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THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

January 21, 2003 ♦ **TUESDAY**

On the rebound

Panthers win second straight to
improve conference record
to 2-3.

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Small crowd for MLK march

By Matthew Kent
ACTIVITIES REPORTER

More than 75 people participated in the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. candlelight vigil Monday evening commemorating his life and accomplishments.

Before marching from Thomas Hall to the University Union Ballroom, a prayer in remembrance of King was held by Roy Lanham, campus minister, Newman Catholic Center.

"He was a light in the darkness," Lanham said. "We should remember his accomplishments for what he did."

Congressman Timothy Johnson also encouraged everyone to contact him with any ideas anyone might have.

"I want to thank you all for coming out here tonight," Johnson said. "As your state-elected official, I want to make things better, and if anyone has any ideas or suggestions, please contact me."

Many students decided to show up for various reasons.

Dixie Sullenger, a graduate student, said she came to promote the memory of King.

"I came to support the ideas and the things we're working towards," Sullenger said.

Nay Wright, a sophomore marketing major, came to celebrate King's birthday in remembrance.

"He is a legacy and a visionary and led the way for many African-Americans," Wright said. "It's good that other races besides African-Americans are here, and I expect more people to be here next year."

Joni Lupo, a senior sociology major, came to remember a great person.

"He did a lot and was a great speaker," Lupo said.

Charleston resident Nora Small had a slightly different take: "It's especially important for me to be here with the possibility of war looming."

Lou Hencken, interim president, also paid tribute to King's memory.

"I wanted to be here tonight to pay tribute to a great individual who did tremendous things for the United States," Hencken said.

SEE MLK ♦ Page 7



PHOTOS BY
COLIN MCAULIFFE/PHOTO EDITOR

ABOVE: Students, faculty and community members exit Thomas Hall lobby Monday evening as they make their way towards the University Ballroom of the Martin Luther King, Jr. University Union.



LEFT: Shonda Clancy, a senior biology sciences major, listens to Roy Lanham's prayer prior to the candlelight vigil that was in memory of Martin Luther King Jr. Monday night in Thomas Hall Lobby. The event was sponsored by the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity and included a program of events held in the University Ballroom of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

Fraternity member hopes memory will unify students

♦ *Edward Stewart organizes annual MLK march to try to pull community together*

By Nate Bloomquist
NEWS EDITOR

Edward Stewart believes segregation still exists at Eastern.

The Alpha Phi Alpha member sets up an annual candlelight march across Eastern's campus honoring Martin Luther King, Jr.

and believes the march can change that.

He said the event brings the entire Eastern community closer together — not just blacks.

"We have a lot of different people come out," Stewart said. "King's message was for Hispanics, Asians and other minorities too. I'd love to see just a bigger population there, the color doesn't matter."

But Stewart sees more room for the annual event to grow.

When Stewart began organizing the event in 2000, nearly 100 par-

Spotlight: People

♦ In the spotlight this week is Edward Stewart. This article is part of a series focused on events, people and organizations in our community



ticipated in the event. The number ballooned to over 200 last year and more than 75 marched Monday.

The event concluded with a

short program at the Martin Luther King, Jr. University Union that included a question and answer session. The president of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity led the session. King was a member of the fraternity.

"I'd like to see more people ask questions at that," Stewart said.



Edward Stewart

"But people don't because they don't want to hurt people's feelings. We want to get things moving and get people talking about this."

The march isn't just for students, and that has been the design of the event since its inception over a decade ago.

Stewart said many members of the Charleston and Mattoon communities are involved.

"We do this every year because it comes down to getting the message sent out there," Stewart said.

SEE MEMORY ♦ Page 7

Bringing DIVERSITY to campus

By Caitlin Prendergast
SENIOR REPORTER

Diversity is a hot national topic these days, but many at Eastern feel the university is on the right track to improving diversity.

In *Grutter/Gratz v. University of Michigan*, arguably the most controversial diversity case in history, the university is facing scrutiny for the school's race-based enrollment policies. The university awards points on entry exams to minorities.

President George W. Bush said Wednesday the university's policies are unconstitutional. Bush filed a friend of the court brief for the case against the University of Michigan, which the U.S. Supreme Court is expected to make a ruling on in the next three months.

But Eastern officials said that type of situation will never happen here.

Dale Wolf, director of admissions, said race can't be used in determining admission into Eastern. A potential student's racial or ethnic background is not asked on an application.

Wolf said his staff tries to recruit a variety of students from all over the state, but the university does not have to meet a certain affirmative-action quota.

Johnetta Jones, director of minority affairs, said the minority population at Eastern is currently about 10 percent.

Interim President Lou Hencken said he is a big believer in increasing diversity at Eastern. He said students who attend diverse schools fare better in society.

"There has been an objective or a goal of sorts to have the university's population match diversity in the state," Jones said. "If we are to educate students to live in a multi-ethnic world, we need a living laboratory or a reflection of that world."

Ten percent is a good start, although that figure doesn't quite match state statistics, Jones said, but she has noticed an increase in minority enrollment in the last four or five years.

Working in the office of minority affairs, Jones assists a variety of students, including African-Americans and Hispanics. She said students respond differently to the challenge of being a minority on a small campus and many choose to surround themselves with people of similar backgrounds.

Jones said she has mixed emotions about minority groups and organizations, but she said minority students on this campus assume they have no limits on what they can do.

"When you have groups and organizations that are Hispanic or African-American only, they're not exclusionary — they simply like to associate together. There's safety and comfort in numbers," Jones said.

Phi Beta Sigma, a fraternity with all black members, embraces anyone who wants to join, provided they meet a 2.5 grade point average, said

SEE DIVERSITY ♦ Page 7

Proposed tax tops City Council agenda Tuesday

◆ Possible referendum could increase city's sales tax by 0.5 percent

By Carly Mullady
CITY EDITOR

A possible referendum to raise Charleston's sales tax by 0.5 percent is up for discussion at the Charleston City Council's meeting Tuesday.

A resolution for authorizing the Woodyard Memorial Conservation Area Land and Water Reserve agreement will also be discussed as well as area lease agreements and the transfer of an old Charleston Police K-9 to his trainer.

The Council will discuss increasing sales tax as means of relieving property taxes and funding infrastructure improvements. Motor vehicle sales tax will not be increasing under this plan.

This affects all Charleston residents, not just property owners, Mayor Dan Coughill said. "Anyone who drives on our roads, utilizes police or file protection, relies on ambulances for emergencies or attends Eastern football games that can only be played with ambulances present is affected by tax funding," he said.

The council will decide whether or not to place the proposal on the April election ballot.

The Woodyard Memorial Conservation Area Land and

Water Reserve Agreement authorization also will take place at the meeting. Proper conservation regulations from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, the Reservoir and Watershed Ordinance and The Illinois Nature Preserves Commission have been used to determine development of the conservation area.

Authorization of lease agreements between Charleston, the Special Olympics and Consolidated Services will also be mentioned. Two upstairs City Hall rooms are up for lease by the Special Olympics and Consolidated Services.

The City Council also will be authorizing the transfer of Rex, the former Charleston Police K-9, from the police department's ownership back to his trainer. Rex will be given to his trainer, John Bennett, as a pet.

"Any dog who has completed its K-9 course and is a police dog must either stay with the trainer or be put to sleep once its useful duty is complete," Coughill said.

Rex began in 1996 and since has been performing duties ranging from finding burglars to drug busts. He is now at the end of his useful life as a police dog.

Rather than putting Rex to sleep, John Bennett will take him in as a pet.

The City Council meets at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the City Council chambers.

CORRECTION

A headline in Friday's edition of *The Daily Eastern News* was incorrect.

The headline should have read 'UPI to take strike authorization poll.'

UPI will poll every faculty member for each employee's input on holding a strike authorization vote. A strike authorization vote will be held only if a sizable majority of its membership wants UPI to schedule the vote.

The News regrets the error.

THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

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COLIN MCAULIFFE/PHOTO EDITOR

Tom Cotter, a New York native, pauses to let the joke he just told sink into the audience's heads Friday night in the 7th Street Underground.

Cotter plays politically incorrect

By Niki Jensen
STAFF WRITER

Looking like a college student in his brown T-shirt, blue jeans and blue baseball cap, comedian Tom Cotter performed such a raunchy and foul language routine Friday at 7th Street Underground that he repeatedly had to tell the gasping audience to calm down.

Upon expressing his good fortune to be performing in a lovely "dungeon," as he called 7th Street Underground, Cotter opened his routine with sarcastic anecdotes about college.

"College was the best 28 semesters of my life," the New York City comedian told the crowd of about 120 students. "I had a 3.0. That was my blood-alcohol level."

Ten minutes into the show, Cotter announced that political correctness has gotten way out of hand.

"Everything's politically correct now," he said.

In fact, he said it wouldn't surprise him if the names of card games were changed for political correctness. Black Jack would become African-American Jack and One-Eyed Jack would be changed to Visually Impaired Jack, he said. And the game of Poker would be switched to Take-her-out-to-dinner-and-a-movie, which received a loud roar from the audience.

Cotter looked to his Irish heritage for some of his source material, which included drinking stories — "We drink; it's what we do" — and satirized examples of his culture such as the use of Lucky Charms cereal instead of croutons on salads.

At one point in the show, Cotter tried to have a conversation with a girl sitting at a table near the stage. Upon telling him she was from Dwight, Cotter said he had no idea where that was and continued to rip on the town anyway. Shortly after,

he paused and said, "What am I doing making fun of her town? I'm in Charleston! What is the zip code here? EIEIO?"

Cotter revealed to the crowd, "I thought this was going to suck." He said he performed at Eastern four years ago and only about five people were in the audience.

"I like you guys. Any questions? OK, lets move on," he said mockingly toward the audience whom he said was too impatient for big laughs.

Shortly after, Cotter scored some of his most spirited audience responses with a slew of candid and rather bawdy jokes.

Next, Cotter hyperbolized and poked fun at his own family — from his father to his pet Dalmatian.

At the conclusion of Cotter's hour-long performance, he told the crowd of students, "I've gotta get going. I've got another job in April."

Senate to discuss contracts

By John Chambers
ADMINISTRATION EDITOR

The Faculty Senate Tuesday will continue discussion on a proposal to reduce the length of administrative contracts.

The proposal suggests shortening the contracts from 12 to 11 months per year in an effort to cut university spending, and is in line with governor Rod Blagojevich's request for less budgetary spending in the area of administration, English professor David Radavich said.

Radavich seconded the proposal made by technology instructor Mori Toosi, and a motion on the contracts was postponed at the December meeting of the Council on University Planning and Budget.

The motion was to have the

CUPB recommend to interim President Lou Hencken and the Board of Trustees the contract change. The contract change would assume administration could complete work on 11-month contracts.

"It's a move in a time of really tight budgets," Radavich said. "It's an idea that will allow us to put more money into our academic mission."

Finalizing plans for a January faculty forum will continue Tuesday.

Forums are usually organized once a semester and issues involving academic freedom will be discussed this month.

Topics under academic freedom will cover freedom in research, rights in computer policy, freedom in teaching and academic freedom and shared governance.

Academic freedom and shared

governance could discuss the rights to information on university policy and resources.

The Council of Chairs will meet Jan. 29, and the Faculty Senate will continue discussion on asking the council to provide meeting minutes to the university community, especially since the council meets in open sessions, said Faculty Senate chair Anne Zahlan.

Zahlan said the council likely will discuss how minutes are taken at its January meeting, and chair Keith Andrew could speak to the Faculty Senate in February.

The faculty forum will be Jan. 28 in the University Ballroom of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

The Faculty Senate meets at 2 p.m. Tuesdays in Booth Library Conference Room 4440.

Five bars caught serving minors

◆ Each pub with a guilty plea paid \$1,000, was suspended two days

By Carly Mullady
CITY EDITOR

Five bars were fined \$1,000 and a two-day license suspension following a Jan. 15 liquor hearing. Five of six local bars facing charges of selling alcohol to a minor pleaded guilty. Each of the bars allegedly failed the Dec. 14 Charleston Police Department compliance check by allowing an underage informant to purchase alcohol. Mayor Dan Coughill, Charleston's liquor commissioner, said this was the first compliance check in quite some time. "We hadn't had one in a few months because we were showing respect to licensed businesses," he said. "We were starting to get the

impression this respect was not deserved and it seems we were correct." Allegations claim an underage informant bearing a clearly-marked under-21 I.D. was allowed to enter and purchase alcohol from Ike's, Icy Mug, The Station, Stix, Marty's and The Uptowner. Ike's, Stix and The Uptowner's representatives admitted they allowed a minor to frequent a licensed establishment and sold the minor alcohol Dec. 14. Representatives of Icy Mug and The Station admitted to selling alcohol to a minor. Because the Station and Icy Mug both have restaurant liquor licenses, the city dismissed charges claiming those two allowed a minor to frequent an establishment and permitted alcohol consumption that was not related to food sales. Marty's is the only one of those bars to officially deny all charges

so far. Marty's owner, Dave Kinnaird, claimed the Dec. 14 doorman would not have knowingly allowed a minor to enter his bar. Another Marty's hearing was tentatively set for 1 p.m. Jan. 23. "Since the hearing was scheduled with only a week's notice, it may be postponed to allow Marty's representatives time to find an attorney," Coughill said. Jerry's Pizza & Pub, Mad Hatter's, Roc's Blackfront and Stu's passed the Dec. 14 compliance checks, Coughill said. Because of the punitive liquor license suspensions, Ike's, Icy Mug, The Station, The Uptowner and Stix will be closed from 6 a.m. Feb. 6 until 6 a.m. Feb. 8. Coughill emphasized the obvious markings on the Under-21 Illinois driver's license the informant used. "It would be difficult to overlook the red background on an underage Illinois I.D.," he said.

Strike deadline approaching, talks ongoing at Southern Ill.

By John Chambers
ADMINISTRATION EDITOR

Faculty contract negotiations at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale will continue this week, with a scheduled strike date of on or before Feb. 3. The SIUC Faculty Association and administration negotiating team met Tuesday through Friday last week and will continue this week, said James Kelly, chair of the public information committee of the Faculty Association. The negotiations continued both with a federal mediator and face-to-face, following a January administrative decision to allow talks to continue without lawyers present. This week, the administration will continue to review a proposal presented last Thursday by the Faculty Association, Kelly said. "The package proposal was pre-

sented as the final negotiating tactic in negotiations yesterday," he said. "There are 73 additional issues to be bargained. We are no longer optimistic but still hope for a settlement." An agreement must be reached on six issues in order to avoid a strike. They are measurable workload, faculty job security, administrative accountability for academic program changes, non-contingent salary and benefits, recognition of the Faculty Association as the exclusive bargaining for the faculty and a change in administrative review of tenure and promotion. If a contract agreement including the six issues is reached, it must be endorsed by the Departmental Representative Council and then ratified by the voting members of the Faculty Association. Salary and benefit requests will

ask for equality with faculty salaries and retirement incentives in comparison with other university faculty. "So far we have reached tentative agreements on only three issues and one procedure," Kelly said. "The Board of Trustees' responses to our proposals have generally been dismissive." Recent contract negotiations have been productive, said Sue Davis, executive director of media and communication resources in a January issue of *The Daily Egyptian*. With negotiations continuing all this week, Davis said the administration negotiating team has always been willing to meet for extended sessions. "We've always said we're willing to meet anytime," Davis said. "We're willing to meet 24 hours a day around the clock."

Human Services construction work sticks to schedule

By Tim Martin
CAMPUS EDITOR

Although construction on the Human Services building was a week behind in early December, the lost time has been made up. "Some things have slipped, while others have gained, all because of the weather. But we're pretty much back on schedule," said John Kastigar, superintendent for Hannig Construction, the company in charge of Human Services construction. "I have been really surprised over the last two or three weeks of how much we got done." The new Human Services building, located between Thomas and Klehm halls, will combine Health Services, Career Services, the Counseling Center and the communication disorders and sciences department. Completion is tentatively set for June 16, 2003. Construction crews Monday were adding the final back-up masonry blocks to the northwest corner of the building. Kastigar said the section would be completed Monday and would allow the addition of outside face bricks to begin. Once the brick has been added, construction workers can begin dry walling the inside. The new 30,457-square-foot Human Services building was created in large part so the new Doudna Fine Arts Center, which is set for completion in 2005, could be extended across the street where the Clinical Services and Counseling Center buildings currently reside. Kastigar said construction is going on both outside and inside. A Dec. 3 edition of *The Daily Eastern News* said under-floor

"I have been really surprised over the last two or three weeks of how much we got done."
—John Kastigar

plumbing systems and electrical and mechanical equipment in the basement mechanical rooms already have been added. "Right now they are both all going together and should finish around the same time," Kastigar said. "We have added on the inside some electrical rough-in, sprinkler plumbing, door frames, and we are putting stairs in the south portion." The biggest dilemma now, Kastigar said, is completion of the building's roof, which has been lacking progression because of recent weather, and meeting university-set deadlines. "We're going to keep doing what we have been doing with the brick work, but we're really trying to put the roof in," Kastigar said. Karl Helmink, architectural mechanical engineer for facilities planning and managed, said in a Dec. 3 edition of *The Daily Eastern News* that if updates are not submitted on time, the contractors do not get paid. Kastigar said all deadlines have been met thus far. "We have been meeting each target, with the big one being the steel (construction) one," he said. "We sometimes work Saturdays to make deadline."

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EDITORIAL

Booth not open long enough

Booth Library's interior is a breath-taking sight, and its contents are an asset to students; however, it closes exceptionally early on weekends.

According to a recent Student Government survey, Booth Library's operating hours do not satisfy students' preferences.

Sixty-three percent of students surveyed said they would take advantage of extended library hours. However, the survey did not specify whether students preferred

more weekday hours or more weekend hours. The library already provides students with adequate operating hours on weekdays (closing time is midnight), but its 4:45 p.m. closing time on weekends is ridiculous and needs to be lengthened.

The university needs to realize the weekend represents the time frame when students' day and night schedules are not cluttered with classes and activities.

At issue
 Sixty-three percent of students in a recent Student Government survey want longer library operating hours

Our stance
 Eastern must serve students' needs and extend Booth's hours.

Students who are involved with athletics, band, Recognized Student Organizations or other time-consuming activities often rely on the weekend either to catch up or work ahead on their studies. Even students who don't have schedules that demand an overwhelming amount of time obviously need ample time to get their work done, and the current times aren't cutting it for them.

Booth does not need to be open 24 hours a day (the Gregg Triad computer lab and the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union study lab are available for students' use 24 hours). It just needs to add a few additional hours on weekends to better meet everyone's needs.

As a quiet haven, the library also allows students to get more work accomplished than they otherwise may at their residence halls or apartments.

Judging by the survey, Eastern is not serving students' needs effectively by not providing convenient library closing times.

Closing the library at 4:45 p.m. on weekends is certainly not allowing students to take advantage of the resources contained in the \$21 million renovated structure. Although 52 percent of students surveyed said they were forced to leave the library on a Sunday through Thursday, the abbreviated weekend hours are the main concern.

If this survey is right, more than half of students desire for the library to have longer hours of operation. Now the university needs to adjust Booth's hours accordingly by extending Friday and Saturday hours.

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

OPINION

Petty crimes focus of UPD



Caitlin Prendergast

Senior reporter and bi-weekly columnist for *The Daily Eastern News*

Prendergast also is a senior journalism major.

She can be reached at 581-2812 or cprendergast@eiu.edu

This campus draws thousands of students every year for many reasons. Undergraduates and parents are attracted to small class sizes, strong academics and low crime rates. Supposedly, Eastern is one of the safest campuses in Illinois, yet the city of Charleston and the university combined have two of the most incompetent police forces around.

Last August, a new addition to the faculty was nearly bludgeoned to death by a mob of six to eight men. Bill Feltt, an English instructor, was just taking a late-night stroll through campus when he was attacked.

He suffered serious injuries, couldn't return to the classroom for weeks and still lives in fear because his assailants have not been apprehended.

Feltt has every reason to be afraid, especially with the shoddy investigative work and overall apathy of the University Police Department in the five months since his assault.

The UPD claims to have no leads and places blame on Feltt's head injuries for the force's inability to catch any suspects. The department claims Feltt's story is inconsistent, but perhaps the UPD should acknowledge its own inconsistencies.

For instance, the police did not release a sketch of one of the suspects until December, which was far too long after the attack. The man portrayed in the sketch looks

"The department claims Feltt's story is inconsistent, but perhaps the UPD should acknowledge its own inconsistencies."

like half of the male population of Eastern and, not surprisingly, the vague drawing provided no leads in the investigation.

Obviously, months after the fact, Feltt is going to have a hard time describing his attackers. The UPD should have completed a sketch right away, and the police never should have believed a crappy pencil sketch would find the cowards who battered Feltt.

But the UPD remains patient, assuring the campus and the community that no time table on this crime investigation exists. The police aren't frustrated and seem completely content on waiting until someone talks.

What about Bill Feltt? Is he the only person involved in this investigation who is impatient and frustrated?

He's still hurting from the attack, mentally and physically, and he's still scared to walk around at night. When will justice be served for him?

Frankly, I'm not sure Feltt's

attackers will ever be found. I'd be more confident if Deputy Barney Fife were leading the investigation at this point.

Maybe if the cops around here were less concerned with issuing parking tickets, testing their worthless decibel meters and busting underage drinkers, they might actually prevent real crimes.

Earlier this year, the UPD and the Charleston police made about 12 unwanted visits to my house, citing noise disturbances and excessive displays of beer cans on the lawn. Sometimes, different officers would show up twice in the same night and many of the "charges" were completely unwarranted.

It got to the extent where my roommates and I felt harassed. At one point, I think I even asked the police if they had anything better to do than prey on a few people drinking on my porch.

It was around this same time, possibly even the same evening, that Feltt was attacked near the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

The innocent man who was assaulted that night will never be the same and neither will our safe little campus.

If the police spent more time protecting the peace, rather than disturbing the peaceful, they might spend less time embarrassing themselves when it's time to solve actual crimes.

Cartoon by Megan Glosser

I'm so sick of hearing about the "War on Terrorism" and "Showdown: Iraq."



We're warring with nations that possess WMDs, when we also manufacture such weapons...



Maybe I'm just an idealist, but I wish there was a way to resolve this without adding to the suffering of others.



Maybe I'll become a hippie :)

But, Maggie... Aren't you in the National Guard?



Yeah. So?

YOUR TURN: LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

English instructor not to blame

I visited Bill Feltt in the hospital two days after he was attacked on Eastern's campus Aug. 27 and on many occasions following the incident. I was impressed by the lucidity and calm with which he reported what had happened. He seemed to remember everything: the place, the appearance of his attackers, what was said, what blows were thrown in which order.

Given that he had very

nearly lost his life, his recall seemed truly remarkable, and I always thought his self-possession must owe something to his training in Tae Kwan Do, a martial arts discipline he has followed much of his life.

Now, nearly five months after the episode, we are suddenly hearing ugly charges of "inconsistency" applied to Bill's reports to the police. I very much hope police offi-

cer Adam Due's remarks, as reported in Thursday's edition of *The Daily Eastern News*, were somehow garbled in transmission. If not, it looks as if the police, who have made no progress in the

case, are trying to deflect criticism by an instantly recognizable strategy: blaming the victim.

John Kilgore
 English professor

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: The Daily Eastern News accepts letters to the editor addressing local, state, national and international issues. They should be less than 250 words and include the authors' name, telephone number and address. Students should indicate their year in school and major. Faculty, administration and staff should indicate their position and department. Letters whose authors cannot be verified will not be printed. Depending on space constraints, we may edit letters, so keep it concise. Letters can be sent to *The Daily Eastern News* at 1811 Buzzard Hall, Charleston IL 61920; faxed to 217-581-2923; or e-mailed to majones@eiu.edu

Students win, lose, draw in 'Deal'

By Matthew Kent
ACTIVITIES REPORTER

Several students had the opportunity to win prizes during the "Let's Make a Deal" game at Eastern's men and women's doubleheader of basketball games against Tennessee-Martin Saturday night.

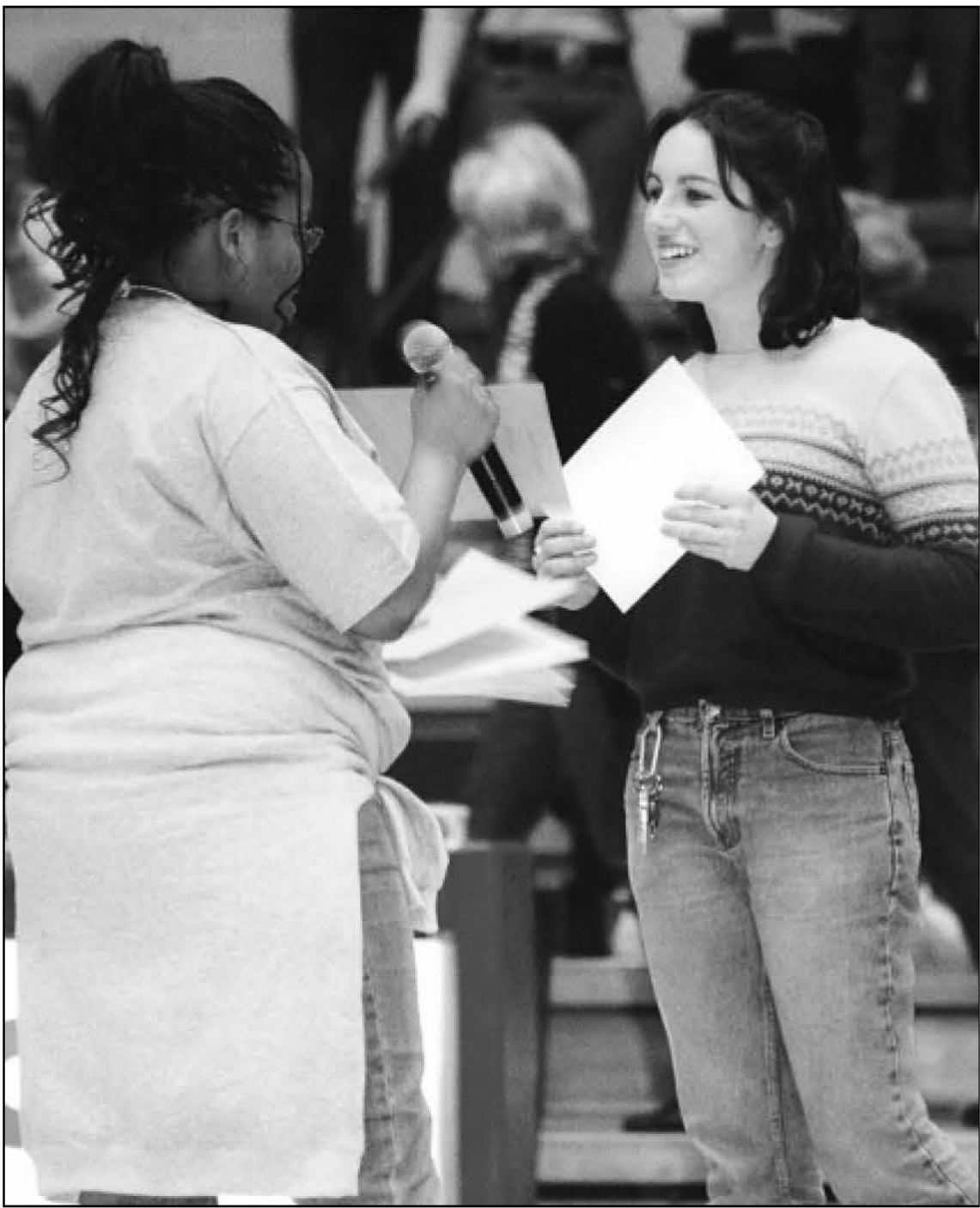
Students were selected from the audience and were asked random questions during timeouts in the first half of the game to compete at half-time in "Let's Make a Deal," an event similar to the game show.

Students were given the option to stay with the prize offered, a \$25 gift card to Wal-Mart, or they had the chance to go for three random prizes hidden beneath boxes.

Prizes students could have selected included a DVD player, a karaoke machine, telephone or Wal-Mart gift certificates. Other unusual prizes students could have selected beneath the boxes included stuffed animals, a bag of kitty litter, or a bag of trash.

Andy Messerli, a junior music education major, declined the \$25 gift card that was offered and decided to go for a better prize. He selected one of three possible prizes and picked a pair of Disney Goofy slippers.

Matt Caraway, a sophomore history and pre-law major, also turned down the offer of a gift card and picked a box that contained \$105 worth of gift cards to Wal-Mart.



COLIN MCAULIFFE/PHOTO EDITOR

Jessica Horwitz, a freshman geology and radiation physics major, one of three winners as part of the "Let's Make a Deal: Pack the Place" promotion, chooses the \$50 gift certificate to Wal-Mart Saturday evening in Lantz Arena.

"I think it's awesome," Caraway said.

Matt O'Malley, a freshman speech communications major, won a telephone along with a

mug.

"I am satisfied with the lovely gifts that were given to me at halftime, but would rather have a date with No. 10 (sophomore

guard Sara Riva)," O'Malley said.

The Pink Panthers dance team performed at halftime with area youth.

Blue Crew cheers on Panther basketball

◆ Spirited RSO revs up fans over weekend

By Avian Carrasquillo
STUDENT GOVERNMENT EDITOR

The Blue Crew was in full force last weekend supporting Eastern men's and women's basketball against the University of Tennessee-Martin at Lantz Arena.

The blue sea of T-shirts, along with the occasional painted face, was immersed in the Eastern student section.

Both the men's and women's teams were victorious, with the Blue Crew cheering section rooting behind them.

The Blue Crew, which began as a small following, has grown and is now a Recognized Student Organization.

Student Body President Alison Mormino, whose platform included increasing support for the Blue Crew, was in the middle of all the action.

"I think the Blue Crew, along with the cheerleaders, had a big impact on the game. Players would consistently point at our section after big plays urging us to pump up the crowd. I think the crowd really helped give the team some momentum," Mormino said.

The following for the Blue Crew currently only covers men's and women's basketball but could extend to other sports.

"I would love to see the following extend to other sports. I think we could have an impact on the games," Mormino said. "All we need is a good group of people to get the ball rolling."

The men's basketball team won 68-60, while the women's basketball team won 81-70.

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Students struggle to find study spots

By Ryan Terrell
STAFF WRITER

It's the night before an important test and it's hard to concentrate while doing some late night cramming.

So what do most students do? Students have many methods of studying, and some still have not found a proper way to study.

Matt Deckman, a freshman marketing major, finds it easier to concentrate while listening to music.

"I usually study in my room," he said. "I find it extremely hard to concentrate when it's too quiet, so I usually throw on some classic rock when I'm studying."

"I'm always pretty busy during the day with class and rugby practice, so the time that I do have to study is very valuable to me," Deckman said.

Freshman undecided major Candie Zichmiller also enjoys listening to music while studying but takes a more quiet approach.

"I like listening to softer music, especially classical music," Zichmiller said. "Heavier music makes it difficult for me to focus, but with classical music, I feel relaxed."

Some students find it hard to study in loud surroundings, especially in their room. Colleen Murphy, a special education major, struggles while studying in her room.

"Between my roommate and other people on the floor, there never is a truly quiet time to accomplish what I want to," she said. "Usually I do not have enough time to walk to the library, or sometimes I am just too lazy to do so."

Gino Pacetti, a freshman political science major at Marquette University in Milwaukee, said perhaps Eastern's quiet hours are not soundly enforced, but Murphy didn't think so.

"My dorm floor is always loud, between my roommate blaring the TV and other kids on the floor blasting music. I can never concentrate," Pacetti said. "It's only about a four-



COLIN MCAULIFFE/PHOTO EDITOR

Todd Miller, a senior math major with teacher's certification, works on math homework Monday evening in the 24-hour study lab in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union. Miller prefers the lab to his apartment because it has good lighting, it's quiet and there's space to put all his books.

block walk to our library, but most of the time I am too lazy or it is just too cold to walk there."

Janessa Cannon, a nursing major at Saint Xavier University in Chicago, agrees.

"I find it very hard to concentrate when people are coming in and out of my room at all hours," Cannon said. "Something needs to be done. I should be able to have some quiet time without the nuisance of having to walk to

the library."

Elizabeth Coleman, an undecided major at Western Michigan University, found a way to ease her studying problems.

"I get distracted very easily, but when I study in the laundry room I am much more focused," Coleman said. "I don't know what it is, but I gain a lot more out of the time I spend there than I would if I attempted to study in my room."

Student Senate wants to bridge gap with paint

◆ *Bucket Brigade project will link student volunteers with Charleston citizens for home improvement*

By Avian Carrasquillo
STUDENT GOVERNMENT EDITOR

In an attempt to bridge the gap between Eastern students and residents of Charleston, Student Body President Alison Mormino has undertaken a volunteer program modeled after one in her hometown of Alton.

The community service project, also known as "Bucket Brigade," will have Eastern students painting the homes of underprivileged Charleston residents.

"Traditionally the project helped the elderly and low-income residents in Alton. There was a committee set up to decide what homes would be painted. We're still deciding how that will be taken care of in Charleston. There's a loan available to residents to fix up their homes. We were thinking of working on the homes of those that didn't qualify for the loans," Mormino said.

"I'm still working with the city manager, Alan Probst, to decide what homes would qualify," Mormino said.

"It's a good project. I liked the idea. We have a grant and loan program for low income residents. This year we had 30 applications and only money for about 10 of those people, so this program could benefit the other 20," Probst said.

Probst said that while the program is still in the preliminary stages, Mormino can expect full cooperation with the city.

Mormino estimates the program will benefit 50 homes and use over 800 gallons of paint.

"I've worked with Cindy Titus to work on soliciting donations from local businesses like Ace Hardware and Home Depot," Mormino said.

Cindy Titus, the executive director of the Charleston Area Chamber of Commerce, could not be reached for comment Monday.

"At this point nothing is set in stone, but I'm looking at the late spring for a target date, possibly mid-April before school lets out. I'd like to have a picnic afterwards to celebrate the project," Mormino said.

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Lawmakers play musical chairs in office swap

SPRINGFIELD (AP) — Lawmakers at the Statehouse are playing musical chairs as Senate Democrats take over Republican digs in an office swap that GOP officials call an unnecessary expense.

The turnover comes as Democrats have taken control of the Senate after 10 years of Republican leadership.

The final cost of the switch isn't known, but Republicans complain the expense comes at a time when the state faces a budget hole Gov. Rod Blagojevich estimates at nearly \$5 billion.

"The bigger frustration is that it could cost as much as half a million dollars at a time when we're facing a deficit and we can't pay our bills," said Sen. Dave Syverson, a Rockford Republican.

Sen. Donne Trotter, a Chicago Democrat, dismissed Republican claims about the cost, saying the only sum he has heard discussed is \$100,000.

"This is just sour grapes," Trotter said. "They've lost, and they just don't want to move."

The switch includes party leaders and rank-and-file members. The space Republicans are using



is supposed to be for the majority party, said Cindy Davidsmeyer, spokeswoman for Senate President Emil Jones Jr., a Chicago Democrat.

But Syverson believes the move is purely political because Democrats remodeled their offices several years ago.

"It's a way to, I think, show the Republicans who's the boss and what they're capable of doing," Syverson said.

The Senate reconvenes Feb. 4. It's unclear when the move, which includes rewiring each party's computer systems, will be complete.

Patty Schuh, spokeswoman for Senate Republican Minority Leader Frank Watson of Greenville, said the offices are the

ones they've been using for years regardless of majority or minority status.

"The Senate has never done a move like this," she said. "We do not switch rank-and-file members."

The Democrats got bids for wiring work, and a Springfield company submitted the low bid for about \$59,000. The money for the Democrats' rewiring will come from the Legislative Information Service revolving fund, which has fees from lobbyists, law firms and others who access a computer system to track legislation, Davidsmeyer said.

Diversity: Campus programs in the works to promote diversity

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

President Earl Solomon. "There were a few white guys interested in joining last semester, but their grades weren't there," Solomon said. "When we meet people, we view them as individuals. We don't look at ethnicity-we look at character."

Solomon said diversity is improving at Eastern, but a lot of work needs to be done, especially when it comes to minorities and non-minorities interacting.

"I think the campus is diverse, but students and staff need to step out of their comfort zones and work with other groups," said Monique Cook-Bey, assistant director of student life.

For instance, Cook-Bey said many students assume the Miss Black EIU Pageant is open to African-American women only. The pageant, which pays tribute to African-American culture, is open to any contestant and was created to promote diversity.

Despite certain misconceptions, students in general have a very high support rate for diversity on campus, said Cynthia Nichols, director of civil rights.

Nichols launched an ongoing study on diversity with members of the psychology department in the fall of 2001. Through a telephone survey of random students, many questions on diversity, campus climate and overall attitude about the university yielded positive results.

Of those surveyed 96 percent said it was

important to have a diverse student body. The overall attitude about Eastern was highly favorable, and the study found that students felt they were treated fairly in the classroom despite their differences.

"It's clear from the responses that students recognize that diversity on campus is an important issue, just as it is in society," Nichols said. "Yet there remains a number of issues that need to be explored and addressed to continue to improve the campus climate."

Some students involved in the survey said interaction between different groups of people doesn't happen as much as they would like, and a large number said students should be required to take classes on diversity.

"We're planning on resurveying this coming fall, but this spring we want to have focus groups on a variety of narrowed topics to get clear perceptions on what students say about each other," Nichols said.

Another event to promote diversity planned for this spring is a student government-sponsored "Unity Week."

Lisa Flam, student vice president for student affairs, is organizing "Unity Week," which will feature motivational speakers, open forums and student-provided entertainment to celebrate all differences.

"Unity Week" will take a broad look at diversity, focusing on more than just racial and cultural differences, Flam said.

"The university has made a valid attempt to increase minorities and bring more international students to Eastern," she said. "Let's take a second and understand the awesomeness of this and be proud of the fact that these things are happening on our campus."

Memory: Stewart: Remember MLK's legacy

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"People feel they need to celebrate (King's) life and his struggles. This is really the most important event we do all year."

Nationwide, Martin Luther King, Jr. is becoming more widely celebrated. Arizona recently decided to recognize the holiday

and a push for a national King memorial in Washington, D.C.

"This is a nationwide celebration," Stewart said. "Even in states where it isn't officially recognized, people celebrate it. This holiday grows bigger each year, and we hope that continues."

Stewart said everyone can remember King in their own way, and he hopes that everyone takes time to do so during the holiday.

"We hope this march can help people remember his legacy," Stewart said. "We're proud to offer this opportunity."

Honor: Services, music accompany MLK celebrations

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Following the march, a service was held in the University Ballroom with a video presentation and several songs along with keynote speaker Claude McGee.

Nicole Hodges opened the service as she sang the Black National Anthem, which several members of the audience sang along.

A praise dance was also held, which was performed through body movements and dance accompanied by music with encouragement from the audience through clapping.

The Unity Gospel Choir sang three songs including, "We Shall Overcome."

The program displayed a video presentation on King's achievements.

Keynote speaker Claude McGee spoke about dreams and paraphrased King's famous "I Have a Dream" speech.

"Do you have a dream?" McGee said. "If you have a dream, what are you doing to make sure your dream comes true?"


He also spoke of how people can make a difference on Eastern's campus.

"How can you take that dream and make a difference on this campus? We can all make our dreams come true," McGee said. He spoke of King's successful tactics to make the world a better place today. "He took a vision and made it happen and made it better for us here today," McGee said. McGee also spoke of the importance of education and how education is the key to attain your dream.

"It was my education and intellect that got me where I am today," McGee said. "If you have an 'A' mentality, you are making your dream come true."

"Because of my education and intellect, it made me realize how important an education is."

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New mascot on Prowl

STAFF REPORT

‘Prowler’ was announced as the official nickname for the Eastern Illinois University athletic mascot before Saturday’s men’s basketball game against Tennessee-Martin.

The name was selected by a committee composed of women’s basketball player Kayla Bloemer, cheer team co-captian Mike Mantonya, men’s basketball head coach Rick Samuels, student body president Alison Mormino and Dave Kidwell, assistant athletic director of marketing and sports information.

Prowler was chosen from



names submitted during the fall by Eastern students and staff.

“The athletic department has had various Panther mascot costumes over the years, but never formally adopted an official nickname,” Kidwell said in a press release. “It was determined by the athletic administration that this is the proper time to attach an official nickname.”

The mascot will appear at various home and away athletic events and select functions off campus.

“We believe Prowler will appropriately represent both the men’s and women’s teams,” Kidwell said.

Women’s Final Score

		
Eastern Panthers	Morehead St. Eagles	
52	47	
(3-12, 2-3)	(10-5, 3-1)	
<hr/>		
High Scorers	FG-FGA	TP
Eastern		
M. Sparks	4-11	14
L. Dailey	5-12	14
K. Meyers	4-10	10
B. Gossett	1-5	4
A. Collins	2-3	4
Morehead State		
B. Park	7-12	18
B. Schnakenberg	4-14	12
L. Cornn	1-3	4
L. Trumblee	2-3	4
K. Head	1-4	4

Claw:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12



Senior guard Craig Lewis contributed 13 points and seven rebounds while J.R. Reynolds added 11 points off the bench.

The Skyhawks were led by guard Earl Bullock, who cashed in for 19 points and seven rebounds. Forward Joey Walker added 18 points on 8-of-9 shooting before he fouled out with six minutes left.

Samuels hopes his players can take advantage of two days off from practice to recover from a hectic first half of their season.

“I think our kids need rest,” Samuels said. “It’s draining when you go through a stretch like this where you play a lot of games on the road and have some close games like this.”

Men’s Final Score

		
Eastern Panthers	Tenn.-Martin Skyhawks	
68	60	
(6-10, 2-3)	(10-5, 3-1)	
<hr/>		
High Scorers	FG-FGA	TP
Eastern		
H. Domercant	4-19	19
C. Lewis	4-7	13
J.R. Reynolds	4-11	11
J. Sinclair	4-4	8
J. Thorsen	3-3	7
Tennessee-Martin		
E. Bullock	7-20	19
J. Walker	8-9	18
O. Egbe	5-7	13
K. Asceris	1-8	3
J.C. Howe	1-4	3

Hangs: Sparks ignites Eastern with 14 points

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

The inbounds pass went to Sparks who was intentionally fouled. However, Sparks did not get to go straight to the line, the officials had a brief discussion at midcourt before they gave Sparks the ball.

Sparks was not unsettled by the referee’s delay.

“I felt pretty comfortable,” Sparks said. “I’ve always been confident in my free throw

ability.”

The freshman did not miss a beat and sank her first free throw. Then Eastern head coach Linda Wunder called a timeout to discuss her team’s defense following the second free throw. Sparks made the second free throw to give the Panthers a five-point lead and secure the win.

“Megan is a great free throw shooter,” Eastern head coach Linda Wunder said. “She is really confident and wants to be in those situations.”

Murray inbounded the ball and got off a futile three-point attempt that bounced off the rim as time expired to give the Panthers their second consecutive win.

Sparks and Dailey finished the game with

“Megan is a great free throw shooter. She is really confident and wants to be in those situations.”

—Linda Wunder

a team high 14 points. Meyers also reached double digits with 10 points in 36 minutes.

Meyers made her presence felt on defense as well. She pulled down six rebounds and made two blocks and a pair of steals.

“Murray ran a lot of four guard, true four guard offense,” Wunder said. “(Meyers) is the best player we have right now in the post to defend that.”

Murray made the game easy for the Panthers. The Racers made a meager 33 percent of their shots, and their leading scorer this season, senior forward Beth Schnakenberg, sat out most of the first half with foul trouble.

The Racers also committed 20 turnovers in game.

Brittany Park came off the bench to lead the Racers in scoring with 18 points and Schnakenberg scored all of her 12 points in the second half, but the rest of the Racers were kept under five points a piece.

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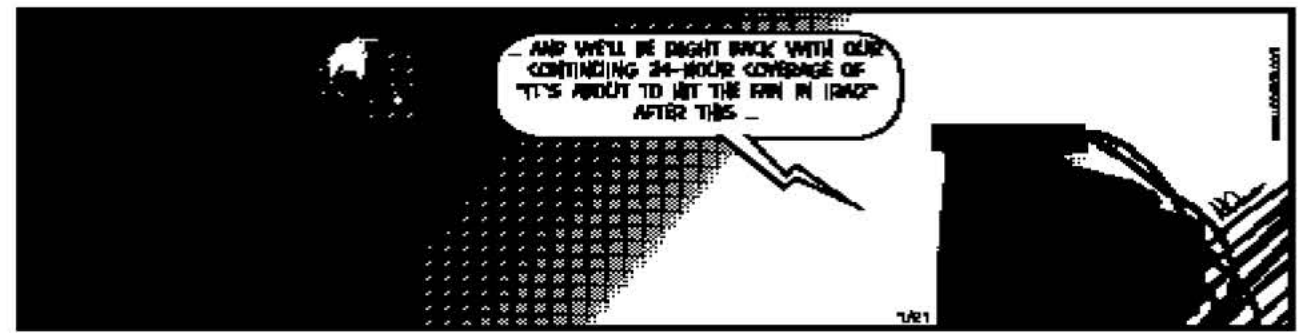
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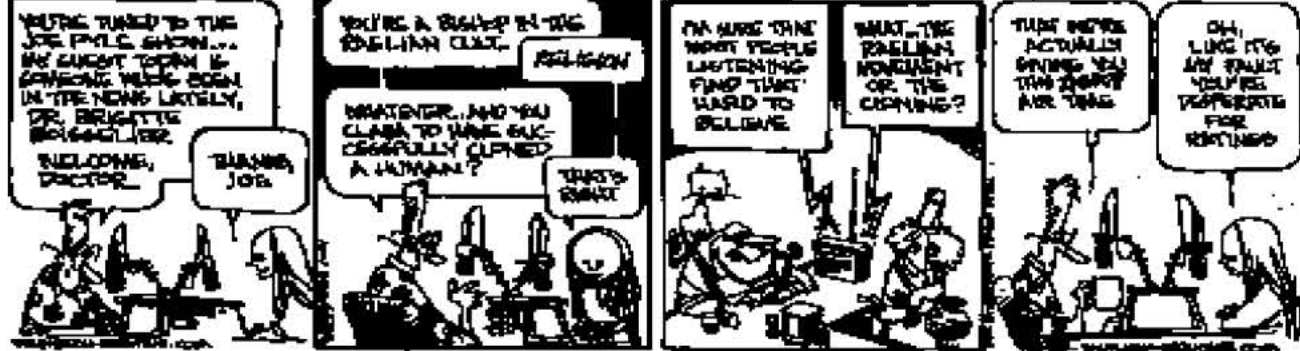
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WRESTLING

Young, injury-filled Panthers fall to Indiana

◆ Eastern loses 35-13 to Indiana to drop to 3-7 in dual meets

By Jason Blasco
STAFF WRITER

The injury-riddled Eastern wrestling team ran smack into the Big 10 conference Indiana Hoosiers and lost the dual meet 35-13 on Jan. 17.

"It was hard to swallow. They pushed us around on our own mat, that is frustrating and difficult to take," Panthers head coach Ralph McCausland said. "The best word to sum up the meet would be frustrating."

The healthier and more experienced Hoosiers took advantage of the Panthers, who currently have five wrestlers out due to injury. Juniors Pat Dowty, 133, Jerod Bruner, 141, and Clay French, 174, and sophomores Jim Kassner, 197, and Pete Ziminski, 285, had to sit during Friday's meet. Indiana used this advantage to take a commanding 14-0 team lead after the conclusion of the first three matches.

"I think the biggest factor was we're young, we're injured and we didn't have a full lineup that could have made the score a little closer," McCausland said. "Those are some of the factors that contributed to the lopsided team scores. Guys are going to take their lumps. We hope that we mature fast enough to get a little bit better by the time the season ends."

Despite being down by a team score of

"The best word to sum up the meet would be frustrating."

—Ralph McCausland

14-0 early, the Panthers managed to fight back in the dual match behind the efforts of senior Frank DeFilippis. DeFilippis won his individual match against Hoosier wrestler J.P. Stanley 8-2. Matt Veach won the next match for the Panthers. He defeated Alex LaPointe 12-4 to cut the team deficit in half 14-7.

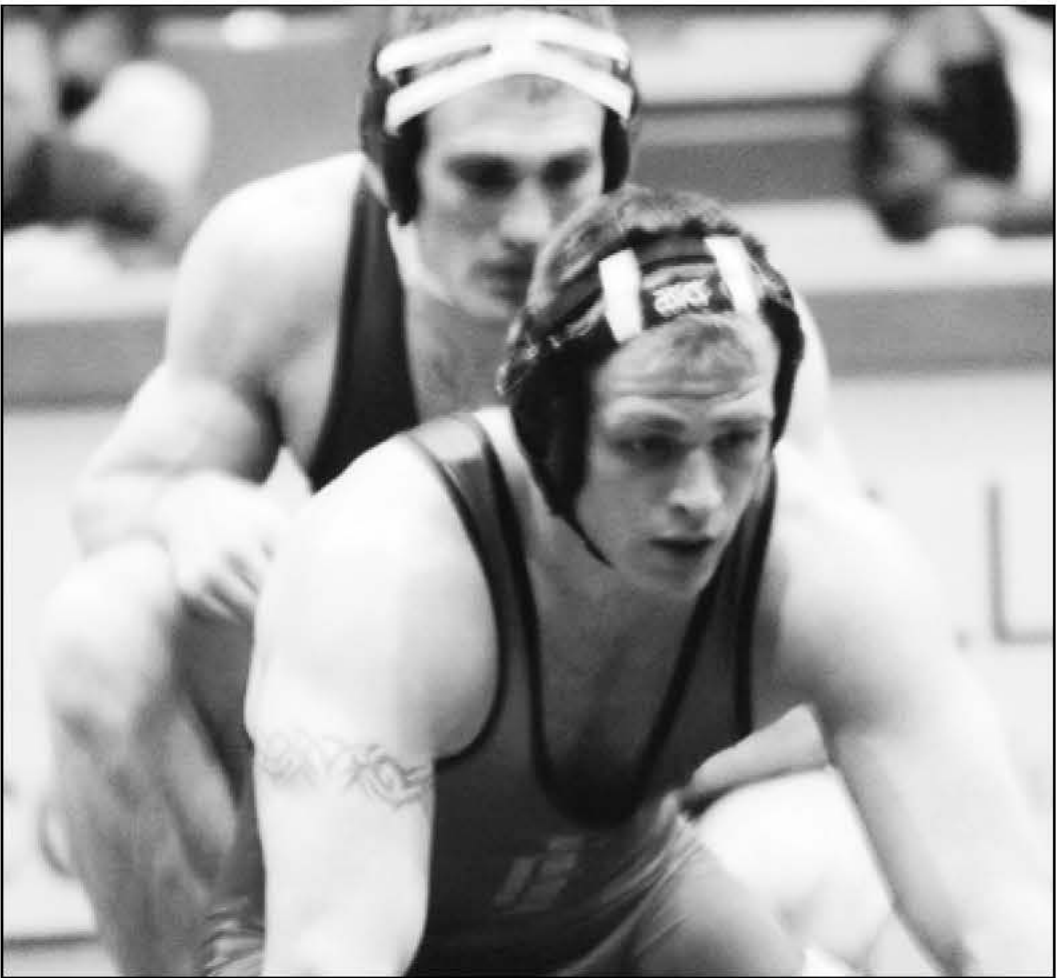
"(Veach and DeFilippis) stepped up and won their matches. They didn't show any fear of their opponents, and they did whatever it took to get the job done and win the match," McCausland said.

The momentum that the Panthers created, propelled by those two individuals, fizzled after Eastern freshman Tom Tovello lost to Andrew Wolf 3-9, and then Josh Lepper fell to Ty Matthews in 2:37.

In the end, three straight forfeits buried Eastern.

"Well, I think Indiana University has some talented individuals. They held very good position and stayed on the attack consistently and that showed in the team score," McCausland said. "We had guys that gave up major decisions and falls. You just can't give up those kind of things."


The Panthers next meet will be Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville on Jan. 24 at 6 p.m.



COLIN MCCAULIFFE/PHOTO EDITOR

Junior Josh Lepper prepares for his match against Indiana junior Ty Matthews Friday at Lantz Arena. Matthews won the match in 2:37.

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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

O'Connor decides to redshirt

By Jamie Hussey
STAFF WRITER

Junior center Pam O'Connor made a decision to redshirt this basketball season because of her injured knee.

"I didn't know if I was ready to play, and this is the point where you make the decision and my knee just wasn't ready yet," O'Connor said.

O'Connor had knee surgery after she injured her anterior cruciate ligament last spring during a pick-up game. Over the summer O'Connor needed another surgery after she fractured her patella

while doing a leg press. The surgeries prevented Eastern's leading scorer from the 2001-2002 season from playing in the four August exhibition games in Australia and have sidelined her for the team's first 14 games.

O'Connor is working with trainer Katie Rybak to help rehabilitate her knee and resumed practicing with the team in December. Rybak said her goal for O'Connor was to have her at 100 percent by Ohio Valley Conference tournament time. O'Connor said she is having trouble just watching from the bench, but she realizes that it is

best for her knee to recover fully.

"The team and coaching staff has been very supportive of my decision," O'Connor said. "I feel I can help the team more by coming back for two years at 100 percent rather than about a fourth of this season and just another year afterwards."

Rybak is supportive of O'Connor's decision and did not want



Pam O'Connor

to push her into a premature return.

"Pam felt this was the best decision for her, and I was not going to force her to play," Rybak said.

Eastern's Women's Basketball Coach Linda Wunder had faith in O'Connor's decision.

"I agree with the decision she made. I think it's best for her," Wunder said. "I told her to be self-ish and think of what would be best for you."

O'Connor has already accomplished so much with just two years of play. She ranks 20th on Eastern's all-time scoring list with 861 points.

O'Connor was the third fastest sophomore to reach 500 points, and she earned the Ohio Valley Conference Player of the Week three times. The junior has scored double digits in 49 of the 55 games in which she has played.

"Redshirting gives Pam the opportunity not to rush back when she may not be fully 100 percent," Wunder said. "Plus the fact she can obviously practice the rest of the season, get her confidence back and be ready for next season."

O'Connor will have two more years to play after she finishes her redshirt year.

Panthers end losing skid

By Michael Gilbert
STAFF WRITER

The Eastern women's basketball team snapped its nine-game losing streak on Saturday by defeating Tennessee-Martin 81-70 at Lantz Arena.

The Panthers scored a season high 81 points and had six players in double figures including a team high 17 from senior forward Brooke Gossett.

Gossett was 8-10 shooting and added four rebounds and two assists in 31 minutes of action. Center Allison Collins was perfect from the field. The 6-foot-2 inch junior connected on all five shots she attempted and finished the game with 10 points.

Redshirt freshman Ashley Kearney dished out a game high eight assists

and was glad the losing streak was in the books.

"It's about time," Kearney said. "Our offense executed very well tonight."

The Panthers built up a big lead early. Eastern opened up a 13-1 advantage on the Skyhawks (5-10, 2-2 OVC) in the games first few minutes and took a 16-point lead into halftime.

"When we were up 16, I thought 'Oh my gosh we have to keep this lead,'" Gossett said.

The Panthers kept the lead and won its first game in nearly two months.

One of the key factors to the victory was the Panthers strong shooting from the floor. Eastern shot an impressive 64 percent from the field, including 74 percent in the second half. Tennessee-Martin only connected on 43 percent of its shots.

"We had a bit of a height advantage, and we were getting some open looks," Gossett said.

Head coach Linda Wunder was also pleased with the shooting display put on by the Panthers.

"When you shoot the ball well, it makes things easier," Wunder said. "I really think we stepped up tonight and made big baskets when we needed to."

The win gave the Panthers some much needed confidence heading into the second half of a season, where they hope to turn around their year.

"We believe that any team in this conference we can play with," said Gossett. "We just have to go out there and prove it."

The Panthers will have their chance to do that with their final 12 games against Ohio Valley Conference foes.

Wittke could be on the move

STAFF REPORT

Eastern head coach Bob Spoo confirmed Monday that Panthers offensive coordinator Roy Wittke is a finalist for the quarterback coach position at Arkansas University.

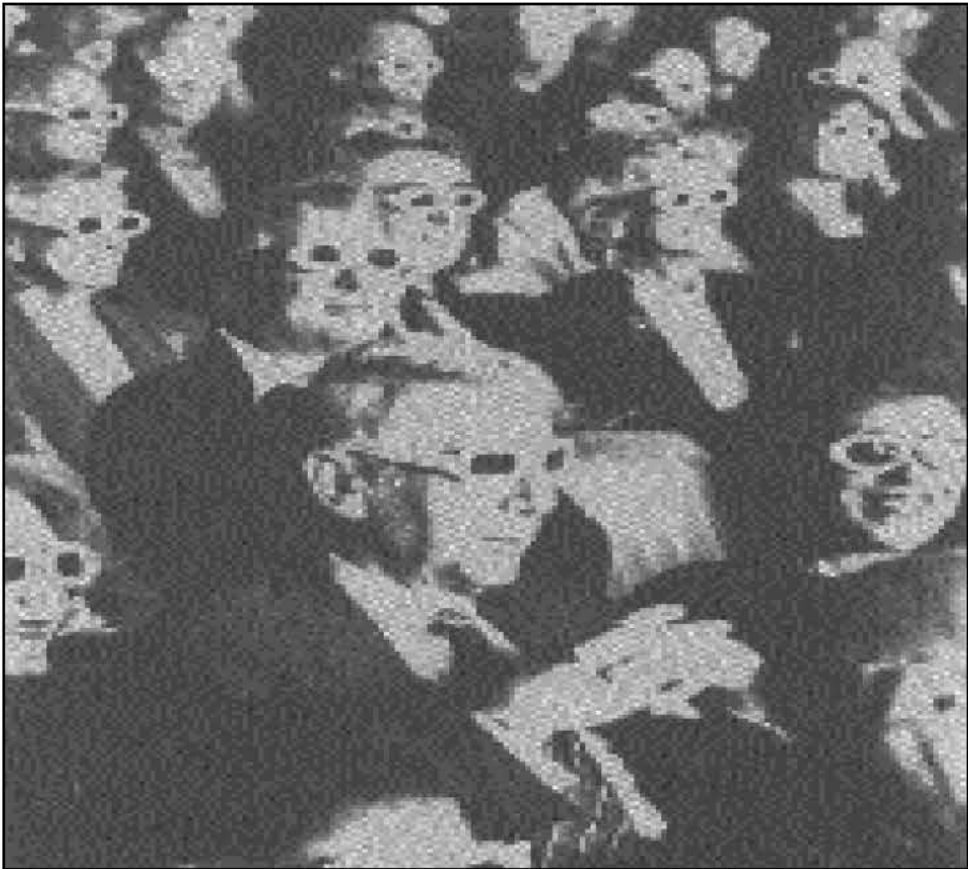
Wittke lifted his national status by being named the NCAA Division I-AA 2002 Assistant Coach of the Year by the American Football Coaches Association after guiding an offense that scored 35.3 points per game and over 452 yards last season.

Wittke declined comment Monday about working for Razorbacks head coach Houston Nutt who started his coaching career at Ohio Valley Conference rival Murray State.

Wittke has 13 seasons of experience as Eastern's offensive coordinator under Spoo.

The final list and the date of the announcement is unknown at the present time.

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SPORTS

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SATURDAY	M Basketball vs. Aurora	7:10 p.m. Lantz Arena
	Swimming vs. Valparaiso	1 p.m.
	MW Track EIU Triangular	11 a.m. Lantz Fieldhouse

LONGSHOT



Matt Meinheit
PHOTO EDITOR

What was wrong with Billy?

The weekend proved successful for Eastern in Lantz Arena except for one thing.

The men's basketball team rallied in the second half on a come-from-behind victory over Tennessee-Martin 68-60 and the women's team led Tennessee-Martin wire-wire to break a nine-game losing streak.

The only disappointing event of the weekend was the unveiling of the new nickname for the Panther mascot.

Prowler. What kind of name is that? It sounds more like a Plymouth — not a college mascot.

The athletic department wanted a name that was inoffensive and non-gender specific. Well I have no clue what gender the name "Prowler" would be associated with, so they did meet that goal. However, having a mascot named after an activity that is associated with criminal acts is a super idea.

Prowler would be a good nickname for someone that worked for the Nixon administration not Eastern's Panther.

I can see what the athletic department was going for. We're the Panthers and we're on the prowl, but the mascot is just supposed to entertain fans with incendiary antics.

You say the name "Prowler," and I think of someone dressed in black lurking in the dark staring at the windows of Andrews Hall trying to sneak a peak of a couple of Eastern's female coeds.

My question is, what was wrong with Billy in the first place?

Dave Kidwell, assistant athletic director of marketing and sports information, said Billy was just "a slang term" used to help the fund raising efforts to purchase a new costume last year.

Why couldn't the athletic department formally adopt Billy? Billy is inoffensive, already known by students and could be non-gender specific.

Many women have the name Billy. Billie Jean King and Billie Holiday come to mind. Sure the spellings are different, but that is only semantics.

The important thing is the name Billy had some history and tradition to it. Billy might not have been around when Eastern was founded in 1895, but it has been around longer than Prowler.

A name with some history and tradition would be appropriate for Eastern, a school that prides itself on those virtues. Eastern likes to sell the image of Old Main as a symbol of its 100-plus-year history. Why not sell Billy's image as part of that tradition?

Is it because the athletic department seems to want to separate itself from the university? Eastern wants to bring its history to the forefront, while the athletic department wants a newer, more modern image to represent itself.

But whining won't do Billy any good because Prowler will now be stalking the sidelines at Eastern athletic events.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Eastern hangs on for 52-47 win

◆ *Racers struggle to 33 percent from the field in loss to Panthers*

By Matt Meinheit
SPORTS EDITOR

Eastern only trailed twice against Murray State Monday night in Lantz Arena and held the lead for the last 29 minutes of the game, but the Racers were never out of the game.

After breaking a nine-game losing streak Saturday against Tennessee-Martin, the Panthers picked up their second consecutive win by the score of 52-47.

"It feels really good," junior guard Lauren Dailey said. "First time in a long time to get a win and now it's two in a row."

The Panthers (3-12, 2-3) started the second half with a 14-point lead, and freshman guard Megan Sparks added two more to the lead early in the half, but the Racers (4-11, 0-4) cut the lead down to five with 11:28 remaining in the game. After that, the Panthers' lead never exceeded nine points.

However, Eastern was able to maintain its lead with timely shooting.

After Murray cut the lead to five, Sparks made a basket and junior forward Katie Meyers added another to bring the lead back up to nine.

The Racers were able to get within four of the Panthers with 4:36 left to play, but junior guard Lauren Dailey answered with a pair of buckets to maintain the Panthers lead.

With 1:01 left in the game, the Panther lead was back down to four. Sparks made the first of a pair of free throws to give the Panthers a five-point lead, but the Racers made a basket with 10 seconds left to make the score 50-47.

SEE HANGS ◆ Page 9



STEPHEN HAAS/ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR

Freshman guard Megan Sparks attacks the basket against Morehead State Monday night in Lantz Arena. Sparks had 14 points in the Panthers 52-47 win.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Panthers claw back for OVC victory

◆ *Eastern comes back from 16-point deficit to take a 68-60 victory*

By Matt Williams
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

Eastern men's basketball head coach Rick Samuels loves coaching because of games like the one he saw on Saturday. His Panthers clawed back from a 16 point second half deficit to win 68-60 in an important Ohio Valley Conference game against Tennessee-Martin at Lantz Arena.

"You can't imagine how much I love coaching," Samuels said. "I'll go home and sleep well tonight."

The Panthers (6-10, 2-3) needed something to turn around the game after falling behind 50-34 with just under 12 minutes remaining in the game. Samuels looked down the bench to junior guard Ramon Taylor to be the savior.

"You just have to appreciate a kid like Mone (Taylor)," Samuels said. "He wants to play, and he's had to sit and sit. As coaches, we were grasping at our last straw. Mone was our only hope."

Taylor proved to be just what the team needed as he started the 24-6 Eastern run which gave the Panthers their first lead of the game with 3:53 left in the game.

"We just got the spark from Ramon," Eastern junior forward John Thorsen said. "Our defense created offense and the crowd was really crazy. That fueled us a lot."

Eastern started the game by shooting a dismal 25 percent from the field in the first half as the Skyhawks (10-5, 3-1) commanded a 33-25 lead.

Senior guard Henry Domercant could not get started as he struggled with just 1-of-11 shooting at the end of the first 20 minutes of play.

Eastern had no choice but to have a second half revival and kept high hopes coming out of the locker room.

"We had no other option but to come back," Taylor said. "I don't think at halftime we thought the game was over. Coach chewed us out and told us if we don't come out hard, it's over. He said we had to lay it all on the line, and who knows what would happen."

Domercant had a team high 19 points on 4-of-19 shooting from the field. Despite his shooting woes, he was able to help the team in other aspects of the game. He led the team in both assists (7) and rebounds (13) and also had the teams only block during a crucial part of the game.

SEE CLAW ◆ Page 9



STEPHEN HAAS/ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR

Senior guard Henry Domercant goes for a jump shot over Tennessee-Martin sophomore guard Jeremy Kelly in Eastern's 68-60 win at Lantz Arena on Saturday. Domercant finished with 19 points, 13 rebounds and 7 assists.