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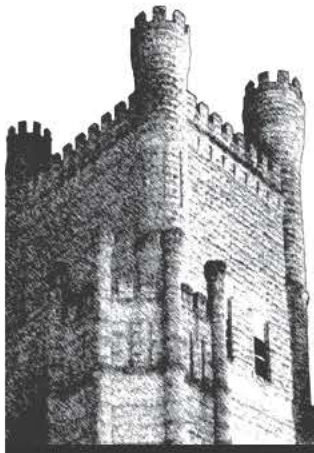
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"Tell the truth and don't be afraid."

SPORTS ♦ Basketball teams play conference leaders: page 12

THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

VOLUME 91, ISSUE 08

thedailyeasternnews.com

90th Anniversary

Eastern Illinois University, Charleston

THURSDAY
JANUARY
19
2006

WALLS MELT INTO ART



CARRIE HOLLIS/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Rodney Wilkinson, a graduate student, looks at Downen's exhibit titled "Uneasy Opposition" in the Tarble Arts Center Wednesday evening. FOR THE STORY SEE TARBLE PAGE 5

'East'ern, West compare notes on judicial system

BY MATT POLI
ACTIVITIES EDITOR

Judicial officials from the authoritarian Chinese judicial system will visit Eastern Friday to learn about the democratic American system and teach students a little about their own.

"Contrast of American and Chinese Judicial Systems" is an informal forum, which will feature a panel discussion with five visitors from Beijing, followed by a question and answer session.

Gary Jacobs, a Coles County circuit judge, said he had in-depth discussions with judicial officials in Beijing when he visited in November.

"I had a very productive encounter with their judicial system," Jacobs said.

By observing court proceedings in Coles County, Jacobs said, he hopes China might consider providing more freedoms for their people.

Jonathan Faust, a retired political science professor and author of "China in World Politics," said the forum is not only important for Chinese citizens, but for their property rights as well.

"The independence of the judicial system in China needs to be independent of the communist rulers to protect the human rights of the people," Faust said.

The forum will be open to Eastern students to ask the delegates questions after

the panel discussion.

It is important for students to question China's international development because of their rapid economic growth in comparison to America's slower growth, Faust said.

"(The Chinese judicial system is) an important part of the country's rapidly developing capitalism, but (China) continues to have an authoritarian government," Faust said.

Faust quoted statistics from his book about how America's economic growth rate is rising only 3 percent per year in comparison to China's 9 percent.

Faust also said students should start asking

such questions as how judges in China are chosen and how long they serve as judicial officials so they can then understand a communist government's point of view.

Yung Chen, Eastern's director of public policy, said political science students will benefit the most from this forum because it's good encouragement for them to learn about another country's judicial system in comparison to America's.

He said he also hopes the delegates learn something from the American system.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY EVAN HILL/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

SEE CHINESE JUDICIAL PAGE 9

Fed. student loans face heavy cuts

BY KAYLA CROW
ADMINISTRATION EDITOR

Before leaving Washington D.C. for holiday break, Congress took the first step toward cutting student loan programs.

The Senate passed a bill, which would reduce the country's deficit by \$40 billion, including a \$12.7-billion cut to student loan programs, according to the Jan. 6 issue of *The Chronicle of Higher Education*.

According to *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, the bill includes the government cutting subsidies to private lenders, raising interest rates for students and parents, and requiring borrowers to pay agencies that guarantee loans a 1 percent fee.

The cut would be part of the Higher Education Act, which will expire at the end of March.

Most of the money would be used to reduce the federal deficit, but a portion of the money would go toward Pell Grants for students majoring in certain areas.

The bill would provide grants to students who are freshmen and sophomores with a 3.0 grade point average and to juniors and seniors who are majoring in mathematics, science and foreign languages, according to the article in *The Chronicle*.

Peter Andrews, chair of Eastern's mathematics department, said that the possibility of grants might get students to go into those majors.

"If there is money for math and science it might (encourage) students," he said. "It probably is not going to be the first incentive."

Andrews said the possibility of grants might make the final decision for some students, but he does not think it would make someone choose those majors over something else.

Though he does not know the specifics of the proposed bill yet, Andrews said the grants might help to draw students to mathematics and science, which he said have both seen decreases in enrollment.

"The state and country need more people with math and science expertise," he said. "It's not just good for us, it would be good for the country."

Mathematics and sciences have seen a decrease in enrollment since the 1950s and 1960s, when people were excited to study the areas, Andrews said.

There are currently 130 mathematics and computer science majors at Eastern and, while Andrews does not know how many for sure, he said that many of the students in the department rely on student loans along with scholarships to pay for school.

During the fiscal year 2005, which ran from summer 2004 through summer 2005, 78.8 percent of students enrolled at Eastern were receiving some sort of financial aid, said Jone Zieren, director of financial aid.

Bill to cut student loans

♦ **Who:** U.S. Congress.

♦ **What:** Proposed bill to cut \$12.7 billion in student loan funding.

♦ **When:** After winter recess.

♦ **Why:** To help ease the national deficit.

♦ **What's next?:** The bill will come before the House for a vote.

Contact Rep. Tim Johnson

Phone: 217 348 6759

Mailing address:

655 W. Lincoln Ave.
Unit B
Charleston, IL 61920

SEE AID CUTS PAGE 9

FIVE-DAY OUTLOOK

TODAY
54
40
Partly cloudy

FRIDAY
47
40
Rain/snow

SATURDAY
43
27
Partly cloudy

SUNDAY
45
28
Partly cloudy

MONDAY
41
28
Mostly cloudy

DAILY EASTERN NEWS

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COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY NEWS

University of Minn bans alcohol from dorms

BY EMMA CAREW
MINNESOTA DAILY (U. MINNESOTA)

MINNEAPOLIS — Students reapplying for University of Minnesota housing for 2006-2007 should read the fine print.

University Housing and Residential Life has, in an attempt to "be more up front about (its) values," changed its alcohol policy for the coming school year, said Susan Stubblefield, assistant director of Housing and Residential Life.

Next year, most residence halls will be alcohol-free, regardless of the ages of the residents.

The new alcohol policy allows students of legal drinking age to possess and consume alcohol in the residential apartments (Roy Wilkins Hall, University Village, Yudof Hall) and Centennial Hall, Stubblefield said.

The policy change has been in the works for more than a year, she said, and the housing department developed a task force to look into the current state of alcohol-related incidents on campus.

Wachen Anderson, judicial affairs coordinator for Housing and Residential Life, said that because of time constraints, the housing department did not consider student input while making the decision.

"There certainly are areas where we do seek (student opinion)," she said. "But with this, we knew which direction we needed to go."

Notre Dame President Jenkins to address academic freedom

THE OBSERVER

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Notre Dame President Father John Jenkins will discuss the interplay between academic freedom and Notre Dame's Catholic character in three open-dialogue addresses next week, a decision spurred by recent heightened debate about the Queer Film Festival and Vagina Monologues.

"Academic freedom is an essential value in any university community, and our Catholic character is essential to Notre Dame," Jenkins said in a statement Tuesday. "I want to address both these central values and seek comment and discussion from the university community. I believe such discussion is an important one for Notre Dame and Catholic higher education in general."

Jenkins will not make a policy announcement in favor or against certain productions during his

addresses, but will simply initiate dialogue, university spokesman Dennis Brown and vice president of Public Affairs and Communication Hilary Crnkovich said.

Professors and students said they were encouraged by Jenkins' decision to speak publicly about two contentious and central aspects of the university's identity.

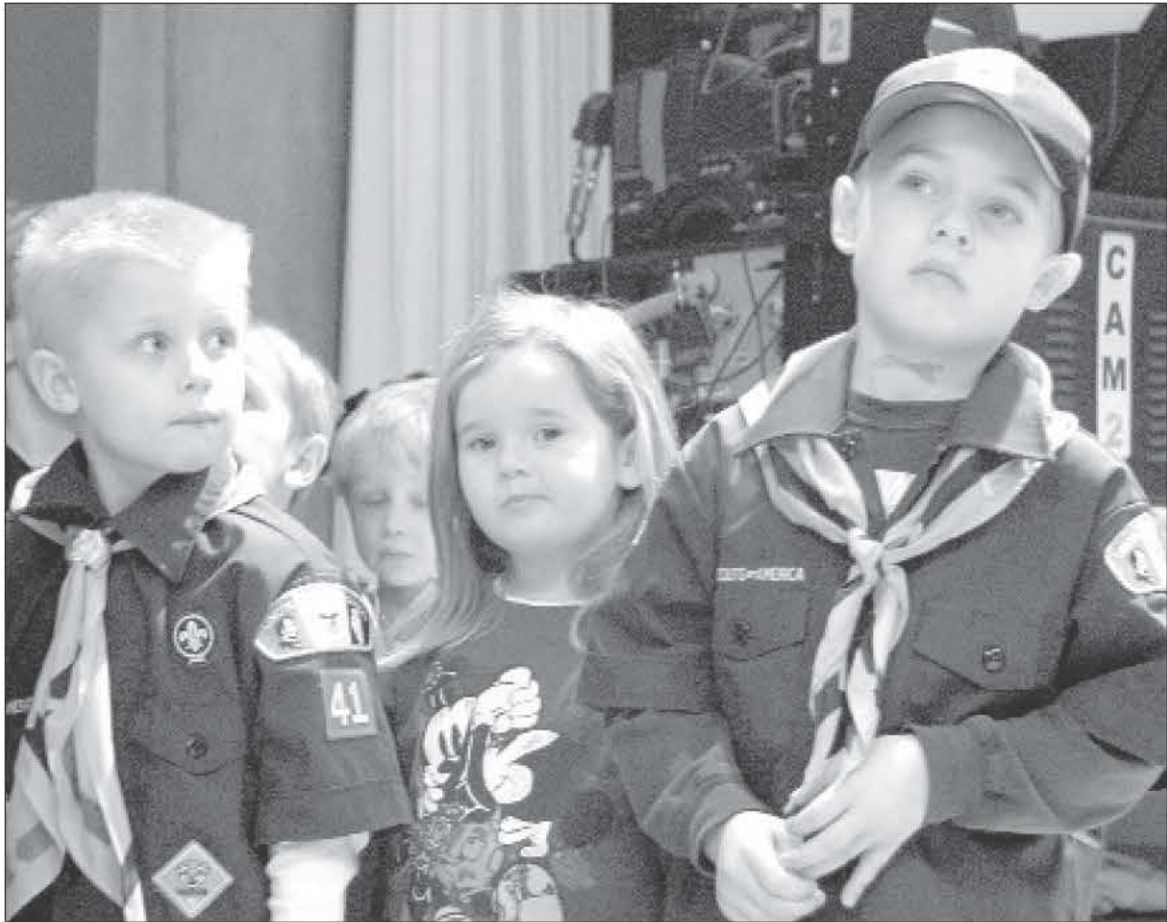
Facebook 'Pulse' follows consumer trends at Indiana University

BY MIKE MCELROY
INDIANA DAILY STUDENT

(U-WIRE) BLOOMINGTON, Ind. - The makers of Facebook, that ultimate online procrastination device, have found one more way for students to put off their schoolwork.

It's called Pulse, and it tracks user trends by tallying the number of student listings for popular movies, books and other categories.

With statistics from the intriguing, most common hometown, to the depressing, only 16 percent of female students are interested in dating, Pulse marks the first time Facebook has produced a virtual census of the enormous amount of data.



ERIC HILTNER/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Members of Boy Scouts Den 5, Pack 41 of Charleston take a tour through the WEIU-TV studio Wednesday evening.

WTF?

Michigan grads claim beer pong title

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ANN ARBOR — A pair of recent University of Michigan graduates are each \$5,000 richer for being the best at a national tournament involving a campus drinking game popular among many college students.

Jason Coben and Nick Velissaris are the champions of the "World Series of Beer Pong," which took place earlier this month near Las Vegas. The two beat out more than 160 other com-

petitors to split the \$10,000 grand prize.

Beer pong is played this way: While standing, players attempt to toss a Ping Pong ball into cups that are partially filled with beer at the other end of the table. If the players succeed, their opponents are forced to drink the beer in the cup.

Beer pong has made the transition from house-party game to being a featured event in bars that host tournaments. Companies sell custom-

designed beer pong tables and related products. A merchandiser of beer pong paraphernalia held the "World Series of Beer Pong."

Critics say the game encourages binge drinking, but Coben and Velissaris say it's not about irresponsible drinking. They say it's a way to have a good time with friends.

"It's like playing darts at a bar," Coben told The Ann Arbor News.

Coben and Velissaris picked up the game several years ago.

TODAY'S EVENTS

W-2 Pickup schedule

W 2s for students and grad assistants as well as for all other employee groups will be distributed from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Old Main, second floor.

Research technology

7 p.m. | Booth Library reference librarians will provide instruction on how to search the online catalog and databases. Booth Library e-classroom, room 4450.

ONLINE POLL

This week we ask our readers if they think over-the-counter cold medicine works?

- A) Yes, it always does.
B) Yes, I'm on so much medication I can't feel anything.
C) Only if my doctor recommends it
D) Never! I embrace pain.

VOTE @ WWW.THEDAILY
EASTERNNEWS.COM



EARLY HEADLINES

Listen to "Wake Up Live" with Rob and Jenn Monday through Friday for morning headlines on 88.9 or at weiuhitmix.net

Residence halls help promote academics

By TOM HOCHBAUM
STAFF REPORTER

For the first time in the recent past, Housing and Dining Services averaged the GPA of each residence hall floor and made the information available to all resident assistants in hopes of raising the level of academic awareness around campus.

Jody Stone, housing and dining chairperson, is the man responsible for this change. Under Stone's close attention, the Academic Initiatives and Retention Committee has set its focus on encouraging Eastern faculty and staff to interact with students on a higher level outside of the classroom.

Headed by Julie Kendall, Andrews Hall resident director, the AIR Committee is working on improving the academic success of students living on campus. They have recently introduced several programs imploring RAs to take an active role in their residents' education.

One of the AIR Committee's programs new to residence halls this semester is called the Charleston Chew. RAs in every residence hall

were given dining passes that they each give to a chosen faculty member who has worked in their field and can provide insight to that RA and his residents. Each pass is good for a free meal at any of the dining centers and will include a Charleston Chew candy bar.

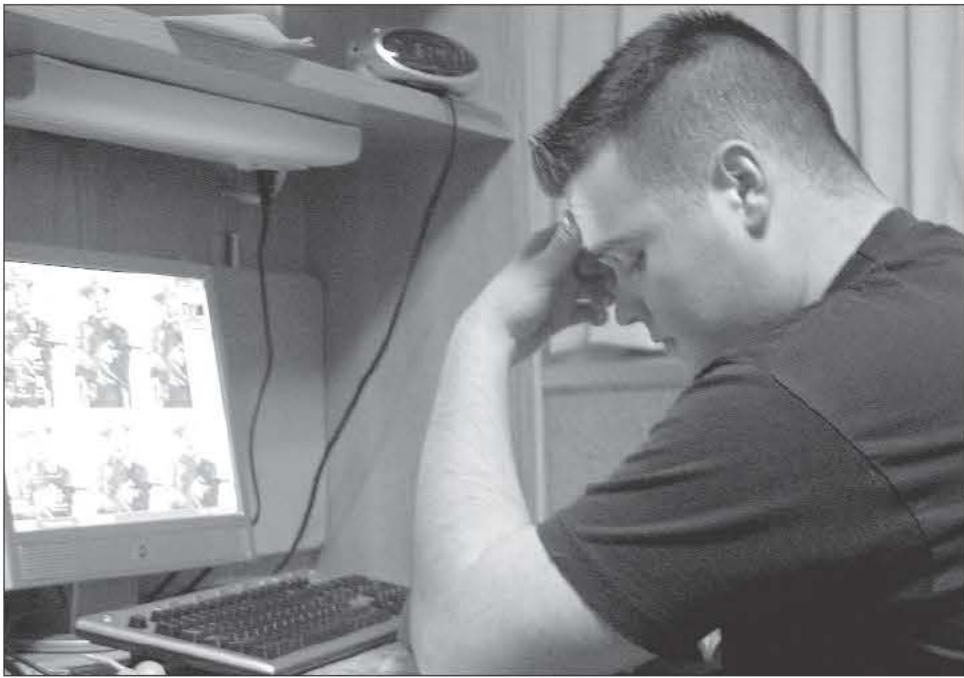
The objective is to have professors meet with their students and develop a relationship beyond the classroom, Kendall said.

Another program for campus RAs is the Panther Success Initiative. The PSI requests that RAs meet with each of their residents to discuss their academic life and GPA.

RAs are urged to pay attention to the education of every person on their floor. Some floors around campus have chosen to provide different types of incentive to promote concern with academics, she said.

Halls give awards of candy and certificates to residents attaining a level of academic success. The AIR Committee gives out a Smarty Pants Award and an Academic Recognition Award to outstanding students.

The AIR Committee has encouraged each hall to establish its own set of rewards. Taylor Hall has promised to reward residents with



JOHN BAILEY/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

John Kennedy, a sophomore history major, studies in his Taylor Hall room Wednesday evening. Resident assistants are setting up new programs on their floors to raise collective GPAs.

candy every time an RA sees a resident studying. Other residence halls have similar methods of supporting academic excellence, Kendall said.

A floor in Andrews Hall has placed a paper "gumball machine" on a bulletin board to be filled with gumball records of every 'A' that floors residents have received on tests. Once the machine is filled, the students will be rewarded with a pizza party.

Professors and RAs are not the only faculty members showing their concern with student academic success. In fact, the concern reaches a much higher level. The AIR Committee has organized a program called Panther House Calls, starting this Tuesday at 7 p.m. in Andrews and Thomas Halls.

President Lou Hencken and other Eastern officials will visit residence halls to speak with students about their classes and grades.

Charleston to gets its own 'The Biggest Loser'

By KRISTEN LARSEN
CITY EDITOR

One of the most popular New Year's resolutions made each year is to get back into shape and lose weight.

While the Student Recreation Center tends to get busier with people trying to lose weight with their own plans, Charleston has started a program to assist people in the community who are looking to do the same. This year, Reshaping Coles decided to do a knock-off version of NBC's "The Biggest Loser," allowing people to make teams in order to add a little competition to losing weight.

"We decided since 'The Biggest Loser' was a big hit, a program like it would bring in a broader audience," said Becky Barnett, a member of the Reshaping Coles Board and student teaching coordinator at Eastern.

Instead of living on a ranch, having personal trainers, and going in front of the nation to be weighed, the Charleston biggest losers will be on their own and monitoring their success online at Reshapingcoles.com.

The program started Jan. 16 and final weigh-ins will be on April 28, a total of 15 weeks. When signing up, each participant was given an informational packet and a member number. This



number keeps their identity anonymous when they enter their information into the database. The packets included information about different physical activities and measurements of different fruits and vegetables.

"The program helps educate people, and the teammates can support each other," Barnett said.

Reshaping Coles started in March 2003 because the board noticed that healthier lifestyles were becoming the trend. The goal is to increase the community's consumption of fruits and vegetables, while increasing area residents' activity levels as well.

In this year's competition, teams will record their activity, fruits and vegetable intake and water intake.

Each category has its own point value. Every minute of physical activity earns one point and pedometer conversion points are counted separately. Teams will be given 10, 20, or 30 points for a given number of steps, ranging from 2,500 to 10,000 steps. For every one serving of a fruit or a vegetable or an 8-ounce glass of water, participants will receive five points.

Bonus points will be given to teams for watching videos such as "Super Size Me," or talking to a dietician.

During each week, teams will post their points on the Reshaping Coles Web site, and on Mondays, points will be tallied and the average of each team will be calculated to determine who is winning the competition.

"We divide each team's total points by the number of members, so each team is even since they are different sizes," said Renee Lyell, senior health initiatives representative of the American Cancer Society, which is co-sponsoring the event.

Teams will compete for activity points, fruits and vegetables points, water points and the titles of "Couch Potato," "Junk Food Addict" and "Caffeineoholic." The overall team and individual winners will receive a trophy and bragging rights for a year.

Studies show that people must read something 5 times before they realize it applies to them....

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OPINION

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

THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 2006

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COMMENTARY



BRIAN O'MALLEY
OPINIONS PAGE EDITOR

COMING SOON TO A THEATER NOT NEAR YOU

As a college student, movies take up a good portion of my life. As a movie buff, movies take up even more of my life. When it comes to new releases, I chose the wrong university to go to.

At the local movie theaters, the options are less than satisfactory. For example, Phillip Seymour Hoffman won a Golden Globe Monday for his portrayal of author Truman Capote in the movie called "Capote." George Clooney won a Globe for his turn as a veteran CIA field agent in "Syriana." Both movies cannot be seen at the Kerasotes Showplace 10 in Mattoon.

Of the five nominees for best drama picture and the five nominees for best musical or comedy picture, only four of the nominations are or were available to see at the theater in Mattoon.

The problem exists at the local video rental stores as well. And it's not just about movies that win awards. If any

"There is an obvious lack of culture when it comes to the movie selection in a small town like Charleston."

Charleston citizen felt like watching a foreign language film, they would have some trouble. Family Video on Lincoln and Ninth has some foreign language movies, but usually only one or two copies of each movie.

The only foreign language movie I can think of that I'm sure played in Mattoon was "The Passion of the Christ," which is American-made but spoken in Aramaic with subtitles. While it is a foreign language film so to speak, it is not a foreign movie. There is an obvious lack of culture when it comes to the movie selection in a small town like Charleston.

The people of Charleston and the employees at the movie theaters and video rental stores probably don't have too much control when it comes to the movie selection. That's a problem.

The best place to go in Charleston to rent independent movies, foreign movies and documentaries is the Booth Library on Eastern's campus. While they don't have that many new releases, the shelves are packed with interesting movies that either slipped through the cracks of popularity or weren't released in places like Charleston.

It's unfortunate that a Charleston resident would have to go as far as Champaign or Springfield just to see "Capote" or "Syriana."

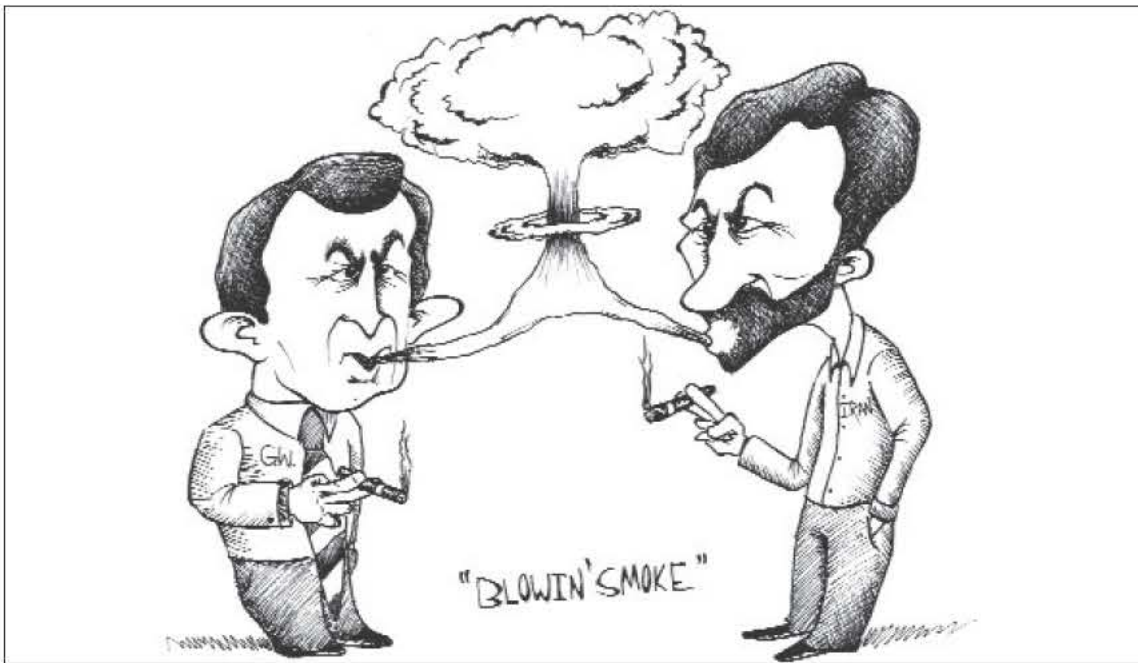
The next movie I'd like to see is "Good Night, and Good Luck" about Edward R. Murrow and his efforts to bring down Sen. Joseph McCarthy. That movie also didn't make it out to Charleston.

The best advice I can give to Eastern students who live in or near a large urban city is to see as many of those movies as you can when you're home for a weekend or more. When you're home, be sure to take advantage of the unlimited choices there are. If you are anything like me, you'll want to be able to see as many of the Academy Award nominees before the ceremony. Last year when I was trying to watch as many Oscar nominees as I could, I found myself disappointed when the Oscars were on and I had only seen one or two of the foreign film nominees or the documentary nominees.

As far as I know, it's a problem that can't easily be solved, but it's possible if Eastern students and Charleston residents wanted it enough.

O'Malley, a senior journalism major, can be reached at bpomalley@eiu.edu..

EDITORIAL CARTOON BY DAVID PENNELL



EDITORIAL

Dusting off the rental system

Textbook Rental Service at Eastern may get textbooks to students in an affordable fashion, but improvements could be made to make the process even more effective by utilizing current technology in a larger facility.

Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, the only other four-year college in Illinois with textbook rental, has a more advanced rental system, utilizing books with barcodes, checkout counters and do-it-yourself book collecting.

Students' longest waits at SIU-E Textbook Service can range from about 15-20 minutes regularly, anywhere up to 30 minutes during busy pick-up and drop-off days, according to King Lambird, assistant director of SIU-E Textbook Service. Students' waits at Eastern vary depending on whether students are picking up books or dropping them off. They might wait 25 to 30 minutes to pick up books, or 45 minutes to an hour to drop them off, according to Carol Miller, deputy director of Textbook Rental Service.

Aspects of Eastern's system that make it slower include the large number of people working in a small space at one time, and the fact that all the books have to be entered and recorded manually, which is basically the way it has been since 1980.

SIU-E's process involves four computers where students scan their own student IDs to receive a printout of the books they need for each class. The books are arranged according to the class subject, with general education books mostly situated along the back wall. Students collect their own books, while workers roam the aisles to provide assistance if needed. They then proceed to one of eight checkout counters where a worker scans their ID again, and then the books. Each student receives an immediate printout of the books they have

At issue

The efficiency of Eastern's Text Book Rental Service.

Our stance

There are better ways to assure an efficient and fluid experience when students come to rent books. A technological advance and larger facility would make the process run more smoothly.

on their records.

Very little of Eastern's process is technologically advanced. Textbook Rental Service prints out rental forms for 10,000 to 11,000 undergraduate and graduate students who rent books, approximately the same amount of undergraduates who rent at SIU-E. A worker hands a student a form that matches his ID, and the student proceeds to a station where one of up to 50 workers rush to gather that student's books. The worker manually records each individual book number, with the first number representing all the books in that set. Later, it takes six workers until the second week of classes to enter all the data into the PAWS system for student availability.

Lambird said 9,000 square feet or roughly the size of a small grocery store, would be ideal for such an operation. A more technologically advanced system would not be possible in Textbook Rental's current location in Pemberton Hall. Characteristics of SIU-E's system have made the rental process at least two times faster, Lambird said. Also, having fewer student workers whose paychecks come from student fees saves students money, he said.

The upgrade wouldn't cost much, but it would take time and manpower to find a new facility and to add barcodes to approximately 250,000 books.

Eastern already has plans to expand Textbook Rental written in the campus master plan. Now they need to take action to move it to a larger facility equipped with the scanners, computers and printers necessary to make the technological advance possible.

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

YOUR TURN: LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

COLUMNISTS NEEDED

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

CARTOONISTS WANTED

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

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: The Daily Eastern News accepts letters to the editor addressing local, state, national and international issues. They should be less 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

Art exhibit at Tarble embodies aging human form

Downen presents installation that illustrates connection between architecture, the body

BY ASHLEY WAGNER
STAFF REPORTER

Installation artist Jill Downen takes art to a whole new level using the wall of the Tarble Arts Center as her canvas in such a way many students and faculty never thought possible.

The main concept of Downen's installation art presentation "Uneasy Opposition," is a "symbiotic relationship between the human body and architecture," she said.

"The body and architecture are explored through notions of beauty and time which engenders particular perceptions and experiences," Downen said.

She uses drywall to sculpt elements depicting the effect age has on the body over time, such as bulges, folds and wrinkles that swell and sag.

"I have learned that buildings are not nouns, rather they are verbs," she said. "The 'uneasy opposition'

exists the way the exposed flesh also acts like wounds and asserts a quiet repulsion in its magnification to express pain, absence and loss."

With this type of art astonishing a full house of about 50 students and faculty comes quite a load of positive feedback.

"It was like stepping into another world. I have never seen art like this in my life," said freshman Aubrey Pyle.

Along with numerous students in awe of her work, her No. 1 fans were also in attendance: her parents, who drove from Belleville to view the installation.

"(Jill) is so creative and so in touch, no matter how many lectures we attend, she never fails to surprise us," said Wayland



JILL DOWNEN
INSTALLATION ARTIST



CARRIE HOLLIS/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

An observer at the Tarble Arts Center looks over art created by Jill Downen, a faculty member at Washington University in St. Louis. Downen presented her installation art and answered questions at Tarble Wednesday evening. Downen's installation art presentation titled "Uneasy Opposition," is a "symbiotic relationship between the human body and architecture," she said.

Downen, her father. Chris Kahler, an associate art professor and guest curator for shows at the Tarble Arts Center, suggested the committee should allow Downen to showcase her work at Eastern.

"A curator basically selects a series of artists to the committee and they decide who comes," Kahler said. "I really like Jill's work and thought her art would work out great for this space."

Downen's art has also been presented at Purdue University and she

"The 'Uneasy Opposition' exists the way the exposed flesh also acts like wounds and asserts a quiet repulsion in its magnification to express pain, absence and loss."

JILL DOWNEN,
INSTALLATION ARTIST

has been awarded a residency at Cite Internationale des Arts in Paris, France. She is a faculty member at Washington University in St. Louis who teaches sculpture and drawing. The installation opened Wednesday night and will run through Feb. 26 at the Tarble Arts Center.

PAWS maximum user number causes problems for students

Technology Services says system mainframe can support no more than 125 logged-on at once

BY AMANDA DUGAN
STAFF REPORTER

The Panther Access to Web Services, or PAWS system, reached the maximum number of users at a time last week and began denying students access.

Brian Murphy from Information Technology Services said only 125 students can be logged in to Eastern's online student information system at a time because that's how many the current mainframe can hold.

Meredith Bedwell, a freshman, experienced the frustration of not being able to access PAWS during her first week back because of the site's traffic jam.

"When I was trying to look for a better time for one of my classes, it was impossible to be able to get on," Bedwell said. "When I finally did, of course no other times for my class were available."

Students can help alleviate the problem by using the PAWS express schedule link before they log in, which allows them to sim-

ply check their schedule. However, if students want to add or drop classes, they need to log into the main PAWS system, which proves difficult, especially during the first week of a new semester.

"(Some) students choose the first option (on the Web site) and don't check the other options," Murphy said.

Students also need to make sure to click the "exit" button on the PAWS screen when logging out, and not the close button the top of the page.

"When you hit the close icon it takes a few extra minutes from the page to close from the browser and exit out of PAWS," Murphy said.

ITS is currently working on moving the system to Banner by SunGard, which would benefit students and cause less system downtime, Murphy said. ITS is working Banner into campus systems in phases over the next couple of years.

Ryan Senesac, a freshman industrial technology major, has never had a problem logging into PAWS and likes the easy accessibility.

"It would be nice to use it 24 hours a day," Senesac said. PAWS is usually only available Monday through Saturday, however the system was available on the Sunday before classes began for students to access their new spring schedule.

"PAWS is usually closed on Sundays because there is a certain time that the system has to be down," Murphy said. "Traditionally, Sunday has been the day with time available."

More and more campuses are using online programs for students to register for classes. At Lake Land College in Mattoon, students use Internet registration information system (I.R.I.S.) to search for classes, register, make payments and receive transcripts, said Kelly Allee, director of public relations at Lake Land.

"The program has been introduced within the past year, and there have not been any problems yet with students' ability to log into the program," Allee said.

Similar to the PAWS system, students need a special ID to log onto the program and are encouraged to keep their password confidential to ensure safety.

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GRANDMA'S BOY (R) 9:45 ONLY
HOSTEL (R) 4:20 7:00 9:40
MUNICH (R) 4:30 8:00
RUMOR HAS IT (PG13) 5:10 7:50 10:10
THE RINGER (PG13) 4:40 7:20
CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2(PG) 4:50 7:10 9:30
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Blagojevich pushes construction, college tax credit in speech

By JOHN O'CONNOR
AP POLITICAL WRITER

SPRINGFIELD, Ill.— In a prelude to a re-election campaign he's yet to announce, Gov. Rod Blagojevich on Wednesday rattled off a list of accomplishments in a State of the State address and called for a construction plan to create 230,000 jobs.

Blagojevich, giving his fourth such address since taking office in 2003, also proposed a \$90 million tax credit for college students, expanded health care for veterans, and breaks for buyers of cars that save gasoline all quickly criticized by Republicans because the governor didn't say how he would pay for them.

"He's living in La-La Land," said Treasurer Judy Baar Topinka, a top Republican challenger for the governor's office. Blagojevich has filed for re-election but has not formally announced his plans.

The Democratic governor recapped many of his accomplishments during the 39-minute speech, from expanding health care for children to raising the minimum wage. He boasted of resolving massive budget deficits without raising taxes.

"Instead of just sitting on the sidelines and using these challenges as an excuse for inaction, we embraced them as an opportunity to change the old ways, to reorder and re-prioritize government and make it start working for people again," Blagojevich said.

He also used the speech to warn conservatives that he will veto any effort to overturn his executive order requiring pharmacists to fill emergency birth-control prescriptions despite moral misgivings, and he will try to revive an assault-weapon ban that failed last year.

But Blagojevich, whose administration is under federal and state investigations into its hiring practices, made no mention of ethics issues, a hot topic among gubernatorial opponents, including a slew of Republicans and even a primary challenger from his own party.

Republicans described the appearance as a masterful political address with little basis in reality.

Quoting reactions

Illinois lawmakers react to the Governor's State of the State address

"The governor deserves his day in the sun and he got it because there are three years worth of accomplishments he can point out."

Sen. Miguel del Valle, D-Chicago

"Everything he mentioned means more spending or more borrowing, and we don't have any money."

Rep. Bill Black, R-Danville

"I think it's important to make the distinction of how different we are in Illinois. Illinois, under the governor's leadership, has moved forward and has delivered health care and has funded education at the same time that Washington is turning its back on those things. The contrast couldn't be more great between what we've accomplished for people and what Washington has not done. Washington has been more concerned with partisan fighting and special interests."

Sen. Carol Ronen, D-Chicago

"All he does is get out in the press and talks about it but there isn't any real substance to what he says, there isn't really anything to back it up. And that's a real problem for us."

Senate Republican Leader Frank Watson

"What he's spelled out is contingent on passing his bill to get money into the budget, which is the capital plan ... It's a pretty aggressive plan, a pretty ambitious plan, but I see the money being there with the passage of the bill."

Sen. Donne Trotter, D-Chicago

STUDENT SENATE



JOHN BAILEY/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

The Senate swore in and seated senate members Eric Glenn, Carolyn Beck, Austen Williams and Tyson Holder. Beck, Glenn and Holder have all served previously. Beck said she is excited to be back. "You learn about the behind-the-scenes while on senate," she said. "You get a different perspective."

Meal plan change under consideration

By LAUREN MOORE
STUDENT GOVERNMENT EDITOR

Mark Hudson, director of Housing and Dining, addressed Student Senate on behalf of the Bond Revenue Committee about the new board plan revisions to take effect come fall semester 2006 if approved by the Board of Trustees.

Changing the minimum meal plan option from five to seven, the meal zones and the bonus swipe program are the main points Hudson is focusing on.

"We are changing the five meal plan to seven without any additional charge to the students,"

Hudson said.

The meal zones will now allow students to eat two hours after their previous swipe, Hudson said.

Carolyn Beck, chair of the Bond Revenue Committee, said she thinks this will cut down on the amount of complaints she has heard in the past from students.

"Some of the complaints I hear are 'what's the point in having a five meal plan?' and 'I don't use all of my swipes,'" Beck said. "Swipe zones will have a good response."

For each meal plan, students will have an additional number of swipes they can use throughout the semester, Beck said.

"The 15 meal plan will have

five, the 12 meal plan will have four, the 10 meal plan will have three, and the new seven meal plan will have two," Beck said.

These topics will be addressed at the Resident Hall Association meeting tonight, and Beck said she thinks the students will react positively.

"It's a great package," Beck said. "This will have a great impact on how people view dining. There's going to be more flexibility on when they can eat and where."

Student Senate meets at 7 p.m. on Wednesdays in the Arcola-Tuscola Room in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

Lecture seeks to shed light on writing, life

By KRISTINA PETERS
STAFF REPORTER

Eastern's secretary of Greek Life and author of "60 Years In This Wicked World for Nothing," will pass on a little advice to those who are interested in writing and publishing their own books at a lecture today.

Norma Taylor's lecture, titled "What You Believe and Why," will be about finding one's self, writing a story about one's self and how to get those stories published.

"It will be a fun lecture," said Melissa Ortiz, lecture coordinator for the University Board.

Taylor, who has recently discovered what it takes to write and publish a novel, will share many of her own writing experiences during the lecture.

"It was time for me to sit down and think," Taylor, said

about starting her book. "I thought 'who am I, and what have I done.'"

She chose to self-publish her first book at Author House in Bloomington.

John Faust, a retired professor who taught International Relations at Eastern, has also had experience with getting a book published.

"It was challenging to write from the perspective of China decision makers," Faust said.

Two editions of the textbook titled "China in World Politics," have been published.

"It takes a lot of time and effort, but it's worth it," Faust said.

He has been to China four times and used many of his own experiences to help him write the textbook, which is what Taylor said she did, too.

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CHUCK KENNEDY/KRTN NEWS

Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., left, shakes hands with Rep. Grace Napolitano, D-Calif., after House and Senate Democratic leaders signed their pledge to clean up the tainted relationship between lawmakers and lobbyists Wednesday, a day after House Republican leaders announced that lobbying reform had moved to the top of their legislative priorities during an event at the Library of Congress on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C.

Dems counter GOP on lobbying ethics

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON – Congressional Democrats urged a ban on all gifts and travel paid for by lobbyists Wednesday, aiming to seize an issue for the fall elections and taking a shot at Republicans they say have sullied Congress' reputation.

The Democratic proposal, which also would end the "dead of night" insertion of special interest provisions into legislation, came a day after Republicans outlined their own lobbying ethics legislation.

Both parties, motivated by the Jack Abramoff lobbying scandal, have pledged to make lobbying ethics a top issue when Congress resumes a full schedule next month. Both also blamed the other for trying to take political advantage of the scandal.

"An ethical cloud hangs over the Capitol," House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi said in outlining the Democratic plan before about 100 Democratic congressmen and senators in a Library of Congress hall.

Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., said it was commendable that "our friends on the other side of the aisle have suddenly found religion on this topic." But he said the Abramoff scandal, in which the once powerful lobbyist and his clients provided gifts, expensive meals and golf trips to lawmakers, mainly Republicans, could be attributed to "Republican sins and Republican sins alone."

The National Republican Senatorial Committee quickly countered with a 24-page document targeting Senate Democratic leader Harry Reid of Nevada, entitled "Harry's Hypocrisy and Jack Abramoff."

Reid replied that he had long supported Indian groups, some of which had been clients of Abramoff. But Reid contended that the lobbyist only gave money

to Republicans and he had never met Abramoff.

Despite the partisan sniping, the proposals from the two sides had some similarities. Both the Democratic plan and a proposal offered by House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., on Tuesday would ban or significantly restrict privately funded travel and gifts, and double to two years the waiting period between when a lawmaker leaves office and can become a lobbyist. Both would require more frequent disclosure of lobbying activity.

The Republican measure would bar former-members-turned-lobbyists from access to the House floor, and would take away the pension of any member convicted of a felony related to his or her official duties.

The Democrats would kill the K Street Project, an initiative backed by former House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, R-Texas, that pressured lobbying firms to hire Republicans and fund GOP causes.

About 40 supporters of the liberal group MoveOn.org demonstrated Wednesday before the offices of Americans for Tax Reform, a conservative group headed by Grover Norquist, who helped create the K Street Project. Norquist, in a phone interview, said the point of the project was that "you should hire people who agree with and understand the positions of low taxes and less government."

Clean government groups that have long pressed for lobbying ethics changes greeted the new enthusiasm for legislation with caution.

Public Citizen's president Joan Claybrook said both proposals get at some of more obvious abuses perpetrated by Abramoff, but can be characterized as "reform lite" because they don't address the influence of special interest money in politics and the connection between politicians, lobbyists and campaign contributions.

NATIONAL BRIEFS



More than 3,200 still listed as missing after Hurricane Katrina

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW ORLEANS – More than 3,200 people are officially still unaccounted for nearly five months after Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast, and the state medical examiner wants the search to resume for those missing from the most devastated neighborhoods.

A total of nearly 11,500 people were reported missing to the Find Family National Call Center, a center run by federal and state workers. The reports included people from throughout the Gulf Coast area, but most were from Louisiana.

It's possible some of those missing were washed into Lake Pontchartrain, or their bodies remain in the rubble that still blankets much of the city. Over the last several weeks, at least one family returning to a wrecked home has found the remains of a relative inside.

Some of those still listed as missing likely have been found already by relatives but the center hasn't been notified of their status, the call center said. Others may not want to be found because of criminal or legal problems.

More than 1,300 Katrina-related deaths have been reported across five states, with 1,080 of those from Louisiana.

Federal government to switch eight Indiana counties from Eastern to Central time zone

INDIANAPOLIS – In a state where time has long been a contentious issue, the federal government Wednesday granted the requests of eight counties to switch from the Eastern to the Central time zone.

Nine other counties that sought the change were turned down by the Department of Transportation, which regulates time zones.

The requests were prompted by a state law enacted last year that mandates statewide observance of daylight-saving time beginning in April. All but 15 of Indiana's 92 counties had rejected daylight-saving time for more than three decades, largely because it has been a highly emotional and divisive issue among residents.

On April 2, Indiana will join all states except Arizona and Hawaii in setting their clocks ahead one hour.

NASA officials delay launch of Pluto-bound probe Wednesday for second day in a row

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. – NASA scrubbed the launch of an unmanned spacecraft on a nine-year voyage to Pluto Wednesday. This time, because a storm in Maryland knocked out the power at a laboratory that will operate the probe.

NASA officials planned to make a third attempt to launch the New Horizons probe Thursday after electricity was restored to the lab.

High winds at the launch pad kept the spacecraft from lifting off Tuesday, the first day the launch window opened.

Scientists have been working 17 years on the mission, and they were unfazed by the back-to-back postponements.

Defense Department's number for hostile deaths includes six military civilians


As of Wednesday, at least 2,222 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,741 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military's numbers. The figures include six military civilians.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended.

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Edited by Will Shortz

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- 5 Accra's land
- 10 Held up
- 14 Actress Skye
- 15 Like some beans
- 16 Golf club
- 17 Pen denizens
- 18 Jumped between electrodes
- 19 Retin-A treats it
- 20 Jungle crusher
- 22 Hostile incursion
- 24 Line C, maybe, in a voting booth: Abbr.
- 25 Bullet point
- 26 Quaint contraction
- 29 All there is
- 33 Fish in a John Cleese film
- 34 Inner: Prefix
- 35 It may follow a cut
- 36 Justice Fortas
- 37 Athrob
- 40 Badge issuer, for short
- 41 Kind of crime
- 43 Court statement
- 44 Phantom's haunt
- 46 Ready to freak out, maybe
- 48 Stable parents
- 49 Pencil-and-paper game
- 50 Brain scan: Abbr.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

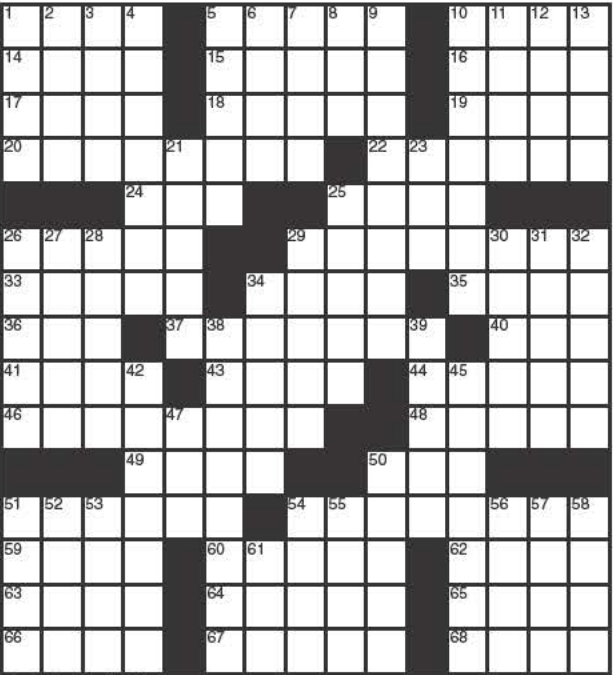
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Puzzle by David Pringle

- DOWN**
- 1 Santa ____
- 2 "Tell me more"
- 3 Sicilian city
- 4 Cancel
- 5 Thou
- 6 Source of a thundering sound
- 7 Chad's place
- 8 Family tree word
- 9 Eli, maybe
- 10 Moved like army ants
- 11 Bonkers

- 12 Mrs. Chaplin
- 13 Joined at the altar
- 21 Draft status?
- 23 Calif. neighbor
- 25 ____ rubber
- 26 Mop wielders
- 27 Something to kick
- 28 Lend ____ (listen)
- 29 Still not happy
- 30 Direct elsewhere
- 31 Buffalo skater
- 32 Walt Disney's middle name
- 34 Those girls, in Grenoble
- 38 Forces out of the spotlight
- 39 Stupid oaf
- 42 Gave a goofball
- 45 Asian shrines
- 47 Grounds-keeper's supply
- 50 Bygone auto
- 51 Bygone auto
- 52 Pizazz
- 53 Iditarod terminus
- 54 1981 hit film with a 5'3" lead actor
- 55 Wall St. letters
- 56 Early Briton
- 57 Old music halls
- 58 Patience, e.g.
- 61 "I'll take that as ____"

CHINESE JUDICIAL:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"I hope the Chinese will be impressed by our freedoms and democracy and hopefully they will learn from us," Chen said.

Chip Lynn, president of Phi Alpha Delta pre-law society, said this forum is an honor for Eastern because it's uncommon for people of this stature to visit.

"It's important to open our eyes to other judicial systems and cultures," Lynn said.

He also said this forum is important for Eastern because it gives it a lot of credibility to have people from China come to campus.

The panel discussion will start at 3:30 p.m. on Friday in the Charleston-Mattoon Room of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

AID CUTS:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Student loans on U. S. Senate chopping block

This includes grants, scholarships, loans or money from working. This money could come from private, federal, state or institutional sources, she said.

From the fiscal year 2004, which ran from mid-2003 to 2004, through fiscal year 2005, Eastern experienced a 1.4-percent increase in financial aid recipients, Zieren said.

Financial aid has noticed an increase in applicants with the rise in tuition costs.

"I've noticed a change, there has been an increase in loans," Zieren said. "Federal loans have pretty much stayed the same. Pell grants

have stayed the same for four or five years."

The amount of people applying for financial aid as costs rise does not surprise Zieren.

"You have to pay somehow," she said.

In addition to aid received through the federal government or the university, a possible way for students to pay their tuition is with a personal loan from a bank.

Josh Kercheval, a loan officer at First Mid-Illinois Bank and Trust in Charleston, said the bank does not typically handle student loans.

Fin Aid statistics

78.8 percent of Eastern students received financial aid during the 2005 fiscal year.

1.4 percent increase in the number of financial aid recipients from 2004 fiscal year.

"We don't do deferred loans," he said.

"Most student loans are deferred until after graduation."

A deferred loan is a loan that does not have to be repaid until after a certain period of time. Most student loans do not have to be paid back until a few months after graduation, he said.

If a student is from an area with a branch of First-Mid Illinois nearby, the bank might be able to give the student a loan, Kercheval said.

The bank does not do loans specifically for student to pay for school, but it can set up a personal loan that is repaid like a loan for a car, he said.

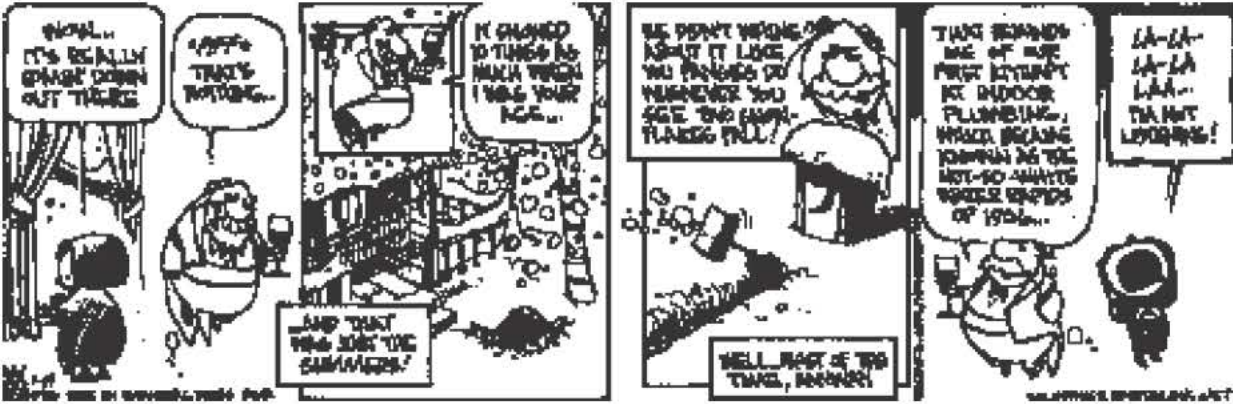
"This loan won't help a lot of students," Kercheval said. "If a student is working and going to school it might be able to help."

The bill will go in front of the House of Representatives after members return from their winter recess. It will probably go in front of the representatives in February, *The Chronicle* article said.

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NON SEQUITUR BY WILEY MILLER



BOONDOCKS BY AARON MCGRUDER



LEADERS:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

Panthers look for momentum

“(Eastern) has a good team, and we were fortunate to get out of there with a win,” Payne said. “It wasn’t like anybody in our program was shocked when (Eastern beat Murray State).”

For the Panthers to knock off another first-place OVC team, they’ll have to find ways to put the ball in the hands of their scorers — senior guard Josh Gomes, sophomore guard Bobby Catchings, sophomore center George Tandy and freshman guard Mike Robinson.

“We’ll try to keep the ball away from

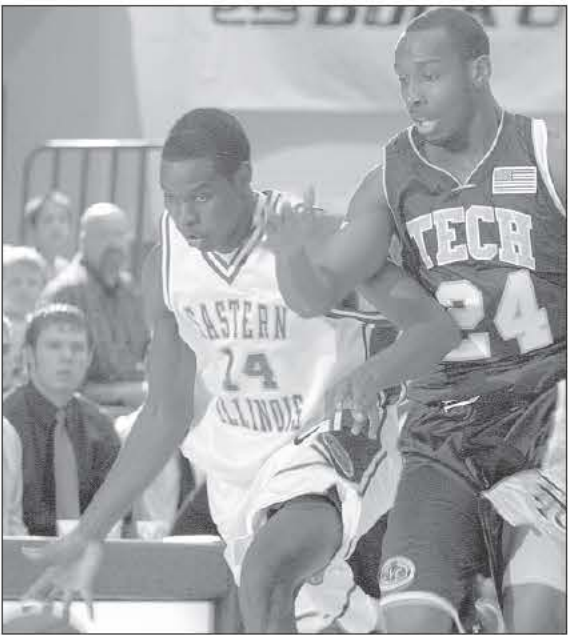
them as much as possible,” Payne said. “If you let Josh Gomes catch the ball where he wants to catch it and let him put the ball on the floor when he wants to put the ball on the floor, he’s going to score a lot of points.”

“You have the same problem with Robinson, Tandy and Catchings — if you let those guys do what they want to do and let them dictate their own game, then they’re going to get points on anybody.”

Those four players combined for 47 of the Panthers’ 59 points against Murray State.

Miller said he knows his team has to start gathering momentum, and the win over the Racers was a start.

“We’ve got to put two games together,” he said. “I don’t think you can feel good about anything until you put games together.”



CARRIE HOLLIS/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

TTU guard Keyon Boyd defends guard Mike Robinson on Dec. 8. Boyd is a game-time decision for tonight's game.

CORRENTI:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

Sparks loses player of week in OVC

made and blamed his assistants for all the misses.

He said last week, “If somebody had a better week of basketball than Sparks, that it was probably Michael Jordan’s daughter.”

When another reporter inferred that Jordan had probably more than one daughter walking around, Sallee looked at the recorders on the table and said, “Unless (the recorders) are turned off, I ain’t going there.”

It’s been said around Lantz Arena that the game doesn’t get interesting until Sallee takes his sports coat off.

Luckily for the fans, it’s been an interesting season.

Marc Correnti is a junior journalism major. If you think Michael Jordan has more than one daughter, tell him at EIU3583@yahoo.com

SWIMMING

Eastern faces Crusaders in first Mid-Continent Conference meet

BY JOE WALTASTI
 STAFF REPORTER

After last Saturday’s home meet, the men’s and women’s swimming and diving teams go on the road this Saturday as they take on Valparaiso University.

“[Valparaiso] has good backstroke and good breaststroke and they can put together a good relay team so it will be a challenging meet for us,” said head coach Ray Padovan. “I’m not overly concerned with the score, but it’s always nice to go against a conference school.”

This is Eastern’s first competition against a fellow member of the Mid-Continent Conference since joining in early November. However, the Panthers and Crusaders have

Eastern Swimming's MCC opener

- ◆ **Date:** January 21
- ◆ **Opponent:** Valparaiso University
- ◆ **Where:** Athletics Recreation Center
- ◆ **Time:** 1 p.m.

competed against each other consistently throughout the years and are familiar with one another.

“Eastern is always impressive,” said Valparaiso head coach Bryan Morrison. “They have a number of top-tier athletes that stand out.”

Against Millikin, the diving competition was left out of the meet because Millikin did

not have divers on its roster. The diving team was given a time to dive during the meet and were also judged, but the results did not count towards the final scoring.

Once again, the Eastern divers will have no competition, but their efforts will be counted this time. Since Valparaiso has diving facilities but no diving team, they will be forced to forfeit the two diving events and those points will automatically go to Eastern.

“We don’t have divers this year so automatically we are in a hole,” Morrison said.

The Crusaders face Cleveland State on Friday night before taking on Eastern Saturday afternoon. It is Valparaiso’s only home stand of the entire season.

When comparing the Crusaders’ men’s times in their last meet against Illinois-Chicago’s and

Eastern’s times against Millikin, the Panthers have the edge. Millikin’s best marks in the 50 and 500 freestyle were 23.48 seconds and 5 minutes, 1.46 seconds, respectively. Panther freshman Kevin Boyle bested both of those times last Saturday (22.25 in the 50 freestyle and 4:56.68 in the 500 freestyle).

The women’s team is strong for Valparaiso. They had five second-team All Mid-Continent members last year, and Crusaders’ junior, Amanda Gregory, posted better marks in the 50 and 500 freestyle at UIC than any Eastern woman did against Millikin.

This is a critical time in the Panthers’ schedule as they are preparing for their conference tournament on Feb. 16.

“It’s kind of a slow build towards the end of the season,” said Padovan.

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LEADERS:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

Rebounding is a problem

Galligan, who matched up with Christian throughout the game. "I know I'll do a better job than the first time I played her," she said. "I'm looking forward to that matchup again."

Although Sallee admits the game will be big for the program, he has managed to keep it in perspective. "It's kind of hard to believe, but there is still plenty of season left," he said.

The Panthers have used a constant press to force turnovers all season.

TTU committed 23 turnovers in the first game and the Panthers outscored them 15-6 off turnovers.

"They're a good team," Worrell said. "I like what they do."

Eastern leads the conference with 11 steals per game. Freshman guard Megan Edwards is second in the conference with 2.56 per game.

The Panthers are third in the conference in blocked shots with Galligan doing most of the damage with 2.31 per game.

But an area of the game the Panthers are struggling in is rebounding. They have been outrebounded in 12 of the team's 16 games this season and were outrebounded 55-32 in the teams' first matchup.

Eastern continues to try to improve in that area. For good reason.

"We're paying a lot of attention to it," Sallee said. "That might be the one stat that makes a difference in making a postseason run or not."

Alexander to play in NFC championship

Associated Press

KIRKLAND, Wash. — Shaun Alexander joked that his concussion might have made him smarter. The Seahawks are simply satisfied to know their MVP running back will be back on the field Sunday against Carolina.

Seattle coach Mike Holmgren removed all doubt about Alexander's status Wednesday, announcing that the league rushing leader would play in the NFC championship game.

Alexander sustained a concussion last Saturday in the first quarter of Seattle's win over Washington; he later said he was initially knocked unconscious, then was dazed for about 20 minutes.

Holmgren said Wednesday the All-Pro will be ready for the Panthers.

"Shaun's full go," the coach said. "He passed some tests we gave him yesterday. He participated in our

walkthrough this morning. He's going to be fine."

In the full afternoon non-contact practice, Alexander split first-team practice time with backup Maurice Morris, who rushed 18 times for 49 yards in place of Alexander on Saturday.

Alexander, who rushed for a team-record 1,880 yards in the regular season, joked he learned something about himself over a four-day battery of doctors' tests.

"Oh yeah. I took all the tests and realized the guy knocked some sense into me," Alexander said of Redskins linebacker LaVar Arrington, who appeared to hit the back of Alexander's helmet during a 1-yard loss Saturday. "I am actually smarter than I was before."

He also apparently has his sense of perspective back.

The potential free agent said on a conference call to Carolina reporters

Wednesday he has an appreciation for the situation former Seahawks teammate Ken Lucas went through this past year.

When asked if he was sad to see Lucas leave Seattle, Alexander said: "I definitely was. But then, at the same time, who knows if I am going to be here or not?"

"I told him you never know, I might be out there with you. Whenever you lose a teammate it's rough. When you lose a friend it's worse," Alexander added.

Alexander has repeatedly expressed his desire this season to "win three or four Super Bowls for Seattle." But he said last month talks with the Seahawks on a contract extension were put off until after the postseason.

AP Sports Writer Jenna Fryer in Charlotte, N.C., contributed to this report.

TRACK AND FIELD



ERIC HILTNER/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS
Senior sprinter Monte Buckley runs the 400-meter dash at the Dec. 10, 2005, Early Bird Meet in Lantz Fieldhouse.

Eastern set to host Mega Meet

By KATIE ANDERSON
STAFF REPORTER

The men's and women's track and field teams will be competing in the highly revered EIU Mega Meet this Saturday.

Miami (Ohio), Illinois-Chicago and Northern Iowa are just a few of the teams who will appear at the meet.

"I think UIC can give our sprinters a run for our money," said head women's coach Mary Wallace.

"The last few years the competition has been really tough and I don't see why this year would be any different," said junior sprinter Brenton Emanuel.

Field events start at 9 a.m. and the running events at 10:30 a.m.

Men's head coach Tom Akers said entries are not closed yet. Currently around 600 athletes are running for 16 teams.

With so many schools competing, each team is limited to three individuals per event. Only one relay team per school, and two runners each for the 3K and 5K will race.

Not all of the competitors will be scored for their performances, with only athletes

EIU Mega Meet

- ◆ Where: Lantz Fieldhouse
- ◆ When: Saturday 9 a.m.

from Division I schools earning points. Four men's teams and seven women's teams will contend for points and a title, while the rest are there just for the opportunity to run.

The Mega Meet has been hosted by Eastern since 1995; however, the meet has existed for longer than that as the EIU Invitational. By 1995 the meet had grown and the program needed a "real name" for the meet, Akers said.

Hence, the Mega Meet was born.

"I do enjoy running in the Mega Meet because it is a good meet to begin the season with because it prepares you for the bigger meets we will go to," Emanuel said.

Last season, the women's team ran more than 20 percent of their season's best times at the Mega Meet.

Akers attributes the success of his teams in the past to a number of factors.

"They're (the athletes) excited it's the first

meet back, they're still fresh, and prelims and finals are not on different days."

Later in the season in larger meets like this one, teams will have to run preliminary races the day before.

"When athletes have to repeat their performances, there is a lot more pressure on," Akers said.

Wallace also recognizes the "fresh legs" factor. The team hasn't had a meet since Dec. 10 in the Early Bird Meet at Lantz Fieldhouse.

"With the last meet we had come off of a month of practice," she said. "The kids know this is a chance to get out there and work hard, and an opportunity to set your standards."

"We've had some hard practices to prepare us like usual," said freshman hurdler and sprinter Samantha Manto.

"It (the Mega Meet) can show you how hard you really have trained leading up to this point and it also will show you if you have to put more time and effort into your training," Emanuel said.

"This meet is very important one because it is our first meet in over a month and it is at our house so we need to do our best in front of our peers."

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Norma Taylor

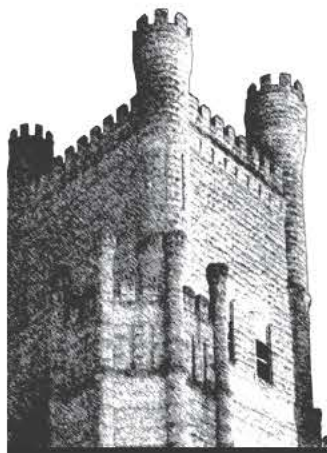
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SPORTS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 2006

PANTHER SPORTS CALENDAR

TODAY	WOMEN'S BASKETBALL AT TENNESSEE TECH	5:30 p.m.
	MEN'S BASKETBALL AT TENNESSEE TECH	7:30 p.m.
SATURDAY	TRACK AND FIELD TCU MEET	9 a.m.
	WOMEN'S BASKETBALL AT TENNESSEE STATE	7:30 p.m.
	MEN'S BASKETBALL AT TENNESSEE STATE	7 p.m.

Eastern Illinois University, Charleston



THE SIXTH MAN

MARC CORRENTI
STAFF REPORTER

Sallee's wit helps get results

Brady Sallee was born to be a head coach.

The Eastern women's head coach is a perfect example of a head coach as he has the personality of a rattlesnake and a high IQ in Basketball 101.

He is a perfectionist and expects nothing less from his team. He is a coach who loves the game more than anything.

He is a teacher, as it shows most this year with the Panthers off to a 6-3 start in Ohio Valley Conference play. And he is honest, perhaps the most important trait in a basketball coach.

Early in the season, it seemed that Sallee's teaching wasn't getting through to his young team as they started 0-6. Now, with three freshmen in the starting lineup, Sallee has won seven of his last 10 games.

Is anyone taking notice of Sallee's work?

It seems like it as the women had more people in the stands than the men's team did in Saturday's victory over Eastern Kentucky.

It's Sallee who has gotten players like Lauren Sims, Ellen Canale and Lindsey Kluempers to buy into their roles as hustlers and scrappers rather than scorers. He has built his team on hustle, effort and speed with a full-time emphasis on the half-court press.

The results have shown, as Eastern is No. 1 in the OVC in turnover margin, a big reason for the Panthers' success.

He's made freshman Megan Edwards the Robin to Megan Sparks' Batman.

He's turned a sub-par program into one that can be good for a long time.

Make no mistake, as much of the credit should go to Sallee's players, it's the baby-faced coach who is in firm control of his team.

He was the one in Saturday's game against ECU that told Edwards and Rachel Galligan to shut their mouths after they were arguing with the referees. The players simply looked at Sallee and nodded. End of discussion.

His wit is as sharp as a whip that only a tape recorder could catch.

In Sparks' hot-shooting display last week where she drained 12-of-16 three-pointers, Sallee jokingly took credit for all the ones she

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Eastern battles OVC leaders



ERIC HILTNER/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Junior guard Meggie Eck takes a pass from senior guard Megan Sparks during Wednesday's practice at Lantz Arena. The Panthers face Tennessee Tech tonight in Cookeville, Tenn. The Golden Eaglettes lead the Ohio Valley Conference this season.

Panthers look to prove themselves in showdown

BY MARCO SANTANA
SPORTS EDITOR

In the Panthers' sixth game of the season, Tennessee Tech dropped them to 0-6 with a 62-54 win at Lantz Arena.

Eastern has not forgotten. "They got us here at home and we're definitely looking for some payback for that," freshman center Rachel Galligan said.

Since that Dec. 8 game, the Panthers (7-9, 6-3 Ohio Valley Conference) have won seven of 10 games and have moved up to fourth place in the conference.

Tennessee Tech (11-4, 7-1), meanwhile, has been playing well all season and is atop the conference by one game over Samford.

The Golden Eaglettes defeated Samford 63-51 on Saturday and Tech head coach Bill Worrell doesn't expect a letdown from his team.

"You always concern yourself with it," he said. "But you don't worry about the last game."

The Panthers will have quite a bit to play for tonight. Although both coaches tried to downplay the importance of a mid-season game, Eastern head coach Brady Sallee is ready to take this test.

"A win over Tennessee Tech

TONIGHT'S GAME



Eastern
Illinois
(7-9, 6-3)

@

Tennessee
Tech
(11-4, 7-1)

Last game
85-76 W
vs. Eastern Kentucky

Last game
63-51 W
at Samford

Leading Scorer
G Megan Sparks
16.9 ppg

Leading Scorer
C Emily Christian
20.9 ppg

would help us in the standings," he said. "And it'd do a lot to validate where we are in this league right now."

Tech senior Emily Christian leads the conference with 20.9 points per game.

Sallee said Christian is arguably the best player in the conference.

"She really tests your defense," Sallee said. "She's a tough matchup. She can shoot the three and she can put it on the floor one or two times and get to the basket."

In the teams' first game, Christian scored just five points in the first half before Worrell started going to her more often in the second half. Christian ended up with 19 points.

"I think we did a fairly decent job of stopping her the first time," senior forward Lauren Sims said. "We gotta limit her touches and make sure she doesn't put up double digits on us."

Most of the responsibility falls on

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Eastern to face high-flying Golden Eagles team

Starting point guard may be out for Tech

BY DAN WOIKE
SPORTS REPORTER

Less than a week after dropping one of the Ohio Valley Conference's elite teams, the Panthers men's basketball team heads to take on another top OVC foe in Tennessee Tech 7:30 p.m. Thursday.

The Panthers head back on the road after finishing a three-game homestand 2-1 with wins over Tennessee-Martin and Murray State.

But while the Panthers are heating up, the Golden Eagles are certified hot — winning four straight and owning a share of the conference lead.

Tennessee Tech (12-5, 7-2 OVC)

defeated Eastern 83-80 in overtime at Lantz Arena on Dec. 8. Tech associate head coach Steve Payne said his team's rebounding was the big difference in the win.

"We were really good on the glass that night and played with a lot of effort," Payne said.

Tech out-rebounded Eastern 54-42 and had a 32-12 advantage on the offensive boards.

The Golden Eagles also forced the Panthers (4-12, 3-7) into 21 turnovers, which they converted into 20 points.

"We did not rebound the ball and weren't going after it," Eastern head coach Mike Miller said. "We were really sloppy with the ball and not as strong as we needed to be."

"They probably apply the most pressure throughout a 40-minute game of anyone in the conference."

But Payne said his team hasn't been relying as much on full-court pressure

TONIGHT'S GAME	
Eastern Illinois (4-12, 3-7)	Tennessee Tech (12-5, 7-2)
Last game(match) 59-54 W vs. Murray State	Last game 79-75 W at Austin Peay
Leading Scorer G Josh Gomes 14.6 ppg	Leading Scorer G Anthony Fisher 12.8 ppg

as of late.

"As the season wears on, people get better in their press offense, and people are able to handle it," he said. "Ultimately, you've got to be good in the half court defensively."

"We played a young team at Eastern, and we were really lucky that we were able to force some turnovers."

Full-court pressure may not be the

only thing the Golden Eagles are missing Thursday. Tech may be without starting senior point guard Keyon Boyd, who was injured on the last play of the first half of Tech's 79-75 win at Austin Peay Monday.

However, the Golden Eagles have backcourt depth and versatility, with three players prepared to run the offense if Boyd cannot go at game-time.

"We'll miss Keyon and we need him, but we have enough depth to absorb one of those things for a day or two," Payne said.

But against an improved Panther team, he said he'd rather not be short-handed.

From what he saw in the teams' first meeting, Payne said he wasn't surprised at all by Eastern's 59-54 victory over Murray State.

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