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Daily Eastern News: March 10, 2006

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PHOTO COURTESY OF MARYLIN LISOWSKI/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Marylin Lisowski stands next to a local Vietnamese man while participating in the International Conference on the Environment in Hanoi.

Asia on Eastern's dime

Grant paid for Eastern professor to visit Vietnam

By KAYLA CROW
ADMINISTRATION EDITOR

Marylin Lisowski has experienced censorship in way many Americans have not.

Lisowski, a professor in the science and environmental education department, attended a conference on sustainability and the environment in Vietnam, where the government's officials kept a strong watch on the conference's participants.

"Prior to the conference, I had to submit a proposal and my paper so that it could be included in the program," she said. "Also, the Vietnamese government wanted to read (the papers), for purposes

of censoring any of what they deemed inappropriate references to their country."

The conference's organizers refused to submit the papers, which did not make the government happy, Lisowski said.

"The scary thing was the government was going to shut down the conference if they couldn't pre-screen the papers and (cancel) our visas," she said. "But the conference's organizers didn't collect our passports and visas, so by some miracle the conference went on anyway but there were Vietnamese government officials 'checking in' at various times."

The trip to Vietnam was not the first for the Eastern professor; she had previously visited many other countries to present her research on the environment. The countries Lisowski has visited include China, Cuba, the Netherlands, Denmark, Mexico and a few others.

Lisowski paid to attend this international conference with money she received after applying for a grant with the university's grant office.

Vietnam was a good location to hold the conference because of the country's beauty and it's environmental problems, she said.

"The Vietnamese people are wonderful, and parts of the country are breathtaking," Lisowski said. "Much of the country is experiencing serious water- and air-quality problems but it does have its unique natural-beauty areas."

When the conference participants were not presenting their papers at the facility in Hanoi, they were able to explore the country by boat rides, bus rides and on bicycles.

SEE TRIP PAGE 7

Charges to be filed in stabbing

By MATTHEW STEVENS
STAFF REPORTER

Coles County state's attorney Steve Ferguson said on Thursday that he will be charging freshman student Eric McGee with aggravated battery.

The incident surrounding the potential charges involves the Feb. 26 incident outside the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union that resulted in junior football player Ben Brown being sent to Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center with two stab wounds in his abdomen.

The aggravated assault charge could result in two to five years in jail, according to Illinois statutes.

"I haven't been informed by anyone about being charged," McGee said when he was contacted. "I have not yet been arrested, and nobody is saying anything to me at this time."

"Typically, this is not something we call people ahead and tell them about," Ferguson said.

SEE CHARGES PAGE 7

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Air conditioning for Union on agenda

The Board of Trustees will hold a phone meeting today to vote on a project that would improve the air conditioning units in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

The total cost of the proposal would be \$714,349, including a 10 percent contingency appropriation that would account for cost overruns.

The project would demolish the existing system in the original portion of the University Union building.

APPORTIONMENT BOARD

Proposed budgets brought to table

By LAUREN MOORE
STUDENT GOVERNMENT EDITOR

Several student organizations saw their budgets on the potential chopping block before the Apportionment Board on Thursday.

The board recommended budgets of \$244,325 for the University Board, \$203,395 for Sports and Recreation, \$41,250 for the Student Government and \$21,030 for themselves.

Jillian Ruddy, acting AB chair, said the AB has \$510,000 to divide up and provide to the organizations for the upcoming year.

Though decisions about keeping the proposed budgets for the Apportionment Board and the Sports and Recreation remained short, there were concerns regarding *Amp* in discussion of the budgets.

AB member Ryan Siegel discussed the idea of cutting the



ERIC HILTNER/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

AB member and geology professor John Stimac crunches numbers regarding the budgets of the University Board and the Student Government during Thursday evening's Apportionment Board meeting in the Arcola-Tuscola room in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

publication and promoting the University Board events in other ways.

Confusion arose concerning the purpose of the publication, and members questioned if *Amp* was created to inform students on UB events or to incorporate events from the whole

Charleston area.

Editor in chief Nicole DeToye said that the main purpose of the publication is to publicize events the UB is holding, but since not enough goes on to fill the magazine, writers also cover events that aren't related to UB.

AB member John Stimac said he appreciated the discussion on the groups but felt there might need to be equal percentages for each group.

"Let the fee-funded board decide what they want to cut," he said.

Stimac said, in comparing last year's budget to what each group wants for this year's budget, the AB is asking for a 24.23-percent decrease, the rec is asking for a 4.19-percent decrease, the UB is asking for a 9.25-percent increase, and the Student Government is asking for a 41.11-percent increase.

Jennifer Roden, another AB member, said she was more hesitant to cut from the Student Government budget.

"The UB can absorb a \$20,000 cut," she said. "If we take money from Student Government, we'd be cutting programs."

Ryan Berger said because of the results of AB's decision, the Student Government will have to come back for additional allocations several times.

"Cuts hit us harder," Berger said. "A \$2,000 cut can destroy a whole goal."

Ruddy said the representatives for each group will come to the next meeting with a new budget based on the numbers that were given Thursday night.

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ERIC HILTNER
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TIM MARTIN
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"Mmmm...constitutional inaptitude."

Even Ralph Wiggum would wag his head at this recent survey.

In another sign we're succeeding at dumbing down, about 20% of us can name all five members of The Simpsons family.

WTF?

Librarians try to outspell nuns

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ERLANGER, Ky. — After a five-year hiatus, the Sisters of St. Walburg Monastery in Villa Hills are ready to show they are superior spellers.

The sisters were champions of the annual Corporate Spelling Bee for Literacy in northern Kentucky for years before giving others a chance to win.

But now the nuns are back, even if they're a little timid about challenging the reigning champions — a group of Boone County librarians.

"Librarians give us a scare," said Sister Mary Carol Hellmann, who says she's been brushing up on Latin, Greek, Hebrew and Spanish root words to prepare for the bee. Some of the other sisters say they use the Internet to practice.

NAP TME



JAY GRABIEC/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Debbie McClure, a junior early childhood education major, takes a quick nap on a bench before class in Buzzard on a rainy afternoon Wednesday. "I have a terrible cold," McClure says.

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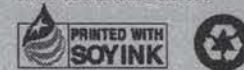
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Ruddy keeps her eyes on student dollars

By ADAM HOWELL
STAFF REPORTER

Jillian Ruddy, student vice president for business affairs, keeps an eye on what, where and how student dollars are spent.

"Business Affairs is important because it deals with money that students pay into the university," Ruddy said. "I enjoy it because I am able to make a difference with issues that affect all students."

Since coming to Eastern, Ruddy said she has always had a passion to serve and become involved with the university she loves. Ruddy has been involved all over campus including being a Panther Pal and a member of the Sigma Sigma Sigma sorority.

"As a leader on campus I always just wanted to represent the students as best as I possibly could," Ruddy said. "I always want students to realize what (the) Student Government can do for this campus and voice their opinions so that we can make a difference for them."

This year, Ruddy has started several initiatives geared toward getting the information out to students about their student fees and how they are spent. The "Show Me the Money" campaign is one new program that has been implemented.

"The 'Show Me the Money' campaign has been a really big success," said Kenny Kozik, co-chair of the Tuition and Fee Review Committee. "Students have just been coming up

and asking questions about the fees."

In addition to her programs, Ruddy has been working hard to prepare for student fee presentations to the Apportionment Board.

"AB deals with a lot of money," Ruddy said. "We have to make sure that every line item is potentially benefiting the students."

Ruddy said she wants to continue to educate students about their fees.

"We still have budget presentations to get ready for, and I want to get the 'Show Me the Money' campaign ready for next year," Ruddy said.

Those who have worked with Ruddy have never doubted the level of dedication and knowledge she puts towards her responsibilities.

Kozik said Ruddy loves Student Government and working for the students.

"She wants what the students want," he said.

Growing up, Ruddy had some interesting influences in her life that have helped shape her personality and leadership perspective.

"Of course my No. 1 greatest influence is my parents," Ruddy said. "I also admire the actress Gilda Radner. She was an original member of Saturday Night Live, and she always tried to make people laugh and keep a positive attitude."

"I just think she is an amazing person."

When asked about her future in Student Government, Ruddy is clear about her plans.



ERIC HILTNER/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

As the vice president for business affairs, Jillian Ruddy has started the "Show Me the Money" program. Every Wednesday, Ruddy and other student senate members explain the different student fees by the food court in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

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OPINION

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

FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 2006

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COMMENTARY



LAURA GRIFFITH
SENIOR REPORTER

NO REAL LOVE IN FRONT OF THE LENS

French dramatist Jean Anouilh once said, "There is love of course. And then there's life, its enemy."

But love has a new enemy — television.

Dr. Travis Stork and Sarah Stone of ABC's "The Bachelor: Paris," announced on Tuesday that they are no longer a couple, according to the Associated Press. Stone said she thought their situation would be different had they met under other circumstances, and blames television's prying eye for contributing to the relationship's demise.

And she could be right. In most movies, TV shows and more traditional sources like parents, people learn the No. 1 rule of dating — Be yourself.

Anyone who has ever watched a dating show on TV can tell, for the most part, the characters aren't taking that advice. Apparently the No. 1 rule of entertainment in reality TV, is to be as outrageous and conflicting as possible, which outweighs the dating rule. That's what viewers are interested in, and that's the rule TV daters follow.

A variety of dating shows lends to the probability that most viewers have seen at least one. Many of these shows are aimed at teens and young people, like MTV's "Dismissed," "Taidaters," "Next," "Room Raiders" and "Date My Mom." How could anyone know how compatible he is

"Apparently, the No. 1 rule of entertainment in reality TV, to be as outrageous and conflicting as possible, outweighs the dating rule."

with another by looking at her dirty underwear or by hanging out with her mom? This may not come as a surprise — not everyone is the same as their parents. These shows do not properly give young people a grasp on

what to expect when dating in the real world.

Dating shows aren't geared solely toward teens, but toward a variety of demographics. Late night shows like "Blind Date" and "ElimiDATE" take dating to the extreme, where couples rarely get along, except when they want to get in each other's pants. Ongoing series like "Joe Millionaire" and VH1's "Kept" keep viewers tuning in on a regular basis, sometimes to live vicariously through the contestants on the show, which can take away from their dating activity outside the living room. Bravo's "Boy Meets Boy" took it one step further, venturing into the world of homosexuality by daring the bachelor to choose a mate among contestants, including some who were secretly straight.

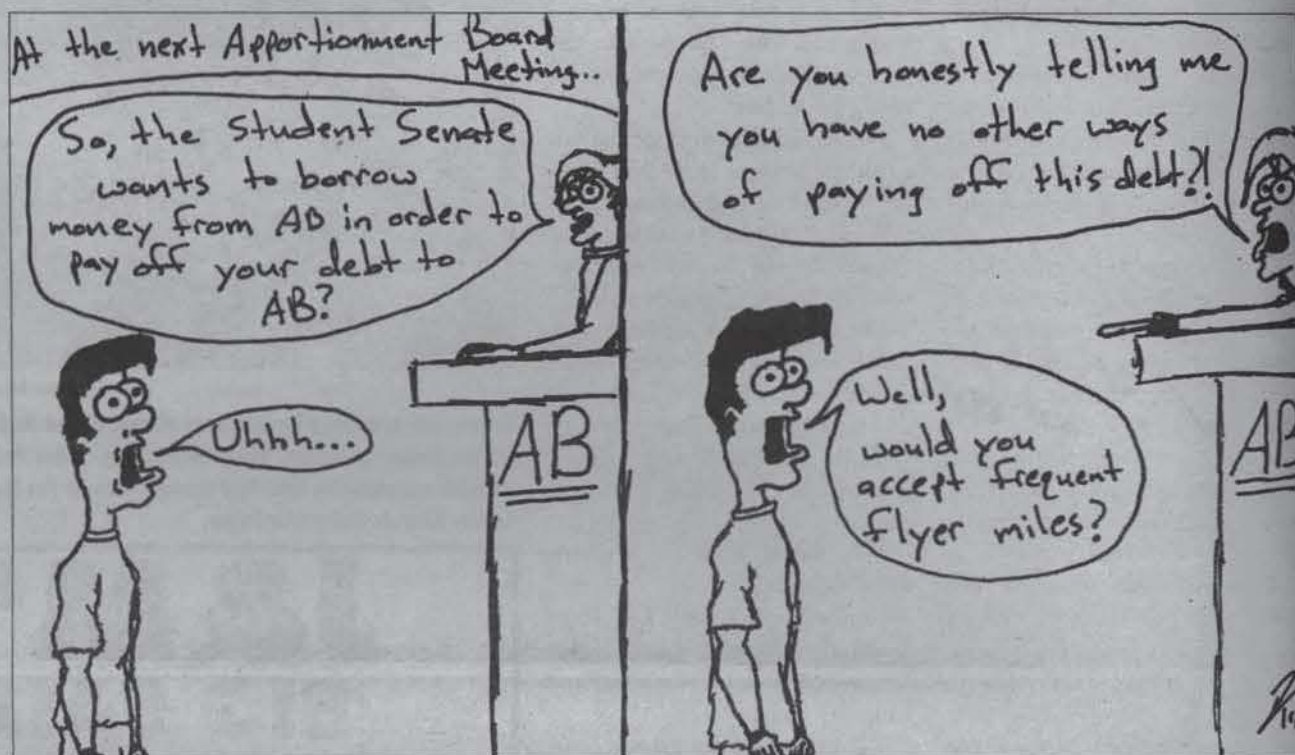
Contestants on the shows are increasingly more outrageous and typical. There's the 40-year-old woman who's trying to win the heart of a 20-year old man young enough to be her son. There's the slut wearing a string bikini who calls the other contestants bitches while testing the limits of how sexually explicit she could be on late night television. Viewers don't see a lot of "the girl next door" trying to win the guy, unless she is portrayed as the underdog on the show.

How does anyone expect people to be themselves? For the most part, being themselves, reality in other words, is less entertaining. Being in front of the camera not only tends to invite exaggerations of characters, but it takes away from privacy, which is necessary for the growth and maintenance of a healthy relationship.

Spending all their time in front of the camera, Stone said she and Stork didn't get enough time to hang out and get to know one another. Not surprising. At least they have plans to remain friends, according to the article, because it turns out true love isn't usually found in front of a camera.

Griffith, a senior journalism major, can be reached at lgriffith83@yahoo.com.

EDITORIAL CARTOON BY DAVID THILL



EDITORIAL

A blast (of debt) from the past

The Student Senate on Wednesday debated whether to accept \$2,894.39 from the Apportionment Board to pay off debts from 2003-04.

They voted Wednesday to accept the money, and it will now go to the Board of Trustees for approval.

The senate currently has \$5,674.62 in their budget for this year, but it will likely accept the money from AB in order to continue to pay for supplies and to fund Panther Service Day, an annual event run by members of the Student Government.

It is unfortunate that the senate was put into this situation by the irresponsibility of past members, but the explanation that they have no choice but to accept the money is reasonable.

It would have been a nice gesture if they had chosen to spend at least some of their current funds to pay back the debt, but the bulk of it was going to have to come from outside this year's budget.

The debt was incurred through the poor bookkeeping and excessive spending of former senate members. But the question must be asked, whose responsibility is it to make sure it doesn't happen again? Why didn't someone stop the old senate members from blowing through almost \$3,000 in student

At issue

The Student Senate asking Apportionment Board for money to pay off debts.

Our stance

Current senate members have to deal with financial problems caused by past senate members. It's an unfortunate situation, but someone has to pay the money. The biggest worry here, though, is the chance of this happening again.

money?

Much like their adult-world counterparts, the senate is free to act as if the money they spend is not their own, because it is not. And when things get out of hand, they can blame it on their predecessors. But there needs to be some oversight on how their money is spent.

The editorial content of *The Daily Eastern News* is completely in the hands of the students who run it. But matters of money are run by a professional business manager and faculty publisher.

Although it is important to let students learn in a laboratory setting by giving them actual responsibilities, financial issues involve real money spent by real students, real parents and the real government.

In an era when tuition, rather than state funding, has become the dominant method to increase university revenue, every part of this university needs to be sensitive to spending money that comes directly from the students.

The Student Government had no feasible choice but to accept the money this time. But whose job is it to make sure it doesn't happen again?

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

YOUR TURN: LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The staff at *The Daily Eastern News* wants to know what students think about current events, campus issues, college living and anything else students would like to address.

Editorial cartoons run everyday, while guest columns run once a week on Wednesday. Anyone is welcome to write a column or draw a cartoon, but it is at the editor's discretion when to run the column or the cartoon.

COLUMNISTS NEEDED

Have an opinion? We want to hear it! *The Daily Eastern News* is looking for students interested in voicing opinions on campus, state, national and international issues through columns. *The DEN* reserves the Wednesday guest column spot for students, faculty and members of the community. Guest columns should be a minimum of 550 words.

CARTOONISTS WANTED

The DEN is interested in recruiting cartoonists that display artistic ability, particularly caricatures and tasteful humor as well as address campus issues. A grasp of the news and current events is necessary for cartoonists to be effective.

Columns, cartoons and letters can be submitted at room 1811 of Buzzard Hall.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: The Daily Eastern News accepts letters to the editor addressing local, state, national and international issues. They should be fewer than 250 words and include the authors' name, telephone number and address. Students should indicate their year in school and major. Faculty, administration and staff should indicate their position and department. Letters whose authors cannot be verified will not be printed. We reserve the right to edit letters for length. Letters can be sent to *The Daily Eastern News* at 1811 Buzzard Hall, Charleston, IL 61920; faxed to 217-581-2923; or e-mailed to DENeic@gmail.com

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CAMPUS CLIPS

The following are the hours that the Gregg computer lab will be open for the Spring '06 break.

March 11 CLOSED (due to power outage)

March 12 CLOSED

March 13-March 17 8:00am-4:15pm

March 18 CLOSED

March 19 2:00pm-2:00am

PERSONALS

ATTENTION ALL GRADUATING SENIORS! If you are interested in a yearbook of your senior year, and are not sure how to pick it up, come to the Student Publications office, Room 1802 Buzzard Hall, and for only \$6 we will mail you a copy in the Fall when they are published. Call 581-2812 for more information.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attention: Whoever removed the wheelchair from the Charleston Lanes on Thursday, March 2, please return it. It belongs to a handicap person. 345-6330

00

ROOMMATES

Male roommate needed. 5 BR house. Right across the street from the rec. call Jake 549-9793

3/10

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3/10

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3/10

FOR RENT

4 bdrm. apt. 2 full baths, roomy, central air, DSL, washer/dryer, breakfast bar, trash included. 346-3583

3/10

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3/10

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2 bdrm. duplex on 1st street, central air, washer/ dryer, trash included. 346-3583.

3/10

Available fall '06 5, 6, 7 bdrm homes on 9th St. Campus side of Lincoln. No pets. 345-5037

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Available Fall '06 3 bdrm 1 bath home. 1805 11th St. No pets. \$675/month 345-5037

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STUDENTS-Spacious 5 Bedroom Apartment. New Construction. 2.5 Bath, Trash Included, Off-Street Parking, Central Air, Washer/ Dryer, Dishwasher. \$400/ Bedroom. 11th & Johnson 345-2982.

3/10

STUDENTS-2 Bedroom Apartments. Newly Renovated. Very Large, Very Clean. \$625-650/ Month. Trash Included, Off-Street Parking, Central Air, Balcony, Dishwasher, Washer/ Dryer. 535 W. Grant 345-2982.

3/10

1 BR Apartment 1304 4th St. Furnished with d/w. Very nice and spacious. Must see. \$500 a month. Call Drew 630-417-4691

3/23

4 BR, 2 Bath House on Division. Washer/ Dryer, New Central Air & Furnace. Newly Remodeled. Call Mollie 815-786-4172.

3/28

2 & 3 BR houses & apts. Near & far. Many with w/d. 345-4489, Wood Rentals, Jim Wood, Realtor.

3/31

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2 BR apts for 2 persons. Cable & internet included. Great locations. \$250-300/ person. 345-4489, Wood Rentals, Jim Wood, Realtor.

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Female to share 2 BR apartment. Starting Fall 2006. 260 per mon plus trash and water included. A great place to live at 1111 2nd St. 348-5427.

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217-345-4489 Fax: 345-4472



The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0127

- ACROSS**
- 1 Didn't immediately go on
- 7 "Don't fall for that"
- 15 Title bandit in a Verdi opera
- 16 Postseason event
- 17 Some fertile regions
- 18 Bottle label
- 19 Disorderly type?
- 20 It doesn't require a full deck
- 21 Yvette's years
- 22 G.P.S. device, at times
- 24 Botanical beards
- 26 Shout to a cabbie
- 28 "Scarface" setting
- 29 Back together
- 32 Locks up
- 36 Comic introduction?
- 37 Figs. in bank records
- 38 Teller's area
- 41 Teaser
- 42 Not in harm's way
- 47 Best
- 50 "With Reagan" writer
- 51 Wall St. purchase
- 52 Better writing
- 54 Seven of 1,000,000
- 55 Arduous
- 57 Quickly
- 58 Checking one's territory
- 59 Beat one's gums
- 60 Antiphon
- 61 Like patent leather
- DOWN**
- 1 Piano trio
- 2 Playground retort
- 3 Loosen
- 4 Ruthless governor
- 5 One passing
- 6 Not straight
- 7 Native Nigerians
- 8 Big name in small trucks
- 9 Not just say
- 10 Record
- 11 Friday's
- 12 Rappers' sounds
- 13 Emphatic concurrence
- 14 Annual celestial display
- 23 Kitchen aid
- 25 Sets a setter on, say
- 27 Spelling and others
- 30 Calling
- 31 "Is that a fact?"
- 32 Wolf in sheep's clothing, e.g.
- 33 Something auto-dialed?
- 34 Star treks?
- 35 Hills (edge of the San Fernando Valley)
- 39 Totals
- 40 Primary
- 43 Smooth, to Solti
- 44 Many of the Founding Fathers
- 45 Actress Chandler and others
- 46 Catch sight of
- 48 Gild
- 49 Long rides?
- 53 Cast leader?
- 56 Sometime PC supporter

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

ISAY CHASM SCUM
MACE EMCEE TUNA
BREAKGROUND PETE
ATTHAT HIS BUS
CREST BLOCKRANT
KEN PIEREELER
KNELT ITLLDO
QUICKLANCES
SPURNS INTHE
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McGee was unaware of potential charges

CHARGES:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

McGee, who said that he has been under police supervision after being relocated from his residence in Weller Hall, also said he had been in constant contact with authorities and they were unaware of any new information.

"I have spoken with (UPD police chief) Adam Due twice and he said that he hadn't heard anything," McGee said. "I don't understand. You'd think that if I were being charged with a crime, I'd be arrested by now."

No information was given at this time on how future proceedings of this case by the state's attorney

office will occur.

Brown was pleased after hearing the news on the potential charges against McGee but is still frustrated with the lack of response by university officials.

"I guess that's great with justice being served here, but I was never mad at the police or the law," Brown said. "I was upset with the university because I still have to go to school with this kid."

Ferguson said that Brown is not being charged with anything at this time.

Associate news editor Kyle Mayhugh contributed to this story.

Vietnam nature awes, inspires

TRIP:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Since this conference had an environmental emphasis, we had part of the conference at a World Heritage Site, which was four hours in a very long bus ride out of Hanoi in an area known as HaLong Bay, which was truly a most pristine and beautiful place," she said. "We had to take a long boat ride to one of the islands in HaLong Bay. Many of the Vietnamese live on the water in 'boat villages' so that was different to see."

The group also got to explore part of the country that saw battles during the Vietnam War.

"The mountains are steep, and we had to ride, or push, bicycles to get around the island and then went to explore the extensive cave systems that served as hiding places and hospitals during the 'American War' (as it is called in Vietnam) in the 60s and 70s."

The war was a topic many of the citizens of Vietnam mentioned to Lisowski and the other Americans who participated in the conference.

"We (Americans) were reminded frequently of the 'damage of the American War' as they call it of the 60s and 70s," she said.

Lisowski said she was amazed at the level of education the children in Hanoi receive.

The children there go to school from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. six days a week and use Sundays as a day for tutoring, she said.

She also said she was impressed with how the children used computers frequently. The children in the area would crowd around the computers, which cost six cents an hour to use, during the day, she said.

Lisowski said she tried to blend in with the participants from other countries and learn from all of them.

"When one interacts with people from many different countries, since this conference had participants from all continents except Antarctica, it definitely enriches one's view of life and one's ideas," she said.

The trip to the conference in Vietnam was worth the work for Lisowski because of the wonderful ideas and concepts she was

exposed to, she said.

"At the conference, many inspiring projects and attempts to improve the environment were shared," she said. "The dedication and commitment of people from around the world, no matter if they were from Africa, Asia, Australia or Europe were united in their desire to work for the betterment of humanity and our natural world."

Booth event to teach Web page creation

Those fascinated in making Web pages without knowledge of HTML will have the opportunity to learn at the Booth Library today. The workshop will focus on saving and posting pages and files, then editing the pages. Prerequisites require an intro class. Attendees need to bring a zip disk to save files and bring server name and log-in information. To reserve space in Booth Library e-classroom 4450, register online at www.library.eiu.edu/workshops/workshops.asp. The Session is limited to 24 participants and is on a first-come, first-serve basis. Inquires can be sent to Sandy Nees at sknees@eiu.edu.

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9TH STREET APARTMENTS NOW LEASING FALL/SPRING 06-07. 3 & 4 BEDROOM APARTMENTS. OFF STREET PARKING AND TRASH PAID. 10 MONTH LEASE. SECURITY DEPOSIT REQUIRED. NO PETS. 348-8305.

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Awesome 3bdrm apt. newly remodeled at 1409. 9th St. Second floor. \$265 per person plus utilities. 10 month lease no pets. Must see. Call Adam at 515-321-8722 for showing.

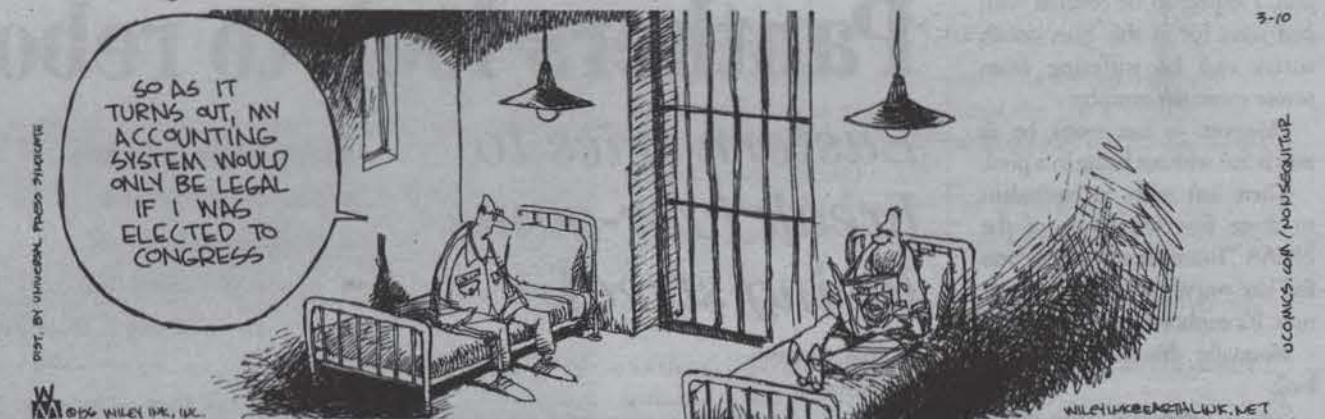
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SPORTS

FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 2006

PANTHER SPORTS CALENDAR

FRIDAY	M-GOLF AT GECO DIRECT INVITATIONAL	All Day
	M-TENNIS VS. SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	2 p.m.
SATURDAY	SOFTBALL VS. SACRED HEART	8:50 a.m.
	SOFTBALL VS. VALPARAISO	10:40 a.m.
	BASEBALL VS. IPFW	2:30 p.m.

Eastern Illinois University, Charleston



Busting my b-ball brackets

Usually, I'm all for spring break. A week off of school typically reserved for various forms of debauchery — booze cruises, anonymous sexual partners and volunteer work (I'm all for alternative spring break too).

Any week responsible for so many Girls Gone Wild videos is pretty okay with me.

But, the past few spring breaks at Eastern have been poorly timed and ruined my favorite springtime vice — gambling on the NCAA Tournament (just like ex-Washington football coach Rick Neuheisel).

The Tournament office pool has been making people care about schools like Farleigh Dickinson for years.

But, this year, I probably won't be in one.

Because selection for the 65-team field is Sunday, and the first game is Tuesday (the highly anticipated No. 64 vs. No. 65 battle), I won't be able to run or participate in a pool.

Sure, I'll fill out a bracket still, but if the prospect of winning money isn't out there, it just doesn't feel the same.

There is some upside to spring break's timing.

With no class for a week, I can spend all day Thursday and Friday in front of the tube.

By the end of the first weekend, I expect to be covered with bed sores (or in this case, couch sores) and be suffering from severe muscular atrophy.

However, it just won't be as much fun without being in a pool.

There isn't really an equivalent to those first few hours of the NCAA Tournament, when you feel like you've picked all the winners. It's euphoric.

Normally, this doesn't last too long.

Sooner, rather than later, you're lying around cussing out Bill Self or some other coach who's screwed up your chances for picking each of the Final Four teams.

Maybe it's better to just sit and enjoy March Madness for what it is — great basketball.

It might be less stressful and a little more pure of a break, but I still wouldn't bet on it.

Dan Woike is a senior journalism major. Email him at Woikedad@gmail.com.

SOFTBALL



ERIC HILTNER/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Senior pitcher Ashley Condon warms her arm up during practice at Williams Field Tuesday afternoon. The Panthers are traveling to Kissimmee, Fla., to play in the Rebel Spring Games Saturday through Friday.

SOUTH BOUND

Panthers head on Florida trip without injured catcher

BY MATT DANIELS
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

Eastern travels to Kissimmee, Fla., to take part in the Rebel Games next week—without the services of one of its top players.

Junior catcher/first baseman Sandyn Short had stomach surgery on Wednesday and is recovering well, head coach Kim Schuette said.

Short did not participate in any of the five games Eastern played in last week's Wolfe Sycamore Classic in Terre Haute, Ind.

"She flew home to California last Sunday and will not make the trip to Florida with the team," Schuette said.

Schuette said Short will make the trip next Saturday when the Panthers begin Ohio Valley Conference play in Martin, Tenn.

Short is second on team with a .364 batting average and has five RBIs. She holds the Eastern career record for home runs with 12.

In her absence, sophomore Robyn Mackie and freshman Shea Lodes will handle the catching responsibilities. Senior Jenny Cervetto, Lodes and Mackie will split time at first base.

The Rebel Games started earlier this week and Eastern's first two opponents—Sacred Heart and Valparaiso—have already begun play in the tournament.

Eastern (8-7-1) holds a distinct advantage in terms of game experience. Of the eight opponents the Panthers face next week, Binghamton out of the America East conference has played the most games (five) before playing in the Rebel

Spring Break Schedule

- ◆ Saturday, March 11
- vs. Sacred Heart, 8:50 a.m. •
- vs. Valparaiso, 10:40 a.m.
- ◆ Sunday, March 12
- vs. Columbia, 10:40 a.m. • vs.
- Yale, 12:30 p.m.
- ◆ Sunday, March 12
- vs. Columbia, 10:40 a.m. • vs.
- Yale, 12:30 p.m.
- ◆ Wednesday, March 15
- vs. Lafayette, 8:50 a.m. • vs.
- Binghamton, 10:40 a.m.

Games.

"It's nice to have 16 games under your belt, but once the game starts it doesn't really matter how many games you've played," Schuette said.

The Panthers play two games each on Saturday, Sunday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Schuette said the team will take in a St. Louis Cardinals-Atlanta Braves exhibition game on Monday, but that is the only planned team activity. The team's hotel is close to the beach, Schuette said.

"I reminded the team the other day that they're there to play softball," Schuette said.

After the Panthers conclude the Rebel Games on Wednesday, the team is flying back to Charleston that night.

The team will practice on Thursday before departing for Tennessee to take on Tennessee-Martin and begin OVC play.

BASEBALL

Panthers look to rebound in Florida

Eastern tries to break four-game losing streak

BY MARC CORRENTI
STAFF REPORTER

After its home opener against Quincy was rained out, the Eastern baseball team will hit the road again on an eight-game, seven-day trip in Bradenton, Fla.

It seemed like a good time for the Panthers to work out their kinks against Quincy, especially after coming off a four-game thrashing at Kansas State.

The Panthers' seven opponents have a combined record of 19-36 going into the Bradenton Tournament.

"I think this is a chance for us to get into the groove," Eastern head coach Jim Schmitz said.

Schmitz said the Panthers will look to get better production out of their starting pitching. In

Spring Break Schedule

- ◆ Saturday vs. IPFW (4-4)
- ◆ Sunday vs. Indiana (1-6)
- ◆ Tuesday vs. Fairfield (1-4)
- ◆ Thursday vs. Bradley (2-6) and Northern Iowa (7-2)
- ◆ March 17 vs. Illinois-Chicago (3-7)
- ◆ March 18 vs. Vermont (0-3)

the four-game series at Kansas State, Eastern starters walked 24 batters, while surrendering 18 earned runs.

The Panthers will get sophomore left-hander Mike Manns back from injury, a much needed addition to the Panthers' rotation.

"He's rehabbing and throwing well on the mound," Schmitz said. "He'll definitely be a plus when he returns."

The Eastern (1-6) lineup will also feature changes. With catcher Joe Hernandez still out

with an injury and with the recent struggles of Jason Cobb, the Panthers will turn to Ryan Campbell.

The junior standout, who is in the midst of a 21-game hitting streak, will move from third base to catcher for the first time in his career.

"Change doesn't bother him too much," Schmitz said. "I think he'll do well. He kind of knew in the fall that this was a situation that might present itself."

Taking Campbell's spot at third base will be freshman Jordan Kreke, whom Schmitz regards as an "exceptional fielding third baseman."

Schmitz said he isn't worried about Campbell struggling at the plate, something that is common when a player switches positions.

"The only big difference is the fact that he'll be more tired at the end of the game," Schmitz said. "But, I think he would rather give up the hit streak for what's most important for this team, and that's a win."

Eastern reutrnrs after spring break to face Blackhawk March 21 in the Panthers home opener.