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Daily Eastern News: March 20, 2006

Eastern Illinois University

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

SPORTS ♦ Softball goes 9-2 during break: page 8

THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

VOLUME 91, ISSUE 44

dennews.com

90th Anniversary

Eastern Illinois University, Charleston

MONDAY
MARCH
20
2006



City prepares for primary



*County Clerk Coffrin
will not run for first
time since 1986*

BY KRISTAN CUNNINGHAM | STAFF REPORTER

Coles County Clerk Betty Coffrin has been busy preparing for the primary elections after announcing in September she will not seek re-election.

Coffrin's first term began in 1986, and she has been re-elected without opposition since.

Coffrin said right now the main focus in her office is on the upcoming primaries March 21. The County Clerk conducts all of the elections in Coles County and is in charge of voter registration and election judge training.

The County Clerk's Office also calculates and extends real estate taxes and records vital records such as births, deaths and marriages.

Coffrin said she considers the clerk's office to be "the hub of the wheel of the county."

Coffrin said she has seen a change in the way voting is done in the county. When she was elected for her first term, voting was done with punch cards and paper ballots. Now, voting is done with optical-scan ballots.

Every day is different in her job and she loves the people she works with, Coffrin said.

SEE CLERK PAGE 7

*Election will narrow
Republican candidate
field for sheriff*

BY ROB SIEBERT | STAFF REPORTER

With the primary election coming up on Tuesday, time is winding down for the three men seeking the Republican nomination for Coles County Sheriff.

Candidates Darrell Cox, Steve Darimont and John Hampton have all reached out to the public through speeches, fundraisers, door-to-door campaigning, and newspaper and radio advertisements.

Hampton, a patrol officer at Lake Land College and a former deputy with the sheriff's department, believes the position has become very political, and he hopes to be a sheriff who listens to the people.

"The biggest thing I can offer is access to the community," Hampton said. "For too long the sheriff has not really been available to the public."

With 11 years in law enforcement, Hampton has far less experience than his opponents but claims the sheriff should be someone who is still an active officer, "not someone who has been in the office for 20 or 30 years and is ready to be the boss."

Cox said he is the best man for the job because, as the department's

SEE SHERIFF PAGE 7

Kappa Delta helps improve community through philanthropic involvement

BY JESSICA CANTARELLI AND JACKIE GORSKI
STAFF REPORTERS

Eastern's Kappa Delta sorority has three philanthropic organizations with which it is proud to be affiliated.

"Our philanthropies have to be the best experiences of my life," said Emily Bock, a sophomore pre-med major and member of Kappa Delta. "I believe that we pride ourselves in community service and helping others, and it allows us to branch out and show that Greek life is not only about partying and being self absorbed."

The Girl Scouts of America has been partnered with Kappa Delta chapters across the country since 1998. The sorority as a whole contributes \$10,000 annually to the Girl Scout Award program, according to Kappa Delta's national Web site.

Natalie Ehorn, a freshman English major, said each Kappa Delta chapter has its own Girl Scout troop. The women get together twice a month for various character-building activities like making valentine cards to send to troops overseas, carving pumpkins and having craft nights.

"Things like that really teach them (the

scouts) important lessons," Ehorn said. "We did a telephone game one night to teach them how rumors get started; we just like seeing them have fun."

Recently, an etiquette dinner and "real beauty" fashion show was put on at the Kappa Delta chapter house for the Girl Scouts to learn how to behave like ladies at a dinner table.

The fashion show was a tribute to Dove's real beauty campaign, and each of the girls got her hair, makeup and costumes provided for the event.

"It's an important thing for us to do because it teaches the girls self esteem," Ehorn said.

Bock said she likes philanthropy events where everyone participating can have a good time, much like the fashion show with the Girl Scouts.

"It's absolutely amazing to be a role model for little girls and have them look up to you," she said.

Kappa Delta also holds events throughout the year to raise money for their other philanthropies, Prevent Child Abuse America and Orthopedic Research.

The sorority held a weeklong Shamrock Event at the end of February and begin-

ning of March where it raised money by shaking cans outside Carman Hall, Coleman Hall and Wal-Mart in addition to holding a paintball tournament where all sororities and fraternities can participate.

Eighty percent of the donations are presented to the Coles County Children's Advocacy Center, and 20 percent goes to Prevent Child Abuse America, said Megan Dolan, a junior early childhood education major and president of Eastern's Kappa Delta chapter.

Dolan said the Coles County Children's Advocacy Center works on the legal aspect of child abuse. It aims to help convict people of child abuse since the victims are typically unable to do much on their own behalf.

Last year, Kappa Delta raised \$3,300, said Jamie Carrigan, a sophomore education major and Shamrock Events chair for Kappa Delta. So far, the sorority has raised more than \$3,000, and there are still more donations expected.

Kelly McMahon, a freshman mathematics major, said she particularly enjoys raising money for the Prevent Child Abuse



SUBMITTED BY JENNY DUBINA

James McLauchlan, a junior marketing major; and Bob Reed, a junior recreation administration major; watch their opponents during a round of paintball for the Kappa Delta Shamrock Event at the Coles County Fairgrounds.

SEE IMPROVE PAGE 7

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KATEY MITCHELL
SOPHOMORE
JOURNALISM MAJOR

"It's not what most people think of when they think of anime."

The movie is not overloaded with sexual undertones or a confusing plot. The movie takes place in a fantasy world, with a late 19th century backdrop, that is torn apart by war, and only way to stop the war is with the help of wizards and witches.



NORA MABERRY
ENGLISH
GRADUATE STUDENT

"These are the people who want to lead our state?"

Jim Oberweis is running for the republican nomination for governor. On Thursday he suggested to his opponents that they draw straws to see who determine who will face the front-runner in Tuesday's primary.

UNIVERSITY BRIEFS

Former Distinguished Alumnus dies

Jim Roberts, a 1946 Eastern graduate and Distinguished Alumnus, died Tuesday at the age of 84.

Roberts served as president of the Southern Illinois Editorial Association, the Illinois Press Association and the National Newspaper Association.

In 1995, he was named one of the "Centennial 100," given to 100 people who had done the most to advance Eastern's causes. He was also a trustee and president of the EIU Foundation.

Fashion show kicks off Unity Week

The Student Government and University Board will be sponsoring a fashion show today as part of Unity Week.

The show, titled "Oh, I Think They Like Me," will feature the Muntu Dance Theater of Chicago.

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

FIVE-DAY WEATHER

TODAY	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
41	33	40	39	50
28	21	27	29	33
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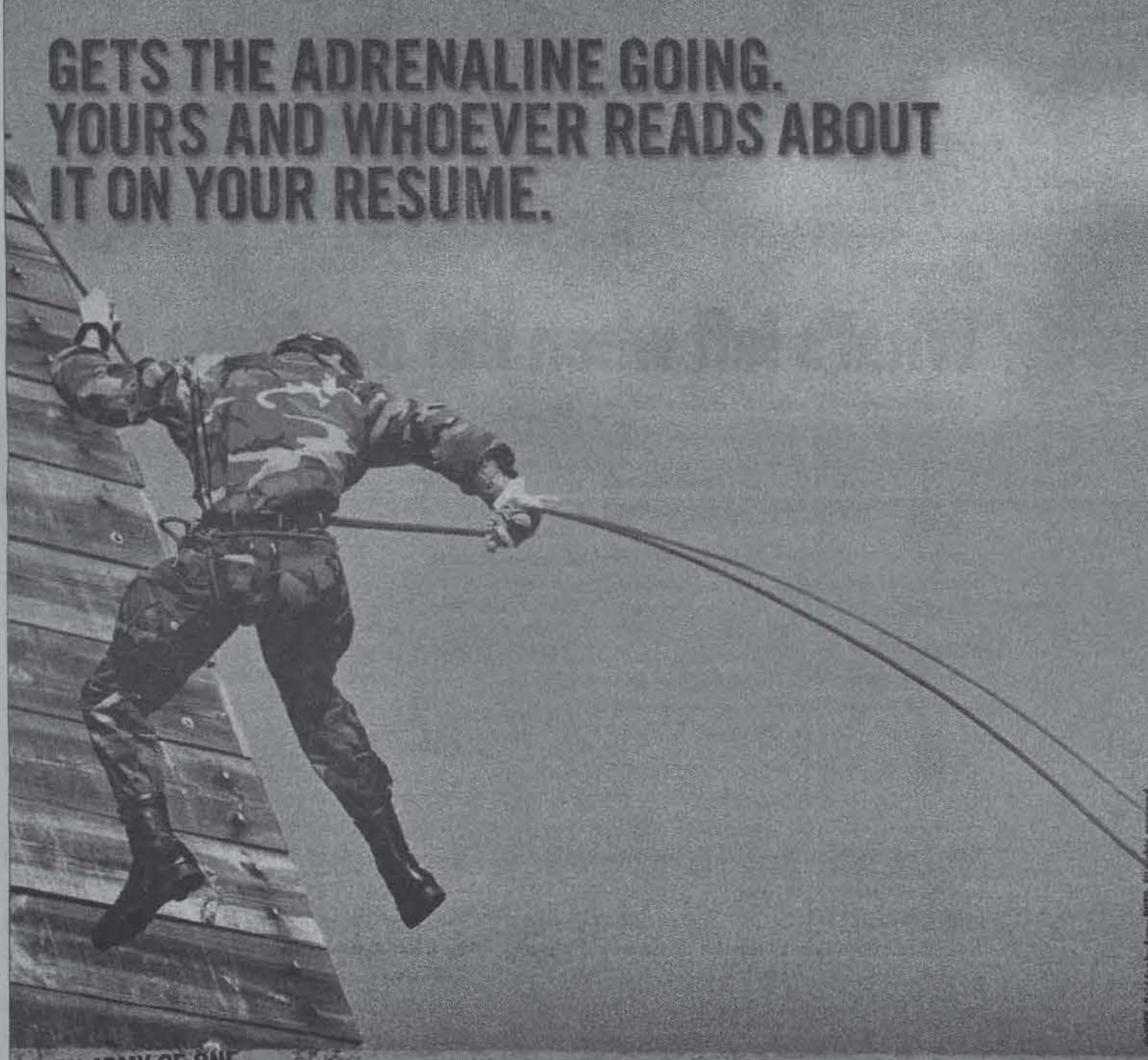
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OPINION

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

MONDAY, MARCH 20, 2006

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COMMENTARY



KRIS JONES
DEN COLUMNIST

A VERY EARLY CHRISTMAS LIST

I know we are only on the brink of Spring, and Christmas is the farthest thing from everyone's mind, yet I don't care. I am going to share my Christmas list of wishes with you now, so that when Christmas comes, one or more of my wishes can actually come true. Together, we can make these things happen.

First, I wish for peace in Iraq. I hope Iraqis are able to pull together and work out a formidable government that will be respected and admired by many abroad. I pray the Iraqis stay away from insurgent-led attempts toward Civil War.

By now, I wish President Bush would own up to his mistake in invading Iraq on trumped-up charges and just admit Iraq is in a state of disarray. It's not Iraq's fault, but there has got to be a way to keep insurgents from infiltrating. Militants are obviously upset with the United States' continued presence in Iraq, but what kind of friends would we be to the Middle East if we pulled out leaving them on a brink of national disaster? Better question, why did we go and create havoc in a land that was of no imminent threat to us in the first place?

Perhaps insurgents would stop their reign of terror if an understanding or agreement is reached that the United States only has Iraq's stability as a free and independent state's best interest at heart. I was not in favor of the United States' invasion of Iraq, and I could predict many great consequences following such a dire action, but what's done is done. We cannot change the ramifications of this war, but we can work hard to prevent any other disaster from settling in the Iraqi confines.

Second, I wish that tranquil, ambassadorial labors avert Iran from continuing their precedence for nuclear weapons. I don't see where war tactics are necessary, and I pray they aren't. We have already been in two wars since George W. Bush took over the presidency, and the country is neck-high in debt to support each war. None of which have produced the capture of al-Qaeda's top fugitives Osama bin Laden and Ayman al-Zawahiri. Exercise peace instead of war. Set an example for the rest of the world that the United States doesn't have to be fascist in its attempts to spread democracy across the Middle East.

Third, I wish that Palestine and Israel would work with one another and take steps to make peace. Palestine needs to be recognized as an independent territory, but it needs solid, peaceful leaders from its government to step up and make it happen. Palestine also has to recognize Israel and respect Israel's boundaries too. I hope the two countries can co-exist peacefully, and I thought Palestine's acquisition of the West Bank would be the first step of making this peaceful step notable.

Fourth, I wish safety for the people of Darfur, Sudan, who continue to stave off forms of genocide in Sudanese Civil War efforts. Also, I pray for Sudan's neighboring country Chad. According to an article from *Ohmy News*, more than 400,000 Sudanese have been killed, and as many as two million are displaced. And less than two months ago, rebels tried to force their way into Chad, but were stifled by Chadian troops and chased back into Sudan. I pray that order can be restored in Sudan without its implications of destruction to Chad.

The deal made by the Bush Administration caused concern for safety and security issues, but the Emirates assure they pose no threat, and as an ally in the war on terror, I hope Americans can look past their insecurities and welcome our Middle Eastern friend with open arms. Senator Warner said he believes the deal will be vital to the country and, "this is going to establish a precedent, and it's got to be done in a way not to choke off other opportunities."

Finally, I pray that the United States continues to keep good relations with other Middle Eastern countries such as Oman, Jordan, Egypt, Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. Other allies such as Pakistan and India are crucial to maintain our efforts to rid terrorism too. Most importantly, I hope President Bush and the future new president can continue to work hard to fix broken relations with a part of the world I aspire to visit some day.

*Jones, an english graduate student,
can be reached at suburbia3@yahoo.com.*

EDITORIAL CARTOON BY JENNIFER CHIARIELLO



EDITORIAL

What's left when the madness ends

March Madness has a bit of a different feel on Eastern's campus. Really, the difference is pretty simple: it has been five years since there has been any madness for the men's basketball program.

Since the 2000-2001 basketball season, the Panthers have not tasted NCAA Tournament play. Some Panther fans have been designated Illini fans, maybe others just root for upsets and others probably root for teams they have other ties to.

But in Eastern's world of athletics, spring sports should gather more of the fans' attention than anything else when the tournament ends.

Just like the fall sports season, the spring season features competitive teams that usually play well in Ohio Valley Conference action.

The baseball team has hung its hat on conference play, considering the team's manager Jim Schmitz believes that is what the team needs to focus on.

In the nine years under Schmitz that the Panthers have been in the OVC, the team came away with three first-place finishes. Last year the Panthers finished sixth in conference play, but Eastern had a team that was rebuilding after losing crucial members from a team that finished in second place in the OVC only a year ago.

Fans should expect a quick turn around from a team led by Schmitz considering the last time he had a team finish in sixth place in the OVC, he turned it around and had a conference winner the next year.

The softball team, which has been talking about rebuilding for

At issue

The popularity of Eastern's athletic programs.

Our stance

Eastern sports teams like baseball, softball and tennis are all on the upswing and deserve notice from Eastern students. There are several promising athletic programs at Eastern.

many years now, may have finally found the right kind of team this year.

By winning 11 of their last 13 games, and their game yesterday, the Panthers have won 17 games already this year.

If the success the Panther softball team had during the preseason portion of the schedule wasn't enough to convince Eastern fans of this team's ability, then opening the conference schedule with a series victory over Tennessee Martin should help.

Overall, with teams like these, the student body at Eastern has something to pay attention to.

Just like during the fall season when Eastern fans

look for the success of the football team and women's soccer program, the spring athletes also have a lot to offer. Besides the baseball and softball teams there is a basis for a solid tennis program and the beginning of the golf season.

Beyond just the major sports of baseball, basketball and football there is also an extremely successful cross country and track program that competes year-round.

If students do not pay attention to these sports until March Madness is over, then so be it. But at least something is waiting for the students when they decide to turn their attention from their television sets to Coaches' Stadium and Williams Field.

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

YOUR TURN: LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

COLUMNISTS NEEDED

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

CARTOONISTS WANTED

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

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

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

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LINCOLNWOOD PINETREE HAS STUDIO 1, 2, & 3 BEDROOM APARTMENTS. VERY CLOSE TO CAMPUS AND BUZZARD. CALL 345-6000 TO SCHEDULE APPOINTMENT.

GREAT LOCATION. NINTH/LINCOLN. ONE BEDROOM APARTMENT, TRASH AND WATER PAID, 10/12 MONTH LEASE. 348-0209. par

1,2 & 3 Bedroom Apartments for Rent. Immediate openings for Spring & Fall of 2006. 549-5593 or 549-1060.

for rent

SEITSINGER APARTMENTS: 1611 9th St. One block East of Old Main. Completely furnished. Two 2 bedroom apartments available for Summer 2006 and Fall 2006-2007. Call 345-7136.

New Four Bedroom Apartments. Extremely Close to Campus. Across from Lantz. Fully Furnished. Call Today for Lowered Rates. Grantview Apartments. 345-3353.

www.charlestonilapts.com- LOOK FOR US FOR 06-07 RENTALS. From \$230 to \$475 mo per person. Ph. 348-7746.

Oldtowne Apartments: 1, 2, 3 Bedroom for Fall 2006. Close to campus. 4 locations to choose from. Call 345-6533.

www.jwilliamsrentals.com CHECK US OUT FOR YOUR NEXT APARTMENT. Leasing now 1 & 2 bedroom units. Good locations, nice apartments, off street parking, trash paid. No pets. 345-7286.

BUCHANAN ST. APARTMENTS: 1,2,3 BEDROOM APARTMENTS AVAILABLE FOR FALL 06-07. PLENTY OF OFF STREET PARKING, WATER AND TRASH INCLUDED. CALL 345-1266

6 Bedroom, 3 Bath House. New Construction right next to Campus. W/D, dishwasher, etc. 345-9595 or 232-9595. www.gbaggerrentals.com

Royal Heights Apts. 3 BR, 1 1/2 bath, furnished. 1509 2nd (behind Subway) Spring, Fall 2006. Call Becky @ 345-0936.

Apartments and houses for rent. 1520-1528 4th Street across from Pemberton Hall. 345-3059/345-2909

APARTMENT FOR RENT, 2 BEDROOM. TRASH AND WATER INCLUDED. ALL FOR \$260 PER MONTH. NEXT TO CITY PARK. 1111 2ND STREET. CALL 348-5427.

Park Place Apartments: Now showing 1,2,3, Bedroom Units for Fall 2006. Newly Remodeled units available! Trash paid, fully furnished, free parking. Call Jennifer @ 348-1479.

Fall 2006 Apartments 1,2,3, bedroom. Great location. Great condition. Some with laundry, some with wireless internet. Off street parking. No pets. 345-7286

APPLY NOW! 6 month leases Available. 345-1400 www.universityvillagehousing.com

for rent

2 Bedroom Remodeled, Water, Trash, DSL, Furnished. 10 or 12 month lease 217-235-6598 or 217-254-0754.

Nice 5 Bedroom House For Girls, Will Consider Four, Efficiency Apartment, Excellent Location, C/A, W/D, Trash, Lawn, Service. 345-3253

6 bedroom house close to campus, 3 bathrooms, 2 living rooms, Large Kitchen. Stove, refrigerator, washer and dryer. Available for the 06-07 school year for more info www.poteeterrentals.com or 217-345-5088

5 bedroom house on 6th Street, 2 bath, Large bedrooms completely remodeled new carpet, stove, refrigerator. Enclosed back porch and dining room. Available for the 06-07 school year for more info www.poteeterrentals.com or 217-345-5088

Nice 2 & 3 Bedroom Apartments. Furnished, NO PETS! Utilities Included. 2121 18th Street. Call 549-2615.

Available May 1 and 2 Bedroom Large Apartments. \$360-400/mo per apt. Ideal for couple. Cat ok. Water and Trash paid. 743 6th St Call 581-7729 or 345-6127 eve.

Nice and Clean 5 Bdrm. House. Campus side. 2 Blocks from Campus. W/D, air, patio. 345-6967.

Lincolnwood Pinetree has 2&3 BR Apts. available for second semester. Call 345-6000.

for rent

Single Apt. For Rent. \$349. Charleston Square. Gas, Water, Heat incl. 10 or 12 month lease. Pets ok. 345-2171 Dave 9 am-11 am.

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SHERIFF:

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current chief deputy, he has experience working with a budget. Cox also said he believes that because he is a lifelong Charleston resident, he is in touch with the community.

According to Cox, his opponents' proposals to expand the department's jail through grants are impractical. He instead hopes to expedite the trial process to reduce inmate's jail time and eliminate the need for expansion.

Cox also promises to improve upon rural patrol and to be impartial between Charleston residents and Eastern students.

Darimont, a captain in the department, has presented himself as a family man looking to provide families in Coles County with a safe environment. Darimont's campaign has emphasizes improving county issues with methamphetamine.

"I want everyone educated to

the poison that threatens our families," Darimont said. "When that fails, I believe in rehabilitation ... But, when those two things fail, then I believe in incarceration."

Like Cox, Darimont hopes to improve rural patrol and reallocate resources so deputies may spend more time in the community.

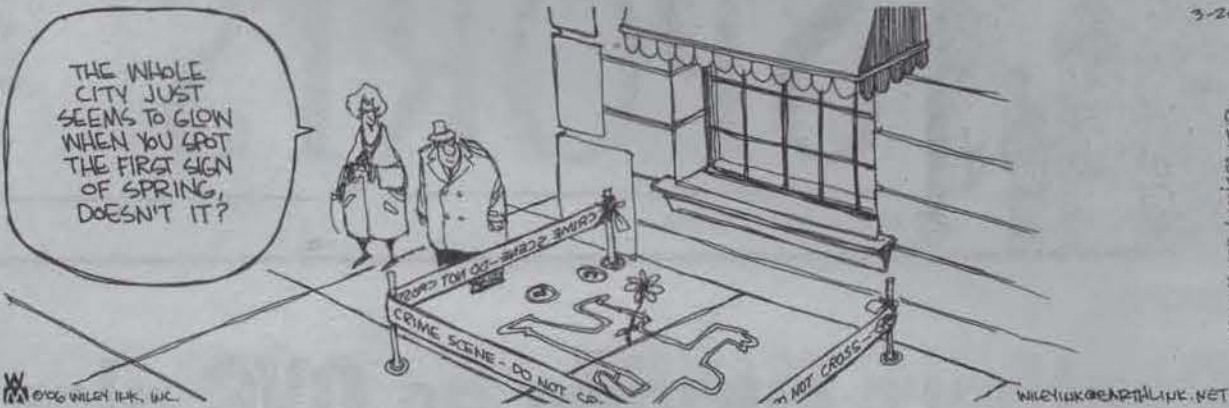
"I feel very good," Darimont said. "The response to what I've been saying has been overwhelming and humbling. People have been very kind and very supportive."

One man with a vested interest in the happenings of March 21 is Charles "Chub" Conner, who is running unopposed for the Democratic nomination.

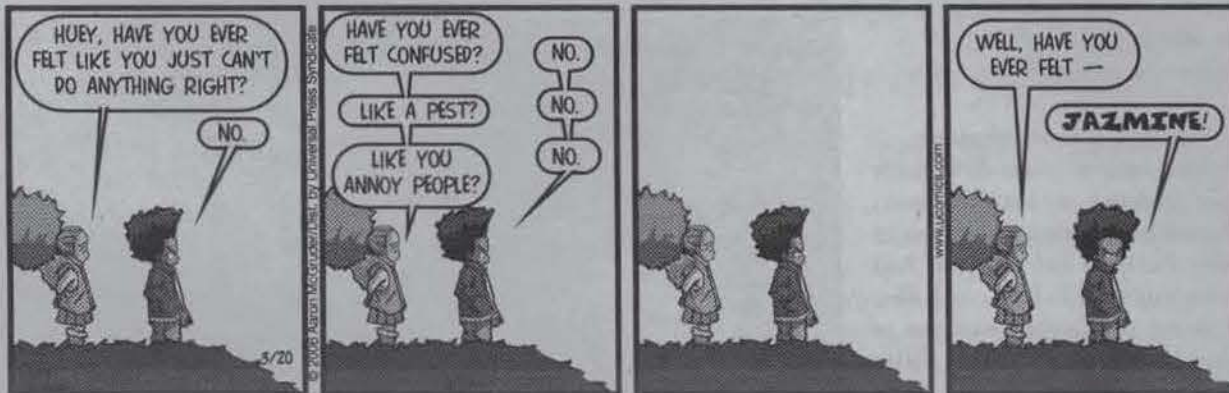
Conner believes the primary will be an important indicator for him, as well as the Republican candidates.

"The primary election is extremely important because it gives you an impression of how much support you have," he said.

NON SEQUITUR BY WILEY MILLER



BOONDOCKS BY AARON MCGRUDER



The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0206

- ACROSS**

1 Healthful retreats

5 Cartoonist Thomas who attacked Boss Tweed

9 Sleeves cover them

13 Chair designer Charles

15 Addict

16 Outscore

17 "Ain't it the —?"

18 Computer info

19 River of Spain

20 Germfree armored vehicle?

23 Ruined

24 H, in Greece

25 Golf gadget

26 Jan. and Feb.

27 Bring forth

30 Looks lasciviously

32 It may be served à la mode

33 Motorist's org.

34 Order between "ready" and "fire"

35 Money for busting up monopolies?

41 Buck's mate

42 — Paulo, Brazil

43 Mentalist Geller

45 Peak

48 Reddish hair dye

50 Cambridge sch.

51 "For — a jolly ..."

52 Mimic

54 Agree (to)

56 Vandalism or thievery?

60 Rung

61 Go no further

62 Embarrass

64 Sailors

65 Princes but not princesses

66 Frank —, Al Capone lieutenant

67 Otherwise

68 Gaelic

69 Math subj. with angles
- DOWN**

1 Order between "ready" and "go"

2 "They're following me!" feeling

3 South Pole explorer Roald

4 Melee

5 Unclothed

6 Pronto, on memos

7 Couch

8 Blue eyes or dark hair, e.g.

9 Assist illegally

10 Money-back offer

11 George Eliot's "Silas —"

12 Feeds, as a fire

14 Rise and —

21 Tranquilize

22 Where L.A. and S.F. are

23 Caller of balls and strikes

28 Nasser's dream: Abbr.

29 Make happen

31 Bird more than five feet tall

34 Hard-to-hum

36 QB's scores

37 Bits

38 — Clemente

39 List from 1 to whatever

40 Toasts

44 Cousin — of "The Addams Family"

45 Modest

46 U-Haul truck, e.g.

47 Fragrant compounds

48 Victim of Achilles

49 Egyptian dam

53 Rapper's entourage

55 Edna Ferber novel

57 — dixit

58 Some Saturns

59 Cathedral recess

63 Her's partner

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

PAUSED	ITS	SAT	TRAP
ERNANI	BOWL	GAME	
DELTAS	ONELITER		
ANARCH	SKAT	ANS	
LOCATOR	ARISTAE		
STEPONIT	MIAMI		
ICES	SERIO	SSNS	
MAGIC	TRICKS		
PROMO	SHIELDED		
OPTIMAL	EDMEESE		
SHREDIT	DIGITS		
TOILSOME	INASEC		
ONPATROL	NATTER		
RESPONSE	GLOSSY		

CLERK:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Nobody can do this without a tremendous staff," Coffrin said. "They are the best staff you could imagine, and they have never let me down yet."

Coffrin said deciding to retire was a tough decision, but she looks forward to spending time with her grandson and going to a warmer climate.

The two candidates running for her position are Democrat Keith Taylor and Republican Sue Rennels.

Coffrin said she feels voters are tired of negative campaigning such as bad-mouthing each other, and her advice to the candidates is

to "jump in with both feet and put forth positive qualifications."

Taylor, who was born and raised in Mattoon, said his goal is open and accountable government. He worked for former congressman David Phelps.

Taylor said he is running so he can make Coles County's government the people's government and get them more involved. He said he wants to expand polling places and make voter registration a priority. His goal is to register 500 new voters each year and ensure absentee ballots will be available if needed.

Rennels, of Ashmore, works for state Rep. Chapin Rose and is secretary for the Coles County Republicans.

IMPROVE:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of America campaign after a visit to Charleston's children's advocacy center.

"They have rooms full of cameras so they can record interviews with the children," she said. "So we try to raise money to make those rooms more comfortable for the children..."

In 1947, Kappa Delta established a grant program through Orthopedic Research, awarding three \$20,000 awards annually to recipients who are believed to contribute greatly to the world of Orthopedic Research.

All Kappa Delta chapters in the nation combine to donate

\$25,000 a year directly to the hospital. Kappa Delta also funds money for the Orthopedic Research Awards.

"We give a part of our dues," Dolan said. "That part of the medical field is sort of ignored."

The sorority gives three \$20,000 grants through the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons. The grants are then given to the orthopedic research that has the highest recognition of excellence.

"It's kind of like the Academy Awards of orthopedics," Dolan said.

Kappa Delta has three separate organizations they work closely with, while many Greek organizations have only one.

University Board Week Events

Mainstage

Javier Mendoza
Co-sponsored w/ LASO
Tuesday, March 21st
7pm
7th St. Underground

Open Mic Night
Thursday, March 23rd
8pm
7th St. Underground

Lectures

EIU Uncovered:
Dr. Alan Baharlou
"How did God create life?"
Thursday, March 23rd
8pm in University Ballroom

Movies

Get Rich or Die Tryin'
Saturday, March 25th
5pm & 8pm
Buzzard Auditorium

Pick up an application today to be Concerts Elect Coordinator in the Student Activities Center

What happened to all of the business???

AdZilla says
"Place an ad"

581-2816

tonight at
the paw

brew & view
you pick the movie!
voting at 9:30
movie on big screen at 9:45
free popcorn!

\$1 drafts \$6 zoo pitchers



SPORTS

MONDAY, MARCH 20, 2006

PANTHER SPORTS CALENDAR

TODAY	W-TENNIS AT SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	3 p.m.
TUESDAY	BASEBALL VS. BLACKBURN	2 p.m.
WEDNESDAY	BASEBALL AT NORTHERN ILLINOIS	2 p.m.
	SOFTBALL AT INDIANA STATE (2)	1 p.m.
	M-TENNIS AT INDIANA STATE	3 p.m.

Eastern Illinois University, Charleston

SOFTBALL

Panthers surging as OVC play begins

Eastern tops last season's win total with two weekend wins

By MATT DANIELS
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

Seventeen wins and counting. After winning two-of-three games this weekend in Martin, Tenn., Eastern has already surpassed the 15 wins the team had last year. And most important to head coach Kim Schuette, the Panthers won two of their first three Ohio Valley Conference games this past weekend.

"They're having fun and we're going after the things that we need to be doing," Schuette said.

The fun has translated into winning, something not seen in recent years for the Panthers.

"This has been the most consistent success we've had since I've been here," said senior outfielder Cassandra North.

The Panthers (17-9-1, 2-1 OVC) split a doubleheader Saturday against the Skyhawks before earning Sunday's 4-0 win.

Kathleen Jacoby picked up her 11th win of the season Sunday, pitching a complete game shutout, and surrendering only two hits. The win was the freshman's seventh straight.

"She did a nice job of moving the ball," Schuette said.

Jacoby deflected praise for her accomplishments to her teammates, saying solid defense behind her and consistent run support are the reasons she has racked up so many wins.

"She always seems to get the first strike on a batter and that makes it easier on the defense," said North about Jacoby's pitching success.



ERIC HILTNER/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Freshman pitcher Kathleen Jacoby (left) and sophomore pitcher Karyn Mackie warm up during a March 7 practice at Williams Field. Jacoby earned her 11th win as she pitched a two-hit shutout in the Panthers' 4-0 win at Tennessee-Martin Sunday. The Panthers took two-of-three from the Skyhawks.

But Jacoby's win would not have been possible if not for a key swing from North.

North hit a two-run home run that barely cleared the right field fence with two outs in the fourth inning to break a scoreless tie and give the Panthers a two-run lead.

It was the senior's first home run of the season and second of her career.

"I was just trying not to let the momentum stop," said North, who originally thought she popped up to end the inning.

North delivered again in the sixth inning with a double that drove in

junior Chelsea Adams and gave Eastern a 3-0 lead.

The Panthers added another run in the sixth inning when a single by freshman Angela Danca drove in Rachel Karos. Jacoby did the rest, allowing one hit in the sixth and retiring the Skyhawks in order in the seventh.

Before traveling to Martin, Eastern enjoyed a strong spring break trip to Kissimmee, Fla.

The Panthers finished the Rebel Games with a 7-1 record after dropping their first game 2-0 to Sacred Heart.

Over the remaining seven games, Eastern allowed only eight runs while scoring 24.

The Panthers received solid pitching as they recorded four shutouts in the eight games.

Freshman Jacoby picked up four wins in the Sunshine state and also recorded her first career save in the 2-1 win against Lafayette.

Jacoby said that seeing different styles of play and different teams in Florida helped the Panthers.

"Florida was definitely a good warm up for our confidence," she said.

BASEBALL

Throwing error leads to dramatic Eastern win

Panthers win six-of-eight at Florida All-Star Challenge

By MARCO SANTANA
SPORTS EDITOR

Junior outfielder Mark Chagnon led off the ninth inning of a tie game with Vermont by getting second hit against.

He would go on to score the winning run without another Panther hit and Eastern beat the Catamounts 2-1 Saturday to finish their spring break trip in Bradenton, Fla., 6-2.

Vermont pitcher Jeremiah Bayer committed a balk and was charged with a throwing error on outfielder Pete Stone's sacrifice bunt that allowed Chagnon to score.

The Panthers received big contributions from three underclassmen on the mound.

Sophomore Mike Manns allowed one run in five innings and sophomore Alex Guttosch and freshman Jake Wade finished the game with Guttosch picking up his first save of the season.

"We're not just relying on one," head coach Jim Schmitz said. "If one guy's not on, that's okay."

Wade lowered his earned run average to 2.03 as he finished the trip with 8 1/3 scoreless innings pitched.

"He's going to get the ball in the middle innings," head coach Jim Schmitz said.

The Catamounts took a 1-0 lead in the fourth inning on a sacrifice fly by Jeff Heppner.

The Panthers responded in the bottom of the sixth inning with another run that was aided by a Vermont balk.

Starting pitcher Joe Serafin's balk moved freshman Jordan Kreke to second base and he scored on Brett Nommensen's single.

The two runs scored Saturday was the Panthers' lowest output of the trip. They averaged eight runs a game in the seven games before the Vermont match up.

Junior Ryan Campbell, who had his 21-game hitting streak snapped in Eastern's first game of the trip

against IPFW, moved behind the plate to start the trip.

Kreke replaced Campbell at third base as Schmitz made a move that helped out Eastern's pitching staff. Before the move, Eastern hadn't thrown out an opposing base runner in 18 stolen base attempts. Joe Hernandez, Jason Cobb and Chris Thompson had all shared time at catcher.

"We're an unbelievable team with (Campbell) behind the plate," Schmitz said.

Campbell had never caught at Eastern before the March 11 game.

Eastern is scheduled to open its home schedule Tuesday against Blackburn College.



OFF THE BENCH

MARCO SANTANA
SPORTS EDITOR

Madness ritual returns

It's amazing how every March, the biggest of sports fans begin to question their intelligence.

March Madness has more than one meaning.

Filling out tournament brackets is an annual ritual that never changes.

When the first draft of brackets are filled in, a historic occasion is predicted as for the first time since the NCAA tournament expanded from 53 to 64 teams in 1985, the Elite 8 will consist of all No. 1 and No. 2 seeds.

The rethinking process starts with the thought that your brackets can't be the only ones in the country that predict four No. 1 seeds in the Final 4.

A quick revision produces No. 2 upsets and you feel a little better about your brackets.

But there is no fun in having all No. 1 and No. 2 seeds advancing to the Elite 8.

So the first draft gets ripped apart and it is on to the second draft.

The second draft of the brackets ends up with three No. 12 seeds advancing past the first round. History has shown that a No. 12 has pulled off upsets so you want to make it seem as if you know what you're talking about.

A few will even go out on a limb and pick a No. 14 like, say, Northwestern State, to defeat a No. 3 seed, like Iowa perhaps.

If you are right, you're a genius. If you're wrong, well, you had a hunch and it didn't work out.

So with your brackets full of double-digit winners, the next step is to sit in front of a television and, well, watch.

All of the hours and weeks and months spent preparing for the NCAA tournament fly out the window when Northwestern State, George Mason and Bradley move on and Iowa, North Carolina and Kansas are sent home.

Suddenly, the months that are spent on preparing for the NCAA tournament—meaning, of course, sitting around and watching television with a beverage—are proven useless in the first four days of the tournament when only eight of your teams are even left standing.

But there are always next year's brackets. Maybe that will be the year that all the higher seeds win in the first two rounds.

Marco Santana is a sophomore journalism major. Email him at masantana@eiu.edu.