

12-12-2003

Daily Eastern News: December 12, 2003

Eastern Illinois University

Follow this and additional works at: http://thekeep.eiu.edu/den_2003_dec

Recommended Citation

Eastern Illinois University, "Daily Eastern News: December 12, 2003" (2003). *December*. 9.
http://thekeep.eiu.edu/den_2003_dec/9

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the 2003 at The Keep. It has been accepted for inclusion in December by an authorized administrator of The Keep. For more information, please contact tabruns@eiu.edu.



The king has returned

The Verge brings you a cornucopia of Tolkien treats.

Page 1B VERGE



STATE ETHICS BILL

2 college boards lose chairs

◆ *Other Illinois public universities scramble to fill vacancies*

By Tim Martin
SENIOR REPORTER

Four of the state's public universities, including Eastern, are scrambling to reassemble their Board of Trustees membership after Gov. Rod Blagojevich on Tuesday signed an ethics bill outlawing lobbyists from serving on state boards.

Already, two Eastern trustees have resigned because of their affiliation with trucking and real estate lobbies, jobs they rely upon for most of their personal income. Board members at three other state universities — Northern Illinois University, Southern

Illinois University and University of Illinois — will soon resign for similar reasons.

"I think there were a couple of people who were innocent bystanders in this," President Lou Hencken said on Wednesday. "It would have been a stretch to see if it was a conflict of interest; but on the other hand, to ensure there aren't loopholes down the line sometimes you have to cover the whole thing."

After the regional governing boards system was scrapped in 1995, each state university developed a Board of Trustees body that serves as the school's final decision maker.

The bill, House Bill 702, touted as the toughest, most comprehensive ethics reform package in state history, was passed to give citizens

SEE BOARD ♦ Page 7

Eastern will try to find proximate replacements for Board

By Tim Martin
SENIOR REPORTER

Geography will be a variable the university looks at when the Alumni Association locates possible replacements for three recently resigned Board of Trustees members.

To ensure equal demographical representation, board members are selected in part according to where they live. The three board members who recently retired are from Hinsdale, a southwest suburb of Chicago; Savoy, a town near Champaign; and Springfield.

David Sluzevich, the president of the Alumni Association's Board of Directors, is responsible for contacting the prospective candidates. Also, unlike

SEE REPLACEMENTS ♦ Page 7

Southern deals with parking crowding

Editor's Note: This story is the continuation of a series of articles running in the weeks up until winter break, taking an in-depth look at parking availability, conveniences, hassles and costs associated with parking on campus.

By Neil Pitstick
STAFF WRITER

A look into Southern Illinois University's parking situation may shed a little light on the issues that Eastern is dealing with now.

Brian B. Mager, administrator of the Department of Public Safety in the Parking and Traffic Division at Carbondale, pointed out an explanation to the Eastern problem by explaining Southern's parking issues.

"What we have is a 'convenient parking' problem. Everyone wishes to be able to park as close to their classroom, lab or office as possible," Mager said.

As Eastern has become larger, the challenge of keeping many good parking spots for students is an issue most schools deal with.

Mager said early on at Southern there was a small core area where many of the classes were. This area could be reached by walking or biking.

As the campus grew, new buildings were put around the core and small streets could be placed to get to these newer buildings.

"This didn't leave much room for parking," Mager said. "But when a growing school does not have a large enrollment, that much parking is not necessary."

In many ways, Eastern is a block of buildings, making it hard to get student parking close to classes.

Eastern's campus is not as large as Southern's, so students walk a shorter distance to class.

Southern has come up with some answers to get students from distant parking spaces to campus.

Mager said Southern developed a "lottery/wait list system" for coveted spots for underclassmen on campus that are under 21 years old.

For the individuals left to park far away, Mager said a shuttle system could be used for these areas.

The lot commuting system involves "parking in two peripheral lots that are serviced by a shuttle bus system that leaves every 20 minutes from the lots and proceeds directly to the academic areas of campus within 12 minutes, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday," Mager said.

If this approach sounds like overkill, since Eastern has a smaller campus, more education may be the key.

"I visit with parents and students prior to them stepping foot on campus and try to educate them about how parking and traffic may differ from what they may be accustomed to back in their hometowns," Mager said.

But as much as students keep complaining about the lack of parking on campus, some evidence may suggest availability is not the issue.

The student body continues to grow at Eastern, but most officials still don't think it's a problem.

The increase of students at Eastern has not caused a larger buildup of student vehicles on the outskirts of the campus, said Julie Abel, secretary to Shirley Stewart, vice president for student affairs.

Georgia Beltz, who is in charge of parking enforcement for the Charleston Police Department, said there has not been an increase in vehicles parked around campus nor an increase in parking tickets given near Eastern.

Local towing businesses also say more students aren't getting towed either.

Lance Cobble, owner of Cobble Towing, is involved with most of the towing on and around the campus. He said there has been a decrease in the number of cars towed this year.

In fact, Eastern has added parking in the last few years.

"Most of the parking along Ninth Street is new," Cobble said.



DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY COLIN MCAULIFFE

Plug it in

Don Conley of Charleston Public Works fixes a street light at the intersection of 6th Street and Jackson Ave. Thursday afternoon.

Mary goes round to union job

By James Fanelli
STAFF WRITER

A journalism professor will be retiring at the end of the fall 2003 semester after working at Eastern for more than 20 years.

Mary Kelly-Durkin, who began her teaching career with Eastern in 1981, will be moving on to bigger things after taking a position as the director of communication for the University Professionals of Illinois in their Chicago office.

Kelly-Durkin will be relocating to Indiana, near the Illinois border, where she will commute by train to the Chicago office located in the Loop.

"Mary contributed so much to our department, and she will certainly be missed by all of us," Peter Voelz, journalism professor said.

During her extensive career with Eastern, Kelly-Durkin was adviser to the yearbook for 10 years, chair of faculty senate, chair of the Committee for Assessment of Student Learning

and served on the Council for Academic Affairs.

Kelly-Durkin was also academic adviser to several students and the creator of *The Agency* where she served as adviser.

Prior to working at Eastern, Kelly-Durkin taught for more than four years at the University of Wisconsin in LaCrosse and also taught at Bakers University of Kansas.

During her years as a journalism professor, Kelly-Durkin created many relationships with her students as well as faculty members.

"I will miss the students the most," Kelly-Durkin said. "I made many friends here at Eastern, and I will miss them all."

Kelly-Durkin will officially retire Dec. 22, "the day after grades are turned in," she said.

"There is a scholarship being assembled in honor of Mary," said Terri Johnson, journalism professor. "She earned it, and I think that is a great way of saying thank you to her,"



Johnson said.

Once the scholarship fund is established, donations will be accepted through the journalism department

SEE KELLY-DURKIN ♦ Page 6

Today
Partly cloudy


28° 19°
HIGH LOW

Saturday
Snow showers

29° 21°
HIGH LOW

Sunday
Partly cloudy

34° 26°
HIGH LOW


Monday
Partly cloudy

42° 31°
HIGH LOW

Tuesday
Rain

45° 34°
HIGH LOW

Wednesday
Rain/snow/wind

36° 26°
HIGH LOW

Thursday
Partly cloudy

39° 25°
HIGH LOW

City to vote on filed motions, newest tax levy

By Carly Mullady
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Ordinances placed on file for two weeks' public inspection will be up for council approval next Tuesday, Dec. 16.

The meeting agenda said council will vote on three amendments to the city's code, Title 1 administrative, filed during the Dec. 2 meeting.

Up for approval is an amendment to city manager regulations, expanding the area city officials are allowed to live within and continue to serve as officials for the city.

Smith's current residence is slightly beyond the current regulations, Mayor Dan Coughlin said. The ordinance will allow him to remain in his home and hold the manager position.

Another Title 1 administrative amendment allowing the payroll clerk to perform in human resource management will be addressed by council following the two-week period for public opinion.

Also, the ordinance eliminating the position of city treasurer and establishing the position of comptroller will be up for approval.

Council will vote on the appointment of City

Comptroller Tamara Moshtagh as an authorized Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund agent.

If paperwork is complete, council will vote to join a settlement agreement with Charleston Fire Fighters Union IAFF Local 3200.

An amendment to the current ambulance rate structure in the city to meet Medicare rates will be voted on by council.

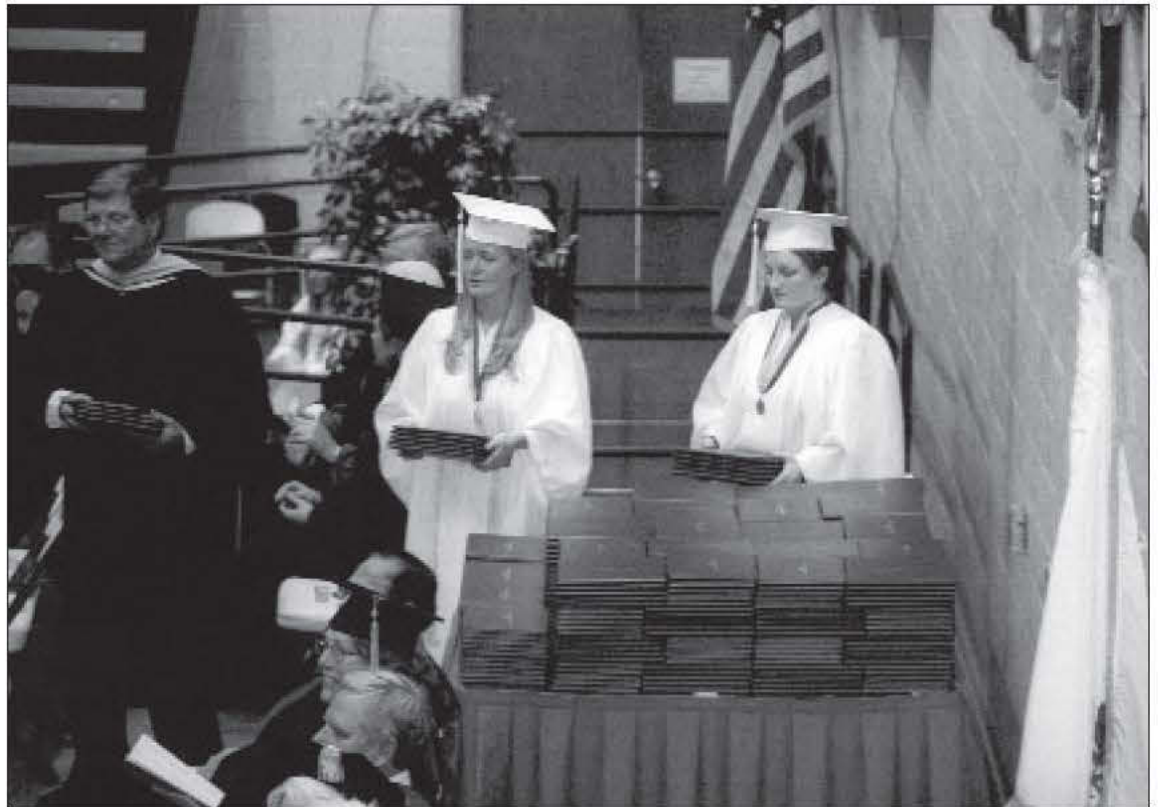
In other business:

◆ Council will vote on the May 2004-April 2005 annual tax levy.

◆ Council will vote to authorize an \$173,800 plus travel expenses agreement with New World Systems for finance software.

◆ Council will vote to approve the expenditure of tax implemented funds in the amount of \$28,000 loan and a \$28,000 grant. Tax implemented funds come from property taxes within the city's TIF district. Those funds are then allotted to businesses within the area in need of repair.

◆ Council will vote on the authorization of spending \$3,000 of tourism funds.



DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY STEPHEN HAAS

Students and faculty participate in last December's commencement ceremony.

Ceremony rife with fanfare

By Julie Bourque
STAFF WRITER

A sea of caps and gowns will be found in Lantz Arena Saturday while this year's fall commencement takes place.

More than 1,500 Eastern students are eligible for this fall's commencement, but only 600 to 650 will be walking, according to Julia Abell, director of planning and institutional studies.

Amanda King, senior media development major, is both happy and sad to be one of these 600 students leaving Eastern.

"I'm excited because it's a new chapter of my life, but I'm sad because it's an ending to a chapter as well," King said.

Not only the students who have met requirements for fall commencement will be participating Saturday, but the students who officially graduated in August will also be participating.

Summer graduates have a choice of walking early in the previous spring ceremony or waiting until December. If students choose to walk in the spring, an application must first be filled. And if accepted, they may walk and not receive their diploma until the official time of

graduation.

The summer commencement ceremony has been eliminated because of cost, availability of volunteers and fewer students eligible.

To shorten the length of the commencement, separate ceremonies will be held at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Walking in the morning ceremony are graduates from the Lumpkin College of Business and Applied Sciences and the College of Arts and Humanities. Graduates from the College of Education and Professional Studies, College of Sciences and School of Continuing Education will wait until the afternoon ceremony to march.

Traditionally, the Student Body President Caleb Judy, and Faculty Senate Chair David A. Carpenter, will address the graduates at both ceremonies.

Commencement marshals who carry the university mace, a symbol of honor, are also a custom to Eastern's ceremony.

Robert U. Fischer, representing the Graduate School, and Eugene Harrison, representing the School of Continuing Education, have been chosen to marshal the morning and afternoon ceremonies, respectively.

Fischer is a professor of biological

sciences and has been a faculty member since 1994. Harrison is an associate professor of art and has been a faculty member since 1989.

Faculty marshals have also become a recent tradition for Eastern's commencement ceremonies. Each chosen faculty member will carry the college banner for his or her college during the procession.

Marty Hackler, public functions supervisor, said marshals carrying the mace are chosen by fellow colleagues in the college they represent, and the faculty marshals are chosen by the dean of their residing college.

"I am completely honored and awed to do this," said journalism professor Mary Kelly-Durkin, who is representing the College of Arts and Humanities.

Tickets are needed for all attending Saturday's commencement ceremony. Each student graduating is allotted a certain amount of tickets for guests, which must be picked up in Old Main by Friday. Tickets for non-graduating students who wish to attend commencement can pick up tickets late Friday afternoon. Distribution of tickets depends upon the availability of seating in Lantz Arena.

POLICE BLOTTER

Driving Under the Influence

Marnie A. Neri, 21, Highland, Ill., was arrested Dec. 7 at the 1500 block of First Street on the charge of driving under the influence, police reports said.

Theft

A lamp and blanket were reported stolen from the front desk of Stevenson Hall Dec. 9. According to police reports, the incident is under investigation.

THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Editor in chief John Chambers
Managing editor Matt Meinheit
News editor Matt Williams
Associate news editor Carly Mullady
Editorial page editor Jennifer Chiariello
Activities editor Brittany Robson
Administration editor Kevin Sampier
Campus editor Evan Hill
City editor Jessica Youngs
Student gov. editor Brian O'Malley
Photo editors Colin McAuliffe
..... Stephen Haas
Sports editor Matthew Stevens
Associate Sports editor Mike Gilbert
Verge editor Dan Valenziano
Associate Verge editor Holly Henschen

Online editor Matt Wills
Associate online editor Stephen Haas
Accounts manager Kyle Perry
Advertising manager Tim Sullivan
Design & graphics manager Tim Sullivan
Graphic designer Katie Lennon
Sales Manager Mary Carnevale
Promotions manager Dean Shirkman
National Advertising Megan Landreth
Business manager Betsy Mellott
Asst. business manager Lindsay Moffett
Student business manager Marie Rehr
Editorial adviser John Ryan
Publisher John David Reed
Press supervisor Johnny Bough

The Daily Eastern News is produced by the students of Eastern Illinois University. It is published daily Monday through Friday, in Charleston, Ill. during fall and spring semesters and twice weekly during the summer term except during school vacations or examinations. Subscription price: \$38 per semester, \$16 for summer, \$68 all year. The Daily Eastern News is a member of The Associated Press, which is entitled to exclusive use of all articles appearing in this paper.



PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID AT:
Charleston, IL 61920
ISSN 0894-1599

PRINTED BY:
Eastern Illinois University
Charleston, IL 61920

ATTENTION POSTMASTER:
Send address changes to
The Daily Eastern News
Buzzard Hall, Eastern Illinois University
Charleston, IL 61920

PHONE: 217-581-2812 (fax 581-2923)

EMAIL: jchambers@eiu.edu

NIGHT STAFF:

Night editor Jamie Fetty
News Design Matt Meinheit
Sports Design Tim Martin
Night Photo editor Colin McAuliffe
Copy editors Jesse Wu
..... Nina Samii
Night News editor Matt Williams
..... Carly Mullady

Laughs on track before finals

Hey guys, we are almost there! A week from today everyone will be home. Well, the time has come. This weekend everyone will be opening those books covered in cob webs, reading over their notes and doing those study guides. Just remember to take a break every once in a while. Watch some TV, listen to some music, knock back a drink or do whatever relaxes you. Next week take some time out of your day to see the ever-so-hyped "Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King" that comes out Wednesday. Some of you may be like me and could care less about the ridiculous movies, or some of you may be like my roommate, who is mesmerized and jumps up and down when previews for the movie come on. Either way, have a great break.

Activities for Friday:

◆ "The Gift of Life" Blood Drive: Delta Tau Delta Fraternity and



Alpha Phi sorority will hold another blood drive today from 12-4 p.m. in the Student Recreation Center. All donors must present identification and will receive a T-shirt.

◆ Need a good laugh before studying or need a break from studying? Head over to the 7th St. Underground tonight for a good laugh. Comedians Sonya D, B. Cole and Sugar Ray will be performing tonight. All three performers are from Chicago. Along with performing, Sonya D will MC this event. She has performed at Eastern four times before. All comedians have performed on Black Entertainment Television, Comic View and Comedy Central. The

event starts at 9 p.m. Admission is \$5 with an ID and \$10 without.

Activities for Saturday:

◆ English Studies Student Conference. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. on the third floor of Coleman Hall. Presentations will highlight student work in literary studies, literary history, creative writing, rhetoric and composition, pedagogy and other language arts related fields.

◆ For those 21 and older, The Rural Kings are at The Uptowner at 10 p.m. Go for a graduation celebration or the last blowout of the semester.

◆ This Saturday night, take a break and have another good laugh. University Board is presenting the movie American Wedding in Buzzard Auditorium at 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. The showing is free with student ID.

State educators remember Simon



DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY COLIN MCAULIFFE

Paul Simon talks to students and faculty at Eastern during a visit March 3, 2002.

By Jessica Youngs
CITY EDITOR

"The young man with the bow tie", Paul Simon, died Tuesday from complications of a heart operation at age 75.

Although Simon was an outspoken, liberal democrat, many members of both parties considered him a unique friend and one of the most honest people in politics.

Former Eastern professor Dalias Price said he was always shocked many people from universities supported Simon because universities are traditionally conservative.

"We need more like him in both parties, no, all three parties," Price said.

"Simon was the most honest and honorable man in Illinois politics," Andrew McNitt said.

McNitt, a professor of political science at Eastern, is a member of the downstate democratic party.

In addition to being honest, McNitt said Simon was straight forward, clear and noted for wearing a bow tie.

"In a profession with blow-dried hair, (Simon) was an unique, genuine individual," McNitt said.

For more than 40 years, Simon worked in both Illinois and national politics, fighting political corruption.

According to McNitt, Simon's fight

against corruption started at an early age and continued through all of his life.

Simon left college as a junior to take over a downstate family newspaper. While working at the paper, he found evidence of considerable corruption in local government, McNitt said.

"Simon was my idea not of a politician, but a statesman," Price said. "He looked at issues, not for votes, but for his country no matter what."

Price said he worked with Simon during his early years in office.

"(Simon) was an amazing person in many ways," Price said. "And he had a phenomenal memory."

Price said he remembered one incident where Simon's memory shone.

As Price was sitting in a Holiday Inn lobby many years ago, he said Simon walked in and called him by name.

"(Simon) was like that," Price said. "He knew so many people."

Although he never finished college himself, in addition to fighting corruption, Simon was dedicated to promoting higher education.

He visited many college campuses to give speeches. He came to Eastern on March 3, 2002 to speak about the United States foreign policy post-Sept. 11.

After losing a run for Illinois governor in the 1972 democratic primaries, Simon was offered many positions for a variety

of work throughout the state, said Charles Wheeler.

Wheeler is the director of the university's public affairs reporting program that was founded by Simon.

From all of the job offers, Wheeler said Simon chose the recently founded University of Illinois-Springfield, then called Sangamon State to implement a program to prepare a graduate program, which would prepare journalism majors for careers in public affair reporting and covering hard news.

Simon remained at the university as the director of the program for its first two years.

Wheeler said he covered Simon for the *Chicago Sun-Times* when he was the state's lieutenant-governor, before starting the program.

Wheeler, who considered Simon a friend, said he was "so genuine, such a caring, honest, optimistic person."

"Of all the political figures I covered in all 24 years (reporting), he was the one that stands out," Wheeler said. "He was the perfect example of what you would hope for in an elected official."

Throughout Simon's many years in politics, he was once the youngest member of the Illinois Legislature, a United States Senator and a one-time presidential candidate in 1988.

"He had many good years," Price said.

Come on baby, light my house

By Blake Boldt
STAFF WRITER

The holiday spirit is alive and well in Charleston, with house decorations reflecting celebration of the season.

Some spirited residents have been rewarded for their efforts to display the holiday atmosphere.

The Spirit of the Holidays Outdoor Decorating Contest is sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Department. The competition is in its sixth year.

Prizes were awarded to those who strung their lights and created the most spectacular displays in the community.

The overall winners were Douglas and Deborah Abolt of 521 Fox Lake Dr.

The judging took place on Wednesday night between 6-9 p.m.

The judging committee consisted of five Parks and Recreation Department board members.

The city was divided into four sections: northwest, southwest, northeast and southeast. Each

section was judged on a number of qualities.

These qualities included the use of lights, creativity, cohesiveness and technical display.

The contest crowned a winner in each section and an overall winner.

Abolt said, "Every year we try to put out something new."

This year's display featured a speaker playing Christmas carols and a handmade nativity scene mural.

Abolt said she presents a traditional theme and most of her decorations are homemade creations.

"We've been decorating for seven years now," Abolt said.

She and her husband plan to decorate again next year.

While they have won their division before, this is the first overall win for the Abolts.

Along with the top prizes, second and third place honors were awarded in each division.

There were 24 entries in the contest, according to Diane Ratliff, recreation supervisor for the Parks and Recreation



DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY COLIN MCAULIFFE

Doug and Debra Abolt with daughter Kelsie, stand outside their house after winning the Charleston Lighting Contest.

Department.

This total is down from recent years.

Ewen Bryden, a judge for six years, said many houses were decorated around the city, but not entered in the contest.

"There was quite a variety," Bryden said.

He said that he looks for an overall theme when judging.

The displays ranged from the simple to the complex, Bryden added.

All residential and commercial properties were invited to partic-

ipate.

Prizes were donated by local businesses. These included free oil changes, pizza coupons and restaurant discounts.

Some of the decorations used include Christmas trees, multi-colored lights, nativity scenes, reindeer, sleighs, snowmen, snowflakes, candy canes and angels.

The event is held to promote the holiday spirit and allow the people of Charleston demonstrates this feeling by dressing up their homes and businesses.

PLANNING AND BUDGET

Accreditation process to be discussed

The Daily Eastern News
STAFF REPORT

The Council on University Planning and Budget will discuss Friday Eastern's accreditation process.

The North Central Accreditation committee, which makes sure colleges meet certain operating standards, will determine if Eastern gets accredited again in 2005, said Jill Owen, professor in Physical Education involved with the accreditation process.

CUPB Chair Christine McCormick said the discussion on the NCA will be the most important issue discussed during the meeting.

The CUPB will also hear a report from the Legislative Action Team and four subcommittee reports from External Relations, Academic Affairs, Business Affairs and Student Affairs.

The Council on University Planning and Budget will meet at 3 p.m. Friday in the Arcola/Tuscola Room of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

STUS NEW YEARS EVE PARTY

CHEAP DRINKS, COVER & ITS CLOSE TO HOME

CHAMPAGNE SPECIALS & BALLOON \$\$\$ DROP

DJ SPEEDY GONZALES BRINGS HOME THE NEW YEAR DECEMBER 31st

We Want You...

to advertise in the Den!
581-2816

EARN CASH OVER THE HOLIDAYS!!

Consolidated
market response

has immediate openings for Telephone Service Reps at their Charleston Call Center!!

Competitive Wages
Performance Bonuses
Flexible Scheduling
Full and part-time positions
Fun, team-oriented atmosphere

Apply in person from 1pm-4pm M-F at 700 W. Lincoln, Charleston
or
8am-5pm M-F at 820 Broadway, Mattoon

Can't start now? Ask about opportunities starting in January!
For more information call
(888) 235-2299 or 345-2211



THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

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

Editorial board

John Chambers, *Editor in chief*

Matt Meinheit, *Managing editor*

Matt Williams, *News editor*

Carly Mullady, *Associate news editor*

Jennifer Chiariello, *Editorial page editor*

Matthew Stevens, *Sports editor*

jpchambers@eiu.edu

EDITORIAL

Getting ready for the holidays

As the semester nears an end, *The Daily Eastern News* will join Eastern's campus on a winter vacation.

Our finals edition, the last issue of the semester, will come out Monday.

In the past few months we've covered news of significant losses to Eastern's campus, including the deaths of Dr. Luis Clay-Mendez, Ms. Johnetta Jones and Ms. Kathy Denton.

Their contributions to the campus were greatly appreciated and their losses will be mourned.

The News welcomed President Lou Hencken into the official positions of university president.

Eastern formed a cooperative relationship with Charleston city officials toward accomplishing goals on each entity's behalf. The Student Senate passed a resolution in favor of extending the city's bar hours to 2 a.m. in exchange for the university strengthening its policies against inappropriate behavior.

Though city council did not approve the hours change, a relationship has now been established between the school and the city. *The News* is hopeful this relationship will continue to strengthen, bringing positive change to the entire community.

Fellow students hosted Unity Prayer, an event for unity, inclusion and understanding in hopes of making Eastern's campus a welcoming environment for everyone here.

Our paper is not perfect. We make mistakes like anyone else and the staff here at *The News* regrets any errors published. The spring 2004 staff has been working the past couple weeks, learning their new positions to supply the best possible news next semester.

We're starting new in hopes of continuing to offer the community the best we can, and we are looking to report on any community or campus groups' important events.

Thank you, readers, for your faith in our publication, as we continue to "Tell the truth (and not be) afraid." Spring 2004 semester will be opened with a Jan. 12 issue.

Fellow students, best wishes on finals week and traveling to your winter break destinations. Students and faculty, have a safe and pleasant vacation.

We at *The News* wish all of our readers and the Eastern community a safe, happy holiday season and New Year's.

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

OPINION

'Tis' the season for giving more



Jennifer Chiariello
Editorial page editor and semi-monthly columnist for *The Daily Eastern News*

Chiariello also is a junior journalism and marketing major

She can be reached at cujc7@eiu.edu

I've always believed the scariest place to be in the city is a cab, clearly this was before I experienced Bloomingdale's during the holidays.

Holiday shopping can be a nightmare and last minute college budget shopping is even worse.

As the stress of finals comes to an end, so begins the stress of holiday shopping.

Through the madness of my own procrastinating over last minute holiday shopping, it has become evident the majority of shoppers are missing the point.

Over Thanksgiving break, I watched all the busy shoppers hurriedly shuffle past the bell ringers and file into the nearest Starbucks with bags in hand.

I understand everyone cannot donate at every salvation army stop, but what are people doing for others in the spirit of the season?

It's not so much about making huge contributions to others, but about common curiosity.

The day after Thanksgiving at a Wal-mart in Orange City, Fla., a woman was knocked unconscious for a DVD player, according to Local 6 news reports. The woman was then trampled by a mob of shoppers who stepped over her as she suffered a seizure. She was found by paramedics lying unconscious on her left side on top of the DVD play-

"Over Thanksgiving break, I watched all the busy shoppers hurriedly shuffle past the bell ringers and file into the nearest Starbucks with bags in hand."

er. Will the crazed shoppers ever fade? It's the Cabbage Patch Kid doll rage all over again. Or is it the New Kids on the Block fad again? If it's not one thing, it's another.

I'll be the first to admit I get swept up in shopping quite frequently to say the least, but ironically, I also believe Christmas is not the time to do so.

Though it sounds lame, what ever happened to friendliness and kindness in the spirit of the holiday?

At the very least, people can demonstrate common decency. Others offer their generosity by donating time over cash. So many others offer help at shelters, hospitals, children's organizations, elderly homes or other places in their community.

So many people get so wrapped up in the gift giving

process, they focus the holiday on the wrong sentiments.

Americans take for granted how great we have it daily. The holidays are not only about being with the ones you love, but also reaching out to others.

Sometimes when you are away at school as a college student, you live in a segregated bubble: a college town where you worry solely on your own well-being. Passing classes, paying rent and getting a job are your top priorities.

There are opportunities to help out in the Charleston community, but with hectic school life many students do not have time.

Only when you are on breaks and back home do you often have the time and opportunities to help others and go beyond your own needs.

The holidays should bring people closer and serve as a reminder of all we have to be thankful for. What I look forward to most about the holiday season is spending time with family and friends.

Maybe this is what everyone else believes as well, and these vicious acts of shopping are committed with good intentions for their loved ones in mind.

Luckily, I have so many shopping bags I won't have to share a cab to Starbucks with any of these shoppers (wink).

Cartoon by Mike Schroeder



YOUR TURN: LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

War comments camouflaged

This article is in response to Michael Strange's December 9th letter to the editor on the historical repetition on the war in Iraq.

Firstly, I was deeply impressed by the use of language within your letter, right up until I realized it was a mask to conceal your horrific grammar. I realize *The Daily Eastern News* staff does at times take liberties on its content editing and retyping, but the lack of coherent sentences is far beyond even their expertise at botchery. Starting at the third sentence and moving on you have fragment after un-revised fragment running into run on after run on. I don't mean to nitpick and I am usually the last to take

offense at poor grammar, but your obsession with word choice has left me little inclined to leave this criticism to someone else.

Moving right along to point number two: your article has no point, or at least no coherent one. You start with a description of the relationship between this war and wars of the past, move directly to how the rest of the world will be affected by an inevitable WWII, and then on to the reinstatement of the draft. You sound more to have taken on the role of a present day Nostradamus prophesizing the end through obscure statements too. You ask questions without answering them, you leave

off examples mid-thought and your argument dances around from point to point without finishing.

In then end, the only conclusion I can make is that you gesticulate wildly, frantically waving your arms in the air screaming "look at me, look what I can write." Well, with all your vocabulary and word use, you have gained our attention, but have lost out by forgetting the fundamentals of an argument: a clear, concise point. Such as: Your letter

was useless and insipid. Drive back into whatever political conspiracy web sight you have found and leave us alone until you can come up with some semblance of a relevant article, one that makes a point. You have proven only that you have a good thesaurus and a better internet connection than EIU, one that can view C-SPAN live.

Andy Caruso
senior English major

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: The Daily Eastern News accepts letters to the editor addressing local, state, national and international issues. They should be less than 250 words and include the authors' name, telephone number and address. Students should indicate their year in school and major. Faculty, administration and staff should indicate their position and department. Letters whose authors cannot be verified will not be printed. Depending on space constraints, we may edit letters, so keep it concise. Letters can be sent to *The Daily Eastern News* at 1811 Buzzard Hall, Charleston IL 61920; faxed to 217-581-2923; or e-mailed to jpchambers@eiu.edu.

Charleston looking for funds for pool repair

By Michael Schroeder
CITY REPORTER

For the last 30 years, Charleston residents have been able to cool off during the hot summer days at the Charleston Pool.

Unfortunately, those 30 years have placed reasonable wear and tear on the pool.

"It's been 30 years since the pool was built and it's deteriorating," Brian Jones, the Charleston director of parks and recreation said.

"There are cracks in the pool itself and leaking water," Jones said. "The line that carries the water from the pit (water filtration system) to the pool has no pressure."

According to Jones, although the pool needs work, the money will be hard to acquire.

He said to get the repairs done, the city would need to receive a substantial amount of money from the state through grants.

"There will be nothing done this summer," Jones said. "We still need to file for a grant through the state."

The difficulty is that it will take about two years to get the grant money and for the work on the pool to begin.



DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY COLIN MCAULIFFE

Charleston's swimming pool will be renovated as soon as the city has money for it.

"So if we get the paper work done now, we can hopefully get the new pool in two years and kind of weather the storm," Jones said.

"The paperwork would need to be in before this summer if it's not, you are looking at three years and the odds of the pool lasting

"There are cracks in the pool itself and leaking water."

— Brian Jones, director of parks and recreation

aren't as good."

The city had some engineers come to look at the pool and find what is wrong with it. The engineers said the pool could last one year, five years or even 10, but it is deteriorating. "It could last five years or we could go fire it up and it could not work," Jones said. "You have no way of knowing."

According to Jones, the cost of fixing the pool is estimated at about \$1.5 million.

The prospect of building a new pool was discussed, but the cost of would be five to six million dollars.

In addition, a substantial amount of money was recently put into the bath house at the pool, Jones said.

"When you throw in the need for a new location and parking lot and everything it wouldn't be a wise choice," Jones said.

COUNCIL OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Council approves English course, revisions

By Jennifer Peryam
STAFF WRITER

The Council on Academic Affairs approved English 3706 and accepted a revision of Chemistry 3100 as part of the curriculum for Fall 2004.

Dana Ringuette, chair of the English department, and Christopher Hanlon, who came up with the idea for the course, were not able to attend the meeting. Angela Vietto, assistant professor of English, spoke in their absence.

"The original reason for revising this class was members of the English faculty noticed many universities had a class that taught southern literature and we lacked that type of class at Eastern," Vietto said. "Our purpose is to

rotate the regions of study in this course offering different possibilities and structures for the course."

English 1001 and 1002 are prerequisites for the English department. After completing these courses, English 3706 can be taken and is not limited to English majors.

Chemistry 3100: Practicum in Chemistry, was revised at the meeting. This class will be a one-credit course for those who are enrolled in the student teaching program seeking chemistry certification.

"In Fall 2002, Eastern's Science with Teacher Certification program was implemented," said Douglas Klarup, chemistry department chair. "We hope to administer this class for students to retain

content and the quality of the course."

The class will be held at a scheduled hour to prepare students to learn skills in a laboratory environment.

"Students will attend formal lectures the first seven weeks of the course and then be assigned to arranged groups to practice teaching skills acquired in the class, and chemistry majors are required to take this course before student teaching," Klarup said.

Enrollment is restricted to students in the Science with Teacher Certification program, according to Eastern's 2003-2004 student handbook.

Executive actions for speech communication were addressed during the meeting, requesting

changes to be effective in Spring 2004, if not sooner. Under Speech 4000: Independent Study, only six hours of credit to be counted in any combination of Speech 4000, 4725, and 4375 for a single option was requested.

"If we do approve these executive actions, the rest of the course description will not be changed," said Douglas Bock, a speech communication professor.

"In order for the college to issue curriculum changes, we need to send rationale and we do not currently have that policy," said CAA Chair Andrew Methven.

"A rationale is always helpful to know behind changing course requirements," Methven said.

Janet Fopay, office recording secretary for the Vice President

for Academic Affairs office, will develop an electronic system format for the executive actions of the speech curriculum.

"We must be consistent and handle the explanations of the classes in the same ways," Methven said.

For the speech communication major, changes to the electives in the minor were addressed. The major grade point average is calculated on all courses listed as appropriate major requirements. Through this executive action, Speech 1310G and Speech 1390G or any transferable equivalent cannot be used as an elective in the major.

The Council on Academic Affairs will meet again at 2 p.m. Jan. 15 in the Booth Library Conference Room 4440.

TEXTBOOK RETURNS FALL 2003 SEMESTER	
TEXTBOOK RENTAL SERVICE	
MONDAY, DECEMBER 15TH	8:00 AM TO 4:30 PM
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16TH	8:00 AM TO 8:00 PM
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17TH	8:00 AM TO 8:00 PM
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18TH	8:00 AM TO 8:00 PM
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19TH	8:00 AM TO 3:00 PM
DEADLINE TO RETURN FALL 2003 TEXTBOOKS IS :	
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19TH AT 3:00 PM	
RETURN YOUR TEXTBOOKS EARLY TO AVOID LONG LINES AND THE \$10 PER BOOK LATE FEES	

APPORTIONMENT BOARD

Student Government receives \$3,980 for trip

By Brian O'Malley
STUDENT GOVERNMENT EDITOR

The Apportionment Board allocated \$3,980 to Student Government for a trip to Atlanta, which will involve more than 40 students and will focus on diversity issues.

Lisa Flam, student vice president for student affairs, said the date of the trip has been changed from Jan. 15 to Feb. 11, and will take students to Clark Atlanta University, Spelman and Morehouse Colleges to talk to their Student Governments and other organizations about diverse issues.

"We're doing this in an effort to promote campus unity," Flam said.

Monique Cook-Bey, of the Black Student Union and Student Life Office, said she wants to talk to the students at the other schools about how they deal with racial issues.

"The trip is to get a perspective on how they deal with racial issues," Cook-Bey said. "Even though they are predominantly black schools, they deal with some of the issues we deal with."

"As it grows each year, more and more people start coming," Cook-Bey said. "Students get an opportunity to see things they usually wouldn't see."

Flam said there are 45 available seats on the bus, and applications are available for students who want

to go. The money given to the group by AB, will pay for the bus, the driver lodging and toll and parking charges, Flam said. All students who are chosen to go on the trip will be responsible for paying \$150 for a hotel room, meals, personal expenses and donations for a park the group will go to devoted to Martin Luther King Jr.

"It's important that we get a diverse pool of students," Flam said.

Cook-Bey said Student Government will hold a panel discussion when the group comes back from the trip.

"Anybody can go to Atlanta, but we have to make an impact when we come back," Cook-Bey said.

Flam said she agrees with Cook-Bey that students who go on the trip have to make a sudden impact.

"I think that's the ultimate goal," Flam said. "For students to bring something back and share it with the community. If the students that go come back and motivate one person, that's a huge goal."

Flam and Cook-Bey said diversity is an issue that needs to be worked with more on Eastern's campus.

"We all have differences," Flam said, "but the one thing we all have in common is we are here at Eastern."

"This trip is more than just one culture," Cook-Bey said. "The Civil Rights era didn't just affect

African Americans, it affected anyone who felt passionate about civil rights."

Larry Ward, student vice president for financial affairs and AB chair, said he thinks the trip will benefit Eastern in many ways.

"It will be a good trip," Ward said. "This could be something very positive for this campus."

The Apportionment Board meets at 7 p.m. Thursday in the Arcola/Tuscola Room of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

Student Government Editor Brian O'Malley can be reached at cubpo@eu.edu



DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY COLIN MCAULIFFE

Ryan Dawson, owner of Jackson Ave. Coffee, mops up a coffee spill Thursday.

Charleston offers variety to tourists

By Nicole Nicolas
FEATURES REPORTER

Charleston offers diverse tourist attractions, from historic Abraham Lincoln sites and colorful murals to quaint coffeehouses.

Historic attractions such as the Lincoln-Douglas Debate Museum and Lincoln Log Cabin are a major part of Charleston's tourism.

According to Charleston's tourism website, the Lincoln-Douglas Debate Museum is the only museum in Illinois that reenacts fascinating debates of 1868 between Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas.

Through audio tapes, film, exhibits and interactive displays, the museum tells the tale of the Douglas and Lincoln debates.

"(The museum) is small and very well put together, but has a lot in there," Ruth Hay from the Lincoln Log Cabin said. "There's a nice screen and video presentation. The children can try on Lincoln's hats."

According to the website, the free museum is open to the public all year, with tours from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

It has a gift shop, life size sculptures of Lincoln and Douglas and a Children's Hand Area, the site said.

The Lincoln-Douglas museum is located at Coles County Fairgrounds, 416 West Madison.

Another historical landmark to visit in Charleston is the Five Mile House.

The house is the oldest house in Coles County. Recently, renovations have been completed and it is now open for public touring.

"It's five miles from the court house," Cal Smith said. "That's why it is called the Five Mile House."

Smith is president of the committee responsible for the historic restoration in the county.

This historic house has been standing since 1857, Smith said.

The Five Mile House is located at the corner of Illinois Route 130 and Westfield Road.

In addition to historic Illinois attractions, there are murals and sculptures filled with unique historical stories throughout the city of Charleston.

According to the Charleston website, the Murals

Around the Square Project was launched by the City of Charleston in an effort to promote Charleston's rich heritage and charming downtown square.

Local artists came together in 1998 to create the murals that picture historical images on downtown buildings.

According to the website, in the last five years, six outdoor paintings have been completed.

Painted on the wall of City Hall, 520 Jackson Avenue, is a portrait of a sculpture by local artist Cary Knop.

The portrait is of Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas on September 18, 1858.

Another local mural is of the Charleston Riot, painted by Rebecca Spoon. The mural depicts a Civil War battle in Charleston.

Rebecca Spoon also created a mural that depicts how the Charleston courthouse looked between 1858 and 1898. This was the era when Lincoln was working as a lawyer in the same courthouse.

The mural is located on the southwest corner of the courthouse.

After a tour of historic Charleston attractions, someone could stop in one of Charleston's unique coffeehouses, such as the Jackson Avenue Coffeehouse.

"We want to provide a welcoming atmosphere for people to hang out," said Ryan Dawson, the owner of Jackson Avenue Coffeehouse.

Visitors can relax and enjoy a cup of freshly brewed coffee, bagel sandwich, chai tea or soup from the menu.

According to the coffeehouse's menu, a specialty of Jackson Avenue is Tony's Heart Murmur, a white chocolate hazelnut espresso.

Another place to eat on the square is the old-fashioned South Side Cafe, also located on Jackson Avenue.

Glenna Gobert, grill cook at South Side Cafe, said breakfast and lunch are served from 5 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 5 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday.

A specialty item is the ribeye steak breakfast with one biscuit and gravy, which is offered on Saturday.

The cafe also has fresh homemade pies, Gobert said.

"It's five miles from the court house. That's why it is called the Five Mile House."

— Cal Smith,
committee for historic restoration



The Men of Delta Chi would like to thank *Kelly Morgan* of Delta Zeta for being a *Wonderful Sweetheart* and congratulate Tabitha Swain of Sigma Kappa on becoming our new *Sweetheart!*

FOAM
STIX PARTY STIX
TONIGHT
LADIES NIGHT

\$5.00 Bottles of Boons
(Creekberry, Strawberry, Melon)

\$6.00 Bottles Of WildVines
(Blackberry Merlot, Passionberry White Zinfandel, Strawberry White Zinfandel)

\$8.00 Bottles of Twin Valley
(White Zinfandel, White Merlot, Cafe Chardonnay, Cafe Zinfandel)

\$2.50 Big Bottles

\$2.99 Chicken Strips and Fries

STIX "WE WINE THEM AND DINE THEM"
Kitchen Open 11 AM- 1AM

Conference celebrates scribes

By Megan Jurinek
ACTIVITIES REPORTER

All students are welcome to show off their writing skills Sat., Dec. 13.

An English Studies Student Conference will be held from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. at Coleman Hall. The conference is open to the public.

Any students interested in participating can come, register and be a part of the activities for free. If students are not going to register, they are still welcome to listen to others share their works.

Robin Murray, associate professor of the English department, helped put this event together.

Murray said this event will give students a chance to publish their works and show their best work to a wider audience.

Presentations will highlight student works in the literary studies, literary history, creative writing, rhetoric and composition, pedagogy and other lan-

guage art-related fields.

"We expect at least about 100 people," Murray said. "And 60 students to be presenting."

There will be about 21 different sessions going on at one time where students will be reading off their poetry, fiction and nonfiction plays, responses to literature and other forms of writing, Murray said.

Each session should last about 40 minutes with some extra time for questions from other students, she said.

"Anyone is welcome to come and sign up," Murray said.

A free breakfast and lunch will be served along with snacks throughout the afternoon.

Programs listing students presenters will be available at the register table, Murray said.

"This is going to be a great way that students can present their works and students from other departments can hear them," Murray said.



DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY COLIN MCAULIFFE

Lay it down

John Hayes and Mike Brown of Unique Homes, Properties scrape cement for the garage under the new apartment complex Thursday afternoon on 9th and Lincoln Ave.

Kelly-Durkin: Professor started scholarly programs

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

her students foremost, the department and her discipline."

"Mary has done so many great things for this campus. The journalism department, as well as the university, has benefited so much from her," Hyder said. "Along with creating *The Agency*, she also helped found the Kappa Tau Alpha. She will certainly be missed by all of us."

Kelly-Durkin will not be alone in her new career with the UPI. She will be joining another former Eastern professor currently working for the UPI. Kelly-Durkin will join Sue Kaufman, who formerly taught for the journalism department. Kelly-Durkin is excited about her new position with the UPI and is looking forward to new challenges that await her.

"My future is open for anything," she said.

Board: Problem affects many Illinois boards

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

a reason to "start believing in their government again," Blagojevich said in a Tuesday press conference.

Since the governor appoints BOT members to the state universities, they are categorized as a state-appointed official, grouped with constitutional officers and the General Assembly. Under the new laws beginning Feb. 1, board members and their spouses are prohibited from lobbying.

"I don't think any group ought to be singled out for exclusion," said Zack Stamp, Western Illinois University's board chair, who resigned earlier this week. "I understand the politics of it, the public perception that we are evil. Therefore we should be excluded."

A lobbyist's main job is to sway the Legislature and this can present a conflict of interest even when work and legislation don't overlap, said Jeff Ashley, assistant political science professor. He believes Blagojevich passed the bill to reduce public perception that decision makers are biased.

That is why there was some confusion when the board members were restricted. For example, one of Eastern's resigning board members, Betsy Mitchell, represents the Girl Scouts of America.

Former Eastern board member Julie Sullivan resigned the day the bill was enacted. Sullivan's only client is the Illinois Association of Realtors.

"I don't know if it's any one particular scandal here or there," Ashley said, "but it's the idea that most people don't trust their government, and they're wanting to change

Statewide resignations

School	Trustees	Resignations
Eastern	8	2
Illinois	13	zero
Western	9	2
ISU	8	zero
Northern	8	1*
Southern	8	1*

* Those resignations have not been formalized, but university officials expect the resignations will come.

that perception or that image."

6 members may resign statewide

While most universities do not have another board meeting until late spring, Eastern's board will meet via teleconference Dec. 19 with only five of its eight members. A third board member, Bob Manion, resigned in August and is yet to be replaced.

At Western Illinois University, Ted Brunsvold and Stamp resigned. At Northern Illinois, Catherine Adducci will soon resign because of her husband's involvement with a lobbying organization, according to the university's public affairs office. At Southern Illinois University, board Chair Molly D'Esposito plans to step down, said Scott Kaiser, an assistant to the president at Southern.

Blagojevich vetoed last spring an earlier version of the bill, requesting the bill be reworded. Stamp knew then his position with the board was in danger. Still, the Western Illinois graduate who chaired the university's presidential search last year contends conflict of interest is not a problem.

"If it did," Stamp says, "you

simply refrain from voting. The reality, candidly, is that it costs you money to be on this board. The time you sacrifice going to meetings, going to functions costs them money time off from work, time away from families. So they should be applauded for being willing to do it."

Because of the comprehensiveness of the ethics bill, which applies to all state employees, the governor is open to additional tweaking next legislative session, said Tom Schafer, a press secretary for Blagojevich in the Chicago office.

While he said no specific entity was targeted, Schafer said many saw it as a reform for the state's legislative and executive branches. Of the approximately 130 state-appointed boards and commissions, Schafer estimated 40 are effected by the new ruling.

"Was part of the mix the Board of Trustees?" Schafer said. "I doubt it."

The replacement process

The process to replace the vacant board positions begins at the university, then works to the Office of Boards and Commissions and ends with Blagojevich.

The office screens applicants' resumes and conducts background checks before passing on the names to the governor, who Schafer said does not "change their decision too often." Because the process has multiple buffers, Schafer said if the names were on the commissions' desk today, the wait would still take weeks.

At Eastern, the alumni association is currently compiling names to submit to replace the three vacant positions. The changeover is greater at Southern Illinois, where four board members - two whose terms ended last year - need to be replaced.

Schafer said letting terms

Replacements: Searchers emphasize keeping all-alumni board

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

other state universities, all of the eight board members are Eastern alumni.

Sluzevich hopes to find six candidates to submit to the state's Office of Boards and Commissions, filling both of those criteria.

"I'm kind of approaching it from a two-prong attack," Sluzevich said. "Hopefully, we can maintain the geographic balance from the board and remain unique that we have all EIU graduates."

The board's Vice Chair Betsy Mitchell (Savoy) and board member Julie Sullivan (Springfield) retired in light of Gov. Rod Blagojevich's Tuesday signing of an ethics bill disallowing any state board member to be a lobbyist. Bob Manion (Hinsdale) resigned in August, citing a lack of time as the reason.

Sluzevich would not supply the names of the possible candidates for the board, which serves as the university's governing policy.

extend beyond their original timeframe is normal practice.

Neal Young, undergraduate Student Government president at Southern, said Chancellor Walter V. Wendler told him he estimates the governor will begin appointing members in January. Such a timeframe will not apply to other schools, Schafer said, noting Blagojevich will move as "quickly as possible."

The process to replace the board members begins when names are provided from the university.

"I simply hate to see us lose Betsy and Julie," said Steve Rich, director of Alumni Services. "I think they were great board members."

President Lou Hencken said Sullivan and Mitchell were the two board members who always inquired about student and tuition fee increases.

The search will also include members from the Charleston and university community. The earlier the university supplies the names of potential candidates to the Boards and Commissions office, the sooner the replacements would be appointed by Blagojevich.

Once the list of candidates reaches the Boards and Commissions office, a background check will be conducted. A timeframe for the replacement process, which Blagojevich press secretary Tom Schafer said would take at least a couple of weeks, was unclear on Thursday. Schafer could only promise the governor would act on the issue "as quickly as he could." He did hint that those boards who are in threat of not reaching quorum would be filled first.

"How long might it be?" Schafer asked. "It depends on the circumstances and depends when the names have gotten to us."

When asked if replacements would be found by the end of Fiscal Year 2004 on June 30, Schafer said it is, "hard to say. It may be one or two or three (members)."

Until then, Eastern and three other state universities will be scrambling.

"As far as Eastern goes, we're now down two additional trustees, and we wait until the board appoints," Hencken said. "The board was great and still will be great, but it's tough when you lose those two people."

Marty's ~Friday~
Italian Beef W/ Fries
\$1 Drafts ~ 4 o'clock club ~
\$5 Pitchers

~Saturday~
Not so bad Santa
Welcome parents!
Congrats Grads!

Open @ 11 am

Lots of presents for good boys and girls!

THE RIGHT COMBINATION

for your business is to advertise in the Daily Eastern News!

Call your ad rep today!
581-2816

Mattoon Eye Center

Ronald D Miller, M.D.
220 Richmond East + Mattoon IL 61938
(217) 234-3937

near cross county mall
Is now carrying Nike Sunglasses
mention this ad for 10% off.

4 out of 5 rubber ducks agree ...
Reading *The Daily Eastern News* can prevent boredom.

get lucky in business

advertise 581-2816

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

HELP WANTED

Bartender trainees needed. \$250 a day potential. Local positions. 1-800-293-3985ext. 539

1/22
Would like Friday & Saturdays off? Are you looking for a part-time evening position in a fun, professional office atmosphere? Ruffalo Cody/Weststaff is seeking professional telephone fundraisers. Flexible scheduling, weekly paychecks, holiday bonus potential for extra cash\$, no "cold calling" required, help raise money for colleges/universities to lower tuition for current students, apply before November 28. Stop by Weststaff at 700 W. Lincoln or call 345-1303.

00
SEMESTER BREAK WORK: \$17.25 base-APPT. Conditions apply. Special 1-5 week work program. Positions may continue into Spring. Secure summer positions now. Flexible schedules. Customer sales/service. Apply now, start after finals. Champaign: 217-359-6909, Chicago: 773-866-1608, Collinsville: 618-345-6460, Crystal Lake: 815-788-1770, Naperville: 630-588-0572, North Brook: 847-509-0058, Oak Brook: 630-575-3611, Orland Park: 708-460-5508, Rockford: 815-399-4440, Schaumburg: 847-509-8375. Visit our website: WWW.SEMESTERBREAKWORK.COM

FOR RENT

Fall 2004 New 4 br 2 bath duplex. 2 blks east of campus. For more information, call 345-5821 or go to rrentals.com 12/12

FOR RENT

AVAILABLE FOR 2004 2/3 B E D R O O M APARTMENTS/DUPLEXES. NINTH AND LINCOLN STREET LOCATIONS. FULLY FURNISHED. CALL 348-0157 12/12

New 1 bedroom apartment for Jan. 04. Washer/ Dyer, Microwave, Dishwasher. \$450 117 W. Polk 348-8122 12/12

FOR RENT: Girls only, 1 & 2 bedroom apt. across from Buzzard. Call 345-2652. 12/12

12/12
SEITSINGER APARTMENTS- 1611 9TH ST. 1 BLOCK EAST OF OLD MAIN. 1 APARTMENT AVAILABLE SPRING SEMESTER COMPLETELY FURNISHED, HEAT, AND GARBAGE FURNISHED OFF STREET PARKING. CALL 345-7136 12/12

1 rm for rent in Millenium Place, sink in room. Rent debatable. Call Brandon 348-9392 12/12

BRITTANY RIDGE, '04-'05, 10 or 12 mo. lease, 4 Bed, 2.5 Bath for 4 persons, W/D, DSL, Dishwasher, Local Owner, 345-9355. 12/12

Furnished 2 bedroom house \$250/each. Water, trash, pool table, 10 month lease. 1400 18th St. 348-0288. 12/12

1 & 2 bedroom apts. 2004-05 school year. 12 month leases. 345-4602 12/12

2 bedroom house \$450 month, close to campus. Call 217-258-7684. 12/12

FALL 2004 1 year old house, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. 1800 12th street. 3 blocks from campus. 217-868-5610 12/12

FOR RENT

3 Bedroom apartment. \$235 each per month. 2 blocks from campus. 345-3554 12/15

CHARLESTON AND MATTOON APARTMENTS. www.charlestonilapts.com 12/15

Now renting for 2004-2005. 1,2,3,&4 bedroom apartments. Security required, 11 month lease, no pets. 348-8305 12/15

1 bedroom apartment available for Spring 2004. Available Jan. 5. Security required, no pets, 6 month lease. 348-8305 12/15

04-05 New 3 bedroom 1 1/2 bath duplex. 2 blocks from campus. Deck, yard, central air, 10 month lease. Call 348-0394 12/15

2 bedroom apartment across from campus. Year lease. Call 345-2416 12/15

FEM. Room needed to share 2 Bdrm House 1/2 ut. 250/mo. 18115 11th st. New remod. 217-466-5007 or 822-9664 12/15

Nice 2 bedroom, 2 baths apartments & homes for 2004. New appliances, W/D, dishwasher, close to campus, no pets. 345-9267 12/15

Near campus 3,4,& 6 bedroom houses. Call 273-1395 12/15

2,3,4,5,& 6 bedroom houses for lease. Great rates and locations. Call 346-3583 12/15

FOR RENT

EASTERN ILLINOIS PROPERTIES: HOUSES & APARTMENTS FOR RENT FALL 2004. WE HAVE 2,3,& 4 BEDROOM HOUSES. ALSO 2,3,4,5,& 6 BEDROOM APARTMENTS AND TOWNHOUSES. ALL UNITS HAVE FREE LAUNDRY. SOME UNITS HAVE FREE DSL. VISIT US AT www.eiprops.com FOR PRICES, FEATURES, AND PHOTOS OR CALL 549-0212/345-6210. 12/15

2 bedroom town house/apartment furnished, trash pick up included, 2 blks from campus. Call 348-0350. 00

Spacious apartment for one. Available fall, close to campus, quiet neighborhood, furnished, utilities included. \$330/month. 345-7678. 00

Girls -lovely 3 bedroom furnished house at a great location on 2nd. Washer, dryer, central air, and 2 baths. 345-5048 00

Available immediately extra large 1 bedroom furnished apartment. \$350/month 743 6th St. Cat ok, ideal for couple. Call 581-7729 or 345-6127 00

2 bedroom apt available Jan 1st! Furnished and trash paid. Close to campus. 345-5088 00

Avail-Jan.-1 BDRM apt, A/C, laundry, 1 block to campus. No pets. Off street parking. \$325/mo. 345-7286 00

Unique loft apartment 1 bedroom, furnished, trash paid, available Jan 1st. 1 block from Buzzard. 345-5088 00

FOR RENT

\$299 Free heat, water, trash. Call Dave 345-2171. 9am-11am 00

2 BR APTS. AVAIL 04-05- Check locations at www.charlestonilapts.com. Roommate rents from \$230 to \$255 mo. Call 348-7746 for appointments. 00

Girls furnished house for 4-5. 1/2 block from campus, 10 month lease. No pets or parties. 345-5048. 00

1, 2, 3 bedroom apts for 2004-2005. Check out our new website: www.jwilliamsrentals.com or call 345-7286 00

1 and 2 bedroom furnished apts. 10 month lease, low utilities 345-5048. 00

SPRING SEMESTER ONLY!!! 4 BR, 2 1/2 BATH TOWNHOUSE. ALL REASONABLE OFFERS CONSIDERED!!! 217-246-3083 00

Apartments 1 block from campus-1& 4 bedrooms. 2 bedroom house for 3 people 1/2 block from campus. Very nice 5 bedroom house 2 blocks from campus. Washer/Dryer. Central Air. Call 345-6967 00

Hey Gals! 2 bedroom furnished apartment, next to park at 1111 2nd St. Water, trash, and laundry included for \$265 each/month. 10 or 12 month lease available. Call now at 549-1957 or 348-5427. 00

1,2, and 3 bedrooms close to campus. 4 locations to choose from. Call 345-6533 00

00

FOR RENT

Exceptionally economical! 1 bedroom apt. with loft. Furnished for a single or couple. \$375 month. For one or \$430 month for two. 1 block north of O'Brian Fild. For school year 2004-2005. Call Jan 345-8350 00

Need a semester lease from JAN-MAY? We have a unique 2 bdrm for rent. 1block from Buzzard. 345-5088 00

"Listed as top landlord for 2003 in Eastern News!" 1 Bedroom apts. for August 04-05. PP&W PROPERTIES. 2 EXCELLENT LOCATIONS 1 BLOCK, & 1 1/2 BLOCKS NORTH OF OLD MAIN ON 6TH ST. 1 or 2 person leases. Central heat & A/C, laundry facility. Trash service and off street parking included. Perfect for serious student or couples. 348-8249 00

2004-2005 3 bdrm furnished apt. Central air, garbage disposal, laundry on premise. 1521 1st 345-5048 00

2004-2005. 3/2 BEDROOM HOUSES. 2 BEDROOM, 2 BATH APARTMENTS. 1026 EDGAR. 348-5032 00

For 2004/2005 Nice 4 and 5 bedroom houses. Excellent locations, cable internet hook-ups in every bedroom. Washer and Dryer hookup. 275-300 per person. Call 345-0652 00

BUCANNAN ST. APTS, 1 Bdrm now available. FOR SPRING 2004. Call 345-1266 00

04-05 fall- 2,3,4 bedroom 2 bath apts. new, clean, and close to EIU 345-6100. 00

✓ Apartments for 1 or 2 residents
 ✓ Houses for groups of 3 & 4
 ✓ Townhouses, 3 & 4 BR for 2 to 5 people

Wood Rentals
 Jim Wood, Realtor
 1512 A Street, P.O. Box 377
 Charleston, IL 61920
 217 345-4489 - Fax 345-4472

Call for appointment

Lincolnwood Pinetree Apartments
 Studio, 1, 2 & 3 Bedroom Apartments
 Second Semester lease available

- Lots of space
- Swimming pool
- Volleyball court

Across from Carman Hall
 345-6000

Youngstown Apartments

- 1 and 2 Bedrooms Available Spring Semester
- Central Air
- Fully Furnished
- Garbage Disposal

345-2363
 Cambridge and Nantucket
 AROUND THE CURVE ON SOUTH 9TH STREET ACROSS FROM CHURCH

The Daily Eastern News Classified ad form

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____ Student: Yes No

Under classification of: _____
 Expiration code (office use only): _____
 Person accepting ad: _____ Composer: _____
 No. words / days: _____ Amount due: \$ _____
 Payment: _____
 Check No. _____

Dates to run: _____
 Ad to read: _____

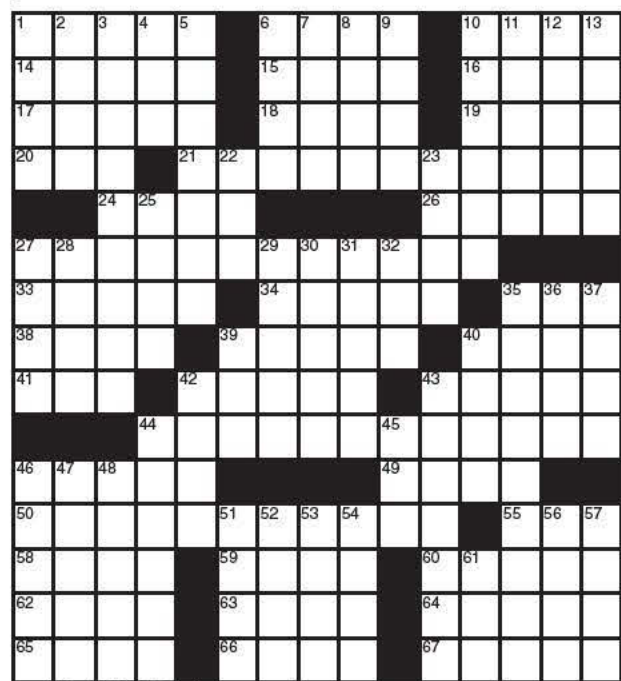
30 cents per word first day ad runs. 10 cents per word each consecutive day thereafter. 25 cents per word first day for students with valid ID, and 10 cents per word each consecutive day afterward. 15 word minimum.
DEADLINE 2 p.m. PREVIOUS DAY - NO EXCEPTIONS
 The News reserves the right to edit or refuse ads considered libelous or in bad taste.

The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 1031

- ACROSS**
- 1 Well statistic
 - 6 Chalk ingredient
 - 10 Gardener's accessory
 - 14 Beethoven's "Für ___"
 - 15 Concrete
 - 16 This might be at the end of the line
 - 17 Like young Abe Lincoln
 - 18 Puccini piece
 - 19 Bay ___
 - 20 Cartridge contents
 - 21 Spooky star of "Mo Mummy"?
 - 24 Concert ticket
 - 26 Under attack
 - 27 Spooky star of "Broadcast Noose"?
 - 33 Moralists' targets
 - 34 Nightclub singer's aid
 - 35 Upstate N.Y. college
 - 38 Slangy insults
 - 39 Restaurant row?
 - 40 Impression
 - 41 Marketing tools
 - 42 Renaissance ___ (historical reenactment)
 - 43 Chart holder
 - 44 Spooky star of "Monster M*A*S*H"?
 - 46 Shadow
 - 49 White house: Var.
 - 50 Spooky star of "The Boos Brothers"?
 - 55 Fraternity letter
 - 58 "Major" animal
 - 59 Well
 - 60 Arise
 - 62 Parade stopper
 - 63 Get
 - 64 Feudal lord
 - 65 Confined
 - 66 Really big show
 - 67 Rodeo ring?
- DOWN**
- 1 Kosher ___
 - 2 Spirit
 - 3 Lets go
 - 4 "That wasn't nice!"
 - 5 Primes
 - 6 One way around town
 - 7 ___ Digest (classic aviation magazine)
 - 8 Reposed
 - 9 Manhandle
 - 10 Cast member
 - 11 Glows
 - 12 "Prizzi's Honor" heroine
 - 13 Not in the ___
 - 22 Biblical verb ending
 - 23 Biblical brother
 - 25 Wings
 - 27 Mother of Ares
 - 28 "Tristia" poet
 - 29 Computer text format
 - 30 In ___ (prior to birth)
 - 31 Large jazz group
 - 32 Piggy
 - 35 Bibliographic content
 - 36 French tire
 - 37 "___ do"
 - 39 Dean's pal in Kerouac's "On the Road"
 - 40 Arlene of "One Life to Live"
 - 42 Criticize harshly
 - 43 Popular appetizer
 - 44 Off-target
 - 45 Third-column stat
 - 46 Seize
 - 47 Jazz's Carmen
 - 48 Sink
 - 51 Charge
 - 52 Animal with curved horns
 - 53 Midwife's act
 - 54 Needle, for short
 - 56 Love signs
 - 57 Modern ice cream flavor
 - 61 Bug group?: Abbr.



Puzzle by Earl L. Martin III

ANSWER TO TODAY'S PUZZLE



Clinton to speak at Simon's funeral

CARBONDALE (AP)—Bill Clinton heads a list of past and present government officials scheduled to speak at the funeral Sunday for former Sen. Paul Simon at Southern Illinois University.

Clinton will deliver an address at the public funeral, as will Massachusetts Sen. Ted Kennedy, former Wyoming Sen. Alan Simpson and Illinois Sen. Dick Durbin, university spokeswoman Sue Davis said Thursday.

The funeral is set to begin at 1:30 p.m. Sunday at the SIU Arena. Carbondale is about 100 miles southeast of St. Louis.

Simon, 75, who had served as director of SIU's Public Policy Institute since retiring from the Senate in 1997, died Tuesday from complications after heart surgery.

Other speakers at Simon's funeral will include Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan, who once was on his staff, and Abner Mikva, a former federal judge who served with Simon in the Illinois House, Davis said.

More on the Web

Southern Illinois University:
www.siu.edu

Parents flock for flu vaccine

WHEATON (AP) — More than 500 people, many toting their children, lined up in bitterly cold weather Thursday to receive the last of the DuPage County Health Department's flu vaccine supply.

As the state's supply of the vaccine dwindled, the office in a southwest suburb of Chicago was just one site in Illinois — and around the country — besieged by calls and visits from people concerned about this year's flu outbreak.

While Illinois has not had a confirmed flu death, nationally at least 23 children have died in the outbreak — many of those in Colorado — and some experts predict the death toll could easily surpass the annual average of 36,000.

State health officials are not required to track flu deaths but assume there have been some already this year because there are an estimated 1,800 each year in Illinois, based on figures from the Centers for Disease Control, said Tammy Leonard, a

spokeswoman for the state Department of Public Health.

"There are probably flu deaths already, but we just don't know because that's not what they've been called" by doctors listing a cause of death, Leonard said. The state is investigating the death of a youngster in Cook County, but the cause has not yet been determined, she said.

The flu season normally starts in late December or early January in Illinois, but health officials started reporting cases in early November this year, Leonard said. The biggest concentrations of cases are currently in the Chicago metropolitan area and east central Illinois, she said.

Even without official confirmation that the outbreak has claimed any victims in Illinois, it was obvious in Wheaton that parents, some of whom pulled their children out of school to receive the vaccine, were worried.

Flu outbreak spreads to 24 states

ASSOCIATED PRESS — The number of states hit hard by the flu has nearly doubled to 24 in the past week, the government said Thursday as it rushed to ship 100,000 doses of the vaccine to combat shortages and head off what could become one of the worst flu seasons in years.

The outbreak has taken an enormous toll nationwide: At least 20 children have died. Schools have shut down. Emergency rooms have been filled with sick children. And doctors' offices have been forced to turn away droves of people seeking flu shots.

Some experts predict this year's death toll easily could surpass the annual average of 36,000 flu deaths. Health officials are unsure why the outbreak has hit so early, why it has caused so many problems in the West, and why it seems to be so lethal in children.

"If it were me, I'd be on the phone to your doctor, calling around to see if you could find some" vaccine, said Dr. Randall Todd, Nevada's epidemiolo-

gist. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said the flu has hit all 50 states at least sporadically, and the season has not yet peaked nationally. Nearly the entire western half of the country — California being the major exception — is now considered to have widespread flu. Last week, 13 states had widespread outbreaks.

Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson said the government had arranged for 100,000 doses of adult vaccine to be shipped from Aventis Pasteur immediately and distributed based on each state's population. In addition, 150,000 doses of children's vaccine are expected to be shipped to the states by January, Thompson said.

The nation's two producers of flu shots reported last week that they had shipped their entire supply of about 80 million doses. However, Aventis had set aside 250,000 doses at the CDC's request last week when it became clear that shortages might develop.

Researchers discover drunk gene

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Researchers found a gene responsible for drunkenness in worms after plying thousands of the tiny creatures with booze, a discovery that could boost the fight against alcoholism.

The experiment was conducted by University of California, San Francisco researchers and was to be published Friday in the science journal Cell.

Because it is believed that alcohol affects all animals similarly, humans, like worms, may also possess a single gene responsible for drunkenness.

"Our end goal is to find a way to cure alcoholism and drug abuse," Dr. Steven McIntire said. "We hope to develop effective therapeutics to improve the ability of people to stop drinking."

After six years of work on the project, McIntire can now spot a soused worm about as well as a highway patrol trooper can spot a drunken driver.

He and the other scientists dosed hundreds of thousands of worms with enough alcohol that they would be too drunk to drive legally — if they were human with the same blood-to-alcohol levels.

The drunken worms moved slower and more awkwardly than sober ones, and laid fewer eggs. Teetotaler worms form a neat S shape to power propulsion while the bodies of drunken worms were straighter and less active.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

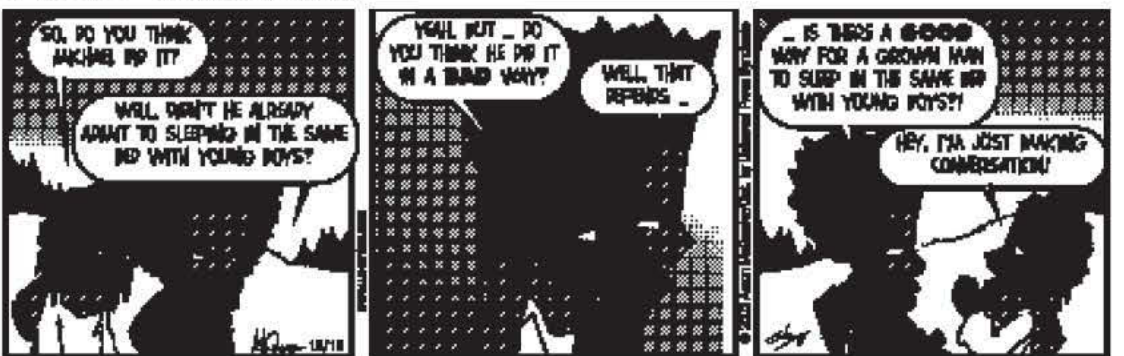
FOR RENT	FOR SALE	PERSONALS	ANNOUNCEMENTS	ANNOUNCEMENTS	ANNOUNCEMENTS
<p>JUST NOW AVAILABLE: 2BR UNF APT WITH STOVE, REFRIG, MICRO, CEILING FAN/AC, TRASH PD. 1305 18TH STREET. \$395 MO. PH. 348-7746.</p> <p>BUZZARD STUDENTS. Lincolnwood Pinetree has large 2 BR apts. available @ 2020 10th. Call 345.6000 to see!</p> <p>ROYAL HEIGHTS APTS: 1509 S. 2nd St. 3 BR furnished apts, low utilities. New carpet and new furniture. Leasing for Spring 2004 and Fall 2003 semesters. Call 346-3583</p> <p>AVAILABLE JAN 04. NEW 1 BR APT-Washer/Dryer, Stove, Refrig, Microwave, Dishwasher. Trash Pd. \$450 mo. 117 W. Polk. Ph. 348-7746. www.charlestonilapts.com</p> <p>Single Apt. on square. \$299 inc. heat, water, trash. Dave 345-2171 9am-11am.</p> <p>2 bdrm available June. 2 blocks from EIU. W/D included. 2007 11th St. \$285 each. 345-6100</p> <p>5 bdrm house. Available August. Nice, clean, and close to EIU. W/D included. 2019 11th St. 345-6100</p>	<p>Roommates wanted, \$295/month. Call Lindsey 348.1479</p> <p>Roommates for 3 BR furnished apartments. \$290 per person. 1509 S. 2nd. Call 346-3583</p> <p>SUBLESSORS</p> <p>Female sublessor wanted for spring. Don't pay rent until March. Call 618-781-0710</p> <p>Girl roommate sublessor for 2 bedroom apt., Spring semester (Jan 1st) \$250/mo. 345-4602</p> <p>Female sublessor wanted for spring semester. Willing to negotiate rent! Call 618-781-0710</p> <p>1 BR apt. \$325/month, really close to campus. Low utilities. Call Liz 549-3243</p> <p>Sublessor needed for Spr 04 in #6 Brittany Ridge. Negotiable rent of \$235/month. Furnished 348-7031</p> <p>Female sublessor wanted for spring. Move in ASAP. Unique Homes PProperty. Call 217-345-5022. Rent \$250 plus utilities.</p> <p>1 or 2 sublessors needed, Spring '04, campus side. 1522 First street, \$250/month, 549-6477</p> <p>Subleasing 1 furnished bedroom in a 3 bedroom, 2 bath apt. W/D, close to campus. \$250 + utilities. Available January 1st. 549-0212 or 630-291-1353.</p> <p>Large furnished one bedroom apartment near campus. Call Williams Rentals (217) 345-7286</p> <p>Looking for sublessor! 1 bedroom in 2 bedroom apt. Low rent and perfect location in front of EIU. Call Andrew 348-1652. Need sublessor ASAP.</p>	<p>ATTENTION ALL GRADUATING SENIORS! If you are interested in a yearbook of your senior year, and are not sure how to pick it up, come to the Student Publications office, room 1802 Buzzard Hall, and for only \$4 we will mail you a copy in the Fall when they are published. Call 581-2812 for more information.</p> <p>Carole's Piano now accepting new students. All ages welcome. Beginner to advanced levels. Call 417-9686 for more information. Carole is also available to play for functions, recitals, parties and contests.</p> <p>Friend PASSED OUT after drinking all night? Skin cold, clammy, and pale? Are they breathing slowly or irregularly? Passed out and won't respond to you? Vomits and doesn't wake up? They may have ALCOHOL POISONING! Get help IMMEDIATELY! Do NOT leave them alone! Roll them on their side to prevent them from choking on their vomit. You could save their life!</p>	<p>The majority of EIU students drink 0, 1, 2, 3, or 4 drinks per week (n=471 representative EIU students).</p> <p>70% of EIU Students drink one day a week or less, or not at all (n=471 representative EIU students).</p> <p>76% of EIU students have not performed poorly on tests/projects due to alcohol/drugs (n=471 representative EIU students).</p> <p>#1 Spring Break Vacations! 110% Best prices! Cancun, Jamaica, Acapulco, Bahamas, Florida. Book NOW and receive FREE meals & parties. Campus Reps wanted! 1-800-234-7007. endlesssummertours.com</p> <p>Make money taking online surveys. Earn \$10-\$125 for surveys. Earn \$25-\$250 for focus groups. www.cash4students.com/eillu.</p>	<p>Crash course to quit smoking 12/15/03 at 5pm in the Martinsville Rm in the Union. Free quit kits and other freebies! Approximately 1 hour long.</p> <p>Coles County Pawn 325 Madison Ave. 345-3623 - Adult Room-Movies- DVD's- Magazines- Toys- New Body Jewelry- All Body Jewelry 25% off- Many Games & Game systems- We Buy-Sell & Trade</p> <p>#1 SPRING BREAK COMPANY in Acapulco now offers 3 destinations! Go Loco in Acapulco, Party in Vallarta, or get crazy in Cabo with BIANCHI-ROSSI TOURS. Organize a group and travel for FREE. Book now before it's too late! Call 800-875-4525 or www.bianchi-rossi.com</p> <p>WINTER AND SPRING BREAK. SKI AND BEACH TRIPS ON SALE NOW! www.sunchase.com OR CALL 1-800-SUNCHASE TODAY!</p>	<p>ACT NOW! Book 11 people, get 12th trip free. Group discounts for 6+ www.spring-breakdiscounts.com or 800-838-8202</p> <p>#1 Spring Break Vacations! Cancun, Jamaica, Acapulco, Bahamas, & Florida! Best Prices! Space is limited! Book now & Save! 1-800-234-7007 www.endlesssummertours.com</p> <p>50% off winter items. Log house resale shop. Go to the fairgrounds and follow the signs. 348-8001</p>

Business in trouble? advertise in the DEN today! **581-2816**

NON SEQUITUR BY WILEY MILLER



BOONDOCKS BY AARON MCGRUDER



"To be honest the only weakness Clint has is he tends to place too much on his shoulders."

Evansville Head Coach Steve Merfield

Timid Cuffle makes noise on court

◆ *Evansville senior has three-point prowess similar to former MVC star Kyle Korver*

By John Hohenadel
SPORTS REPORTER

When Eastern takes the court Saturday night against the University of Evansville Aces they may find senior guard Clint Cuffle hard to handle.

Cuffle is averaging 13.3 points and almost 36 minutes a game.

Last season, Cuffle was the third leading scorer in the Missouri Valley Conference with an average of 16.5 points a game. The Riverton native also finished third in the MVC in three pointers per game with 2.39 a game.

Evansville's head coach Steve Merfield compared Cuffle to Kyle Korver, who was a star at Creighton University last year and was drafted by the New Jersey Nets and then immediately traded to the Philadelphia 76ers in the 2003 NBA draft.

Merfield said Cuffle's shooting accuracy and efficiency are very comparable to Korver's, who shot 48 percent from beyond the arc last year for Creighton.

Merfield got to see a lot of Korver as the 2002-2003 Creighton Blue Jays were nationally-ranked, won the MVC Tournament and received a sixth seed in the 2003 NCAA Tournament.

Cuffle is shooting 33 percent from three-point range so far this year which is lower than his 44 percent from beyond the arc last season.

Although Cuffle's three point shooting comparison to Kyle Korver's may be a compliment, Korver's scouting report reveals he sometimes falls in love with the three pointer and will slack off on defense from time to time.

Merfield shot down the idea that Cuffle is like Korver in that aspect.

"To be honest the only weakness Clint has is he tends to place too much on his shoulders," Merfield said. "That could also be a good thing."

Cuffle's father, Dean said his son tends to worry about everything else that's going on and focusses less on what he has to do himself.

"He doesn't get excited very often," Dean Cuffle said. "He's too timid."

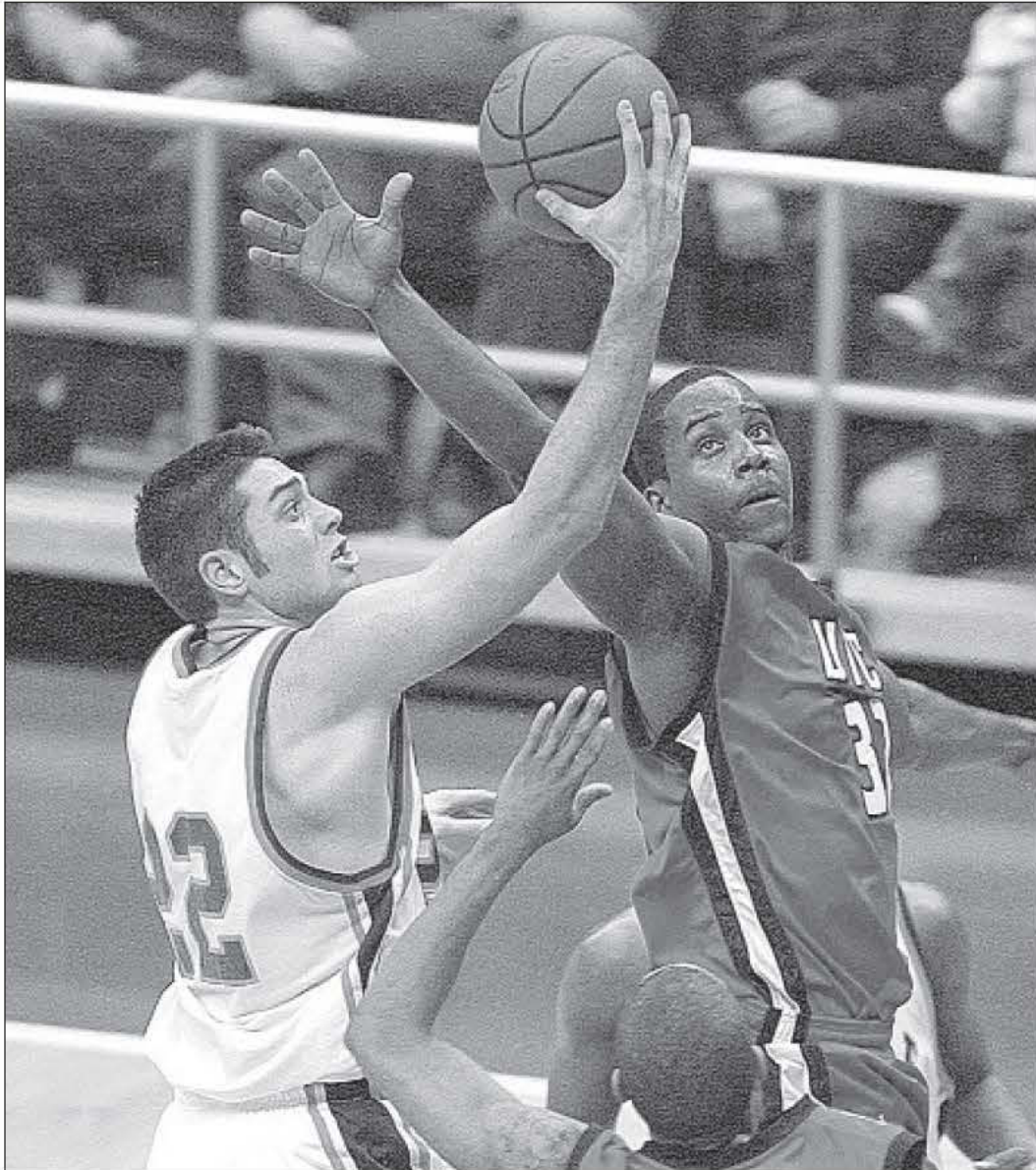


PHOTO SUBMITTED BY THE EVANSVILLE SPORTS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT

Clint Cuffle, a senior at Evansville, took his Riverton High School team to the Class A semifinals more than three years ago. He says Eastern recruited him, but Evansville made a better offer.

The Aces head coach said Cuffle sets an example for everyone else on the team to follow. Cuffle leads more by example than by his words. "Clint is a very conscientious, determined, regimented player," Merfield said. "Everything he does is at a high level."

Cuffle's three point shooting and leadership are a couple strengths of his game but there is one thing that makes him a stand-out player.

"His consistency more than anything is his strong point," Merfield said. "Consistency and his knowledge of the game, the way he reads and reacts each and every day is what makes Clint stand out."

Merfield was not around for the recruiting process when Cuffle was in high school, but former Evansville head coach Jim Crews once one of many schools that were interested in Cuffle.

"Coach Crews really recruited me quite hard while I was in high school," Cuffle said. "I got recruited by Illinois State, Indiana State and pretty much every other Missouri Valley Conference school. I felt like Evansville best suited my game."

Cuffle was first team all state on the New-Gazette's 15-man All State Team. He led Riverton High School to the Class A semifinals with a 29-5 record as a senior while scoring 27.8 points and 12.9 rebounds per game.

Eastern and head coach Rick Samuels was also in the recruiting battle for Cuffle but the 6-6 forward never really considered the Panthers and decided to take his game out of the Land of Lincoln.

"Eastern recruited me I guess but Evansville just made a stronger case," Cuffle said.

Not only does Clint excel on the basketball court, he also holds his own in the classroom.

Cuffle was chosen in April as recipient of the James M. Hall Award, presented to Edwardsville's most outstanding junior engineering student.

Clint Cuffle has an older brother, Kurt, who lettered two years 1997-98 in basketball at Eastern.

Kurt started 10 of 23 games and averaged 4.7 points and 2.7 rebounds per game.

Though Clint's points per game more than double Kurt's, the father said all of his sons are one in the same.

"It's all for one and one for all with them," Dean Cuffle said.

However, Cuffle has always felt like basketball was a family thing in his house but doesn't believe his brother goes around boasting that he taught him what he knows.

"I hope he doesn't do that," Cuffle said. "I've got two older brothers that played and once I got tall, it just felt natural to play."

TRACK AND FIELD

Outdoor season over, Eastern wants inside on OVC race

◆ *Panthers hopes to improve on fourth-place outdoors finish*

By Michael Gilbert
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

The Eastern women's indoor track and field team will open their season as they head to Terre Haute, Ind., for the Sycamore Preview Meet this Saturday.

After finishing fourth in the 2003 Ohio Valley Conference Outdoor Championships, the women will go into the meet trying to reverse their fortunes inside.

"This should be a good challenge for us in the season opener against a good team," Panthers head coach Mary Wallace said.

Alicia Harris keys a group of sprinters that lack depth, but certainly not flare. The junior from Wheaton took Charleston and the OVC by storm last year dominating events ranging from the 100 meter dash to the 4x400-meter relay. Harris set school records in the 200 meter and the 400 meter dash last year.

"Alicia had a very strong fall and hopefully will carry that over to the Indoor season," Wallace said. "She goes on morning runs and is dedicated to running fast."

Joining Harris in the sprint group will be senior Lexie Nuckolls, who posted solid times in the Indoor season last year and Wallace is confident she can keep that up this season.

"In her senior year, Lexie really looks ready to go," Wallace said.

Nuckolls had the third fastest time of any Panther in the 60 meter dash (7.77) and the fourth quickest in the 200 meter dash with a time of 26.56 back in December of 2002.

Besides Harris and Nuckolls, the Panthers are not very deep in the sprints. The Panthers are without one of their top sprinters last year in Elaine Hayes who transferred from Eastern. Although losing Hayes, Wallace believes with two top sprinters in Harris and Nuckolls, Eastern will be set in that department.

A concern for the Panthers this weekend will be shaking off the rust of not competing in an indoor event in over eight months. While the kinks may not all be ironed out yet, Wallace says the key to the season will be how the team finishes not starts.

"Athletes always develop rust not having been in competition," Wallace said. "In track, our conference champion is based on one meet and not throughout the whole season. This meet is a good opportunity for the athletes to see how they stand and perform."

After the Panthers meet against the Sycamores, the team will not be in action until hosting the EIU Mega Meet on Jan. 24. Wallace said the athletes are given a schedule of what to do, but mentioned it's up to the individual to carry those tasks out.

"We send them home after finals with training to do," Wallace said. "Then a week before everybody comes back we are on campus practicing, but over the break it is the responsibility of the athlete to do their work."

The Eastern men's team led by junior sprinter Roger Driver and pole vaulter Kyle Baumgartner will also be in action this weekend against Indiana State.

Want to avoid that ugly sweater from Aunt Sue, or that pile of stuff you can't use from the folks? Instead--Ask for educational experience... How can the fam refuse that?!

Tell them you want to **Study Abroad in the Summer of 2004!** Opportunities to travel with EIU faculty and students to the Bahamas, Belgium, Brazil, Ecuador, England, France, Ireland/Scotland, Italy, Mexico, Netherlands, or Spain.

Find out more from Education Abroad: by visiting us in 1310 Blair Hall, calling us at 581-3390, or going to the web site at <http://www.eiu.edu/~edaboard/>

Happy Holidays from EIU Education Abroad!

UB Movies Presents:

AMERICAN WEDDING

Saturday December 13th
Buzzard Auditorium
5 and 8 PM
Free With Student ID

Trick and Treat your friends this month...

Advertise their Birthday in the DEN!
581-2812

Make it a part of your morning routine ...
Read The Daily Eastern News !

Business in trouble? advertise in the DEN today!
581-2816

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Panthers hope winning blows to Windy City



DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY STEPHEN HAAS

Meagan Scaggs, a freshman forward, is a starter on the Panthers averaging 4.5 points and 4.7 rebounds per game. Scaggs also is tied for the team lead in steals, with 1.8 per contest.

◆ *If Eastern defeats Chicago State, the team will have first winning streak of season; Panthers defeated Savannah State on Tuesday*

By Matthew Stevens
SPORTS EDITOR

The motto for the Eastern women's basketball team should be: "We won today, that's a win, but if we win tomorrow, that's a winning streak."

The Panthers return home after defeating Savannah State 72-65 in Georgia for its first Division I victory of the 2003-2004 season. Eastern head coach Linda Wunder knows the importance of getting that initial confidence boost.

Eastern (3-3) is hoping to ride that momentum wave to the city of broad shoulders where the Panthers take on Chicago State (4-1) Saturday afternoon.

"It's always nice to get a win and especially on the road," Wunder said. "Hopefully, this will tell our players we can win every time they step on the floor."

The game in the Peach state was crucial to the Panthers as sophomore guard Megan Sparks found the taste of success from her outside jump shot scoring a season-high 17 points.

"It's nice to see Megan break out her shooting slump and I'm sure it felt good for her," Wunder said.

The Panthers continue to rely on the low post threat

of junior center Pam O'Connor who scored seven straight points before fouling out of the five point win over the Tigers.

"Sometimes I think we force the ball into Pam way too much and then we turn the ball over, Wunder said. "However, there was time during that period where Pam O'Connor decided to take over when we needed it."

Eastern might be able to catch the Ramblers on a off night after having a 10-day layoff before they match up with the Panthers.

"Sometimes when you take on long break whether for finals or what, it breaks your

rhythm, but sometimes it can make you refreshed for the next game," Wunder said.

Wunder stated she is still concerned with the production down the stretch of a contest with two freshman point guards leading the squad within the final minutes.

"It still worries me because of the amount of free throws we missed, turnovers we made and fouls we gave up to stop the clock," Wunder said.

The Ramblers have four players including three starters averaging double figures in points and are led by sophomore center Renada Blackburn, who earns 14.6 points and 10.8 rebounds per contest.

"They are such a well balanced team that it's going to take a high defensive effort to have a chance to win," Wunder said.

However, Chicago State has proven they will have off shooting nights by posting a 39 percent field goal percentage in its four point win over St. Francis (NY) last week. To maximize this possible weakness, the Panthers aren't against switching to a zone defense.

"If they show that they can't shoot it well, we will switch and play to our strengths to counter them," Wunder said. We will play zone if it's to our benefit."

Revenge may be on the mind of the Panthers after last season's 70-50 embarrassing loss at Lantz Arena last season.

"I certainly hope our players remember that game because I don't feel like we played well at all," Wunder said. "Hopefully, they can do something about that memory."

- ◆ **Opponent:** Chicago State
- ◆ **Opponent Record:** 4-1
- ◆ **Time:** 1 p.m.
- ◆ **When:** Saturday

Purple Aces: Despite victory, Samuels says team still needs lots of work

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12A

Eastern will attempt to counter Cuffle's scoring ability with the offensive and defensive threat of junior Derik Hollyfield.

Hollyfield is leading the Panthers in scoring but also can defend a team's scoring threat if he stays out of early fouled trouble.

"I think Derik (Hollyfield) proved

what I thought, that he is our best individual defender," Samuels said Wednesday night after the junior college transfer held St. Francis' leading scorer Bob St. Leger to three second half points compared with the 13 in the first 20 minutes.

For Eastern, Evansville's two games against UIC can be used as a gauge of the Purple Aces because the Panthers have lost to the Flames as well.

Eastern lost to UIC by 19 points while the Purple Aces lost one game to UIC by 16 points at home, but only lost by four points on the road.

As for the upcoming game, Merfeld had nothing but complimentary things to say about Eastern, even though the Panthers have gotten off to a slow start.

"They have a well-balanced motion offense, that has been the reason we have lost to Eastern the last three times we played them," Merfeld said. "We have to make them miss and make their shooters uncomfortable for us to be affective."

The motion offense for Eastern produced multiple players in double digits for points, in the Panthers last game against St. Francis.

The Panthers hope the way they played on Wednesday will continue when they move back up to Division I competition.

"We needed a victory to boos our confidence, but we still have a lot of work to do," Samuels said.

"We still need to find the right combination that gives us good chemistry on the floor."

Jones: Karos to play 3rd base

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12A

Karos played third base for Eastern in some of the team's fall games, but has also practiced at short stop.

Searle seems very excited about her new student athlete, who is already known for her hard work and hustle.

"I think you can't put a price on athleticism and the effort an athletic person gives," Searle said.

I'm just happy to see a great competitor stay in an Eastern uniform.

I do have some simple advice for the catchers Eastern will face this year: If Karos is coming home, and there's going to be a close play at the plate, get out of the way. She has already proven she doesn't have a problem running into things.

UB Homecoming Elect 2004 Position is Now Open!
 Help plan EIU's Biggest Event of the year!
 2 year position
 Monthly Stipend
 Great Experience
 Applications are now Available in Student Activities Center
 Due: Jan. 26; Interviews: Jan. 27
 For Questions call 581-3117

Advertising in the **DEN...**
 The best thing since sliced bread!

Happy Birthday Jen
 Love, Mike

ADVERTISE In the DEN 581-2816

WANT MONEY TO FLY YOUR WAY?
ADVERTISE IN THE DEN CALL 581-2816

Panther sports calendar

SATURDAY	Track at Indiana State	
	W Bball at Chicago St.	1 p.m.
	M Bball at Evansville	7 p.m.
SUNDAY	Wrestling at Indiana Duals	All Day



OUT OF LEFT FIELD
Matt Meinheit
MANAGING EDITOR

Trading the roundball for the softball

Eastern has a pretty good basketball team this year, only it's not the team everyone thinks about when they hear "Eastern" and "basketball" in the same sentence.

Judging by attendance, most people think Eastern only has a men's basketball team. This season, however, Eastern's women's team has a legitimate shot of posting a better record than the men's for the first time since the 1994-95 season, when the women's team had a record of 16-12 and the men's team went 16-13. The two teams posted identical 12-15 records in 1996-97.

The women's team has much to be excited about this season. Senior guard Lauren Dailey is seven three-pointers away from tying Eastern's record. Junior Pam O'Conner is back from torn anterior cruciate ligament that sidelined her last year, and Eastern has a promising class of freshman.

Only one thing detracts from my excitement about this year's women's squad. Where did Rachel Karos go?

For those of you that haven't been at the women's games the last two years, let me tell you about Karos. She was one of the most exciting players to watch on Eastern's lineup. She was the person who was always hustling. Not to say the others didn't hustle, but you had to be blind not to notice the extra effort Karos put forth. She was the player that was always willing to sacrifice her body for the sake of helping the team. It wasn't really a game unless Karos crashed into one of the tables along the sidelines in Lantz Arena diving after a loose ball.

When I noticed Karos wasn't on the roster this year, I was really disappointed. I've never really liked to watch big scorers. I like to watch the players that give 110 percent, don't quit until the fat lady sings and all those other fun clichés coaches use to encourage their players to play harder.

Luckily for me, I will get to see Karos play this year, although it won't be for the women's basketball team. Instead, Karos is on the softball team's roster for 2004.

"It's not like I hated basketball here," Karos said. "It's just that it wasn't working out for me here, so I needed a change."

Shortly after the end of last season, Karos told basketball coach Linda Wunder she wanted to quit the team. Karos said after a couple of weeks of doing nothing she realized she needed something else to do.

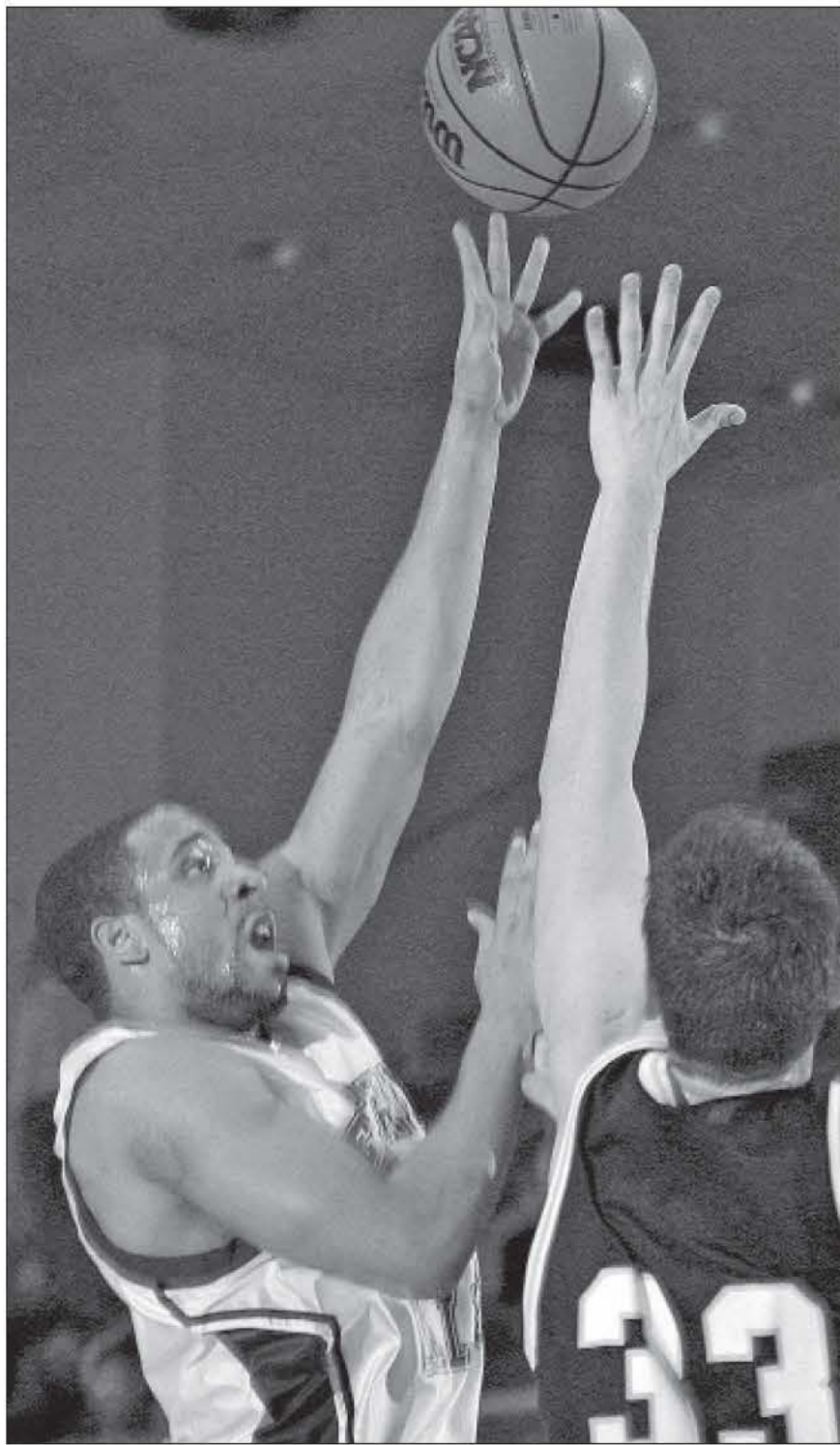
Softball coach Lloydene Searle first notice Karos' talent for the sport last year when Karos took Searle's softball class.

"I was like, 'who is this kid?'" Searle said. "I knew who she was, but I was like, wow, she's got good hands. Wow, she's got a good bat. She's a good softball player."

Karos said Searle had mentioned the possibility of playing softball. So last spring, Karos decided to make a phone call.

"I remember getting a call," Searle said. "She said, 'hi coach this is Rachel, I'm not sure if you remember me from class, but I'd like to play for you.' And I said, 'yes I remember you.'"

SEE MEINHEIT ♦ Page 11



Aaron Patterson, left, has played in three of the Panther's five games this season averaging 7.7 points. Coach Rick Samuels has mentioned Patterson could develop into Eastern's inside post threat.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Finally! One of these teams will get a win

♦ Panthers have a victory, but not against a Division I opponent; Purple Aces also winless

By Aaron Seidlitz
SPORTS REPORTER

Eastern's next game, which will be the team's return to the road after three straight home games, will be at Evansville (0-4) on Saturday.

The Panthers (1-4) are coming off their first win of the season and will attempt to make it two in a row against an Evansville team that has yet to get a win in four games.

More inside

♦ Purple Aces star compared to NBA's Kyle Korver
Page 10

But if Eastern had a tough schedule early, Evansville has the same explanation as they have now gone four games without a victory.

So far this season, the Purple Aces have played two games against Illinois Chicago, and a game a piece versus Austin Peay and Butler.

Three of the four games have been on the road this season for Evansville, and the result against such solid competition has produced four losses so far this year.

"The strength of schedule is something I have to look at as a reason for why we are 0-4," Evansville head coach Steve Merfeld said. "The lack of experience on this team that has seven freshmen on it, is a reason it has been tough for us to get a victory against solid opponents."

The lone senior for Evansville is Clint Cuffle, who Merfeld compares to last year's sensation out of Creighton Kyle Korver.

"I don't think its that much of a stretch to compare Clint (Cuffle) to Korver," Merfeld said. "The way each of them shoot so effectively is why they are similar."

Eastern head coach Rick Samuels also understands that the tough early schedule can lead to a tough stretch, especially early on in the season.

"Three of Evansville's games have been on the road, and they've been close in all three of them so they could just as easily be 3-1 as winless," Samuel's said.

SEE PURPLE ACES ♦ Page 11

WRESTLING

Panthers blooming in time for Bloomington

Eastern's wrestling line-up

125 pounds	Kevin McNicholas	FR
133 pounds	Pat Dowty	SR
141 pounds	Jared Walters	JR
149 pounds	Chris Jordan	SO
157 pounds	Clay French	SR
165 pounds	Matt Veach	SR
174 pounds	Kenny Robertson	FR
184 pounds	Adam Sesso	JR
197 pounds	Jim Kassner	JR
	Brian Morgan	JR
285 pounds	Pete Ziminski	SR

♦ Two Eastern grapplers ranked nationally, third grabs honorable mention

By Matthew Stevens
SPORTS EDITOR

The Eastern wrestling team will attempt to survive another difficult challenge as they open up the dual match portion of the schedule with a Big Ten power.

The Panthers will be facing the Indiana Hoosiers on the road in Bloomington, Ind., Saturday, but feel like the 2003-2004 squad has a realistic opportunity to knock off a bigger school.

"We're excited to get this test brought into our program," Eastern head coach Ralph McCausland said. "On paper, I can see us having an advantage."

This confidence in his squad comes from having three nationally ranked wrestlers, according to the new polls.

According to the intermatwrestling.com collegiate poll, Eastern senior Pat Dowty and junior Pete Ziminski are ranked 15th in the country. Along with that pair, junior Matt Veach has been given honorable mention in the poll.

"It's great to see those guys get some recognition for the hard work they put in," McCausland said.

Two members of that trio have been on the injured list and were

Eastern Illinois University at Indiana University

- ♦ When: Sunday, all day
- ♦ Where: Bloomington, Ind.

held out of competition during the Northern Iowa Open Tournament.

Dowty and Veach are back practicing with the team after suffering a lymphoid infection, but has been cleared for competition this weekend.

"The concern with Pat was you're not supposed to have an increase in your blood pressure with that injury," McCausland said.

Veach and fellow junior Kenny Roberson were less than 100 percent after having a procedure to remove their wisdom teeth pulled.

"Veach was held out, and I was really debating on sitting him too," McCausland said. "But he said he was fine so I let Kenny wrestle."

However, Eastern has all of its premier wrestlers in the fold for the match with the Hoosiers and this fact gives McCausland a feeling he has the advantage in the 133 (Dowty), 157 (French), 165 (Veach) and Heavyweight (Ziminski).

However, the Hoosiers bring impressive talent in the 184 and 197 pound classes making the 125, 141 and 149 pound classes pivotal to winning the match.

"We've stressed with some of the newer kids that they need to visu-

alize how the match is going to be in their mind," McCausland said.

One crucial change from open matches to dual match competition is the idea that the first period is one minute longer, making the 10 matches seven total minutes instead of six.

"That change forces the guys to concentrate more on the awareness of a match and how they will react," McCausland said.

The only question will be at the 197 pound weight class, where Eastern will take two wrestlers and make a game time decision who they start.

The pair of wrestlers who will make that trip is junior Jim Master, but he might be scratched with a knee injury and could be replaced by junior college transfer Brian Morgan.

"We need to help each other prepare for this dual match part of the season and I'm sure that everybody will be concentrating on the pre-match preparation," McCausland said.

The dual meet against a top-level conference foe will give Eastern an indication on how they stack up going into its future NCAA regional.

"Everything we do, everything we want during the year is making progress towards that goal of qualifying for the NCAA championships," McCausland said. "These dual match scenarios are a perfect test."

Verge

REVIEW THIS
"The Return of the King" opens Dec. 17
Verge staffers discuss how the novels translated to film.
LOOK on Page 3B



*Three Rings for the Elvin Kings under the sky
Seven for the Dwarf Lords in their Halls of Stone
Nine for mortal men doomed to die
One for the Dark Lord on his Dark Throne
In the Land of Mordor where the Shadows lie
One Ring to rule them all
One Ring to find them
One Ring to bring them all
And in the darkness bind them*



ADVICE COLUMN

Verge Editors take their first crack at helping out students.

◆
Page 2B

FEATURE

What do students do over of the most stressful weekend of the semester?

◆
Page 7B

DVD REVIEWS

Blue MAn Group's "Complex Rock Tour Live" entertains but lacks experience of live shows.

◆
Page 5B

CONCERT CALENDAR

The Rural Kings, Ryan Groff, Woodbox gang and others to play this weekend.

◆
Page 8B

SMELLS LIKE ADVISE

Unfortunately, she's lost that lovin' feelin'

Dear Verge,

I have been with my boyfriend for one and a half years. We have lived together for more than a year and have made plans for our future. He's a great guy and I do love him, but I feel smothered. I can't hang out with friends or go out and get drunk like a college student is supposed to! I sometimes think about breaking up with him, but what would guys think when they know I have already lived with a guy? Please help me out, our lease isn't up for another six months. Plus, we have dog that is like our child, and I worry that if one of us moves out, I will be separated from her. Help! I don't know what to do.

Roommate No Longer Wanted

He said:

Well, it would be easy to just say you shouldn't have moved in with someone at this stage in the first place, but what would that solve.

Maybe this is cliché to say, but in my experience in relationships, communication is key. Instead of asking us for advise, you should definitely tell him about how you feel. Maybe he's feeling the same way - you never know.

Even if he doesn't agree, and believe me here, he'll appreciate the honesty. You obviously are having problems with your relationship and he deserves to know. Maybe I'm just defending my gender, but I've kept things from people before and it has never worked out.

If you want to stay together, just not live together because of the potential smothering, he may have a friend who would want to move in with him or a friend of yours could move in.

If you're invested in the relationship, you'll do whatever it takes to make it work - it's obviously not working for you when you guys live together.

If you explain carefully to him that you still love him but it's the constant proximity you can't stand, he may not be opposed to a change of residence.

I can't really put myself in your shoes because I've never lived with someone I was in a relationship with, but I have had some annoying dogs.

Hopefully your dog isn't annoying. We used to have this terrier who had a skin disease. It was gross. I won't disgust you with the details - yes I will. She would rub her skin up against the cement wall of the basement.

If your boyfriend does that, I'd say run for the hills. Otherwise, you might consider keeping him around. Guys can be useful ... for ... umm ... opening cans and such.

Seriously though, whatever you decide, let him know what you're thinking sooner rather than later.

She said:

I've been in a similar situation, and the feeling of being smothered will only get worse. It will hurt both of you to confront it, but the two of you really need to talk about the situation. He could possibly be feeling the same way. If you want your relationship to survive, don't ignore the problem. Discussing it may even strengthen the bond you share. He will be hurt. But if he really loves you, he will respect your feelings and want what is in your best interest.

In a long-term relationship, it's easy to forget that you were once a single person who could do whatever you wanted without considering anyone else first. As a young person working toward an education, you are developing professionally as well as socially. You need to go out and meet new people to learn about yourself.

When you develop a serious relationship, you lose touch with friends. Now is the time to get back in touch with them and make new ones, as well. Join a new organization or get a new hobby to broaden your horizons and take your mind off the situation.

It is perfectly normal to want to go out with friends and date other guys. You are in college, after all. You have the rest of your life to be with one person. Now is the time to define yourself. You should be worrying about "me, myself and I," not "me, myself and guy." I'm sure you are a unique person, and any decent guy won't judge you for previously having lived.

As for the lease issue, the two of you will have to discuss it. Hopefully your landlord is understanding, and the three of you can work something out. Now is the time to act, because over break one of you may be able to find somewhere else to live. It's hard at the beginning, but it is for the better.

Chances are, you will be tempted to change your mind and stay with your boyfriend. This is the easy way out. If you start the ball rolling only to back down, you'll regret it twice as much in six months. By that time, you may hate him, and your relationship will be nonexistent instead of just on the rocks.

Your dog loves you both, and vice versa, I'm sure. But like marriage counselors tell couples, you shouldn't stay together for the children. My ex and I had a cat that we both loved. But after I moved out it got hit by a car. That's harsh, I know. But it just proves that animals have short life spans, and your happiness is more important than a lot of other things. One of you could take the animal, and the other can get a new one. Good luck!!!

For advise, email *The Verge* at eliverge@hotmail.com



Dan Valenziano
Junior journalism
major

Editor of *The Verge*



Holly Henschen
Junior journalism and
political science major

Associate editor
of *The Verge*

Tolkien expert sheds light on LOTR trilogy

By Holly Henschen
ASSOCIATE VERGE EDITOR

Self-professed Tolkien buffs have nothing on this guy.

Professor Mike Foster of Illinois Central College has been North American Representative of the Tolkien Society since 1995. The society, based in Britain, boasts worldwide membership.

Foster, who has been studying Tolkien since 1977, said he avoided all media hype of the upcoming "Return of the King" film to save his judgment until he actually saw it.

The Tolkien Society meets in Toronto at an event called The Gathering of the Fellowship this weekend to view the highly anticipated film version.

Foster gave a final on The Lord of the Rings to his literature class this week. One essay question was "What is the ring anyway?"

"It tempts people to bend everyone and everything to their will," he said.

The transition between "The Two Towers" and "The Return of the King" films excludes almost five chapters of the trilogy, Foster said. It includes the storming of Isengard, but not the confrontation with Saruman that leaves him a powerless prisoner in Isengard.

Another book to film discrepancy cited by the expert is the exit of Saruman from the seemingly possessed Theoden. Gandalf actually talked to the King of the Mark in the trilogy to free him from the captor's grasp.

"The Twin Towers" film misrepresented Faramir, as well, Foster said.

When it is offered to him in the movie, Faramir considers it.

"He is the only mortal with the chance to take the ring that refuses it," he said.

Faramir quickly responds to the offer in the book, "Not even if I found it in the road would I take this thing."

Foster sees the film adaptations, though imperfect, as an advantage to Tolkien's legacy. Many who saw the films are now intrigued by the mythology and turn to the books. Even a film verbatim to the books would leave enthusiasts dissatisfied, he said.

The film representation of Lorien failed to meet Foster's expectations. It was too dark, not like the golden, everlasting summer as Tolkien portrayed it, he said.

Many Tolkien fans voiced dissatisfaction with the presence of Arwen in the first two films that does not exist in the books. There would have been no women in the first movie with the improvisation, said Foster.

"It's a war story, and women

Fast fact box

◆ The Lord of the Rings Trilogy was originally published in 1954

◆ Originally intended to be one volume

◆ "The Return of the King" was not Tolkien's title choice for the third book.

"Tolkien's world is a world of dualisms. Frodo and Gollum are polar opposites, but essentially the same being because of their relationship with the ring."

—Mike Foster, American representative of the Tolkien Society

didn't take part in war," he said.

Another of the few females in the series, Eowyn, may have been based on Tolkien's only daughter, Priscilla. The books were written as the young woman's brothers and friends were going off to war, Foster said. The tomboy was left alone, much like the sheildmaiden Eowyn.

The Lord of The Rings Trilogy, published in 1954, was originally intended to be one volume. As a wartime consequence, paper was costly, and it would be too expensive to publish, he said.

"The Return of the King" was not Tolkien's choice of title for the last installment of the trilogy. He originally titled it "The War of the Ring," said Foster.

"Tolkien's world is a world of dualisms," said Foster. "Frodo and Gollum are polar opposites, but essentially the same being because of their relationship with the ring."

Theoden and Denethor have a similar relationship. Both were powerful respected men, he said. But Theoden dies a hero's death, while Denethor suffers the opposite, a cowardly suicide.

Foster studied at Marquette University in Milwaukee during the 1960s. The university owns all of Tolkien's manuscripts, notes and drafts.

Staff
ON THE VERGE OF THE WEEKEND
THE DAILY
EASTERN NEWS

Dan Valenziano, *Verge* editor

Holly Henschen, Associate *Verge* editor

Jesse Wu, Copy editor

Mallory Hausman, Copy editor

Dan Valenziano, Cover design

—Hunting for 2004—
—Well Maintained—
—All apartments furnished—
—Close to campus—
—1, 2, 3 bed apts, duplexes available—
Call for an appt.
345-2516

HAPPY HOLIDAY'S!
from
HairBender's II in Charleston

Treat yourself or someone special to a gift certificate for the holiday's.

345-6363 1820 McKinley Ave.

We Want You...

to advertise in
the Den!
581-2816

Large 1 Topping Pizza
\$8.95 + tax
345-3400

Not valid with any other offer.
Offer expires January 23, 2004

FREE Winter, Tire, & Safety Inspection

OIL CHANGE, LUBE & FILTER

GOODYEAR \$12.95 GOODYEAR

VANS, TRUCKS & SUV's \$18.95
KENDALL or MOBILE OIL

SWEET TIRE
and Auto Service Inc.

Brian G. Sweet (Owner)
Charleston 417 Madison Ave. 345-3130
must present coupon expires 12/30/03

The road goes ever on...



Peter Jackson's adaptation of J.R.R. Tolkien's Lord of the Rings finally comes to a close with the highly anticipated 'Return of the King'

With the final installment of Peter Jackson's "Lord of the Rings" trilogy set to open Dec. 17, one of the most successful cinematic franchises in history will come to a close. While Jackson's two previous works in the series, "The Fellowship of the Ring" and "The Two Towers," have grossed nearly \$1 billion, hopes are even higher for the long-awaited and aptly titled "Return of the King."

While some will quibble with the films, saying they're untrue to Tolkien's vision and themes or that Jackson has strayed from the spirit of the books, each film has been more successful than the last and the trilogy has brought Tolkien to a new generation of both readers and film fans.

Jackson will finally finish the road running from Sauron to Isildur to Gollum to Bilbo, Frodo and finally the destruction of the Ring in the fires of Mount Doom.

Presented herein is a guide to the characters, themes and plot of each film for those unfamiliar with the series and those awaiting the forthcoming "Return of the King."



"The Fellowship of the Ring"

"Lord of the Rings" was not written as a film script. A film adaptation of the entire "Rings" trilogy was not attempted previously because most thought it couldn't be done. The scope of the story is almost too broad to adapt, and until recently, Hollywood didn't have the technology to make the story believable on a visual level.

The story lines of the novels focus mainly on hobbits (small hominids using their large, hairy feet to constantly and quietly search for food, ale and a comfortable place to nap) rather than the more "classic" heroes portrayed in the film - Aragorn (Vigo Mortensen) comes to mind.

To the dismay of some Tolkien fans, movies are made for profit. If Peter Jackson's film had followed Tolkien's plot to the letter, the public would've had at least six hour film filled with atmospheric language, little poems and frequent breaks for eating.

Unfortunately, the hobbits take a back seat to the Hollywoodized heroes of the film.

"The Fellowship of the Ring," the first part of J.R.R. Tolkien's epic "Lord of the Rings" series, begins with Bilbo Baggins (Ian Holm), a hobbit, planning his eleventy-first birthday party.

Bilbo, who was then the owner of the "Ring of Power" (a piece of jewelry holding the power to control the world), hadn't aged since he found the ring.

Upon the advice of Gandalf the Gray, Bilbo entrusts the ring to his nephew, Frodo (Elijah Wood), and leaves The Shire (the home of hobbits) to live with elves.

This is the point where the book and the film begin to differ.

In Tolkien's novel, there is a 17-year span between the time Bilbo and Frodo leave the shire. In Peter Jackson's film, no discernible amount of time occurs between the two.

Once Frodo and his trusty companion Sam Gamgee (Sean Astin) embark upon the task of leave the Shire, they team up with other hobbits Merry Brandybuck (Dominic Monaghan) and Pippin Took (Billy Boyd).

The hobbits' first meeting with elves is left out of the film, as is their encounter with Tom Bombadil.

The hobbits meet Aragorn, who leads them to the Elvish city of Rivendell, all the while chased by ring wraiths (ancient kings of men now controlled by evil).

In Rivendell, a fellowship of nine members; including four hobbits, two men, one dwarf, one elf and one wizard, head toward the dark land of Mordor to destroy the one ring.

After all other options are exhausted, the fellowship must travel under the Misty Mountains through the Mines of Moria, where the members battle hordes of goblins and eventually a demon called a Balrog, which knocks Gandalf The Gray (Ian McKellen) into a chasm.

The fellowship, now disheartened and broken, heads into the forest of Lorien and meets Lady Galadriel (Cate Blanchett), an elvish sorceress with whom Gimli (John Rhys-Davies), the dwarf in the group, falls in love. Although this and Galadriel's presentation of gifts to the members of the fellowship weren't included in the theatrical version of the film, they were in the special edition DVD.

After the death of Boromir (Sean Bean), the remaining members of the fellowship are separated.

Frodo and Sam head toward Mordor - alone.

By Dan Valenziano
VERGE EDITOR

"The Two Towers"

"The Two Towers," as Jackson has readily admitted in numerous interviews, was the hardest of the three films in the trilogy to adapt for the screen.

Comprised of two separate "books" without a linear or intertwining story line, Tolkien's "Two Towers" has neither a true beginning nor an end and depicts numerous story arcs. Because of these conflicting elements, writers Frances Walsh, Philippa Boyens and Jackson were forced to deviate the screenplay more from Tolkien's tome than the previous "Fellowship" or the forthcoming "Return of the King."

"Towers" also was hampered by the introduction of numerous characters like Bernard Hill's Theoden, Miranda Otto's Eowyn, David Wenham's Faramir, a true introduction to Andy Serkis' Gollum/Smeagol and the Ent Treebeard, who is voiced by John Rhys Davies. Despite the nonlinear story line, the complexity of personal story arcs and sheer density of Tolkien's novel, Jackson does a respectable job of bringing the most exciting segment of Tolkien's mythology to life.

"Fellowship" ends with the death of Sean Bean's Boromir, one of the nine members of the now broken fellowship. "Two Towers" picks up directly where "Fellowship" left off as Sam and Frodo are found wandering the mountains surrounding Mordor, Merry and Pippin are being lugged off by Uruk-Hai and Legolas, Gimli and Aragorn are in pursuit.

The entire film follows in this fashion as each of the three aforementioned story lines are intertwined to depict the novel's narrative more linearly than Tolkien attempted in his book. As each story cuts back from another, the viewer sees each arc played out almost simultaneously on a timeline.

Sam and Frodo encounter Gollum as he becomes the pair's guide to the black gate of Mordor. Where "Fellowship" was overtly Frodo-centric, the arc of Sam and Frodo is pushed aside as the pair's trip through the Dead Marshes, entrapment at the hands of Faramir and subsequent release from Minas Tirith is merely glossed over in favor of the more exciting part of the adventure.

While Frodo and Sam are aimlessly wandering, Legolas, Gimli and Aragorn pursue the Uruk-Hai hauling Merry and Pippin and make their way to Rohan where the trio meet Rohan's King Theoden, who is under the influence of Saruman. They then battle to protect the Rohan refuge of Helm's Deep from a horde of Uruk-Hai soldiers and reunite with Gandalf.

Merry and Pippin, meanwhile, meet the Ent Treebeard, a walking shepherd of Fangorn Forest, who plucks the pair of hobbits out of danger. The hobbits eventually convince Treebeard and the remaining Ents to attack Saruman's stronghold in Isengard.

The film ends with the Ents destroying Isengard, Aragorn leading the remaining men of Rohan out of battle and Sam and Frodo released from Faramir in Minas Tirith. Again, without a true ending, Jackson was forced to modify Tolkien's original cliffhanger in favor of something "more emotionally satisfying" as he put it in "Entertainment Weekly."

By Ben Erwin
STAFF WRITER

"The Return of the King"

***Disclaimer:** If you want to be suprised by the plot of the film version of "The Return of the King," read no further. *The Verge* refuses to deny Tolkien enthusiasts to cater to movie buffs.

"The Two Towers" ends as Gollum leads the trusting Sam and Frodo to the lair of Shelob, a giant spider. "The Return of the King" book begins as the pair have been betrayed Smeagol. Sam believes Frodo is dead and takes on the burden of the ring. Samwise must later rescue his master from Cirith Ungol and continue to Mount Doom to destroy the ring.

The film "Twin Towers" may have pre-empted "Return" by recognizing Aragorn as the king. In "The Return" book, he is recognized as king after fulfilling the prophecy by healing Merry, Eowyn and Faramir.

One of the film's downfalls is the director's ability to portray the darkness cast over Gondor by The Shadow of Sauron. It could be an excellent contrast to the luminous clarity of the fall of Sauron and the end of the Third Age.

One expectation of the film is the complex reconstruction of the architecture of Minas Tirith and layout of the land of Pelenor. Computer technology, do your best!

The book contains strategy debates between Aragorn, Gandalf, Faramir and Denethor that give depth to the characters' personalities. If the film version fails to include these heated conversations, it will be a disservice to Tolkien.

It is difficult to foresee which new characters will be given play in the film version. The importance of some characters in the book is only that they are there to take part on battle. The presence of Elrond's sons Elladan and Elrohir gives Aragorn a chance to make good with the future in-laws. The arrival of Halbarad Dunadan with the gift of the Elfstone for his kinsman, Aragorn, is sure to prolong the overplayed relationship between the mortal and Evenstar.

The absence of the scouring of the Shire leaves little resolution to the plight of Hobbitkind. This raises many questions about how the film will end and its correspondence with the book. The movie may end with the parting of the Fellowship. The ringbearers would then sail off into the Grey Havens with Elrond, Galadriel and Gandalf.

The fates of Saruman and Grima Wormtongue will not be featured in the theater version of the film, but held back for the DVD. It will be interesting to see how they work this in without the scouring of the Shire.

The overlying themes in the book are of unity and racial tolerance. The other races of Middle-Earth become familiar with Hobbits and come to respect them by association with the Fellowship. The book contains a respect for nature, as well, in the partnership between the Ents and other beings.

Hobbits were the only race that could bear the One Ring because they weren't selfish or intelligent enough to abuse the power it held.

I predict that within 10 years, a producer will venture to adapt the appendices of "The Return of the King" to film. I can't wait.

By Holly Henschen
ASSOCIATE VERGE EDITOR

♦Characters:



- Frodo Baggins



- Aragorn
- Gandalf the Gray
- Fellowship members

♦Major plot points:

- Introduction to Frodo
- The Discovery of the One Ring
- Forming the Fellowship
- Boromir's death
- The turn of Saruman

♦Discrepancies:

- Frodo's age
- Appearance of Tom Bombadil
- Timeline of the film
- The presence of Arwen

♦Characters:



- King Theoden



- Eowyn
- Treebeard
- Faramir

♦Major plot points:

- Frodo meeting Gollum
- Chasing the Uruk-Hai
- Battle at Helm's Deep
- Sacking Isengard
- Heading toward Cirith Ungol

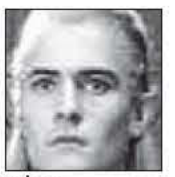
♦Discrepancies:

- Faramir's capture of Frodo
- Aragorn's fall off a cliff near Helm's Deep
- The elves' appearance at Helm's Deep

♦Characters:



- Gandalf



- Legolas
- Denethor
- Arwen

♦Major plot points:

- Sam's quest to retrieve Frodo
- The death of Theoden
- The siege of Gondor
- Faramir and Eowyn's relationship
- The destruction of the One Ring and Gollum

♦Discrepancies:

- The scouring of the Shire has reportedly been eliminated from the theatrical version of the film
- The placement of Shelob later in the story

Don't drop the ball on New Year's

By Steve Butera
STAFF WRITER

You do not just have to watch TV over break.

As 2003 draws to a close, let us take a moment to remember. The year was filled with more reality television than anyone could possibly watch (unless the have Tivo), more Jen and Ben than anyone could possibly stomach and more celebrity gubernatorial candidates than anyone could possibly laugh at. Everyone knew the year could not last forever, so all that is left to do is give it a proper sendoff.

If for some ungodly reason you will be spending Christmas break in Charleston, don't worry. Friends and Co. will ring in the New Year with local punk rock band, Swampass. The Drapes, a Chicago group, will also perform. If neither of those bands quite does it for you, be patient, more bands are expected to be announced.

Since a high number of students will migrate north for the holidays, here is a list of New Year's hot spots in Chicago.

♦ Kiss off 2003 with 80s college cult band The Violent Femmes: Try to sing along with classics such as "Blister" and "American Music." They will be playing at the Metro located at 3730 N. Clark St., just down the street from Wrigley Field. The Band is scheduled to take the stage at 10 p.m. This is an 18 and over show and tickets are \$75. For tickets, contact the Metro box office at (773) 549-0203 or (312) 559-1212.

♦ If you're into more of an alternative sound, Check out Local H at the Double Door: It's located at 1572 N. Milwaukee Ave. Local H hails from the northern suburb of Chicago, and they have been together since the late '80s. Tickets are \$55 and the show starts at 10 p.m. For tickets, call (773) 489-3160 or (312) 559-1212.

♦ For a double dose of New Year's excitement, check out Guster and Sister Hazel at the House of Blues located at 329 N. Dearborn St. Guster is a folk/pop hybrid trio, formed at Tufts University in Boston. Sister Hazel recently released a new album entitled, "Chasing Daylight," featuring the single, "Life Got in the way." Tickets are \$125 for the 21 and over show and can be obtained by calling (312) 923-2000 or (312) 559-1212.

♦ For those of you who are not into the bar and music scene, or are just looking to spend New Year's with that special someone at home, the boob tube has plenty to offer.

For 32 years in a row, Dick Clark will host the "New Years Rockin' Eve" special from Times Square. The ABC will run three consecutive specials starting at 10:30 p.m., with the famous ball dropping at midnight. MTV will also say goodbye to 2003 with "MTV's New Year's Eve 2004," starting at 9:30 pm. Ludacris, A Simple Plan and guest co-host Hillary Duff are set to perform live.

Whatever your plans for New Year's Eve are, be safe, have fun and we'll see you in '04.

Critic criticizes critics at large

By Mark Johns
STAFF WRITER

Mainstream film critics are full of crap. This may sound obvious to most of you, and some of you may even think I'm full of crap, but it was never very easy to concretely show you how critics were such pussies—until I had harnessed the full power of the Internet.

When I reviewed the Matrix Revolutions back in September, I went to the movie's very first showing at 8 a.m. and I was very careful not to let my review become tainted by what other critics were saying about the film. I thought it was a great end to the series, and much better than the tragedy that was 'The Matrix: Reloaded'.

I think many people might agree with me.... Enter Rottentomatoes.com

For those of you that don't know, Rotten Tomatoes is a Web site that rates movies. But the cool thing is that it doesn't rate them subjectively. It's a precision indicator as to the mass-scale critical opinion of a film.

By counting up the number of positive reviews and weighing them against the negative reviews, Rotten Tomatoes spits out film scores ranging from 0 percent ('Superman IV: The Quest for Peace') to 100 percent ('Easy Rider').

So imagine my surprise when I discovered that the Matrix Revolutions has a surprisingly low Tomatometer rating of 37 percent, while Reloaded has a rock-solid percent.

What the hell is wrong? Did any of these critics actually watch the movies, or did they wait and check around to see if it was hip to like them or not?

Another cool thing about Rotten Tomatoes is that it identifies the guilty parties. If one were to click on, say, The New York Times' negative review, it actually "links" you to the text of that review, so you can see what the guy has to say.

Here's how New York Times' film critic A. O. Scott begins his Revolutions review:

"Everything that has a beginning has an end." This sentence appears on the front page of the production notes handed out at press screenings of "The Matrix Revolutions"....

In his 214 word first paragraph, New York Times' film analyst A. O. Scott psychoanalyzes the film's press package. Way to do

your job man—lets not talk about the movie, but whine about the free press shit that only you and other professional critics see.

You'd think he might mention the film he saw in this paragraph, but no. Instead he proposes that the Wachowski's spin off some other sequels:

"The Matrix Recycled,' perhaps, or 'The Matrix Recall Election' or 'The Matrix Recipe Book and Holiday Menu Planner'"

Haha, Mr. Funnyman! I never knew film critic-

directing tandem of Larry and Andy Wachowski are as suited to the task of guiding this film as Neo is to saving the world from the onslaught of the Sentinels...."

I guess this guy was digging it.

Of course the problem with my thesis is that it hinges on the assumption that 'Revolutions' actually is a better movie than 'Reloaded'. But that still doesn't explain the negative reviews of 'Revolutions' which sheepishly admit that it's a more solid film than its predecessor.

What does our friend A.O. Scott think?

"The Matrix Reloaded,'... has become the highest-grossing movie of 2003 in spite of widespread disappointment among critics and fans alike."

Dude, do you even read the New York Times? If I'm not mistaken, just several months ago, your own rag was heaping on extra helping of praise—but now you guys can't even stand the Wachowski's press packets.

And what's with the 'widespread' critical disappointment? Are you talking about the mere 22 percent of professional critics who gave 'Reloaded' a negative review? I'm sorry, but I don't think you're doing your homework, man.

A friend pointed out to me that if you added the scores of 'Reloaded' and 'Revolutions' together, you'd get 111 percent, and since they really were just one movie cut in two, it's not so bad. That doesn't cut it for me. If you're too embarrassed to admit that you didn't mention the Emperor was naked, don't pipe up when he finally puts on his trousers.

Practical advice: the next time you read a movie review somewhere, think about the type of person it takes to write for the publication. Is he an ethical guy? Is he the kind of guy you'd listen to in casual conversation?

Also, take into account that, if it's a more established periodical, he's probably getting paid by the inch. And if it's the New York Times, he probably made more money for his "Matrix Recall Election" joke than you'll make all day.

That'll really put things in perspective, and thank you Rotten Tomatoes.com, for allowing me to definitively call Shenanigans!



ics could be so witty and creative! Though I guess you're not reading the New York Times these days if you're into brevity.

So what did the Times review staff think about 'Reloaded'? Were they as fickle with the series as the hordes of less prestigious publications?

Here's a morsel of Times' film analyst Elvis Mitchell's 'Reloaded' review:

"...the mastery of filmmaking hasn't abated in 'Reloaded.' The writing and

Offspring seems to copy past, others

By Brian O'Malley
STAFF WRITER

"Splinter," the seventh and probably final album from Orange County punkers The Offspring, contains tracks that seem rooted from their old style as well as tracks that sound as if the band, in a desperate moment, ripped a couple of songs from other bands.

The first single, "Hit That," is Offspring's only attempt on "Splinter" at a pop culture hit that must seem necessary to the band, knowing that "Pretty Fly for a White Guy" and "Original Prankster" debuted for their

last two albums.

However, all three songs do become pretty darn catchy after a while.

In eight of the 12 tracks, Offspring stays true to their original sound, but the other four don't.

Track 10 called "Spare me the Details" sounds like a song stolen from, the punkers who molded into a band Smash Mouth should be proud of,

"Attack of the Clones"
George Lucas, director

Rating: B-

Sugar Ray. Lead vocalist, Dexter Holland, doesn't do his voice justice sounding like a wounded chipmunk. Besides that track, Holland is outstanding.

Track seven called "The Worst Hangover Ever" is a sad attempt at the soft ska sound Sublime made famous.

Apparently, the 15-year-old band felt obligated to try something new.

However, they do display their original crazy punk force in multiple tracks, which end up being the essence of the CD.

"The Noose" and "(Can't Get My) Head Around You" simply

blast out of your stereo with that round and full sound the band has always delivered.

Lead guitarist, Noodles, and bassist, Greg K, play their very best.

Josh Freese, drummer for the Vandals and A Perfect Circle, filled in the rhythm section, and did it very well, for the album because Ron Welty booked it in May.

However, Atom Willard, of Rocket from the Crypt and the Alkaline Trio, is officially the new drummer.

Overall, "Splinter" keeps fans happy as they flip past a couple tracks to get to the good ones.

Park Place Apartments
ROOMMATES WANTED
1, 2, 3 Bedroom Apartments For Fall 2004
Spring 2004 Housing Still Available!!!
Contact Lindsey @ 348-1479

Royal Heights Apartments
- 3 Bedroom Apartments for Fall 2004
- 1, 2, 3, person rates for Spring 2004
- New Carpet!!
- New Furniture!!
- Free Parking
Call 346-3583 For Info

University Union ★ **COSMIC** ★
★ **Union** ★ **Bowling**
★ **Bowling Lanes** ★
★ **Friday & Saturday Night** ★
★ **9:30-p.m. - 12:30 a.m.** ★
★ **Phone 581-7457** ★

DVD REVIEW

Trademark ingenious sounds carry Blue Man Group

By Brent Smith
STAFF WRITER

The Blue Man Group's new concert DVD; "The Complex Rock Tour Live" is an excellent DVD for rock concert lovers and theatergoers alike. The DVD features three full-length music videos and bonus materials that try to capture the experiences of a live show.

The Blue Man Group has always offered audiences an orgy of sound effects, music, visuals and light shows.

According to Blue Man Records, "the live concert footage on the DVD was filmed during the group's successful and widely acclaimed rock tour before 9,000 fans over two sold-out concerts Aug. 12 and 13 at NextStage Amphitheatre in Grand Prairie, Texas."

The Complex, recorded in Dolby digital 5.1 surround sound, offers those with the proper stereo equipment six discreet channels of digital sound to accompany the stunning visuals.

"The Complex Rock Tour Live"
Blue Man Group
Rating: B

Although this is an excellent DVD, there is no comparison between seeing the Blue Man Group live and seeing them on DVD. The concert tour focuses more on a rock concert environment. This offers the opportunity for more viewers per show, but takes away from the personal experience found in their smaller shows.

The group's theater shows are small allowing for a more personal interaction with audience members. This is not possible at a larger theater or concert hall.

The new environment is moving away from the original down-scaled version of their shows that could be seen in Los Angeles, Chicago and New York.

The DVD follows the same format of the traditional shows that Blue Man Group is renowned for. However it lacks the signature

traits that made them famous.

An example of this is the Captain Crunch cereal props used in their shows. The members would use Captain Crunch to chew their cereal in sync with one another while providing comic relief.

The band members are concealed in an upper balcony area in the smaller shows. Their faces are painted neon colors and are illuminated by florescent lights. This focuses the attention on the Blue men, rather than the band.

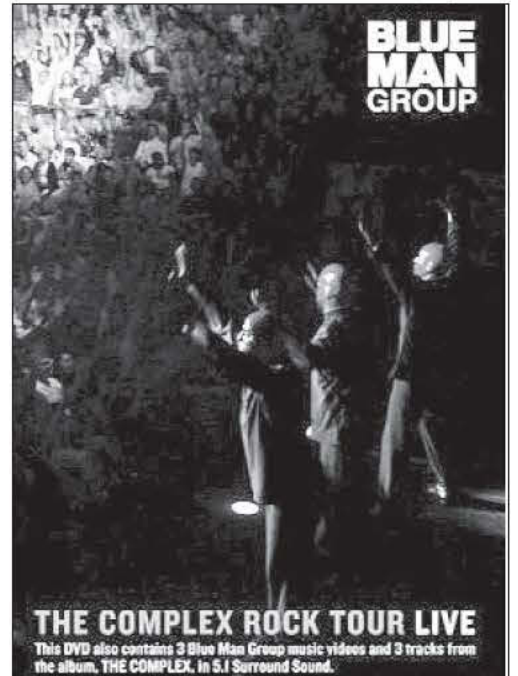
In the smaller live shows, the members of Blue Man Group interact more with the audience. The audience members sitting in the front three rows are covered with a plastic poncho in order to prevent paint from being splashed on them. The blue men climb into the audience over chairs and between people to during their skits.

The instruments that the blue men use resemble something constructed from scrapes of pipes found in a Home Depot. While playing these instruments

they present an eerie appearance standing tall before the audience with their blue faces.

They cleverly use PVC pipe and plumber's pipes to construct some of their instruments. Large quantities of orange, green and pink paint are poured into pools on the tops of their drums while they play. As they pound the drums louder and louder their faces are splashed with the various paints until they are covered. Various lighting enhances their actions.

The changes from small theater to a concert hall have changed the performance of the Blue Man Group for better or worse. A large band and multiple singers have replaced props and impromptu comedy that have



made this group famous. Although the DVD veers off course from the original Blue Man group performances it is definitely worth seeing.

Bottle of Justus, Woodbox Gang to headline at Friends over weekend

By Holly Henschen
ASSOCIATE VERGE EDITOR

Bottle of Justus will pour their brew of pop and punk into Charleston at Friends & Co. Saturday night.

Twin brothers Chris, lead vocalist, and Joe Quinlan, on lead guitar, have been performing together since second grade. They began as a lip-synching group that included their next-door neighbor named Justus, a press release said. The kiddie band's mock album cover pictured Justus in a bottle. When the Quinlans grew up to form a real band, they decided on the name "Bottle of Justice" as a joke.

The Bloomington band has three

releases. The latest, 2003's "On Air" was recorded in Birmingham, Alabama.

When Bottle of Justus played the Chicago House of Blues, they packed the venue, said the band's bio, which was penned by the Quinlans' mother.

Bottle of Justus has performed with Lucky Boys Confusion, G. Love and Special Sauce, O.A.R. and The Urge, to name a few.

Curly Hair Joe will open for Bottle of Justus. Cover charge is \$5.

Woodbox Gang, a self-described "jug punk" band, will play at Friends Friday night.

Dobro and crowbar are among the

instruments involved in the six-member outfit. Singer Hugh DeNeal's vocals have been described as "John Fogerty meets Johnny Rotten." DeNeal also plays guitar and the kazoo.

Descriptions of Woodbox Gang's music range from "insurgent Americana," "caustic acoustic," to "y'alternative," a press release said.

The band released four albums between 2000 and 2002. The is latest is a live recording called "Showdown."

Woodbox Gang has received extensive exposure in Carbondale. Their release "Wormwood" was voted Best CD of 2002 by the city's Nightlife magazine.

The band has performed with Hank

George Clinton pleads innocent in drug arrest

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP)—Funk musician George Clinton filed an innocent plea to drug charges Thursday, according to court records.

Clinton's lawyer, Tim Jansen, filed the plea and the case was assigned to Circuit Judge Thomas Bateman. No trial date has been set.

Jansen didn't return a call for comment.

Clinton, whose age is listed as 62 or 63, was arrested over the weekend and charged with possession of

cocaine and drug paraphernalia. He was released on \$2,650 bail.

Police said he was sitting in a car in a parking lot and when approached, volunteered that he had cocaine in his pocket.

Clinton, who has a Tallahassee address, headed the funk bands Parliament and Funkadelic — and the collaboration later known as P-Funk — in the 1970s and 1980s. In 1983, his solo record "Atomic Dog" rose to the top of the R&B charts.

As the semester is "wrapping" up, make sure to advertise in the FINALS GUIDE!!

Here's our present to you...

Run a 3x4 in Monday December 15th's paper and get 1/2 OFF on your ad in Monday January 12th's paper after Christmas break!!

Morrison still dead, Ozzy still not Chicago comics drop in

Jim Morrison is dead, but Ozzy Osbourne is only slightly injured. Doors fans flocked to Morrison's grave in Paris Monday to commemorate singer's birthday, *Newsday.com* said.

The same day, CNN reported Osbourne, solo artist and ex-Black Sabbath frontman, was hospitalized and recovering from an ATV accident. He has eight fractured ribs and various other injuries.

The accident report came two days after Osbourne said in the *Los Angeles Times* he was taking as many as 42 pills a day during the filming of the MTV reality sitcom "The Osbournes".

Both Osbourne and Morrison have personas associated with self-destructive behavior.

"We're trying to evoke the spirit of Jim," Robby Krieger, former Doors guitarist, told fans gathered at Morrison's grave, the *Associated Press* reported. But I say do not petition his soul with prayer.

Morrison died of heart failure at 27, the infamous age of rock-star demise (for example, Jimi Hendrix, Janis Joplin, Kurt

Cobain and Shannon Hoon). It's better to burn out than to fade away, they say.

Morrison made no attempt to hide his substance abuse, often glorifying the use of psychedelic drugs. Most of his stage shows were punctuated with drunken rants and dancing.

Many episodes of VH1 *Behind the Music* have taught me that after Osbourne's departure from Black Sabbath, he started a solo career and sunk into deep drug addiction. The only thing that saved him, friends said, was the love of his wife, Sharon.

This leads me to believe that if Morrison was alive today, he would probably be a lot like Osbourne.

Some may scoff at this comparison. But Osbourne's dark, Black Sabbath-esque image is similar to Morrison's obsession with death. Also, Black Sabbath continued to release unsuccessful records after Ozzie left the band. The *Doors 21st Century*, comprised of Doors keyboardist Manzarek, Krieger and former singer from The Cult Ian Astbury, continue to perform, as well.



By Holly Henschen
ASSOCIATE VERGE EDITOR

The similarities between the lives of Morrison and Osbourne caused a thought to invade my mind: can you imagine Jim Morrison as a 60-year-old man?(italics)

If Morrison was alive today, would he still be singing with the Doors, rather than their new frontman? He would probably be a more time-worn and drug ravaged version of Osbourne. At 60, he may have had children with wife Pamela Courson. He could possibly even have grandchildren by now. Can you imagine innocent little tikes calling Jim Morrison "Grandpa"?

Lets hope Jim would have refrained from putting his mid-life on display with a reality sitcom. I pray that he wouldn't fall to dragging his children around on his coattails like Ozzy does in daughter Kelly's video for the Black Sabbath song "Changes" ("featuring" her father, nonethe-

less).

I shudder to imagine Morrison's daughter covering "Waiting for the Sun," with back up vocals from daddy. A 60 year old in skin-tight leather pants is not my idea of glamour.

Osbourne's career staggers on in the forms of music, television and an annual concert tour bearing his name. (I argue, the first three Ozzfests were decent, but have subsequently declined in quality while increasing in corporatism. Enter Sharon.)

Many "27 Club" members could be compared to current rock 'n' roll survivors: Hendrix to Carlos Santana, Joplin to Grace Slick, Cobain to Eddie Vedder, and Hoon to...well, you get my point.

There is a reason some famous people die young. I think if they accomplish enough in youth and make a huge spectacle out of themselves in the process, they earn a Get Out of Life Free card. This saves them embarrassment in old age.

It's a pity that Morrison fans have to celebrate his birthday without him. Osbourne adorer's can at least send him balloons in the hospital for the time being.

◆ Talents featured on Comedy Central and BET's Comic View play pre-finals

By Brittany Robson
ACTIVITIES EDITOR

The upcoming weekend could be a cram time for finals for a lot of students.

But before everyone starts to spend long nights with coffee and books, students have the chance to take time to have one last laugh before finals week.

Friday at 9 p.m. in 7th Street Underground in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union, Team Outlaw and SD Entertainment present the last comedy show of the semester.

The show will include comedian Sonya D. from Chicago hosting and performing at the event. D has been to Eastern's campus four times. She has toured with the Queens of Comedy and has appeared on BET. and Comedy Central.

B. Cole and Sugar Ray will also perform. Both are from Chicago and have been on BET's Comic View and Comedy Central. Cole has also performed at the famed Apollo Theater in New York City.

"I expect sold out show," said Monique Cook-Bey, assistant director of student life. "Sonya D. has been down here four times and has attracted a big crowd. She knows what kind of comedy the crowd likes."

Cook-Bey said Team Outlaw and SD Entertainment wanted to bring something to the students one last laugh before students start to crack the books for finals.

"No one has secluded anything on campus because its finals weekend, there are things at the bars but we wanted to do something that everyone could go to," Cook-Bey said.

"The comedy will feature adult, 18-and-over language and content."

The show will feature refreshments, fake daiquiris and margaritas. Cover is \$5 with a Panther Card and \$10 for the public.

Team Outlaw and SD Entertainment have recently teamed up to bring well-known comedians to Eastern.

Team Outlaw works with entertainment and record companies like Def Jam and Atlantic to bring entertainment to the Eastern community.

Korn is back!?! And much improved

"Take a Look in the Mirror"
Korn
Rating: B

By Ben Erwin
STAFF WRITER

After tepid sales of 1999's "Issues" and the overwhelmingly disappointing "Untouchables" in 2002, Korn finally returns with teeth in tact and readily spewing bile on "Take a Look in the Mirror," the group's best album since its seminal, eponymously titled 1994 debut. "Untouchables" was a muddled, convoluted mess of mid-tempo song structures and a bit too much actual singing from vocalist Jonathan Davis.

"Mirror" trims away the over-tracked guitars and reverb-drenched vocals in favor of pummeling guitars and rock-steady drumming.

Likewise, where "Issues" saw the band go a bit soft both lyrically and musically, "Mirror" finds Davis finely tapping into both his haunting warble of a singing voice and his ear-piercing guttural howl.

The album's opening track, "Right Now" sounds equally at home on "Korn" with its syncopated guitars and interlocking rhythm section punctuated by Davis' stutter-step delivery and rapid-fire screams. Likewise, tracks like "Deep Inside," "Alive"

and the album's lead off single, "Did My Time," showcase the interplay between guitarists Brian Welch, James "Munky" Shaffer and bassist Reginald "Fieldy" Arvizu.

The band also shows a bit of the melody it learned to craft on the aforementioned "Issues" and "Untouchables" on lighter tunes like "Counting on Me" and "Break Some Off" where Davis' off-kilter croon plays well alongside the atmospheric noise of Head and Munky.

Davis even adds a little bagpipe flair on "Let's Do This Now," the album's most distinctly Korn track, complete with chanted chorus, syncopated guitar riffs and straightforward structure and lyrical themes. Even the repeated lines of "Y'all Want a Single" are passable as a good groove carries the tune.

"Take a Look in the Mirror" may not be the savior many disgruntled Korn fans have been



waiting for since "Follow the Leader," but most of the album comes in succinct blasts of guitar cacophony and Davis' powerful voice.

Some would contend the band refuses to grow and has simply digressed to the pained, shallow group emerging from

Bakersfield, CA in 1994. But regaining that brutish, simplistic power is surely part of the point.

Sonic experimentation and wobbling harmonies have their place, but that place surely isn't in the midst of Head and Munky's blasting guitar dirge or Davis' wounded delivery.

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY PHARMACY

A note to our ladies who purchase contraceptives from us...
Don't forget to buy enough of your contraceptives before Christmas break!
Pharmacy and Health Service will be closed
December 20th through January 4th

We will reopen for business on
Monday, January 5th at 10 a.m.

Business Heading
a Bit South?

Advertise in the DEN 581-2816

What's Cookin'



WHERE ARE YOU TAKING YOUR FAMILY AFTER GRADUATION?

DON'T FORGET WHAT'S COOKIN'!
Not only are we famous for our breakfast and strawberry bread, but we offer a great selection of sandwiches, wraps, appetizers, salads, and dinners.

Enjoy a beer or a glass of wine with dinner and one of our great desserts.

COME AND SEE WHY WE'RE
CHARLESTON'S FAVORITE RESTAURANT
1 Block North of the Courthouse Square
Friday and Saturday 7am-9pm
Sunday 7am-2pm

7th & Madison

345-7427

Soda not the only thing that comes out of beverage sales

By Sean Hess
STAFF WRITER

A young man slowly approached the vending machine at 7:30 a.m. Monday in Coleman Hall. He stared at the machine trying to make a silent decision – what kind of soda to purchase.

The student sighed and reached for his wallet. He inserted a crisp one-dollar bill into the machine, pushed the button and out came a cold Mountain Dew. He opened the beverage, took a little drink and walked around the corner and into his first class of the day.

Jeff Houch, a junior political science major, said he deposits about three dollars in the same machine every week.

"I usually buy soda with high caffeine so I can get a quick start to my day," said Houch.

Finals and the end to fall semester are quickly approaching the students on campus. Richard Harris, the campus distributor, said water (Crisp and Clear) is the most common drink he has to refill in the machines. Now that finals are here, Harris said that Mountain Dew has become a popular product as well.

Harris has been working as the EIU Program Coordinator for four years. He distributes Pepsi

products five days a week to the 134 vending machines spread across Eastern's campus. Harris said six products other than water are also popular.

- ◆ Mt. Dew
- ◆ Pepsi
- ◆ Cherry Pepsi
- ◆ Diet Pepsi
- ◆ Dr. Pepper
- ◆ Diet Dr. Pepper

When Harris is not delivering the beverages to campus, he spends time fixing Panther Card readers, replacing light bulbs and making sure machines are clean. There are no longer soda cans to purchase out of the machines. Bottles were a better seller. But those students who still want a can, can purchase them in the super markets in Carman or Thomas Halls, Harris said.

"I appreciate the students' help when they see me on campus," Harris said. "They are always kind and courteous by opening the door for me."

The Union building and Carman Hall are also a popular place to buy Pepsi. Carman Hall houses over 900 students, and the Union offers students a place to relax and grab a bite to eat.

"I buy Pepsi at Carman, and spend about four dollars a week, because it's convenient and easy

"I buy soda from the Union everyday because that is where I eat all of my meals. Without the food, I spend about five dollars just on drinks."

Erik Perez, freshmen secondary education major.

for me," stated Rob Lewis, freshmen physical education major.

Lewis is not alone.

"I am always buying pop in the market in Carman because that is where I live for easy access to my favorite drink," said Brennan Caputo, freshmen biology major.

Around 11:30 a.m. daily, the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union is busy catering to Eastern students. With four food locations to choose from, the union offers a wide variety of foods, but also a chance for hungry students to wash the food down with a drink.

"I buy soda from the Union

everyday because that is where I eat all of my meals," said Erik Perez, freshmen secondary education major.

"Without the food, I spend about five dollars just on drinks." Making a choice on what to buy out of the machine can be a grueling decision for many students.

"I rarely ever buy a soda out of the vending machines because I find myself blankly staring at the machine trying to figure out what to buy," said Mike Gary, junior physical education major.

"It takes me so long that sometimes I just walk away."

The Marion Pepsi-Cola Bottling Company and Eastern have a 10-year, \$4 million contract. The contract officially started in 1999 and expires May 27, 2009. Under the contract, Eastern is allowed to only serve Pepsi products. Dr. Jim Shonkwiler, College Budget Director, and former President Carol Surles worked together to finalize the 38-page contract.

Eastern will receive \$2.25 million in guaranteed commissions and an additional \$813,840 in estimated commissions over the 10-year period. Another \$250,000 goes to the university as a bonus for adding on a five year extension to the contract. Along with this comes another \$852,250 in

sponsorships that include: \$500,000 for educational activities, \$43,750 in donated products, and \$308,500 for athletics.

The athletic department breaks the money down evenly between men's and women's sports. The bulk of the money, \$133,500, goes towards the purchase of the new scoreboards (basketball, softball, baseball, and football). Ten thousand dollars is divided up equally between men's and women's sports, and \$6,000 annually in unrestricted payments goes to the athletic department.

These unrestricted payments can be distributed to any area at the discretion of the athletic director. It is not earmarked for one sport or activity, said David Kidwell, Assistant Athletic Director for Marketing and Sports Information.

On average students are spending around four dollars a week in the vending machines. There are approximately 12,000 students on campus this year. Four dollars a week over 52 weeks comes out to \$208 a year that each student spends. Add all of the student spending together and the grand total deposited into the machines yearly is approximately \$2.5 million.

Students study, clear their minds at bars over weekend

By Dan Valenziano
VERGE EDITOR

Many students can be found in Booth Library or their dorm rooms trying to cram for their last tests of the semester before finals week, while other say they would rather relax and hide themselves from the possible stress of the weekend.

Senior biology major Tom Mills, who has three finals to study for, sat in the library Thursday with his books, notes and a chocolate bar strewn about on the table in front of him.

"I'm gonna study my ass off (over the weekend)," he said.

"Paristology is my big worry right now.

"I've studied throughout the semester," he said, "so I'm not going to go crazy this weekend. I'm not going to stay up to the wee hours of the morning," he said. "Hopefully it won't come to that."

Mills gave some advice to freshmen who have not taken college finals before.

"Don't put it off until the last minute."

Dan Kenny, a senior career and technology education major, said he does not usually spend much time studying the weekend before finals.

"You have to clear your mind," he said. "That's why it's good to study (throughout the semester)."

"Unless it's a class where the only thing you're taking is the final, there's other opportunities to get points."

Kenny said "cramming" over the weekend doesn't do students much good.

"If you study at the last minute, I don't think you remember it all because you panic."

"Just party, go out. You've gotta get your mind off (finals, I think."

"(In past years) I've really cleared my mind – Ike's was a big help."

Sarah Enzenberger, a freshmen undecided major, said she has studied less than other girls who live on her floor in Carman Hall.

"Girls a couple of doors down from me say they have so much homework and studying to do," she said. "They never go out."

Enzenberger said she probably would not study until after the weekend.

"Monday and Tuesday, I don't have any finals," she said.

"I'm not really one to study weeks before, maybe the day of (the final)."

"I never really studied too much in high school," she said, "I'm sure

I will pay for it. In college you have to study."

Bill Hickey, a junior speech communication major, said he does not stress over finals.

"It's not that bad," Hickey said. "It's just another test."

"I figure the hard part is over. The best thing you can do is just relax."

Hickey, who has two finals, said he waits until the last minute to study now, but things were different when he was a freshmen.

"All those core classes sucked," he said. "The classes are different now."

QUOTE THIS

What will you do the weekend before finals?



Sarah Altemburg
"I'm finishing an art project for a final, then partying."



Dawn Palcu
"Find someone to write my paper and take my finals then I'll party"



Stephanie Issac
"Study the whole weekend."



Rob Boscecker
"P-A-R-T-Y. Party!"



Lauren Pratscher
"I'm going to Jerry's to study with Jerry, Ike and Stu."



Renee Quinnett
"Study a little bit. I'll say I'll study but I'll just go out."



Lauren Wright
"Studey with a few breaks."



Katie Laverty
"Party. Possibly study Sunday night."



THE HONEYBAKED HAM COMPANY

Holiday Help Wanted

Earn some extra cash over Holiday Breaks! We have over 140 openings in retail sales and ham processing. \$7.00/hr. No experience necessary. Just call **TODAY** and ask for the manager at:

Rolling Meadows (Golf & Algonquin)	(847) 981-9790
Villa Park (Roosevelt & Summit)	(630) 834-8400
Morton Grove (Golf & Washington)	(847) 470-0100
Naperville (Naper Blvd. & Ogden)	(630) 955-0550
Chicago (Cicero & 81st)	(773) 582-0700
Bloomington (Schick & Gary)	(630) 894-5500

POTEETE PROPERTY RENTALS



Management-Houses-Apartments
All Different Styles
www.poteeterentals.com

930 Lincoln Avenue
Charleston, IL 61920

Owner: Gale Poteete
(217) 345-5088



Make it a part of your morning routine ...

Read *The Daily Eastern News* !

Don't rely on luck alone ...

ADVERTISE

in *The Daily Eastern News*

What a Perfect Circle

Story and photos By Holly Henschen
ASSOCIATE VERGE EDITOR

A Perfect Circle performed in Peoria Wednesday clad in black suits like professionals.

That is exactly what they are. The band went from side project to supergroup,

now touting ex-members of Smashing Pumpkins and Marilyn Manson, as well as Maynard James Keenan, Tool vocalist.

Though many initially saw the band as merely an offshoot for Keenan, APC has developed into its own musical entity with an audience that differs from, but is not exclusive to Tool's.

After 2001's "Mer de Noms" tour, APC lost bassist Paz Lenchantin to Billy Corgan's Zwan, but gained ex-Smashing Pumpkins guitarist James Iha. Jeordie White, better known as Twiggy Ramirez of Marilyn Manson, took Lenchantin's place.

The band released their keyboard-saturated sophomore album "Thirteenth Step" and enriched APC's already multilayered sound.

Wednesday's low-key set at the Civic Center concentrated on the new release. Muted lighting created an atmosphere of otherworldliness well-suited for the spacy, serene dynamics of "Thirteenth Step."

Iha kept to a platform in a cor-

ner the stage, occasionally turning from guitar to keyboard. He appeared as comfortable in APC as he was in the Pumpkins.

White, looking strikingly normal minus the pancake makeup and black lipstick of the Marilyn Manson era, offered backing vocals as well as bass.

The elusive Keenan was masked by shadows. He performed opening number "Vanish" hidden behind a white canvas. An intense melodic voice embodied in a silhouette, Keenan sang "You don't see me at all" during "3 Libras" while bathed in blue light. The frontman never strayed from a platform in the stage's center, crafting angelic harmonies as his voice wrapped around the transcendental music.

APC closed the show with "Mer de Noms"' anthem-style "Judith."

On the band's last tour, they stuck to playing in more intimate settings, though the music was more explosive at that point. During the "Thirteenth Step" tour, APC visits bigger venues with a more muted, developed sound. The fresh collaboration between many accomplished musicians could be effective if performed to a smaller crowd. The well-executed show left many speechless. It was hard to tell whether they were awestruck, or they just didn't get it.



Ex-Smashing Pumpkins guitarist James Iha holds his own onstage with A Perfect Circle.



Above: Jeordie White, a.k.a. Twiggy Ramirez, rocks the Peoria Civic Center Wednesday with A Perfect Circle. Below: The elusive Maynard James Keenan was barely visible during the show, but still captivated the crowd with vocals.



GUIDE TO BETTER LIVING

How to survive a rock concert in style

As a concert veteran, I've collected a bagful of tricks of the trade along the way. From Stone Temple Pilots at the 1995 Illinois State Fair to A Perfect Circle at the Peoria Civic Center Wednesday, I know what to do to ensure a good time at a show. Now you can follow these simple tips to rocking out at any venue you choose.

Clothing

For me, going to concerts is comparable to going to church service for religious types. My Sunday (ok, Saturday night) best consists of a skirt and a T-shirt. Guys should probably forgo the skirt for jeans, unless you have exceptionally nice legs and your goal for the night is to get beaten up by drunken homophobes. The more obscure the band on the T-shirt, the better the shirt. Do not, I repeat NEVER wear the T-shirt of the band you are going to see. That is laaame. It's also helpful to dress in layers. A crowded smoky bar or auditorium plus dancing equals high sweat factor. Another concert asset, I've found, is a pair of big-ass boots. Mine are black, knee-high and chunky-soled. These come in handy when the swaying pit is so crowded I can't find a spot to put my feet. The boots create instant standing room, even if it happens to be on some one's shoes.

Beverages

Booze at venues is expensive! I recommend throwing a few bucks before you leave for the show. This is if, and only if, you are of legal drinking age and will not be driving to or from the show. Depending on your tolerance, this method can save you enough money to buy a cheap CD or an overpriced commemorative concert T-shirt at the show. Ladies can probably score free drinks all night. Which reminds me, guys, you should bring extra money for drinks.

Getting there

Make sure everyone has their tickets and don't forget directions, if you need them. Also, make sure the driver is sober and can maneuver under pressure in crazy traffic. This is a good time to draw straws for who's driving back. No one will want to get behind the wheel when



By Holly Henschen
ASSOCIATE VERGE EDITOR

the time comes, I promise.

Using the rest room before you leave can save you from missing your favorite song, standing in line for half an hour and scary bar bathrooms. However, some places have nice rest rooms. I particularly enjoy the facilities at the House of Blues in Chicago.

Parking, etc..

High-priced parking is available at almost every venue. If you're feeling poor, remember, \$10 isn't much compared to the cost of parking in the wrong part of town. When I went to see Primus last month, our driver had three City of Chicago parking tickets tucked under his windshield wiper after the show. Another guy I talked to who attended the same concert had his driver-side window shattered by a thief who took only the face of his car stereo.

Beware of No Parking signs! They hide behind tree limbs and other obstructions.

Getting in

Many shows are not all ages. In this case, some would say faux identification is the answer for underage fans. When using a fake ID, these lawbreakers would say, be sure to memorize all the information on it, down to zip code and blood type, especially if you are a guy. Also, you can practice looking like the person on the ID. It helps, say the aforementioned people, not me, mind you.

Just a note if you're feeling sneaky and want to smuggle in a camera, flask, or... other concert accessories. They never search girls as well as guys. Do it at your own risk!

In my case, limping three blocks with a disposable camera shoved in my boot was well worth the pictures of Clutch and System of a Down.

You're in!

Maybe you can get there early enough to catch the opening act(s). Most awesome bands do start as openers. If they're not so hot, you

can pass the time by making fun of them. They deserve it after all, because they bite. I've met some really cool people by starting discussions on how bad the opening band sucks. (Jawbox, Vercu Salt and Mindless Self Indulgence come to mind.) Perhaps your constructive criticism will help the openers improve their technique.

This is also strategic positioning time, which leads us to...

Where to be

This is when you must really gauge your opinion of the band in question. If you're not a diehard fan, scope out a standing spot or balcony seat and get there now because around the front of the stage, many will eventually pack in (and later smell) like sardines.

If you stand toward the front, chances increase you'll appear in photos and video footage of the show. The claim to fame of a guy from my hometown is his photo on the back of the Woodstock II CD case. Other benefits include:

- ◆ Recognition: You may get noticed by the band for your enthusiasm if you stick to the front. The singer could award you with a chance to sing or scream in the microphone. Which reminds me: thank you very much, Phil Anselmo of Superjoint Ritual. That made my night.

- ◆ Freebies: An up front spot gives you a better chance of scoring free fun concert memorabilia. This seems to happen to me at every show I attend. I have set lists from bands like Six Feet Under to Primus, as well as Down guitarist Pepper Keenan's guitar pick and a box full of drumsticks to show for it. If I ever get old and don't value this stuff anymore, I can always sell it on e-Bay.com.

Caution!

Don't stand up front if you are short, claustrophobic or cannot stand communal sweat. It is RISKY. I will never forget the time I realized I could actually die because of my positioning at a show. It was between Hatebreed and Slayer at the Madison Theater in Peoria. The drunkest 500-pound metalhead proceeded to pass out in the pit, smashing the terrified people packed around the stage. It took four huge security guys to haul his

half-conscious girth from the area. Twenty minutes later, I saw the same dude with a fresh beer swaggering in my direction. I promptly made a beeline for the safety of the balcony.

Beware. The perilous pit is where music lovers get agitated and evil. Moshing and crowd surfing can be fun. It's all fun and games until someone loses an eye. Or breaks a rib. Or a crowdsurfer kicks you in the head, causing a bloody nose or concussion. If you decide to brave it, brace yourself. Keep your arms down, elbows out and both feet on the floor (this is where the boots come in).

If you hang out in back to take it all in, you can always dance around. Dancing is contagious. If no one around you is dancing, it's fun to see how many people you can influence to do it. Bob your head, swing your hips and in no time, you'll notice the people surrounding you doing the same.

Provided you make it through the show—Congratulations!

Now wasn't that fun? I know you can't hear me because your ears are ringing, but the goofy exhausted smile on your face is answer enough.

Now you can purchase a T-shirt or CD. You'll want to save this for last so it doesn't get lost or stolen and you don't drunkenly set it somewhere and walk away.

If you're feeling up to it, the band may be signing autographs in the back of the venue. At Pop's Nightclub, in Saugert (near St. Louis) a lot of bands hang out in the parking lot after the show and talk to people. My drummer friend, Aaron, got to meet his idols Sammy Duet (ex-Acidbath) and Ben Faulgaust (Soilent Green) there. He has the pictures and hour-long story to prove it.

Let me know if you hear of any good shows coming to the area. I would be happy to go through this with you in person.

CONCERT CALENDAR

December 12

- ◆ Rural Kings
- ◆ The Uptowner
- ◆ Ryan Groff and Matt Rennels
- ◆ Jackson Avenue Coffee
- ◆ Woodbox gang
- ◆ Friends & Co.

December 17

- ◆ Anti-Flag
- ◆ Rise Against
- ◆ Mississippi Nights
- ◆ St. Louis

December 31

- ◆ Local H
- ◆ Double Door Chicago
- ◆ Violent Femmes
- ◆ Metro Chicago

December 13

- ◆ Mystery Mandolin Band with Jeremy Taylor and The Sax Offender
- ◆ Uptowner
- ◆ Bottle of Justus and Curly Head Moe

- ◆ Chevelle
- ◆ House of Blues Chicago

