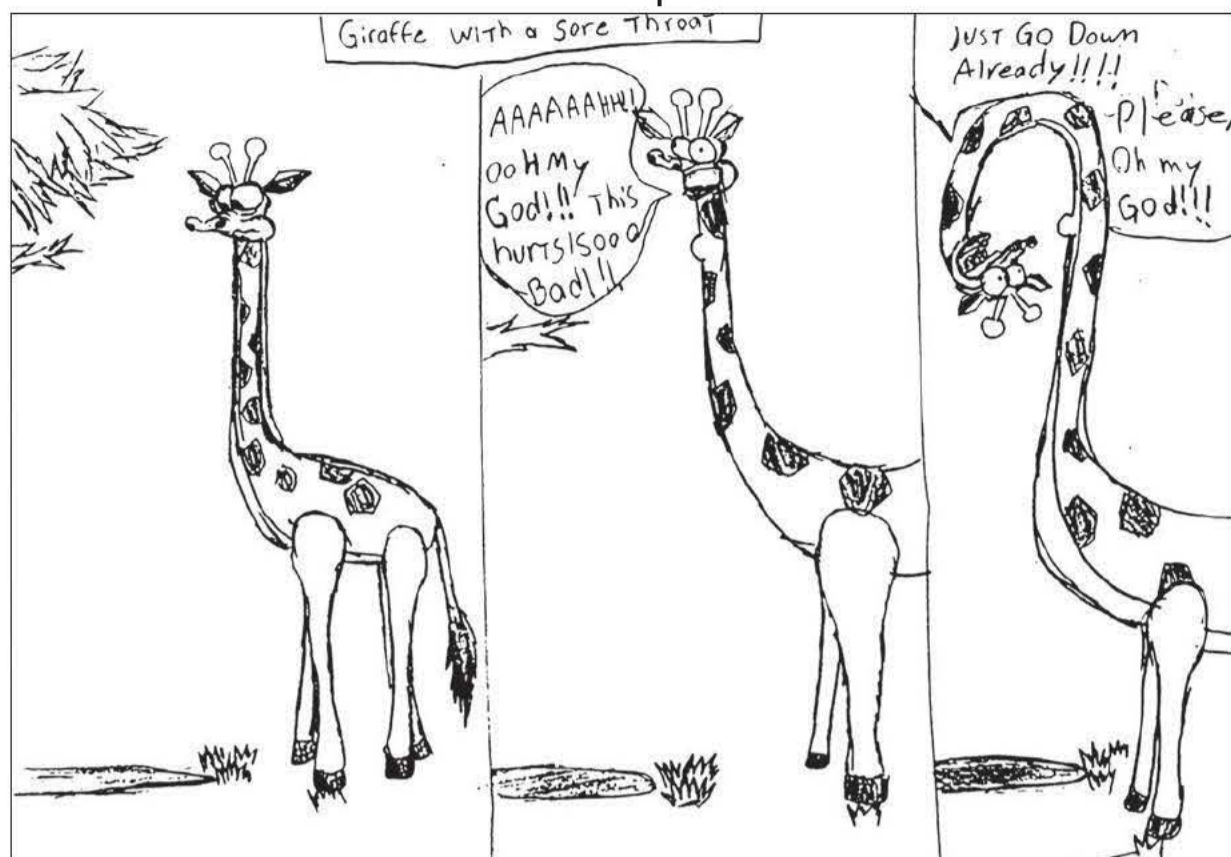
A few months ago the recession was news. That is, when those who know best announced America is officially in a recession. Since then, it's not news. It's the status quo. What if CNN, Fox News, MSNBC, etc, every morning, announced the sky is blue and air is invisible? Not only would they announce it, it would be the top story every single day and would be repeated constantly. Experts in blueness and invisibility would come on daily to confirm that, yes, the sky is indeed blue and air is, in fact, invisible. Eventually people would tune out. Well, now it's time for us to tune out.

All that being reminded of the recession is going to do is make consumers more and more nervous that they're going to wake up without a job or with a foreclosure notice. This fear will prompt people to stop purchasing and save as much money as they possibly can.

What happens when money stops pouring into businesses? The businesses close or shrink significantly, which results in more lost jobs, resulting in more fear, which results in more people saving their money. You see the pattern here? I'm not advocating frivolous or ill-advised spending. One must live within his means. However, not spending money will only cause more problems. Be responsible, be sensible and turn off the news. Now, put down the paper and go dye your hair an unnatural color. I'm going to work on becoming CNN's expert on invisibility.

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

Drawn to Amuse | Ian Winston



STAFF EDITORIAL

Changes we'd like to see
happen next year

In grade school, we were all taught the three R's: Reduce, reuse and recycle.

As if some initiative for a greener Earth had been passed by a generation of teachers in the early 1990s, schools pushed environmental awareness nearly as much as math or reading.

Nearly 20 years later, it seems not much has changed.

After a brief period of apathy around the turn of the century, environmental awareness has surged back into the mainstream with backing from celebrities and politicians such as Al Gore.

This green renaissance affects Americans in every walk of life: It's nearly impossible to avoid the green campaign.

Movies such as "An Inconvenient Truth" and "Wall-E" — both Academy Award winners — further exemplify this obsession with the environment, pushing people to live more "eco-friendly."

And after many requests by students and citizens, Charleston has finally added not one, but two curbside recycling services.

This is a huge step for the city. Curbside recycling makes living green so much easier for Charleston residents.

Previously, students and residents had to drop off recyclables themselves at a drop-off point near McDonald's on Lincoln Avenue.

Now, students and residents simply sort through their recyclables and leave them in a bin on the curb for company trucks to pick up. The process is easy enough: You sort, you drop, they take. Simple, right?

So why isn't the community as excited about this prospect as they should be?

Rich Galloway is managing director at Veolia Environmental Services, one of the companies offering curbside pickup for residents. In an article published in Thursday's edition of *The Daily Eastern News*, Galloway said the company has received

"The green revolution has infiltrated every facet of the media, demanding more and more attention from the general public, but why aren't they listening?"

less response than was anticipated, but remained grateful for those who signed up.

Along with Veolia, Morgan's Disposal Services also offers curbside pickup, and like Veolia, has received less response than desirable.

Manager David Morgan said only about 5 percent of Charleston signed up for the service, but for the most part, it seems much easier to just throw recyclables in with the rest of the garbage.

The green revolution has infiltrated every facet of the media, demanding more and more attention from the general public, but why aren't they listening?

Recycling isn't hard.

It may be a chore, but nobody ever said environmental awareness would not take some effort.

In the future, don't just throw those cans, bottles, papers and boxes away.

Sign up for any of these services being offered.

The city is going out of its way to provide this service and the least we could do is use it.

EDITORIAL POLICY

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

OTHER VIEWS ON THE NEWS

TIME TO GET OVER PHELPS

SOUTH CAROLINA — So Michael Phelps got high in Columbia (allegedly). Big deal.

It isn't as if he committed a major felony like some other high-profile athletes in the past — here's looking at you, Michael Vick and DeAndre McDaniel.

Now those guys needed to make some apologies. But for Phelps, I think it would have gone a long way if he had

said something to the tune of "Yes, I did it, and I've done it before, and I liked it, but didn't do it during competition."

The argument if he had done that is that he probably would have lost a large deal of sponsorship and ad revenue that he garnered thanks to his 6-foot-4-inch frame and 14 career gold medals.

But why would Mazda, a Chinese-owned company, care? And what about Speedo, a company based in England? Sure, he may lose the Wheaties deal, but

who eats Wheaties?

Phelps made a mistake in judgment, and he knows that. But we are blowing this whole thing out of proportion. This doesn't, and shouldn't, take away from his accomplishments in the pool and in life. He is a role model and celebrity, but he is also a regular guy, despite the fact he can swim very fast.

Lake Morris
The Daily Gamecock

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

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

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

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

» Banquet

FROM PAGE 1

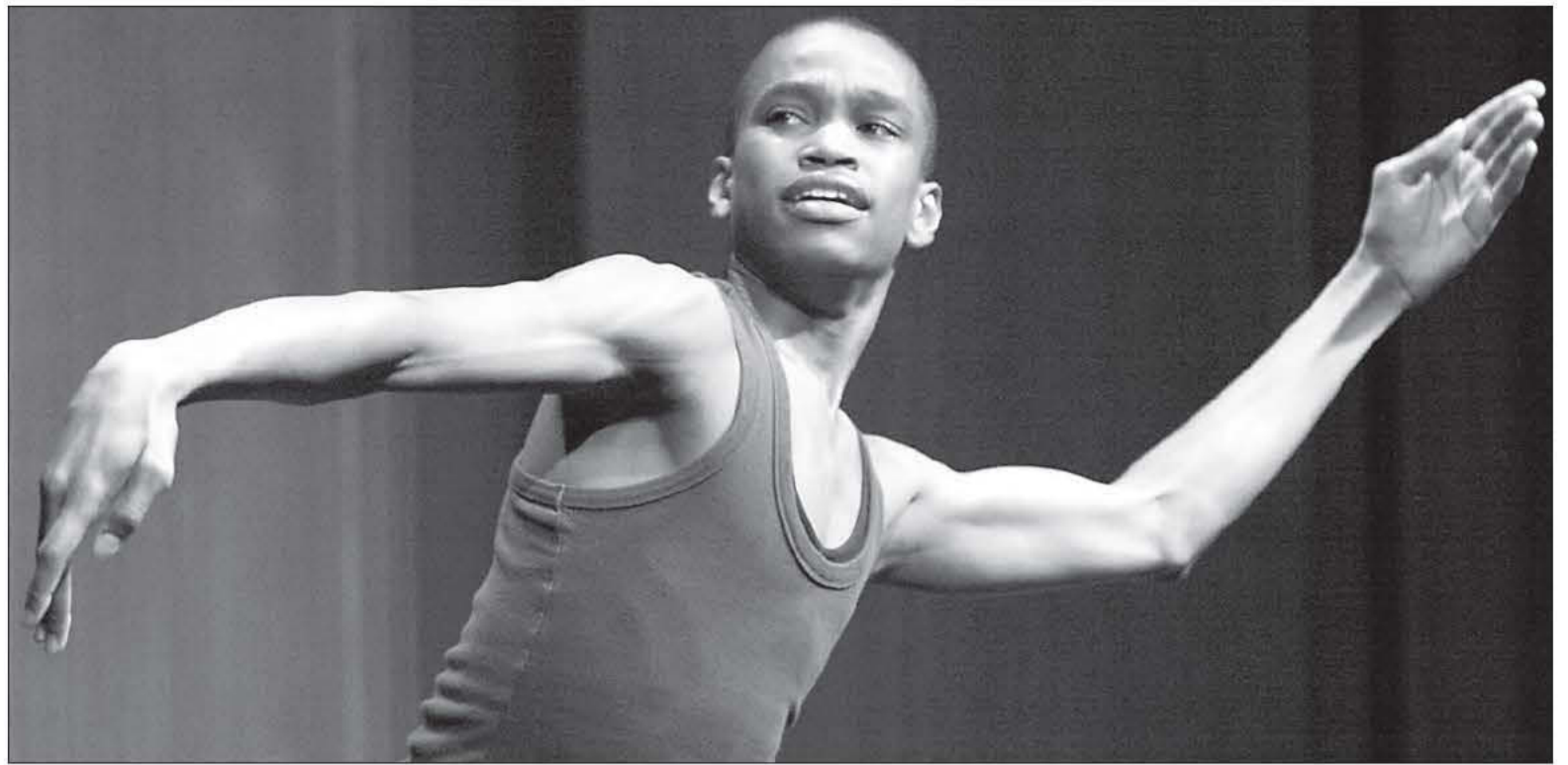
One year, Phillips said, Jeff Johnson, a motivational speaker who had appeared on Black Entertainment Television in the past, presented as "Cousin Jeff."

His presentation included topics on hip-hop's alleged vulgarity, sexism and misogyny.

Phillips said this year's African-American Heritage Month focuses on a different topic.

This year's African-American Heritage Month focuses on the American aspect on being an African-American for only one reason.

The reason is the election of Barack Obama.



FILE PHOTO | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Gregory Manning, a member of the Kenyetta Dance Company, performs during last year's African-American Heritage Banquet in the Grand Ballroom of the Martin Luther King, Jr. University Union.

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

» Biology chair

FROM PAGE 1

Hanner said she does not know why Schulte and Roberts withdrew.

Hanner has received the search committee's evaluation of Spicer and is currently communicating with him, she said.

Spicer is the faculty director of the conservation genetics lab at San Francisco State University.

"Greg Spicer was one of the top four candidates from the beginning," Hanner said. She added she would make an announcement about the biology department chair position as soon as possible.

Spicer's on-campus interviews happened on Jan. 22 and 23.

Hanner said Spicer's interview would have been before winter break, but added Spicer had to deal with a family illness.

Last week, Diane Hoadley, chair of the search committee and dean of Lumpkin College of Business and Applied Sciences, said each finalist had a different skill set and had experience with administrative work.

A search for a new biology chair started after former biology chair

"Greg Spicer was one of the top four candidates from the beginning."

— Mary Anne Hanner, dean of the College of Sciences

Andy Methven announced in February 2008 he would resign.

The announcement came during disputes between biology faculty members and department administrators about the use of graduate assistants teaching class.

Methven intended to continue as chair until June 30, but opted to participate in a research project this semester. Methven's last day as biology chair was Dec. 31.

Hanner appointed Godson Obia, associate dean of the College of Sciences, to be interim biology chair until June 30.

The new chair will most likely start his duties on July 1.

Stephen Di Benedetto can be reached at 581-7942 or at sdibenedetto@eiu.edu.

» Endowment

FROM PAGE 1

However, December saw a gain of 2.6 percent, and over three years, the endowment netted only a 4.8 percent loss.

"They have been making investments to buffer the effects of the economy for several years now," Stratton said. "Everybody in the market is suffering, but we are fairing better than schools our size because of where our investments lie."

Elizabeth Monticelli, investment consultant from Hammond, said any investment is risky unless "its cash stuck under your mattress in today's economy."

She said all equities are to blame for the losses.

"Anything short of actual cash lost money," Monticelli said. "Even the banks are risky because you run the risk of it going under while holding your cash."

Stratton explained that Eastern diversifies its investment portfolio to compensate for losses and continuously moves the majority of investments to the best source of income.

According to a Dec. 31 study by Hammond, Eastern's largest investments lie in US large stocks at 40.1 percent of the endowment.

Hedge funds are the next largest investment at 18.1 percent, followed by US fixed income and international large stocks both taking over 16 percent of the investments.

Schools the same size as Eastern yielded 23.7 percent loss from July to November in 2008, a National Association of College and University Business Officers' endowment study stated.

Eastern lost 22.3 percent slightly better than then

"Our team is working hard to collect the data, analyze the facts and continue to update our solution, but we just don't have the data right now. The board has a meeting at the end of February, and by that time we should have a presentation ready."

— Patti Stratton, executive officer of the foundation

similar schools.

Hammond Associates will present to the Foundation Board toward the end of February, assessing the full damage of 2008 to the endowment portfolio.

Numbers will be released to administrators then.

"Our team is working hard to collect the data, analyze the facts and continue to update our solution, but we just don't have the data right now," Stratton said. "The board has a meeting at the end of February, and by that time we should have a presentation ready."

Krystal Moya can be reached at 581-7942 or at ksmoya@eiu.edu.

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SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R)
3:50 6:40 FRI SAT 9:30 SAT SUN 1:00
THE UNINVITED (PG13)
4:15 6:30 FRI SAT 9:00 SAT SUN 2:00
TAKEN (PG13)
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3:40 6:10 FRI SAT 9:40 SAT SUN 2:30
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CAMPUS | ORGANIZATIONS

Fundraiser helps build houses for Coles County

Proceeds from dinner dance will help benefit a family in need

By ZINIKA LIVINGSTON
Staff Reporter

The Eastern chapter for Habitat for Humanity and the Coles County Habitat for Humanity have helped build more than 20 houses in Coles County in the past 19 years.

Through their work, housing has been provided to 30 adults and 50 children.

The local Habitats are sponsoring "Giving from the Heart," a dinner dance fundraiser on Saturday.

Habitat for Humanity is a nationwide, nonprofit, Christian organization that helps provide families in need with affordable housing.

Renee Revoy, president of the Eastern chapter, said families in need have to first apply for a house. Once they have applied, Habitat provides the family with an interest-free mortgage, but the family must show they are reliable and able to make the payments.

Even though the families receive a house interest-free, they

"My hopes are that in two years time our chapter will have enough funding to sponsor our own house in Coles County."

— Renee Revoy, president of the Eastern chapter for Habitat for Humanity

must spend 250 to 500 hours building their own house.

"We call it sweet equity," Revoy said. "Most people think that Habitat for Humanity just gives houses away, but really they provide opportunities for families to own a house with an interest free mortgage, but they do have to pay for their house."

Habitat was organized in Coles County in 1989. With the help of many volunteers, donations and the families, homes could be sold interest free. The homes are sold from \$55,000 to \$60,000.

When a family moves into the home, they are given a Support Family. The Support Family offers advice to the new homeowners by helping them select floor plan options, colors and accessories. They also advise the families on responsible homeownership.

"I joined Habitat because I could see the results of my hard work," Revoy said.

Revoy joined Eastern's chapter a year and a half ago.

She said her most memorable moment with Habitat was when the Eastern chapter went to Clarksdale, Miss. to help a family build and move into their first home.

To help build houses for families in Coles County, money will be raised at Saturday's fundraiser.

The cost to attend is \$25 and \$20 for students.

The fundraiser will start at 6:30 p.m. with an auction. Some of the items that will be auctioned are artwork, boat ride and gift certificates. The dinner dance will start at 7:30 p.m.

"My hopes are that in two years time our chapter will have enough funding to sponsor our own house here in Coles County," Revoy said.

Zinika Livingston can be reached at 581-7942 or at zclivingston@eiu.edu

NATION | WALL STREET

Stocks jump as retail, technology stocks advance

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Wall Street is getting a little daring once again.

Investors shook off weak economic readings Thursday and placed bets on retail and technology stocks after several companies posted better-than-expected sales and profit reports. The major indexes gained more than 1 percent, including the Dow Jones industrial average, which rose 106 points.

Retailers including Wal-Mart Stores Inc. and Macy's Inc. turned in better-than-expected sales figures for January.

Wal-Mart's sales beat Wall Street's forecasts after the chain drew shoppers focused on necessities like groceries. Macy's, which this week said it would slash 7,000 jobs, on Thursday raised its fourth-quarter and full-year forecasts.

The industry's overall numbers were still weak as consumers again curtailed their spending, but not as bad as investors feared when they beat retail stocks down in recent months.

"We're being overly pessimistic on things like retailers," said Chris Cordaro, chief investment officer at RegentAtlantic Capital LLC in Morristown, N.J. "People realize you're going to have shop somewhere."

The technology-laden Nasdaq composite index led the major market indicators after

Akamai Technologies Inc. said its fourth-quarter earnings rose a better-than-expected 13 percent as more customers signed up for its Internet traffic-management services.

"The economy at some point will recover and when it does, tech is a pretty interesting play," said Subodh Kumar, global investment strategist at Subodh Kumar & Associates in Toronto. "It will likely be one of the first movers."

The reports helped the market overcome a flurry of bad economic news. Unemployment benefits claims rose last week to a 26-year high, and factory orders fell for the fifth straight month in December. However productivity rose by 3.2 percent in the fourth quarter, more than twice what analysts expected.

Investors are bracing for Friday's January employment report from the Labor Department. The monthly reading is one of the most important economic indicators because rising unemployment cuts into how much consumers spend. Consumer spending accounts for more than two-thirds of U.S. economic activity.

"There are some indications tomorrow's unemployment report might not be as bad as expected," said Hugh Johnson, chief investment officer of Johnson Illington Advisors in Albany, N.Y.

A poor reading could deliver a big blow

to the market, though expectations are low. Economists polled by Thomson Reuters/IFR predict that employers cut 524,000 jobs last month. Some estimates are much higher and put job losses closer to 600,000 to 700,000. Analysts also predict that the unemployment rate rose to 7.5 percent in January from 7.2 percent in December. That would be the highest rate in 17 years.

The Dow industrials rose 106.41, or 1.34 percent, to 8,063.07. The Dow fell as much as 111 points early in the session. The blue chips hit their lowest level during trading since Nov. 21. Many investors hope the November lows will hold as the lowest point in the stock market's decline from its October 2007 high.

Broader stock indicators also rose. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 13.62, or 1.64 percent, to 845.85, and the Nasdaq composite index rose 31.19, or 2.06 percent, to 1,546.24.

The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies rose 6.60, or 1.47 percent, to 455.08.

Advancing issues outnumbered losers by about 2 to 1 on the New York Stock Exchange, where consolidated volume came to 6.51 billion shares compared with 5.65 billion shares traded Wednesday.

Bond prices were mixed Thursday. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note, which moves opposite to its price, fell to 2.92 percent from 2.94 percent late Wednesday.

day. The yield on the three-month T-bill fell to 0.26 percent from 0.28 percent late Wednesday.

The gains in stocks came as investors again looked to Washington for help on the economy. Wall Street is waiting for the Senate to pass an economic stimulus plan that on Thursday stood at \$920 billion. Debate in the Senate continued for the fourth day as some lawmakers pressed for cuts.

Financial stocks recovered from early losses and helped lift the market following speculation the government could funnel aid to regional banks. Bank stocks also rose on reports that Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner and other top officials are nearing completion of a plan to overhaul the government's \$700 billion financial rescue program. A Treasury official told The Associated Press that Geithner will deliver a speech on Monday outlining the new plan.

Bank stocks moved higher. JPMorgan Chase & Co. rose 50 cents, or 2.1 percent, to \$24.54, and PNC Financial Services Group Inc. rose \$1, or 3.5 percent, to \$29.83. Regional banks also rose. Huntington Bancshares Inc. jumped 35 cents, or 24 percent, to \$1.79. Regions Financial Corp. rose 33 cents, or 13 percent, to \$2.83.

MasterCard Inc. jumped \$19.69, or 14 percent, to \$159.84 after its fourth-quarter earnings easily topped Wall Street's expectations.

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ALL ACCESS WITH VANCE DAVIS

Transfer excited to play with Panthers this season

Vance Davis knows what its like to reach a goal. The junior transfer from Southeastern Oklahoma State has achieved one of his major goals – playing at a Division I school – earlier this year. Staff Reporter Richard Morse got a chance to sit down with him earlier this week to discuss his goal setting, keeping balance in his life and living more than 600 miles from home.

Why did you decide to transfer to Eastern?

I played there for one year, and it felt like I wasn't really getting the hands on approach with teaching tennis that I wanted. So it really just wasn't a good fit. Actually, I got signed by one coach, and then he decided to quit after I had been signed. So that was kind of a hard transition. The new coach wasn't exactly what I had been hoping for. After that first year, things didn't quite work out like I wanted, so I took a year off (from tennis), stayed at that school because I do choir. I stayed there for that reason. But I really didn't know what I was going to do with tennis. The summer after my second year of college, I decided if I'm going to do this, I better start practicing again and go (Division I). That was my goal, after two years I wanted to go (Division I). I heard good things about the coach here, because he is from Oklahoma, so I sent him an e-mail, we started talking and it seemed like a good fit.

How do you balance choir and everything else?

Ever since I was in high school I've been in tennis and choir at the same time. So it has always been a struggle for me. I definitely have to balance it out with performances and practices. I was on scholarship at my old school (tennis and choir) and here (tennis) as well. So I have to find my loyalties and say OK, I'm going to miss my practice and go to this. I've had to really sit down and talk with the choir director here, Richard Rossi. He's amazing. he really understands that right now my priority lies with tennis. And talking with (Eastern head coach John) Blackburn, he has been great as well. As long as I give them a heads-up, things work out pretty well.

Who has been influential in your tennis career?

The most influential person in my tennis career has been my dad. He never pushed me to play tennis, he's never pushed me to do anything, but he's always been there 100 percent whenever I did choose to do



ERIC HILTNER | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Eastern sophomore men's tennis player Vance Davis transferred from Southeastern Oklahoma State to play Division I tennis. Davis said his post college plans are up in the air right now, wants to coach tennis. Davis said he might want to teach private lesson and eventually own a tennis center.

something. I started playing tennis late in my ninth grade year, about a month before the season started. But my dad was there 100 percent, he told me I should get some tennis lessons. So I went every single day of the week, it started out Monday, Wednesday, Friday was the beginner group, and Tuesday, Thursday was the advanced group, and I went every single day. And I made varsity in a month. He's always been there for me; he's the only person that really understands everything about my tennis game. I call him before matches, after matches, he's basically been a really good mental coach for me. Regardless of what my other coaches say, he always knows the

right thing to say to me.

Can you talk about your first Eastern match?

My first match at EIU was an amazing experience. I played my first year at Southeastern, and I didn't really get that much play. I only played maybe one match in the season against other schools. It was a big thing because I had taken that year off, and just being at a tennis match again. And being able to go in and actually play, it was kind of surreal, because I felt like it was a lifetime ago that I was playing tennis. By being able to go out there and play I felt like, "Wow, okay, I'm playing at a Division I school."

What adjustments have you had to make in moving?

One of the biggest things is the distance. Living 653 miles away from home is kind of a big change, since I am not able to go home whenever I want to. But it's made me a better person. The biggest change would be the level of play, its much higher here than it was at Southeastern. There is so much talent on the team, you have to step it up every day in practice or otherwise you'll fall behind. The level of play here is just at a totally different level.

What do you miss about Oklahoma?

The tornadoes. I think I just miss

my family and friends. It doesn't really matter what the place is, as long as you have people that care about you. I've met some really great friends here, but its nothing like back home in Oklahoma.

What are your post college plans?

They're up in the air right now. I know I want to teach private lessons. I want to own a tennis center, that's my whole goal, with my business-finance major. Just to start working with (the U.S. Tennis Association) teaching kids, getting my certification.

Richard Morse can be reached at 581-7944 or at rjmorse@eiu.edu.

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» Murphy

FROM PAGE 12

Galligan, who is a four-year starter for the Panthers and Eastern's fourth all-time leading scorer in women's basketball, has served as the president of Eastern's chapter of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and represented Eastern student-athletes on the athletic director search committee last year.

In the classroom, Galligan has

compiled a 3.31 grade point average as a communication studies major.

She started out at the OVC Freshman of the Year and has earned First-Team All-OVC in both seasons and is in the running for OVC Player of the Year again.

This would be another great honor for Galligan.

Galligan is the only OVC player who made the 10 finalists. Murray State senior guard Amber Guffey was one of the semifinalists.

Voting for the Senior CLASS Award began Wednesday and continues through March 22.

Fans can vote for the Galligan online at www.seniorclassaward.com/vote/womens_basketball_2008_09/. Text message voting for Galligan can also be done by sending the message "WB2" to 839863.

As of 9 p.m. Thursday, Galligan sits in a tie for ninth place with 5 percent of the vote.

Galligan needs our help. She's

essentially tied for last place.

Find Galligan's name, put a check mark next to it and submit.

You can only vote once a day, but you can vote once for each computer.

So tell your friends and family to vote from as many possible computers as possible.

Galligan's up against some of the top-notch players at some top notch programs.

This includes Connecticut's Renee Montgomery, Oklahoma's

Courtney Paris, Maryland's Kristi Toliver and Duke's Abby Waner.

Other finalists include: Jada Frazier (New Orleans), Shalee Lehning (Kansas State), Koren Schram (Dartmouth) Takia Starks (Texas A&M), and Christina Wirth (Vanderbilt).

Galligan has given a lot to this school, and it is time we help her out.

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

» Miller

FROM PAGE 12

Freshman guard Jeremy Granger said he is glad Miller will be his coach next season.

"I think coach is a great coach, (because) he just makes you better," Granger said. "This is the coach that I came here with, and this is the coach I want to stay here with so I am glad he got the one year extension."

Sophomore guard Tyler Laser said he is happy Eastern re-signed Miller.

"He is a good recruiter," Laser said. "He has brought good players in here. It is hard to get eight new guys and try to teach them what we are trying to do and have them show progress out of that. He has done a good job getting a group of guys that have one common goal."

Miller was able to do this despite five seniors graduating last season. Also then-junior guard Mike Robinson transferred to Lewis to play basketball during the middle of the season.

Miller also dealt with then-sophomore forward Justin Brock transferring to Quincy University after the season was completed to play basketball.

Then red-shirt freshman guard Brandon D'Amico transferred to Cardinal Stritch to play basketball during the middle of last season. Then-sophomore forward Bobby Jolliff also transferred to Huntington University in Hunting-

"It is hard to get eight new guys and try to teach them what we are trying to do and have them show progress out of that."

— Tyler Laser, sophomore guard on Eastern men's basketball team, about Eastern head coach Mike Miller's contract extension

ton, Ind., to play basketball at the NAIA school.

Miller came to Eastern in March 2005 after serving as the associate head coach at Kansas State.

Prior to Kansas State he was the head coach at Texas State taking the Bobcats to the NCAA Tournament in 1997 and winning the conference title during the 1999 campaign.

He was also an assistant coach from Sam Houston State and Western Illinois.

Miller is a 1987 graduate of East Texas State.

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

» Level-headed

FROM PAGE 12

Junior forward Maggie Kloak, who was held scoreless for the first time all season in Wednesday's victory against Illinois-Chicago, paced the Panthers offensively with 14 points in the Jan. 10 game.

Saturday's contest caps off a four-game home stand for the Panthers and they are 3-0 on the stand thus far.

The Panthers will travel to Morehead, Ky., to take on the Eagles next Thursday at 4:15 p.m.

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

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE | BY STEPHAN PASTIS



GET FUZZY | BY DARBY CONLEY

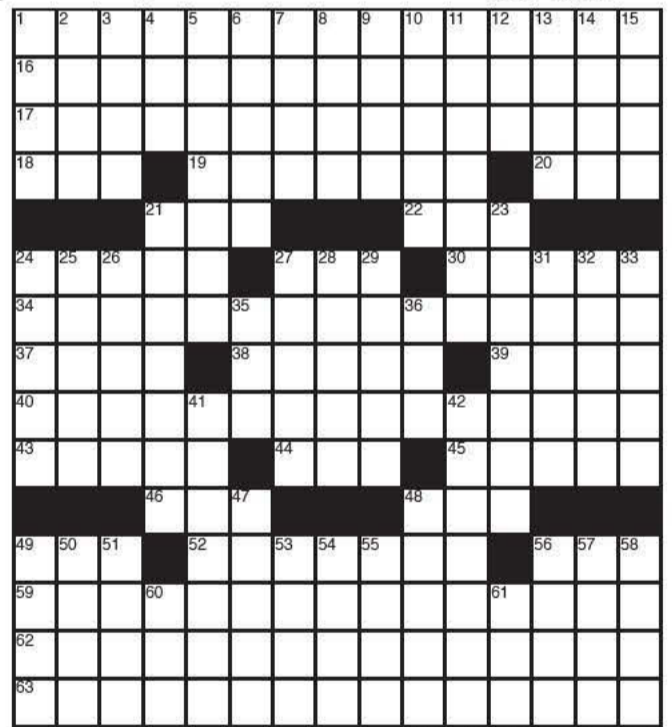


The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0102

- ACROSS**
- Problem in closing?
 - Just before it's too late
 - 1984 JoBeth Williams comedy/adventure film
 - Ouija option
 - Bucket seat feature
 - Seventeen people, briefly
 - One whose deposits are often collected
 - Hit-making group?
 - Gazelle, at times
 - Beetle's need
 - Grounded
 - One way to kick a bad habit
 - It's a shore thing
 - Alice who wrote the short-story collection "Open Secrets"
 - Utter collapse
 - Preview crowd
 - "... ye shall ___ more vanity": Ezekiel 13:23
 - Social group member
 - Social group
 - Instinctive
 - 1980s N.B.A. guard Matthews
- DOWN**
- They look better when they're ripped
 - Like some cookie sheets
 - I have, in Le Havre
 - Pressure points?
 - Who said "A hungry man is not a free man"?
 - One who'd like to put you in your place
 - Supporting piece
 - World-weary words
 - Refuse
 - Poet's ending with what or how
 - They might be full of baloney
 - Brief scouting outing?
 - ___ and Jaron (identical-twins pop duo)
 - Posted
 - Prefix with Germanic
 - Not be picky with an instrument?
 - First film in CinemaScope, 1953
 - Word associated with a light bulb



PUZZLE BY MARTIN ASHWOOD-SMITH

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



- It's on Norton Sound
- Given a line
- Goes off
- Whitebait, e.g.
- Rodeo trio
- Stone, to Caesar
- Like a shepherd's charges
- Really get to
- City NE of Rotterdam
- Ban succeeded him in 2007
- Supporting piece
- Luxury hotel amenity
- Big pictures
- ___ per centimeter (surface tension measure)
- George Harrison's "___ Mine"
- V-shaped carrier
- Real poser
- Brewer's product
- They have certain rings to them
- Zigzag
- Start ___ (be extremely aggressive)
- Eliot hero
- A room with una vista?
- Formerly archaic?
- Fictional wirehair
- Decide to leave
- Cuban patriot Martí
- Like some sources: Abbr.
- Abba's "Love ___ Easy"
- Jazz guitarist Farlow
- Like Mahler's Symphony No. 4

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campus clips

The Warbler Yearbook- RSO & Organization Photos on Feb. 3, 5, & 10th from 5-8 in the Paris room, Effingham room, and Martinsville

room of the MLK Union. Get your group photo in the yearbook.

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TRACK | WEEKEND MEETS

Panthers gear for Notre Dame, Illinois Wesleyan

Event in South Bend, Ind., to have top competition

By **WALLY SWENSON**
Staff Reporter



FIND RESULTS ONLINE

• All sporting events will be updated at www.dennews.com throughout the week-end.

The Eastern men's and women's track teams will keep busy this weekend while competing at the Notre Dame Mevo Invitational and Illinois Wesleyan's Keck Invitational.

While some Panthers will travel to South Bend, Ind., today and Saturday to compete in the Notre Dame Mevo Invitational, other Eastern runners will compete on Saturday in Bloomington at the Shirk Center.

The Eastern men's and women's track and field team will get to see a high level of competition and will be able to compete at a fast track this weekend at Notre Dame.

"I am excited to be going to Wesleyan to be able to improve my times and hopefully finish at the front of the pack," said freshman distance-runner Brittany Arthur.

Arthur said she is looking to improve her times this weekend and that going to Wesleyan will give her the opportunity to do so.

The IWU meet begins at 11 a.m. Saturday.

Notre Dame's two-day competition at the Loftus Center begins at 5 p.m. today, with the final day of the meet on Saturday with running events set for a 9:30 a.m. start.

"Having the opportunity to gain experience in a big time meet will give us the awareness of where we are at this point in our season," Eastern distance coach Geoff Masanet said. "We have not gone to this meet as a team in a few years, and we are definitely excited to run with teams such as Michigan State, Missouri and Indiana at Notre Dame."

"Getting the experience from going to the Notre Dame meet will help all of our athletes on the team."

— Geoff Masanet, Eastern assistant track coach

Three Irish athletes have hit NCAA provisional qualifying marks, one on the men's squad and two on the women's squad.

Two male Eastern athletes have accomplished this same feat this season. Red-shirt freshman Zye Boey in the 60-meter dash and senior distance runner David Holm in the 800-meter run have both reached an NCAA provisional qualifying marks.

This is the first meet of the season where Eastern will not be competing at the Lantz Fieldhouse.

"The Notre Dame meet will also get us ready to run in the Iowa State meet," Masanet said. "We have a couple meets coming up where we will need to show up and run to the best of our ability. Getting the experience from going to the Notre Dame meet will help all of our athletes on the team."

Wally Swenson can be reached at 581-7944 or at wswenson@eiu.edu.



ERIN MATHENY | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Junior Jaimee Phegley throws the 20-pound weight throw during the Illinois Intercollegiate Meet on Saturday in Lantz Fieldhouse. The Panthers will compete at Notre Dame and Illinois Wesleyan this weekend.

STANDINGS AND NOTES

WOMEN'S STANDINGS		
Team	OVC	Overall
Murray State	9-1	14-6
Eastern Illinois	9-2	15-7
Austin Peay	9-3	13-10
Tennessee State	8-4	12-11

SE Missouri	7-4	12-10
Morehead State	7-5	13-11
Eastern Kentucky	3-9	6-17
Tennessee Tech	3-9	5-18
Jacksonville State	2-10	5-17
UT Martin	0-9	2-17

MEN'S STANDINGS		
Team	OVC	Overall
Morehead State	9-2	13-10
Austin Peay	8-3	12-9
UT Martin	7-3	14-6
Eastern Illinois	7-4	10-11

Murray State	5-4	10-9
Eastern Kentucky	6-5	13-9
Tennessee Tech	5-6	11-10
Tennessee State	4-7	6-15
Jacksonville State	3-8	9-11
SE Missouri	0-12	3-20

MEN'S BASKETBALL
The Eastern men's basketball team (10-11, 7-4 Ohio Valley Conference) will be playing Southeast Missouri (3-20, 0-12) at 7 p.m. Saturday at Lantz Arena.

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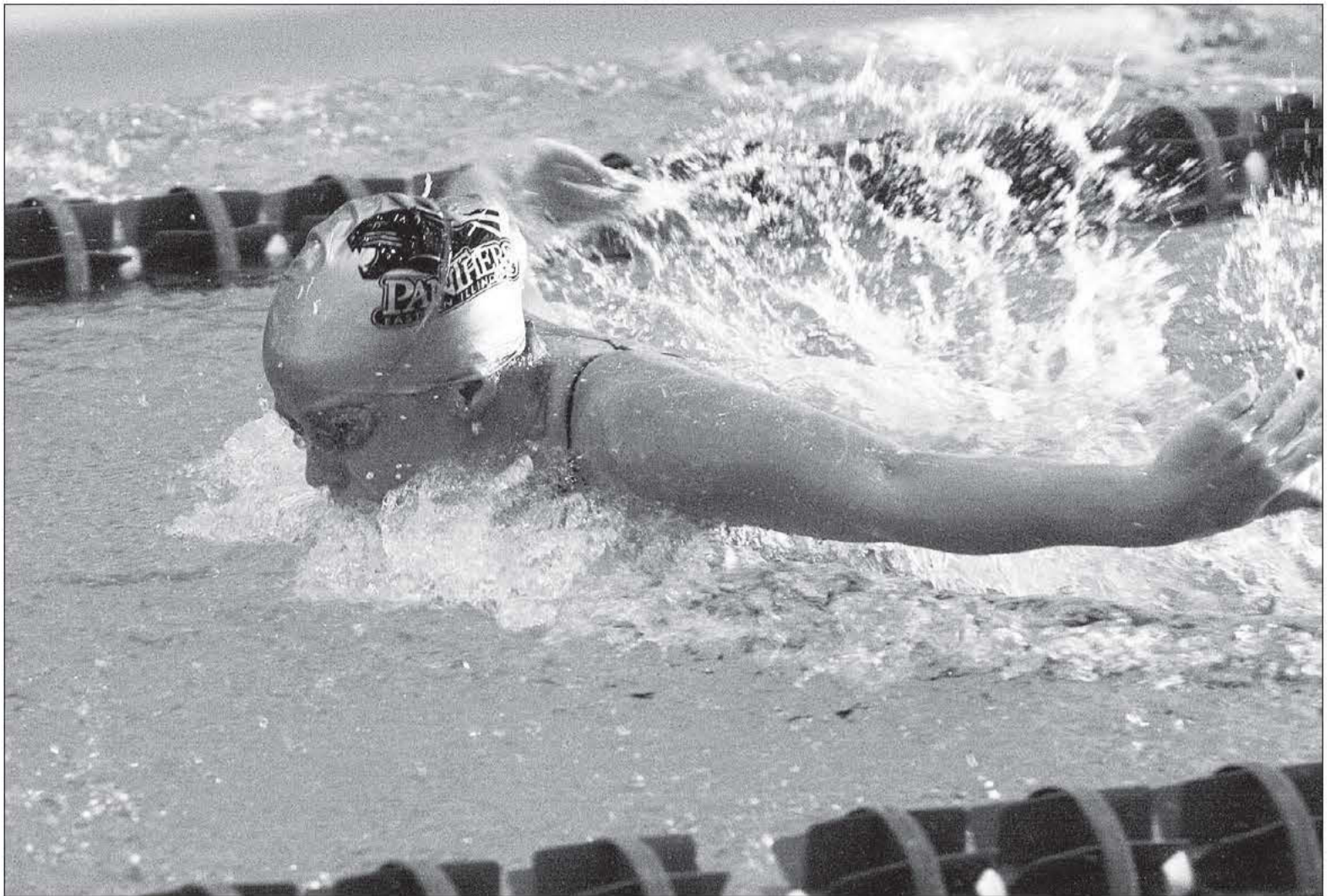
PANTHER BRIEFS

Swimming hosts Saint Louis at home

The Eastern men's and women's swimming teams will host Saint Louis at noon on Saturday at Ray Padovan Pool.

This will be both teams' last dual meet of the season before their respective conference championships. It is also Senior Day for the Panthers.

The men's team (4-5) and the women's team (4-5) will be competing at the Summit League Championships Feb. 19-21. The SLU men's team and the SLU women's team will be competing at the Atlantic 10 Championships Feb. 18-21. Both Eastern squads lost to the Billikens earlier this season, 131-82 and 122-102. The Panthers also lost four times combined to the Billikens last season. But in the second meeting of the season last season, the score was much closer. The Panther men's team lost by 68 points and only by 31 points last season. The Panther women's team lost by 103 points and only by 80 points last season.



ERIN MATHENY | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Eastern junior swimmer Laura Nilsen competes in the 200-yard medley relay during the swim meet against Valparaiso on Jan. 31 in the Ray Padovan Pool. Both Eastern swimming squads will host Saint Louis at noon on Saturday at Ray Padovan pool. This is Senior Day for the Panthers.

Men's tennis plays Saint Louis

The Eastern men's tennis team will play Saint Louis at noon today in Champaign. The Panthers (1-1) are coming off a 6-1 win against Southern Illinois-Edwardsville. The Billikens (2-1) defeated Eastern last season 4-3. Saint Louis has only lost to No. 13 Tulsa this season.

Extreme sign Brown

The Bloomington Extreme, a member of the Indoor Football League, signed former Eastern football player B.J. Brown on Tuesday for the 2009 season. Brown played for the Sioux City Bandits.

"B.J. Brown is a great cover guy who played a major role with us helping us with a successful last year when he came in late," Extreme head coach Kenton Carr said.

Men's soccer signs recruits

Geneva senior Kendall Spurgin made an official commitment to play with the Eastern men's soccer team according to the *Daily Herald*.

Bloomington senior Shailer Thomas will also be playing with the Eastern men's soccer team next season.

Thomas made his commitment

on Wednesday.

— Compiled by Sports Editor Kevin Murphy. He can be reached at 581-7944 or at kjmurphy@eiu.edu.

WOMEN'S TENNIS | EASTERN AT NORTHERN ILLINOIS

Panthers have potential to be road warriors

Team will play first seven matches away from Charleston

By NEIL SCHNEIDER
Staff Reporter

The Eastern women's tennis team will spend a long way from Charleston this season.

The Panthers will be playing their next seven tennis matches on the road.

The Panthers (1-2) will begin their long road trip in DeKalb at 2 p.m. on Saturday against Northern Illinois. From there they play two

matches in Indiana (Robert Morris and Indiana-Purdue-Indianapolis), two matches in Iowa (South Dakota State and Northern Iowa) and then they finish off the road trip returning to Illinois for matches against Illinois State in Normal and Butler in Indianapolis.

The Panthers have already played three matches away from Charleston this season with two neutral-site matches.

Their lone win is a true-road win at Southern Illinois-Edwardsville in Edwardsville.

"We have done some good things on the road this season and I think the way we performed against SIU-Edwardsville, especially in the sin-

gle matches, will help us build some momentum going into the away matches," said Eastern head coach John Blackburn.

Blackburn said that the women's squad has improved with each match this season and will be looking to build upon its win.

Last season, the Panthers started out 7-2 before their first match at home last season. They finished 9-4 in matches not in Charleston.

"We're going to be focusing on creating more opportunities for points," Blackburn said. "A couple big focuses of ours will be to be thinking two and three shots in advance, putting more spin on the ball at the right times and making

sure our shots are being put in the right places."

The Huskies (1-2) will be playing its first home match of the season. They are coming off a 6-1 against Wisconsin Green Bay. Last season, the Panthers defeated Northern Illinois, 4-3.

"We are also going to try and continue to work on both single's and doubles competition, as well as being more assertive and controlling of serves," Blackburn said.

Eastern assistant coach Andres Weisskopf said that along with their focuses in practice, the women's squad has an advantage that a lot of people might not know about.

"One thing I'm impressed with is

how much the women's squad works as a team," Weisskopf said. "Tennis is really an individual sport, so to see the girls develop this sense of team spirit, it is something that we can build off of."

Eastern's first home match will be on March 12 at 1 p.m. against Western Illinois at Darling Courts.

"We don't believe that the away games will be a problem," Weisskopf said. "The girls are still working out and doing their conditioning as scheduled, so I don't anticipate fatigue mentally or physically to be a problem."

Neil Schneider can be reached at 581-7944 or at jnschneider@eiu.edu.

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- Tuesday, Feb. 10 5 to 8 p.m. Martinsville Room, MLK Union

Photos will appear in the 2009 Warbler yearbook.

For more information contact Emily Steele at warbler@eiu.edu

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NBA
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7 p.m. on ESPN

BOYS BASKETBALL
Mt. Carmel at De La Salle |
7:30 p.m. on CSN

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Creighton at Missouri State |
7:30 p.m. on FSN Midwest

NBA
Golden State at Phoenix |
9:30 p.m. on ESPN

SCOREBOARD

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Ohio 89, Northern Illinois 59
No. 9 Xavier 83, Temple 74
No. 11 Butler 66, Detroit 61

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
*Tennessee Tech 82, E. Kentucky 64
*Morehead St. 87, Jacksonville St. 77 (OT)
*Ohio Valley Conference games
No. 12 Tennessee 73, Georgia 43
No. 4 Duke 81 No. 17 Virginia 67
No. 8 No. h Carolin 93, Va. Tech 77

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KEVIN MURPHY

Get out
the vote

Eastern women's basketball senior forward Rachel Galligan has done a lot for this university and this women's basketball program.

She became the second Eastern athlete named a finalist for the Lowe's Senior CLASS Award, which was announced Wednesday. She and the rest of the upperclassmen have led a resurgence of the team in the Ohio Valley Conference and brought respect to the program. Galligan joins men's soccer junior Adam Gartner as Eastern athletes nominated for the award, based on student-athletes' dedication and achievement in four areas: classroom, character, community, and competition. Gartner was one of 10 men's soccer nominees during the fall season. The Senior CLASS Award (CLASS is an acronym for Celebrating Loyalty and Achievement for Staying in School) is a national sports award conceived by sportscaster Dick Enberg.

>> SEE MURPHY, PAGE 9

MEN'S BASKETBALL | SPOTLIGHT

Miller receives extension

Deal is through
2009-2010 season

By DAN CUSAK
Sports Reporter

The Eastern athletic department announced Thursday afternoon that men's head basketball coach Mike Miller signed a one-year contract extension until the 2009-2010 basketball season.

Miller said he and athletic director Barbara Burke began talking about the extension about seven days ago.

"We believe in what we are doing here and through our administration including Barbara, and (President Bill) Perry and (Dan Nadler, the vice president for student affairs) everyone believes in what we are doing," Miller said. "As coaches and as a team, we feel we are doing things the right way. A lot of times success comes when you are doing the right thing, and I think that's what we are doing."

Miller said the team has had some success this season, and although they have some ways to go he said they are moving in the right direction. Miller is 33-74 overall and 24-47 in the Ohio Valley Conference in his Eastern career. The Panthers are currently 10-11 and are in fourth place in the OVC with a record of 7-4 with seven games remaining.

Nadler said there was no salary increase with the contract extension.

The seven OVC wins match the highest conference win total since the 2003 season.



KELLY CREMENT | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Eastern men's basketball coach Mike Miller talks to some of his players during the Eastern men's basketball game on Jan. 15 game against Eastern Kentucky in Lantz Arena. Eastern athletic director Barbara Burke announced Thursday afternoon that Miller's contract has been extended through the 2009-2010 season.

This is Miller's fourth year with the team and senior forward Billy Parrish is the only remaining recruit of former head coach Rick Samuels. The Panthers have eight first year players on this year's team including four freshmen and four transfers.

This has been the second time

Miller's contract has been extended. It was extended after the 2005-2006 season after he went 6-21.

In a press release, Burke said Eastern is excited to grant Miller the extension.

"It is important that we provide stability for our program to continue

to make progress and be successful," Burke said. "He has demonstrated a commitment to our program and we appreciate his positive attitude and the direction that the program is headed."

>> SEE MILLER, PAGE 9

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL | EASTERN VS. SOUTHEAST MISSOURI

Level-headed approach to rematch

Team looks to avenge
earlier loss to SEMO

By COLLIN WHITCHURCH
Assistant Sports Editor

Ellen Canale does not want to be too anxious about the Eastern women's basketball team's rematch against Southeast Missouri.

"We're very excited about it," the senior guard said about the chance to avenge their Jan. 10 loss. "We have to be very level headed about it. It's just another game and we have to play our hearts out."

The Panthers welcome the Redhawks at 3 p.m. Saturday in Lantz Arena. Southeast Missouri handed Eastern one of its two Ohio Valley Conference losses with a 58-51 victory in Cape Girardeau, Mo.

In that game, the Redhawks used a late 6-0 run to pull off the win after overcoming a nine-point, second-half deficit.

Eastern head coach Brady Sallee said he thinks his team has learned from their mistakes in the first meeting.

"I think the biggest thing that came out of it is we saw how much turnovers and a lack of boxing out could hurt us," said Sallee, who saw his team commit 21 turnovers in the Jan. 10 loss. "From that point on

we've had some struggles there but the kids have made a commitment to getting better, and that's half the battle."

The Redhawks enter Saturday's contest tied for fifth place in the OVC with a 7-4 record (12-10 overall). They're riding a three-game winning streak, including a 73-45 victory against Harris-Stowe College Wednesday in Cape Girardeau.

Sallee said at this point of the season every game is huge, and a victory against Southeast Missouri is no bigger than a victory against any team in the OVC.

"We just have to take a business-as-usual approach," he said. "The thing we have to understand is that regardless of Saturday, we still have six games left in the league and every game from here on out is big."

Senior guard Tarina Nixon leads three Redhawks who average in double-figures in scoring with 13.3 points per game. Senior guard Sonya Daugherty and senior forward Crysta Glenn average 12 and 10.3 points per game, respectively.

Daugherty led Southeast Missouri offensively in the team's first match up with 19 points while Glenn added 10 with 14 rebounds, including 12 on the offensive end.

>> SEE LEVEL-HEADED, PAGE 9



ERIC HILTNER | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Eastern junior guard Dominique Sims looks to get around Illinois-Chicago guard Meghan Hutchens on Wednesday night at Lantz Arena.

EASTERN SPORTS SCHEDULE

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
Saturday vs SEMO |
3 p.m. - Lantz Arena

MEN'S BASKETBALL
Saturday vs SEMO |
7 p.m. - Lantz Arena

MEN'S TENNIS
Today vs Saint Louis |
Noon - Champaign

SWIMMING
Saturday vs Saint Louis |
Noon - Ray Padovan Pool

WOMEN'S TENNIS
Saturday at Northern Illinois |
2 p.m. - DeKalb

02.06.09

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BANDS, STUDENTS UNITE TO SAVE SIGHT

NSCS SPONSORS BATTLE OF THE BANDS, PROCEEDS TO BE DONATED TO UNITE FOR SIGHT

By **Samantha Wilmes**
Verge Reporter

The National Society for Collegiate Scholars chapter at Eastern is sponsoring a fundraising concert called "Healing Our Eyes with Our Ears."

The concert starts at 7 p.m. today in the 7th Street Underground.

The fundraiser will help raise money for Unite for Sight, a non-profit organization that aids in curing people with eye related problems and diseases in third world countries.

According to the Unite for Sight Web site, workers in the program have helped more than 600,000 people worldwide.

Their site supplies information on how to volunteer, whether it is local, abroad or simply how to help in general.

To help support this event, the chapter is having a Battle of the Bands, which will include the bands Charles Scott, Little Boy Jr., Howard and JOBU with a possibility of more acts being added.

"All these bands have continuously played for charity, and it helps out the charities as well as the music," said Scott Chaplinski, senior communications major, who will be performing as Charles Scott.

MugWump Specific was listed as one of the bands to join but faced a schedule conflict so will not be performing. Another band will replace its time slot.

"The bands that are playing also seemed to be very willing to play in the concert after they heard about the cause, which was very generous and has allowed for this benefit concert to happen," said Laurenn Jarema, the chapter president.

The event costs \$3 to attend, which includes entertainment, food and raffles. The

Facebook event page originally listed the price as \$5, but that was reduced down to \$3. All proceeds will be donated to Unite for Sight.

The cost of this event is inexpensive, and may leave a question of what can a \$3 donation even do?

"The \$3 donation will be used to supply these people with medicines, equipment and glasses/contacts, as well as to help teach the locals different techniques and precautions on how to protect and preserve their eyes," said Tim O'Reilly, the treasurer and secretary for the chapter.

Chaplinski said he did not know much about Unite for Sight, but he hopes toward the end of the night he will learn more.

O'Reilly said Megan France, former vice president of the chapter, suggested the idea of contributing the chapter's donations to Unite for Sight as an idea for its annual charity fundraiser "A concert would be an exciting way to get the campus involved; plus I knew musicians that would gladly play a gig for a benefit such as this one," O'Reilly said.

There have not been many contributions from local businesses, but the chapter will work until the day of the concert on finding more businesses to help. Jarema is hoping for a good turnout.

"Many people have seemed very interested in coming and eager about the bands that will be playing" Jarema said.



LIL WAYNE'S ROCK ALBUM PROMISING

Last Tuesday, Lil Wayne released his first single "Prom Queen" from his first-ever rock album, titled "Rebirth."

Actually, the single leaked days earlier, which appears to be a developing trend in the music business.

This slight mishap couldn't have pleased the rapper, sometimes called Weezy, too much, but I doubt it will take away from the first week download numbers.

From what I've read and heard from a few news sources like Rolling Stone and Spin Magazine, the song has opened to mixed reviews.

In fact, "Mr. Carter" beat makers, Infamous and Drew Correa, didn't even believe he was serious about a rock album until Lil Wayne said he didn't want synthesizers on the debut single.

Instead, Wayne has brought in the typical rock set up of bass, guitars and drums.

The single "Prom Queen" certainly is a step in a different direction for Lil Wayne.

I mean, how often does a major rap star go and make a rock album, when they quite possibly are the most popular rapper in the world.



Neil Schneider
Verge Reporter

Also, consider that he is currently nominated for numerous Grammy's for last year's "Tha Carter III," a rap album, and some are already guessing he will be performing his new rock tune at the show.

Now, I've listened to the single about five times and it seems to be a step forward for Lil Wayne as an artist.

I don't know how well the die-hard rock or rap fans will receive it, but it certainly is something different.

At first glance, it appears as if Lil Wayne is taking a page out of Kanye West's playbook, but, instead of R & B, he choose rock music.

Once again, Weezy is using his Auto-Tune to help with his vocals, but this time he sings instead of rapping and there even sounds like a full band behind him.

The song itself seems to be about a girl that, no matter how hard Weezy tries, always wants to hang with the cooler guys.

In the end, Lil Wayne gets the last laugh after he moves on and the girl then realizes she has made a poor choice of not going with him.

"Prom Queen" is about three and a half minutes long and features softer/slower verses with big choruses where Weezy uses his trademark Auto-Tune to help him sing.

Towards the end of the song there is a guitar solo, which I would guess is Weezy displaying his best attempt at shredding.

Even though the single is not being praised as the next big thing yet, I would not count out the possibility that the album could be packing some better tracks.

Plus, currently anything musically that has Lil Wayne's name associated with it seems to be getting serious attention.

ArtSpace: Poetry

"In The Shadows Of Boats"
By Bryn Rich
a sophomore political science major

I recall the last time I wrote a song
I drowned hard in the depths of Lake Michigan
I sat flat on the ground with the sand and stone
in the shadows of boats
in the shadows of boats

Someday soon a sunburned girl
On a lakeside walk will be brave and call
me up from the bottom to come back home

from the shadows of boats
from the shadows of boats

Your shaky hands
Forgetting friends
Light cigarettes
Pop open cans
You're smiling in the camera lens
With disillusionment

Long enough, that sunburned girl
Will fade back to her paler self
And she won't wonder who she knows
in the shadows of boats
in the shadows of boats

We want to see what you can do, too! Submit photos, artwork, poetry and short stories to denverge@gmail.com and see your work in ArtSpace!



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'ST. ANNA' VIEWING TO CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH

By Nick Draper
Verge Reporter

As we observe National Black History Month, we are reminded of the many African-American heroes that made great sacrifices like Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks.

At 7 p.m. today and Saturday in Buzzard Hall the University Board's movie-night film selection, "Miracle at St. Anna," brings a group of lesser-known African-American heroes to light.

"We thought it fit in very well with keeping up our movie variety with its drama/action," said Ryan Kerch, movies coordinator for University Board. "Additionally, it really works well with African American Heritage Month."

Directed by Spike Lee, who also directed "Inside Man" and "25th Hour," "Miracle at St. Anna" tells the story of the all-black 92nd Infantry Division.

The plot focuses on Hector Neron, along with three other soldiers, as they sneak into Italy and find refuge in the home of a family of Nazi resisters. The soldiers find an Italian boy and attempt to res-



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A still from the film "Miracle at St. Anna." The film is about the all-black 92nd Infantry Division in World War II. It is based on the novel by James McBride, who also wrote the screenplay.

cue him.

"It looks at racial history differently," said Robin Murray, a film and literature professor. "It's revealing a part of history that sometimes is missing... The 92nd Division shows a different perspective on the World War II setting."

One of Spike Lee's reasons for making the film, Murray said, was because of the lack of black soldiers in Clint Eastwood's recently

released World War II films, "Flags of Our Fathers" and "Letters from Iwo Jima."

Murray said that though the movie wasn't perfect, it had some very good moments.

"Spike Lee is an excellent director," Murray said. "There were some spectacular shots... The scene in the southern diner where the Nazi prisoners are eating was a beautiful scene. The soundtrack

was also excellent."

Murray said that the film had problems with length and it had a tendency to lose focus.

"[Lee] might have taken on too much at once," she said. "There were a lot of different storylines, which made the movie feel too busy."

The film is out of theaters but not yet on DVD. Students will have the chance to see this movie before the public.

"We work with a company called Swank Motion Pictures," Kerch said. "Which allows us to show the movies inside a window of when they can release it to us and when it comes out on DVD."

Funding for the University Board's movie-night comes from the student activity fee, making the film free for students to attend.

Average attendance for the movies, according to Kerch, is over 100.

Attendance for "Miracle at St. Anna" is predicted to be even more than that.

"We've gotten a lot of positive feedback," Kerch said. "People are really excited to see this movie."

study break

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO DO?

FRIDAY

NSCS BATTLE OF THE BANDS

Time: 6:30 p.m.
Place: 7th Street Underground
Cost: \$3

THE MITCH DAVIS MACHINE AND I2K

Time: 10 p.m.
Place: Mad Hatter's
Cost: \$3

NIL8

Time: 9 p.m.
Place: Mac's Uptowner
Cost: \$4

UB MOVIE: MIRACLE AT ST. ANNA

Time: 7 p.m.
Place: Buzzard Auditorium
Cost: Free

SATURDAY

CHICKEN LEG LIVE!

Time: 7 p.m.
Place: Jackson Avenue Coffee
Cost: Free

SEEKER

Time: 9 p.m.
Place: Mac's Uptowner
Cost: \$3

UB MOVIE: MIRACLE AT ST. ANNA

Time: 7 p.m.
Place: Buzzard Auditorium
Cost: Free

GRAPHITE DRAWINGS ON DISPLAY AT TARBLE

By Josh Van Dyke
Verge Reporter

When a person can recall past images, sound or objects with near-perfect accuracy, they are said to possess photographic memory; however, even a photograph loses key details.

Artist Armin Mersmann seeks to go beyond even photographs in retention of details with his graphite drawings, meticulously latching onto details that would be lost in mere photos and mixing in symbolism.

The results of his efforts, which have been shown in more than 150 exhibits regionally, nationally and internationally, can now be seen on Eastern's campus. The Tarble Arts Center will be presenting his work until March 5.

"A lot of people draw like poets. I draw like a novelist," said Mersmann, 53, who currently lives in Midland, Mich.

With each of his drawings he seeks to tell a story, to give the viewer an insight into the subject's life as well as to illustrate a message about the world. Like great novels, drawing pictures that capture every detail of a person's face takes much effort to get right.

To ensure accuracy, Mersmann combines modern technology with old-fashioned meticulousness. The latter takes the form of photographs from different angles, studying the subject in person and looking at his own face in a mirror to practice.

Mersmann, like many of his contemporaries, uses programs like Photoshop to not only bring out the details in images but also to try out different combinations of backgrounds and ways of drawing the subject.

He can see how changing the shape of the eye or ear affects the faithfulness of the drawing to the overall image. The final product, however, is done by hand.

"When he tells you that he spent about 600 hours on a drawing, he really worked 600 hours," says Chris Kahler, an associate professor of art at Eastern. "In recent years we haven't real-

ly had anybody that's that obsessive of a realist."

The paintings aren't all about realism, however. Within each work is also symbolism; the people portrayed are actors playing a role.

One portrait has his father dressed as a priest, clutching a figure of Christ on a crucifix with ambiguous intentions and a mix of emotions on his face. Another features a man who seems to fit the "tough biker" cliché but has a kind look in his eyes and angelic wings, with the title "Occasional Angel."

One theme that Mersmann returns to, beside the hidden nature of people, is mortality and the reality that in time, nature will reclaim all things.

Inspired at least in part by the death of his mother, Mersmann returns over and over to those ideas, presenting them in images that are heavy in metaphor and consistently feature decomposition of some sort.

Like many artists, he has no interest in explaining the meaning of his more abstract works, preferring to let the viewer decide for themselves. He does, however, acknowledge that they aren't the most cheerful subjects.

"When you think about that, it's not going to be pretty flowers or skipping in a field," he said.

Mersmann was born in Remscheid, Germany in 1955 and immigrated with his family to America in 1963.

After marrying at the age of 18 and doing commissioned work for several years he is now the Manager of the Museum Art School of the Alden B. Dow Museum of Science and Art in Midland, Mich.

More of his work can be viewed at his personal Web site, arminmersmann.artroof.com.



PHOTO COURTESY ARMIN MERSMANN

Armin Mersmann's detailed graphite drawings will be on display in the Tarble Arts Center until March 5. Mersmann's art has been displayed in over 150 exhibits.

'Mantis' Brings Umphrey's to The Studio

By **Chris Essig**
Assistant Online Editor

Even before "Mantis" was released on Inauguration Day 2009, Umphrey's McGee's latest album was bound to be unlike anything they've released before. Contrary to their previous albums, all of the songs on "Mantis" were recorded first in the studio and then performed live. Add in a little patience and artistic discretion, and the result is a truly unique UM album.

Taking over two years to finish, "Mantis" was also the first album the band has put together that wasn't on a time schedule or under the pressure of a contract, singer and guitarist Brendan Bayliss said in a recent Jam-Base article. It's no surprise then that the 10-track "Mantis" is well constructed and precise.

The album opens with the power pop single "Made to Measure," an ode to The Beatles.

Despite a simple melody, the track includes crafty piano work and an exotic percussion arrangement.

Careful compositions pervade throughout the album, as the tracks move sluggishly in and out of progressive rock, funk, techno and hair metal influences.

The title track is perhaps the best indication of the serious tone the band has developed since the release of "Safety in Numbers" in 2006. Long lost is the UM of old, making oddball tracks like "Muff-burger Sandwich" and "Nachos for Two." Instead, the album is largely a moody affair, with introspective, philosophical lyrics.

Besides complex instrumentals, "Mantis" is also layered with verses courtesy of Bayliss, who is hit or miss throughout the album. At best, Bayliss is cryptic ("Mantis") and at worst poetically incompetent (when he rhymes "polygraph" and "paragraph" on "Cemetery Walk").

But because UM is in the loosest terms a "jam band," the focus is by no means on the vocals, despite Bayliss's pleas. Instead, the limelight is clearly on guitarist Jake Cinninger.

When Cinninger takes up a riff, people notice. His best performance, and thus the album's highlight, is on "Turn & Run." Cinninger has found a flawless balance between build-up and shredding on the track. Near the end, his guitar fades out, leaving hopes that the solo will be extended once it's performed live.

Despite some mediocre performances near the end (the Gen-



PHOTO COURTESY OF UMPHREY'S MCGEE

esis-inspired "Red Tape," for instance), the album ends on a high note with "1348." In many regards this track is classic UM: funky bass lines, smooth soloing, and quick changes of pace.

But instead of fully embracing their metal influences they straddle the thin line between power pop and progressive rock. The same can be said for most of the

album.

One question remains, however: once the band starts performing these songs live, is "Mantis" going to remain in the CD player or will it be just a good reference point for its live counterparts?

My guess is once recordings come in, "Mantis" will be a thing of the past. But you have to start somewhere.

New 'Underworld' Surpasses Expectations

By **Nick Draper**
Staff Reporter

I have never been a huge fan of the Underworld series, so I was less than ready to go see "Underworld: Rise of the Lycans."

Sitting in the not-so-comfortable seat, gripping the arm rests, readying myself for what I thought was to be a barrage of cliché vampire romance and unnecessary violence. What I found, however, was an OK film that exceeded my expectations.

"Underworld: Rise of the Lycans," directed by Patrick Tatopoulos, is the prequel to the popular film series "Underworld."

Instead of being in a modern setting as all of the last were, it is instead set in the Dark Ages.

The plot follows a lycanthrope (werewolf) named Lucian (Michael Sheen) who is saved by the vampire king Viktor (Bill Nighy). Lucian falls in love with the king's daughter, Sojna (Rhona Mitra), and he attempts to free her and his fellow lycans from Viktor's rule.

The acting, as in all the "Underworld" movies, tends to hit the over-dramatic side a little.

Bill Nighy steals the show as Viktor, his deep voice and dark attire make for a truly scary vam-

pire.

The love between Sojna and Lucian makes for a rather cliché "forbidden love" romance. However, the clash between the lycans and the vampires make for an excellent premise and some exciting fight scenes.

As is traditional for the "Underworld" series, almost everything is laid out under a nighttime sky.

Effects abound as every explosion, flying arrow and lycan transformation look phenomenal. The soundtrack is equally epic, with plenty of low-end bass booms to keep the 5.1 systems shaking your entire house.

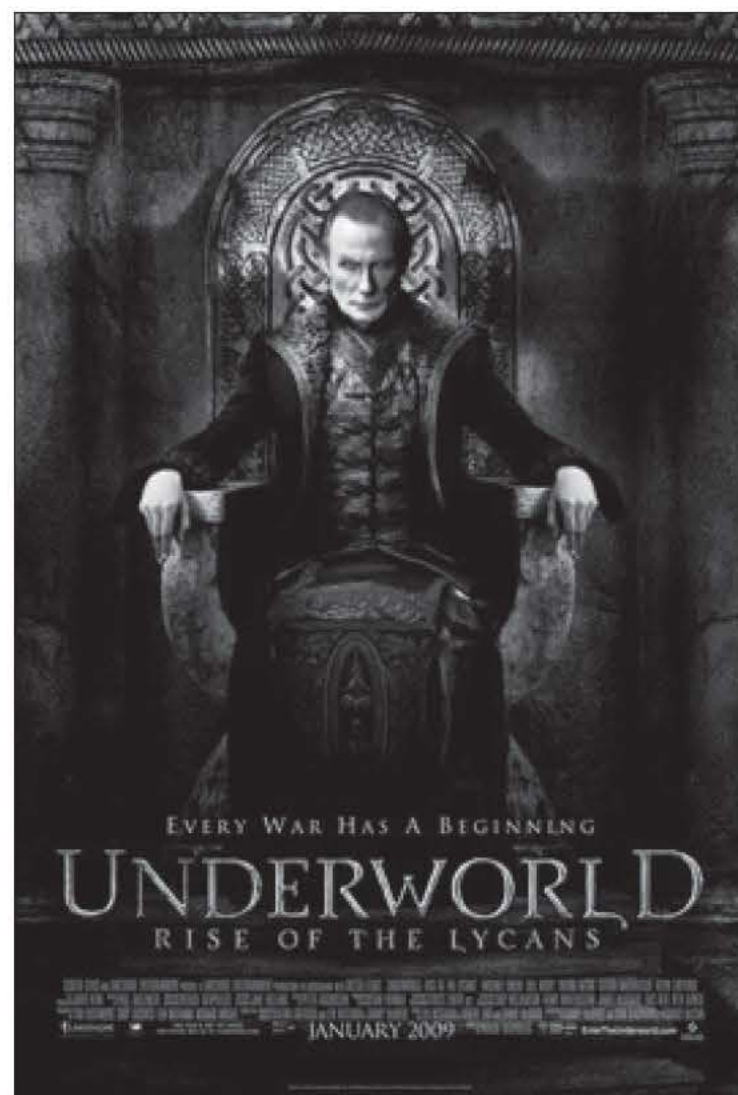
The action scenes are better in this movie than the previous ones, there is a lot more variety and hand-to-hand combat which I love.

Unfortunately, the dips between the scenes can get long, leaving the audience aching for more fights.

Being a prequel, the character development is more in-depth than the others, which is part of what makes the movie watchable.

I found myself associating with Lucian as opposed to the gun slinging detachment of the characters in the previous films.

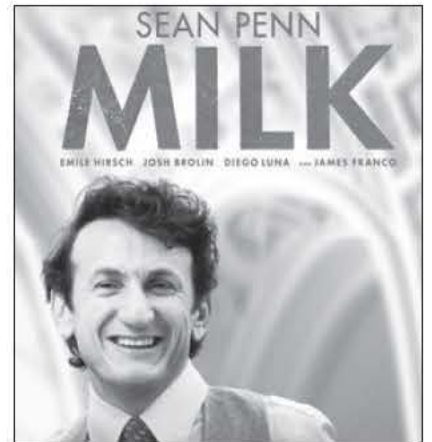
One very notable aspect of the



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movie is the scenery. The castle setting is amazing and makes the film seem very epic. The armor of the vampires, the swords, even the eyes of the vampires make it very easy to become absorbed with the movie.

All-in-all, "Underworld: Rise of the Lycans" was a good movie. I would definitely recommend that anyone who was a fan of the previous should go and see this. If you're not, then at least give it a rent when it rolls out on DVD.



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MILK LIVES UP TO HYPE

By **Collin Whitchurch**
Assistant Sports Editor

In a disappointing season filled with mediocre films, Gus Van Sant's "Milk" lives up to its billing of one of the best of the year. In fact, the best.

The film, starring Sean Penn as former San Francisco city supervisor Harvey Milk, an open homosexual who is assassinated while in office, combines spectacular filmmaking with superb acting to tell the story of a man who broke down barriers over 30 years ago.

The biopic has few flaws, as Van Sant uses a technique that would only work in a film such as this.

The viewer sees Milk's rise through the political world and his exploits through his love life. Van Sant's methodical shot technique is mixed with incredibly unique shots that build the suspense as you see Penn transform himself into Milk, giving the greatest acting performance of the year, and arguably his career.

It is hard to imagine anyone else pulling off Milk the way Penn did. He puts himself into the character and the emotion in his voice and face are as authentic as can be.

While Penn's performance is the most memorable and should merit an Academy Award for Best Actor, the film is very performance-based, and would not have been as successful without the supporting cast, specifically those who play Penn's group of hippie, homosexual misfits who journey with him through his rise in politics.

James Franco and Emile Hirsch, neither of whom have ever played characters of this nature, give standout performances. Franco as Milk's younger, less-ambitious boyfriend and Hirsch as a lone wolf who becomes an integral part of Milk's success. Likewise, Diego Luna shines as Milk's clingy, eccentric lover.

Josh Brolin of "No Country For Old Men" and "W," stands out yet again as the conservative supervisor Dan White, the key antagonist standing in the way of Milk's battle for reform.

Penn and Van Sant are clearly the film's stars. Van Sant has shown the potential to make great films with "Good Will Hunting" and "Finding Forrester," but his true talent as a director had never truly been tapped until "Milk," the crown jewel of his career thus far.

Penn has become well known as an actor who can give a great performance. But never before has he fit so perfectly into a role. Never before have his acting skills meshed with a film and a director as it did in "Milk," and that is why the film works so well.