

4-9-2008

## Daily Eastern News: April 09, 2008

Eastern Illinois University

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# The DAILY EASTERN NEWS

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY, CHARLESTON

WEDNESDAY | 4.9.08

VOL. 95 | ISSUE 61

UNIVERSITY | FACULTY SENATE

## A few seconds closer to safety

**Improved crosswalk will count the time pedestrians have before light changes**

**By Brittni Garcia**

Faculty Senate Reporter

Charleston Mayor John Inyart and City Manager Scott Smith want to ensure student safety around town.

An improved crosswalk on Lincoln Avenue will be implemented by the coming fall semester, Inyart said.

"I think it will improve safety for pedestrians for students and non-students to know more information before they step into the road," he said.

Inyart, Smith and Eastern President Bill Perry discussed university-town relations at Tuesday's Faculty Senate meeting.

The improved crosswalk should make students pay more attention when crossing the street, Inyart said.

The new system will count down the seconds pedestrians have to walk across the street before the light changes.

The system will be located at Fourth Street and Lincoln Avenue, Sixth Street and Lincoln Avenue, and on Division Street. The idea and feedback came from students, people on local committees and Charleston citizens.

Faculty Senate member Anne Brownson said she has a hard time at night when driving on Fourth Street because of the lighting.

She asked that the crosswalk between McAfee and Stevenson Hall

be inspected.

"At one point I thought we need more lights around that area, but then I noticed there are lights," said Lynne Curry, chairwoman of Faculty Senate.

The university and city government officials also have a relationship, Perry said.

Perry said he and Inyart meet on a monthly basis to discuss events going on that month and plans and issues of mutual concern.

Energy usage is one concern the university and city share.

The city and university are discussing how to conserve energy, Perry said.

Other concerns include parking on Fourth Street during textbook rental pick-up and drop-off. Last year, students were ticketed \$10 for parking illegally on Fourth Street during pick-up and drop-off times, according to the Charleston Police Department.

"I realize it is an inconvenience for students, but that street is not designed for parking on both parts of the street," Inyart said. "It will always be a problem until Textbook Rental is moved."

Inyart and Smith told the senate the city is also looking to bring more businesses and retailers to the area.

"We are in the process to notify the top 20 retailers that are best fit for our community," Smith said.

Bud Fischer, Faculty Senate member and chair of Faculty-Student Relations Committee, said if there were more businesses, more white-collar income would come to the city.

» SEE SENATE, PAGE 5



BRYCE PEAKE | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Provost and Vice President for Student Affairs Blair Lord, Eastern President Bill Perry and City Manager Scott Smith await the start of Tuesday's Faculty Senate meeting in Mary J. Booth Library.

UNIVERSITY | MONEY

## State funds in dire straits

**Student's tuition makes up more than 50 percent of budget**

**By Stephen Di Benedetto**

Associate News Editor

Eastern is making history, but whether that is a good or a bad sign is a debatable point.

Eastern's tuition revenue is projected to rise above Illinois' appropriations for the second consecutive year.

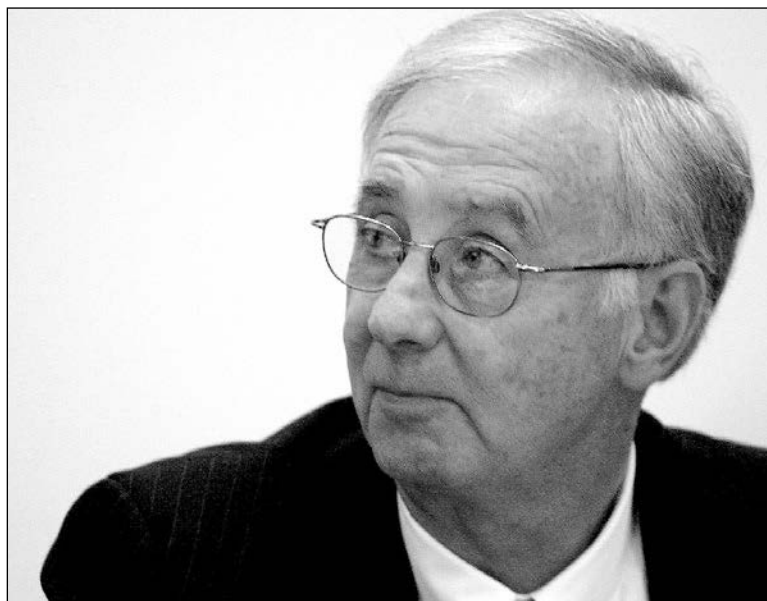
Jeff Cooley, vice president for business affairs, said historically Illinois appropriations consumed two-thirds of Eastern's budget, and revenue from tuition represented one-third.

That historic precedent has been changing since the state started cutting funding for public universities in 2002.

"That is not a trend we enjoy observing," Cooley said.

The Illinois General Assembly is in preliminary planning for the fiscal year 2009 budget.

In late February, Gov. Rod Blagojevich recommended a 0 percent increase from fiscal year 2008 for higher education in his budget



NORA MABERRY | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Eastern President Bill Perry attended Faculty Senate's meeting Tuesday in the conference room of Mary J. Booth Library. Perry discussed issues facing the city of Charleston and Eastern with the senate, including funding grant programs for veterans.

recommendation.

Cooley said for fiscal year 2008, tuition revenue rose slightly above state appropriations – the first time that has happened at Eastern.

He said that gap will widen for fiscal year 2009.

"We have these costs that esca-

late," Cooley said. "If the state doesn't provide that funding, then those dollars have to be made up from another source of revenue. Unfortunately, that's the tuition side of the house."

» SEE FUNDS, PAGE 5

LOCAL | GOVERNMENT

## Home rule proposal further addressed

**Taxes, trust among concerns related to home rule**

**By Jordan Crook**

Senior City Reporter

Charleston Mayor John Inyart wants a home-rule governing style because it can help save lives.

Home rule is a style of local government that allows city officials to authorize any actions that are not prohibited by Illinois law, rather than being bound to what the city is told it can do.

At the inaugural meeting of the Home Rule Ad-Hoc Committee on Tuesday night, Inyart used the example of the recent deaths of three Wisconsin college students in a house fire as an example of how the added powers of a home-rule government could help save lives.

"That's the sort of thing on the minds of my staff in regard to code enforcement," he said.

Inyart said the student deaths in Wisconsin were a result of a house being improperly renovated

into student housing and the safety codes of that building not being properly enforced.

With the powers that a home-rule governing system would give the Charleston government, funding for area housing code enforcement could be increased with existing funds. The reason these revenue funds could not be transferred from other areas to code enforcement is mainly because of the style of government in Charleston.

This system requires that the city use revenues created from tax levies – like those placed on hotels and restaurants in the area – on areas like tourism enhancement.

City Manager Scott Smith said the idea of switching to a home-rule governing style came last year at a city council retreat.

Smith said he supports the switch because it would allow the city to implement more programs that could bring in more retail businesses to the area, something Charleston has been unable to do because of state restrictions.

» SEE HOME RULE, PAGE 5



## EIU WEATHER

<b>WEDNESDAY</b>  <b>56° 47°</b> <b>Mostly Sunny</b> <b>NW 5-10</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b> <b>61° 56°</b> 	<b>WEATHER BRIEF</b> Today will be mostly sunny with a daytime high in the mid to high 50s. Tonight the low will be in the high 40s. Tomorrow we will see a slight warm up but rain will move into our area tomorrow morning. For current conditions visit EIU WeatherCenter at <a href="http://www.eiu.edu/~weather">www.eiu.edu/~weather</a>
	<b>FRIDAY</b> <b>52° 36°</b> 	

ENTERTAINMENT | A DAILY LOOK

## Braxton hospitalized with undisclosed ailment

The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — A hotel official says Toni Braxton has been hospitalized in Las Vegas.

Flamingo Hotel-Casino spokeswoman Deanna Pettit says the 40-year-old singer has an undisclosed ailment that isn't life-threatening. Braxton was taken to a hospital Monday night. Pettit says she expects Braxton to be released Tuesday. Pettit says she doesn't know the nature of Braxton's ailment or where she was when she became ill. Braxton is performing at the Flamingo hotel.

## Lucasfilm, designer battle over 'Star Wars' costumes

LONDON — It's a storm in a Stormtrooper's helmet.

Lawyers for George Lucas' Lucasfilm Ltd. and a British prop designer faced off in London's High Court Tuesday over rights to the molded white Stormtrooper uniforms from

the "Star Wars" films.

Standing alongside the bewigged, black-robed lawyers in court was the object of their dispute — a 6-foot tall, helmeted warrior of the evil Galactic Empire.

Lucasfilm claims violation of copyright and trademarks by prop designer Andrew Ainsworth, who sculpted the Stormtrooper helmets for the first "Star Wars" movie in 1977. London-based Ainsworth sells replicas of the helmets and armor, which he says are made from the original molds, on his Web site.

Lucasfilm won a \$20 million judgment against Ainsworth in a California court in 2006 and is seeking to have it enforced in Britain.

Ainsworth is countersuing, claiming the copyright rests with him and is seeking a share of merchandising revenue from the six "Star Wars" films, which his lawyers estimate at \$24 billion. Lucasfilm and its lawyers claim the design of the Stormtroop-

ers was created by Lucas and his artistic team and was already in place by the time Ainsworth was hired to create the helmets.

## Eminem's mother sued over book about rapper

PONTIAC, Mich. — Eminem's mother has been sued by a man who alleges he helped her with a book about the Detroit rapper but was cut out of the profits.

Neal Alpert claims in an Oakland County Circuit Court lawsuit filed Monday that Debbie Nelson developed the book while she was under contract with him. The lawsuit alleges they entered into a contract in 2005 in which he would be her agent and receive 25 percent of the gross profits.

The lawsuit says "My Son Marshall, My Son Eminem" has sold 100,000 copies since its U.K. release last year. The book is set to hit U.S. stores this week.

## PHOTO OF THE DAY

## Testing their knowledge



RACHEL GASPERIN | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Members of Sigma Sigma Sigma compete in the Collegiate Bowl on Tuesday evening at the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

## WHAT THE... | WEIRD, UNEXPECTED, BIZARRE NEWS

## Authorities search for men who stole \$24,000 in beer

The Associated Press

MOUNT PLEASANT, Wis. — Talk about a beer binge: Authorities are searching for three men who stole about \$24,000 worth of beer from a trucking company south of Milwaukee.

The suspects pulled up to the Hribar Trucking site at about 2 a.m. Monday in stolen semi tractors, Mount Pleasant police said.

They were trying to hook a trailer full of Miller Brewing Co. beer to the tractors when they were in-

terrupted. The men then fled, taking a different tractor-trailer rig full of Miller beer, and a semi tractor with no load.

Officials from Schneider National, who own the rig, declined to comment on the theft and ongoing investigation.

Police are looking for a white semitrailer with blue lettering reading "Great Taste of a True Pilsner Beer" and a white Freightliner semi tractor.

The village of Mount Pleasant is about 30 miles south of Milwaukee.

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## ABOUT THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

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

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## COMMENTS / TIPS

Contact any of the above staff members you believe your information is relevant to at their provided e-mail address.

You may also call 581-7942 or visit the student publications newsroom at 1811 Buzzard Hall.

## CORRECTIONS

The Daily Eastern News is committed to accuracy in its coverage of the news. Any factual error the staff finds, or is made aware of by its readers, will be corrected as promptly as possible.

To aid the Daily Eastern News in its quest for accuracy, please report any factual error you find in any edition of the Daily Eastern News by e-mail, phone, campus mail or in person.

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• **Podcast** - Go to [dennews.com](http://dennews.com) for a podcast of Greek Week's Collegiate Bowl on Tuesday night.

• **Photo gallery** - Go to [dennews.com](http://dennews.com) for a photo gallery of the Japanese drumming troop JASC Tsukasa Taiko, of Chicago.

• **Calendar** - Dennews.com's weekly calendar lists events in the area. Visitors can add their own events.



CAMPUS | RESIDENCE HALLS

# New cameras add security

Stevenson Hall  
equipment installed,  
not yet activated

By Heather Holm  
RHA Reporter

A watchful eye will be looking after the residents of Stevenson Hall starting next fall.

Michelle Hopper, complex director for Lincoln, Stevenson and Douglas Halls, said the cameras are installed but have not been activated yet.

"We will look over the computer software tomorrow and once we get access to the computer programs, we will be able to use them," Hopper said.

The cameras are going to be for safety and security purposes and will help with vandalism, she added.

The South Quad, Lawson Hall, Andrews Hall, Taylor Hall and Carman Hall already have security cameras throughout their halls and dining centers.

"We had a large window broken in the Thomas lobby a while back," said Jody Stone, assistant director for Housing and Dining Services. "We found out that a student accidentally broke the window with their backpack instead of it just being a malicious attempt."

Stone said the cameras have helped decrease the number of false fire alarms as well.

"We will know if there is someone in the building who is not supposed to be there," Hopper said. "As for the students' reaction to the cameras, I haven't really heard one way or another whether students like or dislike them."

Michael Andrews, president of Stevenson Hall council and a junior industrial technology major, said he does not know much about the program.

"I just know that they have



KRISTY MELLENDORF | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Elevators in Stevenson Hall see a steady stream of traffic throughout the day. Security cameras have recently been installed in the residence hall's commons areas, with plans to be activated in Fall 2008.

installed them in the past few weeks and, basically, that is it all I know so far," he said.

Hopper said she believes the cameras are a good idea.

"I think they will help with security issues," she said. "If we have students committing vandalism, we will have more knowledge about the event and what actually happened."

But the cameras will not be monitored 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

"It is not like we will have a big room by the front desk or anything that looks in on all the cameras like a casino or whatever," Hopper said. "It is more of a thing we can come to if something bad actually does happen."

If someone's laundry were stolen, the victim of the theft would know exactly when or where it occurred,

Hopper said. The four directors of the LSD complex would look back at tape on the camera and try to find out what happened, she said.

"(The cameras) won't be for 'just because' purposes. They will be for specific purposes," Hopper said.

The cameras — a total of 30 — are located in several commons areas of Stevenson.

"They are in any main or common area and in the elevators as well as around the front desk," Hopper said. "They are also in any outside entrances to the building and any high-traffic or exterior area."

One camera system will not be able to look into another's system, and only certain people will have access to them.

"We will have the four directors in the LSD complex as well as some of the central housing office staff

that will be able to look at the cameras," Hopper said. "We won't have 24/7 access and will only be able to view their areas."

Stone said all the halls on campus will eventually have the system. Having cameras in halls around campus is a trend that has been going on in many universities in the U.S., which gives students a sense of security.

Stone said there is also a program in which cameras are placed in parking lots, but he does not know if Eastern is thinking of implementing it.

"I know other institutions put cameras up in parking lots, but I couldn't tell you what the plan is for that," Stone said. "It is kind of outside of Housing."

Heather Holm can be reached at 581-7942 or at [haholm@eiu.edu](mailto:haholm@eiu.edu).

## CAMPUS BRIEFS

### Jason Mraz tickets on sale for April 25 concert

Tickets for the April 25 concert at Lantz Arena featuring singer Jason Mraz are on sale.

Cost of tickets are \$13 for the public and \$10 for Eastern students.

Mraz's performance is scheduled to start at 8 p.m. and features opening acts Bushwalla, and magician Justin Kredible.

For tickets, call 581-5122 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday.

### Deadline to participate in Panther Service Day

The deadline for students interested in volunteering for the "Panther Service Day: One Campus, One Community" event is Friday.

Students wanting to donate can pick up a Panther Service Day information brochure at the Student Activity Center in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

Alumni Services, Student Government and the city of Charleston are sponsoring the event, which takes place April 19. The event lets students, faculty, staff and alumni participate in service projects such as book drives, food drives and clean-ups.

Contact Justin Barrett at 581-2281 for more information.

### Opt to return your textbooks early

Students can return textbooks to Textbook Rental any time during the semester. The final deadline to return Spring 2008 textbooks is 3 p.m. on May 2.

Go to <http://www.eiu.edu/~textbks> for more information.

— Compiled by Associate News Editor Stephen Di Benedetto

## BLOTTER

On April 4 it was reported a purse and its contents were stolen from a restroom in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union. A debit card in the purse was used. The theft is under investigation.

On April 4 it was reported an Eastern student received a threatening phone call from an ex.

On April 5 it was reported glass was broken on an entry door in Greek Court.

On April 5 it was reported a red Jeep "might" have been keyed in a University Court parking lot or in the Wal-Mart parking lot.

On April 6 it was reported a white Nissan had the rear window broken out with a beer bottle while parked in the Ninth Street and Garfield Avenue lot.

### COMMENTS, CORRECTIONS OR EVENTS

To report any errors, local events or general suggestions for future editions, please contact our Editor in Chief, **Matt Daniels**, via: **Phone | 581-7936**, **E-mail | [DENeic@gmail.com](mailto:DENeic@gmail.com)**, **Office visit | 1811 Buzzard Hall**

CAMPUS | STUDENT GOVERNMENT

# Textbook Rental fee increase to be proposed

Senate will also vote on  
3 percent Union bond  
review fee increase

By Rick Kambic  
Student Government Reporter

The Student Senate will discuss \$3.33 worth of fee increases during tonight's meeting.

An additional \$1 per credit hour fee increase for Textbook Rental will be proposed, and the senate will vote to support or reject the 3 percent increase to the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union bond review fee. The current Union fee is \$77.70 per student.

If approved by the Board of Trustees, the fee will increase \$2.33 and generate about \$50,000.

The additional funds would be used to accommodate the new minimum wage and inflated utility rates, said Ted Hart, assistant director of the Union.

The Textbook Rental Service fee would be increased \$1 per credit hour to start saving money for the construction of a new complex to house the department.

Student Senate Member Tyson Holder said construction representatives plan to present production

### APPORTIONMENT BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS

Campus Recreation: \$227,700  
University Board: \$239,469  
Student Government: \$45,226  
Apportionment Board: \$22,605

schedules and anticipated materials that would be purchased with the money. Ways to build an energy-efficient and environmentally friendly building have been explored and will be explained tonight, he said.

If approved, the fee will become \$9.95 per credit hour, and money generated from the approved increase will be kept in a separate account for the construction project, Holder said.

Fee-related votes become recommendations to the Board of Trustees on behalf of the student body.

The senate does not have legislative authority to increase or decrease the fees.

The Apportionment Board will also have each of the four organizations that receive fee-funding present their approved budgets to the senate.

AB approved allocations of \$535,000 among themselves, Student Government, Campus Recreation and the University Board. AB



FILE PHOTO | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Leah Pietraszewski, student vice president for business affairs and Apportionment Board chairwoman, attends a Student Government meeting in February. Today's meeting will have a vote on fee increases.

approved the budgets on March 27. The senate has to approve or reject AB's recommendations.

Rick Kambic can be reached at 581-7942 or at [rwkambic@eiu.edu](mailto:rwkambic@eiu.edu).



The DAILY  
EASTERN NEWS  
“Tell the truth and don’t be afraid.”

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## Letter to the editor

## AVOIDING CONTROVERSY

I am troubled to hear about the censorship of Andrew Hicks’ weekly cartoon, though his experience is, sadly, not a unique one.

When I began to write columns for *The Daily Eastern News* last fall, the language of my column “Abstinance – only a tool of domination,” was changed by the editor without my consent to make it less controversial.

The editorial staff has since published my work without modification, which is why I was surprised and confused to learn about the paper’s refusal to run Hicks’ cartoon.

Just the day before, for example, I had published a column candidly discussing masturbation and pornography – subject matter that is just as potentially contentious as drugs – and prior to that I wrote columns containing explicit language.

It seems to me that, given the content of Hicks’ cartoon (marijuana) and previous incidents at the paper, *The DEN* was less concerned with heading off vulgar or potentially libelous material and more concerned with avoiding “controversy,” thus reinforcing the already narrow range of acceptable opinions, ideas and subjects.

If *The DEN* is serious about “telling the truth and not being afraid,” it should embrace healthy controversy rather than shrinking from it, and the campus community should hold the staff of this paper to such a commitment.

Scott A. Murray  
Junior rhetoric major

*Editor’s note: The definition of a censor, according to Webster’s Dictionary is “a government official who examines books, plays, news reports, motion pictures, radio and television programs, letters, cablegrams, etc., for the purpose of suppressing parts deemed objectionable on moral, political, military or other grounds.”*

## EDITORIAL POLICY

The editorial is the majority opinion of the DEN editorial board. Reach the opinions editor at: [DENopinions@gmail.com](mailto:DENopinions@gmail.com)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the editor can be submitted at any time on any topic to the Opinions Editor to be published in *The Daily Eastern News*.

*The DEN’s* policy is to run all letters that are not libelous or potentially harmful.

They must be less than 250 words.

Letters to the editor can be brought in with identification to *The DEN* at 1811 Buzzard Hall. Letters may also be submitted electronically from the author’s EIU e-mail address to [DENopinions@gmail.com](mailto:DENopinions@gmail.com).

## Drawn from the news | Chris Lee



## STAFF EDITORIAL

## Bulgar for student body president

The Student Government elections are less than a week away, and it’s time to start considering who gets the students’ sacred votes.

Next Monday and Tuesday, elections will be held in the Library Quad in a giant white tent with loud music, so it’ll be nearly impossible to miss.

Levi Bulgar, student executive vice president, will be on the Student United Party’s ballot for student body president. He will be running against three other candidates vying for the same position.

Other students running for student body president next week will be Eric Hiltner, Bobbie Mitchell and Dominic Capparelli.

Hiltner’s United Party of Students plans on continuing to lobby for funding Registered Student Organization, extending library hours and anchoring more diversity in campus activities.

Mitchell’s Students Wanting Action Today party hopes to improve student involvement in Student Government and wants to unify more RSOs.

Capparelli’s Campus Action Party hopes to improve campus safety. He has experience in campaigning for his uncle, who ran for U.S. Congress.

But we’re sold on Bulgar.

His party has significant goals for improving Student Government and student interaction with the group. He plans on improving the Student Government Web site and wants to start blogging to help the campus community get more involved.

Bulgar has been absorbed in Student Government at Eastern since he was a sophomore. He has a firm grasp on how the system works and how to best communicate with administrators and Student Senate members. Next year, Bulgar, a psychology major with a political science minor, will be a senior.

Bulgar has quite a list of credentials. He served for a year as student vice president for business affairs and is wrapping up his last few weeks in office as student vice president for student affairs.

He hopes to keep up participatory programs, such as One Campus, One Community and the Student Teacher Interaction Program.

Bulgar pinpoints that the problems Student Government has had this past year are a result of Student Senate members not participating in the organization’s functions.

Problems with volunteering and a “lack of accountability,” as he puts it, have been common. This is something he hopes to change for the organization to run smoother.

He’s worked with the RSO Funding Committee and helped with Panther Service Days. He’s been involved in lobbying for funding for higher education through the Student Action Team

## OUR VIEW

• **Situation:** Student Government elections are next week, and four candidates are running for student body president.

• **Stance:** Levi Bulgar has the best qualifications for the job as he has been actively involved in the organization for two years now.

and has been involved with the Illinois Board of Higher Education’s Student Advisory Board.

The Student United Party has three main issues they plan on tackling, should their party be elected.

“Give the students what they want” is the SUP’s motto, and they’re concentrating on improving school spirit, giving students better representation and, most importantly, improving campus safety.

“In the wake of the tragedies at NIU and V-Tech, campus safety has quickly become the highest priority of the administration and the student body of Eastern Illinois University,” Bulgar said.

He has plans to improve students’ school spirit and implement a sense of pride in the student body by “creating campus symbols that students can rally behind,” he said.

The SUP wants to make it easier for Student Government to connect with students so their voices can

“Problems with volunteering and ‘lack of accountability,’ as (Bulgar) puts it, have been common. This is something he hopes to change for the organization to run smoother.”

be heard too.

“Between the executive offices of Student Government, there are more than 60 appointments made to various boards and committees ... that deal directly with student issues and concerns,” Bulgar said.

The SUP believes that connecting with more members of various student organizations will lead to a trend in broadening the spectrum of student representation.

The SUP also plans to continue Student Government’s efforts to get more students to register to vote.

Bulgar certainly knows his way around the Student Life Office, and he realizes there’s plenty of room for improvement.

With the cooperation of all Student Government members, as well as working with executive board members, he wants to “increase efficiency, productivity and overall visibility” of Student Government, he says.

“Only by the cooperation of everyone within Student Government can we address the areas in which we have been lacking in and begin to hold ourselves to a higher standard,” Bulgar said.

We think Bulgar has had a strong presence on Student Government and has shown he knows the Student Government ropes – and he’s our choice to become Eastern’s next student body president.

## CONTINUE THE DEBATE



## ONLINE

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–Dylan Divit



JOHN STROMSKI

TXTNG  
TRBLE

I recently enabled text messaging on my phone a few months ago and in just that short time, I’ll admit I’m addicted.

What started out as my reason for texting was in case I was somewhere where I couldn’t speak on the phone but still needed to give or receive some important message, such as “Wait for me, I’ll be out of class in 10 minutes,” which quickly devolved into important messages, such as “What are you doing tonight?” It was also a useful tool to still talk with someone in places where it was too loud to hear otherwise.

Although I use text messaging, I am still not at the ultimate platform of the unlimited text-messaging plan. I still pay 10 cents per text message, and this is what makes me mad about text messaging. How many times have you gotten a text message that says not even a word, but just a letter “k”? Now, did you really need that message?

Did I really need to pay 10 cents to see that single-letter response to a proposition that I automatically would’ve assumed was fine unless you texted back saying “no” with a reason?

No. It’s pointless and meaningless texts, such as the one aforementioned, that really annoy me. Texts of annoyance and meaninglessness are captured fully by the following two scenarios: A friend, on several occasions, sent me the text of “Falcon Punch” (a video game reference) during the span of six text messages. One of my friends once received this simple word from someone he had not talked to or about previously that day: “Dude.” Were either of those really necessary or purposeful?

I think text messages, if used at all, don’t need to exceed more than three responses: The first message asks a question. The second message responds to the question. If the recipient of the first question also asks a question in response, then go for it. The third message responds to the question and seals the deal. Anything more and you should really just be calling each other.

That’s the other thing that really disappoints me about text messaging – it discourages you from being confrontational with people. I, myself, am guilty of this. I was upset and instead of saying something on the phone and addressing the issue directly, I sent a text message, resulting in the exchange of five more text messages back and forth with nothing resolved.

I know what you’re thinking: If you have such a problem with text messaging, then why don’t you stop complaining about it and just stop using it. That is indeed a valid point, and I feel somewhat hypocritical writing this article – and even using text messaging – when I have these thoughts myself.

What it boils down to, though, is the plain and simple reason I initially enabled text messaging: I was tired of women or other friends saying that they texted me, asking me to come hang out somewhere and I never received the message and therefore missed out. I think if you have something meaningful or important to say to someone, you should, at the very least, be calling them or addressing them in person.

John Stromski is a junior English major. He can be reached at 581-7942 or at [DENopinions@gmail.com](mailto:DENopinions@gmail.com).



» Home rule

FROM PAGE 1

This lack of freedom when it comes to public funds is one of the main reasons Charleston started investigating the switch to a home-rule style community.

This began last night with the first meeting of the committee formed to investigate such a change. At this meeting, several Charleston residents as well as members of the city council were present to hear an expert on home rule in Illinois discuss the possible change.

Jim Banovetz, professor emeritus at Northern Illinois University, was involved in the actual drafting of the Illinois Constitution in 1970 that made home rule a possibility in all Illinois cities. There are 191 such cities in Illinois that have implemented home rule.

He spoke at the committee's first meeting to provide an overview of home rule and the advantages and disadvantages of implementing it. The main focus of the discussion came down to two issues associated with home rule: taxes and trust.

Banovetz said most cities that have implemented home rule have faced the issue of convincing voters that the change will not necessarily force a rise in taxes. He said this is caused by the false belief that politicians will use the increased power of home rule to institute more taxes to line their pockets.

"There is an impression in the American body politic that politicians somehow benefit



JOHN BAILEY | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Jim Banovetz, guest speaker on home rule, explains the benefits of home rule for a community on Tuesday evening's home rule meeting in the basement of Charleston's City Hall.

from taxes," Banovetz said.

While a home-rule system does allow for the implementation of more tax levies by the city government, Banovetz said extra taxes are not a necessary part of the system.

In cities like Charleston, which already has a number of existing tax levies, extra taxes are

unnecessary and would likely cause the city populace to force a revision to the old city governing system, he said.

A revision can be caused by a certain percentage of the electorate demanding a special recession and voting to abandon home rule.

Banovetz said the abandonment of a home-

OTHER ADVANTAGES TO HOME RULE IN CHARLESTON

- The change would allow the city to better recruit firefighters from around the area and allow them to train in paramedics.
- Economic development could be increased by giving more freedom to the city government.
- Increasing taxes could be slowed by the implementation of new programs.

rule system has only occurred four times in Illinois history.

Cases in which home rule has been rescinded or has not been passed in the first place have traditionally been where the electorate has not trusted its public officials.

"There are communities in Illinois that, quite frankly, should not have it," Banovetz said.

These are the times when a city should not adopt a home rule system because of the inherent power that is placed in the hands of these officials, he said. A trust among the governing and the governed is a definite prerequisite for home rule.

"The critical element in this is trust," he said.

The next Home Rule Ad-Hoc Committee will meet at 5 p.m. May 6 at City Hall.

Jordan Crook can be reached at 581-7495 or at jscrook@eiu.edu.

» Funds

FROM PAGE 1

He said much of the budget planning for fiscal year 2009 has already happened.

The Board of Trustees approved Eastern's budget request for fiscal year 2009 in June 2007.

That request was then sent to the Illinois Board of Higher Education, which collected all of Illinois' public higher education institutions' budgets and created one large budget request for higher education in general.

IBHE's request is then sent to Blagojevich, who factors that in when making a decision on his budget recommendation for the entire state.

The process then moves on to the General Assembly, and that is where Eastern is at now, Cooley said.

"We're waiting to see ... what kind of action (the General Assembly) takes on the governor's recommendation and what kind of funding we will actually see in '09," he said.

Cooley said the "all-funds budget" for fiscal year 2009 will be sent to the Board of Trustees in June for approval.

The all-funds budget includes revenue from tuition, state appropriations, bond-revenue entities and local fund budgets.

Minor planning changes have been made to the budget since President Bill Perry announced his goals for the university in his January campus wide e-mail.

Cooley said his office is trying to shape the budget to Perry's goals, such as enhancing fine arts programming and developing undergraduate research.

But with state funding continuing to dwindle, Cooley said many Illinois public universities are feeling the pressure of the financial climate in Illinois.

"I think the state needs to re-evaluate its commitment to higher education and look at the value that does provide," he said.

One effect of Illinois' decrease in funding is Eastern having to bear more financial responsibility of funding grants and programs the

state typically would largely finance.

The Illinois Veterans Grant and the Illinois National Guard Grant allow for veterans' tuition to be waived. Since the state's decrease in appropriations, Illinois public universities have to use more tuition revenue to fund the grants that allow the veterans' tuition waiver.

"The current status in Illinois is that we're not getting an explicit appropriation for that," Perry said. "From my perspective, it is the right thing to do — to provide this benefit for veterans."

As of the end of March, Eastern had spent \$380,000 during fiscal year 2008 for the veterans' grant.

But people cannot allow themselves to dwell on who pays for what, Perry said.

The important issue is delivering quality instruction, and not charging veterans tuition is a part of that because veterans are called upon to put themselves in harm's way, he added.

Cooley agreed with Perry and said people have an obligation to support the veterans, and he would never want to turn a veteran away

from gaining access to higher education.

As for the lack of state funding in general, Perry said being troubled or frustrated about it does not help solve problems.

"Mechanically, how we take care of running the university, depending on whether or not the state gives us money for something or not, that is just a problem for us to figure out because we're running the university," Perry said. "It's a management issue. I don't get wrapped around the axel on this issue."

Cooley said it is more difficult for the university to provide quality education for its students when state funding continues to decrease. When resources available to Eastern are reduced, the situation becomes more problematic, he added.

"We owe that to our students — to provide the highest quality of education; unfortunately, we are shifting the cost of that back to the students we are educating," Cooley said. "It's frustrating."

Stephen DiBenedetto can be reached at 581-7942 or at sdibenedetto@eiu.edu.

» Senate

FROM PAGE 1

"Our goal is to get one or two of the top 20 businesses to come, then it's worth what we have done," Smith said.

In other business, John Henry Pommier, chair of the nominations committee, extended the senate appointed position nominations deadline to April 14.

Also, Fischer was announced as the Distinguished Faculty Award recipient of 2008.

The award is given to a faculty member with excellence in research and creativity, service and teaching.

The award is for an individual with outstanding work over a period of time.

"This is really my pleasure as chairperson to be able to be in this position when the award is honored to Bud," Curry said. "It is my pleasure and honor."

Brittini Garcia can be reached at 581-7942 or at bmgarcia@eiu.edu.



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## UNIVERSITY | LEGISLATION

# Lobbying for higher education

Students, faculty, staff board bus, travel to Springfield

By Stephen Di Benedetto  
Associate News Editor

Jill Nilsen knows what the efforts of the Higher Education Legislative Coalition will do for public higher education in Illinois.

HELC has organized its third annual "Lobby Day," and students, faculty, staff and other organizations are going to Springfield today to lobby for higher education.

"I think the stronger the message, the more unified the message and (the) increase intensity of the message is needed," Nilsen, vice president for external relations, said.

Buses arrived at Eastern around 7:30 a.m. and took a handful of Eastern students, faculty and staff to Springfield. A rally will be held this morning outside the capitol building, and the many different groups will then visit legislators to lobby for higher education.

Other organizations participating in "Lobby Day" include many Illinois public universities and community colleges, the University Professionals of Illinois, and the Illinois Edu-

JILL NILSEN | VICE PRESIDENT FOR EXTERNAL RELATIONS

**"The coalition is trying to establish an even stronger voice for higher education in the state."**

cation Association.

HELC also established four important points it feels need to be addressed in the legislature, one of which is the accessibility and affordability of public higher education.

"It's very consistent with the message that we're bringing as an individual institution," Nilsen said of HELC's four points. "The coalition is trying to establish an even stronger voice for higher education in the state."

When at Springfield, the people representing Eastern will break into separate groups, and each group will visit about 12 legislators and lobby for higher education, she said. Each group member will have a card that lists HELC's four points and an area on the card that allows for a personalized message. Charles Delman, Eastern's UPI chapter president, said the UPI chapter worked closely with the administration and other Eastern groups in planning for "Lobby Day."

"We will attend the rally," he said. "We'll

go around with groups of students, faculty and staff, and we will speak to legislators."

UPI also set up tables in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union on Monday, and students and faculty were able to write out a personalized message on a postcard for the legislators.

Delman said those postcards would be handed to the legislators today. UPI set up tables around the Union last year as well.

"It really matters to legislators to hear from students because they say they don't hear from students or faculty enough," he said. "They need those indications to know how much people care and what the education is doing for people."

Nilsen said this would be Eastern's second year participating in HELC's "Lobby Day."

"If we have more voices joining together, saying the same thing, I think that is going to reinforce the importance of higher education," she said.

## THE HIGHER EDUCATION LEARNING COALITION'S FOUR IMPORTANT POINTS:

- Higher education needs to be accessible and affordable to the citizens of Illinois.
- Higher education is critical to the workforce and economic development of Illinois.
- Investment in higher education is necessary for the recruitment and retention of highly qualified faculty and staff.
- Resources are needed to close the achievement gap among higher education students in Illinois.

Delman said he expects most or all of UPI chapters to participate in "Lobby Day," and added it is important for legislators to hear directly from the sources about the needs of higher education in Illinois.

"What legislators all tell us is, if you don't hear from us and if we don't make our concerns known, we are less likely to get attention from the legislator or get the issues we care about dealt with and resolved," he said.

Stephen Di Benedetto can be reached at 581-7942 or at [sdbenedetto@eiu.edu](mailto:sdbenedetto@eiu.edu).

## NATION | GOVERNMENT

# Federal employees charged in questionable expenses

Credit card abuse takes place in Defense, Homeland Security, Veterans Affairs departments

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Federal employees charged millions of dollars for Internet dating, tailor-made suits, lingerie, lavish dinners and other questionable expenses to their government credit cards over a 15-month period, congressional auditors say.

A report by the Government Accountabili-

ty Office, obtained Tuesday by The Associated Press, examined spending controls across the federal government following reports of credit-card abuse at departments including Defense, Homeland Security and Veterans Affairs.

The review of card spending at more than a dozen departments from 2005-2006 found that nearly 41 percent of roughly \$14 billion in credit card purchases, whether legitimate or questionable, did not follow procedure either because they were not properly authorized or they had not been signed for by an independent third party as called for in federal rules.

For purchases over \$2,500, nearly half or 48 percent were unauthorized or improperly received. Out of a sample of purchases total-

ing \$2.7 million, the government could not account for hundreds of laptop computers, iPods and digital cameras worth more than \$1.8 million.

In one case, the U.S. Army could not say what happened to computer items making up 16 server configurations, each of which cost nearly \$100,000.

Agencies often could not provide the required paperwork to justify questionable purchases. Investigators also found that federal employees sometimes double-billed or improperly expensed lavish meals and Internet dating for many months without question from supervisors; the charges were often noticed only after auditors or whistle-blowers

raised questions.

"Breakdowns in internal controls over the use of purchase cards leave the government highly vulnerable to fraud, waste and abuse," investigators wrote.

"This audit demonstrates that continued vigilance over purchase card use is necessary," the 57-page report stated.

The report calls for the General Services Administration and Office of Management and Budget, both of which help administer the government's credit card program, to set guidance to improve accounting for purchased items, particularly Palm Pilots, iPods and other electronic equipment that could be easily stolen.

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MEN’S AND WOMEN’S GOLF | COACHING

# Scheduling conflicts arise with Panthers

Moncel encounters clashing because of team’s different locations

By Dan Cusack  
Sports Reporter

Eastern head golf coach Mike Moncel has plenty of responsibilities.

Moncel is the head coach for both the men’s and women’s teams, which sometimes causes problems in scheduling.

Moncel has to choose which team he is going to travel with when tournaments are played on the same day because he is the only full-time coach.

This problem arose at the end of March when the men were playing the Missouri State Invitational in Hollister, Mo., and the women were playing the Southern Illinois Saluki Invitational in Carterville.

For that trip, Moncel chose to travel with the men, whose meet started one day later.

Moncel said he usually chooses the meet that is farther away.

“I alternate,” Moncel said. “If there’s a conflict, I’ll be with the women. It all depends with the schedule. Usually it depends on who I can get to drive. I’ll usually take the long trip, and I usually give my assistant the short trip.”

Moncel’s assistant is first-year elementary school teacher Bob Edwards.

Edwards is a volunteer and helps Moncel when Edwards gets a chance, Moncel said.



JOHN BAILEY | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Red-shirt freshman Jenna Fox works on her chipping as Eastern head golf coach Mike Moncel watches during practice at Meadowview Golf Course in Mattoon on Tuesday afternoon.

Junior Carrie Riordan and junior Kate Imburgia said Edwards serves primarily as a driver for the trips and

does not really offer feedback. Moncel said he tries to maintain contact with Edwards when he is at

another tournament.

“I try to keep track, but it is kind of hard when you have five people playing all over the golf course,” Moncel said. “You can only be at one spot at a time. You can only get one story.”

Riordan said there is a difference when Moncel travels with the men’s team.

“Coach is out there at practice and knows us and how we play,” Riordan said. “We’ve known Coach for a long time, and it is different with him not out there giving instruction.”

After tournaments, Moncel calls and wants to know everything about the rounds, Riordan said.

“He always wants to know how we played, and he is always there for confidence,” she said.

Imburgia said it is different but not that bad when Moncel is not there.

“It is a little different because we do not get any feedback,” she said.

Imburgia – whose brothers, seniors Matt and Mike, are on the men’s team – said Moncel might find out how she plays from her brothers.

“I also call my brothers after I play and tell them everything,” Imburgia said. “(Moncel) probably finds out from talking to my brothers or from (Edwards).”

The women’s next tournament will be the Ohio Valley Conference Championships, which starts Monday in Florence, Ala. The men will compete this weekend at the Illinois Invitational in Urbana.

Dan Cusack can be reached at 581-7944 or at dscusack@eiu.edu.

PANTHER BRIEFS

## Baseball game canceled

Eastern’s game against Illinois College was canceled Tuesday because of the threat of severe inclement weather set to begin at game time.

The game has been tentatively rescheduled for May 5, but that makeup date is contingent on Illinois College’s postseason chances.

The Panthers return to action at 3 p.m. today against Indiana State at Coaches Stadium.

## Golden earns conference track honor this week

Eastern junior hurdler Chandra Golden was named the Ohio Valley Conference Female Track Athlete of the Week on Tuesday. Golden, a Normal native, finished first in the 100-meter hurdles and second in the 400-meter hurdles at the EIU Big Blue Classic last weekend. Her time in the 100-meter hurdles (14.46 seconds) is the second-fastest time in the OVC this outdoor track season.

## Former Eastern assistant to join Purdue coaching staff

Former Eastern assistant men’s basketball coach and men’s basketball player Jack Owens was named an assistant coach at Purdue on March 31. Owens was named to the OVC All-Newcomer team as a transfer from Barton County Junior College (Kan.) during the 1998 season and earned honorable mention All-OVC honors during his senior year.

-Compiled by Sports Editor Scott Richey and Associate Sports Editor Kevin Murphy

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4/10

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4/11

1021 6th - Female upperclassmen only: Need one more roommate in 4 bedroom house. \$350/MO, 11 mo. lease. Trash included. No pets, no smoking. Call 708-415-8191

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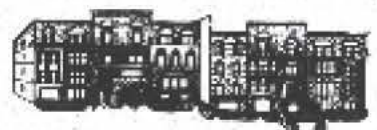
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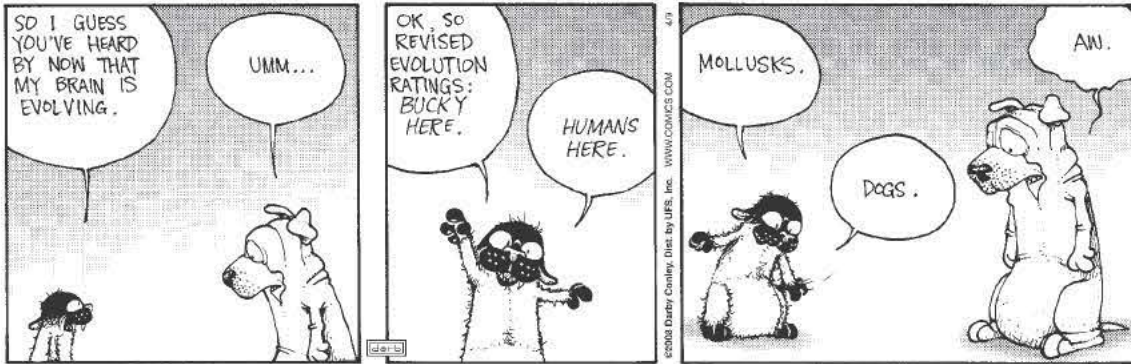
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PEARLS BEFORE SWINE | BY STEPHAN PASTIS



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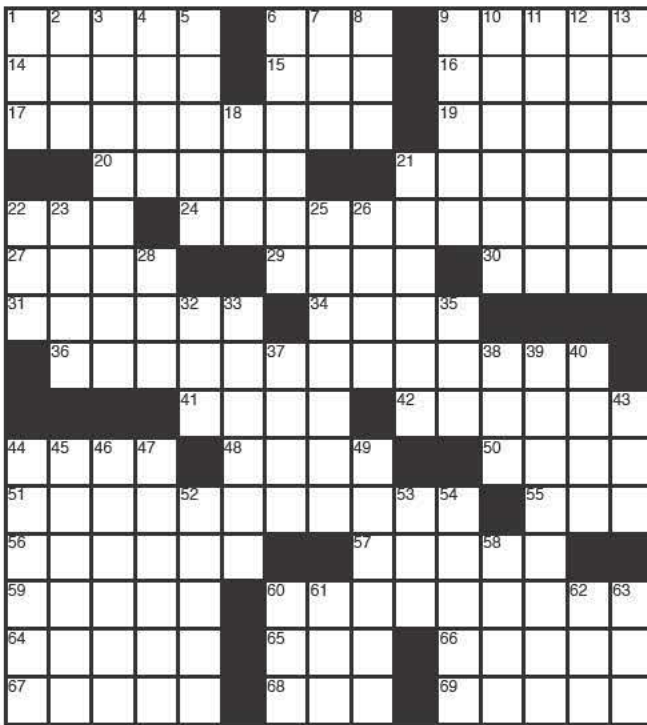


The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0227

- ACROSS
- 1 Bankruptcy causes
  - 6 Part of "snafu"
  - 9 Invite for
  - 14 \_\_\_ ease
  - 15 Water temperature tester
  - 16 Ending with farm or home
  - 17 Make tracks
  - 19 "Survivor" team
  - 20 Mead study locale
  - 21 Chips that one might "muncha buncha"
  - 22 Hotel offerings: Abbr.
  - 24 Sources of ready cash
  - 27 Cassidy portrayer of TV and film
  - 29 \_\_\_ a one
  - 30 "Born Free" feline
  - 31 Words of willingness
  - 34 Defaulter's loss
  - 36 Members of this can be found in the centers of 17-, 24-, 51- and 60-Across
  - 41 Flash drive filler
  - 42 \_\_\_ lion, beast slain by Hercules in his first labor
- DOWN
- 1 Talk trash about
  - 2 Lodge member
  - 3 "Gesundheit!"
  - 4 "Look what I did!"
  - 5 Notary's item
  - 6 Time to crow
  - 7 "That's funny!," in an e-mail
  - 8 Antietam leader
  - 9 Nolan Ryan, for years
  - 10 Its symbol is X
  - 11 Harvey of "The Piano"
  - 12 Marchers' drums
  - 13 Black Sea port



PUZZLE BY LEE GLICKSTEIN

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

T	O	A	D	P	O	P	S	S	N	O	R	E
A	R	G	O	U	P	O	N	W	O	M	B	S
L	E	A	N	L	A	T	E	E	T	A	I	L
C	O	R	N	E	L	L	S	A	N	D	E	R
		E	M	T			K	E	E	P		
P	I	S		M	A	T	E		E	N	A	C
E	M	O	R	Y	B	O	A	R	D		P	A
C	O	D	A	S		F	R	O		R	E	N
A	N	O	N		T	U	L	A	N	E	R	O
N	A	M	A	T	H		S	N	A	P		E
				C	O	R	K			M	O	P
	M	A	R	Q	U	E	T	T	E	S	H	A
A	E	I	O	U		P	O	E	T		O	R
P	A	R	S	E		I	D	E	A		N	I
B	L	E	S	S		S	O	N	G		E	A

- 18 Beyond paramedic aid, in brief
- 21 Short order cook's utensil
- 22 One of four in a grand slam: Abbr.
- 23 Cut close
- 25 Add a soundtrack to, perhaps
- 26 Concise, in Cannes
- 28 Vietnam's Le \_\_\_ Tho
- 32 Foreign law deg.
- 33 Absolutely accurate
- 35 Cockney's abode
- 37 Bit to split
- 38 Chat room shorthand
- 39 Sore throat soother
- 40 Pull suddenly
- 43 "\_\_\_ for Noose" (Sue Grafton book)
- 44 Best Actor nominee for "Venus," 2006
- 45 Has star power
- 46 Mt. St. \_\_\_
- 47 Loser of 1588
- 49 Unlikely to lose it
- 52 One way to be in love
- 53 Ambulance letters
- 54 Befitting of umbrellas
- 58 "Understood"
- 60 Rest spot
- 61 Motor City grp.
- 62 Masthead figs.
- 63 Period after springing forward: Abbr.

For answers, ca 1-900-285-5656, \$1.49 a minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-814-5554. Annual subscriptions are available for the best of Sunday crosswords from the last 50 years: 1-888-7-ACROSS. On-line subscriptions: Today's puzzle and more than 2,000 past puzzles, [nytimes.com/crosswords](http://nytimes.com/crosswords) (\$39.95 a year). Share tips: [nytimes.com/puzzleforum](http://nytimes.com/puzzleforum). Crosswords for youngsters: [nytimes.com/earnng/xwords](http://nytimes.com/earnng/xwords).



## » Start

FROM PAGE 12

Robinson was packing his bags when his teammates arrived at his apartment.

They thought he was joking at first when he told them of the news.

A few of his teammates and Robinson went out to dinner at QQ Buffet on Saturday night before Robinson left town. After the meal, they came back to the apartment.

"I waited on my ride and left," Robinson said.

**Players react to departure**

Anthony said Robinson's girlfriend from Purdue came and picked him up in the middle of the night.

Anthony said Miller passed out some interesting articles on basketball players getting suspended for random things the day Robinson was dismissed.

Anthony said he knew Robinson had trouble with Miller in the past and suspected something was up.

Anthony said Miller brought the team together after practice and told them this all we have, in reference to the Eastern players nearby.

Anthony said that's when he knew Robinson was dismissed.

It was confirmed to Anthony after Robinson left him a voicemail.

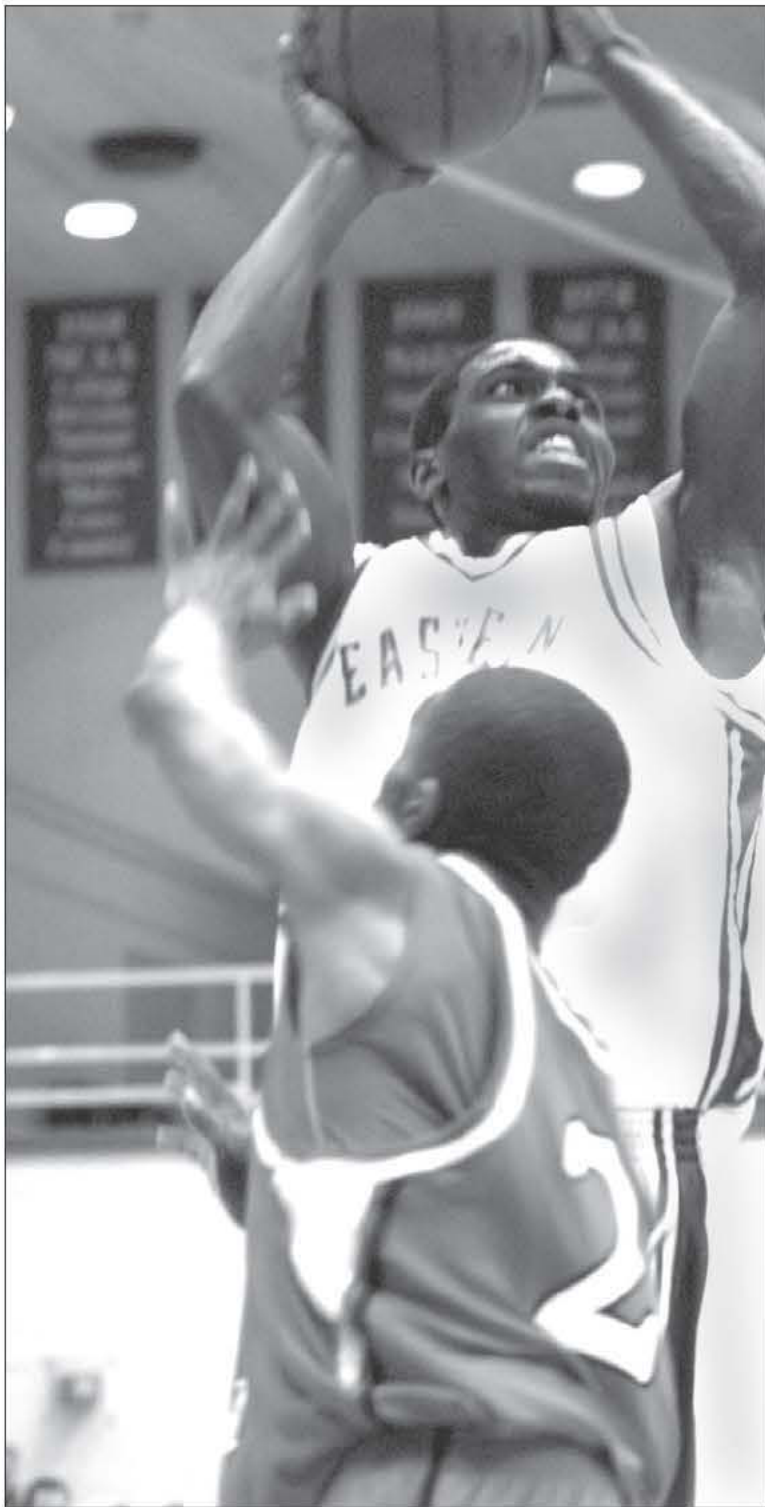
"It was really surprising to me," Anthony said. "I was thinking he was going to only get a couple of games. A lot of us were thinking why he didn't get suspended for a couple games or something like that. It's what Coach Miller had to do."

Eastern senior forward Bobby Catchings had similar feelings about Robinson being released.

"I was shocked," Catchings said. "I was kind of upset because we had 14 guys coming back. We had no excuses. You hate to see one of your best players go, especially in a year when you have high expectations. It was pretty upsetting. I wasn't very happy about it. Coach Miller did what he had to do. I'm not going to say I disagree with it; it's just that I was kind of upset about it."

Miller declined comment on why Robinson was released, but he sent out a press release before the game against Eastern Kentucky on Dec. 17.

"Mike was let go from the team on Saturday evening," Miller stated. "I made this decision based on Mike's inability to follow team policies. This was not an isolated incident, as Mike has been an active and inactive member of our team since June. The athletic administration has been aware of the situation and been supportive. The easy thing to do in this situation would have to



FILE | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Former Eastern men's basketball player Mike Robinson drives in a game last season at Lantz Arena. Robinson, a junior, will play next season at Lewis University.

continue to deal with this same pattern, but in the best interest of the program, this was the direction we needed to take."

Anthony said Robinson missed some conditioning workouts, study halls and weight workouts during the summer.

The summer was also when Robinson failed the drug test.

Robinson failed the drug test and Anthony said Robinson wasn't allowed to show up to practices after he failed the drug test, but that Robinson was still on the team.

Robinson said Miller gave him a hard time since then, even though Robinson said he was trying to improve.

Anthony, who is Robinson's close

friend, said it was hard to tell if Miller was being hard or Robinson was just being himself.

"He felt they were trying to recruit over him," Anthony said. "It's just his ego. That's how his mentality was. He was competitive. He's a ball player."

Anthony said Robinson wasn't going to back down.

Anthony, for the most part, said he believes Miller and the coaching staff is trying to have a disciplined team.

"I'm used to worse," Anthony said.

**Robinson's career at Eastern**

Robinson started 57 straight games during his first two years

**ROBINSON'S CAREER STATISTICS AT EASTERN**

Year	PPG	RPG	APG	Steals	TO
2005-06	9.6	3.1	4.3	53	99
•Robinson started all 27 games					
2006-07	10.1	4.1	3.6	65	74
•Robinson started all 30 games					
2007-08 (partial)	5.4	2.0	4.2	12	21
•Robinson started six games; Robinson only played in nine games before being dismissed from the team					

**BOBBY CATCHINGS | EASTERN SENIOR FORWARD ON DISMISSAL OF MIKE ROBINSON**

**"You hate to see one of your best players go, especially in a year when you have high expectations. It was pretty upsetting. I wasn't very happy about it. Coach Miller did what he had to do. I not going to say I disagree with it; it's just that I was kind of upset about it."**

at Eastern as the Panthers' point guard.

And he had individual success even if the team struggled to a combined 16-43 record his first two seasons.

He is in Eastern's Top 10 for career steals and was named the 2006 Ohio Valley Conference Freshman of the Year.

But that started to change his junior year.

He did not start the first three games of the season. He didn't even start in two exhibition games.

"I wasn't used to that," Robinson said.

Robinson started the remaining six games before he was dismissed from the team.

During his sophomore year, Robinson's ball-handling skills improved. He had fewer turnovers, more rebounds and his points per game increased. He had 65 steals in the 2007 season, which is the second-most in a season in program history.

Robinson also hit a game-winning 40-foot shot at the buzzer against Arkansas State his sophomore year.

"He's a hard worker," Anthony said. "He was what made our practices energetic. He set the tone most of the time. When people didn't want to be in there, he got people going. I guess (his dismissal) was just something that had to be done."

Anthony said Robinson was the nucleus of the team.

"He made people want to play and compete — especially in the summer," Anthony said. "He got our pickup games going. He got everything going defensively. In pickup games, you really don't play defense. You just play offense and

see what you can get. He made other players better on the team."

Robinson said he did miss practices and was late to them sometimes, but Catchings said Robinson changed the team.

"Mike, like Julio said, was our tempo setter," Catchings said. "He made great plays for us on the court. He made practices better. He really did. We miss that. We miss that a lot because he made everyone around him better."

Catchings, and senior forward Jake Byrne, are the only two players who had been coached by former Eastern head coach Rick Samuels before Miller was hired in April 2005.

"(Robinson) was there that first year," Catchings said. "It's hard to see a guy like that go since, especially he was one of the first guys who first came in with Miller and kind of started this new era for us."

**Eastern without Robinson**

When Robinson left for Lewis University, Eastern moved on.

The Panthers were left without their primary point guard from the past two seasons.

Plus, the team was in the midst of an eventual 10-game losing streak when the dismissal happened.

The weight of playing the point fell to Anthony.

Anthony said he credits his success at point guard to Robinson.

"He made me a lot better," Anthony said. "He showed me a lot better ways to play at the point guard position. I had to look to him because I didn't know nothing about the triangle offense when I first came in."

» SEE START, NEXT PAGE

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» Start

FROM PAGE 11

Anthony said many teams don't run the triangle offense, but he said he tried to run it to the best of his ability and Miller's plan.

"It's not like we can overrule the coach," Anthony said. "Everybody on the team has their opinions. But it's not for everybody to have their opinions. The only opinion that matters is the coaches."

Anthony finished third on the team in scoring this season at nine points per game. He made 44 percent of his shots from the field, 47 percent of his three-point attempts and 91 percent of his free throw attempts, which led the OVC.

Anthony would have finished with the best single-season free throw percentage in program history if he did not miss because of his collarbone injury before the final two games of the season.

Eastern went 6-14 after Robinson left the team. Injuries and two other departures also affected the team.

Sophomore forward Justin Brock injured his foot early in the season. Brock announced his decision to transfer to Quincy University in March. Sophomore forward Bobby Joliff left school, and red-shirt freshman guard Brandon D'Amico transferred to Cardinal Stritch on December 17. Sophomore guard Romain Martin injured his left foot during winter break. Martin was the 2007 OVC Freshman of the Year.

Anthony said he wants the program to succeed and he wanted the team to remain together.

"I want people to see we're not a losing squad," Anthony said. "If we were a losing squad, we'd all probably quit or something like that. I don't want people to see us as losers. None of us are losers. Everybody would have quit by now (if we were losers)."

Robinson after Charleston

Robinson struggled to find another school after he left Charleston.

The Chicago native looked at

ROBINSON'S BIO

**Position:** Guard  
**Height:** 5-11  
**Weight:** 180  
**High School:** Hales Franciscan  
**Major:** Communication studies

**Career Highs**  
**Points** – 25 vs. Tennessee-Martin on Feb. 10, 2007  
**Rebounds** – 10 vs. Western Illinois on Dec. 22, 2006  
**Assists** – 10 vs. Tennessee-Martin on Jan. 12, 2006  
**Steals** – 8 vs. Louisiana-Monroe on Nov. 10, 2006

local colleges so he could be close to his parents and still play basketball.

He said he was fortunate he found Lewis – about an hour from his home in Chicago.

Robinson said his mother sent his transcripts to Lewis just in time so he could enroll there for the spring semester.

He said he plans to finish his degree in communication studies at Lewis but will also continue to play basketball.

Lewis head men's basketball coach Scott Trost said Miller and Altadonna told Trost about Robinson a couple weeks before Robinson was dismissed.

"It wasn't a secret (Robinson) was going to leave the team," Trost said.

He said Robinson had adjusted well at Lewis and was working well with the team.

But Trost said Robinson isn't guaranteed anything – even if he came from a Division I program.

"Mike knows this is his last opportunity," Trost said. "He's going to find out it's going to be a high level of competition."

Lewis finished 20-11 this past season and lost in a Great Lakes Regional quarterfinal game, which is equivalent to the first round of the Division I men's basketball tournament.

Trost said he would not discuss why Robinson left Eastern, but he said Robinson needed to take control.

"There are no more chances (for him)," Trost said. "He's going to take

PLAYERS WHO HAVE LEFT EASTERN SINCE MIKE MILLER BECAME HEAD COACH IN 2005

Name	Season Left	Still Playing?
Justin Brock	2008 (Transferred to Quincy at end of season)	Yes
Brandon D'Amico	2008 (Transferred to Cardinal Stritch at semester break)	Yes
Mike Robinson	2008 (Transferred to Lewis at semester break)	Yes
Bobby Joliff	2008 (Left team, school at semester break)	Unsure
Freddie Perry	2008 (Left team at start of season)	No
Austin Hogue	2006 (Left team in middle of season)	No
George Tandy	2006 (Transferred to Cleveland State at end of season)	Yes
Kyree Brown	2006 (Transferred to Edinboro (Pa.) at end of season)	Yes
Bil Duany	2006 (Transferred to Indiana at end of season)	No
Ross Laux	2006 (Left team before season started)	No
Wes Wilkin	2006 (Left team at end of season)	No
Tom Burke	2006 (Left team at end of season)	No

care of his business on and off the court."

Robinson still keeps in contact with Anthony about his progress at Lewis.

"I talk to him every day," Anthony said. "He calls, lets me know what's going on. I check up on him after every game. He calls me to see what happened."

Robinson said he practiced with Lewis and watched film once he arrived there.

He said he likes the environment better at Lewis, because it is structured and there is more support.

Robinson's past at Eastern

Although Robinson is now at Lewis, he said he almost thought about leaving Eastern's program midway through his freshman season but waited it out.

He said he planned to transfer to South Plains College – a community college – in Levelland, Texas.

But Robinson said he chose not to transfer to South Plains because the school was in Texas and was far from his family.

He also said Miller convinced him to stay at Eastern.

Robinson said he wished he had left earlier with the training and practice Miller put the team through.

"After a while, I wasn't seeing eye-to-eye with the coaching staff," Robinson said.

Robinson said Miller did not contact the players when assistant coaches left, or when players left.

Robinson said junior forward Bil

ly Parrish told him former Eastern assistant coach Marcus Belcher left the program to become an assistant at Evansville in March 2007.

Robinson said Parrish only knew because Parrish had called Belcher for advice.

Belcher was an assistant coach with the Panthers during the 2006-07 season, but left Eastern after that one season.

Robinson said communication was the biggest problem.

He said the team didn't know until a few weeks later, after former Eastern men's basketball assistant coach Kwanza Johnson left for Nevada.

Johnson served as an assistant coach from 2005-06, his only year at the school.

He also said Miller didn't let the team know who was going to be on the team.

Robinson said he remembers former Eastern walk-on Freddie Perry showed up in practice one day, along with Ryan Voss.

Voss, a 2007 graduate, played in nine games with the men's basketball team in the 2007 season.

He scored one point and had five rebounds.

He was also a wide receiver on the Eastern football team. He finished his Eastern football career with 126 receptions for 1,925 yards. The Punta Gorda, Fla., native also caught 18 touchdowns in four seasons at Eastern.

Robinson said he also did not appreciate the way Miller mistreat-

ed players.

He said Miller mistreated players and made them play through injuries.

He said Eastern sophomore center Ousmane Cisse has played through bad knees and Martin played in games when he had plantar fasciitis in his left foot.

Martin ended up missing 12 games this season for Eastern because of the injury.

Tony Katzenmeier, the athletic trainer for men's basketball, said sometimes trainers have to see if players can play through injuries, and that's what happened with Martin.

He said the athletic trainers have the decision if a player is healthy enough to play.

"We don't get overruled," Katzenmeier said.

Robinson said Miller would lash out at the players, including Parrish, who Robinson said plays out of position.

Parrish, at 6 feet, 4 inches and 200 pounds, is two inches shorter than Catchings and four inches shorter than Brock, Cisse and Byrne but has played primarily in the post his first two seasons.

Robinson also said a current basketball player will attend Eastern next year but will not play basketball next season.

"I think it was better for me to leave," Robinson said.

Kevin Murphy can be reached at 581-7944 or at kjmurphy@eiu.edu.

» Cusack

FROM PAGE 12

For what seems like absolutely no reason at all, on the other side of the barrier is a pit of water for eight of the nine laps.

Junior Nate Atkinson, who ran the race last season, said running the steeplechase is intense.

He said there was a small sheet of ice on top of the water during the Big Blue Invite last season.

Atkinson finished 10th last season.

This season, freshman Derek Ericson finished seventh on Friday, and no Eastern female athlete competed in the event.

Atkinson said athletes must wear special shoes, which are designed to

drain the water out so soaked shoes do not hold them back.

Friday afternoon was not warm, with the temperature hovering around 58 degrees, and the water was dark brown.

As you might guess, the biggest crowd of the day was next to the water pit.

Whether the bystanders admitted it or not, they all wanted to see

an athlete go down into the water and run the rest of the race wet and cold.

Instead, these steeplechasers had the most guts of any track athletes.

Lap after lap, these athletes' feet and legs landed in the water, turning their legs bright red by the final lap.

Not only were these athletes competing against each other and the weather, but they also competed

against themselves.

The steeplechase is my new favorite race and not just because of the water pits.

With the conditions the athletes must endure, the combination of hurdles, running and speed make this race the most fun to watch.

Dan Cusack can be reached at 581-7944 or at dscusack@eiu.edu.

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MLB

Philadelphia at New York Mets |

6 p.m. on ESPN2

MLB

St. Louis at Houston |

7:05 p.m. on Fox Sports Midwest

TRIPLE THREAT



Candice Wiggins

Candice Wiggins (above) helped the Stanford Cardinal to last night's NCAA Women's National Championship game. Wiggins, a senior, earned the Wade Trophy this season. The Wade Trophy is awarded to the top player in Division I women's basketball by the Women's Basketball Coaches Association. Wiggins is also the seventh women's basketball player to be named to the All-American team four times.

Here are three women's college basketball players to watch next season.

**1. Maya Moore** — The Connecticut freshman led the Huskies to the Final Four for the first time since 2004. Moore was the only freshman named to the U.S. Basketball Writer's Association team honoring the top women's college basketball players. She was the Big East Player of the Year and was the USB-WA's Freshman of the Year. She is also an Associated Press All-American.

**2. Courtney Paris** — The Oklahoma junior earned All-American status for the third year in a row. She is the Sooners' first three-time All-American. She currently owns the longest double-double streak (92 games).

**3. Renee Montgomery** — The Connecticut junior was named a third-team All-American. Montgomery was an honorable All-American mention last season.

-Kevin Murphy



DAN CUSACK

Track's unusual event

Track events are usually pretty ordinary.

Either it is a straight race or all you have to do is jump over a few hurdles.

You see how long or high you can jump, and usually there is nothing out of the ordinary.

Well, that was what I thought until I witnessed my new favorite race on Friday at the EIU Big Blue Classic: the steeplechase.

The race is run just like any other. The individual participants run 3,000 meters and they jump over hurdle-like barriers, but there is one difference.

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MEN'S BASKETBALL | FORMER ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT



FILE | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Former Eastern men's basketball player Mike Robinson drives the lane against Samford on Feb. 3, 2007. Robinson was dismissed from the team in December 2007. Robinson was the 2006 Ohio Valley Conference Player of the Year and was the team's starting point guard for two years.

LOOKING FOR A NEW START

2006 Ohio Valley Conference Freshman of the Year seeks chance at Lewis University

By Kevin Murphy  
Associate Sports Editor

Mike Robinson was shocked by his dismissal from the Eastern men's basketball team.

The former Eastern student and former men's basketball player finished the 2007-08 season as a student manager with the Lewis University men's basketball team. He will play next season with the Division II school in Romeoville.

The 2007-08 men's Division I basketball season came to a close Monday night with the NCAA Championship.

Teams are now looking forward to next season. This past season, however, could be one Robinson and the Eastern program would like to forget.

Robinson was dismissed from the team in December for what Eastern head coach Mike Miller said, "was violation of team rules."

Robinson said his dismissal was a total surprise.

Robinson said he failed a drug test during the summer, along with two other players.

Eastern senior guard Julio Anthony said Robinson and the players were reprimanded.

The night before the dismissal, Robinson said he was hanging out with his friends at his apartment.

Anthony said Robinson went to

Jimmy John's to pick up an order.

But then Anthony said Eastern assistant coach Chad Altadonna came around the apartment and asked where Robinson was.

Anthony said he told Altadonna that Robinson was doing laundry.

Robinson said by the time he came back to the apartment, Miller had driven around and performed a routine curfew check on the team.

Robinson said he was expecting a call from Miller to see where he was, but he never received a call from Miller.

Robinson was set to go to practice the next day when he got a call from Eastern assistant coach Chrys Cornelius, who told him not to

come practice.

Robinson waited in his room and received a voicemail from Miller to meet him in his office.

Robinson said he did not expect the meeting.

He said Miller told him during the meeting that he hated what he had to do.

Robinson said he thought to himself, "What's he talking about?"

Then, Robinson said Miller told him he was dismissed from the team.

"Well, Coach, I have nothing to say," Robinson said was his response.

>> SEE START, PAGE 10

NCAA WOMEN'S BASKETBALL | TENNESSEE 64, STANFORD 48

Lady Vols claim second-straight title

Parker caps college career, leads team to national championship

The Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — One by one, Candace Parker hugged her teammates on the sideline as the last seconds ticked away. It was all part of her final farewell to Tennessee.

All that was left was to hoist a championship trophy, which came moments after the Lady Vols' 64-48 victory over Stanford on Tuesday night.

Parker scored 17 points and grabbed nine rebounds to help Tennessee's Shannon Bobbitt talks with referees during the first half of the NCAA Women's Championship game against Stanford on Tuesday night. Tennessee won 64-48.



TOM BURTON | MCT

nessie capture its eighth championship. The Lady Vols also became the first repeat champs since Connecticut won three straight from 2002-04. The Associated Press player of the year will leave the Lady Vols (36-

2) with a year of eligibility remaining, but has accomplished one of her goals by winning multiple championships. Parker also became only the fourth player to win back-to-back Most Outstanding Player of the Final Four honors.

Stanford's loss ended Candice Wiggins' remarkable run through the NCAA tournament.

She scored 14 points and finished with 153 during the six games — the fourth best total in tournament history. Wiggins' career ended by taking the Cardinal (35-4) further than they'd been since 1992, when the program won it all.

The All-American finished 6-for-16 from the field.

EASTERN SPORTS SCHEDULE

BASEBALL

Today vs. Indiana State |  
3 p.m. — Coaches Stadium

SOFTBALL

Thursday at Butler (DH) |  
1 p.m. — Indianapolis

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TENNIS

Thursday at Murray State |  
2:30 p.m. — Murray, Ky.

MEN'S GOLF

Friday, Saturday at Illinois Invitational |  
All Day — Urbana

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TRACK & FIELD

Saturday at Lee Calhoun Invitational |  
All Day — Macomb