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Eastern Illinois University

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25th-annual Scholastic Bowl tests students

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Womens hoops win 11th-straight game

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UNIVERSITY

Eastern receives \$6 million in state funding

Reduction in funding for 2011

By Sarah Ruholl
Administration Editor

The leaky faucet of Illinois' finances has splashed a little more into Eastern's budget bucket.

The university received an additional \$6 million in state-appropriat-

ed funding. To date, the university has received \$17.5 million. Eastern's total appropriation for fiscal year 2010 is \$50.6 million.

"We've received a little more than a third," President Bill Perry said.

The university has vouchered \$40.9 million of its appropriation to the comptroller's office so far.

"Vouchered means we've sent something in saying we've spent money," Perry said.

The state continues to drag its feet in making payments to all publicly funded institutions from health care to elementary schools.

Eastern has implemented emergency cost-savings measures, including a freeze on hiring and new equipment purchases, in order to meet its financial obligations.

"Any extra money that comes in helps us get further along in terms of our cash flow, having money to do

business with," Perry said. "It's very positive that the state has been able to send us these payments."

The university's appropriation for fiscal year 2011 is unknown, but the university is preparing itself for a reduction in funding.

"We need to see what our budget is for next year," Perry said. "If state revenues drop, then what the university has to do is figure out how to deal with that budget in the long term and meet

its goals and accomplish its mission."

Permanent cost-savings measures include a 4.5-day workweek during the summer. The half-day each week produces approximately \$250,000 in annual energy cost savings.

"We're always looking for ways to be more efficient to cut costs," Perry said.

Sarah Ruholl can be reached at 581-7942 or seruholl2@eiu.edu.

CAMPUS

Super Bowl party feeds hungry fans



AMIR PRELLBERG | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Sophomore biology major Seabron Morgan watches the Super Bowl Sunday in Taylor Dining Hall. Taylor had a projection screen set up for people to watch the Super Bowl while eating dinner.

Big-screen TV, variety of food, fun at dining hall

By Megan Tkacy
Staff Reporter

Taylor Dining Hall hosted its annual Super bowl party on Sunday, bringing in crowds of students to watch the game on a big-screen in the dining hall.

The party started at the kick-off with an appetizer style menu for students to choose from as they watched the game.

Mark Hudson, director of housing and dining, said the Super Bowl was exciting this year because of the two teams playing.

"There's two high-flying offens-

es there," Hudson said. "You've got what is sort of the local team, with the Indianapolis Colts, then you've got (Sean Payton) with the Saints, which is the local coach that has Eastern ties."

The New Orleans Saints won the game against the Indianapolis Colts, 31-17.

Sam Hartman, a freshman undeclared major, spent the majority of Sunday at the Taylor Super Bowl party for a few reasons.

"I'm not a huge sports fan, but I thought it would be interesting to come down and see what it was all about," Hartman said. "I liked the different food and the sundae bar was delicious."

Sheila Poffinbarger, assistant director of South Quad dining, described the menu as a variety of "fun foods."

"We (had) the five-alarm chili because it is something that has been very popular and the other foods are just sort of fun because we don't have them all the time," she said.

The party, which Poffinbarger said was more like a TV and food party, is enjoyed by students and football fans alike.

"It's kind of laid back and the last couple of years I've had guys sitting here watching the TV from the time it starts and they're here like all afternoon, eating and watching the game," Poffinbarger said.

The party has always been hosted at Taylor, but that might switch over to Thomas because of its extended dining hall hours on Sunday.

"Thomas is also open after the Super Bowl and I was asked this year why they didn't stay open for it and have the TVs over there, but this is

the first year Thomas has been open late. So that may be something that we end up doing in the future," Poffinbarger said.

Hudson enjoys these parties because he said they are a fun way to spend a Sunday night.

"It's a nice fun monotony breakers on a Sunday evening," Hudson said. "Students coming in and doing something that's right there in their building where they can come downstairs and any student who has their meal plan can come to this activity."

Items on the menu included chili, mini hotdogs, pizza sticks, cheese and chips, apple and cherry dumpings, and an ice cream sundae bar.

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HEALTH

Sorority hosts chance for free HIV/AIDS testing

By Heather Holm
Activities Editor

As of 2006, 1.2 million Americans are living with HIV/AIDS, according to aids.gov.

The sorority Delta Sigma Theta will put on its annual AIDS awareness event on campus today, to encourage students to get tested.

The event has been going on for four years to help students become more aware of HIV and AIDS. Students will have the chance to get tested by three testers from the Champaign County Health Department.

To make the atmosphere more comfortable, students will be given a number instead of being called in by name.

Chapter president Erika Collins said calming music will be played in the waiting rooms to lessen the tense atmosphere, and Delta Sigma Theta will raffle off gifts to those who attend, along with providing food and refreshments.

Students will also be given pamphlets and brochures.

A documentary about HIV/AIDS will be played while students wait to be tested. Shawn Peoples, adviser for Delta Sigma Theta, thinks people should be aware of the effects of HIV/AIDS and have the chance to get tested.

"I think it's important to get tested because it is a prevalent disease in society," Peoples said. "People who have it can live full lives, but it is important to know it is still a deadly disease and students should protect themselves."

Peoples said the event is part of Black History Month and Sunday was National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, but anyone can come and get tested. Jantelle Horton, chair of community service for Delta Sigma Theta, said the testing is completely confidential, so that is more of an incentive for students to be aware of their status.

"We believe it is important that people are aware of their health," Horton said. "People need to be healthy in order to help other people."

She also said the numbers of those living with HIV/AIDS and those who have died from the disease have been growing, so students should become aware of their health instead of living in silence.

"What you don't know might kill you," Horton said.

The event is free and open to anyone wishing to learn more about HIV/AIDS. Testing will take place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Arcola-Tuscola, Oakland, Sullivan and Shelbyville rooms in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union with registration in the Arcola-Tuscola Room.

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

02.08.10 Monday

WEATHER TODAY



Mostly Cloudy/Snow

HIGH 28° Another significant winter storm will begin to move in tonight through Tuesday. Expect a slight chance of flurries today and widespread snow showers tonight. Snow accumulation could be 3"-5" and slightly higher in isolated areas. After the system migrates east, overnight lows will drop into the teens.

WEATHER TOMORROW

Tuesday Blowing Snow High: 27° Low: 19°

Wednesday Mostly Cloudy High: 26° Low: 12°

For more weather information: www.dailynews.com

BLOTTER

Donta Williams, 19, of 1729 W. 90th Place, Chicago, was arrested at 3:20 p.m. Wednesday at the University Police Department. Williams was charged with misuse of a credit card and released to the custody of the Coles County Sheriff's Office at 3:43 p.m. pending a court appearance to determine bond, said the University Police Department.

Jasmine Miles, 18, of 11639 S. Vincennes, Chicago, was arrested at 12:45 p.m. Thursday at the UPD. Miles was charged with misuse of a credit card and released to the custody of the Coles County Sheriff's Office at 12:50 p.m. pending a court appearance to determine bond, the UPD said.

A cannabis complaint was reported Wednesday at Thomas Hall. The incident was referred to the Office of Student Standards, the UPD said.

Kaleb Carter, 23, of 34 Cooper, Charleston, was arrested at 12:29 a.m. Friday at the intersection of Lincoln Avenue and Division Street. Carter was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol and was also arrested on an outstanding warrant for battery from Sangamon County. He was released to the custody of the Coles County Sheriff's Office at 12:50 a.m. pending a \$4,000 bond, the UPD said.

CORRECTIONS

An article in Friday's edition of The Daily Eastern News concerning the Information Technology Services contained some factual errors. Chat Chatterji is the former assistant vice president for academic technology. The Center for Academic Technology Support has added four new positions for

Web designers, while ITS has added one new position. ITS reports to Bill Weber, vice president for business affairs. CATS reports to Michael Hoadley, assistant vice president for academic technology.

In a column in Friday's edition of The DEN, it was stated that Sean Payton would

be the first Eastern alumnus to win a Super Bowl title. Alumnus Mike Shanahan won two titles with the Denver Broncos in the 1990s. Eastern alumnus John Teerlinck, the defensive line coach, helped the Indianapolis Colts win Super Bowl XLI. The DEN regrets the errors.

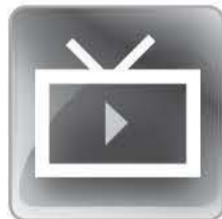
Off the wall



AMIR PRELLBERG | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Eastern graduate Aaron York practices racquetball Sunday afternoon in Court 5 of the Student Recreation Center.

DENNEWS.COM



7th Street rap

Students showed up for the "So You Think You Can Rap?" competition Thursday in 7th Street Underground. Check out some performances and listen to exclusive interviews in this video at DENnews.com.



The 'liger' argument

Online reporter Chaz LeGrand argues that ligers (the combination of a lion and tiger) do exist. Read his animal blog at DENnews.com.

university board OPEN POSITIONS Accepting applications NOW for: Comedy Coordinator Webmaster PAID Positions For questions or information, call the University Board in the Student Activities Center @ 581.5522.

EIU HOMECOMING 2010 OPEN POSITIONS FOR 2010 COMMITTEE BE PART OF EIU'S BIGGEST TRADITION! PARADE CORONATION PANTHER PRIDE COMMUNITY RELATIONS PUBLICITY & MUCH MORE! FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: ALYSSA ANDERSON (ANANDERSON3@EIU.EDU) OR KRISTEN BUSHING (KMBUSHING@EIU.EDU)

THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS "Tell the truth and don't be afraid."

Contact If you have corrections or tips, please call: 217-581-7942 or fax us at: 217-581-2923

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Sexual Responsibility Week February 8-10 Visit the MLK, Jr. Union from 12-2pm and 5-7pm to enter to win a FREE condom rose bouquet! Learn about sexual responsibility and how to protect someone you care about. For more information email herc-peered@eiu.edu

HONORS COLLEGE

Scholastic Bowl aids recruitment

Honors College hosts 25th annual event

By Erica Whelan
 Student Government Editor

The prospect of icy roads and ACT exams was not enough to deter 14 local high school teams from competing in Eastern's 25th annual Scholastic Bowl, hosted by the Honors College.

Armed with pencils, paper and brainpower, competitors went head-to-head in eight timed tournaments that tested their knowledge in an extensive array of academic categories.

Students from Charleston and Teutopolis high schools split in groups of five and consulted over esoteric trivia spanning topics such as astronomy, literature, American history and current events.

Whether recalling titles based off lines of poetry or rattling off four-part responses to bonus questions, spirited students from both teams buzzed in with answers to brainteasers and obscure inquiries alike.

"Too easy," said Sharlina Herboth of Teutopolis High School after correctly identifying the top stripe on the U.S. flag as red.

Herboth's team went on to win the match with 125 points to 40.

Event coordinator Hannah Tatlock, a junior elementary education major, said the questions posed during the matches, moderated by members of the Honors College, are complicated and not likely to be known off-hand.

Even so, Tatlock said she believes the teams expressed a desire to be invited back and generally conveyed that they enjoyed their time competing in Coleman Hall.

Four schools have been waitlisted to partake in the bowl, which Tatlock described as an effective recruiting tool for the university.

"This is a way for Eastern to get the Honors College out there and to shed a positive light on the academic atmosphere here," Tatlock said.

Paul Wiberg, a graduate student in the Honors College, has participated in scholastic competitions and said students get a look at what Eastern has to offer by attending the event, as opposed to a virtual tour on the university's Web site.

Though the weather conditions prevented 10 regional teams from competing, those who made it out were met with a tangible energy fueled by friends, family and coaches who watched from the audience.

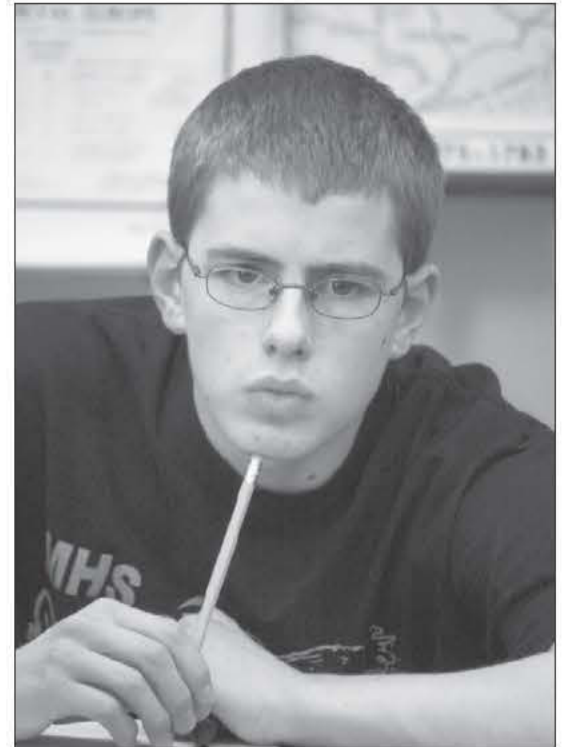
Students from Glenwood-Chatham High School took home the championship, followed by Newton High in second place and St. Anthony in third. This year, the consolation trophy went to Mattoon High School, and six contenders were honored with MVP titles.

Faculty co-coordinator Margaret Messer, director of honors student affairs, said the Scholastic Bowl is a successful event that spotlights academic accomplishments.

"Sports events get all the coverage," Messer said. "We appreciate the opportunity to get these students excited about exercising their brains at Eastern. It gives good practice for the IHSA-sponsored tournaments."

As for next year, faculty co-coordinator Bonnie Irwin, dean of the Honors College, said the organization effort will begin today with a debriefing, as well as a discussion pertaining to points of improvement for the future.

"We spend several weeks preparing, and we really look forward to it," Irwin said. "The Honors College runs this event because it's an academic and intellectual competition, and we're pleased to welcome students to the campus who have those skills."



AUDREY SAWYER | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS
 Rex Colgrove, a sophomore from Mattoon High School, concentrates on a math question during the Scholastic Bowl tournament hosted by Eastern's Honors College.

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SCHOOL SPIRIT

Panther Nation looking for higher student turnout

Prizes, contests fill stands of sporting events

By Erica Whelan
 Student Government Editor

Hailing from a high school of 300, Student Body President Michelle Murphy said she was surprised when she discovered that students at her former high school attended more football games than the number of students at Eastern's games.

"There was no question of whether people were going to go to games," Murphy said. "Everyone just went, and you didn't show up without your black and gold (Tuscola High School's colors) on. There was a huge crowd at every game, it was just kind of a cultural thing."

Having attended every football game since coming to Eastern, Mur-

phy hoped to establish an animated medium for student involvement in campus athletic events.

Murphy pioneered Panther Nation over the summer as what she described to be a last push to promote pride on campus along with the board of directors, comprised of DeMarlon Brown, president of the Black Student Union, Otis Seawood, special events coordinator of the University Board and Jarrod Scherle, student government vice president for business affairs.

Replacing Eastern's Blue Crew, which Murphy had participated in previously, Panther Nation was organized to combat low attendance at sporting events, as well as to create a cheering section.

"It was meant to remedy a failed attempt at getting some school spirit for a lot of years," Murphy said. "It's not something you can fix overnight, and it's going to take several years of constant attention to build a foundation strong enough to keep the group go-

ing." With approximately 450 due-paying members, Murphy said Panther Nation is the largest student group on campus, though she admits participation has fluctuated since the first semester.

"I can't really pinpoint what it is," Murphy said. "I don't know if people just don't have the kind of pride they need to get excited about Eastern events, but I sure hope it changes. Our athletes deserve support and they work hard to get it. I'm sure it's a little disheartening when it doesn't work out."

Murphy said participation in Panther Nation held up well during the prime of football season, but the group is currently experiencing a gap in interest leading into basketball season.

She said the board intends to take the necessary steps to boost the organization, especially in time to pack Lantz Arena for the men's and women's basketball whiteout game against Morehead State at 5 p.m. Thursday.

This will be Eastern's second nation-

ally televised home game on ESPNU, and Murphy said the first 300 students would each receive a white T-shirt to support the whiteout theme.

In addition to the chance of being on TV, members of Panther Nation can compete for prizes in contests to determine the best face and body painting as well as the best custom-made T-shirt and best sign.

Murphy said Panther Nation will be hosting giveaways and restarting the point system for event attendance this semester.

"It's hard to do a lot of stuff when the budget's frozen," Murphy said. "I've been scrambling around getting donations and prizes and it's an uphill battle to say the least. It's hard to do big-time events when you don't have a big-time budget available."

While Murphy said Panther Nation would ideally generate a profit, the board has already spent its operating budget for the year, which includes a \$20 membership fee.

"It's not cheap to put on a tailgate for every football game, and it's not cheap to keep re-buying the merchandise," Murphy said. "We've gone through the budget to keep ourselves afloat because we didn't want to harass people for donations."

As Panther Nation is a leg of Eastern's student government, the board has informally appealed to student senate members to support a co-sponsorship of a resolution to bring to the apportionment board in the event that the organization requires funds.

Murphy intends to provide a travel opportunity to support the women's basketball team.

For the time being, she said the board will continue to consider ways to reach out to the student body as well as generate a higher student turnout at sporting events, including baseball and softball in the coming months.

Erica Whelan can be reached at 581-7942 or elwhelan@eiu.edu.

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VIEWS



David Thill

Counting sheep? Get to sleep!

Never let it be said that I am a morning person. In my book, such a statement is regarded as slanderous.

It isn't as though I have anything against "the morning" per se. After all, I understand the necessity of it as it leads to hours later in the day. I'm fairly certain it would be impossible to progress to 11 a.m. without the four or five hours that precede it.

However, I just can't stand getting up early. I will if I have to, as I often do. And it's to my understanding that most jobs worth having post-graduation will require me to do such.

But I simply am and always have been a night owl.

It may have something to do with the serenity and calmness that accompanies 4 a.m. Maybe I enjoy the nighttime because it allows me to do virtually whatever I like without the tedious hassle of others coming around.

More realistically, though, it probably has something to do with my insomnia.

I simply do not possess the ability to fall asleep before the wee hours of the morning. I've tried everything.

I've tried watching infomercials (30 minutes of a "Body by Jake" program explaining to me why I must own an exercise device that looks like 17 bungee chords attached to my door), which would knock most people out like a toddler hit with a dart full of elephant tranquilizer.

I often attempt to read myself into an unconscious state.

In my opinion, any and all writings by Ernest Hemingway should replace Ritalin and Adderall as a medication for Attention Deficit Disorder, because if anything can lull me into a drooling pile of mush, it's Hemingway. Though, when I attempt to read something that actually interests me while lying in bed, I usually end up just reading the whole thing.

The point is far too many college students live the type of life as I. We, being young and thinking ourselves invincible, burn the candle at both ends. Either we toil late into the night, working on homework that *must* be done or we go out, partying and drinking until dawn.

College life isn't easy. If it were, many more people would graduate Magna Cum Laude. College is a time to have fun, live life to the fullest and experience new things.

However, regardless of how we spend the late hours of the night, we often lose sight of the most important aspect of life: Taking care of our bodies.

Sure, at the age of 18, sleeping two or three hours a night can be easily dealt with.

But as the years move forward, it gets harder and harder to perform the next day under such strain and it becomes more and more important that we perform the best we can.

And of course, it is great to get out and blow off steam occasionally and all-nighters are sometimes a necessary evil.

Recently though, I've begun to realize more how important it is to get those extra few hours of sleep.

So, close the book, you can finish reading in the morning and decline that last beer, there will be more to drink later.

You may be an adult, but everybody has a bedtime.

David Thill is a senior journalism major and can be reached at 581-7942 or DENopinions@gmail.com.

THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

"Tell the truth and don't be afraid"

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

Students must realize Black History is much more than month

By now, everyone in the U.S. should know February marks Black History Month.

Recognized since 1926, February is meant as a celebration and remembrance of all civil rights leaders and all black Americans who have come before us. It is a time to reflect on all those who suffered so greatly and gave so much in a tireless effort for freedom, respect and the rights that should be bestowed to *all*.

Over the past half-century, our society has made great strides in civil rights and liberties. However, the simple truth is that too many members of our generation perhaps do not fully comprehend the significance of the month's meaning or the importance of recognizing those who came before us in order to make black history such an important and integral part of the history of our country and the history and betterment of all people.

Eastern's population is made up of a wide range of ethnicities and cultures. For a small, rural city in central Illinois, we're lucky to have such a diverse population from which we can all learn and grow.

However, the fact is that 76 percent of our population categorize themselves as white/non-Hispanic and only 11 percent black/non-Hispanic.

We would all like to claim we understand one another as a people and can commiserate and appreciate the struggles of black Americans who came before us. However, as most of us have never—and will never—go through the type of treatment endured before the breakthroughs of the Civil Rights Era, most of our generation can never understand the type of strength, courage and resolve it required to endure such struggles in the quest for equal and fair treatment in America.

Put simply, most of us "Just don't get it." That is not an indictment of us as people or as students. Regardless of race — whether you are black, white, His-

"As a people, regardless of our race, we must take this month, and every month, every day, every moment to remember black history and how absolutely essential it has been to our country and our lives."

panic, Asian or otherwise — a simple byproduct of being born and living in this time is having so much freedom that we cannot possibly comprehend the significance of Black History Month.

While 1865, the year when the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution abolished slavery, may seem like eons ago to a college student, the reality is that 145 years is grain of sand on a beach in the grand scheme of things.

It really was not long ago when our country operated under such a flawed, cruel and ignorant frame of mind.

We are experiencing an amazing time in history, as our country follows the leadership of the first black president.

It was 55 years ago when Emmett Till, a black boy in Mississippi, was brutally murdered for allegedly whistling at a white woman in a store.

The country witnessed as the news unfolded and the two men responsible were set free, only to later brag about their barbarism while hiding behind the cloak of double jeopardy like cowards.

It was 42 years ago when Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., arguably the most important figure of the Civil Rights Movement, was assassinated in Memphis, Tenn., killed for simply spreading the word of peace, mutual respect and understanding.

Only a few decades ago these atrocities were committed. Innocent children, social leaders preaching peace and love and countless others, victimized and attacked simply for living their lives and striving for the same justice and freedom that all should be granted.

As a people, regardless of our race, we must take this month, and every month, every day, every moment to remember black history and how absolutely essential it has been to our country and our lives.

We may never quite "get it" but, with reflection and remembrance, we can still appreciate it.

FROM THE EASEL

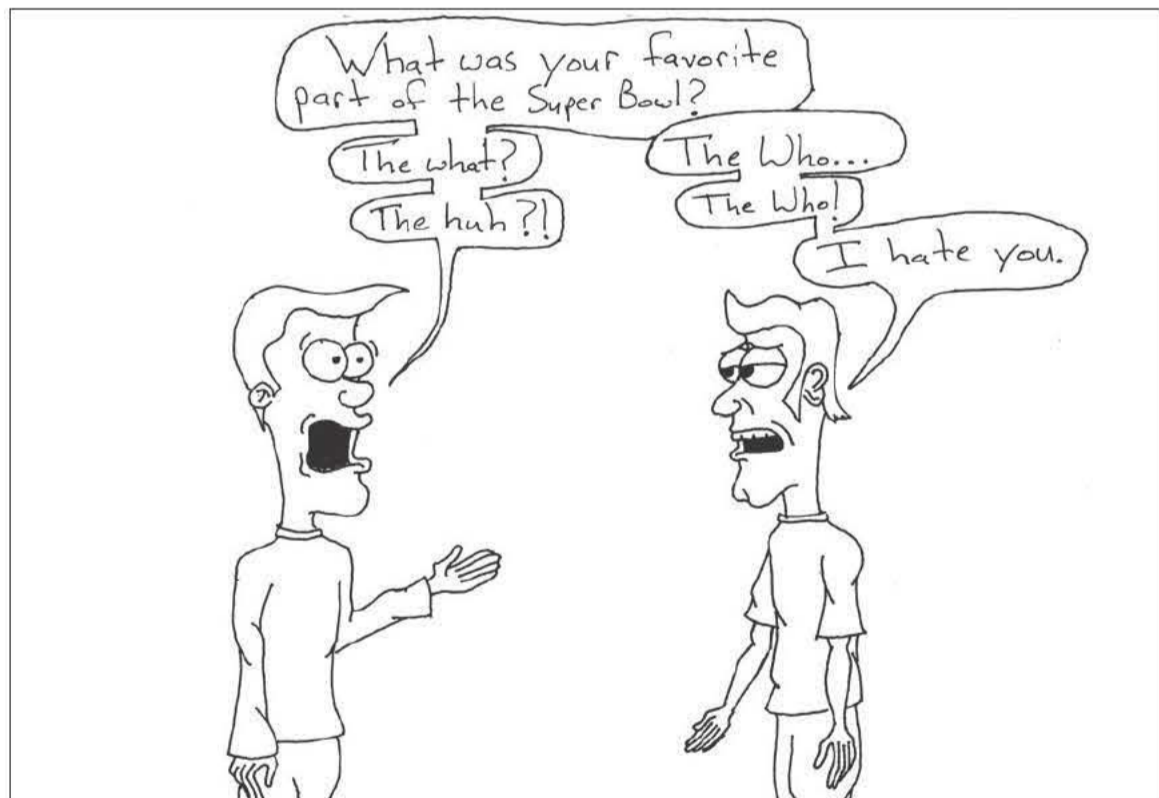


ILLUSTRATION BY DAVID THILL | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

FROM AROUND THE STATE

First Lady's diet: The daughters suffer

By the *Daily Vidette* Editorial Board
Illinois State University

Michelle Obama is well-known for voicing her concern on childhood obesity.

She has emphasized a need for healthy choices for children, such as replacing high sugar foods with fruits and vegetables.

She even has a vegetable garden on the White House lawn to endorse her beliefs with her children.

But some critics are saying she has taken it too far. Last week she brought her own children into the discussion of the childhood obesity crisis.

The First Lady stated that during a recent visit to the pediatrician she had a "wake-up moment" when the doctor exclaimed some concern over Malia and Sasha's body mass index.

The doctor explained that they were off track and needed to fix the situation before it morphed into a real problem.

Mrs. Obama changed things such as giving her daughters low fat milk, eliminating week-day TV, smaller portion sizes and water at lunch along with more fruits and vegetables.

"It was really very minor stuff, but these small changes resulted in some really significant improvements, and I didn't know it would," Mrs.

Obama said in a Health AP article. "It was so significant that the next time we visited our pediatrician, he was amazed. He looked over the girls' charts and he said, 'What on earth are you doing?'"

The changes appear to be keeping the girls on track and at a healthy level for their age, but the First Lady has been under criticism since she discussed her daughters weight in a public interview. Malia, who is 12 years old and close to dealing with teenage body image issues, could be dramatically affected by her mother's actions.

To read more, visit www.DailyVidette.com

STATE

ELECTION

Dem. lieutenant governor candidate exits race

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — The Democratic nominee for Illinois' lieutenant governor dropped out of the race Sunday night, less than a week after winning the nomination, amid a political uproar about his past.

In announcing his decision at a Chicago bar packed with people watching the Super Bowl, Scott Lee Cohen said the Democrats were not certain they could win with him on the ticket.

Since Cohen won the Democratic nomination on Tuesday, it has become widely known that he was accused of abusing his ex-wife and holding a knife to the throat of an ex-girlfriend — a woman who was herself charged with prostitution.

He also admits using steroids in the past.

"For the good of the people of the state of Illinois and the Democratic Party, I will resign," a clearly emotional Cohen said in a rambling remarks made as the Super Bowl halftime entertainment blared in the background.

Democratic Gov. Pat Quinn, who would have been paired with Cohen on the November ticket, U.S. Rep. Danny Davis and Sen. Dick Durbin all had urged Cohen to leave the race. Quinn has said he knew nothing about the allegations against Cohen until after Tuesday's primary.

Surrounded by his two sons, his fiancée and

"The last thing I wanted to do was put the people of Illinois in jeopardy."

Scott Lee Cohen, Democratic nominee for Illinois' lieutenant governor, who just dropped out of the race

his fiancée's sons, Cohen apologized to his family, his supporters and anyone he may have let down.

"The last thing I wanted to do was put the people of Illinois in jeopardy," Cohen said.

Until his nomination, Cohen was a political unknown.

Democratic leaders had not considered him a threat to win and didn't highlight his past during the campaign.

The pawnbroker and owner of a cleaning supplies company ran against several veteran politicians, spending \$2 million — mostly his own money — on his campaign, more than twice as much as all his opponents combined.

NATION

WASHINGTON D.C.

Obama invites GOP leaders to health care talk

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama, battling complaints that he has been too partisan and secretive in pushing his health care agenda, said Sunday he will host leaders of both parties to discuss the topic later this month.

The announcement came as Obama and Congress' Democratic leaders seek a way to overhaul the nation's health care system even though Senate Republicans are again able to block legislation with filibusters.

Polls show that many Americans feel Obama and his congressional allies have not sought enough GOP input, although Democrats say Republicans have shown virtually no interest in seeking a realistic agreement.

Many people also have criticized Democrats' closed-door negotiations, which led to special accommodations for Nebraska and Louisiana senators

when their votes were in question. Some Republicans taunted Obama for suggesting earlier that health care negotiations should be aired on C-SPAN, and one GOP senator said health care would be the president's Waterloo.

In an interview Sunday with CBS's Katie Couric, Obama said the closed-door deal-cutting was not helpful to the process.

The White House said the half-day bipartisan session will take place Feb. 25 and will be aired live on television.

It's unclear whether the bipartisan gathering might lead to changes in Democratic-crafted legislation that has passed the House and Senate in separate forms, or whether it will largely be seen as a showy stab at bipartisanship that yields few results. Congress' Democratic and Republican leaders have differed sharply on most major questions in the long-running health care debate.

House Republican leader John Boehner of Ohio included a few jabs at Democrats while accepting Obama's invitation.


Boehner said he was glad the White House "finally seems interested in a real, bipartisan conversation on health care." He said Americans have rejected "the job-killing, trillion-dollar government takeover of health care bills passed by the House and Senate."

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said she was hopeful "that the Republican leadership will work in a bipartisan fashion on the great challenges the American people face."

White House officials said Sunday that Obama does not intend to restart the health care legislative process from scratch.

The White House has not ruled out such a strategy. But Obama's recent talk of inviting Republican input and extending the debate for several weeks has caused uncertainty about his plans.

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SAINTS, from page 8

first title, scoring 107 points and allowing only 59.

The championship came 4½ years after Hurricane Katrina ravaged New Orleans, making the Saints nomads for the 2005 season.

There even was some doubt they would return, but the NFL refused to abandon the Big Easy.

The Superdome was rebuilt and the Saints won the NFC South in '06, their first season with Brees and Peyton.

That was the season Manning won his only Super Bowl. He had the Colts in front for much of this one, but New Orleans' league-leading offense, which scored 510 points this season, outscored Indy 31-7 after falling behind 10-0.

WIN, from page 8

improved on was the turnovers. Against Jacksonville State last Saturday, Eastern had 18 turnovers. This game saw Eastern commit only nine while forcing the Redhawks into 16 turnovers.

The Panthers took advantage of these opportunities and outscored Southeast Missouri 24-3 in points off turnovers.

Also, Eastern outperformed the Redhawks in the paint by a score of 36-18.

Miller's team shot 51 percent from the field and held its rival to 33 percent shooting.

Red-shirt freshman James Hollowell scored all 10 of his points in the first half.

"The big thing was James Hollowell came out and gave us a big first half and that got us going," Miller

said. "We had some balance tonight."

Freshman forward Shaun Pratl tallied eight points to lead the bench in 10 minutes of play.

Senior guard Dewayne Wright Jr. added six points.

The victory puts the Panthers in a three-way tie for fifth place in the conference with Tennessee State (12-12, 6-7 OVC) and Jacksonville State (10-13, 6-7 OVC) as both rivals lost Saturday.

Eastern has split its season series with both opponents.

The Panthers will face second-place Morehead State (17-7, 11-2 OVC) at 8 p.m. Thursday in Lantz Arena.

Bob Bajek can be reached at 581-7944 or rtbajek@eiu.edu.



Jordan Boner | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS
Senior guard T.J. Marion and head coach Mike Miller watch sophomore guard Jeremy Granger make a pass during drills on Jan. 26 in Lantz Arena.

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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL | EASTERN 71, SEMO 41



AUDREY SAWYER | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Freshman forward Mariah King passes the ball during practice on Feb. 1 in Lantz Arena.

Taking care of business

Team outplays SEMO 71-41

By Alex McNamee
Assistant Sports Editor

The Panthers won their first game on the home floor of Southeast Missouri in head coach Brady Sallee's tenure Saturday in Cape Girardeau, Mo., by a score of 71-41.

Eastern won its 11th-straight game of the season as it snapped a 0-9 record in the Show Me Center that dates back to 2001.

The Panthers ran away with the win after having led by 15 at halftime, following some early struggles.

Eastern began the game by leading 10-2 after the first five minutes of play, but the Redhawks caught up and took the lead for a short time.

"They got back into it by hitting a couple threes, so we had to adjust to that after we had been defending the paint really hard," Sallee said. "I thought our kids did a good job holding their composure after that."

The game remained close until the Panthers scored the last 15 points of the first half, giving them momentum to take into halftime.

"Even before the game, we talked about how we want to do the things we want to do and at halftime we kept that going," senior forward Maggie Kloak said. "We expected a run to come from SEMO in the second half, so when we went out there, we were ready and able

to stop them from going on one."

Senior guard Ashley Thomas led the team throughout the first half scoring all 10 of her points in the game in the first 20 minutes, coming out of Thursday's game when she did not play a single minute.

"I thought Ashley gave us a big lift in the first half by hitting some threes from some plays we had drawn up," Sallee said.

Three other Panthers notched double-digits including freshman forward Sydney Mitchell, who scored a career-high 12 points along with Kloak and senior guard Dominique Sims who also scored 12 points.

"Coming off of last weekend, Sydney was zero for the weekend, so she felt some urgency to step up and she definitely did this week," Sallee said.

Eastern cruised through the second half as its starters checked out of the game early and gave an opportunity to the bench players to carry the team.

Four players came off the bench and tallied double-digit minutes, including freshman guard Kelsey Wyss (23) and Mitchell (14).

The Redhawks were held to 16-of-48 shooting, for 33 percent from the field. However, SEMO was playing without its three leading scorers in freshman guard Jasmine Davis, junior forward Lauren Sharpe and freshman forward Bailie Roberts.

Despite playing without its top scorers, SEMO found a spark off the bench in freshman forward Brittany Harriel and freshman guard Erika Lane who

scored 12 and 11 points, respectively.

"I thought they (SEMO) played really well given what they had been dealt with the injuries they have," Sallee said. "I honestly think that coach (John) Ishee is doing as good of a job with those kids as anybody in the league and they'll be a factor when they get those kids back."

Eastern dominated second-chance points 16-2 over the Redhawks after grabbing twice as many rebounds as SEMO did, 40-20. The Panthers won the offensive board battle 13-5.

"Second-chance points are huge and are something that we stress day-in and day-out," Kloak said. "We work hard to out-rebound teams and I think this just shows how much it's paying off."

With the win, the Panthers finished off their two four-game road trip, which Sallee said he was impressed with.

"We had to play really tough Thursday (against SIU-E) to get out of there with a win in sort of a trap game and we did," Sallee said. "I was really impressed with our one-day preparation for this game."

Sallee said his team did a good job listening to assistant head coach Lee Buchanan after he had developed a game plan for SEMO.

Eastern will return home Thursday for a game pitting the top two teams in the conference together as it will host Morehead State at 5 p.m. in Lantz Arena.

Alex McNamee can be reached at 581-7944 or admcmnamee@eiu.edu.

NFL

Saints win Super Bowl over Colts

The Associated Press

MIAMI, Fla. — Who Dat won the Super Bowl? The New Orleans Saints, that's who.

Ain't kidding.

Put away those paper bags forever: Drew Brees and the Saints are NFL champions, rallying to upset Peyton Manning and the Indianapolis Colts 31-17 Sunday night in one of pro football's most thrilling title games.

Brees tied a Super Bowl record with 32 completions, the last a 2-yard slant to Jeremy Shockey for the winning points with 5:42 remaining. The Pro Bowl quarterback was chosen Super Bowl MVP.

"We just believed in ourselves and we knew that we had an entire city and maybe an entire country behind us," Brees said. "What can I say? I tried to imagine what this moment would be like for a long time and it's better than expected."

A surprise onside kick sparked the Saints' second-half comeback. Their 25th-ranked defense made several key stops, and Tracy Porter's 74-yard interception return on a pass from Manning, of all people,

clinched it.

Manning gave futile chase, but was blocked by a New Orleans defender and fell awkwardly as the cornerback raced by. The four-time NFL MVP forlornly walked to the sideline as the Big Easy celebrations began. Who would have thought the biggest mistake of the game would have come from Manning?

An NFL embarrassment for much of their 43 years, the Saints' football renaissance, led by Brees and coach Sean Payton, climaxed with Shockey's touchdown and Lance Moore's 2-point conversion catch. The conversion pass originally was ruled incomplete, but Payton challenged the call and won.

Porter's pick, just as dramatic as his interception of Brett Favre's pass to force overtime in the NFC title game, was the game's only turnover. It's one Manning will forever regret.

The Saints (16-3) won three postseason games this winter after winning only two in the previous 42 years. They beat Arizona, Minnesota and Indianapolis (16-3) — all division winners — for their

SAINTS, page 7

MEN'S BASKETBALL | EASTERN 75, SEMO 49

Panthers get back on track after win

Win stops road losing streak

By Bob Bajek
Sports Editor

A complete game has been lacking from the Eastern men's basketball team for a few weeks as it lost six of its last seven matchups.

The Panthers returned to form Saturday against Southeast Missouri as they defeated the Redhawks 75-49 in Cape Girardeau, Mo.

The win ends Eastern's six-game losing skid away from Lantz Arena.

The Panthers (12-11, 6-7 in the Ohio Valley Conference) pulled away in the first half by having an 11-0 run that opened up a 37-25 halftime advantage.

They commenced the next pe-

riod with a 9-2 run to hold the Redhawks (7-16, 3-9 OVC) at bay.

Eastern head coach Mike Miller said in a WEIU-FM interview he was happy with his players' performances.

"We were really close to putting up a complete game," Miller said. "This is what we needed. We talked about playing our best basketball with the next month ahead and this is the first step."

Sophomore guard Jeremy Granger ignited the Panther offense by scoring a game-leading 19 points on 9-of-15 shooting and helping with five assists. He scored the first three Eastern baskets in the second half.

"We got the ball to Jeremy and he played with some energy and some speed," Miller said. "He got the ball down the floor and created a couple layups in transition."

One area the Panthers

WIN, page 7

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