

4-12-2006

## Daily Eastern News: April 12, 2006

Eastern Illinois University

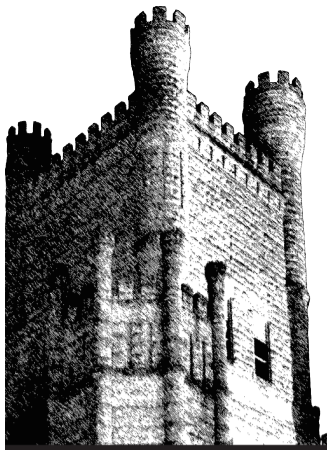
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*“Tell the truth and don’t be afraid.”*

SPORTS ♦ Softball to play unscheduled doubleheader : page 12A

# THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

VOLUME 91, ISSUE 60

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90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Eastern Illinois University, Charleston

WEDNESDAY  
APRIL  
**12**  
2006

# Urban divide

*Students debate  
pros & cons  
of attending  
college in big  
cities vs.  
smaller  
towns*

BY JESSICA CANTARELLI  
CAMPUS EDITOR

Urban life didn't quite agree with Samantha Karr. Karr, a junior communication studies major, attended school at the University of Illinois at Chicago her first year before transferring to Eastern.

Karr said she was never comfortable going to school in an urban setting because students are a minority and Eastern offers a more intimate community.

"I think it's important to be in a 'safe' environment at first rather than directly thrown into the 'real' world right out of high school," she said.

According to U.S. News, the top five universities in the country, Harvard, Princeton, Yale, The University of Pennsylvania and Duke, are neither rural nor urban.

Anais Meza, an undergraduate at DePaul University in Chicago, said she decided to attend college in a big city because she was curious to live the fast-paced lifestyle it had to offer.

"I like the idea of walking out my door and not running into the same people day in and day out," Meza said. "Since state schools are typically in rural areas, it seems like there is not much more to do than drinking and partying."

Meza said nightlife is an exciting part about living in Chicago, but rarely does she have enough money to have a nightlife, even while working four different jobs and being a full-time student.

"I've heard of people spending \$400 in a weekend," she said. "But I feel at a state school I would have learned to appreciate the craziness of being young."

SEE URBAN PAGE 7A

## STUDENT GOVERNMENT

# Vetoed bill returns to table

■ Change would require Student Action Team to file a budget request.

BY NICOLE WESKERNA  
STAFF REPORTER

The Student Action Team may have its budget separated from that of the Student Senate.

Changes to the Student Senate, Apportionment Board and Student Action Team bylaws are on the table at the Student Senate meeting tomorrow night.

One of the major changes in the SAT bylaws is that they would require the SAT to propose a budget request to the student body president by the first week in February.

The SAT budget is currently a line item on the Student Government's budget, which is used for travel expenses. The SAT will be requesting its own budget through the bylaw revisions.

Changes to the Student Senate bylaws were discussed last week and are being carried over to this week's meeting.

Changes to the Student Senate Article III bylaws were discussed and passed last week, but were vetoed by the office of the Student Body President.

The bylaws were vetoed because the Student Senate did not thoroughly discuss the changes to areas such as emergency legislation, correspondence of the senate, budget expenditures and suspension of the bylaws.

"I completely agree with (bringing the vetoed bill back to the table) because the Senate kind of rushed through it," said Kenny Kozik, co-chair of Tuition and Fee Review Committee.

This is the first week the AB and SAT bylaws are being reviewed, and the Student Senate bylaw reviews are only halfway through, Kozik said.

Kozik said nothing major needed to be changed in the AB bylaws.

"There was a lot of stuff in there that we didn't need and some wording needed to be changed," Kozik said.

He also said no major changes are being made to the Student Senate bylaws.

Three more sections of the Student Senate bylaws are left for review at tomorrow's meeting.

The Student Senate meets at 7 p.m. every Wednesday in the Arcola-Tuscola room of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

# World War II POW tells tale of escape

BY KRISTINA PETERS  
STAFF REPORTER

One of the last recorded American POWs to return from Russian camps during World War II will share his stories today.

Veteran Charlie Dukes will offer what a text-book cannot as he tells audience members about the treatment he faced as a prisoner of war.

"It's a good topic to listen to," said Melissa Ortiz, University Board lectures coordinator. "We should talk to (veterans) while they are still here."

Dukes made two attempts to escape the starvation and forced labor.

He was recaptured the first time and succeeded the second.

"I use my experiences to tell students that you can go through a lot and still survive," Dukes said.

Not only will Dukes share his experiences, but he will also bring wartime objects from The Charlie Dukes Museum of Militaria in Georgetown.

The pieces he will bring are some of his own



CHARLIE DUKES  
WWII VETERAN

items such as medals, and his uniform, while others are items he has collected.

"He's going to bring badges and other artifacts from his museum," Ortiz said.

Dukes began the museum about 25 years ago.

It is there where he safely stores his artifacts and shares his experiences.

However, Dukes did not always speak out about what he faced.

Before he wrote his book titled "Good Morning — But the Nightmares Never End," he experienced nightmares almost every night.

**"I use my experiences to tell students that you can go through a lot and still survive."**

"Once the manuscript left the house, I haven't had a nightmare since," Dukes said. "Once I started, I just poured it all out."

The book title was intended for his children, but became the beginning of his many lectures at schools.

## Event Info

♦ **Who:** World War II veteran Charlie Dukes

♦ **What:** Presentation of experiences as a prisoner of war during WWII

♦ **Where:** Martin Luther King Jr. University Grand Ballroom

♦ **When:** 7 p.m.

"He has come to my town several times," Ortiz said. "He's a good speaker."

Dukes has spoken for many ages in local areas some of which include Bloomington, Marshall and Catlin.

"The teachers sort of depend on me when they get to the WWII era," he said. "It makes me feel like it's not a waste of time."

Two copies of Dukes' book will be given away for free while others can purchase it for \$20.

The event is at 7 p.m. today in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union Grand Ballroom.

Admission for the event is free of charge.



KATEY MITCHELL  
SOPHOMORE  
JOURNALISM MAJOR

**“The movie has enough darkness and intrigue that it can rival most ... dramas”**

First movie on my list is “Memoirs of a Geisha.” This movie is by far one of the better movies I have seen in a while. Slightly bordering on stalker territory, a girl becomes a geisha in order to be near the man she loves.



ERIC HILTNER  
FRESHMAN  
JOURNALISM MAJOR

**“BTW, none of the people I no LOL as much as they say they LOL.”**

OMG, I almost LMFAO last nite when I was chatting with 1 of my BFFs online.

ROTFL Bcuz of all the acronyms they were using...

FIVE-DAY WEATHER

TODAY	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<b>75</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>82</b>
<b>50</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>57</b>
Sunny	Mostly Sunny	Scattered storms	Cloudy	Storms

WTF?

Thief takes cameras, leaves behind tapes

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ELKO, Nev. — A man accused of burglarizing a laundromat in Elko figured he made a clean escape over the weekend when he took off with the store's six video surveillance cameras.

But it turns out he left some rather compelling evidence behind — the video machine and videotape that recorded his face each time he stood in front of the cameras at the Southside Laundry.

Elko police said they came away with several close-ups of the suspect, Robert Lynn White, 52, of Elko.

And even if the portraits were a little fuzzy, police said they would have been able to easily identify him because he was wearing cowboy chaps and a trench coat, the usual attire he wears around town.

Police are still working to recover the missing cameras but in the meantime they have arrested White on sus-

picion of grand larceny. The store is owned by Elko County Commissioner John Ellison.

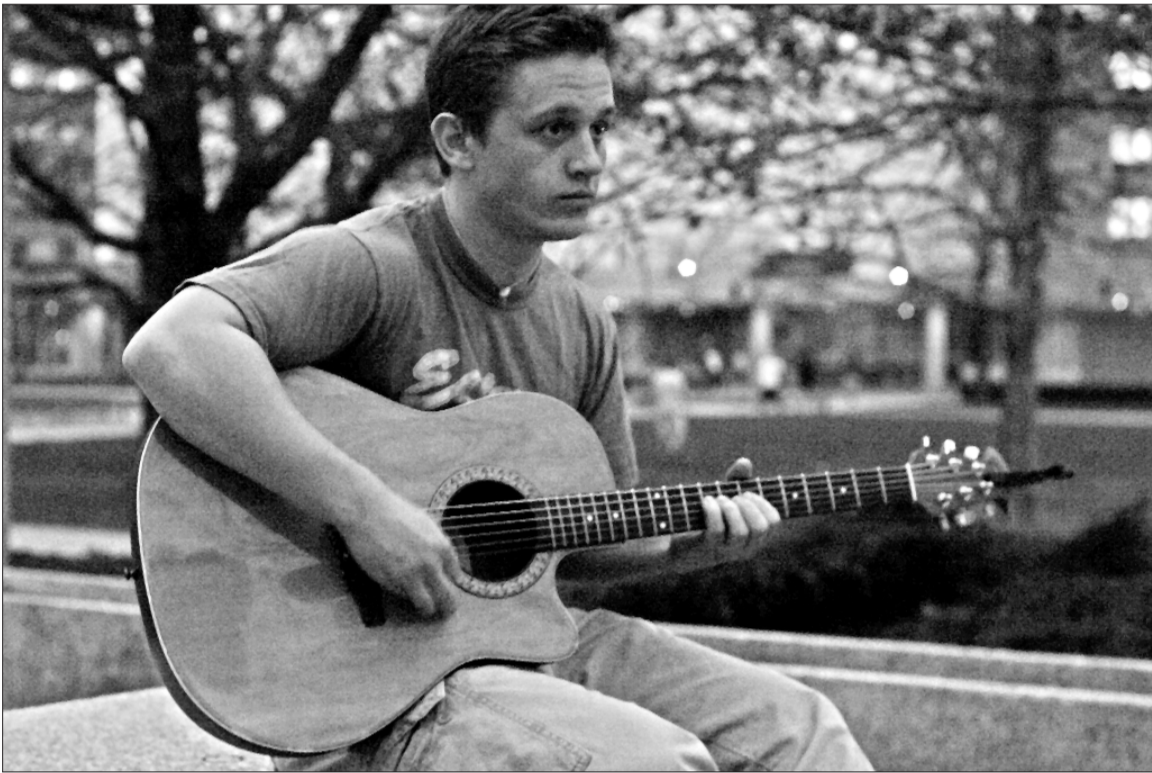
Motorcyle to be returned after 35 years

LONG BEACH, Calif. — Authorities recovered a motorcycle that was stolen in 1971 and plan to return it to its original owner this week.

The 1970 Yamaha was about to be shipped overseas to a Finnish man who bought it for \$1,725 on eBay in September, authorities said Monday. During the shipping process, the vehicle identification number turned up in the database of the National Insurance Crime Bureau.

Long Beach police still had the theft report and tracked down the original owner, Phillip McKeen, who lives in New England. Police officials plan to return the 360cc bike to McKeen on Wednesday.

ACOUSTIC DIVERSION



ERIC HILTNER/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Ryan Connolly, a freshman physical education major, enjoys the warm evening and plays his guitar on the Thomas Hall patio Tuesday.

COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY NEWS

Carbondale citizens protest Congress' immigration actions

BY BRANDON WEISENBERGER

DAILY EGYPTIAN (SOUTHERN ILLINOIS U.)

CARBONDALE — Mexican flags waved in the air and the crowd of about 100 people who gathered Monday in Carbondale chanted, "Yes we can!" The scene mirrored action taken all across the nation as Latinos banded together during a "day of action" in protest of stiffer penalties for illegal immigrants proposed by the U.S. House of Representatives.

Several people met at the town pavilion early in the afternoon before a slew of local citizens joined them for a march through the city that ended at the Carbondale Civic Center.

Infants in strollers gripped miniature Mexican flags while their parents, some holding American flags, chanted. One man rhythmically pounded on the back of a small, bronze guitar while another ran

down the sidewalk, crying out "We are not criminals." Students in a school bus and other motorists passing by honked in support of the protestors.

His large sombrero shielding his face from the beating sun, Sergio Mendez, owner of Sergio's Mexican Restaurant, said although getting people together was simple, the meaning of the assembly held great significance.

"We came here to tell the government to hear us. We want friendship. We want to say that we're not criminals. We're looking for better a future, better jobs, more opportunity," he said.

The House discussed more stringent immigration laws late last week. A Senate bill suggesting a work program for illegal immigrants without a criminal record was voted down. The Senate bill also suggested a naturalization process for some illegal aliens.

Public-service majors grappling with debt

BY TERRY CASEY

DAILY COLLEGIAN (PENN STATE)

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. — More than one-third of America's future social workers and nearly a quarter of its educators will have trouble paying off debt, according to a study released by the Public Interest Research Groups .

The study, "Paying Back, Not Giving Back: Student Debt's Negative Impact on Public Service Career Opportunities," said 37 percent of graduates from four-year public colleges will be in too much debt to manage as an entry-level social worker.

It also said 23 percent could not live comfortably on a teacher's salary.

Sixteen percent of graduates who teach in Pennsylvania cannot repay their debt effectively, said state PIRGs' higher education associate Luke Swarthout, who wrote the study.



EARLY HEADLINES

Listen to “Wake Up Live” with Rob and Jenn Monday through Friday for morning headlines on 88.9 or at [weiuhitmix.net](http://weiuhitmix.net)

PODCAST of the WEEK  
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director of the film "Portion Size Me"  
[www.pounceonline.com](http://www.pounceonline.com)

**EASTERN NEWS**  
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# Presentation, performance merge for singer today

By LAURA FARMER  
STAFF REPORTER

Magdalen Hsu-Li will speak to students and faculty on “Raising Awareness in Communities and Ourselves.”

Hsu-Li said her goal for this performance is to raise awareness while being entertaining.

The show will include Hsu-Li performing original songs and lecturing on the need for awareness of diversity.

The presentation will include a background on Hsu-Li and aims to “expose audiences to the diversity that is found within family, community and within oneself.”

“Audiences can expect fun, first of all, and second, a message in the music that is positive,” Hsu-Li said.

Lynn Ethridge, a senior recreation administration major, said she is looking forward to the performance for its variety of music and its uniqueness.

“It’s different how the show is set up,” Ethridge said. “I think it will make for a more interesting lecture.”

Hsu-Li is currently touring the country and has held performances at Princeton University in New Jersey and the University of Texas in El Paso.

The tour consists of 40 to 50 shows all over the United States and will end in early May.

Hsu-Li described her musical style as “folk, pop, and rock, with some country and punk mixed in.”

Members of her group include a



Vocal artist Magdalen Hsu-Li will perform at 7 p.m. in the University Ballroom in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

violinist, drummer, keyboardist, bassist and guitarist.

Hsu-Li sings lead vocals and plays guitar and piano on her new CD “Smashing the Ceiling.”

The show will be held at 7 p.m. in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union Ballroom for the musical performance and 8 p.m. for the lecture portion.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

## CITY ELECTIONS

# Former Republican candidate resigns from sheriff’s department

By BOB ROUBIK  
STAFF REPORTER

Steve Darimont of the Coles County Sheriff’s Department recently resigned from his duties.

Darimont was in the running for the Republican nomination for sheriff, but was beaten out by Darrell Cox, the department’s chief deputy, in the primary elections.

However, losing the election was not the reason he had retired, he said. “I wanted to make a difference, and my pension plan was maxed out,” Darimont said.

Because he could no longer make a difference and was not able to further his pension, he felt there was no reason to further his career, he said.

In defeat, Darimont could not make the changes he would have liked to have made as sheriff.

Part of Darimont’s campaign was trying to control the menace of methamphetamine and other drugs.

“I would have made the way our jail is worked more efficient and effective and put the patrolmen back in the county in the rural areas,” Darimont said.

During his time working for the Coles County Sheriff’s Department, the thing he is most proud of is starting the first K-9 unit back in 1988 and ‘89.

Currently, there is only one K-9 unit. It also retired and is looking to be replaced.

For 30 years Darimont had worked for Coles County Sheriff’s Department.

In 1999, he was named Deputy of the Year.

He has also been a humane investigator for the State of Illinois Department of Agriculture for 17 years.

Being a police officer most of his life, Darimont is unsure what is going to be next for him.

“I am open for ideas and opportunities, but for now I am just relaxing” Darimont said.

“I wanted to make a difference, and my pension plan was maxed out.”

STEVE DARIMONT, COLES COUNTY SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT

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# OPINION

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

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 2006

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### COMMENTARY



**MAURICE TRACY**  
GUEST COLUMNIST

## BE REALISTIC WITH CAMPAIGN PROMISES

The time has come where all the eager little senate members, and in some cases non-senate members, are going to vie for our attention and plaster walls, windows, residence halls and possibly every available space with pictures of their smiling faces and ask us, the student body, to vote for them.

They will promise students almost anything from maintaining the status quo to offering students the nearly impossible.

But, at the risk of being further disappointed with student government – the constant in fighting, senate members being dismissed and the glossed-up image of student senate being

**"We cannot and should not simply vote for our friends, fraternity brothers, sorority sisters, fellow RSO members or the last party to shove a flier in our hand."**

shoved down students' throats – I have a request for candidate hopefuls.

First and foremost, please do not simply tell me something that you think I want to hear. Yes, I love Coke; it is far superior to Pepsi, but instead of asserting that you

will bring Coke to this campus, explain your plan on how this is to be possible. Especially when everyone is of the understanding that Eastern has an exclusive contract with Pepsi that bars Coke products from being sold anywhere on this campus.

Secondly, please have a plan. If your platform is to promote Eastern spirit, then tell me how. Provide me with concrete ideas that can be implemented to bolster Eastern spirit.

Thirdly, do not just say "continue." It is not enough that you will "continue Unity Week" or "Recognized Student Organization funding." What will you do to make it better?

Do you plan to do more than simply continue research on RSO funding or will you begin the process of implementation?

In short, I want, no, I need, to be given more than what has been given in the past. Fluff and colorful flyers will not suffice anymore.

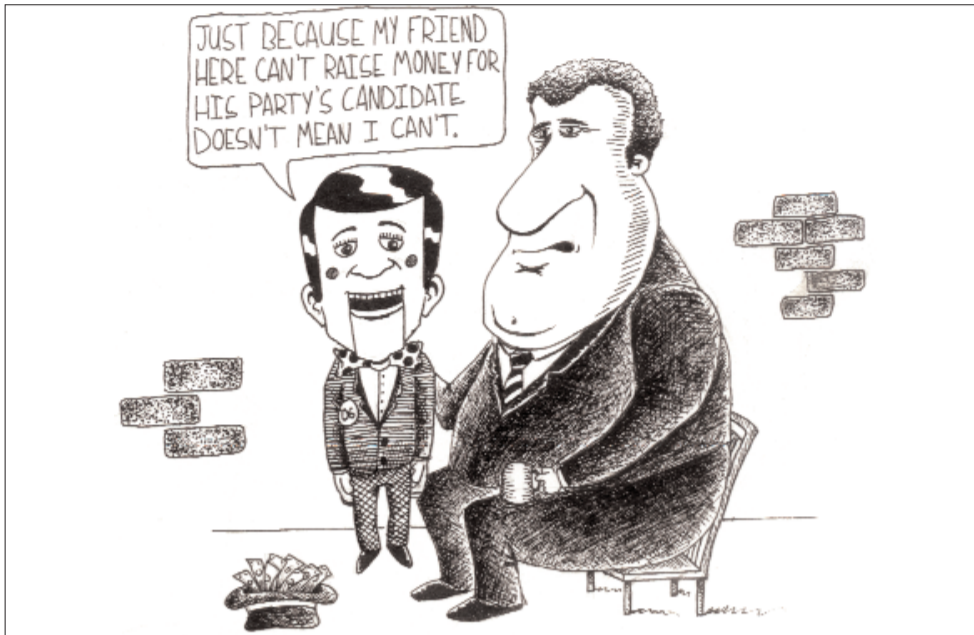
Coca-Cola does not make a president and your past year in office does not guarantee your position for the following year. Only solid platforms and plans can get you into office.

On a side note, all the responsibility can not be dumped onto the shoulders of potential candidates. We the student body must pay attention to what is and is not said. Ask questions.

We cannot and should not simply vote for our friends, fraternity brothers, sorority sisters, fellow RSO members or the last party to shove a flier in our hand. We must take this responsibility seriously; not only are we electing next year's executive board, we are deciding who is worthy of not having to pay tuition for an entire year in return for serving the student body.

Force them to give us more than they have in the past. Demand more than a can of Coke or the continuance of the status quo. We deserve more.

### EDITORIAL CARTOON BY DAVID PENNELL



### EDITORIAL

## Students should choose Ruddy

For the Student Government Association elections next week, *The Daily Eastern News* editorial board is endorsing Jillian Ruddy of the United University party for the position of Student Body President.

We are disappointed to note that both are strong proponents of funding for Recognized Student Organizations, an idea that has failed repeatedly and would inevitably end in higher costs to students.

Ruddy, who has spent the current term as student vice president for business affairs, has a grasp of the issues that face the Student Government and a strong idea of the role of the SGA on this campus.

Ruddy's "Show Me the Money" campaign has been a solid success this semester. By showing students where their fees are going, Ruddy has shown she understands the importance of opacity in student government.

The organization is here, more than anything else, to be a liaison between students and the powers that be at Eastern. Under Eastern's principle of shared governance, it is imperative that Student Government exists to give students a voice in the decisions that affect them.

Instead of complaining that the students do not come to the senate with problems, Ruddy is proposing to set up tables around campus where senate members will be able to reach out to students.

Ruddy's goals to improve school spirit show a reasonable sense of proportion. One of her ideas is to allow Recognized Student



#### At issue

The candidates for Student Body President.

#### Our stance

We choose to endorse Jillian Ruddy because she knows what issues face the students. She has informed students where their money is going in her "Show Me the Money" campaign. Sean Anderson is a good candidate, but does not focus on student needs.

Organizations to draw chalk advertisements on the sidewalk that would be treated to last about a week.

Her opponent, current Student Senate speaker Sean Anderson, brings enthusiasm to his campaign. However, most of his ideas fail to hit on student needs.

Anderson is trying to exploit the recent stabbing outside the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union to claim that campus safety is a serious issue, but that does not seem to be the case.

A few isolated incidents, which are inevitable when there are so many people packed into such a small area, do not point to a long-term trend that needs to be addressed. Anderson is right, however, to say that the university needs to be quicker to issue a statement to all students when incidents do happen.

Anderson claims to believe that it is important for the Student Government to be open to the students, but he has not acted that way this semester. He has closed senate meetings in illegal "executive sessions" to hide discussions that may have portrayed senate members or campaigns in a negative light, and he has refused to discuss the dismissal of senate members in

open meeting session.

Anderson's enthusiasm is admirable, but in the end, Ruddy's ideas ring truer with what students need.

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

## YOUR TURN: LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### COLUMN FILLED WITH FALSE INFORMATION

I, like many Americans, am angered to still have to live in a society where prejudice and intolerance still exist in our daily lives.

While reading the column entitled "Let Me in Immigration Man," by Matt Poli on Thursday, I found numerous examples of simply false information regarding undocumented workers.

While it is true that many Latin Americans are forced to break immigration laws to gain access to this country, still this

does not make them terrorists who kill innocent people, nor are they beggars who strain the welfare system.

They are the Americans who wake at the crack of dawn to inhale pesticides and paint houses under the burning sun. They are working so that the Americans, who refuse to work, can sit on welfare.

Undocumented workers do not burden the tax payers; they simply do not have proper documentation in order to be tax payers. Those who do work with fake identifications can still have taxes deducted from their paychecks. These taxes support

things like higher education, new roads and the war in Iraq.

Congress is now working on legislation that will give legitimacy to the 11 million tax paying undocumented workers in the United States.

So that no one should have to work for less than minimum wage, in slave like conditions, in order to make a living, Americans should not have to live their lives with fears of "la migra" and bigots.

**JEREMY MENEFFEE**

FRESHMAN, HISTORY MAJOR

**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**

*The DEN reserves Wednesday columns for guests.*

# Illegal immigration may remain a misdemeanor

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The two top Republicans in Congress, confronted with internal party divisions as well as large public demonstrations, said Tuesday they intend to pass immigration legislation that does not subject illegal aliens to prosecution as felons.

A written statement by Speaker Dennis Hastert of Illinois and Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist of Tennessee, did not say whether they would seek legislation subjecting illegal immigrants to misdemeanor prosecution or possibly a civil penalty such as a fine.

“It remains our intent to produce a strong border security bill that will not make unlawful presence in the United States a felony,” the two men said. An estimated 11 million men, women and children are in the United States illegally.

The Republican-controlled House passed legislation late last year that is generally limited to border security measures. It makes illegal immigrants subject to felony prosecution.

Senate efforts to write a broader bill — covering border security, a guest worker program and a path to citizenship for many of the 11 million in the country illegally — are gridlocked with lawmakers on a two-week vacation.

Frist has said he intends to bring the issue back to the Senate floor, although he stopped short of a flat commitment and the prospects for passage of an election-year immigration bill are uncertain.

The late-afternoon statement by the top GOP leaders in both houses came after days of large street demonstrations by protesters opposed to criminal penalties for illegal immigrants.

Additionally, in a Washington Post-ABC News poll published during the day, only 20 percent of those questioned said they favored declaring illegal immigrants to be felons and barring them from work. More than 60 percent indicated support for the general approach envisioned in the leading Senate proposal. It includes a requirement that illegal immigrants be required to pay a fine as part of the process of qualifying for eventual citizenship.

The question of a penalty has dogged the debate for months and been the subject of intense political maneuvering.



CHUCK KENNEDY/KNIGHT RIDDER TRIBUNE

**Demonstrators gathered Monday on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., to protest their opposition to the congressional bill HR 4437, a bill designed to strengthen the ability of the government to enforce United States immigration laws against illegal immigrants.**

GOP aides pointed during the day that Rep. James Sensenbrenner (R-Wis.) chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, had tried during debate on the House floor to reduce the penalty to a misdemeanor.

The attempt failed on a vote of 257-164, with 65 Republicans and 191 Democrats opposed.

Many of the Democrats, including members of the Hispanic Congressional Caucus, indicated at the time they favored no criminal penalties, and opposed the

suggested change.

In their statement, Hastert and Frist said the Democrats who did so had demonstrated a “lack of compassion.”

In addition, they renewed the charge that Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid is seeking to “block action on immigration legislation.”

Reid has denied the charges.

While they leveled their accusations at Reid, the GOP leadership has been struggling with internal divisions.

## NATIONAL ROUNDUP

# Lawsuit says soda may have cancer causer

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Two soft-drink companies were sued Tuesday by parents complaining that there might be cancer-causing benzene in children's drinks.

Attorneys filed class-action lawsuits against the companies in Suffolk Superior Court in Boston and Leon County Circuit Court in Tallahassee, Fla. They accused Polar Beverages Inc. and In Zone Brands Inc. of not taking steps to keep benzene from forming in their beverages.

Benzene, a chemical linked to leukemia, can form in soft drinks containing two ingredients: Vitamin C, also called ascorbic acid, and either sodium benzoate or potassium benzoate.

The presence of those ingredients does not mean benzene is present. Scientists say factors such as heat or light exposure can trigger a reaction that forms benzene in the beverages.

"It's impossible for parents to know which soft drinks are safe and which contain cancer-causing benzene," said Timothy Newell, one of the plaintiffs.

## Rumsfeld rebuts criticism of Iraq policy

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and his top military leader on Tuesday issued their strongest rebuttal to date of recent comments by retired generals criticizing Iraq war planning and calling on Rumsfeld to resign.

In particular, Rumsfeld said he didn't recall retired Lt. Gen. Gregory Newbold raising any objections to the war planning when he was working in the Pentagon for the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

"He never raised an issue publicly or privately when he was here that I know of," Rumsfeld said. "An awful lot of people around here were not shy about giving their views. ... But in terms of why he would come up with this now, I just can't speak to that."

## China agrees to new copyright deal

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration, seeking to shrink a soaring trade deficit with China, won agreements Tuesday that the Chinese government will lift a ban on American beef, crack down on copyright piracy and move toward opening up its government bidding process to American firms.

The exact timetable for lifting the beef ban was left open, however, pending further negotiations over details governing the standards that will be applied to beef shipped to China.

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# Senate takes two weeks off with no deal in sight

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SPRINGFIELD — With a state budget deal proving hard to reach, the Illinois Senate decided Tuesday to take two weeks off.

The legislative session was supposed to end last Friday, but Gov. Rod Blagojevich and Democratic leaders have not been able to agree on a new state budget.

So the Senate went home and

won't come back until April 25.

Senate Majority Leader Debbie Halvorson (D-Crete) said the time off allows leaders to get more work done on the budget and let members go home for previously scheduled commitments, such as vacations.

The Illinois House is still scheduled to be in session for next week in Springfield.

Blagojevich portrayed the decision as a positive move.

He said it allows more time to get the best possible budget and to put more pressure on Republicans to support a construction plan he wants.

"The fact that we're going to continue to work is good news," Blagojevich said at a news conference on another matter.

Blagojevich refused to say anything about where he and the legislative leaders disagree or what is keeping them from passing a spending plan.

## Committee blocks junk food ban

SPRINGFIELD — An Illinois legislative committee voted overwhelmingly Tuesday to block the State Board of Education's plan to bar junk food from elementary schools.

The ban championed by Gov. Rod Blagojevich would prohibit the sale of soft drinks, chips and candy in vend-

ing machines.

The Joint Committee on Administrative Rules blocked it 10-1.

Senate and House members who sit on the committee said they support restrictions on junk food but that the proposal needs work.

Lawmakers said the state board

should consider the nutrition of cafeteria foods, not just those in vending machines.

Rep. Larry McKeon (D-Chicago) said the board should hear input from more school districts, as well as a legislative task force devoted to children's wellness and nutrition.

## Gov. Ryan Trial Judge, lawyers huddle on unknown subject

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO — Former Illinois Gov. George Ryan's lawyers huddled with the judge and prosecutors in his corruption trial for three hours Tuesday morning and left court with the topic of the discussion still a mystery.

The closed-door conference sent a fresh wave of speculation through the area of the courthouse known informally as Camp Ryan — home to reporters who have been doing little but sitting for weeks and waiting for a verdict.

But U.S. District Judge Rebecca R. Pallmeyer left the courthouse over the lunch hour and was soon followed out the door by lawyers for the onetime Republican power-broker and his friend and co-defendant, businessman Larry Warner.


Earlier, U.S. Attorney Patrick J. Fitzgerald was spotted in a hall near Pallmeyer's chambers and Assistant U.S. Attorney Debra R. Bonamici, who specialized in drawing up the 148 pages of jury instructions, arrived in the judge's chambers at midmorning to join the meeting.

But the parties remained strictly mum under a gag order imposed by Pallmeyer weeks ago.

Reporters were left to interview a Corner Bakery delivery man who said he took 15 sandwiches to the jury room. Asked about the mood of the jury, he said, "They were hungry."

Once they finished lunch, the jurors resumed deliberations, court officials said. But they called off work and left for the day at 2 p.m., planning be back on Wednesday morning.

Ryan, 72, and Warner, 67, are charged in a 22-count federal indictment with racketeering, mail fraud and other offenses. It says Ryan steered state contracts and leases to Warner and other well-connected insiders.



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announcements

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## DANIELS:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12A

There is no doubt in my mind that Brown can succeed but he has to regain his confidence in order to do so.

Which is why his departure, along with that of sophomores Bil Duany and Wes Wilkin, do not come as much of a surprise.

Miller is bringing in his own players that will fit his system — not always the case last year.

Duany, one of the three players not returning due to injuries or transfer, fit well in Samuel's motion offense but was the odd man out in Miller's triangle system.

Wilkin has battled back injuries during his two years at Eastern and after starting several games in the middle of the season, was relegated to the bench alongside

Brown and Duany.

Duany's departure does not come as a shock, as he only played in 17 games last year, usually in mop-up duty.

This comes after a stellar freshman season, in which he displayed superb ball-handling skills for a 6-foot-7-inch guy and one who could cause havoc on defense with his long wingspan and ability to create deflections.

While the departures from the Panther program should not have a significant impact on the future of the team, the players Miller is bringing in are the future of Eastern basketball.

And the five straight losing seasons that Panther fans have had to endure at Lantz Arena need to come to an end next season — or Miller and his staff will have some explaining to do at the end of the 2006-07 season.

## ADDITION:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12A

Bradley (16-16) has played in-state games against Illinois, Loyola (Chicago), Northern Illinois and Western Illinois.

Foster has already matched the number of wins Bradley had last year.

"The big thing with us is we haven't experienced success in a long time," he said. "This year, we just haven't been able to get over the hump."

Foster said he brought the principles he learned at Carbondale to Peoria.

"I'm preaching pitching and defense first," he said. "We built the program (at SIUC) around that and it's what I'm trying to do here."

Foster is quick to praise Schuette for the success she has brought to the Eastern program.

"Kim's done a tremendous job there and they have some kids that can just flat-out hit," he said.

## NON SEQUITUR BY WILEY MILLER



## BOONDOCKS BY AARON MCGRUDER



## The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0301

- ACROSS**
- 1 Mighty bit
- 5 Blackguards
- 9 Caribbean island
- 14 Collar neighbor
- 15 From the top
- 16 Humdrum
- 17 Lower 10
- 18 Oven window material
- 19 Like a tumbler
- 20 Get away from the director of "Ishtar"?
- 22 Midsized soda bottle
- 23 Letter from Greece
- 24 "No kidding!"
- 25 Top greengrocer?
- 31 Fowl place
- 32 Repellent
- 33 Jurist's reading
- 36 Unwanted buildup
- 37 Sister of Urania
- 39 Ritzy
- 40 Something to slag
- 41 Somewhat
- 42 Be bombastic
- 43 Emulate Jack Sprat?
- 46 Option at the launderer's
- 49 \_\_\_ exchange
- 50 "M" star, 1931
- 51 Saloon held in trust?

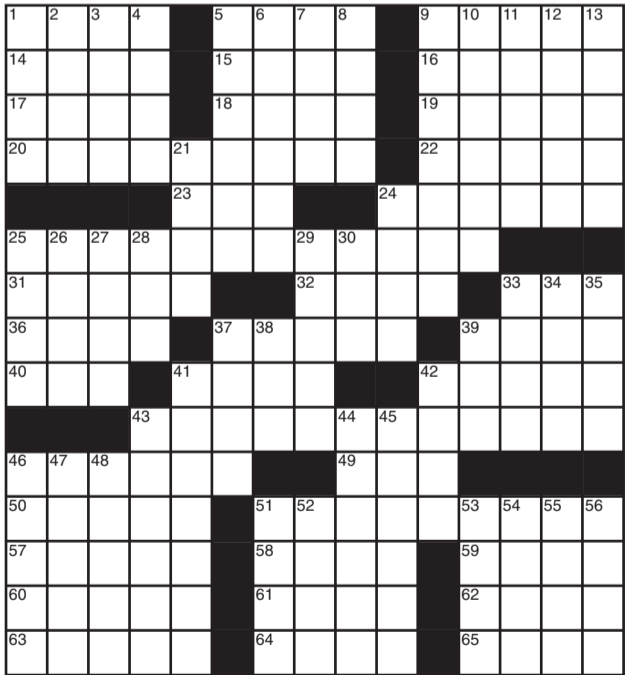
### ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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

- 57 Siamese or Persian
- 58 \_\_\_ George
- 59 Part of a diamond
- 60 Track
- 61 Declare
- 62 Common supplement
- 63 Brings to a close
- 64 Franco of film
- 65 Gusto

### DOWN

- 1 Requirement in a game of dealer's choice
- 2 Sun Belt art colony
- 3 Fuel grp.
- 4 Big butte
- 5 Totaled
- 6 20 Questions category
- 7 Numerical prefix
- 8 Dominion
- 9 Mother-of-pearl source
- 10 Infuriated, and showing it
- 11 Go from two to one
- 12 Barn bundles



Puzzle by Richard Silvestri

- 13 At the ready
- 21 Sassy
- 24 Big Island port
- 25 For this reason
- 26 Go bad
- 27 Highway marker
- 28 Set a price of
- 29 Skirt
- 30 Do-it-yourselfer's purchase
- 33 Take it easy
- 34 Hammett canine
- 35 Put an edge on
- 37 Make some plates
- 38 Root word?
- 39 Grand \_\_\_\_, Nova Scotia
- 41 Assaults on Everest, e.g.
- 42 "Horrors!"
- 43 Traveling
- 44 Chair material
- 45 Corrida figure
- 46 Virgule
- 47 Opera set in 1800 Rome
- 48 Shakespearean sprite
- 51 Flair
- 52 Set aside
- 53 Phenom
- 54 Ear bender
- 55 "Murder, She Wrote" sheriff \_\_\_ Tupper
- 56 Monthly money



BASEBALL

# Panthers' pitching search continues

*Schmitz still looking for No. 3 starter*

By MARCO SANTANA  
SPORTS EDITOR

The midweek games continue to give head coach Jim Schmitz a chance to search for an effective No. 3 starter. The contestant this week is relief pitcher Kenny Firlit in today's game against Indiana State at Coaches Stadium.

"We kind of have a concern," Schmitz said. "Manns wasn't consistent (last) weekend."

Sophomore pitcher Mike Manns pitched in Saturday's second game against Murray State and couldn't make it past the second inning.

He pitched 1 1/3 innings and allowed five earned runs.

The offense bailed Manns and the pitching staff out when Eastern scored eight runs in the top of the seventh inning to pull out an 11-9 win.

"I probably should have made more of a major deal about Saturday's second game," Schmitz said. "We've been doing a great job of staying in games."

Panthers (15-13) has won seven of their last nine games in a stretch that began with a 12-11 win at Indiana State on March 29.

"It was a roller coaster," Firlit said of the first meeting between the teams.



ERIC HILTNER/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

**Eastern head coach Jim Schmitz talks with sophomore pitcher Mike Manns and junior catcher Jason Cobb during the second game of the April 1 double-header against Tennessee-Martin.**

"When you score 12 runs, you better win. It was weird."

Before that game, the Panthers were in a hitting slump. They had scored just 18 runs in the previous six games. But in the third inning of the game they scored seven runs to break out of the slump.

The team began showing the maturity that has helped them come back late in games, Schmitz said.

They have also started driving the ball, and Schmitz has seen a lot of improvement from outfielder Mark Chagnon, who was named Ohio Valley Conference player of the week after hitting .600.

He has raised his batting average to .365 and is eighth in the conference in hitting.

has joined Erik Huber in the race for the conference batting title. Huber is second in the conference with a .400 average.

"We're getting the big hits," Chagnon said. "Whoever is up there is getting it done. We know we have to get guys on and put together a string of hits."

Schmitz said a meeting with his core hitters has helped them put it all together.

"They've learned if a pitch is away, they're hitting it the other way," he said. "There is something weird about hitting. If they don't pull the ball to the wall, they feel they're not big, macho guys."

As a relief pitcher, Firlit has given up just one run in his last 5 1/3 conference games. He has no preference when it comes to starting or relieving.

"It doesn't bother me," he said. "I tried (starting) a couple of times last year and the second time didn't go so well."

The last time Firlit started was April 12, 2005, against Southern Illinois at Carbondale. Firlit gave up three earned runs in 2 2/3 innings of a 9-0 loss.

The midweek game will give Firlit a chance to adapt to a starting role.

But it will also help the Panthers try to improve their slow starts as of late.

"Why we're not ready to go out of the chute is something we need to find the answer for," Schmitz said. "That's our goal (today) is to get off to a good start."

## RETURN:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12A

*Panthers fall just short of playoffs again*

"The only way to describe it is disappointment," she said. "We expected to make it to conference but it seems we always fall just short of making it into the postseason."

Last season eight teams made the playoffs with Eastern finishing in ninth place, and this season only six teams will make it to the postseason with Eastern currently ranked seventh.

Eastern went into Tuesday's match after losing three straight over the weekend, losing to Jacksonville State 5-2 and being shutout by both Murray State and Samford.

Blackburn definitely noticed a difference from last weekend's three-loss team and yesterday's victorious team.

"We were tougher today in facing the adversity, knowing that it is going to come and how you deal with it," Blackburn said. "A good example was in the two doubles match and Chris Thomas pulled a muscle in his abs."

"He didn't quit and kept battling and that was probably one of the biggest matches today."

TODAY'S GAME	
	
<b>Indiana State</b> (13-16, 3-6)	<b>Eastern Illinois</b> (15-13, 5-4)
<b>Last game</b> 4-3 loss Miami (Ohio)	<b>Last game</b> 9-4 win @ Murray State
<b>Standing</b> Last place — 3.5 back (Missouri Valley)	<b>Standing</b> 3rd place — 3 back (Ohio Valley)

"People go through funks," Chagnon said. "That's baseball. You get in and work hard at practice, and my hits are starting to find holes." With Chagnon on a hot streak, he

99

6

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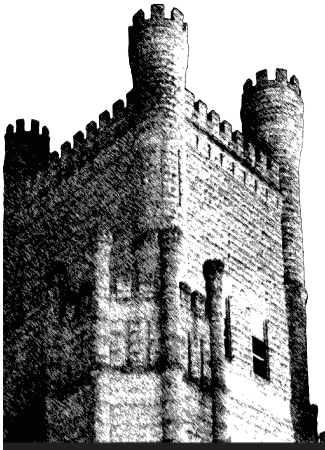
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# SPORTS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 2006

Eastern Illinois University, Charleston

## PANTHER SPORTS CALENDAR

<b>TODAY</b>	<b>BASEBALL VS. INDIANA STATE</b>	3 p.m.
	<b>SOFTBALL VS. BRADLEY (2)</b>	4 p.m.
<b>THURSDAY</b>	WOMEN'S GOLF AT ILLINI SPRING CLASSIC	All Day
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>BASEBALL VS. JACKSONVILLE STATE (2)</b>	1 p.m.
	Softball at Tennessee State (2)	Noon



JAY GRABIEC/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Sophomore Sean Bush returns a volley to Chicago State's junior Nicholas Ortega. Bush won the match 6-0, 6-4, helping the Panthers beat Chicago State 4-2.

## TENNIS

# Return home brings win

*One win away from record*

By PATRICK VITT  
STAFF REPORTER

One preseason goal the Panthers set was to end this season better than last, and that included having a record above .500.

After winning Tuesday against Chicago State at Darling Courts and bringing their record to 9-10, the Panthers have one match left to achieve that goal.

Eastern head coach John Blackburn wanted to set a benchmark for wins this season and the Panthers are one win away from that total.

"This win was important; it puts us toward our goal of 10 wins," Blackburn said. "The purpose was to improve from last season and finish at least .500 to help turn the program back to the winning side."

The men's team clinched the match win after sophomore Sean Bush won his singles match, 6-0, 6-4.

This was set up by doubles wins from sophomore partners Chris Thomas and Bush, 8-6, and an 8-5 win from freshmen Vuk Milicevic and Jordan Nestrud.

The women had no problem handing Chicago State their 15th consecutive loss of the season.

Eastern lost only one singles match with sophomore Stephanie Harmazy losing, 6-3, 6-3.

But Harmazy and fellow sophomore Sandra Sasidharan combined for the only doubles win for the women. Eastern's other doubles win came from a forfeit in doubles No. 3 resulting in a Panthers' win.

Junior Madina Mambetova is disappointed that Eastern is already eliminated from the post-season, but said the improvements made this season will hopefully translate to wins next season.

SEE RETURN PAGE 11A



**OUT OF BOUNDS**  
**MATT DANIELS**  
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

# Miller's class has to shine

Mike Miller isn't kidding himself when he said Monday morning that his spring recruiting class is the most important group of recruits his staff will bring in.

Which is a lot to say considering this is Eastern head coach's first full recruiting class that he has put together.

Miller brought in Kyree Brown in May and Mike Robinson last June after he received the job on April 12. The other freshman from last year's class, Billy Parrish, had already signed when Rick Samuels was at the helm.

After suffering through a season that saw six players on the floor versus Eastern Kentucky, Josh Gomes coming up one point short of moving into 13th place on the all-time scoring list and an embarrassing 80-35 season-opening loss at Xavier, Miller knows that Panther fans will not tolerate another 6-21 season.

But they will do so with eight new players and not a single senior on the roster.

Miller showed last year that he is willing to give minutes to freshmen, as Robinson was his point guard from the start of the season.

This made Robinson gain experience the hard way — by going against veteran point guards in the Ohio Valley Conference like Walker D. Russell, Matt Witt and Jeremy Kelly.

Who is to say what progress Robinson will make in the transition from his first year of running a D-I team to his second year, but no one can use inexperience as an excuse next season.

Parrish made three starts and played in all 27 games, coming up with valuable play off the bench in the home opener against Indiana State.

He showed aggression by going after virtually every offensive rebound when he was in the game, and sometimes being the only Panther on the floor to show any emotion.

But the 6-foot-4 inch, 190-pounder played out of position last year, usually having to go against players four or five inches bigger in the post. He was also giving up about 40 or 50 pounds down low and looked overmatched on defense.

Brown was never really given a chance this past year, as he looked confused and lost when he was on the court.

## SOFTBALL

# Panthers welcome late addition

*Eastern hosts Bradley to fill in mid-week schedule*

By MATT DANIELS  
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

Eastern has a chance to add to its win total today with a game that was not originally on the schedule.

The Panthers (24-15-1) welcome Bradley to Williams Field for a doubleheader, with Eastern riding high after a three-game sweep of conference opponent Samford.

The doubleheader was added on March 22, the second straight year both teams have agreed to play each other after the original schedule came out.

The game came about because of a phone call from Braves head coach Buddy Foster to Panther head coach Kim Schuette.

"I was looking for another doubleheader during the middle of the week," said Foster, whose team has had two doubleheaders canceled this year.

Schuette said that Foster called wanting an away game and that it just happened that Eastern had an open date available.

"The midweek games are good because practice

can get old after a while," Foster said.

What hasn't gotten old to Schuette is the solid pitching Eastern displayed last weekend against Samford.

"All three of our pitchers have done a much better job of getting ahead of the hitters," said Schuette about her trio of hurlers in Kathleen Jacoby, Karyn Mackie and Ashley Condon. "It's easier to pitch that way."

Schuette said the doubleheader works out well for her team, as doubleheaders, especially mid-week non-conference doubleheaders, give her a chance to alter the lineups and have different people see more playing time.

Both coaches in today's doubleheader are in the first year at their respective schools and an Eastern-Bradley game is already on the schedule for next year.

"I think it's silly that we don't play Bradley every year," Schuette said. "They are so close to us. It doesn't matter if we play during the week or on the weekend with them."

Prior to last year's doubleheader, a sweep by the Braves at Williams Field, the two teams hadn't met since 1998.

Foster is in agreement.

"It's so close to us," he said. "We look for games that are three hours or less away in filling our schedule."

SEE ADDITION PAGE 9A



CARRIE HOLLIS/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Junior outfielder Katy Steele lunges for a pop fly during practice Tuesday afternoon. The Panthers host Bradley today at 4 p.m. at Williams Field.

SEE DANIELS PAGE 9A

# Minority Today

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## Asian celebration a first at Eastern

**Eugenia Jefferson**  
Staff Writer

Being a minority in terms of ethnicity is challenging, but being a minority in terms of numbers can be even more difficult.

Asian American students make up 1 percent of students attending Eastern Illinois University. However, the Asian

American Association (AAA) brings together students of different Asian backgrounds and non-Asians alike.

Krishna Ignalaga, a graduate history major, founded the organization on-campus in fall of 2002.

She and other Asian Americans on campus wanted to start an association that is a representation of themselves.

"When we first started out, I had to push the issue," Ignalaga said. In the end, Ignalaga stayed motivated and the Asian American Association (AAA) became a Recognized Student Organization (RSO) - when?

Ignalaga, who is of Filipino decent became the first president of AAA- when?

Other students that have presided over the organization since then are Jesse Wu, year in school/major and current president, Adrienne Lopez, year in school/ major. Kenny Bae, year in school/major is the current vice president of AAA is a transfer student from the University of Iowa.

Back in his hometown of St. Charles, Ill., Bae, was never exposed to a wide amount of diversity.

He was always the only Asian student in his school until he attended college. "When I enrolled in college, I wanted diversity and to experience cultural values from different countries," said Bae, who is of

Korean decent.

When Bae came to Eastern- when?, he was quite shocked to see how much diversity was limited on campus.

The Asian American Association is similar to many RSOs at Eastern. "We try not to be a clique," Ignalaga explained. "We try to reach out to many different people and try to welcome people as much as

to AAA sometime in the near future.

In the past, AAA has participated in advocacy movements sponsored by other organizations. For example, AAA contributed to a petition signing to stop American Eagle Outfitters from selling T-shirts with a very stereotypical image of Asian Americans on the front.

"There was a nation wide petition to get American Eagle Outfitters to stop selling it. There are always a number of issues," Ignalaga said.

Recently, AAA has helped organize the first Asian Heritage Month at Eastern, which will be recognized throughout the month of April. Panel discussions, films and a brown-bag series will make up some of the events.

"AAA has organized a game show on one of the events and has been active on the committee for all the events planned in April," Bae said.

The Asian American Association has 10 active members, but 15 to 20 member's altogether.

Nicole Azana, a member of AAA, said the best part about being a in the organization is being friends with a great group of people.

"We have fun little get-togethers and holiday parties, always with lots of food and laughing," Azana said.

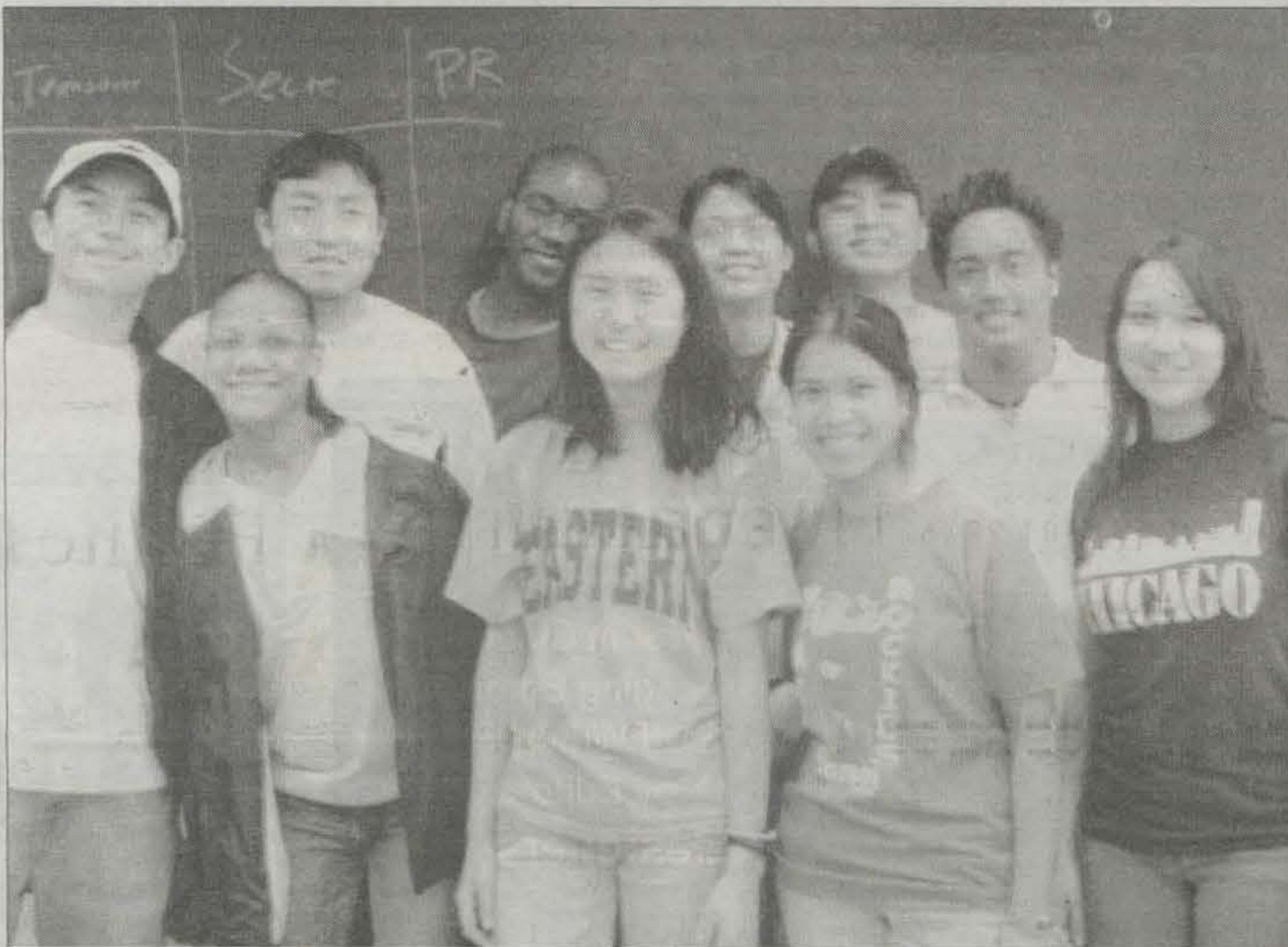
Azana also enjoys the fact that the members all share common similarities, but at

the same time everyone is unique. Azana, who is of Filipino decent, attended Purdue University and was on the Purdue Filipino Association.

"It was such a positive experience that upon transferring to Eastern, I hoped to find a similar group," Azana said.

She has had a positive experience with the Asian American Association and was able to meet people from not only her ethnic background, but other ethnicities as well.

Membership is free and open to all ethnicities. The Asian American Association meets every Monday at 6 p.m. at Coleman Hall in Room 2130.



Members of the Asian American Association at Eastern Illinois University

possible."

The Asian American Association also sponsors several different events. The society collaborates with other minority organizations such as the Asian Cinema Organization and AAA from the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign.

AAA is also active in the Midwest Asian American Student Union (MAASU), by attending leadership conferences twice a year.

"These conferences are a great help to us because it helps us network with other schools," Ignalaga said.

Ignalaga would like to add an advocacy program

Photo by Veron Culley that the members all share common similarities, but at the same time everyone is unique. Azana, who is of Filipino decent, attended Purdue University and was on the Purdue Filipino Association.

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## Asian heritage celebration calander of events

**April 12th**  
"Chado: The Way of Tea" Tarble Arts Center 4:30 pm

**April 13th**  
Magdalen Hsu-Li "Raising Awareness in our communities and in our lives" at the 7th St. Underground

Asian Film series (Malaysia) At the Booth Library rm. 3202 at 6 pm

**April 17th**  
"Interactive discussion of cricket" in the Charleston-Mattoon rm. at 4 pm

Keith Wright, The Tales of Morpheus at the Tarble Arts Center at 7 pm

Museum of Oppression in the University Ballroom from 9 am - 9 pm

**April 18th**  
Asian studies Brown Bag Series in the Charleston Mattoon rm. at 4 pm

Studying and Working Across the Pacific at the Booth Library rm. 3202 12 pm

**April 19th**  
Asian Studies Brown Bag Series at the

Booth Library rm. 3202 12 pm

**April 20th**  
Bei Dao poetry reading in the Ballenger Teacher's rm. in the Booth Library at 4 pm

Asian Film Series (Vietnam) at the Booth Library rm. 3202 6 pm

**April 24th**  
Story and History of Korean Clothing at the Arcola/ Tuscola Room from 6:30 pm

**April 25th**

Teach Me Tuesday "Martial Arts" Lawson Hall 7:30 pm

Student Panel at the Lumpkin Auditorium 5 pm

**April 26th**  
Asian Studies Brown Bag Series: "India: Global Power?" at the Booth Library rm. 3202 12 pm

Dance Dance Revolution at Stevenson Hall 7 pm

Inside this issue of  
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X-Pression  
Page 4

Last Issue  
April 26th

# "Thick" does not always equal better

**Jennifer Ether**

Opinion editor

Buffy the Body, Esther Baxter, Absolutely Amber and Ki-Toy are just a few of the beautiful high-paid video vixens shown on TV with little to no clothing with measurements such as 34DD-24-40.

Not to say that this body type isn't at all possible, but the reality is that the majority of women just do not live up to these standards.

Some of the latest videos, movies and magazines today seem to be saturated with "Thick" girls.

This word has corrupted the true image of women and brainwashed society to believe that if you don't have an extremely big butt with matching hips, thighs and big breast you aren't respected.

What happened to the face? Is that no longer a desired characteristic of a woman let alone what happened to personality?

Because society focuses so much on the body, the face is often overlooked and the thought of having a good personality is something that is hardly ever considered when characterizing women.

This highly-controversial topic has been written and talked about over and over again. I'm not here to

highlight the negative effects that videos have on the black community, because in my opinion the decisions people make in their daily lives, goes far beyond the realm of the media.

No matter how much is shown and not shown in the media, young adults will do what they want to.

However, I am just disappointed at the lack of confidence in many black women of today.

I have no explanation for why this is, but I can say that perceptions of women being "thick" can sometimes be redundant and women may feel as though this is something that they have to live up to.

Not just because of what is shown in the media, but simply from the everyday conversations that men have today.

This often leads to women putting down other women who are built a certain way, but the way a woman is shaped is something that she cannot help.

She can choose to take care of her body and maintain it in a healthy way. But if a woman is blessed in some areas and lacking in others, that gives other women just enough to talk about.

The women mentioned earlier all have great credentials, i.e., school, work; however when they are shown on television who actually says to their self, "I bet she was really smart in school."

It may sound funny, but it's true. The reality is that appearance does have an effect on a person, even in the workforce.

Although one may think that a person's experience is what should be the determining factor on whether or not they are qualified for a job, but that is just not the case.

A lot of times, in order to get a certain job, you have to have "the look."

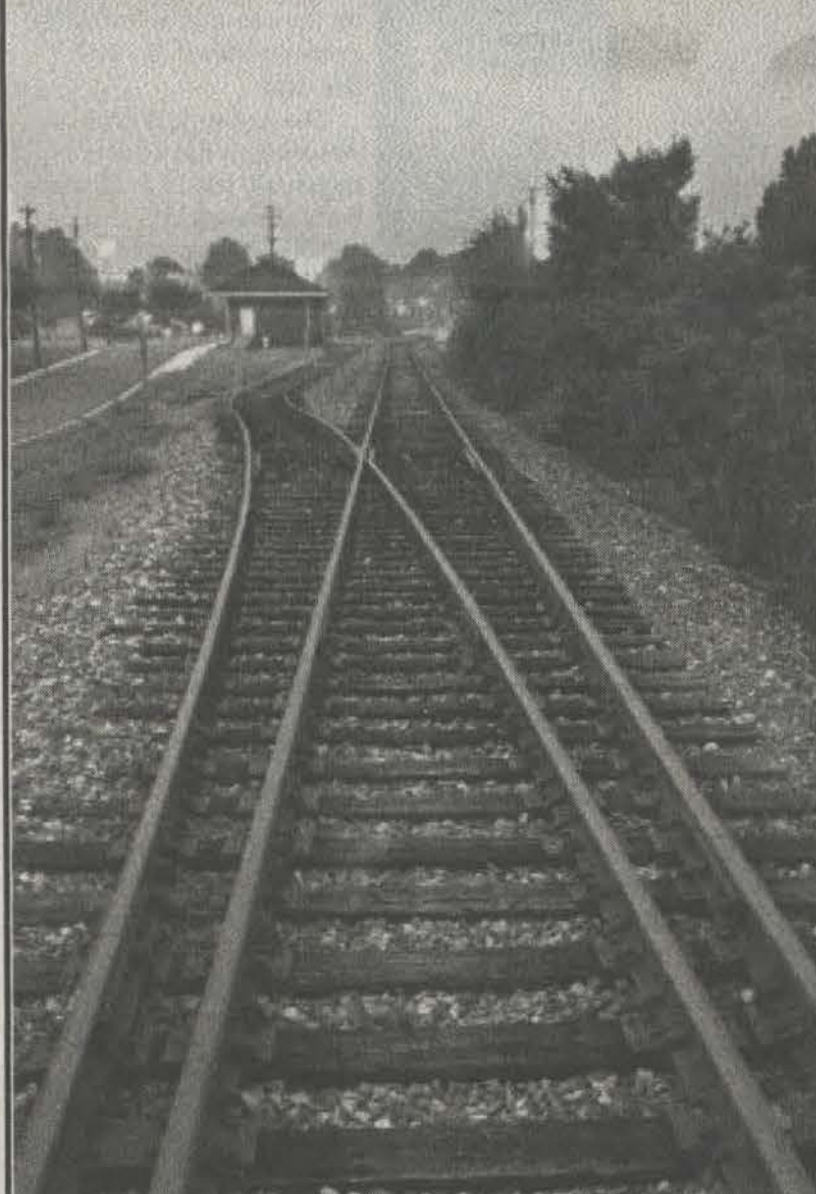
No matter what size you are, whether it is "thick", chubby, fat, petite or skinny, the beauty of black women is something that should be highly respected, not only by your own self, but by black men as well.

Truth be told men, your opinions have such a high influence on how we look at ourselves. It may not make or break us, but it definitely does shape us in some way.

Whatever features you may have ladies, work with that. You are blessed in more ways than one and that goes past the physical, but no one else will be able to see it if you can't.

So ladies, let's try and stop being so critical of each other and pointing out each other's flaws because you may lack what someone else has. And men, stop selecting girls based on what they look like from the neck down.

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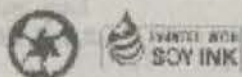
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# The story behind the step show

**Jamar Herrod**

Staff writer

For those inquiring minds who wanted to know about the disappearance of the National Pan-Hellenic Council's (NPHC) annual step show, the answer according to Bob Dudolski, Director of Greek Life and the NPHC Advisor, is lack of membership.

"The fraternities and sororities of NPHC are currently in a year of re-building and are hoping to increase membership this semester and in the fall of 2006," said Dudolski.

"Once the NPHC has enough membership to host a step show, we will be hosting the show again here at

Eastern Illinois University."

The National Pan-Hellenic Council at Eastern is comprised of two sororities, Delta Sigma Theta and Zeta Phi Beta, and two fraternities, Alpha Phi Alpha and Phi Beta Sigma.

Angie Peterson, president of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., explains that NPHC as a whole has been suspended for the academic school year and that is why there was no step show.

She also mentioned that NPHC should be active in the fall of 2006.

Thomas Yancey, president of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., says that members of the fraternity were not meeting the minimum GPA requirement implemented by the University.

## The King Still Reigns Supreme

**Charles Kyle**

Entertainment Editor

T.I. has become a real force in the hip-hop game, scoring major hits and timeless hip-hop classics.

With the release of his fourth solo album, "KING", T.I. has come back full blast to establish himself as the premier rapper of the South.

Bursting on the scene in 2001 with his first solo release, "I'm Serious", T.I. has made a name for himself in the rap world by simply being himself, and not with a load of hype, bragging and hoaxes.

Following up in 2003 with "Trap Muzik", T.I. continued to prove that he was definitely a force to be reckoned with, and demanded the respect of his peers.

"Urban Legend", the third solo release from T.I. not only helped his street credibility, but also landed him an American Music Award for

Favorite Rap/Hip-Hop Album in 2005.

"KING" currently sits atop the Billboard 200, earning T.I. the biggest selling week of the year thus far.

The airways are buzzing with the album's first single, "What You Know", also the feature song for the Warner Bros. film, "ATL", in which T.I. costars, that was released on March 31st.

"What You Know" is bumping with a beat that stretches throughout the entire track, creating a lethargic feeling, as if one's surrounding has been slowed down and is now moving at the pace of the song.

"Front Back" is a "riding" track with a bass line that will rock trunks all around the south.

The album highlights production by notables the Neptunes and southern powerhouse, Mannie Fresh.

Artists featured on the album include: B.G., Young Jeezy, Jamie Foxx, Young Buck, PSC among others.

T.I.'s charismatic personality, impeccable sense of style and distinguishable southern drawl has helped to catapult him to the top of the hip-hop charts.

But his highness doesn't rest on his throne, instead T.I. commits to tireless focus and determination to continue to progress and stay on top of the rap game.

"KING" is solidification that T.I. is the true king of the south.



# Oppression

[Untitled]

Sister my Sister, can I speak with you for a minute? No, I don't want to hear your business, cause I ain't trying to be in it.

I'd just like to talk with you if I could and share my views on the lack of "real" sisterhood.

You see I'm guilty and maybe you are the same, of judging my sisters without even knowing their name.

I look at their shape, comment on their hair and talk about what they really should or shouldn't wear.

I roll my big eyes, I put my hands on my hips, and not a kind word comes

out of my "got the nerve" lips.

Why can't I just smile, wave and say "hey,

I'm down with you sister, have a nice day"

We need to stick together, it would be great if we could,

To promote unity, understanding and "real" sisterhood.

Without it we have nothing,

why not go for it all, for sisters united we stand,

divided we fall. So let's seize the moment, before the moment is gone.

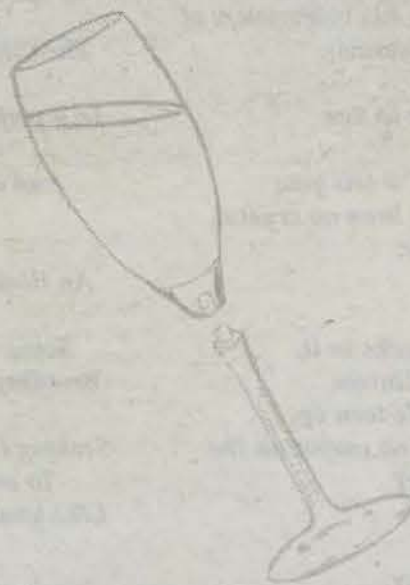
Krystina Allbritton

## Night Life

Mr. Zeta Phi Beta Contest will be hosted by the women of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. on Friday, April 14, 2006 at 7:20 p.m. The event will take place at the NPHC common area in Greek Court. Admission is \$2 in advance and \$3 at the door.

The men of Phi Beta Sigma will be hosting Barn Party 2006 on Saturday, April 15, 2006. The party will start at 9:00 p.m. and end at 1:45 a.m. For directions send e-mail to sigma1914blue@comcast.net

The Black Student Union presents "Envy Me" Spring Fashion show 2006. This event will be held on Saturday, April 22, 2006 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Doors open at 6 p.m. and the show will start at 7 p.m. Admission is \$2 or \$1 with a canned good. The fashion show will be followed by the end of the year Union Party. Admission is \$3 before midnight and \$5 after midnight.



## TRIO PROFILE

**Charles Kyle**

Entertainment Editor

Eastern Illinois University offers several academic assistance programs for its incoming and existing students.

These programs assist students with tutoring, resume development, study skill enhancement, and workshops for career and leadership growth.

The Student Support Service TRIO program at Eastern provides academic assistance for minority students whom are first generation, low-income and/ or disabled students.

Started in 1965, after the federal government conducted research on retention and graduation rates among college freshmen, the TRIO program was designed as a way to increase those rates.

Located in 9th street hall, TRIO provides academic counseling, career counseling, cultural opportunities and leadership development training for all its students.

"I love TRIO and the opportunities that it affords for me," said Lynette Gayden, sophomore biology major and TRIO student.

The program also loans out laptop computers for a week at a time for those students who do not have the luxury of a personal computer of their own.

TRIO also houses a computer lab where its students can enjoy free printing and make copies.

Each student is assigned a personal academic advisor, to help students determine their strengths and weaknesses, so that the program is supplying appropriate assistance.

Maggie Burkhead, Interim Director of TRIO, said the program also offers scholarship opportunities for all of its students, games and National TRIO Day.

National TRIO Day, which was held in Decatur, IL, this year, allowed participating students to view different programs similar to TRIO throughout the state.

TRIO students can sign up for the program anytime during their undergraduate career, and may remain in the program until they receive an undergraduate degree from Eastern.

There is no charge for the program, and all interested students can go to the 3rd floor of 9th street hall and fill out the required forms.

## Remove the blindfold

Beyond words: Museum of Oppression 2006  
Staff report

The committee for social justice and diversity education, as a part of the University Housing and Dining services will be hosting its fourth annual program focusing on the issues of oppression.

The three-day event being held in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Ballroom begins on April 17th and ends on April 19th.

Beyond Words: Museum of Oppression highlights many oppressed groups and ideas to students, faculty and the Eastern community through written word, audio, video and stage exhibits.

The many exhibits explore topics such as: slavery, the holocaust, racism, gender oppression, homosexuality, religious differences, rape, women's rights, body image, immigrants, AIDS as well as other worldwide issues.

The Museum of Oppression will be open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Monday, April 17, 2006, 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Tuesday, April 18, 2006, and 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Wednesday, April 19, 2006.

All are welcome and admission is free.

# Backstage

A different perspective on entertainment

## My written word festival

Stephanie N. Johnson  
Editor in Chief

The month of April marks the beginning of a national observance of poetry. National Poetry Month was started by The Academy of American Poets in April of 1996, and has become a world-wide celebration ever since.

In honor of National Poetry Month, I have compiled a list of my favorite poets and some of their most famous works.



Maya Angelou

Bestselling author of *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* and *The Heart of a Woman*, Maya Angelou is my favorite poet. She writes with such a melodic and elegant flavor, with work that will always leave a lasting impression.

### To A Man

My man is  
Black Golden Amber  
Changing.  
Warm mouths of Brandy Fine  
Cautious sunlight on a patterned  
rug  
Coughing laughter, rocked on a  
whirl of French tobacco  
Graceful turns on woolen stilts  
Secretive?  
A cat's eye.  
Southern. Plump and tender with  
navy-bean sullenness.  
And did I say "Tender"?  
The gentleness  
A big cat stalks through stubborn  
bush  
And did I mention "Amber"?  
The heatless fire consuming itself.  
Again. Anew. Into ever neverless-  
ness.  
My man is Amber  
Changing  
Always into itself.  
New. Now New.  
Still itself.  
Still.



Nikki Giovanni

A notable poet and activists, Nikki Giovanni is leader for black women writers in America. Her no-nonsense attitude comes across strong in her poetry, in which she highlights the strengths and weaknesses of the black community.

### Habits

i haven't written a poem in so long  
i may have forgotten how  
unless writing a poem  
is like riding a bike  
or swimming upstream  
or loving you  
it may be a habit that once acquired  
is never lost

but you say i'm foolish  
of course you love me  
but being loved of course  
is not the same as being loved  
because  
or being loved despite  
or being loved

if you love me why  
do i feel so lonely  
and why do i always wake up alone  
and why am i practicing  
not having you to love  
i never loved you that way



Langston Hughes

A pioneer poet and important writer from the Harlem Renaissance, Langston Hughes is an prominent figure in the world of poetry. His work has helped shape American poetry and literature. Hughes is known for his celebration of black cultures and customs.

### Mother to Son

Well, son, I'll tell you:  
Life for me ain't been no crystal  
stair.

It's had tacks in it,  
And splinters,  
And boards torn up,  
And places with no carpet on the  
floor?

Bare.

But all the time  
I've been a-climbin' on,  
And reachin' landin's,  
And turnin' corners,  
And sometimes goin' in the dark  
Where there ain't been no light.

So, boy, don't you turn back.  
Don't you set down on the steps.  
'Cause you finds it's kinder hard.

Don't you fall now?  
For I've still goin', honey,  
I've still climbin',  
And life for me ain't been no crystal  
stair.



Audre Lorde

A known lesbian activist and poet, Audre Lorde became famous for shoving taboo subjects into the face of America. Lorde wrote with an unbridled passion, and believed in the celebration of womanhood.

### Coal

I  
Is the total black, being spoken  
From the earth's inside.  
There are many kinds of open.  
How a diamond comes into a knot  
of flame  
How a sound comes into a word,  
coloured  
By who pays what for speaking.

Some words are open  
Like a diamond on glass windows  
Singing out within the crash of  
passing sun  
Then there are words like stapled  
wagers  
In a perforated book--buy and sign  
and tear apart--  
And come whatever wills all  
chances  
The stub remains  
An ill-pulled tooth with a ragged  
edge.  
Some words live in my throat  
Breeding like adders. Others know  
sun  
Seeking like gypsies over my tongue  
To explode through my lips  
Like young sparrows bursting from  
shell.  
Some words

### Bedevel me.

Love is a word another kind of  
open--  
As a diamond comes into a knot of  
flame  
I am black because I come from the  
earth's inside  
Take my word for jewel in your open  
light.



Tupac Shakur

One of the greatest rappers of all time, Tupac Shakur knew the true power of words. Shakur was a brilliant lyricists, whose words always broke depth barriers with political and social subjects. His poetry spoke volumes about the man and his many sides. Shakur's words will always resonate with me.

### And 2Morrow

Today is filled with anger  
fueled with hidden hate  
scared of being outcast  
afraid of common fate

Today is built on tragedies  
which no one wants 2 face  
nightmares 2 humanities  
and morally disgraced

Tonight is filled with rage  
violence in the air  
children bred with ruthlessness  
because no one at home cares

Tonight I lay my head down  
but the pressure never stops  
knowing at my sanity  
content when I am dropped

But 2morrow I c change  
a chance 2 build a new  
Built on spirit intent of Heart  
and ideals  
based on truth

and tomorrow I wake with second  
wind  
and strong because of pride  
2 know I fought with all my heart 2  
keep my  
dream alive