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Daily Eastern News: March 08, 2018

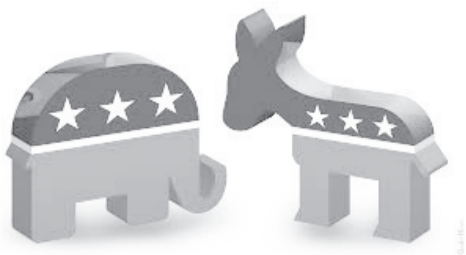
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VOTES AND VALUES

Meet the candidates running for U.S. representative of the 15th district before the primary elections

PAGE 3



TENNIS TIME

The Panthers have two road matches with Illinois State and Rose-Hulman coming up this weekend

PAGE 8

THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Thursday, March 8, 2018

"TELL THE TRUTH AND DON'T BE AFRAID"

VOL. 102 | NO. 119

CELEBRATING A CENTURY OF COVERAGE

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Eastern first to be shown new series

By Jasmine Terry
Contributing Writer | @DEN_News

Eastern will be the first in the nation to get to watch a new documentary series by the National Geographic.

The geology/geography department will host a pre-screening of "One Strange Rock," narrated by Will Smith and produced by Jane Root and Darren Aronofsky.

"One Strange Rock" is set to be shown from 12:30 to 2 p.m. Thursday in Room 3040 of the Physical Science Building. There will also be light refreshments provided, such as soda and snacks, for those who attend.

The national broadcast of the first episode is on March 26. Diane Burns, chair of the geology/geography department, said it hopes to bring the community of Charleston together, including students, faculty and retirees, to watch this pre-screening and see the different seculars of Earth.

"One Strange Rock" allows the viewer to experience the Earth through the views of 10 astronauts who are featured in the series.

Burns said this is a moment for Eastern to take in, since the university will be the first to show it.

The department of geology/geography does not host this type of movie showing often, Burns said.

The last time it did was 2 years ago, when it hosted a screening of the movie "Chasing Ice," about global warming. Burns said the pre-screening is a one-time only event.

"I want people to just enjoy the movie and understand the Earth to see how beautiful the earth is," she said.

Jasmine Terry can be reached at 581-2812 or jmterry2@eiu.edu.

Reveal date for concert announced

By Analicia Haynes
Managing Editor | @Haynes1943

The performers for the Spring Concert will be announced at noon, March 22 in the Food Court of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

The concert reveal date was announced during an informal Student Senate meeting Wednesday night.

University Board chair Jordan McLaren said there will be a banner dropped to show the performers for the concert, and social media "clues" as well as posters advertising the reveal will be posted the Monday after spring break.

Student Senator Kevin Flasch asked if McLaren could reveal any more information about the concert, such as the genre of music, but she said she could not.

The meeting was informal because the Senate did not meet quorum and therefore could not vote on two bills asking for an additional allocation for student government and the UB.

Concert, page 5

Impromptu books for you



MERCURY BOWEN | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Reference librarian Andy Cougill and Chris Cougill, library operations associate in circulation services, set up for a pop-up library in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union. The library consisted of graphic novels from the collection at Booth Library. "The idea is to keep the library present in people's minds," Chris Cougill said.

Students share spring break plans

Week-long vacation starts this weekend

As the first half of the semester comes to a close, students are excited for spring break and the activities they plan to take part in.

Kelli Slagel, a junior elementary education major, plans to spend her break at home with family and friends.

"I know my mom is planning to do a lot of activities with our family," Slagel said. "We might go to the movie theater to see 'Black Panther', and I will probably play in a volleyball league that my family is involved in."

Slagel also plans to spend part of her break with her friends from Eastern.

"We are actually planning to go to St. Louis for a couple of days," Slagel said. "Our plan is to go to the city museum and the arch, maybe Six Flags for a day and then we want to go eat at a restaurant called Twisted Ranch that has around 800 different ranch flavors."

Slagel wants to get more observational hours for her major as well, so she plans to go help out in one of her family friends' classrooms for a day.

Aisha Mutesi, a sophomore family and consumer sciences major, is excited to go home and see her family during break, seeing as how this is her first time at a university and away from her family.

"I am looking forward to spring break

this year more than any other spring break that I have had in my school life," Mutesi said.

"This is the first spring semester that I have been away from home, and from my three-year-old brother for such a long time."

I really cannot wait to see (my friends) as well as my family, since I do not get to see them very often.

Austin Bucholz, sophomore communication studies major

Mutesi wants to spend quality time with her young brother, whom she is very close to, while at home.

"My main plan is to take him to the park, the pet store and watch his favorite cartoons with him," Mutesi said.

"I am also planning to hang out with my best friend at her house, and it will be a great time because her dad makes some of the best Indian food that I have ever had."

Mutesi plans on working on some school work as well.

"I have to observe an adolescent for my lifespan development class paper, so that should be fun," Mutesi added.

Austin Bucholz, a sophomore communication studies major, is planning on travel-

ing, aside from spending time with family, while he goes home for break.

"I am going to go to Pigeon Forge, Tenn. for four days with my friends from Eastern, ISU and Bradley University," Bucholz said.

"After that, I plan to go back home near Chicago and see my family."

While in Pigeon Forge, Bucholz and his friends have a lot of activities planned.

"We are going to be staying in cabins, hiking and singing karaoke," Bucholz said.

"We also want to check out all the mountains in the area and visit all the shops and see other sights."

Once he arrives home, Bucholz plans to take it easy with family and friends.

"My friends and I will probably hit up a few local bars," Bucholz added.

"I really cannot wait to see them, as well as my family, since I do not get to see them very often."

Andrew Paisley can be reached at 581-2812 or at abpaisley@eiu.edu.

Local weather

THURSDAY FRIDAY



Partly Cloudy
High: 35°
Low: 22°



Cloudy
High: 41°
Low: 29°

THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

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

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State and Nation

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Shooter indicted for murders

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — Florida school shooting suspect Nikolas Cruz was formally charged Wednesday with 17 counts of first-degree murder, which could mean a death sentence if he is convicted.

The indictment returned by a grand jury in Fort Lauderdale also charges the 19-year-old with 17 counts of attempted murder for the Valentine's Day massacre at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland in which 17 people died and more than a dozen others were wounded.

Cruz's public defender has said he will plead guilty if prosecutors take the death penalty off the table, which would mean a life prison sentence. Prosecutors have 45 days to decide whether they want to seek the death penalty.

James and Kimberly Snead, the couple who gave Cruz a home after his mother died late last year, testified before the grand jury. James Snead and the couple's attorney, Jim Lewis, wore silver "17" pins to honor the victims of the shooting.

The couple is "trying to do the right thing" and is mourning along with the rest of the Parkland community, Lew-

is said.

Cruz told investigators he took an AR-15 rifle to his former school on Feb. 14 and started shooting into classrooms.

Jail records released by the Broward Sheriff's Office show Cruz was being held in solitary confinement. Officers described Cruz as avoiding eye contact with deputies but also being cooperative and engaged with his visitors.

The report said Cruz "often sits with a blank stare," asked for a Bible to read and appeared to be "smiling and giggling" during one visit with his attorneys. Investigators and psychiatrists also have visited Cruz in his single-person cell in the jail's infirmary, where officers note his activities every 15 minutes.

His brother visited him twice, along with Roxanne Deschamps, who took in both teens after their mother died in November. Cruz lived with Deschamps only briefly before moving in with the Sneads.

In Tallahassee, the Florida House was expected to vote on gun legislation stemming from the school shooting.

The legislation would put some restrictions on rifle sales, provide new mental health programs for schools and improve

communication between school districts, law enforcement and state agencies. On Tuesday, Democrats failed to strip the bill of language that would create a program to arm some teachers and school employees who complete law enforcement training.

Two parents who lost children in the Stoneman Douglas shooting told reporters that all the victims' families want the legislation to succeed.

Andrew Pollack, who lost his 18-year-old daughter Meadow, and Ryan Petty, who lost his 14-year-old daughter Alaina, said there was enough good in the bill that it should pass.

Meanwhile, the Parkland school hosted two dignitaries Wednesday: Miami Heat guard Dwyane Wade and U.S. Education Secretary Betsy DeVos.

DeVos told reporters that arming some teachers should be considered an option but not a requirement. As a model, she cited a program in Florida's Polk County where teachers or other employees at two private universities have trained with the sheriff's office so they can carry concealed weapons on campus.

School funding bill headed to the Illinois Senate

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP) — A follow-up bill to Illinois' school funding reform law is headed to the state Senate after winning approval from members of the House.

The (Springfield) State Journal-Register reports that state officials say the measure is needed to make sure money is properly distributed under the new plan. The House vote on Wednesday was 76-31.

So far funds haven't been distributed under the new school funding law because state education officials say there are errors in it. Democratic state Rep. Will Davis of Homewood says the legislation contains items that the state Board of Education says are necessary to implement last year's school funding reform plan.

The new plan sends the most state money to the school districts most in need of help.

Judge orders Chicago mayor deposed in police shooting suit

CHICAGO (AP) — A judge is ordering Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel and Police Superintendent Eddie Johnson to sit for sworn depositions in a lawsuit filed by the family of a teenager fatally shot by an officer in 2015.

Wednesday's ruling by a Cook County judge is the latest development in a case in which both the officer and the attorneys representing the city have been criticized. Late last year, a police disciplinary body ruled that Officer Robert Rialmo's shooting of 19-year-old Quintonio LeGrier and bystander Bettie Jones was unjustified after concluding that LeGrier didn't swing a baseball bat at Rialmo as the officer has contended.

The city's attorney's attorneys were criticized after saying they wanted to sue LeGrier's estate before changing their minds and for asking his mother during her deposition if she conceived her son while working as a prostitute.

CA immigration feud continues

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions brought the Trump administration's feud with California to the doorstep of the state Capitol on Wednesday, suing over its so-called sanctuary state law and dramatically escalating a war with the liberal powerhouse in a sharp exchange of words with Democratic Gov. Jerry Brown.

Sessions was defiant as he spoke to local law enforcement officials about the lawsuit, citing a series of California laws that he says are unconstitutional and violate common sense.

The lawsuit is the latest salvo in an escalating feud between the Trump administration and California, which has resisted the president on issues from marijuana policy to climate change and defiantly refuses to help federal agents detain and deport immigrants. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement has said it will increase its presence in California, and Sessions wants to cut off funding to jurisdictions that won't cooperate.

Sessions also used his speech to sharply criticize Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf for warning the public about an unannounced raid by federal deportation officers recently in California. Sessions said it allowed hundreds of "wanted criminals" to avoid arrest.

Sessions received a polite if not warm reception from law enforcement officials. They applauded politely as he was introduced and after his speech, and more than a dozen gave a standing ovation at the end in a room of about 200 officials.

But, many sat expressionless, some listening with arms crossed or chins on their folded hands, and his 25-minute speech was never interrupted by applause or protest.

Outside, dozens of demonstrators chanted "stand up, fight back" and "no justice, no peace" and some blocked traffic on a major thoroughfare. There was a heavy police presence but no arrests.

Trump is set to visit California next week for the first time since his election to see models of his proposed wall along

the Mexican border.

California passed sanctuary laws in response to Trump's promises to sharply ramp up the deportation of people in the U.S. illegally. Sessions said several of them prevent U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers from making deportation arrests.

State officials say the policies increase public safety by promoting trust between immigrant communities and law enforcement, while allowing police resources to be used to fight other crimes.

The U.S. Supreme Court reinforced the federal government's primacy in enforcing immigration law when it blocked much of Arizona's tough 2010 immigration law on similar grounds. The high court found several key provisions undermined federal immigration law, though it upheld a provision requiring officers, while enforcing other laws, to question the immigration status of people suspected of being in the country illegally.

TODAY ON CAMPUS

Circuit Training | 12:00 PM - 12:45 PM | Student Rec Center

Pre-Screening of One Strange Rock | 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM | 3040 Physical Science

Presented by the Department of Geology and Geography, *One Strange Rock* is narrated by Will Smith and features perspectives from ten astronauts on the wonders of Earth, as seen from space.

Tabata | 4:30 PM - 4:55 PM | Student Rec Center

Panther Power | 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM | Student Rec Center

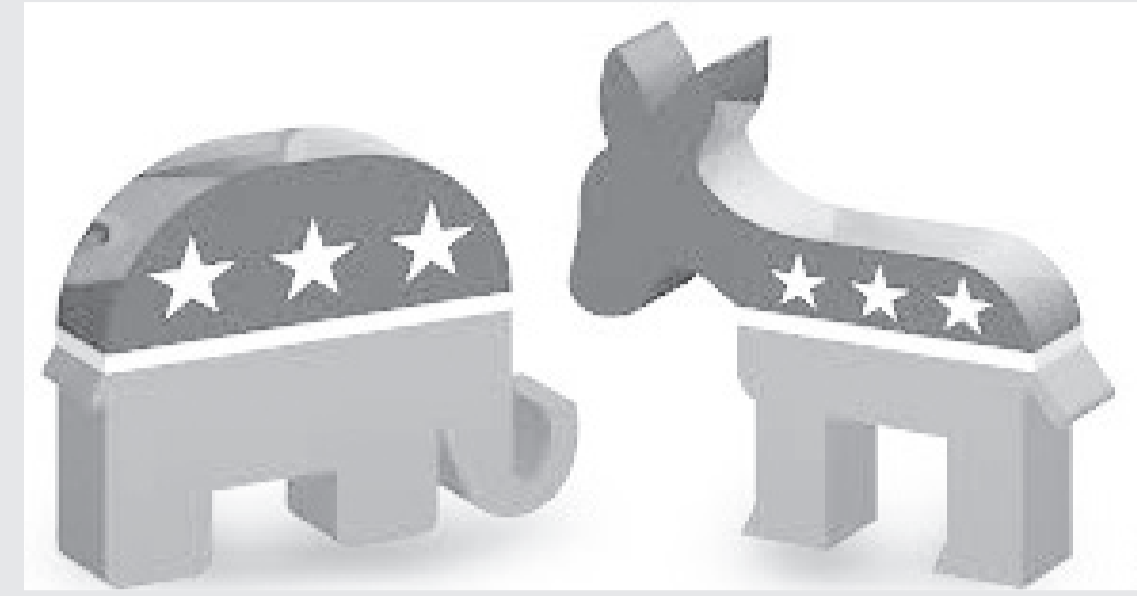
Werk! | 6:25 PM - 7:00 PM | Student Rec Center

Jazz Lab Band Concert | 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM | Doudna Fine Arts Center

Know before you vote

Carl Spoerer, Kevin Gaither and John Shimkus are all running in the primary race for U.S. Representative of the 15th District. Spoerer and Gaither are running for the Democratic nomination, while incumbent Shimkus is running unopposed for the Republican nomination. The general primary election is March 20.

by Cassie Buchman, Editor-in-Chief



Kevin Gaither

Kevin Gaither, originally from Sullivan, is running to be the democratic nominee for U.S. representative of the 15th district.

Gaither has a bachelor's in chemistry from the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology and took some courses at Eastern.

He worked for the 2008 presidential campaign while living in Indiana, and has been involved in grassroots organizations and activist work.

"After I graduated college I spent much of my energy and time working in inner-city neighborhoods working in schools working to reach out to anybody about problems that I saw," Gaither said. "The best way I saw to make a difference was to use politics."

The biggest challenges Gaither sees facing the 15th district right now are the economic devastation, people not having adequate access to healthcare and education.

"The way I look at it is when the middle of the political center eroded, so did the middle class," Gaither said. "If we don't get that middle class solidified... get small businesses going, providing more jobs, we're going to continue to lose people in this district and we continually having our backs

against the wall."

While he said universal health care would be helpful, Gaither added that what needs to be fixed first is getting people access to healthcare providers such as psychologists and neurologists in rural areas.

As for education, he said retraining programs are needed to help people get jobs that pay living wages. Regarding higher education, Gaither said he is in favor of expanding grants and subsidies to students and colleges. This includes helping colleges expand certain programs, such as ones in psychiatry, counseling and others.

Gaither supports building farmland to cultivate hemp. "25,000 products are made from it ... It's a \$100 billion a year industry. We could be making those products right here, putting people back to work here, selling the products here on our town square and we could be exporting it to other states around the world."

Though he knows running as a Democrat in a more Republican district would be challenging, he said the important thing is to go out and talk to people and listen to them to combat this.

Carl Spoerer

Carl Spoerer, from Mahomet, is running for the democratic nomination for U.S. representative of the 15th district. He got his degree from the University of Illinois, studying finance, economics and philosophy.

"I think the direction of our country is going in a bad way ... the income disparity being what it is, the working people, the 99 percent, we're being killed," he said.

He cited problems such as jobs moving overseas as being issues for the district and said the trend has to be reversed by creating new job opportunities and training programs.

"Education is the key to success of our country," he said. "Individuals, public schools are falling apart and public universities are starving and being threatened."

Spoerer said would like to see college, trade schools and vocational schools be free. He also said health care is a right.

"If there's one thing the government can do for us, it's help us live long, healthy lives," he said. "We've got to fix the health-care system. I believe single-payer is where we need to go."

He said he does not know if people make a connection between money and politics and the damage being done in other areas.

"This new tax bill is abysmal. It was horrible," Spoerer said. "Jobs are now moving overseas faster than ever before because the tax code incentivizes businesses to do so. Trade should not be used as an excuse to ship jobs overseas."

Spoerer sees abject poverty coming from the lack of economic activity as the biggest challenge facing the district right now. "We need to start getting money flowing in these communities," he said.

Spoerer said unions should be included in economic progress. "Unions are the last stand for the working class. If we let our unions go under, the working class will go under."

Spoerer said investment in renewable energy in Southern Illinois is needed, as well as promoting natural resources, parks, campgrounds and lakes.

"There are tens of thousands of jobs in renewable energy alone," he said.

Though Spoerer acknowledges he is running in a Republican-leaning district, he said there are more similarities than one might think. "I'm running as a heartland Democrat, not a coastland Democrat," Spoerer said. "Republicans in this district are heartland Republicans. Ultimately, we're all heartland Americans."

John Shimkus

John Shimkus is running unopposed in the Republican primary for another term as U.S. representative of the 15th district.

Shimkus has served in the House since 1997 and been representing the 15th district since 2013.

"I've always felt the government is too big, costs too much and is filled with bureaucrats," he said. "One thing we've been doing in this administration is making sure agencies are more efficient, cutting back on budgets, making sure they focus on core things."

He said he wants to bring job creation back to agencies and follow up on regulatory reform so people who want to make jobs are not overburdened.

Shimkus also wants to promote the tax reform bill, called the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, which was passed during his current term.

"I think the tax package both for the individual and corporate side keep manufacturing in Illinois," he said.

Shimkus said he wants to make sure there are open market opportunities to sell soybeans and corn, not just domestically but internationally with foreign trade.

"Most of my farm producers want to make sure the markets they have right now don't fall away because of trade disputes," he said.

While he is pleased with where trade is at now, Shimkus is concerned with what might happen if the "trade war" begins.

"Right now our agriculture community is upset with trade relations with the rest of the world," he said. "We are concerned they may go bad if we go into a trade dispute."

Shimkus also talked about his support for coal.

"What's important to my district? What's important to my district is that my coal mines remain open and my power plants that use coal continue to do so," he said.

Shimkus said what he calls the "War on Coal" is over, though there are competitors out there such as natural gas.

When it comes to people leaving Illinois, Shimkus said if there is an "efficient, simple tax code," it will encourage people and businesses to stay.

In Congress, Shimkus serves on the energy and commerce committee.

"That consumes the vast majority of my time when I'm in Washington," he said.

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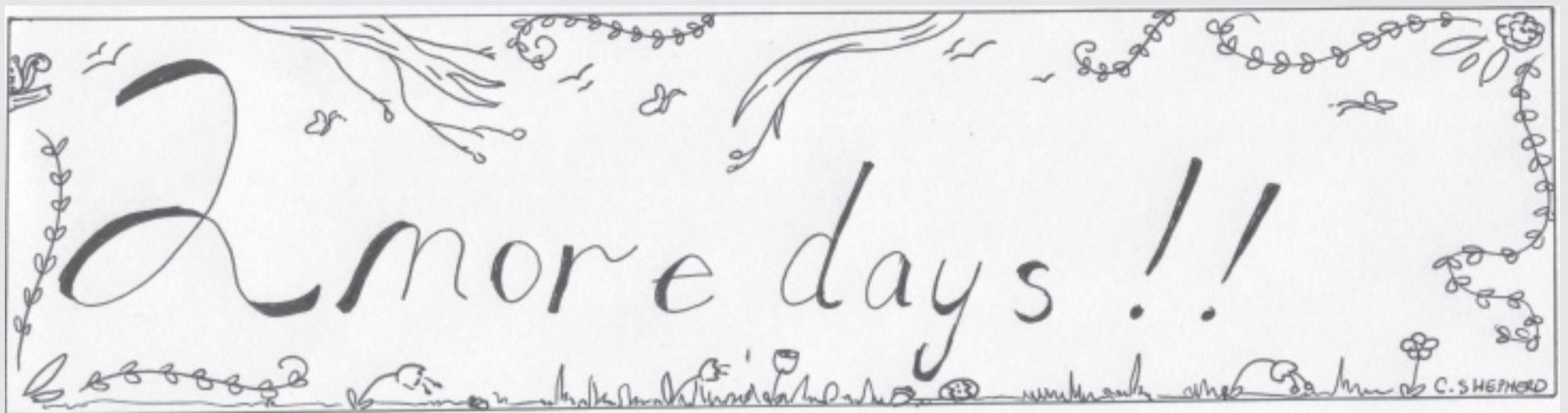
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Do you love the sound of droning traffic?

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The home stretch



COURTNEY SHEPHERD | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Remember your limits, try to find balance

When coming to college, we were warned that the job market is competitive. The world is our oyster, but we have to use our college years to absorb as much wisdom, gain enough experience and build a big enough network in order to prove our worth to the workforce.

As freshmen and transfers, we joined registered student organizations, paid our dues to our fancy honors societies, and hopefully, found ourselves on the executive boards of those same organizations. It is all well and good to have these honors and earn another line on a resume, but I am writing this week because I am tired and frustrated with those who knowingly bite off more than they can chew.

It happens to everyone.

Balancing a rough week, juggling overlapping deadlines and trying to manage a personal life is sometimes impossible. Existence feels like a peach pit in the garbage disposal, and no matter how much of a mess you are in, someone keeps trying to turn on the switch. It is gross and it is messy. Part of growing up is learning how to manage your time, and sometimes that can only happen if things fall through the cracks.

No one is perfect, but consider how your



Abigail Carlin

actions affect others.

Being on an executive board is tough, and I would know, I am the Vice President of an honors society and an RSO. I have a full course load, I work and I have a life. I get it, but it is absolutely infuriating when the ball is dropped on me.

Over the past few weeks I have watched my peers crumble under the weight that was not theirs to bear, but it was put on their shoulders anyway. Now, the pressure is really on, for they are not only responsible for their own workloads, but now they have to carry that of someone else.

Collaborative efforts are made of a bunch of moving pieces, but if they are misman-

aged, the efforts cannot be fruitful.

The temptation to acquire as many experiences during one's undergraduate career is real, and there are those out there who make the impossible look like a walk in the park, but considering one's own limits is so important, not only for the individual, but for the wellbeing of the campus at large.

RSOs, societies, group projects and hall councils cannot survive on members' half-assing their way through every week.

An individual is only as good as their word, so the next time you pick up an additional responsibility, consider how you, yourself, will contribute to the growth and success of your organization or project.

I believe it was Ron Swanson who said, "Never half-ass two things, whole ass one thing," and that sentiment reigns true.

The lines on your resume only mean as much as you make them, and if the greatest thing you took from the experience as a president, partner, secretary or sponsor are the tiny 12 point letters, you have some reevaluating to do.

Abigail Carlin is a junior English language arts major. She can be reached at 581-2812 or at alcarlin@eiu.edu.

STAFF EDITORIAL

Do research, know names on the ballot

Voting is an important tool in any democracy.

It is vital to the development of an individual's voice and a powerful tool that we can all use in an attempt to practice our freedoms and rights.

But, it is even more important for students, those with powerful, young minds, to share their opinions by voting.

Contrary to what others may think, voting does make a difference, but only when voters do their research.

Instead of hitting the voting booths and telling yourself you will vote for the person everyone else told you to vote for because that's "the right the thing to do," take a step back and actually do some research.

Get to know who or what you're voting for before jumping on the bandwagon.

Ask questions, research the person's platform, analyze the pros and cons and think about the type of impact your decision will make.

Therefore, when you head out to vote during the primaries there are two things to keep in mind: go and actually vote and make an educated vote.

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

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Please include your name and phone number to verify letters.

The universe may have a plan for us all

I am constantly questioning whether my life is the product of fate or if I am completely in control of my so-called destiny.

As graduation looms over my head, I find myself contemplating the choices I have made throughout the course of my college career that have landed me right where I am now.

I wonder if it was just my choices that have determined each path I take, and the cookie crumbles where it may, but I think the universe is not as random as people think it may be.

Were the people in my life always supposed to be in it, or is it just chance that I bumped into them and if I had not, would someone else be in their place?

Was I pre-destined to go to Eastern instead of the University of Iowa, or was it always ultimately my choice that brought me to Charleston?

Then there is the life perspective of the cynics, realists and nihilists who often think life has no real meaning and there is no room in life for fate or other whimsi-



Angelica Cataldo

cal ideas.

Life is what you choose it to be and the cookie only crumbled that way because you chose to crush it in your hand.

Maybe they are right. My choices may be the only reason I am where I am, and I have nothing else to attribute it to.

The questions and possibilities are endless and I could waste entire days wondering. It such a silly concept to worry about,

but I discovered that I find great comfort believing that things happen for a reason; that there is no place I can be that is not where I am meant to be.

I want to believe that the people in my life are meant to be there and that I was meant to meet them. I want to believe that I was meant to enroll at Eastern and that I was meant to pursue journalism.

But, as life would have it, there is always room for doubt and even though it is comforting to think that I have some sort of twisted destiny, I cannot help but think about how my life would be different had I made different choices.

Maybe it is not just one reason or the other. Maybe life is just a glorious conglomerate of my choices and the hands of fate. I may never know the answers to these questions, but maybe not knowing is what makes life interesting and worth living.

Angelica Cataldo is a senior journalism major. She can be reached at 581-2812 or amcataldo@eiu.edu.

Quote of the Day:

“It is during our darkest moments that we must focus to see the light.”

-Aristotle

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ANALICIA HAYNES | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Student Body President Luke Young (left) and Executive Vice President Derek Pierce (right) listen to an announcement made regarding the Spring Concert reveal during an informal Student Senate meeting Wednesday night in the Arcola/Tuscola Room of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

» **Concert**
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

In the first bill, the student government asked for an additional allocation of \$8,363 from the Apportionment Board to help pay for the base, pad, brick work, labor and other materials for the recently-approved Panther Statue.

The second was for the University Board and asked for an additional allocation of \$13,600 to pay for the PantherStock event that takes place before the spring concert, purchase a new lighting board for the UB productions committee, clean the tents the UB uses and replace the ropes used to hold down those tents.

The additional allocations come from the Apportionment Board's reserve fund, which is currently sitting at \$117,543.19.

The Senate will vote on the bills at the next meeting on March 21.

Student Body President Luke Young said although spring break is a few days away, those who are running in the student elections need to think about their platform and bring ideas to the table

when they begin campaigning.

"I think the number one killer of student government is no motivation, no drive, no ideas, no innovation, nothing," Young said. "So over spring break my encouragement would be to do the very best that they can to make sure they come in with some ideas when they go to the forum and that they present and articulate themselves well."

Students who have finished their election packets, met with Young to announce their bid for election and attended an informational meeting can start campaigning between March 22 and April 3.

Young said students cannot campaign or market themselves whatsoever before March 22.

A mandatory debate between candidates running for executive board will also be on March 22.

Online voting will take place on April 2 and 3, and unofficial election results will be announced on April 4.

Analicia Haynes can be reached at 581-2812 or achaynes@eiu.edu.

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QIAN CHENG | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Sydney Lay, a junior elementary education major, signs her name on a poster that states she will not say the "R" word, in the first floor of Buzzard Hall Wednesday afternoon. "Having a disability is not an insult," Merri Bork, a freshman undecided major said.

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FILE PHOTO | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Head coach Tom Akers celebrates after the announcement that both the men's and women's track teams won the OVC Indoor Championship in Feb. 2017. The Eastern athletic department announced Tuesday that Akers will retire following the 2018 outdoor season. He will have been at Eastern for 23 years.

Akers to retire after outdoor season

By Kaitlin Cordes
Track & Field Reporter | @DEN_Sports

Track and field director and coach Tom Akers announced his retirement following the 2018 outdoor season.

Akers has coached men's and women's track and field for 23 years. He is leaving behind a legacy of having the most successful track and field program in the school's history. Since joining the OVC, Eastern has won a combined 45 indoor and outdoor championships.

Akers has also been honored as the OVC Coach of the Year 45 times, and under his coaching, the men's team has won 32 conference championships, and the women's team has won 13 titles.

To wrap up the 2017-2018 indoor season, the men's team placed second under Akers. The women earned third place. Senior Haleigh Knapp is moving on to the NCAA Indoor Championships in the high jump.

During Akers' tenure, there have been 200 individual conference champions, 25 OVC athletes of the year, seven OVC freshmen of the year and seven conference MVPs. Akers has also coached nine first team All-Americans with the most recent coming in 2014.

Before taking over as the head coach and program director, Akers was the teams' assistant coach from 1983-1990. During that time, the Panthers won six indoor and outdoor Mid-Continent

Conference championships.

He is also the person who recruited Jim Maton, Eastern's first NCAA Division I National Champion. Maton was a four time NCAA All-American, and he was a multiple Mid-Continent Conference champion and league Athlete of the Year.

Another successful athlete who emerged from Akers' coaching was Zye Boey, a 200-meter dash runner who was one of the most award-winning athletes in school history. Boey earned first team All-American honors at both the NCAA Indoor National Championships and Outdoor National Championships in the 100-meter and 200-meter dashes.

Boey also competed in the United States Olympic Trials in both races in 2012. He ended his Eastern career with five All-American honors, five OVC Track Athlete of the year honors, five conference championship MVP awards and OVC Freshman of the Year honors.

One of the biggest honors Akers has received as a coach came in 2015 when he was inducted into the Illinois Track and Field Hall of Fame.

Akers was a college track and field athlete at the University of Northern Iowa. While there, he set school and conference records in the 110- and 400-meter hurdles. His conference record in the 110-meter hurdles was not broken until 1996.

Akers was an eight-time nationals qualifier in college as well, and he was an All-American athlete in the 400-meter hurdles.

Akers' final season with Eastern will begin at Southern Illinois-Carbondale on March 23. The Panthers will host the EIU Big Blue Classic for the team's first home meet on March 30 to March 31.

The men's team ended the indoor season winning two of its three home meets. The women's team won one home meet this year.

Kaitlin Cordes can be reached at 581-2812 or krcordes@eiu.edu.

Men's tennis team to play Illinois State, Rose-Hulman

By Vince Lovergine
Men's Tennis Reporter | @DEN_Sports

With two more road matches looming, the Eastern men's tennis team is headed to Illinois State and Rose-Hulman this weekend.

The Panthers start the weekend Friday against Illinois State, but the results for Eastern against the Redbirds have not been what they would have liked.

Eastern has lost all four matches with Illinois State since 2009. In two of those matches, Eastern lost 5-2, and the other two came at a score of 6-1.

The Panthers' most recent match against Illinois State was last year, where Eastern fell to the Redbirds 5-2.

Last season sophomore Freddie O'Brien and sophomore Gage King-smith picked up the doubles point against Illinois State.

Seniors Grant and Trent Reiman recorded their first doubles win last season against the Redbirds, while O'Brien was the sole Panther to pick up a singles win in three sets at the No. 1 position last year.



FILE PHOTO | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Senior Grant Reiman returns the ball in his match at the EIU Fall Invitational Oct. 2016 at the Darling Courts. The Eastern men's tennis team plays at Illinois State and Rose-Hulman this weekend on the road.

Illinois State has been solid at home this season, posting a 6-1 record, with an 8-4 overall record. The Redbirds had its previous two game losing streak

snapped against Denver, falling 7-0.

Senior Christoffer Greve and junior Igor Kolaric have been impressive this spring, both compiling nine wins in

singles play this spring, while having identical records at 9-2.

Freshman Pol Rius Botifoll has also impressed this spring, sitting second on the team in wins with eight, and 8-3 overall.

Doubles play wise, senior Andreas Boers and Pol Rius Botifoll are 8-2 this spring as a tandem, leading Illinois State in that category.

Eastern head coach Sam Kercheval said the team knows Illinois State is a good team.

"We played the Illinois State invite in the fall as well as the past few years, so we are aware that they are a strong and pretty experienced team," Kercheval said.

For Eastern, O'Brien leads the team in wins with eight, while Grant Reiman and Braden Davis both have three wins a piece.

As for the match against Rose-Hulman, they have not had the same success as Illinois State, with the Engineers having their three-game winning streak snapped against Mt. St. Mary's. Rose-Hulman is currently 4-5 this spring.

The Engineers and Eastern will play in a neutral, which will be the ninth for Rose-Hulman.

Junior Andre Adam, senior Cam Metzger and sophomore Ian Landwehr all have six wins for the Engineers this spring, in different singles positions.

Adam and Metzger have also succeeded as doubles partners, posting six wins to this point, winning their last four doubles matches.

With conference matches right around the corner, Kercheval said concentration and battling will be key.

"We need to continue to focus on our daily efforts, habits and development," he said. "The goal every time you step on the court for a match is to win it, but you can't focus on wanting to win. You have to focus and concentrate on the steps it takes to reach those goals and that's a daily battle."

Eastern starts at 7 p.m. against Illinois State Friday and 2:30 p.m. against Rose-Hulman Saturday.

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