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the DAILY EASTERN NEWS

MONDAY
2.12.07

Eastern Illinois University, Charleston

Volume | 93 Issue | 25

CAMPUS | OBAMA'S PRESIDENTIAL ANNOUNCEMENT



ZIA NIZAMI | BELLEVILLE NEWS-DEMOCRAT | MCT DIRECT

U.S. Senator Barack Obama, D-Ill., speaks Saturday to a crowd of an estimated 15,000 to 17,000 people in front of the Old State Capitol in Springfield. During his speech, Obama officially announced his intent to run for president in 2008.

'EXPLOSIVE' SPEECH AWES STUDENTS

College Democrats react to presidential announcement address

By Kevin Murphy
Associate Sports Editor

U.S. Senator Barack Obama, D-Ill., announced Saturday he will seek the Democratic nomination

for president in 2008.

"And that is why, in the shadow of the Old State Capitol, where Lincoln once called on a divided house to stand together, where common hopes and common dreams still live, I stand before you today to announce my candidacy for president of the United States of America," Obama said.

Police estimated the crowd

outside of the capital building to be between 15,000 and 17,000, the Associated Press reported.

"We were packed in like sardines in a can," said senior Travis Bounds, president of the College Democrats at Eastern. "It shows the devotion they had."

"The cold didn't matter," said Kerry Krutsinger, treasurer of the College Democrats. "(Obama) was

explosive."

"By the end of the speech, I couldn't feel my feet," said freshman Pat Lindstrom.

Lindstrom, a history major with a teacher's certification major, said he was still having fun.

Bounds said Obama has a personality like John F. Kennedy.

» SEE SPEECH, PAGE 6

CAMPUS | READING PROGRAM

Booth hosts story times

By Cory Dimitrakopoulos
Staff Reporter

Upcoming books relate to Farm Life exhibit

Nancy Marlow spent her Saturday morning reading books with her granddaughter Mahala. Marlow, a marketing professor, brought her granddaughter to Booth Library for story time.

A weekly story-time session runs at 10 a.m. every Saturday in the Ballenger Teacher's Center of Booth Library.

Children, usually ranging in ages 3 to 6, and their parents come and listen to children's books read aloud.

"It's so important that children be read to," said Ann Brownson, reference librarian and coordinator of the Ballenger Teacher's Center. "Children who have access to books are so much more likely to succeed," she said.

At each story time, Brownson, who has been hosting these since 2002, gets through five to seven books.

Brownson said she chooses the books randomly. Out of the 40,000 children's books available in the Ballenger Teacher's Center, she said she tries to choose books that will keep the children most interested.

"I stroll the aisles and pick the books that look good to me," Brownson said.

Books such as "If You Give a Mouse a Cookie," "Farmer Duck" and "The Moon" are examples of the types of books read to the children.

» SEE BOOTH, PAGE 6

Refugee gives inside look at his struggle

Lost Boy discusses fleeing Sudan and the transition to living in America

By Stephen Di Benedetto
Senior Activities Reporter

During the reception of the showing of "The Lost Boys of Sudan," Mabouc Mabouc drank a glass of water while greeting people who viewed the documentary.

For Mabouc, that glass of water symbolizes his struggle and unique life story.

"Water was the most important thing because you would get dry real fast and the sun was shining," Mabouc said. "And you just wanted water, but there was no where to get water."

Mabouc, at the age of 4, had to venture

on foot from South Sudan to Ethiopia and then finally settled in with a refugee camp in Kenya.

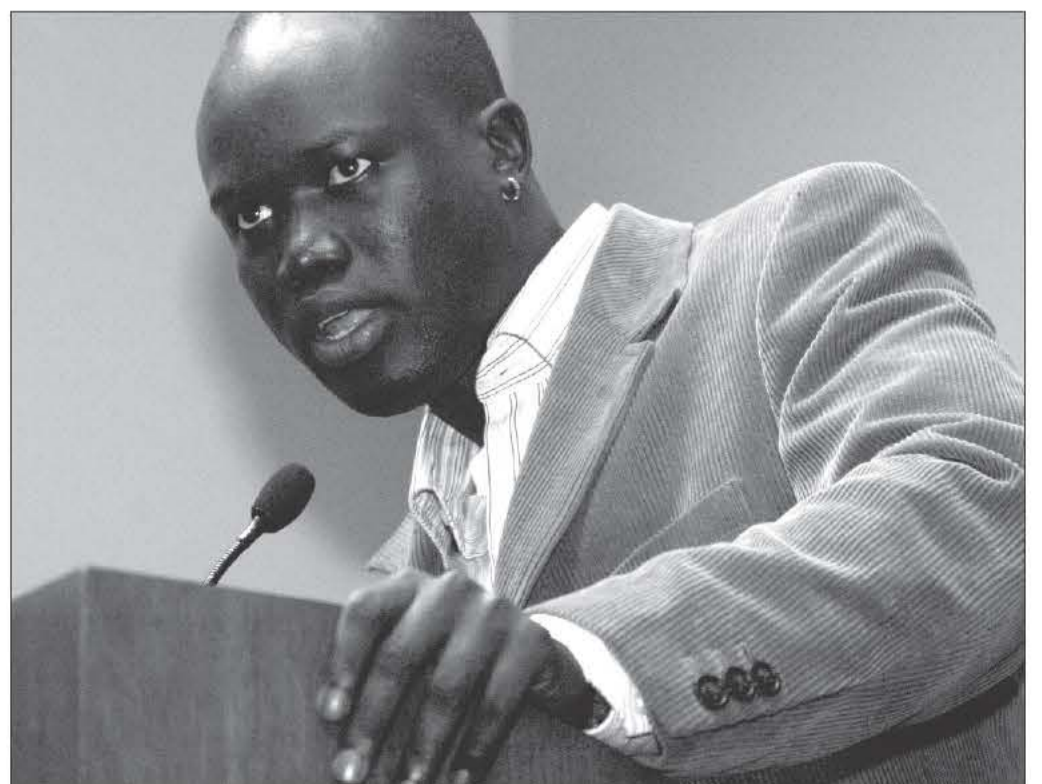
Mabouc, now 26, was forced to flee his hometown of Kongor, Sudan, because of a civil war, which is ongoing today.

The mostly Arab North Sudan has been attacking South Sudan, which is mostly African, since the 1980s.

"They came into the village with tanks and armed vehicles, and they would just set homes on fire," Mabouc said. "People just fled into different directions. You would try to hide and you would end up separated from your family."

After fleeing, Mabouc realized that he could not find his family. He decided to follow a group, not knowing where he was going.

» SEE REFUGEE, PAGE 6



JOHN BAILEY | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Mabouc Mabouc, a Lost Boy of Sudan, speaks Friday about his travels escaping his war-torn country in Northeast Africa in Lumpkin Auditorium.

CAMPUS | PROJECTS

Panther statue scrapped

Student Government returns pennies to students

By Matt Hopf

Student Government Reporter

The hopes of students purchasing a panther statue to place on campus have been officially scratched.

The Panther Penny Project was originally intended to raise one million pennies, or \$10,000, to purchase a statue.

According to Adam Martinelli, chair of the Student Senate Student Relations committee, the project was on the backburner.

"It's not really the direction we are looking to go this semester," Martinelli said.

Last semester, approximately \$10 worth of pennies was collected before the project was scheduled to start.

Originally, Martinelli suggested that the pennies be donated to a charity because he wasn't sure if they could be given back.

The pennies that were collected will be going back to the people who donated them, said Jeff Lange, student senate speaker.

People who donated pennies

JEFF LANGE | SENATE SPEAKER

"I feel that it was probably not as well researched as it could have been."

were placed on a list, and a few of them have already picked up their pennies, Lange said.

"I don't think we could give them to another organization, since they were originally supposed to go towards the penny project," he said. "If we scrap it, I think they should go back to the people who donated them and those people can decide where they want to go with them."

While the money is going back, some students didn't think it needed to.

"I don't think they should," said Matt Lafond, a physical education graduate student. "They donate them on their own free will."

Gerontology graduate student Crystal Deisher said it was silly to give back pennies.

"I would just keep them and donate them to another charity," she said.

When Lange met with the Student Senate committee chairs he told them that he expected them to have 10 to 15 ideas, but only to

focus on a couple.

"I told them to take two or three projects and make them great instead of taking 10 projects and making them mediocre," Lange said.

If the couple of projects are finished, then a couple more can be started, he said. Lange did not consider the Panther Penny Project a mediocre effort.

"I feel that it was possibly not as well researched as it could have been," he said. "Had more research gone into it, I think that it would have been more successful."

The Student Relations committee is going to continue working on increasing school spirit with Spirit Thursdays, Martinelli said.

Increasing accessibility to Registered Student Organizations for incoming students is another project for the committee.

Updating the RSO listings and descriptions online is one of the ideas that the committee is considering.

CAMPUS | ACTIVITIES



JOHN BAILEY | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Erica Jones (left), a sophomore family and consumer science major, dances the night away with Ashlry Hoogstraten, a freshman psychology major Saturday night at the Resident Hall Association's 'Black and White Ball' in the basement of Andrews Hall.

Ball receives good reviews

By Katey Mitchell
RHA Reporter

The Residence Hall Association Winter Olympics ended Saturday night with music and dancing at the Black and White Ball.

RHA ended its four-day event with a dance in the basement of Andrews Hall. About 30 residents attended the event, earning points for their halls.

Girls outnumbered guys, but that did not stop everyone from trying to have a good time.

Michael Baird, a sophomore political science major from Thomas Hall, came to the ball without knowing anyone there.

"I came here to meet people and have fun," said Baird. "(The dance) was a little busier than I thought but really I was expecting a lot more people."

Baird also attended the RHA and University Board-sponsored Up All Nite event Friday, an event that also counted for Winter Olympics points. Although he liked the concept of a dance for the end of Winter Olympics, he had more fun at Up All Nite because more people were in attendance.

Rebekah Bruer, a senior elementary education major from Andrews Hall, enjoys RHA-sponsored activities.

"I always like when RHA puts on events for residents and different things for everyone on campus," Bruer said. "I'm having a good time meeting everyone else and having a good time having fun on campus."

RHA also holds a dance after Roc Fest, a week-long event held in the fall. More people attended Roc Fest than the Black and White Ball.

RHA President Carrie Mueller said the group expected a low turnout since it was the first year for the event, whereas it was the second year for Roc Fest.

"Roc Fest is known because everyone heard about it from the previous year," she said. "Winter Olympics does not have the reputation yet so not a lot of people know about it."

Despite low turnout, many RHA members were pleased with the result of the event.

"I think the event went decent," said Eric Dusanek, programming and diversity coordinator for RHA. "It could have been better, but with any new program, it needs its kinks worked out. I hope the programming and diversity coordinator takes (the event) to heart and looks at the pros and cons of what worked and what did not and builds on that."

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

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Full house at hall casino night

UB and RHA go all-in for on-campus events

By Beth Hackett
Activities Reporter

The lobbies and dining center of Thomas and Andrews halls were transformed into a Las Vegas Casino on Friday night.

Red and black clusters of balloons, giant playing cards and authentic green felt tabletops gave the Thomas Hall lobby a genuine Vegas feel.

Eric Dusanek, a sophomore family and consumer sciences major, said the event was held in the resident's halls to accommodate and attract more people as well as to attempt to steer people away from parties.

"The manager who is running all the poker tables has run the tables at many other schools and said he's usually shorthanded, but not tonight. We have had the largest turnout of volunteers of any other school," Dusanek said.

Games and activities for the evening included Black Jack, Craps, Texas Holdem, slot machines, impromptu wedding photos, make your own music video, a chocolate fountain and a performance by the EIU Blue Man Group.

Mandy Wisner, a senior art education major, had just finished playing some slot machines and said she hadn't won anything.



JOHN BAILLEY | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Local magician, Andrew "The Illusionist" Anderson performs magic acts during the second installation of the University Board's "Up All Nigh," Friday night in the Thomas Hall dining center.

Wiser said it was a beneficial and fun event and would definitely attend again.

"I'm a transfer student so this is a fun way to meet new people," she said. "If I was at home right now I would be doing homework or nothing at all."

Jarrold Scherle, RHA secretary, was working a poker table all night in Thomas Hall Lobby. He thought the event was an interesting alternative to drinking and the

turnout was a good one.

"It's a Friday night. I'm not a drinker, not a smoker, and I thought it would be a great time," said Brian Kuechle, a sophomore exercise science major. "It's good clean fun."

He said if he had not attended he'd probably just be laying around.

Near the end of the evening two different raffles were called, each awarding prizes that students were

eying the entire night.

Among the prizes were DVDs, an iTone docking station, a Samsung digital camera, a 20-inch LCD television, Nintendo DS Lite, and in honor of the evening's theme, a poker set.

Kuechle said he would encourage other students to attend.

"Eastern really does a good job of putting on activities, and I always have a good time," Kuechle said.

Blue Man Group rebounds after glitch



ROBBIE WROBLEWSKI | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Music major Christopher Lexow practices at McAfee for the EIU Blue Man Group performance Friday night at 7 p.m.

Members throw marshmallows and do the 'chicken dance'

By Robbie Wroblewski
Staff Reporter

A single blue man appeared on stage.

As the silent audience watched, the man played an awkward percussion instrument.

After a subtle introduction into the performance, the show began.

Eastern's Blue Man Group mixed crowd participation with its own skits at McAfee Gymnasium on Friday.

Teal Copes, a sophomore marketing major, said the show was great.

"I like how they came down into the audience. That was really cool," Copes said. "But definitely all the random stuff they did with

the music."

Music was not the only random part of the show. At one point, the blue men threw marshmallows at each other then gathered offstage and threw some into the crowd.

A couple of the audience members were taken up on stage and helped the Blue Man Group carry out the "chicken dance."

Production Manager Christopher Lexow said the show could have gone a lot smoother, but the group recovered well after a few minor glitches.

At one point in the show, one of the blue men broke his paddles that are used on a huge percussion instrument made out of pipes and tubing.

"There is always something that goes wrong that you do not expect to go wrong," said Ryan Stack, a freshman music education major and one of the blue men. "But you recover from it."

Gravitation showcase for musical variety

Milikin music faculty from the all over the world perform in 'Elements' concert

By Steven Teeters
Staff Reporter

A quartet ensemble of voices from Milikin University joined as one to produce a variety of middle-age madrigal-like music last Sunday at the Tarble Arts Center.

Gravitation, a faculty vocal group from Millikin University preformed their vocal show

"Elements," which aimed to bring together different elements of the human spirit and how they are reflected in early music.

The music performed originated from the 12th to the 17th centuries.

Starting with medieval and working towards Renaissance, Gravitation displayed their tone, harmony and melody in the unique a cappella singing.

Each of the songs preformed reflected a certain period of time and showed what kind of importance was put on music at that time.

"We're not focused on the evolution of music or the

refinement of music, but how each song represents it's own style," said Gravitation tenor Daniel Carberg.

The aim of Gravitation's program elements was to bring together some of the most important aspects of humanity found in early music.

This includes the struggles of science, nature, quest for heavenly inspiration and sacred or spiritual fulfillment.

Gravitation is comprised of four vocalists who, with the exception of Haute-Contre Pablo Cora, are part of the Millikin University faculty.

The name "Gravitation" comes from their gravitation to each other in the name of early music vocals.

Each of the four vocalists come from different corners of the world: Mathew Leese, a baritone, was born in New Zealand; Tenor Dan Carberg is from the United States; Haute-Contre Pablo Cora is from Argentina, and Sherezade Panthaki, a soprano, was born in India.

Their mutual interest in early music brought them together, and so the vocal group Gravitation was formed.

As part of Millikin University, Gravitation also aims to further students, as well as any individual's interest, in vocal music—specifically the genre of early music.

CAMPUS

MONDAY
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campusbriefs

Booth lecture covers farmers, property and independence

» Booth Library will host a lecture titled "How the Farm Family Experience Defines Agriculture."

The talk will center on Thomas Jefferson's concept of agrarianism: the thought that farmers who controlled their own property, controlled their independence. Those who did not were mere wage laborers.

Debra Reid, a professor of history, will lead the presentation.

The lecture will be held at 4 p.m. today in Room 4440.

Credit and identity theft discussion at Coleman

» Health Service will present a discussion of identity theft at 7 tonight in the Coleman Auditorium.

Marissa Smith, financial health coordinator, will speak at "Charged and Ready: Understanding Credit and Identity Theft."

The discussion is a part of Eastern's celebration of African-American Heritage Month.

—Compiled by Marco Santana,
Campus Editor

Music department falls in 'love' Sunday afternoon

» The Eastern Illinois University concert choir and mixed chorus performed at Wesley United Methodist Church was Sunday afternoon for "Songs of Love."

The Concert Choir performed "O Mistress Mine" by Michael Larkin, accompanied by Sonny Pickowitz on piano.

Julia Jamieson was the featured harpist for "Romance Without Words" by Felix Godefroid.

—Neil Schneider
Staff Reporter

policereport

» Theft — On Feb. 2 referred to the Judicial Affairs Office.

» Theft — On Feb. 3 it was reported that a wallet containing several sources of identification was stolen while left unattended in the hallway outside the racquet ball courts in Lantz Arena.

» Driving Under the Influence — On Feb. 4 Latrice Smith, 20, of Carol Stream, IL, was arrested at 5:12 a.m. on Greek Court Road on the charge of driving under the influence.

» Disorderly Conduct — On Feb. 6 referred to appropriate agency.

» Harassment by Telephone — On Feb. 7 it was reported that an Eastern student received a harassing phone call possibly from an acquaintance.

COMMENTS | CORRECTIONS | EVENTS

To report any errors, local events or general suggestions for future editions please contact our news editor, **Cathy Bayer**, via:

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VIEWS

MONDAY
2.12.07

COLUMNIST | ERIC HILTNER

Pull the racist ad

Political correctness has gone way too far this time. And I can't take it anymore, so as the old saying goes, "if you can't beat them, join them."

The Human Rights Campaign and the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation have condemned the Snickers Super Bowl advertisement about two male mechanics that ends up kissing after sharing a Snickers candy bar.

After the unexpected kiss, the two men jump apart and "do something manly" by ripping out chest hair.

To some, that scene is humorous; to others, it is offensive.

I'll tell you what I find offensive, Budweiser's commercial featuring the white dog.

It starts off with the dog looking into a deli shop, licking his chops, just to get shooed away. Then the dog gets harassed by some mean dogs. After that, he sees a Dalmatian sitting atop the Budweiser draft cart having confetti thrown at him in sort of a parade.

The poor, jealous dog then gets splashed with some muddy water by a passing car. After a short walk, he sees in a mirror that he now looks similar to the Dalmatian, and the commercial ends with the dog sharing the bench of the draft cart with the Dalmatian and winking at him.

Sounds real cute right?

Not to me.

That commercial says to me that I have to change my skin color, or at least my outer appearance, to get what I want or need in life or at least a little attention.

That was the most racist commercial I have ever seen. I am deeply offended. I want that commercial pulled from the airwaves indefinitely.

Actually, I could care less.

It takes a lot to offend me. I could care less about being politically correct.

I think that being politically correct is a crutch that people lean on too much.

Grow a thicker skin, then build a bridge and get over it.

Will Budweiser pull the ad?

I doubt it.

I mean, come on, who really hates commercials with happy endings featuring cute animals?

Maybe if Snickers had decided to use two male dogs who share a "Lady & the Tramp"-esque moment, and had them go off and hump some bitches, the ad would still be running.



Eric Hiltner

Eric Hiltner is a sophomore journalism major. He can be reached at ejhiltner@eiu.edu.

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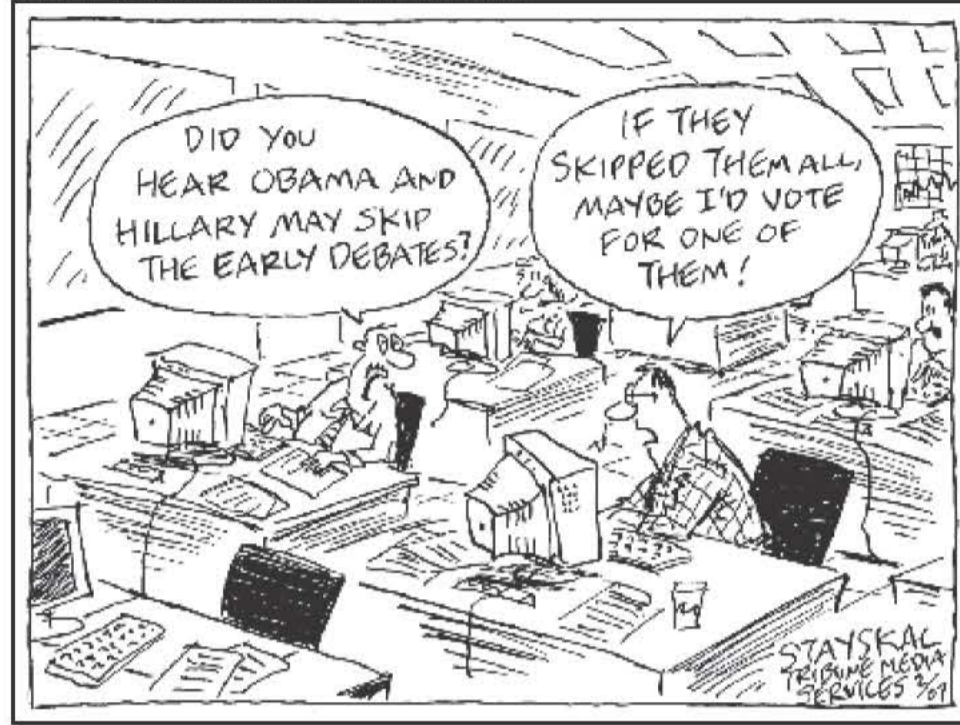
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DRAWN FROM THE NEWS | WAYNE STAYSKAL



ourview

Buy a *real* Prowler

Last semester, Student Government came up with the fantastic idea of collecting 1 million pennies. They planned on buying a statue of a panther and placing it near the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

This plan, like so many other Student Government plans, has been put on the back burner, and that disappoints us at *The Daily Eastern News*.

Despite our disappointment, we can see the problems with the plan to collect 1 million pennies. Mainly, the fact that 1 million pennies weigh 3.2 tons. How did they plan on moving 3.2 tons of pennies? A dump truck? A semi? Or were they going to go to the bank in shifts? Since Student Government finds it difficult to work together, we doubt that was the option it would pick.

Also, we're not sure there is a place to store 1 million pennies at one time.

Can banks in Charleston even change out 1 million pennies? Did anyone check? Charleston National Bank said that they could change out 1 million pennies, but it would take forever. We doubt Student Government has forever. That could be why the plan fell apart.

Another reason might be because, after all of its hard work, the Student Government only raised roughly 1,000 of the 1 million pennies it aimed for. That's \$10 worth of pennies - \$9,990 short of its goal.

Because of our disappointment, we at *The DEN* have come up with a new plan.

We would like Student Government to collect money from the student body.

This can be pennies, nickels or dimes. We could even accept quarters or dollars for this new project.

We want the Student Government to make a purchase that will raise school spirit.

We want a panther.

A real one.

We think Prowler is actually a black jaguar, a type of panther. That being said, we want Student Government to buy the student body a black jaguar.

This new addition to the Eastern family will benefit the entire student body.

He should debut at Pantherpalozza. It is his namesake after all and his presence would make the event more true to its name.

At Pantherpalozza, the new class of freshmen will run from the panther. Sort of like the running of the bulls. This may seem cruel, but it can be Eastern's own form of population control.

Then comes basketball season.

The panther can attend games.

It will be way more intimidating than Prowler and will enable the athletic department to get rid of that annoying fake panther growl that is blared from the loud speakers during games.

In addition to making the opposing team quake in their Nikes, the new panther can serve as motivation for Eastern players and coaches. Whoever performs badly gets fed to the panther. Look what happened to Rick Samuels. Please, he wasn't fired. He got disposed of by the panther.

We did the research. Purchasing a black jaguar will be costly. It will cost roughly \$5,000 if bought legally. But this is still half the price of the statue Student Government first proposed.

Student Government will need to make sure it buys the panther from a reputable dealer. In Illinois, "dangerous animals" require a permit approved by the director of natural resources. Permits are usually only issued for licensed exhibitions, zoos, research or animal refuges. We aren't sure which Eastern would fall into, but the Student Government is full of fast talkers, who are good at getting around red tape, so we have full confidence that getting a permit would be achievable.

Or Student Government could just avoid the red tape all together and take a trip to capture one in the wild. The jaguar presently can be found in Mexico, Central America and some have even been spotted in the southwest United States. Just imagine, Student Body President Sean Anderson wearing a safari hat and hunting a panther. For spring break, we propose a trip to one of these locales.

The Student Senate should note that a real panther would be costly. Vet bills, cages, signs telling students not to stick their fingers in the cage, a mini van to transport the new Prowler and food will cost Eastern a pretty penny. But we ask Student Government to look at the benefits, not the price tag, and get behind the "Purchase a Panther Project" in order to increase school spirit. They can launch it this Thursday for Spirit Thursday because we know how full of school spirit all Eastern students are.

Yes, talk of buying a real panther is laughable. This entire editorial was a joke, but then again, so is Eastern's Student Government.

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

Reach the opinions editor at DENopinions@gmail.com.

COLUMNIST | JOE WALTASTI

More war may loom

Based on all the evidence it looks like an American invasion of Iran is inevitable.

This week, Army officials discovered Iran has been supplying Iraqi militants with Explosively Formed Penetrators, or EFPs. These EFPs, which are designed to punch holes in armored vehicles, are being used extensively in attacks on American military convoys and patrols.

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad also announced this week that he will not suspend his country's nuclear program. At this point, the Middle Eastern country is simply attempting to produce fuel, but creating weapons is only one more step up the nuclear ladder. These are just two more excuses President Bush can use to justify an invasion of Iran.

Clearly Iran is becoming a threat, but oil is still the greatest motivator for the current administration.

In 2004, Halliburton lost almost \$1 billion dollars, but in 2005, with the company earning full rights to control the Iraqi oil supplies through a no-bid contract, Halliburton profits exceeded \$2 billion. The corruption and unethical decision making in the Bush administration is unbelievable. There is no motivation for President Bush to withdraw American troops when people in his administration - Vice President Cheney was the former CEO of Halliburton - are making so much money by occupying Iraq.

The same reasons that are keeping troops in Iraq - money and oil - are also the reason President Bush could push for a campaign in Iran. Rumors started early in the Iraq war that President Bush had always planned on attacking Iran as well. So far, thankfully, those fears have proved to be untrue. The reason so many Middle Eastern countries despise Americans is our historical involvement in the region. In one decade we helped Iraq fight Iran, in the next decade we helped Kuwait defend itself from Iraq and a decade later we are invading Iraq and possibly Iran.

With 40 percent of Iranians below the poverty line and a 16.3 unemployment rate, the country is suffering economically despite surging oil prices. Petroleum counts for 85 percent of Iran's exports and, make no mistake, black gold is behind every move of President Bush - who served on the board of an oil company, Harken Energy, which is battling against Costa Ricans to set up off-shore drilling near the country - makes in the region.

The United States is the second largest producer of petroleum, but its need is more than twice as great.

To prevent future involvement in the Middle East, the United States needs to develop alternative fuel sources.

An ethanol plant could be coming to Charleston, and the product, derived from corn, is an excellent fuel source for a nation with tremendous food production. That is only the beginning of what could wean the nation entirely off the petroleum teat. There is a lot of money to be made in oil, and currently our government is too tied to the substance to realistically promote alternative fuels with true desire.

But the only way to prevent future involvement in the Middle East is to eliminate the need to acquire its biggest asset; otherwise Iran won't be the last step in the United States' crusade for petroleum.



Joe Waltasti

Joe Waltasti is a senior history major. He can be reached at jwal717@yahoo.com.

'Ain't we better than that?'

For me oppression is not just a museum. It's the suffering and the blood of my family in Bulgaria. My grandfather was a participant in the first anti-fascist uprising in Europe in 1923 and a leader of an underground guerilla unit fighting the Nazi oppression in the early 1940s. As a result, for 20 years my family members were imprisoned, tortured, raped, and killed by the Nazis – or in Don Smith's terminology – by the Europe's "best." Ain't I a white European?

Oppression might result in persecution and violence but most often it starts with ignorance. One of the first acts of the Nazis in Europe was the burning of more than 20,000 volumes of "un-German" books such as the works by Ernest

Hemingway, Freud and Einstein. Nazi Propaganda Minister Joseph Goebbels urged the students by saying, "The future German man will not just be a man of books, but a man of character. It is to this end that we want to educate you." Nowadays on Babelplatz in Berlin there is a monument commemorating this act of Nazi education. It's built as a glass floor in the middle of the square looking toward a huge underground room with empty shelves. Education doesn't go very well with white male supremacy; propaganda does. It is just empty shelves.

First they burned the books. Then they persecuted the teachers. Alongside Jewish professors, the Nazis fired women faculty. It was

"un-German" to be taught by women in the Nazi universities. Then they burned people... Ain't I a woman teacher?

Students at EIU are smart and I am sure that they know what they want. Are you willing to pay for the Don Smith's type of education of burning books and persecuting people? Or, are you going to put oppression where it belongs – in a museum? Your minority, female and other classmates and professors from diverse backgrounds are not violent; prejudice is. Ain't we better than that?

Penka Skachkova | Coordinator of Women's Studies

Stop discriminating

I am not a racist person. I do not believe in separation of people due to their race. I believe that their actions and accomplishments of their lives should define them as a person. I am a mix of many different cultures and races. For instance, I'm Native American – enough so that I could be recognized as such if I so desired. I could get money through scholarships if I were recognized as Native American, but I don't believe in being separated because of things such as race and past indiscretions against my family by other races.

I have been subjected to being called "cracker" and other such white racial slang by black people. I thought it unfair and was angered at being referred to in such a manner. The word "cracker" used in that sense does not mean a crunchy, breaded snack. No, the word "cracker" means a slave driver as described by black people.

I don't think I should have to be subjected to foolish names like that when my ancestors actually helped black people escape from slavery. The "Black Cherokee" Indians were results of Indian tribes who helped black escapees. I understand the wounds of the past, but you can't constantly look at another race and say "You hurt my family a long time ago." I don't say that, even though many of my ancestors were slaughtered and their land stolen.

Despite the bloody, brutal past, I am proud of who I am now. I say this to all people of all races: Be proud of who you are. Do not constantly reflect on what happened in the past, for it will only cause

you to discriminate against others.

Granted, we cannot repeat the mistakes of the past, but, for God's sake, please don't make other people insecure and ashamed to be who they are. Overcome all of the things that are put in your way and stand against you. Lay aside your differences in appearance and social class and work together for a better future.

Please, do not dwell on a bloody, painful path, but use what you've learned, escape that pressure in being different, and unite to form a better future for us all. No more race cards, no more racial slang, and no more discrimination, just Unity. If you don't want to be united and equal, then go somewhere else, because America is about those principles: equality and unity. All people, of every race, need to get that through their heads.

Logan Richardson |
Sophomore journalism major

Racism is visible

I am writing in response to Matt Upchurch's letter to the editor in Thursday's edition of *the DEN*. I want to clarify before I get into my argument that I am a white, heterosexual male.

You seem to believe that Mr. Tracy may find proof that white Americans have paper cuts by looking at "the hundreds of white students who do not get into EIU each year due to affirmative action." What you failed to mention was that the vast majority of the white students who may in fact get rejected from EIU each year do in fact get accepted to a number of

other schools. Affirmative action is not a weapon used against whites; it is a system designed to create opportunities for individuals who otherwise would not have them.

I would also like for you to tell me more about these so-called "all-black fraternities," because, to my knowledge, none exist. While these fraternities and sororities were indeed founded by black individuals, by no means were they ever meant to exclude whites. Eastern's chapter of Zeta Phi Beta currently has two white women. The only reason these fraternities and sororities even exist is because the individuals who founded them were excluded from joining the predominantly white fraternities.

White history month actually does exist, however it encompasses more than a month; it is 365 days in length. The history everyone has been taught from grammar school until now has been white history. Why do you think African-American history courses exist? It is not to create a separation; it is simply because it is left out from traditional courses and therefore needs to be addressed in a separate course until that problem is fixed.

The problem is not that non-whites blame and condemn white people for their problems. The problem is that white individuals refuse to understand the effects of the past and the effects of the racism that still stands strong in our society. I would like to suggest that you and others such as Mr. Don G. Smith please think twice in the future about writing ignorant, senseless letters that are backed by no evidence or research whatsoever. If you take the time to understand

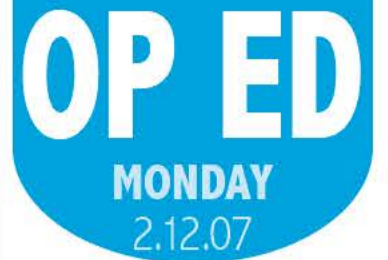
the facts about racism and the effect that it has on our society, I truly believe that you would be able to understand just how truly wrong you and Mr. Smith were.

Kevin Wick | Junior PR major

Affirmative action misinterpreted

This is a response to Matt Upchurch's letter to the editor in the Thursday, Feb. 8 edition of *the DEN*. I see a clear misunderstanding in his interpretation of Affirmative Action. The "hundreds of white students who do not get into EIU each year due to affirmative action," would still be unlikely to get into EIU if it was completely done away with. Affirmative Action does not just affect EIU, it affects all universities and colleges. While some of the black students at EIU may not be up to par with the school's academic standards, and would then much less likely to have been accepted, those spots would not necessarily be filled by white students. There are a sufficient amount of black students who do meet EIU's academic standards. However, because of Affirmative Action, they are taken in by more prestigious universities whose standards they may not meet. With the removal of Affirmative Action, these students would then be much more likely to end up at a university whose academic standards they do meet, like EIU. Sure, spots would be freed up by black students, but more black students would fill those spots as well.

Dan Hauswald | Freshman art major



Transfers need to voice concerns

As a transfer student and an intern in the Transfer Relations Office, I would like to ask all new and continuing students who have transfer credit, what they are looking for.

Transfer students still have time; time to join groups, time to get involved and time to meet new and interesting people. They also start out their academic career at Eastern with experience from another institution and a myriad of lessons they have already learned. However, they need to take a more proactive role in their college career. Transfers need to use the time they do have at Eastern to its full extent.

There are several informational resources available such as Daily Eastern News, Charleston Times-Courier, Facebook, SPIN and the EIU Web site in general. There are also places on campus designed just to help students connect.

There are 168 Registered Student Organizations on campus, many of which have their own Web sites with meeting times listed.

Also, guides containing contact information and resources for campus are provided at the student bowling night. This event is meant for transfer students to bowl, find out about on-campus resources and give their feedback to the transfer relations staff. However, we need students to attend the event or send us emails with feedback, so we can assist them. I have seen first hand how hard the people in the Transfer Relations work. Their primary concern is always the students.

I think the editorial said it all when it said, "the majority of the responsibility always lies with the individual when it comes to getting involved with social and academic activities." If students do not come out for events, and if students do not give feedback for future events, then the university can only do so much.

Dana Wyant | Transfer Relations Office

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PAN'S LABYRINTH (R) 4:20 7:00 9:50 FRI
 — SUN MAT 10:30 1:20
BECAUSE I SAID SO (PG 13) 4:50 7:20 9:45
 FRI — SUN MAT 10:45 2:10
THE MESSENGERS (PG 13) 4:10 6:30 9:00
 FRI — SUN MAT 11:50 2:00
EPIC MOVIE (PG 13) 4:40 7:10 9:20 FRI — SUN
 MAT 11:40 2:20
DREAMGIRLS (PG 13) 4:00 6:50 9:40 FRI
 — SUN MAT 10:20 1:10
SMOKIN ACES (R) 4:30 7:40 10:10 FRI — SUN
 MAT 11:00 1:30
STOMP THE YARD (PG 13) 5:20 8:00 FRI — SUN
 MAT 11:20 2:30
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG) 5:00 7:30 10:00
 FRI — SUN MAT 11:10 1:45

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» Speech

FROM PAGE 1

"He's extremely personable," Bounds said. "He has the personality, charisma and he has a great chance of winning."

Other Eastern students noticed Obama's charisma.

"He's a face we know," Krutsinger said. "You could tell he's a really good speaker."

In his speech, Obama emphasized the generation of "us."

"It must be about us," Obama said. "We've got to take (the government) back."

"The ways of Washington must change."

Obama said that's what this country's citizens should do — unite and free themselves together.

He said the uniting of the nation must not just come from politics.

Bounds said most college students appear to be apathetic about politics. Bounds said this country does affect them.

He said if Obama wins, he could affect the ROTC, health care on campus and funding for education.

Bounds said the Democratic Party is pro education and Obama and Nancy Pelosi have worked together to make higher education funds.

Education is key here because Eastern is considered a teacher's college.

"Obama puts a spark in (people's) eye," Bounds said.

According to 2006 statistics, teacher education majors make more than 25 percent of all majors.

Then future graduates could benefit from Obama's plans for education.

"We'll have to wait and see," Lindstrom said about Obama's plans.

Obama's inexperience could hinder him.

Obama first entered politics in 1997, when he was elected to the Illinois Senate, where he served until 2005. He was sworn in as a U.S. senator in 2005.

Obama, the freshman senator said his lack of experience would not affect his judgment.

Bounds cited JFK and Franklin Delano Roosevelt as those who had little experience.

"(Obama's) a great guy," Bounds said.

"I think we're comfortable as a nation to be accepting of a black president," Krutsinger said.



PETE SOUZA | CHICAGO TRIBUNE | MCT

Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., hugs his youngest daughter, Sasha, before his speech Saturday at the Old State Capitol in Springfield.

OBAMA BREAKDOWN

STANCE ON ISSUES

- » **Death penalty:** supports
- » **Gay marriage:** opposes; supports civil unions instead
- » **Abortion:** supports abortion rights, including late-term procedures critics call "partial-birth abortion"
- » **Parental notification:** opposed Illinois notification law
- » **Iraq War:** supports capping troop levels at 130,000; beginning withdraw May 1
- » **Social Security:** opposes privatization; says systems can be fixed with small adjustments
- » **Prescription drugs:** supports allowing importation from other countries
- » **Minimum wage:** supports raising minimum wage to \$7.25 per hour
- » **Gun control:** would ban assault weapons and concealed carry of firearms except for retired police
- » **Stem cells:** supports federal funding of research with embryonic stem cells
- » **International trade:** opposed Central American Free Trade Agreement; says NAFTA should be renegotiated
- » **Universal health care:** supports

» **Immigration:** supports electronic verification to ensure workers are legal; voted for fence along Mexican border

— Source: The Associated Press

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

- » **Birth date:** Aug. 4, 1961
- » **Education:** Law degree from Harvard University, bachelor's degree in political science from Columbia University
- » **Place in history:** Fifth ever African American senator in U.S.; only African American currently serving in the U.S. Senate; if elected, Obama would be the first biracial president.
- » **Public life:** Resides in Chicago, taught Constitutional law at the University of Chicago, elected to Illinois state senate in 1996; elected to U.S. Senate in 2004.
- » **Personal life:** Married to Michelle Robinson-Obama; has two daughters, Maaila, born in 1999, and Sasha, born in 2001.
- » **Books:** "Dreams from My Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance" (1995) and "The Audacity of Hope: Thoughts on Reclaiming the American Dream" (2006)

— Compiled by Kevin Murphy

» Refugee

FROM PAGE 1

"You just went with the group and where ever there was a camp set up, that's where you would be," Mabouc said.

The Lost Boys, about 20,000 South Sudan refugees who were forced to flee their villages because of violence, inspired the documentary "The Lost Boys of Sudan."

The Lost Boys were given that name because they arrived to Kenya's refugee camp without parents.

The film takes viewers through the life of a half dozen Lost Boys and their transition to America. It looks at the struggles and adjustments they had to make to American culture while trying to find money to support themselves.

"It was really moving for me," said Assege HaileMariam, psychology professor. "To be thrown into a new culture takes a lot of guts."

"The Lost Boys of Sudan," was shown Friday in Lumpkin Auditorium as part of Eastern's African American Heritage Month. Mabouc, a Lost Boy himself, spoke afterward about his experience fleeing from Sudan to America.

Mabouc arrived in New York in August 2001, at the age of 21 through the United State's refugee program.

"There is a lot of difference in terms of family structure," Mabouc said speaking on the differences between the culture's of Sudan and America. "Sudan families are very close together as compared to America."

Mabouc also had to deal with trying to fit in with a new culture.

"The thing that was hard about that was you didn't know how to act because you thought that

something you might do or say will be interrupted wrongly," Mabouc said.

Mabouc said that the program helped for three months by paying for food and rent, but after that he was on his own.

"It could be more helpful, but I can understand because they have a lot of refugees to take care of," Mabouc said. "I knew I had to work on my own anyway, so I didn't waste time trying to find a job and bettering myself."

Mabouc went to a community college in Chicago and attended Olivet Nazarene University in Bourbonnais for a year before having to drop out because of financial reasons. He hopes to complete his college education someday.

As for his family, Mabouc came into contact with his parents and siblings in 2003 for the first time since being separated from them at the age of 4.

"It was hard for both of us to get to know each other again," Mabouc said. "I bet my mom was expecting something different, but she didn't realize I had grown so big and that my voice had changed."

While speaking to the audience, Mabouc said that worldwide awareness of what is happening in Sudan is bleak. He said countries that are involved are not helping the cause, and the U.S. involvement could be better.

"The U.S. has not been involved significantly other than trying diplomatic solutions, which is not helping very much," Mabouc said.

Mabouc is unsure if Sudan will ever be at peace and hopes to return to Sudan and to his family someday.

"Of course I really do want to go back," Mabouc said. "It has been 22 years."

» Booth

FROM PAGE 1

For the rest of February, Brownson said she will read books related to animals and farms to incorporate with the Farm Life exhibit going on in Booth Library. Story time is open to everyone and all parents are encouraged to take advantage of the vast selection of books available to them and their children.

"We get a lot of staff and faculty who bring their kids and grandkids," Brownson said.

Marlow heard about the story time through a university newsletter and thought it was a great idea.

"I will definitely bring Mahala back," she said. "This helps children gain an appreciation and love of reading and books."

Coming up in April, student members of the Asian American Association will be conducting the story time to help children become familiar with and celebrate Asian Heritage Month.


The story time sessions, which will last until Spring Break, are held for six weeks in the fall and six weeks in the spring.

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 MON, FEB 12, 7:00 PM, ROBERSON AUDITORIUM, LUMPKIN HALL

DR. CRAIG NELSON (INDIANA UNIV. BLOOMINGTON)
"CREATION OR BOTH? BIG MACS, DOUBLE ELIMINATION TOURNAMENTS, AND BOWLING ISN'T FOOTBALL: THE SCIENTIST'S LOT IS NOT A HAPPY ONE—OR IS IT?"
 TUES, FEB 13, 7:00 PM, ROBERSON AUDITORIUM, LUMPKIN HALL

DR. RICHARD KING (NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY)
"DETECTING NATURAL SELECTION IN REAL TIME: EXAMPLES FROM LAKE ERIE SNAKE POPULATIONS"
 WED, FEB 14, 4:00 PM, ROBERSON AUDITORIUM, LUMPKIN HALL

We thank the following for sponsoring Darwin Days 2007:
 Jane and Herbert Lasky, Bill and Judy James, Dept. History, Dept. Biological Sciences, Dept. Philosophy, Tri-Beta, Sigma Xi, Phi Beta Kappa Association, College of Sciences


 For information contact: Drs. Steve Mullin, Ann Fritz, Gary Fritz, Dept. Biological Sciences

On-campus residents get HBO

Dish network brings movie channels to residence halls

By **Matt Kelly**
Staff Reporter

Besides the short walk to class, statistically higher grades and dorm camaraderie, on-campus residents will have another reason to live on campus next semester: HBO.

On-campus residents this fall will have the HBO package, which is comprised of seven HBO channels.

The opportunity came out of a satellite dish installed in January. Last month, Mediacom and the

Sinclair Broadcast Group, which supplies Mediacom with content, had a financial dispute, resulting in Sinclair pulling 23 stations from Mediacom on Jan. 6.

Nearly 5000 on-campus residents went without the ABC channel.

Fortunately for Eastern, ABC's absence was short-lived. Meanwhile, Eastern found a temporary substitute for the missing channel.

Mark Hudson, director of Housing and Dining services, quickly remedied the situation.

While in negotiations with Institutional Network Communications (INC), the telecommunication company with Eastern contracts cable with,

Hudson told the INC representative about students' dismay with the ABC void.

The representative explained how Eastern could get ABC through one of INC's business partners, Direct TV. He offered to have a Direct TV satellite dish installed on the roof of Buzzard Hall for no additional cost.

By Jan. 11, only five days after losing ABC, on-campus housing had ABC back.

The dish also brought students Starz Family, a premium movie channel.

So, while the rest of Charleston and surrounding areas went without ABC shows like "Grey's Anatomy,"

"Desperate Housewives" and "Ugly Betty," Eastern's on-campus residents could watch all of those in addition to Starz.

On Feb. 2, Mediacom and Sinclair reached an agreement.

The agreement restored all stations to Mediacom.

Now, residents no longer have Starz Family, but went from having zero ABC channels to the opportunity to surf between two.

Hudson said after having Starz Family and hearing positive feedback about it, he and housing and dining decided to keep the Direct TV dish to provide students with an HBO package starting in the fall.

Hudson said he saw situations

where off-campus students would come into residence halls just to watch ABC.

Darius Jutzi, a junior English major and off-campus resident, was one of those students.

"I'd go to the 7th Street Underground sometimes just to watch Grey's Anatomy," Jutzi said.

Jutzi said he will still go to there to watch it, but is happy to have ABC in his apartment again.

After living off campus for two years, he said HBO might not be enough to make him move back.

"I'm not going to go tear up my lease," Jutzi said. "But, that's definitely awesome that they're getting it (HBO)."

Evolution and intelligent design collide during Darwin Days

By **Michelle Simek**
Health and Science Reporter

Eastern students will have the chance to celebrate Charles Darwin's contributions to science and learn about creationism and intelligent design during Darwin Days.

Many have tried to explain and theorize about the never-ending debate over intelligent design and evolution around the globe.

Professor Gary Fritz in Biological Sciences, describes evolution as a genetic based change over a period of generations in a population.

"Although change is a vague

term, change can mean physically, molecularly, or physiologically," he said. "DNA is constantly changing and whether those changes persist or not is evolution."

For others who believe in intelligent design, God is responsible for creation.

Pastor Cindy Jones of Wesley United Methodist Church in Charleston, said that although she cannot speak for all denominations many churches are trying to include evolution in their understanding of the world.

"We have an understanding of science as a tool," she said. "We

believe that God sparked creation but we still allow others to use their intelligence to make their own decisions."

Darwin Days is not to push evolution on students, said Ann Fritz Biological sciences professor said.

"Science can answer questions that sometimes religion cannot. Religious beliefs should not be thought of as wrong, but for those who believe in intelligent design, they should acknowledge that evolution does occur," said Fritz.

In past years, religious scholars have come to speak to students

about evolution and their thoughts, which have been received with positive feedback.

"I think Darwin Days is great," said Danni Otto, philosophy professor. "Darwin's explanations are connected to stuff I am teaching."

Otto believes that although Darwin's theory of evolution is scientific, is still has a philosophical perspective as well.

"People misunderstand that these issues have to be a debate but they are all really connected," he said. "Religious perspectives address a broader issue, but I have had

positive feedback from my students about attending Darwin Days in the past."

The history, science and philosophy departments co-sponsor the week-long event.

Darwin Days is part of an international celebration of his continuations to science and the natural world.

During lectures, dialog will be open to help students on either issue to understand Ann Fritz said.

"This is a very controversial subject but it is all about exploring the issue from a different perspective," she said.

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OHIO VALLEY CONFERENCE | WOMEN'S BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

Tie at top of standings

Morehead State entered last week's slate of games with a half-game lead on second-place teams Southeast Missouri and Murray State.

The lead is now gone. Morehead State lost 71-57 at Murray on Saturday, leaving the Racers in a two-way tie for first place with SEMO.

Murray (16-7, 12-4 OVC) was paced by Ashley Nicole Haynes' game-high 22 points.

The Lady Eagles (12-13, 11-5) were led by LaKrisha Brown's 14 points.

Southeast Missouri 73 Eastern Kentucky 72

The Lady Colonels lost their fourth game in a row, dropping them into a tie for the eighth and final conference tournament spot with Eastern Illinois.

EKU was led by Crystal

Jones' 26 points, but fellow guard Ashley Caze's last-second shot missed.

Samford 67 Austin Peay 55

The Bulldogs picked up their third straight win.

Three players scored in double figures for Samford, led by Veronica Pike's 14 points.

Austin Peay's Alicia Watson led the team with 12 points and grabbed seven rebounds.

Tennessee Tech 88 Tennessee State 57

Tech shot 61 percent in the first half and cruised to an easy win against the Lady Tigers in Cookeville, Tenn.

The Golden Eagles were led by Kendall Cavin's 22 points.

—Sports Editor Matt Daniels

OHIO VALLEY CONFERENCE | MEN'S BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

Austin Peay escapes Samford with win

Samford's Joe Ross Merritt's 3-pointer rimmed out and the Governors held on for a 52-50 win in Birmingham, Ala., in a game between the top two teams in the league.

Fernandez Lockett led the Governors (17-7, 14-2 Ohio Valley Conference) with 16 points and 11 rebounds. Samford's (14-11, 11-5) Jerry Smith finished with 14 points.

Eastern Kentucky 66 Southeast Missouri 61

EKU's Adam Leonard tied a career-high with 22 points in leading the Colonels past the host Redhawks.

The Colonels (15-9, 10-6) led 62-61

when Leonard hit two free throws to extend the lead.

Senior Michael Brock had EKU's first double-double of the season (13 points, 10 rebounds).

Brandon Foust led SEMO (10-16, 8-9) with 18 points and six rebounds.

Murray State 74 Morehead State 62

Six Murray State players finished in double figures to lead the Racers (13-12, 11-6) to a victory. Ray George scored a team-high 15 points and had five assists. Ed Hornton added 11 points, Shawn Witherspoon added 10 and Marvin Williams had 10.

Shaun Williams led Morehead State (10-14, 6-10) with 12 points and five rebounds.

Tennessee Tech 86 Tennessee State 86

Four players helped the Golden Eagles (15-11, 11-6) stay on track for the OVC Tournament race.

Belton Rivers led Tennessee Tech with 22 points. Anthony Fischer added 17 points and five assists.

Guards Reily Ervin and Ladarious Weaver led Tennessee State (10-16, 6-10) with 15 points each.

—Associate Sports Editor Kevin Murphy

Sudoku By Michael Mepham

3	2		5		6
5		9		6	7
1		7		9	
			2	4	8
		1			
	5		8	7	
		3		5	7
	5	1		9	8
8		4		1	3

Level: 1 2 3 4
Complete the grid so each row, column and 3 by 3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk.

Solution to Saturday's puzzle

5	3	1	6	7	2	4	8	9
7	9	8	4	1	5	6	3	2
4	6	2	3	8	9	7	1	5
1	5	4	7	2	6	3	9	8
6	8	9	5	3	4	1	2	7
3	2	7	1	9	8	5	4	6
8	1	3	2	6	7	9	5	4
2	4	6	9	5	1	8	7	3
9	7	5	8	4	3	2	6	1

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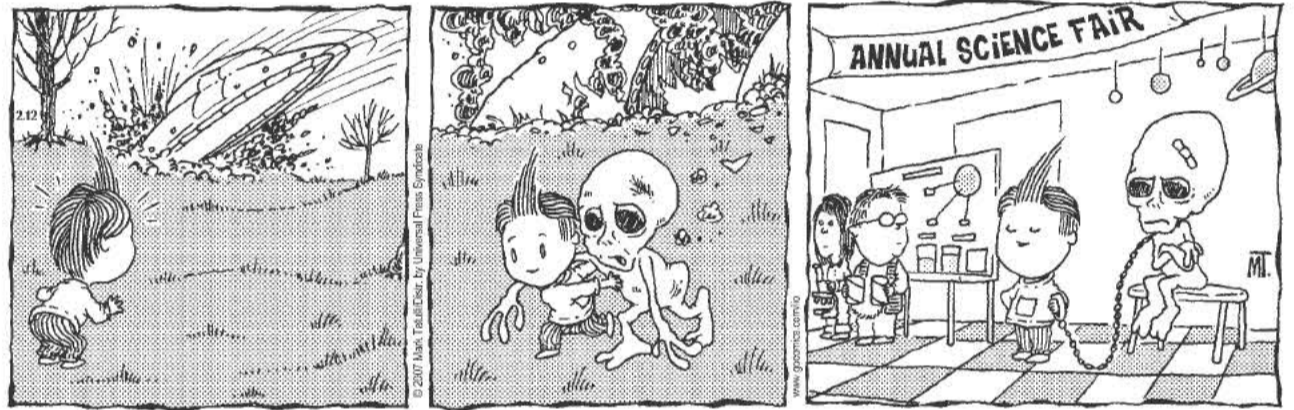
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NON SEQUITUR | WILEY MILLER



LIO | MARK TATULLI



The New York Times Crossword

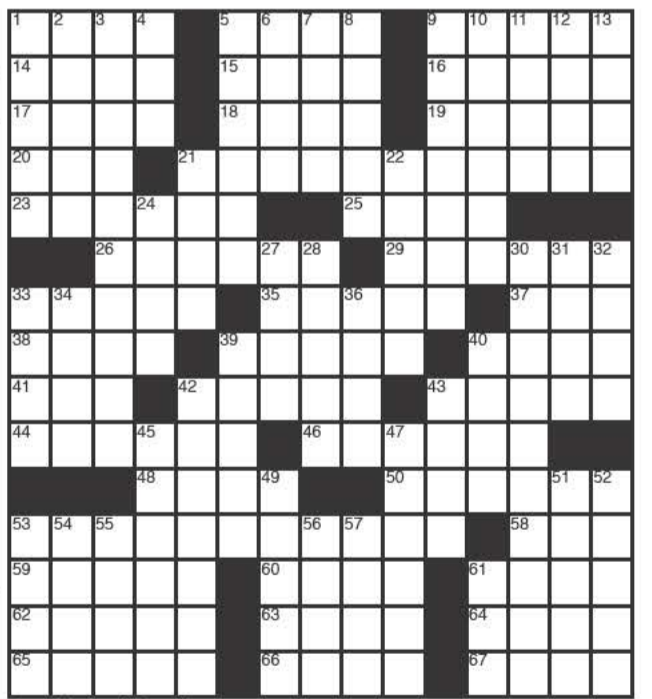
Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0101

- ACROSS**
- 1 Mrs. Dithers of the comics
 - 5 Holder of billiard balls
 - 9 County, in Britain
 - 14 Breakfast chain
 - 15 Jazz's Fitzgerald
 - 16 Blender setting
 - 17 Huge
 - 18 Numbskull
 - 19 Modern missive
 - 20 Anger
 - 21 Carnival treat
 - 23 More shrewd
 - 25 "It's not easy ___ green"
 - 26 Like some modern music
 - 29 ___ Pieces
 - 33 Lindbergh's trans-Atlantic destination
 - 35 Farm billies
 - 37 Charlottesville sch.
 - 38 Cutlass, e.g., informally
 - 39 Starts of 21- and 53-Across and 3- and 30-Down
 - 40 Gets older
 - 41 Golf ball position
 - 42 Storms
 - 43 Eurasian mountains
 - 44 The Jayhawks of the Big 12
 - 46 Groove-making tool
 - 48 Tiny hill dwellers
 - 50 Skip
 - 53 Carbonated citrus-flavored drink
 - 58 Medical care grp.
 - 59 Cape ___ Islands
 - 60 Diaper problem
 - 61 Keep ___ on (watch)
 - 62 ___ tube
 - 63 Nabisco best-seller
 - 64 160 square rods
 - 65 Jim Morrison's group, with "the"
 - 66 Feathered missile
 - 67 "Sure, go ahead"
- DOWN**
- 1 ___ center
 - 2 "Gone With the Wind" surname
 - 3 White House setting
 - 4 Likely
 - 5 Like many evangelicals
 - 6 Loads
 - 7 Arterial blockage
 - 8 Shish ___
 - 9 Canis lupus familiaris, for dogs
 - 10 Compassionate
 - 11 Neighbor of Pakistan
 - 12 Actor/director Tim
 - 13 Slithery
 - 21 Corporate V.I.P.'s
 - 22 "Phooey!"
 - 24 "How sweet ___!"
 - 27 Wide-eyed
 - 28 Toward the bottom
 - 30 1963 #1 hit for the Fireballs
 - 31 Daredevil Knievel
 - 32 Impudent talk
 - 33 President before Taylor
 - 34 Inter ___
 - 36 Too
 - 39 Moistens, as poultry
 - 40 Mars' Greek counterpart
 - 42 New York N.H.L.'ers
 - 43 Great Salt Lake's state
 - 45 Wood-smoothing tool
 - 47 Result
 - 49 Atlantic food fish
 - 51 Shadow
 - 52 Actress Parker ___
 - 53 "Metamorphoses" poet
 - 54 Nevada city
 - 55 River through Florence
 - 56 ___ avis
 - 57 One getting a manual
 - 61 Confucian path

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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



Puzzle by Randy Sowell

For answers, call 1-900-285-5656, \$1.20 a minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-814-5554. Annual subscriptions are available for the best of Sunday crosswords from the last 50 years: 1-888-7-ACROSS. Online subscriptions: Today's puzzle and more than 2,000 past puzzles, nytimes.com/crosswords (\$34.95 a year). Share tips: nytimes.com/puzzleforum. Crosswords for young solvers: nytimes.com/learning/xwords.

TENNIS | WEEKEND MATCHES

Teams sweep through competition

By Brandy Provaznik
Staff Reporter

NATALIE MARTIN |
SOPHOMORE PLAYER

"Our high energy is what distinguishes us from the other teams. We are borderline obnoxious but that is what we do and we are getting it done."

Having two meets in a weekend isn't always a good thing but this weekend sophomore Vuk Milicevic thought it worked to his advantage.

Milicevic said after Saturday's meet at Chicago State the team was able to pinpoint any areas that may have needed work and come out even stronger on Sunday.

On Saturday the men beat Chicago State 4-3, winning two doubles matches and the No. 1, No. 3 and No. 5 singles.

Eastern freshman Jeff Rutherford closed out the match with a heavily contested win against Chicago State's Toni Tudoric. Rutherford lost the first set in the No. 5 singles 4-6, then won the next two 6-3 and 6-1.

"It was tough; he was a heavy hitter and I had to hit a lot of balls back and be aggressive," Rutherford said. "I did that and the second and third sets turned out pretty successful." Then on Sunday the men defeated Valparaiso 6-1, winning all the doubles matches and five of the six singles matches.

Head coach John Blackburn said the doubles matches were tightly contested at Valpo, and winning all three, along with the win against

Chicago State, gave them a boost of confidence going into their singles matches.

The women's team closed out the weekend with a 5-2 win against Valparaiso that Blackburn said was the best win he has seen from the Eastern women in two years.

Valparaiso was last year's women's Mid-Continent conference champions and Blackburn said he was expecting a difficult match.

"The Valpo girls were steady all along but we brought our 'A-game' and got it done," said sophomore Natalie Martin.

Eastern gained its first point by winning the first two doubles

matches. The third was not finished because of time constraints and the need for the court.

But because Eastern already won two of the three the third match was not necessary.

"I would have liked for them to get to finish out the third match," Blackburn said. "They were playing well and I wanted them to get the win but sometimes it is a matter of time and you can't always get it done."

Blackburn said all the singles matches were close and the women did a good job getting out four wins.

On Saturday the women shut out Chicago State 7-0 with the doubles team of sophomore Jenny Will and freshman Annie Munch gaining their first win of the season.

Blackburn said all the women came out focused and won convincingly without any close matches.

Blackburn said junior Sandra Sasidharan's victory against Golda Rubina was especially impressive because of Rubina's record so far this season.

"Our high energy is what distinguishes us from the other teams," Martin said. "We are borderline obnoxious but that is what we do and we are getting it done."

Daniels

FROM PAGE 12

The inconsistency of the calls was maddening. A player drives down the lane, gets thumped by a defender and falls to the ground. One would expect a foul or at the whistle to be blown.

But perhaps the crew of Dennis Bracco, Rick O'Neil and Rob Kruger had grown tired of blowing it, seeing they called a combined 46 fouls and gave both head coaches technical fouls.

Panther center Ousmane Cisse fouled out with 41 seconds remaining and Eastern leading 74-55. Cisse stood in the middle of the lane with his arms pointed straight toward the sky.

No joke.

UTM's Gerald Robinson made a layup with Cisse standing right in front of him. Cisse didn't move at all, yet the refs had to blow their whistle one more time.

Both head coaches were entertaining to watch throughout the evening also. Miller got perhaps the most exercise of any game he's coached all season.

Watching Miller on Saturday night was like watching a hyperactive fitness instructor.

There was Miller, waving his arms, jumping off the ground, exhorting his larynx and crouching down, all in an effort to get the refs to call a fair game.

Campbell showed he wasn't a fan of the attire he wore for the game.

He started off the evening with black pants, black shoes, a tan shirt, a black tie and a black sports coat on.

By halftime, Campbell was down to just the black pants, black shoes and tan shirt.

To most of the 1,192 in attendance, it would not have been a shock had Campbell coached the entire second half barefoot.

Luckily, he didn't coach barefoot, nor throw a shoe (although he was probably thinking about it).

Too many times officials try to become part of the game or the story.

The best official is one who doesn't get noticed.

On Saturday night, the referees were noticed for all the wrong reasons.

TRACK AND FIELD | WEEKEND RESULTS

Season bests set at Iowa State

Men's track team sees prime improvement

By Kevin Murphy
Associate Sports Editor

Eastern set new records and personal bests Saturday at the Iowa State Invitational.

"I would have to say it was the most successful meet since I've been back here," said head coach Tom Akers, around since 1995.

Senior pole-vaulter Kyle Ellis improved his NCAA provisionally qualifying mark and came closer to the automatic mark.

If Ellis gets the automatic mark, he will compete at the NCAA Indoor National Championships in Little Rock, Ark., in mid-March.

Ellis jumped 17 feet, 1 inch and finished third breaking his own record of 15 feet, 5.5 inches.

He currently leads the Ohio Valley Conference with this vault.

Senior thrower Jimmy Schultz threw a season best 53 feet, 11.25 inches in the shot put.

Schultz finished 15th despite being sick, said teammate Austin Hogue.

Senior Dan Strackeljahn set a season best in the 3,000-meter race. Strackeljahn finished fourth in a time of 8:09.41.

"Dan went and executed the performance," Akers said.

Strackeljahn shattered his previous season best by almost 20 seconds. His previous best was 8:31.83. Blake Bolden, competing unattached, won the event in 8:00.99.

"It's easier to run well against better competition," Hogue said.

The men's distance medley relay team finished fifth in a time of 9:50.57, setting a new school record.

"This time (the men's distance medley relay team) went out and performed well and broke the school record," Akers said.

On the women's side, sophomore Shawana Smith set a season best and finished with a time of 25.11 in the 200-meter dash.

Freshman Erin O'Grady ran a season best time of 5:10.41 in the mile.

Sophomore Kim Archer ran a season best time of 10:22.03 in the 3,000-meter race.

Panthers work on individual times at Illinois College meet

Some Panthers traveled to Illinois College to work on their times.

The men's squad finished in fifth place scoring 44 points. Southern Illinois Edwardsville won the meet with 224.5 points.

The Ohio Valley Conference field athlete of the week freshman Kris Gehrke took second in the high jump competition. Gehrke jumped 6 feet, 2 inches.

He also took second in a track event. Gehrke finished second in the 55-meters hurdles in a time of 7.83 seconds.

"Hopefully it'll give (Gehrke) more confidence," Akers said.

The women's squad finished in sixth place and all 12 points came from Violet Nwordu, the lone Panther woman to compete Saturday in Jacksonville.

SIU-E won the meet with 222.5 points.

Nwordu finished second in the 200-meter dash and fifth in the 400-meter dash.

In the 200-meter dash Nwordu ran a 26.22, her best time of the year.

Deserea Brown of SIU-E won the event in 25.83.

Nwordu finished fifth in the 400-meter dash (1:01.72).

Although it's a good sign to see her dropping her times, Akers said she had a potential to run faster.

"She leaned and started to decelerate at the wrong finish line," Akers said.

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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL | EASTERN 52, TENNESSEE MARTIN 44

Eck follows daughter's footsteps miles away

Senior day moved up two games, to accommodate parents

By Marc Correnti
Staff Reporter

Jay Eck has a way to follow his daughter's basketball career.

"Ben Turner is my best friend on the radio," Jay said about Eastern's assistant sports information director and the Panthers' play-by-play radio announcer.

Other than that, it's been a struggle for Eck to keep up with his daughter, Meggie.

Sunday's 52-44 win against Tennessee-Martin with Meggie walking to center court with mother and father arm-in-arm was different.

It's something that Meggie hasn't experienced in her junior and senior seasons at Eastern.

Jay has been an assistant coach for the men's basketball team at Towson University in Maryland for the last three years.

Any chance he gets to see Meggie play, he takes.

But he knows the task of being a college coach and a father is more difficult to handle than designing a pick-and-roll.

"I saw a lot more of her games in the first couple of years," Jay said. "I try to come home as much as I can."

Jay, accompanied by his wife, Mary Beth, and oldest daughter,



JOHN BAILEY | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Meggie Eck makes a pass during the Tennessee Tech game on Jan. 19. Eck was one of three seniors honored Sunday. Eck's father, Jay, is an assistant men's basketball coach at Towson University in Maryland and was in attendance for Sunday's game. Eck's mother and older sister also attended the game. Eck played 14 minutes but was held scoreless in Sunday's game.

Jenny, sat in the third row at Lantz Arena watching Meggie's every move.

Although Meggie only played 14 minutes and went scoreless on Senior Day, her mother said the experience was an emotional one, no matter the outcome.

"It was very emotional for me," Mary Beth said. "Walking out on the court with her was a special

moment. She's the youngest of our four kids, so this is the last (Senior Day) we'll ever have."

The Ecks have logged their share of miles watching their four children play. Jenny graduated from Notre Dame, while Meggie's two brothers graduated from Wisconsin and DePaul.

Eastern head coach Brady Sallee knew the day was special for Meggie,

causing him to move up Senior Day two games early.

"Jay displays what this whole day means," Sallee said. "No matter if you're a coach or in some other kind of work, family always comes first. You just hope your boss understands."

Meggie said she understands her father's situation, saying she grew used to him moving from place to

MEGGIE ECK | SENIOR GUARD

"Once I got over a stubborn phrase, I realized he was right more than not. He never pushed me into sports. He's a big reason for where I'm at today."

place.

Meggie's siblings were involved in sports, so she had little choice but to play sports.

Jenny, who was Meggie's teammate for two years at Deerfield High School, fondly recalls one of their games in the driveway as kids.

"I was always the good defensive player and she was the good offensive player," Jenny said. "She's always been a better shooter than me. The games were always competitive."

Meggie said one of the most difficult aspects of having a coach as a father is not the constant travel, but the constructive criticism.

"Once I got over a stubborn phrase, I realized he was right more than not," Meggie said. "He never pushed me into sports. He's a big reason for where I'm at today."

Even if he's hundreds of miles away.

» Defence

FROM PAGE 12

Freshman point guard Jessica Huffman paced the Panthers with 22 points and five assists and sophomore forward Rachel Galligan was one rebound shy of a double-double with 12 points and nine rebounds.

"Clearly we won the game (on the defensive end)," Sallee said. "We didn't win it shooting lights out."

Baker, Lipperd and Kluempers combined for 23 minutes of playing time in the game and have been able to spell Galligan, who is averaging 29.3 minutes per game.

"Rachel is getting the tar beat out of her," Sallee said. "We played her a lot of minutes tonight, I didn't want to, but that's the way the game went. She's just getting the heck beat out of her down there. If we can elevate some of her minutes out there and get her some rest, if Marie comes in and plays some good minutes, and Julie comes in and plays some good minutes, then it's going to help us down the stretch."

The win puts the Panthers in a tie with Eastern Kentucky for eighth place in the OVC.

The top eight teams advance to the post-season tournament on Feb. 27.

Eastern Kentucky lost by one point to co-conference leader Southeast Missouri, 73-72, on Saturday.

The Panthers were two games back in the standings on Thursday before they defeated Austin Peay.

"These two wins we've gotten in a row were huge," Galligan said. "We just need to keep building off of it."

Eastern 52, UT-Martin 44

UT-Martin	min	fg	ft	reb	a	pf	pts
		m-a	m-a	o-f			
Fuller	35	6-10	0-2	2-12	0	2	12
Holman	27	1-6	4-4	0-0	2	3	6
Angler	28	1-8	0-1	0-2	2	2	2
Cox	35	2-12	0-0	0-0	5	4	5
Rivers	10	0-1	0-0	0-0	2	0	0
Glover	15	1-3	0-0	1-9	0	2	2
Carlisle	19	2-3	0-0	0-1	1	2	6
Mitchell	19	2-6	2-4	2-9	0	1	6
Maxey	4	1-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	2
Willingham	8	1-3	1-2	0-0	0	1	3
TOTALS	200	17-53	7-13	6-37	12	17	44

Percentages: FG: .321 3-point goals: 3-22 Blocked shots: 5 Steals: 8 Turnovers: 14

Eastern	min	fg	ft	reb	a	pf	pts
		m-a	m-a	o-f			
Scoggs	21	1-2	0-0	1-4	2	2	2
Galligan	35	6-18	0-0	2-9	0	1	12
Huffman	37	6-15	7-9	0-7	5	2	22
Canale	25	2-6	0-0	2-5	0	4	4
Thomas	36	3-6	3-4	1-6	3	2	10
Baker	3	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	1	0
Sturtevant	5	0-0	0-0	0-1	0	0	0
Eck	14	0-4	0-1	1-1	0	0	0
Maxedon	4	0-0	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Kloak	0-	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Kluempers	18	0-3	2-2	1-2	0	2	2
Lipperd	2	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	1	0
TOTALS	200	18-56	12-15	9-42	11	15	52

Percentages: FG: .321 3-point goals: 4-9 Blocked shots: 5 Steals: 4 Turnovers: 14

RACHEL GALLIGAN | SOPHOMORE FORWARD

"These two wins we've gotten in a row were huge. We just need to keep building off of it."

» Parrish

FROM PAGE 12

Parrish made two free throws to tie the game at 11, and then the play of Martin and Justin Brock helped up Eastern's lead.

Brock hit with two turnaround jumpers in the post during the run and Martin tossed in five points.

Parrish had scored nine points in the previous 10 games before Thursday at Austin Peay, but equaled that total by halftime.

"When you're open, you got to shoot," Parrish said. "I saw a couple open opportunities so I took some shots and they went in."

Parrish's first opportunity came on the left wing and he promptly made an 18-foot jump shot to give Eastern a 25-12 lead.

After UTM's Gerald Robinson, who led all scorers with 26 points, converted a layup, Parrish made Eastern's lead grow on the ensuing possession.

And he got a little assist from his roommate.

Martin, who finished with 16 points, used a ball screen at the left wing and started to dribble to the right wing.

But Martin was stopped and double-teamed by two Skyhawk defenders.

Martin saw Parrish all alone standing beyond the arc on the left wing and passed him the ball.

Parrish stepped into the shot and made only his third 3-pointer of the season.

That shot didn't surprise him as much as the first jump shot he made. Parrish said his feet weren't even set on his first shot, but after making it, his confidence only grew.

MIKE ROBINSON | SOPHOMORE GUARD

"They were down in the second half so I knew they were going to be aggressive. Coach told me to be strong with the ball, so I was just letting them get up in me."

Eastern (8-18, 4-13 Ohio Valley Conference) led in double digits the rest of the game after the second of Brock's turnaround jumpers because of the play of sophomore point guard Mike Robinson.

Robinson scored a career-high 25 points despite only making three field goals.

Instead, Robinson produced at the free throw line, making 16 of 18 free throws.

If Robinson had made all 18, he would have set a Lantz Arena record for most free throws in a game.

"They were down in the second half so I knew they were going to be aggressive," Robinson said. "Coach told me to be strong with the ball, so I was just letting them get up in me."

Robinson made 14 of 16 free throws in the second half - a half that saw a combined 27 fouls called.

Eastern's Bobby Catchings,

Eastern 74, UT-Martin 59

UT-Martin	min	fg	ft	reb	a	pf	pts
		m-a	m-a	o-f			
Woodfork	32	5-11	8-14	1-3	0	4	4
Jones	10	0-0	1-2	0-0	2	1	0
Knight	29	1-3	0-0	2-3	1	5	2
Harris	19	0-0	0-0	0-3	5	3	0
Tolliver	31	1-3	1-2	0-1	1	3	3
Anoka	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Robinson	34	8-19	9-11	2-8	0	2	26
Lewis	22	1-1	4-4	1-4	1	2	6
Flatt	7	0-1	0-0	0-0	1	1	0
Bailey	14	1-6	0-0	1-1	2	1	2
Dorse	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
TOTALS	200	17-44	23-33	10-26	13	22	42

Percentages: FG: .386 3-point goals: 1-14 Blocked shots: 3 Steals: 8 Turnovers: 14

Eastern	min	fg	ft	reb	a	pf	pts
		m-a	m-a	o-f			
Catchings	20	2-5	2-4	0-2	1	5	6
Byrne	26	4-6	4-6	1-6	2	2	10
Cisse	29	2-7	0-1	4-4	3	5	4
Robinson	38	3-7	16-18	0-5	5	1	25
Martin	36	6-12	2-2	0-2	1	3	16
Myers-Kyles	7	0-1	0-0	0-1	1	1	0
Parrish	14	3-3	2-1	1-1	1	5	9
Brock	12	2-5	0-0	3-4	0	1	4
Willhite	18	0-2	0-0	2-4	2	1	0
TOTALS	200	22-48	24-29	13-34	16	24	74

Percentages: FG: .458 3-point goals: 6-11 Blocked shots: 2 Steals: 11 Turnovers: 14

Ousmane Cisse and Parrish fouled out and UTM's Zerek Knight also fouled out.

Both Eastern head coach Mike Miller and UTM head coach Bret Campbell were assessed technical fouls in the second half for arguing about calls.

"I think it makes it difficult to play," Miller said of the fouls. "Bobby got into foul trouble right away. (His fouls) were all, kind of wrong place, wrong time, wrong angle (fouls) because it wasn't like he was swinging at them."

SPORTS

MONDAY
2.12.07

scoreboard

PANTHER SPORTS SCHEDULE

WOMEN'S GOLF
TODAY at Baja Classic | All day.
Ensenada, Mexico

WOMEN'S GOLF
Tuesday at Baja Classic | All day.
Ensenada, Mexico

MEN'S BASKETBALL
Tuesday vs. Southeast Missouri |
6 p.m. Lantz Arena

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
Wednesday vs. Southeast Missouri | 7:35 p.m. Lantz Arena

MEN'S SWIMMING
Thursday at Mid-Continent Championships | All day. Indianapolis.

WOMEN'S SWIMMING
Thursday at Mid-Continent Championships | All day. Indianapolis.

MEN'S TRACK AND FIELD
Friday vs. Friday Night Special | 3 p.m. Lantz Fieldhouse.

WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD
Friday vs. Friday Night Special | 3 p.m. Lantz Fieldhouse.

triplethreat



Officials are often compared to zebras because of their black and white-striped shirts and black pants.

After Eastern's men's basketball game Saturday night, the referees looked more like a donkey (just think of what else a donkey could be called and you get the point).

While human beings are used as referees, we think animals could also do a decent job.

Just think of Mr. Ed, Abu from "Aladdin" or Lassie.

They were all smart animals. While these were all works of fiction, here are some real-life animals that we think Ohio Valley Conference Commissioner Jon Steinbrecher (above) could hire to referee basketball games.

1. Dolphins – Please, hire Flipper. A dolphin wouldn't have a hard time throwing up the opening tip. Just flick it with their nose and the game is started. Yes, games would have to be played underwater, but that's just a minor inconvenience. Just imagine the site of Bill Senese training Bobby Catchings.

2. Prairie Dogs – These little critters are masters of extremely detailed language. They would have no problem deciphering the wonderfully complex jargon of basketball coaches. Instead of hearing "@#!@#@\$%^&," all prairie dogs would hear is, "I strongly disagree with your call and wish you hadn't made it."

3. Ravens – These birds are good at problem-solving skills. Thus, they would have filled in admirably last year when Eastern lost to Tennessee Tech because officials counted a basket after they blew their whistle. Here's how a raven would analyze this problem. "Well, we blew our whistle, thus stopping play, meaning the shot that went in after we blew our whistle doesn't count. And they say rocket science is hard."

-Matt Daniels

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL | EASTERN 52, TENNESSEE-MARTIN 44

Panthers ground Skyhawks inside offense

Defense limits Tennessee-Martin to 20 points in the paint to en route to second consecutive conference win

By Joe Waltasti
Sports Reporter

Head coach Brady Sallee saw a weakness in Tennessee-Martin and the Panthers exploited it perfectly in their 52-44 victory Sunday night at Lantz Arena.

The Skyhawks game plan was to feed the ball into the post and use their athletic forwards to score.

The Panthers' forwards – Rachel Galligan, Meagan Scaggs, Lindsey Klumpers, Julie Lipperd and Marie Baker – controlled the post and UTM's guards could not pick up the slack.

"That's something we've been really



AMIR PRELLBERG | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Sophomore forward Rachel Galligan attempts to block Tennessee-Martin's Phyllisha Mitchell shot Sunday. concentrating on, taking post play out of the

To read the full story and check out the women's basketball box score, see page 11. The women host Southeast Missouri on Wednesday at 7:35 p.m.

equation," Sallee said. "They had a hard time getting it inside."

The Skyhawks shot just 32 percent from the field and connected on only three of 22 3-pointers.

Junior forward Crystal Fuller led the way for the Skyhawks (13-12, 8-9 Ohio Valley Conference) with 12 points and 12 rebounds but she was the only UTM player to score in double figures.

The defensive effort masked a poor shooting night by the Panthers.

Eastern (9-16, 6-10) shot 32 percent on field goals but hit 12 of 15 free throws.

» SEE DEFENSE, PAGE 11

MEN'S BASKETBALL | EASTERN 74, TENNESSEE-MARTIN 59



AMIR PRELLBERG | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Freshman guard Joseph Bailey of Tennessee-Martin attempts a pass as Eastern junior forward Bobby Catchings defends him Saturday in Lantz Arena. Catchings had six points, two points and an assist, but fouled out of the game.

Parrish's shooting propels team

Robinson scores career high by only making three field goals

By Matt Daniels
Sports Editor

Billy Parrish is the first to admit he doesn't have the scoring ability of roommate and Eastern leading scorer Romain Martin.

But on consecutive Panther possessions midway through the first half in Saturday night's game against Tennessee-Martin, the sophomore forward displayed a shooting touch

he hasn't shown all season.

Parrish scored seven points in the midst of a 22-4 Eastern run that turned a close game through the first seven minutes into a blowout quickly in the Panthers' 74-59 win at Lantz Arena.

The win keeps alive Eastern's slim hopes of making the Ohio Valley Conference Tournament.

However, if the Panthers lose one of their remaining three conference games, Eastern is out of the tournament for the second

To read the full story and check out the men's basketball box score, see page 11.

consecutive year.

It was the play of the 6-foot-4 Parrish that kept Eastern's faint hope of qualifying for the tournament alive.

» SEE PARRISH, PAGE 11

MATT DANIELS | OUT OF BOUNDS

Officials find 'holes' in their game – blowing the whistle

It makes sense why Eastern men's basketball head coach Mike Miller stands with his hands interlocked behind his head, back slightly arched with a frown and perplexed expression showing on his face.

Yes, sometimes this reaction is to a play his young team makes.

But after watching Eastern defeat Tennessee-Martin 74-59 Saturday night, there's probably another reason he stands like this.

Plain and simple: the officiating in the Ohio Valley Conference is downright pitiful.

It stinks, it sucks, it pretty much blows.

Coaches and players don't speak out about the officials for fear of reprimand from the league office.

What a reprimand from the conference is, is basically a slap on the wrist. No fine, no public flogging, no torture racks; just a statement from OVC commissioner Jon Steinbrecher that says don't do this again.

Which is lame and sad.

But since OVC coaches and players won't talk about

the officiating, this is why they invented the sports column.

Vision-impaired people could have called Saturday's game better. There were so many starts and stops in the play, it almost felt like a football game when teams keep getting first downs and the chains keep moving. Except in basketball, that's not supposed to happen.

It seemed if an Eastern player or Tennessee-Martin player happened to breathe on the person they were guarding, it was a foul.

» SEE DANIELS, PAGE 10



Matt Daniels is a junior journalism major. He can be reached at mwdaniels@eiu.edu.