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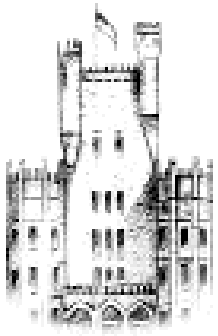
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The Daily Eastern News

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



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Continuity key for next president

Students also seek accessibility, campus presence

(Editors note: This is the first of a three-part series looking at what campus leaders want in Eastern's next president. The second installment will run Nov. 26.)

By Pat Guinane
Administration editor

As Eastern searches for a new president, student leaders provide insight into what they would like to see in the university's next leader.

The search for Eastern's next president began last month with the formation of an 11-member search

committee comprised of members of various campus constituencies.

The committee's task is to interview qualified candidates in the hope of finding a permanent replacement for the university's eighth president, Carol Surles, who resigned in July in order to seek treatment for breast cancer.

Lou Hencken, an Eastern employee for more than 35 years and the vice president for academic affairs since 1992, has taken over the role of president in the interim.

Katie Cox, a senior political science major, has witnessed the

tenures of both Hencken and Surles. Cox, who served as student body president last year, has been chosen as the student representative on the Presidential Search Advisory Committee. She also chairs the Illinois Board of Higher Education's Student Advisory Committee and the Student Action Team and serves on the Council for University Planning and Budget.

"I think, quite obviously to everyone, the quality that President Surles brought to us that we most needed was fund-raising ability," Cox said, also noting Surles' com-

mitment to enhancing technology at Eastern. "She put a strong emphasis on technology and technology-based curriculum, which is, whether people want it or not, needed because the board of higher ed won't keep supporting us so long if we don't move in that direction."

While she appreciates Surles' efforts to enhance the university, Cox has also been impressed with Hencken's presence on campus.

"I appreciate the fact that he's been here. He knows everyone. I like the idea that even students, I shouldn't say even students, but

See PRESIDENT Page 7

Student leaders heading to Springfield

Action Team hoping to meet with governor

By Jamie Fetty
Student government editor

The Student Action Team is in Springfield today, meeting with representatives and hoping to arrange a personal meeting with Gov. Ryan.

"Our governor has always been very accommodating," said Jill Nilsen, vice president for public affairs.

The Student Action Team, chaired by Daryl Jones, student vice president for public affairs, works to increase Eastern's visibility and reputation around the state and especially in Springfield, where legislators and the governor determine Eastern's budget allocation.

Team members will "talk about the good things about Eastern" with State Representative Dale Righter (R-Mattoon) and State Senator Judith Myers (R-Danville), Jones said.

"They want to tell legislators about our caring faculty and staff and the high level of academic experiences," Nilsen said.

The team has yet to determine which specific issues they will discuss with the governor and local delegates, Jones said.

"We'll see how it goes," he said.

While in Springfield, individual team members will also attempt to meet with representatives and senators from their own home towns, Nilsen said.

Those making the trip include team chair Katie Cox, Illinois Board of Higher Education Student Advisory Committee chair, Student Senate members Desiree Rieckenberg and Tim Edwards and Student Supreme Court Chief Justice Lacey Buidosik.

This session of state congress is a "veto session," where legislators review items that were vetoed over the last year, Jones said. Every November for seven days, legislators look at motions vetoed by the governor or those that never made it to his desk, Nilsen said.

Another issue in the state congress will be the budget for fiscal year 2002, which is the current fiscal year.

Representatives will try to maintain a balanced budget for the remainder of the fiscal year, Nilsen said. Issues of security in light of the war in Afghanistan and the threat of terrorism will also be a topic.

Prospective students visit Eastern

Size of campus a draw for many

By Jessica Danielewicz
Campus editor

Campus was a bit more crowded Monday as prospective students spent a day off school exploring Eastern.

Shelley Friesz, admissions counselor and orientation coordinator, said that 635 prospective students attended the campus' open house.

"I think that is the largest open house since I've been here," she said.

The visiting students and parents seemed to like Eastern's compact campus.

"I like the size," Joy Hoffman, a Waterloo High School senior, said. "I'm pretty sure this is where I'm gonna go."

Her father Wayne Hoffmann agreed.

"I like the size of the campus here," he said. "It seems a little more laid back, not quite as fast paced."

Joy Hoffman said that her brothers attended the University of Illinois, but she did not want to go there because of its larger size. She said she has also looked at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville and Millikin University.

Heather Cornell, from Schaumburg, said during her visit that Eastern's campus was "very nice."

Cornell said she is leaning toward a major in hospitality and is also looking at Western Illinois University, Central Michigan University and Iowa State University.



Caitlin Bullis/Staff photographer

Prospective Eastern students toured Eastern's campus Monday. Tim Leong, a sophomore sociology major and resident assistant, shows the computer lab in Carman Hall.

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The Daily Eastern News

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Composer's Forum held tonight

By Pamela Perez
Staff writer

Eastern students who have written original music for tonight's Composer's Forum will hear their works being played by fellow students.

The Composer's Forum will feature brand new, recently completed musical compositions written and performed by undergraduate and graduate students in the music department.

The concert will take place at 7:30 p.m. tonight in Dvorak Concert Hall in the Doudna Fine Arts Building. Admission at the event is free and open to anyone.

"These are all written by student composers," Peter Hesterman, graduate coordinator for the music department, said. "There will be few faculty participants because students will mainly be playing these works."

Hesterman said one student from Neoga High School will have a piece performed, and at least one

piece will include vocals.

"It will be interesting to see the tremendous variety of music being performed," Hesterman said. "There will be some jazz and a wide variety of instrumentals."

Most of these students are studying music composition, and these works are the outcome of private lessons in music composition, Hesterman said.

Byron Grimes, a senior music major, will perform an electronic musical piece that he composed on synthesizers.

"It's something completely different from normal classical music," Grimes said.

Although Grimes has had compositions performed by other people before, this piece is different because the sound was burned onto a disc and will be played electronically, he said.

"It's really an excellent experience if you don't understand classical music," Grimes said. "There will be things here that you wouldn't expect."

"It's something completely different from normal classical music."

Byron Grimes,
Senior music major

Mark Woolwine, a senior music education major, also has composed a piece for the forum.

Woolwine and Grimes have both had compositions performed at the forum in the past, and both said it is good experience.

"It's really rewarding to hear my music being played and to get a response from the audience," Woolwine said. "I like the Composer's Forum a lot because I usually only get to hear my music being played on a computer."

Grimes said it's always good to get feedback from his peers. "It gives me ideas of what I can do in the future."

three-day forecast

today



Wednesday



Thursday



police blotter

Theft

It was reported on Oct. 31 that a green mountain bike was stolen from a bike rack on the south side of Lantz Arena, a police report stated. The incident is under investigation.

Corrections

An article in Monday's edition of *The Daily Eastern News* incorrectly stated the Commencement Committee's current recommendation for summer commencement.

The committee is currently in favor of reinstating one summer commencement ceremony.

The News regrets the error.

Clarification

The Commencement Committee will meet a final time on Nov. 30. After that meeting it will send forth its recommendations to the President's Council, which will make the final decision. The council's decision will take effect during spring commencement.



Amanda Douglass/Senior photographer

Is that your final answer?

Two international students cheer after answering a question correctly during the international quiz game Monday night. Five teams answered questions about countries' capitals, time zones and currencies in the Charleston/Mattoon Room of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

Nominations sought for honorary degrees

By Jessica Danielewicz
Campus editor

Nominations are being sought for honorary degrees to be awarded during spring commencement.

Criteria is hard to establish, because it depends on how an individual stands out in their field, honorary degree committee chair and university archivist Robert Hillman said.

In general, the chosen recipient is "somebody who stands out in their field," Hillman said. This can include a record of accomplishments or someone's continued association with the university through

donations and service, Hillman said.

"It's not really a cut and dried thing," he said.

The recipient is usually someone near the end of their career as opposed to just starting out, he said.

In addition, an honorary degree will not be awarded until one is no longer associated with the university, Hillman said. Therefore a current professor or president is not eligible.

Anyone can nominate an honorary degree recipient, Hillman said. Anyone interested in making a nomination can contact the External Relations Office.

Nominations are due by Nov. 26.

Past honorary degree recipients include former Gov. Jim Edgar, who received an honorary doctorate of public service in 1999.

"He had done a lot for the university over the years," Hillman said.

Other recipients include Gwendolyn Brooks, poet, and former university president Quincey Doudna.

The number of recipients can vary, but usually only one recipient is chosen, Hillman said. However, some years there may be two or none at all.

The title of the degree depends

on what field it is in, Hillman said.

Once the nominations are turned in, the committee will review the nominations and make recommendations, Hillman said. The committee consists of seven members representing the major colleges.

The university president and Board of Trustees will make the final decision on the degree recipients, Hillman said. Board members may or may not accept the recommendations.

The final decision will be made after the first of the year, and the degree will be given at spring commencement, Hillman said.

Papa Johns recognized for years of donations

By Erika Larson
Activities editor

The American Red Cross East Central Illinois Chapter's simple presentation of a plaque to Papa John's Pizza Monday, reflected the simplicity of the reason behind the chain's long-time pizza donations at blood drives.

Tom Bottoms, manager of the Charleston Papa John's, said he receives requests for pizza donations frequently, but the Red Cross is the most worthwhile cause.

"We're trying to make the greatest impact possible," he said.

Bottoms received the plaque honoring Papa John's for its donations from Tracy Torbeck,

recruitment representative of the local Red Cross chapter, in the Papa John's store.

The unheralded presentation was appropriate for the pizza donors, whose recognition Torbeck claimed is long over due.

"It's the people behind the scenes that really help to make our blood drives successful," Torbeck said.

She said even though Papa John's is a corporate sponsor of the Red Cross, it is up to the individual stores to decide what they will donate, and Bottoms has been extremely generous when it comes to helping by donating pizza.

"It really does help when you have something to offer the (blood) donors," she said.

Presenting Bottoms with a plaque to hang in the store was the very least the Red Cross could do for him, Torbeck said. She said she wanted to give the store some public acknowledgment.

"We know all the great things that they do, but I want the community to know," Torbeck said.

Tina Smith, district manager of Papa John's, said the Charleston store has been donating pizzas at blood drives for about the past 10 years.

She estimated that the local store has donated what would equal more than \$20,000 in pizzas over the last decade.

"We just think it's a really good community involvement issue," she said.



Caitlin Bullis / Staff photographer

Papa John's was honored Monday by the Red Cross for its longtime donation of pizza at blood drives. Tom Bottoms (above), manager of the Charleston Papa John's, displays a plaque honoring its donations to the Red Cross from Tracy Torbeck, recruitment representative of the local Red Cross chapter, in the Papa John's store on Lincoln Avenue.

No indication of terrorism in crash

NEW YORK (AP) — A jetliner en route to the Dominican Republic broke apart minutes after takeoff and crashed in a waterfront neighborhood Monday, engulfing homes in flames and sowing initial fears of a new terrorist atrocity. All 260 people aboard were killed, and at least six others were reported missing on the ground.

"All information we have currently is that this is an accident," said Marion Blakey, chairwoman of the National Transportation Safety Board. If there was an explosion on the plane — and many witnesses heard one — it was probably caused by a catastrophic mechanical failure, investigators said.

American Airlines Flight 587, a European-made Airbus A300, left Kennedy Airport at 9:14 a.m., 74 minutes late because of security checks put in place after the World Trade Center attack, according to American Airlines chairman Don Carty. It took off into a clear blue sky.

Three minutes later, it spiraled nose-first into the Rockaway Beach section of Queens — a middle-class neighborhood, 15 miles from Manhattan, that had lost scores of

its people, including firefighters and financial workers, in the Trade Center catastrophe just two months ago.

"I just thought, 'Oh, no, not again,'" said Milena Owens, who was putting up Thanksgiving decorations when she heard an explosion.

Furious orange flames towered above the treetops, and a plume of thick, black smoke could be seen miles away.

Authorities found the flight data recorder, one of the two "black boxes" from the twin-engine jet, and said it would be examined for clues.

Witnesses reported hearing an explosion and seeing an engine, a large chunk of a wing and other debris falling off the plane as it came down.

"I saw pieces falling out of the sky," said Jennifer Rivara, who watched through a window at her home about five blocks away. "And then I looked over to my left and I saw this huge fireball, and the next thing I know, I hear this big rumbling sound. I ran to the door and all I saw was big black smoke."

An engine was found intact in a parking lot at a Texaco station,

where it had missed the gas pumps by no more than 6 feet; neighbors ran to the scene with garden hoses to put out the fire. The vertical stabilizer — the tail fin — was pulled from Jamaica Bay, just offshore, Mayor Rudolph Giuliani said.

American Airlines said there were 251 passengers — including five infants sitting on their parents' laps — and nine crew members.

"I don't believe there are any survivors at this point," Giuliani said. By early evening, 225 bodies had been recovered, he said. Klieg lights — the kind of lights used at ground zero at the Trade Center — were brought in so recovery workers could work into the night.

At least six and perhaps as many as eight people, all adults, were reported missing on the ground, the mayor said. Six houses were mostly destroyed, and six others sustained serious damage, Giuliani said.

"Anyone who was in those four houses that were directly hit by that fuselage, where that severe fire was, I don't think they're going to be alive," said Fire Commissioner Thomas Von Essen. Authorities were not certain that anyone was in those buildings.

A muted response from nation's airlines

NEW YORK (AP) — The American Airlines crash in New York forced the nation's airlines to temporarily ground or reroute dozens of flights Monday, disrupting travel across the eastern half of the country.

Hundreds of travelers were stranded as New York's three major airports — Kennedy, LaGuardia and Newark, N.J. — closed for several hours. Flights were delayed from New Hampshire to Florida.

"It's a mess," said Ed Gentile as he headed back to his New Jersey home after a flight from Newark to Denver was canceled.

"Nervous? Yes, before this even happened I was apprehensive," said Dorothy Hornuckle, who had just boarded a flight in Buffalo, N.Y., when passengers' cell phones began ringing with the news. Her flight to Newark was canceled minutes later.

The crash comes as airlines struggle to regain their financial footing following a drop in an already slow travel market. U.S.

airlines are expected to lose some \$10 billion this year, despite more than \$2 billion in federal aid.

Despite the cancellations and delays, there was no industry-wide disruption Monday and most airlines began resuming normal operations by midday. Some airline officials said they had learned from the Sept. 11 attacks.

Federal authorities did not shut down the nation's skies, as they did following the jetliner hijackings Sept. 11 that killed more than 4,000 people in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania. Airports in other parts of the country remained open, and airlines hurried to redirect flights away from New York.

United Airlines, the nation's second-largest carrier after American, held flights on the ground at airports nationwide for about an hour. Delta Air Lines and Northwest Airlines, the nation's third- and fourth-largest carriers, ordered planes bound for New York to return to the airport of origin, as did Continental Airlines.

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No way to define diversity

How does one "promote" diversity? What exactly constitutes a program that does such promotion? Does the program itself have to be diverse? And, if so, how diverse does that program have to be?

These are just a few questions that come to mind when considering the Student Senate's most

A resolution won't help solve problems

Requiring senate members to attend a meeting with "diversity" is unrealistic.

attend at least one event, program, or meeting, per semester, that promotes diversity on campus." Senate members who do not complete this requirement are docked an absence from a committee meeting.

The definition of diversity is in the senate's bylaws, and includes race, religion, sexual orientation and disabilities, among other statuses.

This is a well-meaning but misguided attempt to open the minds of students on campus. It is too vague to really carry any weight and is full of loopholes. For example, how many events on campus are designed to actually "promote" diversity? EIUUnity, as a group, and Unityfest, as an event, highlight diversity, but they don't promote it.

So does that mean that white senate members have to go to LASO or a Black Student Union meeting? Then again, if that member is heterosexual, then attending PRIDE would also fill that requirement. Who determines whether or not the meeting each senate member chooses to attend meets the diversity requirement?

And according to discussion at that senate meeting, it sounds like senate members must attend a meeting composed of a social group they do not belong to. That doesn't sound like diversity. It sounds like making someone feel like a fish out of water, which could only serve to further alienate that person from that group.

This campus is only 10 percent minority. The numbers for gays, religious minorities, ethnicities and other various social groups are not tracked by the university, but are probably at least as small, if not smaller.

You cannot promote diversity on a campus that is not diverse, no more than you can promote a building that does not exist.

You can only encourage the university to attract students that diversify the student body already on campus, and actively participate in such recruitment.

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

Take time to enjoy college lifestyle

The college experience can be different for any given student.

Some students think that working hard and getting ahead in your major is all that's important. Others get involved with activities to keep them busy. The fraternities and the sororities may also be an experience that will stick with people for the rest of their lives. Last, but not least, are the slackers that have no academic life and sleep through every class, wasting mom and dad's money to lose brain cells every night.

The category you fit in is up to you, but for the sake of this column I hope you don't consume yourself with books and studying.

Studying is great and boy, do I wish I had that mentality sometimes, but frankly I don't, and for a couple reasons I'm glad.

First of all, making straight A's is great, but in this world it's not always what you know, but who you know. If you bury your head in a book all the time, you might just miss that person who could make or break your career.

Secondly, what in the world are you going to talk about when you get older? How lame is it going to be sitting around with, hopefully friends you've had time to make, talking about that time you aced that test. Shoot me now.

Before I go further, however, in the bookworm's defense, this is Eastern and in a lot of ways we resemble high school.

What am I referring to? In most classes the teacher has an attendance policy. This is one pet peeve that ranks high on my list. We are paying money to come to this school, and we get penalized for missing a class. If I pay to see a movie or a ballgame and I don't watch it I don't get penalized for it. Half the time the class drags on making it impossible to learn something anyway. I'm not saying that it's a teacher's job to keep us entertained. However, a little hint, lecturing for the entire class period with no class input makes us either fall asleep or makes us want to put a gun to



Ben Duke
Guest columnist

"This is college; the only time in your life you can do whatever you want."

Now I'm not saying that you should not study or care about your grades, but just like any other priority you have to balance it out. Worrying about homework and everything else for that matter, and not taking the edge off somehow is going to put you to the front of the line for a stroke or heartache, take your pick.

In my opinion, work hard at everything you do. Study hard, work hard and of course play hard. If you're in a club, sport or greek society put a lot of effort into it. If you are limiting yourself to just one category, then you're not just missing out on the college experience, but you're missing out on life in general.

Students don't have to be multi-talented to be involved in different things, and believe me that's a good thing. Going out and having a good time, whether at a bar or with friends, is what a student will remember most about college, trust me.

The experiences you have outside of the classroom is what's going to mean the most to you later on in life. Not how you survived a "B" in Mr. Crotchety's class your junior year.

Live it up, take some chances and have fun. This is college; the only time in your life you can do whatever you want. Before and after this you will always have people to answer to and responsibilities that will hinder you from doing what you want to do. So treat every day at college like its your last. *Carpe diem*.

ⁿ Ben Duke is a senior journalism major and a guest columnist for *The Daily Eastern News*. His e-mail address is btduke@eiu.edu. Columns are the opinion of the author.



Acceptance the key to insight, understanding

It seems people in this country are always bickering about something.

Every time our beliefs are disbelieved, our honor is dishonored, or our public image defaced, we feel threatened and immediately become defensive. It is not always out of fear or prejudice, but out of ignorance of the opposing perspective. If neither side can appreciate what the other desires, they will remain at an eternal

stalemate, no matter how many compromises are settled.

We are all so very crass and stubborn, it's no wonder it takes so long to resolve a dispute. Even then we simply settle to satisfy the majority. That's not good enough. It is because of this that America needs to take a step back and for once appreciate a greater perspective.

Your turn

Letters to the editor

There is no glory in being narrow-minded. As a country and as individuals we get so caught up in proving how right we are we never take the time to question ourselves. If each of us can be only a little more receptive, accept a little more insight, and be a little less ravenous, then maybe, over time, we can learn to understand our nemeses, and only then could everyone really win.

Jay Johnson

Sophomore speech communication major

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Historic local bridges receive recognition

By Meg McNichols
City editor

Charleston may not appear to have many century-old structures for travelers heading down Lincoln Avenue, but those who take Sixth, Seventh or 10 Streets toward the Square could ride right over history and not even know it.

"It is not easy to view these structures while driving by in a fast moving car because most of their stone work is below the street or bridge deck," said Jackie Wilen, former member of the Coles County Regional Planning and Development commission in August 2000.

Three stone arch bridges located two blocks south of the Square were recently given their place on the national register of significant places.

The Illinois Historic Preservation Association and the U.S. Department of Interior issued the National Register certificate to Wilen in October.

While she was with the Commission she compiled the nomination of the bridges to the U.S. Department of Interior.

"It's one of the things that's considered to put historic structures on the national register because it gives them notoriety," Wilen said. "It's an educational tool."

Mayor Dan Cougill said the certificate was great for the city and its residents. He also commended Wilen for her work toward achieving the certification.

Wilen also said that the history of the structure is now recorded in Washington as well as the state.

Because the bridges have been recognized on the national registry, the federal government will fund any repairs that are necessary in the future and the structures cannot be demolished, Wilen said.

The bridges were built around the end of the 1800s by Alexander Briggs, a local stone mason who had trained in Europe and also worked on the construction of Old Main at about the same time.

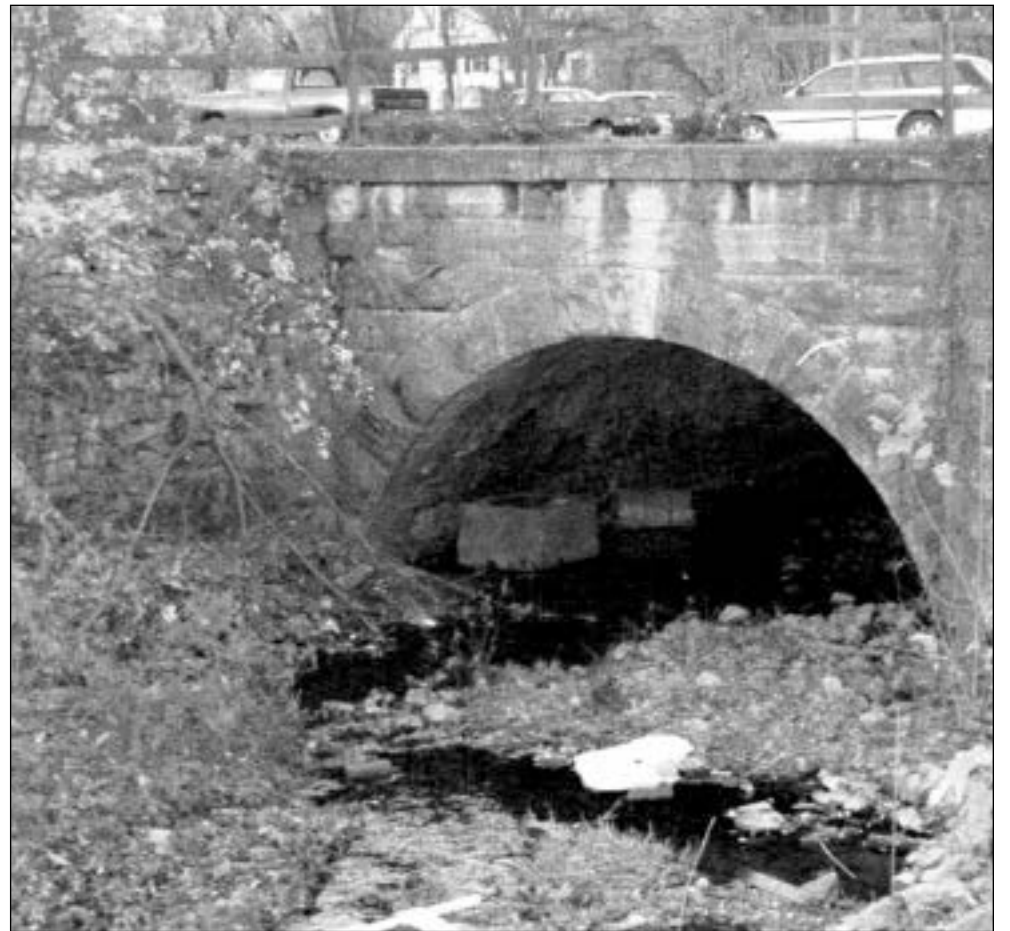
The Sixth Street bridge is the largest and Wilen explained her amazement of the bridge's construction due to the sizes of the stones.

"Its remarkable barrel arch is made of stones that came from the Embarras River," she said. "These stones are at least 20 feet by 20 feet and 24 to 36 inches and are truly massive."

All three arches of the bridges have spans of about 20 feet and a rise of 7 to 9 feet.

The bridges had to meet certain requirements to qualify for preservation, Wilen said. They had to be at least 50 years old and the applicants have to state the significance of the structures.

"The bridges are over 100 years old," Wilen said. "They were built in 1895, of course that would make them historic. The significance of these bridges is that there aren't very many of those kind around here, they're the only ones in Coles County like these."



Sara Figiel/Photo editor

Century-old bridges made out of stones were recently put on the national register of significant places. The stone arch bridge on Sixth Street located two blocks south of the Square is shown above. Two other bridges located on Seventh and 10th Streets were also put on the register.

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Nation unmoved by vote tally

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — A media-sponsored review of disputed ballots from the 2000 presidential election in Florida was “fascinating” but it doesn’t change anything, Sen. Joseph Lieberman said Monday as he reaffirmed his support for President Bush.

Al Gore and Lieberman, the Democratic vice presidential candidate, lost Florida — and the presidency — to Bush and Dick Cheney by a scant 537 votes last year.

The new examination of 175,000 Florida ballots which didn’t make it into state-certified totals indicated the partial recounts Gore pursued in Florida would still have left Bush clinging to the narrow lead he had after Election Day.

However, if Gore had pursued a full statewide recount he might have picked up enough votes to surpass Bush by an even slimmer margin.

The 2000 election was a time of deep division between the major parties, but Americans have rallied behind Bush since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

And on a day when a jet crash in New York gave the nation a fresh

round of jitters, Lieberman stressed the legitimacy of the election.

Bush is “not only our president, but our commander in chief,” Lieberman said while speaking to the National Jewish Democratic Council in Hollywood, Fla.

“The election of last year seems a world away. These recounts are fascinating. They don’t change anything.”

Lieberman’s move-on attitude matched many Americans’ reaction to the ballot review, released Sunday night.

“What’s done is done,” said Lorrie Branch, a Gore supporter from New Haven, Conn. “You can’t fix it, but maybe it would have made a difference back then.”

Bush supporter Sandy Myles of Kirtland, Ohio, echoed the sentiment. “I don’t care about last year anymore. Of course, I might feel differently if I had voted differently, but we need to go forward.”

An NBC-Wall St. Journal poll released Monday said nearly 6 in 10 Americans think Bush legitimately won the presidency, about the same as earlier this year.

While people were split down the middle during the summer on who would get their vote if the election were held again, recent polls say they now would choose Bush by a 2-1 ratio.

The Florida election review was developed by the AP, CNN, The New York Times, The Palm Beach Post, The St. Petersburg Times, Tribune Publishing, The Wall Street Journal and The Washington Post. Tribune newspapers include the Chicago Tribune, Los Angeles Times, Newsday, the Orlando Sentinel and the South Florida Sun-Sentinel in Ft. Lauderdale.

The media consortium hired the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago to view each untallied ballot and gather information about how it was marked. The consortium used computers to sort and tabulate votes, based on varying scenarios that had been raised during the postelection scramble in Florida.

On the Net:
<http://www.norc.uchicago.edu>
<http://wire.ap.org/>

Spinach, blueberries good for the brain

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Studies exploring the effects of specific foods on the brains of animals found that diets rich in spinach and blueberries may help stave off age-related declines in rats’ mental abilities.

Rats fed a diet rich in spinach reversed a normal loss of learning that occurs with age, according to a study by researchers at the University of South Florida. The study was presented at the Society for Neuroscience’s annual meeting in San Diego this week.

Rats fed a normal diet that contained 2 percent freeze-dried spinach learned to associate the sound of a tone with an oncoming puff of air faster than those fed regular rat chow, the study found. The test measured the interval between the sound of the tone and when the rats blinked.

The experiment was designed to test the ability to associate two distinct but related events, a skill that

has been shown to decline with age in rodents, rabbits and humans.

Spinach is rich in antioxidants, which scientists say can block the effects of free radicals. Studies suggest the lifelong accumulation of free radicals in the brain is linked to mental declines in old age and is also a probable factor in Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s diseases.

“This is a preclinical finding of significant interest that now needs to be tested in humans,” said Dr. Paula Bickford of the University of South Florida, an author of the study.

Blueberries are also rich in antioxidants. A study by researchers at the University of Houston at Clear Lake and the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico found that blueberries may help fight age-related declines in rats’ memories.

Aging rats that were fed a blueberry-supplemented diet for four months tested as well as younger rats in their abilities to recognize objects after an hour.

Big Tobacco gives closing statements in million dollar case

WHEELING, W.Va. (AP) — Thousands of healthy smokers deserve medical testing because cigarette companies long denied their product’s dangers and did nothing to make it safer, a lawyer said Monday during closing statements of a landmark class-action lawsuit.

“There’s been 40 years of lost opportunities,” said Scott Segal, who represents 250,000 West Virginia smokers who have consumed the equivalent of a pack a day for at least five years without becoming sick.

The smokers are suing four of the nation’s biggest cigarette makers,

accusing them of manufacturing a defective product that puts smokers at risk of becoming sick. They are demanding a screening program they say could lead to lifesaving early detection of lung cancer, emphysema and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

R.J. Reynolds, Philip Morris, Lorillard and Brown & Williamson say the tests the smokers want have not been proven to detect disease soon enough to make a difference in the outcome.

The lawsuit aims to “turn the tobacco companies into insurers that

pay for free medical testing” without even requiring the smokers to drop their habit, Reynolds attorney Jeff Furr argued.

But Segal said medical monitoring is necessary because technology now makes the early detection of disease possible.

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President

from Page 1

that's really how it seems, even students can see him on the sidewalk and say 'Hi Lou' and it's not President Hencken or interim President Hencken it's 'Hi Lou,' she said. "I really appreciate that. I want to see that in the next person."

Hugh O'Hara, a graduate student in political science, serves as the current student body president. He appointed Cox to the Presidential Search Advisory Committee and shares a lot of her views on Eastern presidents past, present and future.

"President Surles had great skills in Springfield that were a whole lot better than what we've had in the past, so that's something that we definitely need," he said. "I think that what we like in President Hencken is not only does he take the time to listen to us, but when he listens he takes that into consideration — it's not just, yeah, sure, I'll listen and blow you off. He takes what we say very seriously, and I think that's what we look for — someone who not only listens, but also respects our opinion and believes that students can and should have a very large voice on campus."

O'Hara, who was elected last spring, noted that while Surles' fund-raising work is well documented, he did not work with the former president enough to comment on her campus involvement.

In general, he stressed the importance of students having a voice on campus and said student government helps provide that voice.

"We probably have a better working relationship with the administration than any other group on campus, especially the president and vice presidents," O'Hara said. "There are really no other student groups that get the access to them that we get. So, I'd say, yeah, we're definitely a bridge between."

Down to earth

Amy Grammer leads one of the other campus groups that provides a link between students and the administration. The senior management major serves as president of the Residence Hall

Association. Grammer echoed Cox' remarks, emphasizing that the students want a president they can relate to on a personal level, someone who's not intimidating.

"Just the way that (the president's) presence is not a high and mighty presence is probably the most important," she said. "That that person is on the same playing level as all of the students, who is able to kick back and have fun and still maintain a professional image at the same time."

Grammer said she's witnessed that down-to-earth persona this semester with Hencken.

"Being at parent's day for the casino night and seeing the president there — that was just exciting to me — to see President Hencken walking around playing bingo with everybody else," she said.

Working with faculty

While all three student leaders want to maintain an open line of communication between students and the university president, they also want Eastern's next president to communicate well with the faculty.

"In the past, my own personal perception was that there was a lot of tension between the administration and the faculty. Among the students there were rampant rumors that the faculty would be striking and that would affect their grades. All that turned out just to be rumor, you know the students getting carried away with things, but there was always that tension and I don't see that right now," O'Hara said. "I think that the next president is going to have to be able to work with faculty and they're also going to have to be able to work in an environment where the faculty is unionized, which is not such a common thing."

Cox also said she would like Eastern's next president to have collective bargaining experience as well as other career experiences that would allow that person to relate well with the faculty.

"I would prefer that they have teaching experience," she said. "I would prefer that they would have been a faculty member, achieved tenure, worked their way up through the ranks. That would just be my preference because I feel like it would allow them to relate with all the con-

stituencies on campus, because obviously they were a student at some point."

However, Cox maintains that her role on the search committee is to represent the concerns of students. Cox said in accordance with that role, she would be willing to contact student leaders at the schools of the top 10 or 12 candidates and ask them how they feel about the individual.

"I want to know how they relate to the students basically," Cox said. "I want to know that they can work with the faculty because that's been an issue as well in the past, but I feel like faculty members on the committee will ensure that they get along well with the candidates so, I'm out for the students."

Here to stay?

All three student leaders said they hope that Eastern's ninth president will stick around for awhile. To help achieve that goal, they want a candidate's track record to be a consideration in the evaluation process.

"Just like any time you go on a job interview, that's what a prospective employer is looking at," Grammer said. "They're looking to see how long have you stayed at a job. Can you keep a job longer than a few years, or a few months, or a few weeks sometimes? And I think that's something that we need to be considering as well."

Cox said a candidate's previous employment will be considered in the search, but that a person would not be discounted without first evaluating the situation.

"If they've had a pretty good record of staying with positions for five to seven years and then had like a two-year stint somewhere, obviously we would check into why," she said. "Maybe it just wasn't a good fit for them."

O'Hara said he would like ensure that the next president comes to Eastern to further the university's mission, not his or her career.

"Eastern has always had an identity; it's always stuck pretty much within that identity of a extremely good undergrad institution. I think we need a president who's going to stick around and continue that mission," he said. "We don't need someone who's going to come here as a stepping stone to moving on to a Big 10 school."

Visit

from Page 1

Her mother, Kristy, said she liked the way the tours were organized, especially in the dorms.

She also said that they were considering Eastern because of the cost and the distance; it's far but not too far.

"I have a lot of friends who told me about this school," she said.

Summer Smith, a Shelbyville High School senior, said she was looking only at Eastern, and would probably major in elementary education.

"It's not too spread out," she said.

Kristin Thompson, from Cowden, also said her major choice will be elementary education, but she is considering Lake Land College and Southern Illinois University at Carbondale in addition to Eastern.

"It's not too far from home," she said.

A few students said they are considering Eastern because they have siblings here already.

Mandy Lundeen, from Minooka, who is considering an education major, said her brother attends Eastern. She is also looking at Illinois State University and Augustana College.

Scott Patterson, from New Lenox, said his sister attends Eastern, and he is favoring Eastern because it is a large school in a small town.

Monday's open house was the last one for the semester, Friesz said. Future open houses are scheduled for Feb. 11, April 20 and July 19.

She said that since there is rolling admission there is not a set application deadline, but it is a good idea to get applications in early.

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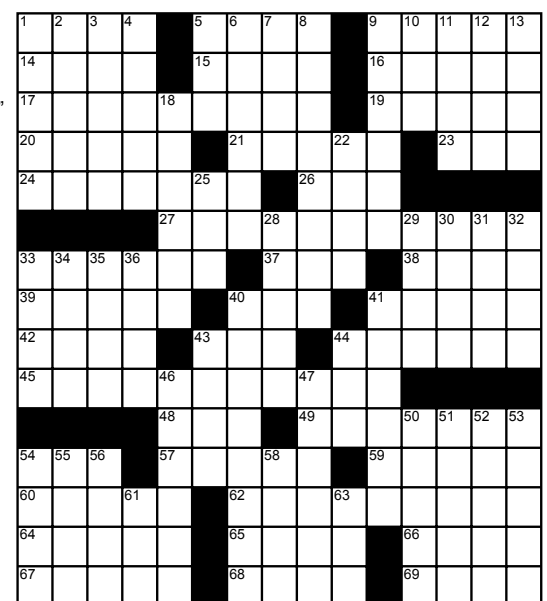
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Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 1002

- ACROSS**
- 1 Fires
 - 5 Pinup's legs
 - 9 Hard to resolve
 - 14 Away from the wind
 - 15 Burn treatment
 - 16 W.W. II conference site
 - 17 "Not to worry!"
 - 19 Super bargain
 - 20 Big muddle
 - 21 Join forces
 - 23 Rap's Dr. _____
 - 24 Early communications satellite
 - 26 U.S. currency: Abbr.
 - 27 "It's a snap!"
 - 33 Part of the backbone
 - 37 Cereal grain in Cap'n Crunch
 - 38 Unwell, perhaps
 - 39 Milk-Bone, e.g.
 - 40 Request for a Milk-Bone?
 - 41 Eyed impertinently
 - 42 "_____ well that ends well"
 - 43 _____ nuevo
 - 44 Unsettling
 - 45 "Smooth sailing!"
 - 48 Needlefish
 - 49 Molded, as metal
 - 54 Jefferson Davis was its pres.
 - 57 Good to have around
- DOWN**
- 1 Art able to
 - 2 Singly
 - 3 Climbers' vacation spot
 - 4 Lowly workers
 - 5 Gossip
 - 6 Glamour
 - 7 Big name in faucets
 - 8 Hard of hearing
 - 9 Whitman's "Song of _____"
 - 10 Dig in
 - 11 Toy attached to a rope
 - 12 Marquee-name entertainer
 - 13 Part of the Ivy League
 - 18 Production
 - 22 Train whistle sound
 - 25 Purpose
 - 59 Quebec's _____ Peninsula
 - 60 First letter
 - 62 "Like water off a duck's back!"
 - 64 Port on the Korea Strait
 - 65 Señor's affirmative
 - 66 Duration
 - 67 Last letter
 - 68 Pitfall
 - 69 "The Dukes of Hazzard" spin-off



Puzzle by Richard Hughes

ANSWER TO MONDAY'S PUZZLE

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

```

- 28 "Le Repos" artist
- 29 Zoo fixture
- 30 Qualified Nicaraguan leader
- 31 Refuse to release
- 32 Small whirlwind
- 33 Baseball's Musial
- 34 Woody's musical son
- 35 Irishman or Welshman
- 36 Impulsive
- 40 Least likely to forgive
- 41 1980's Nicaraguan leader
- 43 Med. sch. course
- 44 DX divided by V
- 46 Spiny-crested lizard
- 47 "The _____ File" (Forsyth novel)
- 50 Kind of system
- 51 Colorado music festival site
- 52 Vice President Agnew
- 53 Abounds (with)
- 54 Mafia leader
- 55 Run-down area
- 56 Far end of a church
- 58 Den
- 61 Cauldron stirrer
- 63 Pup's bark

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MLB

McGwire retirement shocks Cardinals

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Mark McGwire's retirement creates a \$30 million windfall in the St. Louis Cardinals' budget.

Now they have to decide how — or if — to spend it.

Among the options to replace McGwire, who retired Sunday after two frustrating, injury-plagued seasons, is a player who's done it successfully once before: Jason Giambi.

Giambi, who has admired McGwire since their days together in Oakland, replaced Big Mac on the Athletics in 1997 when McGwire was traded to St. Louis.

Giambi won the AL MVP last season and could win it again this season after hitting .342 with 38 homers and 120 RBIs. But he will be expensive.

The Cardinals will probably have to compete with Oakland and the big-spending New York Yankees to bring in Giambi. It might take as much as \$20 million a year to sign Giambi. The Cardinals have \$30 million to play with over two years.

McGwire, the former single-season home run king, announced his retirement now instead of closer to opening day to allow the Cardinals to find a replacement, like Giambi.

"I believe I owe it to the Cardinals and the fans of St. Louis to step aside, so a talented free agent can be brought in as the final piece of what I expect can be a world championship-caliber team," McGwire said in his statement Sunday.

Another possibility at first base is Tino Martinez, a free agent after winning four World Series titles in six years with the Yankees. The Cardinals also could move NL Rookie of the Year Albert Pujols

to first base and sign an outfielder like Moises Alou.

On the other hand, the Cardinals might prefer keeping costs down a bit.

The payroll was \$74 million last year and projects to \$80 million this year, with 22-game winner Matt Morris, among others, due for a large raise.

General manager Walt Jocketty said last week that he's trying to reduce the payroll to \$70 million, which would leave next to nothing even with McGwire's departure.

McGwire, 38, batted just .187 in his final season with 29 homers and finished with 583 career homers, fifth on the all-time list. He was the single-season home run king for three seasons after hitting 70 in 1998, waging a season-long race with Sammy Sosa of the Chicago Cubs.

"I got close to him when we shared the home run race," Sosa said in a statement. "He must have a good reason for his decision.

"The way he declined the money from the Cardinals so that they can bring someone else into replace him ... that's a class act. I will never forget him."

McGwire's announcement, while not entirely unexpected, shocked the Cardinals' front office because it got the news via fax just like everybody else.

The fax arrived at Busch Stadium late Sunday night, so the team didn't see it until Monday morning.

Jocketty was in Phoenix for the team's annual organizational meetings, and still had not heard from McGwire, who was vacationing in Mexico.

Manager Tony La Russa was initially skeptical of the fax for the same reason Sunday night.

MLB

Suzuki, Pujols voted Rookies of the Year

NEW YORK (AP) — Ichiro Suzuki has a lot more confidence than the average rookie. Then again, he's not the average rookie.

The 28-year-old Seattle outfielder became the second straight Japanese player to win the American League Rookie of the Year award and wasn't surprised by Monday's vote.

"I was a little embarrassed to be called a rookie here in the United States," he said through a translator. "I was so relieved today when I heard this announcement I won the Rookie of the Year award because I felt this was an award I should have won without any doubt."

Suzuki, who came to the major leagues after nine seasons in the Japanese Pacific League, received 27 of 28 first-place votes from a panel of the Baseball Writers' Association of America.

"If I won this award, I had wanted to win unanimously," he said.

Albert Pujols of St. Louis was a unanimous choice for the National League rookie award.

"It's a pretty good honor," the 21-year-old Pujols said. "You only get it

one year, and so I'm happy I got it."

Suzuki was the first rookie to win a batting title since Tony Oliva in 1964. Suzuki batted .350 with 56 stolen bases, becoming the first player to lead the major leagues in both categories since Jackie Robinson in 1949.

Suzuki's 242 hits were a rookie record and the most for anyone since Bill Terry's 254 for the 1930 New York Giants. Suzuki, the first Japanese non-pitcher in the major leagues, was the second straight Seattle player to win the award, following reliever Kazuhiro Sasaki.

Before last year, the only Mariners' player to win had been Alvin Davis in 1984. Seattle paid the Orix Blue Wave \$13,125,000 after the 2000 season for the rights to Suzuki, then gave him a three-year contract that guaranteed him \$14,088,000.

Suzuki, who gets a \$75,000 bonus for winning, had 138 points, easily beating Cleveland pitcher C.C. Sabathia, who had 75 points after going 17-5 with a 4.39 ERA.

Sabathia got one first-place vote,

from Chris Assenheimer of the Chronicle-Telegram in Elyria, Ohio.

"I just felt that Sabathia better met the criteria of what a rookie is in the truest sense of the word," said Assenheimer, who was surprised he was the only voter not to have Suzuki No. 1 on his ballot. "That's nothing against Ichiro."

Sabathia disagreed with that view and thought Suzuki was the top rookie.

"The award is for first-year players in the big leagues, and he's definitely deserving of it," he said. "There's not an argument about that at all."

New York Yankees second baseman Alfonso Soriano was third with 35 points, and Angels shortstop David Eckstein was fourth with six.

Pujols got all 32 first-place votes in the NL, becoming the ninth unanimous rookie pick in the NL. The others were Frank Robinson (1956), Orlando Cepeda (1958), Willie McCovey (1959), Vince Coleman (1985), Benito Santiago (1987), Mike Piazza (1993), Raul Mondesi (1994) and Scott Rolen (1997).

MLB

Disappointed Bears need to regroup in a hurry

LAKE FOREST, Ill. (AP) — A six-game winning streak and two-week run of fantastic finishes is over for the Chicago Bears, who tried to regroup Monday after a loss to the Green Bay Packers.

It wasn't an easy task for a disappointed football team.

"Now we can come down to earth and everybody knows they have to play up to their responsibilities," defensive end Phillip Daniels said a day after the 20-12 loss.

"We watched the film and analyzed it and we know we didn't play well on defense. So we just got to go out and fix that."

Green Bay's defense did play well. The Packers didn't allow a touchdown Sunday, bottling up the Bears' running game and eliminating any big plays or dramat-

ic comebacks that had produced overtime victories for Chicago the previous two games.

"Everybody seems to be devastated, but this is just part of it and you have to work your way through it," quarterback Jim Miller said.

Miller had a tough time throwing downfield because the Packers' defense kept the Bears off balanced, sometimes blitzing linebackers against the run.

"We did throw it downfield, but we didn't come up with the plays," Miller said. "Either I didn't make the throws, we didn't come down with the ball." Miller said.

Rookie running back Anthony Thomas managed just 45 yards on 22 carries. He gained 22 yards on the first two plays of the game, so he managed just 23 yards on his final 20 carries.

SIU football coach to leave hospital Tuesday

CARBONDALE, Ill. (AP) — Southern Illinois University football coach Jerry Kill has been cleared to leave the hospital, the school's athletic department said Monday.

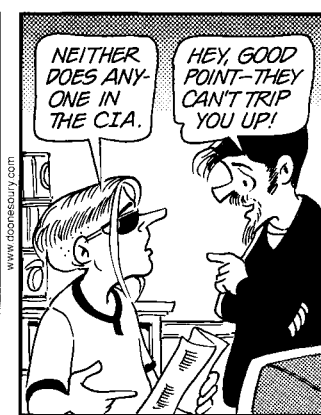
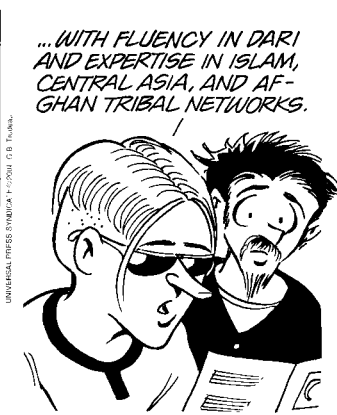
Kill was admitted to the Memorial Hospital on Saturday evening after suffering a seizure. But medical tests came back normal, and he has been told he can go home Tuesday and resume a normal schedule.

"I feel fine, and the doctors said there should be no problem with me going back to work," Kill said in a statement. "Right now, I'm anxious to get our team ready for Western Kentucky."

His Sulukis finish the 2001 season at Western Kentucky this Saturday.

Doctors told Kill to remain in the hospital overnight so they can regulate his medicine.

DOONESBURY



BY GARRY TRUDEAU

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM



BY MIKE PETERS

Check Wednesday's sports section to find out who is the Top Cat of the Week

Wrestling

Consistency carries five Panthers to podium

Kevin Mulcahy
Staff writer

Eastern head wrestling coach Ralph McCausland said consistency is and always has been the key to a successful season. The Panthers have showed consistency from last week as five Panthers placed at the Central Missouri invite on Sunday.

Last week four people placed and McCausland said that there was room for improvement. However, this weekend, despite not having all weight classes represented the Eastern grapplers managed to have five team members take places in the tournament against competition from the Big 12.

The competition at the invite varied from some big establishments such as Nebraska, Iowa, Oklahoma and Missouri.

"We had good results," McCausland

said. "It was a stiffer tournament competition wise. It was a lot tougher than our previous tournament."

Eastern had two wrestlers at 125 pounds Sunday. Freshman Dexter Wright went 2-2 for the day and sophomore Mike Stanley took third place finishing 4-1.

"Stanley had a nice tournament," McCausland said. "He wrestled extremely well."

Sophomore Pat Dowty had a great day as well as he went 3-2 at 133 pounds and finished in fifth place overall.

Chris Stevens, a 141-pound sophomore ended the day 2-2, and in the next weight division freshman Andy Coyle was one match away from placing for a second time when he finished 3-2 on the mats Sunday.

Tim Loeffel, another contender at 149 pounds had a record of 2-2. Frank

DeFilippis was 2-1 for the day, however, he was pulled out of competition early after suffering a pulled neck muscle.

"Frank couldn't turn his head," McCausland recalled. "You can't wrestle if you can't move your neck, so we had to take him out."

Junior Sam Smith also finished in fifth place with a record of 4-2 for the day at 165 pounds, Craig Tacket took a 2-2 finish at the same weight.

With Louis Taylor and Kyle Bracey out for injuries the Panthers didn't have anyone represent the 174- and 184-pound weight classes at the tournament.

Eastern had four wrestlers competing in the heavyweights and two of them placed. Junior Ross Bracey as well as freshman Pete Ziminski both wrestled to split their matches at 2-2 for the day.

Freshman Jim Kassner took sixth in the division after finishing with a 4-3 standing, while teammate Joe Gleissner ended the day in fourth place at 3-2 on the day.

"Everyone showed nice composure," McCausland said.

"We made a few tactical mistakes that cost us some matches, but the guys got a lot of good matches in."

McCausland is sure that the competition will intensify as the weeks pass by, but McCausland is confident that his team will know what lies ahead of them and will continue to improve for the challenges.

"It is a progression," McCausland said. "It will continue to progress and that's good because next week will be tougher. Only the top four wrestlers will place next week. The guys know it will be difficult to place."

Tourney

from Page 12

we're not going to expect too little."

Eastern avoided the other Midwest bracket featuring Michigan, Marquette, Dartmouth, the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee, Syracuse, the University of Illinois, Evansville, and St. Clara.

"I don't know if we could have asked for a better match up," head coach Steve Ballard said.

From their Ohio Valley Conference tournament win Sunday over Southeast Missouri to Monday's selection for the NCAA tournament, the team has been on an emotional roller coaster for the past couple days.

"It's absolutely incredible," Bissell said. "The attitude is completely overwhelming. I haven't been able to concentrate on anything. This has been a dream of mine since the ninth grade.

"As a senior, this just puts the icing in the cake. It's just the most



Kate Mitchell/Associate photo editor

Christie Zabrowski tries to steal the ball away from her opponent during a recent home game. The Panthers will play against Notre Dame in the first round of the NCAA Tournament

incredible moment imaginable."

But the team now has until Thursday to prepare for the biggest game in the program's history.

"I hope they enjoy this for another 20 hours until practice (Tuesday)," Ballard said. "Then it's back to reality."

Game

from Page 12

late in the second half with two consecutive three-point shots before stepping to the line with two free throw shots for a 71-69 lead.

McDaniel continued to score 15 more points before the night was over.

"He's got no conscious," head coach Rick Samuels said. "He could throw up a three from anywhere."

Domercant cut the score to 82-78 with three minutes remaining, but NBC Thunder responded with five more points. A tip-in by Domercant off a Ryan Kelly missed free throw brought the Panthers within seven with 1:50 left. That was as close as Eastern would get for the rest of the game.

"We didn't have a very good flow," Samuels said. "We're not where we can be."

NBC Thunder went to the line six more times in the final minute and a half of the game, adding 10 more points for the eventual 99-88 win.

Turnovers proved to be costly for the Panthers, committing 16 for the game with Bergmann and Rod Henry coughing the ball up four times each.

On a positive end, Eastern filled

the offensive hole left by Domercant to put three other players in double figures.

Lewis was Eastern's second leading scorer with 16 points, while sophomore center Jesse Mackinson had 15 and junior guard J.R. Reynolds finished with 12 points. Mackinson led the team with eight rebounds.

"There's some good things, like four guys in the double figures... I like those things," Samuels said.

"Our four big guys, they do what we want them to do. We're in good shape there."

Bergmann contributed eight points for the night, finishing 4-for-5, with his only miss coming on a desperation three at the end of the game.

While Eastern ends its exhibition competition, the Panthers open the season with St. Joseph's 7:10 p.m. Friday night in Lantz Arena. The loss isn't the most important thing the Panthers will take into the season opener.

"It was a good lesson for us," Samuels said. "I think we got down on ourselves when we missed a free throw or a shot didn't go in. We have to keep our intensity level up.

"It's too early to start speculating. We don't want to play our best basketball in our second exhibition game."

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Avant drops yet another bomb on Murray State's basketball team

In high school Jamar Avant was the bomb, a potent offensive threat. Now Murray State's sophomore forward is accused of being the bomb threat, better known for e-mails not dazzling feats of basketball prowess.

Two years ago, while a senior at Murphysboro High School, Avant was rated the number three player in the state of Illinois by Hoop Scoop magazine. He averaged 17 points and 15 rebounds per game.

A week ago, Avant was arrested and charged with Terroristic Threatening in the first degree, a felony. The arrest came as the result of an investigation by the MSU, Public Safety Department; a big name that means campus police.

The investigation came as the result of two e-mail bomb threats

4th and 20



Pat Guinane

Staff editor
e-mail: cupjg@pen.eiu.edu

that were received on campus, which allegedly came from Avant.

Why would anyone, allegedly or not, send such e-mails when everyone in the country is on "a heightened sense of alert?"

We may never know why someone would do such a ridiculously stupid thing.

But, at this time, other ques-

tions arise, such as: How would a busy student-athlete find the time to allegedly send bomb threats? and how will Avant's indefinite suspension affect Murray State's team?

Steve Parker, sports information director at Murray State, helped shed some light on the unfortunate situation during an interview Monday.

You see, when you read Avant's profile in the Racers' media guide, you'll notice that the forward is described as having "great size, quickness and athletic ability." But you have to read further to see that Avant also has been "battling complications with asthma which has kept him out of workouts at times."

As Parker put it, "If you can't breathe its kind of hard to play basketball."

For that very reason, Avant hasn't played or even practiced much this season. For another reason, academic ineligibility, Avant didn't play at all last season.

Parker said Murray State's coaches were not expecting to see Avant contribute much this year. They realized Avant's health might prevent him from getting in the lineup.

So, the sophomore forward, who has yet to play a single minute, has still managed to bring notoriety to the team through his alleged actions.

"It's just another black eye for us," Parker said.

Murray State's program took another shiner last year when senior guard/forward Ray Cunningham was suspended indefinitely after a sexual assault charge. Two years ago,

Cunningham was third on the team in scoring.

Last year the Racers finished second in Ohio Valley conference and were blown out 97-71 by Eastern in tournament play. Who knows how that game could have went with Cunningham in action.

This year, the OVC preseason Poll, which was released two weeks ago, picked Murray State to finish second.

The same poll picked Eastern to place third, with Tennessee Tech taking first.

Murray State's Racers don't come to Charleston until Feb. 14. When the conference rivals do arrive they'll bring with them a program bruised by the alleged actions of one of its players, but not Jamar Avant.

Neither of which will be anything new to Murray State.

Pains

from Page 12

Thunder left Lantz Arena disappointed.

It's hard for most fans not to be disappointed, with most anticipating the same excitement that came from last year's NCAA tourney squad. The Monday night loss was Eastern's first at home since February 2000, although technically the Panthers still hold a 14-game home win streak since Monday's game was just an exhibition.

I don't think the loss is what was most disappointing to many of the fans that turned out for the second and final exhibi-

tion game of the season. After all, the final score doesn't mean anything. I think what's most upsetting is that many, myself included, may still have visions of Kyle Hill and Matt Britton, senior guards from a year ago, dancing in their heads.

What needs to be realized is this is a much different team. The Panthers are not necessarily a much worse team, and certainly are not less talented. But they most certainly are less experienced.

It will take time, likely a good couple months, before this current group meshes and learns to play with each other.

"Everyone's still getting used to each other and getting a feel for the offense," junior guard Craig Lewis said following

the loss. "We're going to get better game by game."

They will get better, but it may be hard for many to tell. Eastern starts the regular season Friday against St. Joseph's. That should be a cake walk, but things get much harder down the road. After the home opener, Eastern will see the likes of tough non-conference opponents Illinois, Georgia Tech, Penn, Indiana State, Evansville, Oklahoma and Ohio State within the next month.

Lopsided scores may be likely throughout the month of December, but January is the start of the conference season, and that's what Rick Samuels' Panthers are locked in on.

"We have to become familiar with two things. No. 1 is that this won't be the same team in December this year as it was in December last year," Samuels said Monday night. "We had a great continuity of kids returning last season that were coming off playing 10 games overseas plus practices.

"No. 2 is we have a very tough December schedule. These kids will go into every game and battle, and we'll grow up," Samuels said as he left the post-game press conference Monday night. "Don't give up on these kids. They'll be alright."

And you know what, I think Samuels is right - as long as the Panthers don't adopt the mentality of a Toys R' Us kid.

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