

2-8-2007

Daily Eastern News: February 08, 2007

Eastern Illinois University

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"TELL THE TRUTH AND DON'T BE AFRAID."

WWW.DENNEWS.COM

the DAILY EASTERN NEWS

THURSDAY
2.8.07

Eastern Illinois University, Charleston

Volume | 93 Issue | 23

CITY | COURT

T-shirt used in Jackson trial

State police officer finds stained clothes in attack suspect's closet

By Rob Siebert
Senior City Reporter

The trial of Patrick Jackson, who is suspected of attacking an Eastern student in her apartment on Sept. 14, 2005, continues today.

The Charleston Police Department reported that the student awoke in her bed to find a stranger beside her. She said he had a knife in his hand and slashed her in several places.

When the student's roommate discovered what was happening, the man fled the scene.

On Wednesday, the jury heard testimony from a state police officer who examined both the student's apartment and Jackson's apartment.

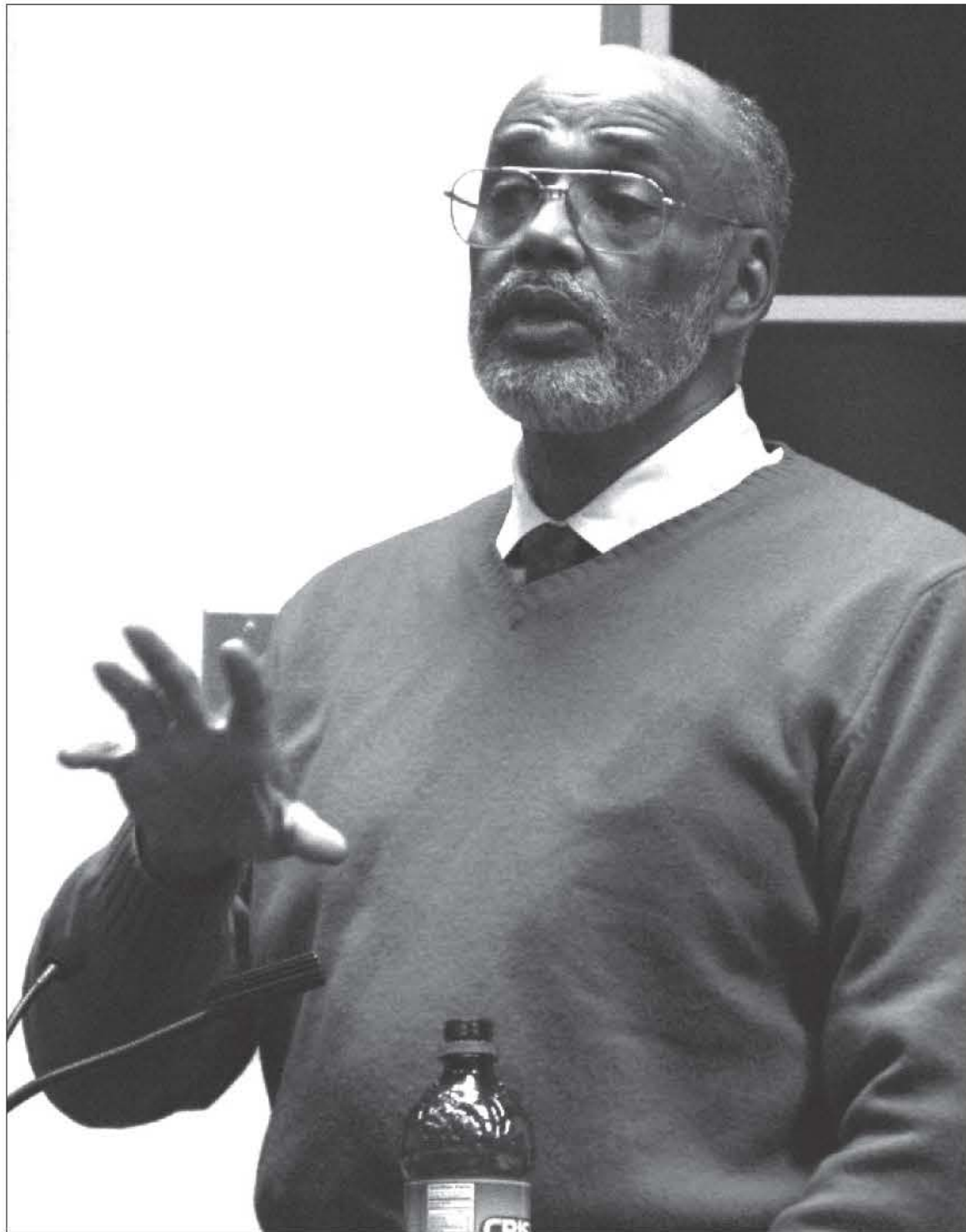
The officer said he had found a crumpled T-shirt in Jackson's closet with "blood-like stains" on it, along with a similarly crumpled pair of athletic shorts.

Prosecuting on behalf of the people are Coles County state's attorney Steve Ferguson, and assistant state's attorney Brian Shaw.

Attorney Scott Lerner is serving as Jackson's legal council. Jackson is pleading not guilty.

Court will resume this morning between 8:30 and 9 a.m. in the Coles County Courthouse.

A 'Dash' of journalism



CARRIE HOLLIS | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

University of Illinois journalism professor Leon Dash speaks about his career in investigative journalism in Buzzard Auditorium Wednesday evening. Dash was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for his work in 1995.

Pulitzer Prize-winning writer Leon Dash gives advice on finding truth

By Lauren Krull
Associate News Editor

As Rosa Lee's corner lip curled up, Leon Dash knew that the words coming out of her mouth were a lie. This is a trait that Dash picked up on after interviewing Rosa Lee for four years. Her life would be the focus of Dash's attempt to tell the story of the underclass community in urban America.

Dash, the 1995 Pulitzer Prize winner for his eight-part series on Rosa Lee's life, spoke last night in front of an audience of about 75 in the Buzzard Auditorium.

Journalism students, as well as students from other majors and faculty, and community members, came to hear the advice that Dash had to give on his experience in immersion journalism.

Dash said the immersion process is broken up into four parts.

He first interviews the person about their family life, next comes asking about their schooling, then onto their church or religious experiences and finally their experiences outside of their family or peer relationships.

After being directed toward four people in the Washington D.C. jail, two men and two women, Dash spoke with each of them.

It took nine days to talk to Rosa Lee over these four areas. Dash said after these nine days, he knew she was the one he wanted to follow.

Dash would then spend the next four years interviewing Rosa Lee, her eight children, her six brothers and sisters, and five of her 30 grandchildren.

» SEE DASH, PAGE 7

STUDENT SENATE | MEETING

Senate green-lights Rec proposals

Disc golf course set, elliptical machines approved

By Matt Hopf
Student Government Reporter

Eastern will now have its own disc golf course on campus.

Student Senate approved an allocation for the nine-hole disc golf course at Wednesday night's meeting.

The \$15,769 course was approved by a 17-7-5 vote.

There were some members of the senate that did not think that many

students would use the course.

Senate member Katherine Wlodarski said that while students thought it was a good idea, no one said they would use the course.

A lot of people have no idea what disc golf is, said senate member William Dougherty.

"That's \$15,000 that could be spent more wisely," he added.

The majority of the comments though were in favor of the course.

Senate member Isaac Sandidge said that he heard more positives than negatives about the course.

There is nothing on campus that all students will use, he added.

Though originally against the course, senate member Jeff White

said the more students he talked to, the more positive feedback he received.

The course would start at the campus pond pavilion and follow parts of the old campus golf course.

At Tuesday night's Committee on Legislative Leadership, Ken Baker, director of campus recreation, said that the course would be installed when the weather breaks.

Student Senate also approved the allocation for a 10-machine Life Fitness Circuit Series set by a 28-1-0 vote.

Even though senate member Tyson Holder has never been to the Student Rec Center, he supported

the proposal.

"This would bring a new group of people to the Rec," he said.

The Circuit Series set uses hydraulics for resistance and allows people to get a full body workout in 30 minutes.

According to Levi Bulgar, vice president for business affairs, the machines would benefit beginning weight lifters and smaller body sizes.

An allocation was also approved for two additional elliptical machines with monitors.

The \$10,940 allocation was unanimously approved.

At 12 p.m. Wednesday, senate member Tiffany Turner said there

was a line for the elliptical machines, even though the Rec wasn't busy.

"It's obvious what the students want if they wait in line for that long," she said.

Senate Speaker Jeff Lange was pleased with the way new members handled the three Rec allocations.

"I am in awe right now at how well it was handled," Lange said. "We had new senators that were talking during the meeting, telling how they went out and talked to people."

Members voted on how they truly felt, he said.

"This demonstrates how the new senators are willing to get involved," Lange said.

Doudna not fully funded

Action team wants answers concerning \$1.5 million set aside

By Stacy Smith
Campus Reporter

The Student Action Team went to Springfield on Wednesday to discuss receiving the remaining \$1.5 million for the Doudna Fine Arts Center. Doudna had been approved for \$7.5 million but had not received all the money needed for completion. Although legislators were responsive, state financial issues are a concern.

For instance, the Illinois Veteran's Grant Program the state is having difficulty getting enough money to support veteran's college education causing an increase in tuition costs, said Amanda Raz, executive vice president of Student Government.

Legislators are deciding which funding issues are most feasible, said Kent Ohms, a junior political science major and SAT member.

"I'm not willing to take 'no' for an answer," said Levi Bulgar, student

vice president for business affairs and SAT member. "There's no reason why we shouldn't get the money, we were already appropriated it."

Eight SAT members contacted approximately 24 representatives and senators and were also able to meet one-on-one with eight legislators.

The group of legislators included Sen. J. Bradley Burzynski (R), Sen. David Luechtefeld (R), Rep. Naomi D. Jakobsson (D), Rep. Chapin Rose (R) and Sen. Dale A. Righter (R).

Ohms said he enjoyed talking to Burzynski because he is very informative and responsive to issues.

"They're eager and willing to work with us and bring up issues at their committee meetings," said Brandon Thompson, student senator and member of SAT.

SAT is planning another trip to Springfield in April once information is discussed with correspondents. It's crucial to follow up with legislators and let them know the addressed issues are important to SAT, Raz said.

Issues come from around campus because it concerns something

beneficial to students, Ohms said.

Once the SAT arrived at the capital building, they broke up into groups. The group then tried to catch their assigned legislators in their offices.

If the legislator is unavailable, the SAT will leave a business card or memo concerning the issue or contact them during the session.

"Usually we'll give one to two business cards in 20 minute intervals," Ohms said. "We wait 15 minutes and if they don't come out by then they're probably not going to."

Once a legislator comes out, SAT members have 30 to 90 seconds to articulate their message.

"You want to make your point without rambling," Ohms said. "It's almost trying to make conversation."

SAT members address issues to legislators by thanking them for coming out, introducing themselves, discussing the issue concerned and why it is important to the school, show pictures of the project and thank them for their time.

"Students need to make sure to get to the point right away, be brief and respectful," Bulgar said.



JOHN BAILEY | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Juwana Wilburn, a sophomore pre-med major, and Marsheela Stinson, a sophomore political science major, watch a movie about AIDS/HIV Wednesday morning in the Mattoon-Charleston room of the MLK Union.

HIV testing brought to campus

Health department co-sponsors event with Eastern sorority

By Dan Koteski
Staff Reporter

No, you don't have to get a shot. They just want a swab.

Eastern students went to the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union for HIV testing on Wednesday.

The Delta Sigma Theta sorority sponsored Brothers and Sisters United Against HIV/AIDS in the Charleston-Mattoon Room.

The sorority distributed HIV/AIDS literature while the Coles County Health Department conducted free, anonymous testing for attendees.

More than 70 people signed up for a test, but not everyone was tested because of time restraints.

Students can go to the health department for a free test.

While the health department provides year-round free testing, Marissa Smith of the campus

Health Education Resource Center said bringing it to campus makes it more convenient for students.

Christa Smith, a sexual health education coordinator for HERC, agreed. Event sponsors are already expecting student attendees to seek tests, which eliminates the bureaucracy some people deal with at the health department.

"You just walk in and get tested," Smith said. "It doesn't take a lot of time out of the day."

Smith dispelled misconceptions about HIV/AIDS. She told students that HIV/AIDS is not a "gay" or "black" disease.

College students assume it cannot happen to them, but one in 500 college students suffers from HIV or AIDS.

The 18 to 24 age demographic represents one of the largest groups infected, said Smith.

What 18- to 24-year-olds may not know is sex, no matter how it's done, puts people at risk.

"Yes, oral sex can transmit HIV/AIDS," said Smith.

She also explained that only condoms made from latex or

polyurethane can protect against sexually transmitted diseases. Condoms produced from animal skin not only fail to prevent infection, but have also shown to be less effective in preventing pregnancy, Smith said.

Despite coming in for tests, many test takers do not return for their status results. To prevent this from happening, sponsors are giving those who return for their results a \$20 Wal-Mart gift card. Members of Delta Sigma Theta hope this incentive will ingrain health responsibility into students who may fear getting their results.

Fear cannot justify neglecting to get tested, said Chiquitta Allen, vice president of Delta Sigma Theta and a senior business management major. Guessing personal status from day to day would torment her more than just getting tested.

"Know your health status," Allen said. "You're the only one responsible for it."

Test takers can obtain their results from 10 a.m. to noon, Wednesday, Feb. 14 in the Oakland Room of the union.

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About The Daily Eastern News

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

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

The Daily Eastern News is a member of The Associated Press, which is entitled to exclusive use of all articles appearing in this publication.

Subscription price | \$50 per semester, \$30 for summer, \$95 all year.

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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.

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DENnewsdesk@gmail.com
581-7942 (phone), 581-2923 (fax)
1811 Buzzard Hall

Periodical postage paid at

Charleston, IL 61920
ISSN 0894-1599

Printed by

Eastern Illinois University

Attention postmaster

Send address changes to:

The Daily Eastern News
1802 Buzzard Hall, Eastern Illinois University
Charleston, IL 61920



The Daily Eastern News is printed recycled newsprint.



Feb 8th 7pm @ Grand Ballroom

Does HIV look like me?



An insider look on living with HIV



AIDS Awareness Week
presented by: University Board

AIDS AWARENESS WEEK

Monday- Pick up red ribbons
Tuesday- EIU RED day! (All students wear red)
Wednesday- Jay Blackwell, Director of Training
6pm Charleston/Mattoon room

Thursday- ΔΣΘ sponsors
Free confidential HIV/AIDS testing
1895 room
Does HIV look like me?
7PM GDR
Quilt panels in Bridge Walkway

Friday-

8500 people die everyday due to AIDS

Abortion Services thru 24 weeks

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217 358-3738

Campus reacts to racism

500 people take part in forum about racial discrimination

By Kevin Kenealy
Online Interactive Editor

Latese Carter thought about quitting her job, but decided against it.

She said she has experienced racist acts at her job. Instead of quitting, she's sticking it out.

It's a job, not a career, she said.

Carter, a sophomore family and consumer sciences major, was one of several students who shared stories of racism on and around campus at a student forum Wednesday night.

She said she saw people laughing as other students were sharing their own experiences, and told them to stop.

"It hurts when it happens to you," Carter said.

Quentin Frazier, BSU's vice president, estimated that more than 500 people showed up at 7th Street Underground to take part in the student forum on racism on campus.

Frazier said he thought it was a success.

"To see everybody come out, I feel we touched other people's lives in getting them to talk about the things," he said.

The forum was prompted from reaction to a Jan. 30 letter to the editor in *The Daily Eastern News* that promoted a Web site many students felt promoted racist and dangerous ideas.

Students were also asked to share stories and a few were incidents that occurred at the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

Frazier suggested boycotting the union based on those stories.

But it might not be the best idea – yet.

Sherri Smith, a junior family and consumer sciences major, told students not to boycott the union, but to document experiences like the ones shared Wednesday night.

One student said he rode the shuttle bus and when three black passengers got off the bus, the bus driver said, "They're lucky they can even take the bus."



NORA MABERRY | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Sophomore Keith Wise speaks at a student forum to address discrimination and racism on campus on Wednesday night at 7th Street Underground in the Martin Luther King Junior Student Union.

KEITH WISE | DOUGLAS HALL RESIDENT ASSISTANT

"I took it upon myself to say 'I'm going to try and make changes in my life, make changes on this campus.'"

Douglas Hall Resident Assistant Keith Wise, who helped organize the event, has had racial incidences occur at Douglas but said that both sides have to understand the problem. While his initial reaction to Smith's letter was anger, it took someone calling Wise a racial slur.

"I feel very strongly about this issue because not only has it happened to me, but it's happened to other people on this campus as well and we need somebody to step it up and be the leader," Wise said. The *DEN's* current policy on running letters to the editor involves running anything as long as the identification of the writer is confirmed, and it's not libelous.

However, many believed The *DEN* should have made an exception in this case. One person said, "You got to understand that if we see that Web site that means death for us, that means death. If somebody really wears (Holocaust) T-shirts, that's proof that it means death in the

past, death in the present, and death in the future. You've edited letters before; you've edited my letters before, so I know it can be edited." *DEN* Adviser Joe Gisondi pointed out that the messenger is not necessarily the problem. "If people are up here and are angry about an issue, as I am too, let's do something about it. Why don't we use The Daily Eastern News to get these messages across? Why don't we cover some of these issues?"

Some students said the letter might have been a good thing.

"Had they not been in the paper, we would not have been here," said Jessica Parks, a junior public relations major. "More students should have been here."

At least 15 students went up to the microphone and told stories of racism that they had experienced on campus.

Students who attended the event said the forum was important to get issues out in the open.

"I hope something good comes

out of it," said Shana Jenkins, a junior merchandising major. As one black woman stood up and said, "I remember thinking on Martin Luther King Jr. Day and wondering, 'How much of his dream has been achieved?'"

The BSU proposed a resolution at the end of the forum asking everyone at the meeting committed to change to come up and sign a tri-fold poster board.

They encouraged students at the forum to come to BSU and NAACP meetings at Eastern to spread the word and get involved to stop racism and discrimination on campus.

"I took it upon myself to say 'I'm going to try and make changes in my life, make changes on this campus,'" Wise said. "I went and talked to the president of BSU and said, 'We got to do something about this.'"

-Marco Santana and Cathy Bayer contributed to this report

CAMPUS

THURSDAY
2.8.07

campusbriefs

Practice interviews

open to students

Mock interviews are scheduled for 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. today in Career Services.

The interviews will be conducted in 1301 HSC.

Human resource professionals will be there to help students go through the interview process.

The interviews are preparation for the Career Fair Network day on Feb. 14.

Speaker tells his story

of being HIV-positive

As a part of the African-American Heritage Month celebration, Duane Quintana will speak at 7 tonight in the Grand Ballroom.

Quintana was diagnosed with HIV and will share his story of living with the disease.

He is the founder and executive director of Allies Linked for the Prevention of HIV and AIDS in Boise, Idaho.

Man from "Lost Boys of Sudan" comes to campus

Three organizations are co-sponsoring a showing of the movie "Lost Boys of Sudan" at 6 p.m. Friday in Lumpkin Auditorium.

The movie is a story of nearly 4,000 displaced Sudanese children who traveled across three countries for more than 17 years.

Peter Makuach, who is one of the "lost boys," will speak following the movie showing.

The showing is sponsored by Illinois Library's Diversity Program, International Programs and African-American Studies.

oncampus

TODAY

NAACP State of the Black Union Address

Time | 5 p.m.

Location | Paris Room, MLK Union

Study Abroad Info Session

Time | 4 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Location | 1207 Blair Hall

More info | 581-7267

Lecture: "HIV looks like me"

Time | 7 p.m.

Location | Grand Ballroom

Technology: Find information fast

Time | 7 p.m.

Location | Booth Library e-classroom, Room 4450

More info | library@eiu.edu

COMMENTS | CORRECTIONS | EVENTS

To report any errors, local events or general suggestions for future editions please contact our news editor, **Cathy Bayer**, via:
Phone | **581-7942**,
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Office visit | **1811 Buzzard Hall**.

RHA | WINTER PLANS

RHA plans awards and conferences

Association president in the lead for donations, getting bucket of water dumped over her head

By Katey Mitchell
RHA Reporter

The Residence Hall Association will meet today while residence halls are in the middle of winter olympics.

During day two of winter olympics, RHA will meet in Lawson Hall to discuss some business before returning to the evening's festivities.

The meeting will be the last chance for residents to donate money into the executive board's buckets to see who will be getting the bucket of water dumped on

RHA meeting

» Where: Lawson Hall

» When: 5 p.m.

» Why: To pass out "Of the Year" packets and continue with winter olympics

» Important note: RHA will not be meeting Thursday, Feb. 15 for Lincoln's Birthday.

their head, said Eric Dusanek, programming and diversity coordinator for RHA.

The board member with the most money in their bucket will get a bucket of water dumped on their head after today's meeting. So far, Carrie Mueller, RHA president, is in the lead.

However, the main order of business to be discussed this week will be the distribution of "Of the Year" packets.

These packets contain information on how to make nominations for awards, which will be presented at the Residence Hall Association/National Residence Hall Honorary end of the year banquet in April, Mueller said.

The award categories are based on awards discussed at the regional and state conferences RHA and NRHH attend.

Some of the categories presented are: president of the year; adviser of the year; programs of the year such as educational, social, community service and diversity; spotlight of the year for the person who offers outstanding service to students who live off campus; and building block council of the year for the council who has improved the most over the past school year.

"Both individuals and entire halls are nominated, depending on the award," said Mueller.

Members can attend the leadership workshop that NRHH is holding on Feb. 21 and 22 to learn how to write bids.

Bids will be due at 4:30 p.m. on March 21; both an electronic and print copy are required.

Also, at this week's meeting there will be a diversity component presented by Dusanek.

The specific diversity component has yet to be decided upon, but it will be part of the meeting and the Black and White Ball that is part of winter olympics.

"The diversity program is to help stimulate discussion," said Dusanek. "It worked last time when the D.J.'s speakers blew out at the last event and we covered with a program. It worked well last time it will most likely work well again."

VIEWS

THURSDAY

2.8.07

COLUMNIST | MATT NIEMERG

We want our MTV

The incompetence of people who run present-day business still astounds me. This week, Viacom, the telecommunication company that owns such stations as MTV and Comedy Central, recently pulled all of their video clips from YouTube. Viacom is within every right to do so – it owns the copyright – but that does not mean that this act was a smart business move.

Companies need to develop alternative business models that are no longer out-dated, but rather utilize the Internet to help increase revenue. Just because YouTube fails to *directly* compensate Viacom (or any other company) by allowing their clips on the site, does not mean Viacom cannot enjoy the promotional benefits that company gains by allowing the videos to stay.

Perhaps a better idea would be to only allow segments of certain shows to be available on YouTube, but in addition, have the video direct viewers to Viacom's main Web site where users could then download full-featured episodes, for a price. Other items could easily be available for sale. So, in reality, this promotional content actually generates revenue. This idea is not the only option, however, as there are numerous business models that could work.

Viacom and others need to wake up and start living in this new digital age. They don't need to fight change and progress, but rather embrace it on their own terms.

Why should Viacom even bother trying to take off all the clips of their shows if they've already entered in the public domain? If I watch an episode of the Colbert Report and record it, have I done anything wrong? No...as long as I do not sell the material, fair use comes into play. What if I didn't record it, but a friend of mine did instead and let me borrow the tape. Once more, this is an example of fair use and no wrong-doing has occurred. But what if I wanted to watch the latest episode on YouTube? Have I done anything actually wrong? The episode was on the air, I paid for the right to view it with my cable bill, and now someone is generously offering to host the material free of charge, and I am not allowed to download it because the material is copyrighted. Neither YouTube nor anyone else profited from the show, so what happened to fair use?

In all fairness to Viacom, the real problem is not just their decision to pull copyrighted clips from YouTube, but rather copyright law itself. I can't blame them for doing what they did since what they did was legal. Rather, I dislike how they, and other companies, treat the Internet as a burden instead of a boon. That business model went stale in the last century and a new one needs to be looked into.



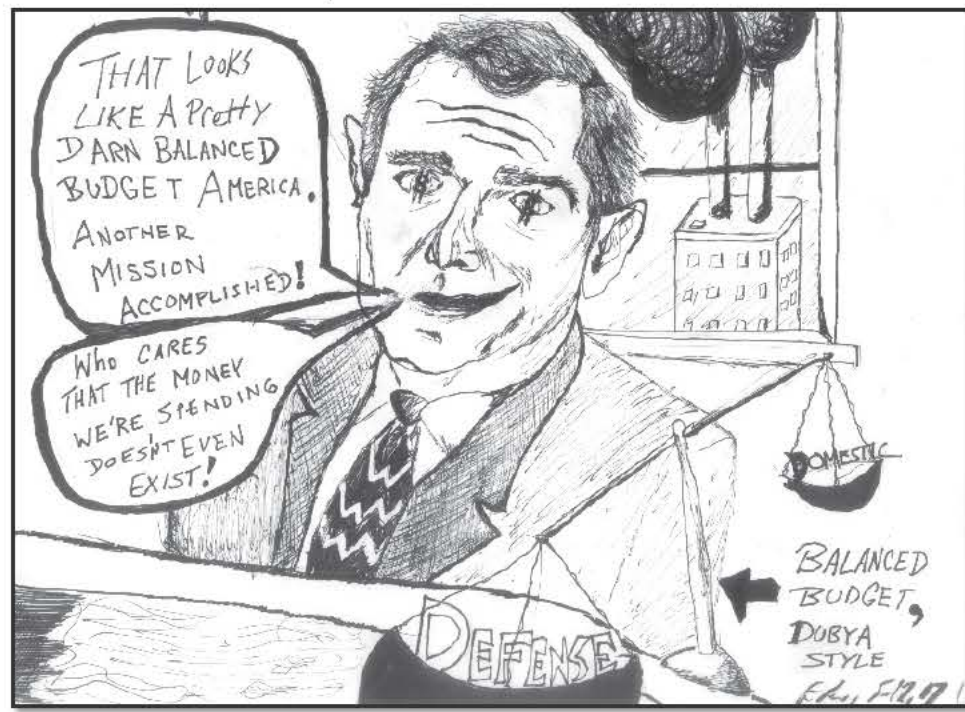
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DRAWN FROM THE NEWS | RICH LAKEBERG



ourview

Take a seat

When Alan Keyes lost the Illinois run for senate in 2004, why didn't he just fill out an application and have the president and then-Republican-led Congress appoint him to a seat?

Is that not how a modern democracy functions?

Student Government seems to think it is. Senators have continued using this undemocratic method of government over the years.

It's a rigorous process that involves filling out an application and interviewing with members of the current Student Senate.

The *Daily Eastern News* would like to propose that Student Senate seats are filled by an election – the good, old-fashioned way many governing bodies conduct themselves in the 20th century.

Each year, a large number of seats on the senate become open after the students who were elected to them decide not to serve.

The reasons for this range from promotions to executive positions, leaving school or just changing their minds.

Currently, any student who fits the criterion can apply. The criterion is being a student. Basically, anyone that attends Eastern can apply.

Applicants do not have to have an interest in politics or serving the student body; they just have to be enrolled as a student.

Senators have told *DEN* reporters that the elections don't matter because they can pick up open seats a few weeks into the semester.

It's not necessary for them to be democratically elected if they can be appointed no matter what. So how can students prevent senators from being appointed these seats?

Applicants will interview with the speaker of the senate and several senate

members, who then decide who is appointed, pending a consent vote from the senate itself.

Basically, Student Senate gets to pick who they want to join them as a senator.

How is this democratic?

In a senate dominated by one party, applicants wanting to reform these undemocratic policies stand no chance.

How does this represent the needs of Eastern's students?

Simply put, it does not.

Instead of the current system, the *DEN* would like Student Government to be closer to an actual democracy – something our country values highly. Senate seats should be filled during elections or they should remain open for the remainder of the semester.

A senate with vacancies is better than a senate filled with representation that the students did not vote for.

The Student Senate is supposed to work for students' best interests.

How can this be true when they pick and choose who gets to join them as a senator?

The Student Senate should not fill seats with their friends or whoever happens to fill out an application.

Senators must work to make sure that they represent democracy.

They must call for reform of these undemocratic policies.

The editorial is the majority opinion of The Daily Eastern News editorial board. Reach the opinions editor at DENopinions@gmail.com.

SEND US YOUR OPINIONS

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FEATURED BLOGGER | KATIE ANDERSON



"It is day three here in the UK, and the jet lag from the 6-hour time difference is now almost completely gone. My flight went smoothly and finding the coach (bus) to Winchester, where my school is, proved very simple."

YOUR TURN | LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Reverse-racism is on the rise

To Maurice Tracy:

I am writing to you in response to your article, or lack thereof, in Wednesday's issue of the *DEN*, entitled "Standing on a mountain of privilege."

In no way, shape or form do I consider myself a "racist, homophobic zealot" as you referred to Dr. Smith as being. And yes, he did earn the title of "doctor," and so I believe you should show him the respect of his earned title. You condemn heterosexual whites as being discriminatory, yet you come off as one of the most racist columnists I have ever read in the *DEN*.

You come across as a very opinionated, "oppressed" individual. You make sure that all the readers know you have a variety of minority titles. Could this be because you're looking for sympathy from your peers? Or in case you fail, you want everyone around you to know that it was not your fault, but the fault of the "evil, heterosexual white man."

I have many African American friends, and not once have I heard them complain about being oppressed by white Americans. I also have a handful of friends of Arab descent, and they do not play the minority card like you do.

You ask if white Americans have paper cuts. If you want proof, look at the hundreds of white students who do not get into EIU each year due to affirmative action. Imagine the public outcry if there was a "Miss White EIU" contest. Last I could recall, in the same year there was an African American girl crowned Miss EIU and Miss Black EIU. No paper cuts there.

Or what about all-black fraternities? Is there a mandatory all-white fraternity, according to its charter, on EIU's campus?

Do those qualify as paper cuts?

Is there a White History Month? I am a history major, and I can tell you with complete honesty that I learn about African American figures all throughout the year, not just in February.

I do not stand on top of a mountain of privilege. I worked hard in high school to get good grades and good ACT scores so that I could earn a spot in a good-standing university such as EIU. And once at EIU, I have worked hard to continue my academic success. I've had very little given to me. I have worked various jobs since I was 15, both during the school year and the summer. There is no magical money tree that white people have in their backyards. Despite your beliefs, heterosexual Caucasians work hard for their college degrees and their careers.

If we stand on top of a mountain, it's a mountain of hard work, dedication and perseverance. I understand that you have your constitutional right to freedom of press and speech; I do not condemn you for your beliefs. But, even though I never had Dr. Smith as a professor nor have I ever met him, I do agree that it is about time that people such as yourself stop "accusing" and "charging" the white race for your misfortunes.

I have done nothing personally to hinder any advances in your life. Do not generalize me with members of the Klu Klux Klan back in the 1950s. This is 2007. You have the same opportunities as I do. The difference between you and I is that I take responsibility for my actions, whereas you find the nearest Caucasian to blame. It is thinking like yours that is responsible for the division between races and sexual preferences. I acknowledge that there are racist whites in our country, just as you should acknowledge that you are guilty of reverse-discrimination.

If you want to be treated with full equity (which I'm sure you already are), then take actions for your responsibility. You're a grown man, act like it.

Matt Upchurch | Junior history major



JAY GRABIEC/THE DAILY EASTERN

Poet Casey Lord, a freshman economics major, performs a poem during open mic night at the Bridge Lounge of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union on Wednesday.



JAY GRABIEC/THE DAILY EASTERN

Brad Skistimas of Five Times August plays one of his songs during his set at the University Board sponsored "Coffee House" in the Bridge Lounge of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union on Wednesday.



JAY GRABIEC/THE DAILY EASTERN

First time stand-up comic Matt Caponera, a freshman communications major, performs a comedy sketch during the open mic night in the Bridge Lounge of the Union.

Students ‘Zip’ to Five

Open mic night brings crowd to 7th Street Underground for night of firsts

By Matt Kelly
Staff Reporter

As he fumbled with his zipper, Brad Skistimas, aka Five Times August, turned away from the crowd only to realize the night had turned the glass inside the bridge lounge into a mirror.

After his first song last night, Skistimas revealed something many audience members already knew – the zipper on his jeans was undone.

The unsigned 23-year-old singer-songwriter from Texas performed for more than 100 Eastern students Wednesday night at the bridge lounge in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

"This is the best opening I've ever had," he joked. "That's seriously the first time that's ever happened on stage."

The night was packed with firsts.

BRAD SKISTIMAS | PERFORMER

"This is the best opening I've ever had. That's seriously the first time that's ever happened on stage."

Throughout the performance, his first at Eastern, Skistimas laughed with the audience about their relationship's new intimacy.

The show also marked the first time the University Board used the Bridge Lounge as a venue.

Chad Quinones, Student Life Office grad assistant, said the lounge provides a high-traffic area and he hoped people would see the performance and stop to listen.

The plan worked, and every chair in the lounge was taken by the start of the Five Times August show.

UB Mainstage Coordinator Lindsey Borrelli said she enjoyed Skistimas' sense of humor.

"He was hilarious," she said. "He really got the crowd involved."

Borrelli, who was in charge of her first event last night, said UB decided to combine an open mic with the show to draw a crowd.

At 7 p.m., when the open mic was slated to begin the coffeehouse series event, UB Vice President Pat Lamorte paced back and forth.

"They (the acts) probably all met down in the 7th Street Underground," he said.

Ten feet away stood Casey Lord, a freshman economics major.

At 7:15 p.m., when she heard no other acts signed up, she said to Lamorte, "I'll do it."

Lord walked briskly through the cold to her Lincoln Hall dorm room where she had

some of her poetry.

When she returned at 7:20 p.m., Lamorte had her binder in hand.

"And now there are two acts," Lord said.

Matt Caponera, a freshman communication studies major, signed up to perform standup comedy for the first time in his life.

After the show, he sat with his friends to watch Skistimas play.

Eastern students had several options for entertainment on campus last night.

Caponera chose the event, not because the Chinese Acrobats at McAfee Gymnasium carried a \$3 price tag, but for a different reason.

"I'd rather see people really express themselves," he said.

Levi Bulgar, vice president for business affairs, was among the many audience members standing to watch the show.

He also serves as chairperson of the apportionment board at Eastern.

The UB approached Bulgar earlier in the school year to request money for acts like Skistimas.

"Whenever we give money to something like this and we see over a hundred people, I'm very happy," he said.

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The dangerous acts of acrobats

By Julie Morss

Senior Campus Reporter

One low platform with one chair.

One acrobat balancing two chairs on the platform.

Next, three, four, five, six chairs added on the platform.

Finally, Chao Li wound up balancing eight chairs stacked upon one another balancing on one hand.

Chinese Golden Dragon Acrobats performed Wednesday to an audience of about 200 in McAfee Gymnasium.

The ancient art of Chinese acrobats began more than 2,000 years ago and still is amazing audiences today.

It was an experience that some audience members will never forget, including Jamie Eckert, senior elementary education major, and Jamie Flood, freshman music major.

Dressed in animal costumes, the acrobats were able to get the audience to laugh at the so-called lion-taming act.

The lion tamer was a young woman with a ball that kept the attention of the two lions.

"I liked the lion and dragon acts for its playfulness," said Jeff Sas, freshman history major.

Another act consisted of a Chinese female acrobat balancing eight glass chandelier sculptures consisting of drinking and champagne glasses on her feet, hands, forehead, mouth,

chin and nose.

During the seven bright pink-and blue-painted umbrella act, a woman turned an umbrella with her foot.

Also during the same act, she twirled one umbrella with her left foot and two smaller umbrellas in her hands as she balanced the other umbrella on her right foot.

The spinning plates act consisted of eight women contorting their bodies during gymnastic moves. Never missing a beat, the group was able to pull off a balancing act between two members.

The audience was left stunned at the flexibility of the performers. Another act that the female audience liked was the two men balancing one another while contorting their

bodies.

"(I liked) the two guys doing hand stands upon one another," said Stephanie Kibble, junior psychology major.

Two rings were stacked on one another on the left side of the platform and three rings were on the right. Six men in blue costumes impressed audience members with their hoop diving.

"I liked the guys jumping through the hoops," said Sarah Havey, junior psychology major.

Dramatic music played during the rolling-balance contortionist act with one woman balancing a rod with a ball on top.

Later, she balanced three balls on the same rod with her forehead while hula hooping and twirling

three metal rings on each arm.

The Chinese Yo-Yo act had the performers playing catch with an empty bell.

"I liked the Chinese Yo-Yo, especially the string catching," Patrick Rowling, junior communications major.

The picture of the act shown on the back of the free program was a preview of the finale. Two men and eight women rode on a bicycle with ten paper fans, and the balancing act of four women and six men finished off the night.

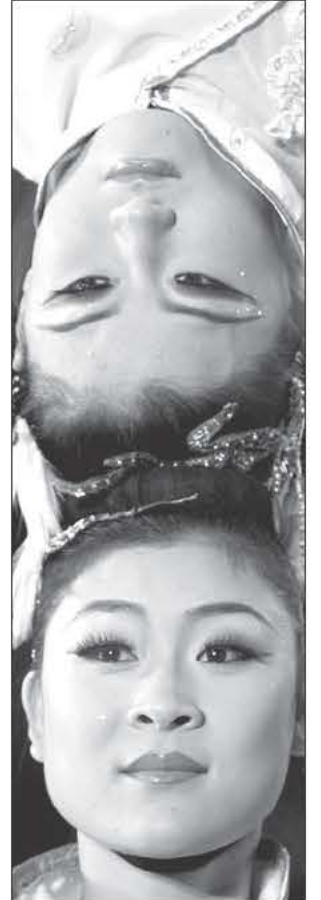
"I liked the bicycle act," said Alexander Saiz, senior history major.

The Golden Dragon Acrobats performance ended with a standing ovation by the audience.



JAY GRABIEC | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Golden Dragon acrobat Xio Fei Zheng spins eight plates on eight sticks in unison with other acrobats during the performance at McAfee Gymnasium Wednesday night.



JAY GRABIEC | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Golden Dragon acrobat Cui Cui Lui balances on top of fellow acrobat Hong Dan Yan's head.



JAY GRABIEC | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Golden Dragon acrobat Qui Yu Chen spins eight plates on sticks during the performance at McAfee Gymnasium Wednesday night.



JAY GRABIEC | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Golden Dragon acrobat Rui Chen hands off the diabolo during their performance at McAfee Gymnasium Wednesday night.

» Dash

FROM PAGE 1

Because of the amount of interviews that Dash has done – not only with the Rosa Lee story, but also with his other works, he has become sort of a lie detector.

Dash said that it is not until the third or fourth interview that people will begin to tell the truth.

“Be grateful of the contradictions that people make in their stories,” he said. “It means they are telling you something closer to the truth.”

It is these contradictions that tell the interviewer that the person is becoming more comfortable and willing to shed their “public mask,” he said.

“The public mask is how we want the world to see us, not necessarily who we are,” Dash said.

Dash stressed the importance of not pointing out a person’s lie. Even the raise of an eye or an inflection in one’s voice can tip off an interviewee and possibly make them close up, he said.

As Dash’s interviews progressed with Rosa Lee and her family, so did their trust in him.

Dash said he remembered how at first Rosa Lee’s two sons, Alvin and Eric, did not want to be interviewed. But after they saw that he was doing the story in good intentions they were willing to talk.

Patty, Rosa Lee’s daughter, became very comfortable with Dash and wanted her story to be told.

“I want people to understand why I am the way I am,” Patty told Dash.

Sheree Patterson, the treasurer for Eastern’s National Association of Black Journalists, had a lot to do with Dash coming to speak at Eastern.

Patterson said that when NABJ asked its members to think of speakers to come to Eastern, Dash automatically came to her mind. She met Dash at the University of Illinois through a cousin who is a friend of Dash’s.

Patterson said she was a little intimidated meeting such a prestigious journalist, but that nervousness quickly faded as she intently listened to Dash’s journalistic advice.

Josh Van Dyke, a sophomore journalism major, said that he came to see Dash because he is a Pulitzer Prize winner.

“Dash reminds me why I am writing,” he said. “He represents something I can build up to.”

Saints and Sequins



KRISTIN BORN | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Dori Niemann, a senior communication studies major, admires “Lasiren,” by Azor on loan from Marilyn Houlberg, Tuesday at Tarble Arts Center’s “Saints in Sequin” display. The Haitian “Vodou” flags will remain on display at the Tarble Arts Center until Feb. 25.

Belgium or Bust

Student speaks about her experiences studying abroad

By Christina Abraham
Staff Reporter

“What’s in Belgium anyway?” First-year law student Niccole Hurley knows the answer to this question. She participated in the Summer Archaeology Program in Belgium last summer.

Hurley spoke to students about her month-long visit and excavation experience at Walhain Castle in Belgium during her presentation at the Wesley United Center on Wednesday.

Before her trip, Hurley had many fears. At first, she was unsure if she would fit in because she was afraid everyone would be archaeological geeks, said Hurley. She also

admitted being nervous about having to travel alone internationally, but her fears were unfounded.

“I just think that anyone who is considering going on the trip to Belgium should go. It’s a great life experience,” said Hurley.

Even though studying abroad is not inexpensive, there are ways for students to get funding.

Hurley was able to study abroad after receiving scholarships through Eastern departments and on-campus foundations. The trip cost \$5500, but Hurley felt the experience would outweigh any financial burden.

“The wounds would be worth it,” said Hurley.

She explained that when she had a break from working at the excavation site or, “manual labor,” as she called it, she was able to travel to other European cities. Visiting Paris for a weekend was

the highlight of her study abroad experience.

The Rev. Kenneth Truelove, a chaplain with the Episcopal Campus Ministries, explained how the ministry raised money in order to help send students who wanted to experience other cultures and increase their knowledge go on a trip such as this one.

Dr. Bailey K. Young, creator of the program part of the history faculty at Eastern, presented detailed information about the excavation site and the different procedures used when artifacts at the site were discovered.

Jacoby Foster, a junior English major, attended the presentation to get information about the study abroad program.

“I thought it was great and very informative,” said Foster.

Foster will be traveling to Belgium with the study abroad program this summer.

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MEN'S BASKETBALL | BENCH PLAY

Contributing in other ways

By Matt Daniels
Sports Editor

Gino Myers-Kyles watches the games more intently than ever since he doesn't start.

Junior forward Billy Parrish is trying to get back the starting role he lost.

Junior center Jake Byrne prefers starting to coming off the bench.

Eastern head coach Mike Miller said the games are easier when he gets production from his bench.

Eastern's bench accounts for 309 of Eastern's 1,453 points this season, which counts for 21.3 percent of the total scoring.

The Panthers' bench is the third-worst in terms of scoring production in the 11-team Ohio Valley Conference.

Morehead State's bench makes up 38.4 percent of its total scoring, tops in the league.

"I don't think there's any question it certainly helps in trying to win games," said Austin Peay head coach Dave Loos. "Especially over a long season, you can't just go with five guys."

His team gets 26.8 percent of its total point production from its bench and the Governors will host Eastern tonight in Clarksville, Tenn.

Eastern has used eight different starting lineups this season, with most of the different lineups used in the first 16 games.

In the last eight, excluding Saturday's loss against Samford with freshman guard Romain Martin suspended, Miller has used the same starting five of Mike Robinson, Martin, Bobby Catchings, Byrne and Ousmane Cisse.

All five, except Robinson, have come off the bench at some point this season.

Myers-Kyles, a junior transfer from Faulkner State Community College in Mobile, Ala., averaged 14.6 points last season and didn't expect to come off the bench this year.

"It's real hard, it's real frustrating," he said. "I'm getting settled in. I'm trying to adapt and acclimate to that role."

Myers-Kyles hasn't played in five games this season, and his season-high point total is seven. But Myers-Kyles said coming off the bench helps him determine what the flow of the game is.

"It's kind of an advantage ... because you get to see what is going on with the other team, what defense they have, what player is hot, what player's not," he said.

Parrish started the first five games of the year, but has only started two since then.

Scoring has been an issue for him lately, with the forward only having nine total points in the last 10 games.

The sophomore said it is difficult not starting, but realizes a place in the starting lineup is all based on performance in practice.

"I just try to do what I can (at practice)," he



JAY GRABIEC | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Sophomore Billy Parrish and freshman forward Justin Brock wait alongside the scorer's table at Lantz Arena to come into Saturday's game against Samford. Eastern's bench has scored 309 points this season, 21.3 percent of Eastern's total point production.

OHIO VALLEY CONFERENCE MEN'S BASKETBALL BENCH PRODUCTION
(AS OF WEDNESDAY)

| Team | Total Points | Bench Points | Percentage of Total Points |
|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Morehead State | 1,428 | 549 | 38.4 |
| 2. Tennessee State | 1,632 | 600 | 36.8 |
| 3. Tennessee-Martin | 1,650 | 532 | 32.2 |
| 4. Southeast Missouri | 1,684 | 531 | 31.5 |
| 5. Murray State | 1,545 | 478 | 30.9 |
| 6. Austin Peay | 1,521 | 407 | 26.8 |
| 7. Jacksonville State | 1,612 | 366 | 22.7 |
| 8. Tennessee Tech | 1,826 | 404 | 22.1 |
| 9. Eastern Illinois | 1,453 | 309 | 21.3 |
| 10. Eastern Kentucky | 1,470 | 266 | 18.1 |
| 11. Samford | 1,424 | 158 | 11.1 |

said. "If I do well, I get more time."

Byrne, who was a freshman in former Panther head coach Rick Samuels' last season, only played in eight games that year and never started a game.

The junior said he thinks Samuels realized he needed a winning season or else he would be fired, and tried to play a certain amount of plays.

He said Miller is in a different situation.

"Practice is everything to him," Byrne said. "Whoever does well, is going to play."

Even if it means starting one of the six freshmen on Eastern's roster.

Martin has started 17 games, while Cisse has started 13. Center Bobby Joliff started three straight games late in December, but has come off the bench since.

"If they deserve it, they deserve it," Byrne said of freshmen starting. "It would be different circumstances if they didn't deserve it. It sucks to have a lower person take it, but it's like, I better start working. It's just sort of a motivation factor."

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL |

PLAYOFF CHANCES

A sense of urgency

By Marc Correnti
Staff Reporter

The sense of urgency is here now for Eastern. With six games left in the season and two games out of the eighth and final playoff spot in the Ohio Valley Conference, Eastern knows the door to its postseason is slowly closing.

The Panthers begin their knock at the postseason door tonight at Austin Peay – a team that already beat them this year.

The final six games include three at home and three on the road. The way the Panthers have been playing this season, neither venue seems to be a solution for Eastern's postseason chances.

Eastern head coach Brady Sallee estimates the Panthers need "four or five wins" to have a chance at the final playoff spot.

"I think we realize the season is winding down," he said. "The team knows we need multiple wins to have a shot. They desperately want to keep playing."

Eastern must play better on the road, where they are 1-10.

"You contemplate all the different scenarios in your head," said sophomore forward Rachel Galligan, "but the bottom line is we have to win."

The task looks to be difficult against an Austin Peay (8-15, 7-7 OVC) team that outrebounded the Panthers 49-28 in the teams' first meeting. Not only were the Panthers punished on the boards, it was also a forgettable game for Galligan, who finished with eight points and four rebounds in 31 minutes.

But it was Austin Peay's 23-5 advantage in second-chance points that dashed any comeback hopes for the Panthers.

"If we go through another night like that," Sallee said, "we're in trouble. They did a good job of pushing Rachel away from the basket and extending her out towards the free throw line."

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TOP CAT | MARLISE DAVIDSON

Growing up in the water

Davidson started swimming when she was just six months old

By Adam Larch
Staff Reporter

To many people, swimming is a recreational sport to relax or have fun.

To senior Marlise Davidson, it has always been a part of her life. Davidson started swimming when she was six months old.

"My mom enrolled me in one of those parent-child classes," Davidson said. "I just kept swimming after that. My mom said she could never get me out of the water. From about six months on, I swam. I joined my first team at 5. I don't know why I kept swimming."

Davidson, who won the 200- and the 100-yard freestyle, and helped take first in the 400-yard freestyle relay against Saint Louis this past weekend, swam at the club level through high school and then came to Eastern.

"It was just something I'd always wanted to do," she said. "Like, when you're a little kid, you just kind of look up to the college swimmers. Like that's the level I want to be, that's the level I want to go to. So, this is kind of just like my dream."

Senior Brittany Wininger, who was also part of the 400-yard freestyle relay, said Davidson had an amazing 200-yard freestyle race.

"It was really close, then she really picked it up," Wininger said. "She's a really fierce competitor and she just picked it up and they weren't able to stay with her."

Davidson said she started as a butterfly and distance swimmer when she was young, then went to sprinting and backstroke.

Currently, her best events are sprint and freestyle events.

Senior Kristin McCoy, who swam with Davidson on the relay team, said she is good to work with because of her positive attitude and high goals.

"I feel that by setting her goals high it helps the other swimmers to set their goals high and it helps us in meets," McCoy said.

Davidson, a Toronto native, moved to Florida in seventh grade, where she went to school until she came here.

She said the biggest change from Florida to Illinois is wearing more clothes in the winter.

"The swim team and rugby team took bets my freshman year to find out whether I'd come back my second year," Davidson said. They figured the weather would kill me."

She said it is still cold to her, but



JOHN BAILEY | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Senior swimmer Marlise Davidson won two individual events in last Saturday's swim meet against Saint Louis. Davidson also plays for the women's rugby team in addition to swimming freestyle events.



she just wears many layers now.

Besides swimming, Davidson plays rugby here, but chose to red-shirt this season and just focus on swimming. She will have one year of rugby eligibility left next season.

"It would be nice to go out and see what I can do for a year," Davidson said. "I'll have rugby until I can't walk on the field anymore."

Davidson decided to take this year off from rugby not only to train more for swimming, but because rugby can still be played at a professional level.

"Swimming was easy to do while playing rugby; (it) kept me in shape," she said. "But rugby, although it did do something for my fitness, was hard to put in the practice time I needed for swimming to do really well."

When she was playing rugby, she started at scrum half.

Davidson said she started playing rugby about 10 years ago.

She had grown up around rugby because her dad coached a team.

"I've been on the field since I was about 5, running around with the men's team when I could,"

Davidson said. "I seriously started playing about 10 years ago and I've been playing since then."

Wininger, who said Davidson is a good competitor, is impressed with being able to do both swimming and rugby.

"I think it's amazing that she was able to do both sports and able to succeed in both of them," Wininger said.

Being able to focus on just one sport, Davidson has noticed her times have gotten faster.

In the 100-yard freestyle, she is about two seconds faster than previous years.

Up next for Davidson and the Panthers is the Mid-Continent Conference, which will be held from Feb. 15-17 at the Indiana University Natatorium in Indianapolis.

Davidson wants to have a big finish at the conference championships to end her career.

"I definitely want to finish in at least the top two, especially in the 100 and 200," she said. "I want to go out with a win in at least one of the events. It will be tough, though."

MARLISE DAVIDSON FAST FACTS

» Senior swimmer from Clearwater, Fla., competes in 50-, 100- and 200-yard freestyle

Top times this season:

» **50-Free:** 24.86 (4th place, Dec. 2 at House of Champions meet)

» **100-Free:** 53.45 (2nd place, Oct. 6 at Louisville)

» **200-Free:** 1:56.82 (1st place, Saturday at home against St. Louis)

WOMEN'S SOCCER |

RECRUITING BRIEF

FIVE NEW PLAYERS ADDED

According to soccerbuzz.com, Eastern has signed Caitlyn Eisenhauer (Barrington), Sarah Rusk (Downers Grove South), Kaitlin Sullivan (Chatham Glenwood), Danielle Flynn and Kaylin Lorbert (both from St. Joseph's Academy in St. Louis).

Eisenhauer and Sullivan are forwards, Lorbert is a goalkeeper, Flynn is a defender and Rusk is a midfielder.

Sullivan is from the same high school as current Panther and last season's Co-Ohio Valley Conference player of the year Kellie Floyd.

The Naperville Soccer Association website, napervillesoccer.com, confirmed that Rusk will be attending Eastern to play soccer.

Rusk, a 5-foot-3 midfielder, said she chose Eastern because she thought the campus was "laid-back and relaxed, like my personality."

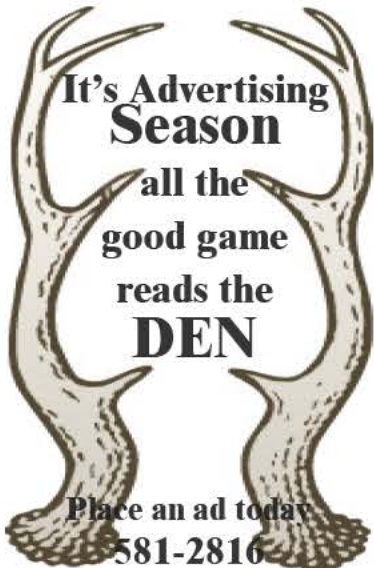
"She has ball skills and great vision of the field," said Ed Leon, Rusk's club team coach.

Eisenhauer was a member of the Illinois Olympic Development Program and part of the United States National Club Team that were champions in 2005 and runner up in 2006.

Scott Streib, Barrington's head coach, said Eisenhauer can play as an attacking midfielder or as a forward.

"She serves a ball well into the goal area," Streib said.

— Associate Sports Editor Kevin Murphy



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Enjoying the ride

I realized something important on Sunday night.

After the excitement of Devin Hester's kickoff return for a touchdown (I called it) and Rex Grossman's depressing interceptions in the Super Bowl, it hit me.

Sports are not about championships and winning for the fans; that is for the players, coaches and owners that have a real stake in the team and the game.

For fans, sports are no different than going to a Dave Matthews Band concert or sitting down for the next episode of 24.

Sports are entertainment and the reason fans want to see winners and see championships is because the joy and the journey get extended that much longer.

Every week in the Bears' season was like a chapter in the best movie I have ever seen, even though I would have preferred an alternate ending.

The Arizona Cardinals comeback game will forever be lodged in my memory. I will never forget Robbie Gould's unbelievable consecutive field goals streak and his game-winner in overtime against the Seattle Seahawks. I will also never forget watching the Super Bowl at the Panther Paw with a raucous crowd or getting tons of text messages after the Bears shut-out the Packers to start the season.

Those are memories all fans want to have.

The Bears and Colts alike gave their fans five more weeks of fun and that is all we can ask for.

Sure it hurts when we see our team lose, and sure it feels good when we see our team win.

But there is always another game, always next week and always next season to create new memories.

The offseason, preseason, regular season and the postseason are the four seasons of the year sports fans love best. Like winter, the postseason can be depressing for some.

» SEE WALTASTI
PAGE 9



Joe Waltasti is a senior history major with journalism minor. He can be reached at jwal717@yahoo.com.

Brand New Panthers



CARRIE HOLLIS | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Secondary coach Noah Joseph discusses one of Eastern's 19 recruits while special teams coordinator Justin Lustig looks on during the press conference for Eastern's Signing Day on Wednesday. The coaches loaded up on linemen and defensive backs in this year's class.

Leman joins Panther defense

By Joe Waltasti
Sports Reporter

If Cory Leman can be half as good as his older brother, Illinois' J Leman, then Eastern will have an excellent linebacker in the future.

The Panthers signed four defensive backs and four linebackers to national letters of intent Wednesday afternoon, including Leman from Central High School in Champaign.

Leman had 97 tackles for the Maroons last season and also rushed for 501 yards and four touchdowns as a two-way starter.

Leman is joined in the recruiting class by fellow linebackers Alain Marcelin (Mirimar, Fla.), Nick Nasti (Plano) and Matt Klein (Buffalo Grove).

Klein is the Bison's all-time leading tackler with 378 and also holds the school record for most tackles for loss with 40.

"He has a nose for the football," said Buffalo Grove coach Rich Roberts. "He can go."

Roberts added that he has known Eastern head coach Bob Spoo for a long time and likes the kind of program he runs.

Marcelin turned down Dartmouth and Cornell to play at Eastern and has a chance to be the valedictorian of his class at Dade Christian High School.

"He played at a small school, which had their best season this year," Eastern defensive coordinator Roc Bellantoni said about Marcelin. "He played fullback and middle linebacker and

High School Signees

| POSITION/NAME | VITALS | HIGH SCHOOL/HOMETOWN |
|---------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| » QB – Luke Hockaday | 6-2, 185 | Maroa-Forsyth (Maroa) |
| » WR – Tafari Mahou | 6-1, 200 | Morgan Park (Chicago) |
| » QB – DJ Brown | 6-1, 180 | North Chicago (North Chicago) |
| » OL – Ryan Grossman | 6-4, 302 | Glenbard North (Carol Stream) |
| » OL – Seth Knolhoff | 6-5, 300 | Carlyle (Carlyle) |
| » OL – Julian Harvey | 6-4, 250 | Thornwood (South Holland) |
| » OL – Eric Rettke | 6-3, 280 | Carl Sandburg (Orland Park) |
| » LB – Cory Leman | 6-0, 197 | Central (Champaign) |
| » LB – Matt Klein | 6-0, 215 | Buffalo Grove (Hoffman Estates) |
| » LB – Nick Nasti | 6-1, 227 | Plano (Plano) |
| » DB – Darieon Hood | 5-9, 175 | St. Rita (Chicago) |
| » OL – Rory Mammano | 6-4, 270 | Centennial (Champaign) |
| » OL – Willie Henderson | 6-2, 270 | Lafayette Jefferson (Lafayette, Ind.) |
| » WR – Lorence Ricks | 6-1, 180 | Ft. Lauderdale (Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.) |
| » WR – Torie Haywood | 5-11, 160 | Andrew Jackson (Jacksonville, Fla.) |
| » LB – Alain Marcelin | 6-0, 215 | Dade Christian (Mirimar, Fla.) |
| » DB – Charles James | 5-8, 170 | Northeast (Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.) |
| » DB – Nick Martinez | 6-0, 208 | Dade Christian (Mirimar, Fla.) |
| » DB – Jacob Jean-Charles | 5-10, 193 | North Miami Beach (Miami) |



Linebacker
Nick Nasti

season for a defensive back.

The Panthers graduated cornerbacks Ben Brown, B.J. Brown and Terrance Sanders, and starting safety Tristan Burge also graduated.

Bellantoni recruited three defensive backs from Florida that could all come in and contribute right away.

Charles James (Fort Lauderdale), Jacob Jean-Charles (Miami), and Nick Martinez (Mirimar) will

we will start him off at linebacker and I think he has a chance to be pretty good there."

Eastern was in need this off-

all join the Panthers in the summer in addition to Darieon Hood (Chicago), who was a running back at St. Rita. Hood will first be tried out as a defensive back, said defensive line coach Shannon Jackson.

"Charles James has a chance to make a real big impact as a freshman," Bellantoni said. "With our vacancy at corner he could come in and compete for a job. He could also have a contribution as a kick returner – he's a pretty dynamic kid when he has the ball in his hands. We feel like he can come in and play right away."

Bellantoni said James participated in the Broward County all-star game and the NFL Global Junior Games.

Hockaday set to compete at quarterback

By Joe Waltasti
Sports Reporter

Maroa-Forsyth's Luke Hockaday highlighted 11 new offensive recruits that officially signed national letters of intent Wednesday to play football for the Panthers.



Quarterback
Luke
Hockaday

The 6-foot-2 quarterback led his team to the Illinois State 2A Championship this year after an undefeated regular season.

The Trojans won their five playoff games by an average of 35 points and Hockaday threw three touchdown passes in the state championship game.

He threw for 2,844 yards and 39 touchdowns with only nine interceptions his senior year.

"We're really excited about him," said Jorge Munoz, Eastern's quarterback coach. "He can throw and run the football and he played in a spread offense where he called a lot of his own audibles."

Munoz said Hockaday hopes to be a four-year starter at Eastern and will compete with current starter – soon-to-be-senior Cole Stinson – as well as sophomore Kyle Kniss and redshirt freshman Bodie Reeder for the job next season.

Munoz and the coaching staff dealt with some rumors that Hockaday was going to de-commit and go to a large school. The rumors persisted Wednesday morning but Munoz knew from meeting Hockaday's family that he would stick with the Panthers.

"I didn't think he was going to waver one bit," Munoz said. "From all the interactions we had, we knew they're an up-front family and they tell the truth."

Also in the quarterback mix next season will be DJ Brown from North Chicago. The 6-foot-1 quarterback was recruited primarily because of his speed, said wide receivers coach Mike Lynch, who also recruits the Chicago area.

"He will get a chance to play for quarterback for us but he could also play wide receiver or defensive back," Lynch said. "His running makes him attractive."

Joining Hockaday and Brown on the offensive side of the ball are wide receivers Tafari Mahou (Chicago), Torie Haywood (Jacksonville, Fla.) and Lorence Ricks (Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.).

"They will add some speed to our big, physical receiving corps," Munoz said.

Eastern returns 6-foot-6 all-OVC selection Micah Rucker next season but must fill the gaps created by the graduation of wide receivers Ryan Voss, Jermaine Mobley and Justin Duhai.

The Panthers also have holes on the offensive line because of graduating seniors.

Eastern lost three linemen: all-OVC selections Eric Johnson and Steve Sobolewski and All-American Jon Rueter.

Replacing them on the roster next season will be six incoming freshmen.

Ryan Grossman (Glen Ellyn), Seth Knolhoff (Carlyle), Julian Harvey (South Holland), Eric Rettke (Orland Park), Rory Mammano (Champaign), and Willie Henderson (Lafayette, Ind.) all signed on to play for Eastern.

Head coach Bob Spoo was not present Wednesday after having routine surgery on Monday, Eastern Sports Information Director Rich Moser said, but issued a statement from the hospital.

"We have brought in a fine group of young men who are very talented football players," said Spoo. "We want to be in a situation where we can reload. We do not want to be in a rebuilding situation and I think this year's class will help us reload."



Off. Lineman
Ryan
Grossman