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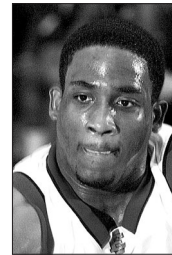
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THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

January 26, 2004 ♦ **MONDAY**



Another lead bites the dust

Eastern blows another halftime
lead against Tennessee Tech.

Page 12 SPORTS



DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY STEPHEN HAAS

Nick Brooke (left), freshman marketing major, walks through the snow with Joe Shoemaker, freshman business major, between Ford Hall and Booth Library on their way to the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union Food Court.

Snow fall creates setbacks

By April McLaren
STAFF WRITER

The Chili Jam, a benefit event scheduled for Saturday at Roc's Blackfront was canceled because of heavy snow, icy roads and drifting.

The music and chili event was rescheduled for Feb. 29.

A waitress from Roc's said the decision to postpone the event was a mutual decision between workers and band members who were scheduled to play. They made the decision Saturday to avoid any last minute cancellations.

The waitress said the unused chili prepared in advance will be frozen and kept until February unless sold before then. Roc's serves chili daily and the staff is hoping to have served most of it before the rescheduled Chili Jam.

The first measurable snow of the year started around 10 a.m. Sunday morning and continued through the afternoon.

"We have been lucky so far," said Dalias Price, local weather observer and former Eastern professor. "It is starting to look like January."

Price said the temperature has been between 14 and 20 degrees throughout the day Sunday. He explained the powdery snow is not too dangerous, but it

"After I saw that I knew I didn't want to get out. Not even for an exciting trip to Wal-Mart."

— Cara Moran,
junior elementary education major

could still cause problems.

Strong winds combined with the powdery snow leads to drifting which can make it difficult for traveling, Price said.

"The most common problem is people underestimate the weather," Price said.

He said some people do not have enough experience to drive in this weather, and that is when accidents occur. If drivers slam on their breaks on snow or ice, cars will skid which could lead to accidents.

Price advised people to stay inside and curl up with a good book to avoid the weather.

Cara Moran, a junior elementary education major, decided to stay in for the day when she looked out her bedroom window Sunday morning and saw a car

swerve into another lane because of the weather.

"After I saw that I knew I didn't want to get out," she said. "Not even for an exciting trip to Wal-Mart."

Moran mentioned the weather is good for one thing.

"The cold weather is good for blowing bubbles," she said. She explained when bubbles are blown, they freeze and sometimes stick to trees. They end up looking like decorative tree ornaments, Moran said.

Price said January's normal snow expectancy is 5 inches, and Charleston almost reached that expectancy Sunday when 3 inches fell. He predicted Charleston will reach at least 5 inches by the end of the month.

Hopeton Diaz, a sophomore sociology and pre-law major, is not a fan of this "bitter cold."

Diaz is from Jamaica, and this is his second winter in Illinois.

"I would much rather be in 80 degree Jamaican weather right now," he said.

According to the National Weather Service Web site, Monday is expected to be cloudy with a high of 32 degrees and a 40 percent chance of precipitation.

Monday night will get down to the low 20s.

STUDENT FEES

Costs for athletics could rise

Task force favors using more student fees to support sports

By Kevin Sampier

ADMINISTRATION EDITOR

Student fees could increase to lessen the Eastern athletic department's dependence on state appropriated funds, if a presidential task force has its way.

Gail Richard, department chair of communication disorders and sciences, chaired the task force, which was created at the request of Eastern President Lou Hencken.

The task force was made up of several faculty members and two students and was charged with finding different ways to fund athletic programs at Eastern without using as much in appropriated funds, Richard said.

The task force made a presentation of its findings Friday to members of The Council of University Planning and Budget and suggested none of Eastern's 22 sports be cut.

Richard said although students have to pay more for tuition and fees, they should be responsible for the cost of athletics.

The task force recommended a reduction of state appropriated money from 18 percent to 6 percent and an increase of student fees from 19 percent to 30 percent.

"We thought it would be fair to students to slowly raise the fee," which would support athletics, Richard said. The fee would increase from \$42 to \$43 a year and reduce state funds by \$1 million.

"We would be cutting that (\$1 million) down and putting it on the backs of students," Richard said.

Richard said the recommendations made by the task force will be submitted to Hencken and the Board of Trustees, who will then decide what, if any, recommendations to use.

In addition to raising student fees to pay for athletics, Richard and the task force recommended a one-time fee increase in 2005 to pay for athletic travel costs.

SEE FEES ♦ Page 6

More inside

◆ Budgets
talks waiting
for state
propose

Page 6

Pair of students arrested for fighting in Union

By Tim Martin
SENIOR REPORTER

Two Eastern students were arrested early Saturday morning on charges of aggravated assault on a police officer, the result of a skirmish at a Black Student Union dance.

Stating members of the Phi Beta Sigma fraternity and Eastern football players were at "the center" of the altercation, Director of Student Life Ceci Brinker explained tensions between the two groups had escalated after a falling out. Those tensions snapped resulting in a fight concluding in the two arrests around 12:15 a.m. on Saturday, witnesses said.

Names of the arrested students could not be released by the two police officers at the scene. University, Charleston and Coles County police departments teamed to control the hostile situation. No major damage to the Grand Ballroom, University Lounge or surrounding areas was found.

"It's unfortunate that a handful of people ruined a good time for many others," Brinker said.

Security for this Black Student Union-sponsored event - held in the Grand Ballroom of the Martin Luther King Jr.



DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY STEPHEN HAAS

Charleston police, county sheriffs, and university police stand outside of the east entrance to the Martin Luther King, Jr. University Union Friday night after a fight in the Grand Ballroom. Officers moved everyone out of the building quickly.

University Union - was tightened after a Step Show honoring the late Miss Johnetta Jones in November ended early because of a fight. At 11 p.m. on Friday, police officers wielding metal detectors greeted the 150 to 175 stu-

dents attending the dance scheduled to end at 1:45 a.m. Saturday.

One university worker said a girl ran out of the Grand Ballroom and announced: "There's a fight!" University police entered the ball-

room and those involved were told to leave. The altercation did not involve members from Phi Beta Sigma or the football team, although Jamarr Day, a Panthers' junior linebacker who was at the dance, said members of the football team helped break up the fight.

A flier advertising the dance proclaimed: "Warning. Warning. Warning. If you are coming to fight, you will be taken to jail. No questions asked." Despite that, Brinker said officials allowed the first incident to slide by.

Tempers again flared, Phi Beta Sigma President Adam Little said, when his fraternity brothers and football players began to argue. Little alleges the football players first held their middle fingers up in the air while dancing, then did the same in the faces of Phi Beta Sigma members.

A football player, Day confirmed, pushed a member of Phi Beta Sigma, knocking him to the ground. More pushing and shoving ensued by both parties. A few punches were thrown.

Sometime during the attempt to settle the altercation, a Phi Beta Sigma member knocked a canister of pepper spray from a

SEE ARRESTED ♦ Page 6

Today
Cloudy



36° 16°
HIGH LOW

Tuesday
Light snow



29° 23°
HIGH LOW

Wednesday
Partly cloudy



35° 30°
HIGH LOW

Thursday
Light snow



37° 27°
HIGH LOW

Friday
Partly cloudy



32° 26°
HIGH LOW

Saturday
Cloudy



36° 34°
HIGH LOW

Sunday
Rain/Snow



41° 21°
HIGH LOW

TRANSPORTATION

Designated driver program in planning stage

◆ *Shuttle Bus Committee looking to provide students with safe rides home*

By Brian O'Malley

STUDENT GOVERNMENT EDITOR

The Student Senate Shuttle Bus Committee is working on a designated driver program that would help Eastern students get home safely on the week-ends.

Committee chair Adam Howell said he plans to work with bar owners and Greek organizations to get the program up and running.

"Greek organizations have been doing this for years," Howell said.

In the early 90s, Eastern had a service for three years called the "Gus Bus," which is similar to what the committee plans to do, Howell said.

"It was a great program for three years," Howell said.

The "Gus Bus" came to a quick end when a fight broke out on the bus, and a person involved was possibly hospitalized, Howell said.

"That killed the 'Gus Bus' overnight," he said. "The only problem with using a bus is the liability concerns with putting large groups of drunken people on a bus."

Howell said the committee is still figuring out whether to use a bus or have a carpool system similar to that of Texas A&M's.

"I based a lot of my work on Texas A&M's system," Howell said. "They help other schools with ideas. There are some schools that have programs that are similar to Texas A&M."

Schools such as Georgia, Missouri and Southwest Texas State University all have carpool programs, which were molded after the program at Texas A&M.

"Either way, both a bus or a car are good ideas," Howell said. "However, it would cost a lot of money to be using a fleet of four or five cars instead of one bus."

Howell said the carpool system would probably mean seven or eight drivers would be needed for the weekend.

"Most of the schools that have a similar program have something like a (Recognized Student Organization) where a group of students sign up for two time slots a month," Howell said.

Fraternities and sororities will be contacted for help, Howell said.

"That's why I really want the Greeks to join us because they constantly run programs like this," Howell said. "Every angle can be covered if I get the right people to work with."

Howell said he would like to see a subcommittee formed that would only focus on the designated driver program.

"I'd really like to get a separate committee working on this program alone," he said.

The committee's main concern is the cost of the program, but Howell said he is working hard to figure out the money aspect of the service.

"The biggest obstacle is money," Howell said. "(The program) is a really big deal and students will have personal concern with a program like this."



Adam Howell



DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY JOSH REELEY

Little rascals

Joe Don Rooney, lead guitarist of Rascal Flatts, plays to a packed crowd at Indiana State University Friday

Wear a coat to these campus events

Hey Eastern students. Enjoying the snow? Did you go out and make snow angels or build a fort? I think this is going to be a long, cold week. Keep warm and bundle up.

Sunday Roc's postponed its Chili Jam fund raiser, the campaign for better health care. The fundraiser was canceled because of the snow storm. It is rescheduled for Friday Feb. 27.

Tuesday and Wednesday the American Red Cross will hold a blood drive in the basement of Andrews Hall from 1-6 p.m.



WHAT'S
HAPPENIN'

Brittany Robson
ACTIVITIES EDITOR

The drive will be sponsored by the Phi Kappa Alpha fraternity. For more information check out the American Red Cross Web site. www.americanredcrossblood.org.

Wednesday there will be a tribute to Martin Luther King Barry Scott at 7 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom.

Thursday at 11:50 a.m. Opening Doors Workshop Luncheon speaker Alan Page will be in the Grand Ballroom. Call the office of Civil Rights for reservations and a full schedule for the conference.

Saturday through March 2, The Eye Stands for Mr. Imagination. Mr. Imagination creates art out of discards and found objects. He is known nationally and internationally for his bottle cap staffs and thrones, paint brush portraits and carved sandstone sculptures. Mr. Imagination lives on the south side of Chicago and is a self-taught artist.

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If you have any ideas or suggestions for articles you would like to see in *The News*, feel free to contact us at 581-2812 or jpchambers@eiu.edu



Doudna delay costs Eastern \$750,000 a year

By Jason Essig
STAFF WRITER

The delay of the Doudna Fine Arts Center renovations is costing Eastern around \$3,000 every day.

Jeff Cooley, vice president for business affairs, said Eastern is losing money since it has to rent two separate facilities for the Fine Arts Departments and is spending \$152,400 each year in rent. He also said Eastern is losing money by using residence hall rooms as offices for the department.

"We are foregoing approximately \$600,000 in room revenue that would otherwise be collected from students living in those rooms," Cooley said.

The delay has affected Jeffrey Lynch, assistant dean of the College of Arts and Humanities and the Arts and Humanities staff. Lynch and Dean James Johnson's offices are located on Fourth Street until the renovations are complete.

"Needless to say it has caused both enormous frustration and some anxiety for all of us," Lynch said. "But at this point what happens is way beyond our local control."

At the moment, the center's renovations remain at a stand still. Steve Shrake, architect and director of the Physical Plant, said until funds from the state are released, nothing is going to happen with the building.

"No architects or engineers are looking at the building for the moment," Shrake said.

He and the rest of the architects are waiting for the money Eastern is supposed to receive from the governor's office. Shrake said because of the delay in funding, the scope of the project could change. Eastern President Lou Hencken said if the project is delayed too long, a costly redesign could take place.

"You come to a point where an architect will have to redesign the building," because the original estimated costs of the building are no longer accurate, Hencken said. Announcement of the funds may come in March, and the governor could announce it in person, Hencken said Friday during a meeting of The Council on University Planning and Budget.

The building has been cleared of asbestos and is now clean, Shrake said. Interior renovations have started but are not close to being finished.

"There are parts of the ceiling missing, there is lighting that is missing," Shrake said. "The plumbing is drained, and the heat is shut off."

There are no plans to continue construction of the center's interior because of the lack of funds. Lynch said he also is waiting for state funding. He said the bidding process for the continuing renovations is currently on hold.

"We can't send the project out to bid until the governor releases the funds," Lynch said. "I don't know when that might be, but we are ready to go."

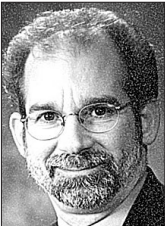
The money for the renovations has been appropriated by the state, Lynch said, and there is not much more anyone can do but wait.

Cooley said although there is no definite time when the money will arrive from the state, the project is considered a top priority for Eastern. Cooley said the funds for the project were approved and that it is just a matter of time.

"Funds for the project were approved by the General Assembly and the fiscal year 2004 budget that included the funding for the project has been signed by the Governor," Cooley said. "As such, there are currently no plans to raise private funds to build the facility."



Lou Hencken



Jeff Cooley

Carman Hall floods, again

By Nicole Nicolas
FEATURES REPORTER

Sunday afternoon on the north side of Carman Hall, a radiator pipe burst and water rushed through the fourth floor all the way down to the second floor.

"The pipes were frozen. Rooms were filled with steam with water squirting everywhere," said Chovonne Woods, residence assistant on the fourth floor.

Grace Hastings, freshman history major, added that the rooms were steaming like a sauna.

She said the flood started in room 414 while Celia Becker and Hanna Ehlers slept. The two were awakened by a loud noise created when the pipes burst.

"The (Building Service Worker) came in with a Wet Vac to pick up standing water, and girls were scooping water because it kept coming out," Woods said. "They had a little bucket system going."

Hastings said they emptied

about six buckets of water.

A majority of Becker and Ehlers' belongings, including pictures, were ruined. The rest of their belongings are being stored in the lounge.

Their computers have to dry out, and they will not be able to use them for a week.

Right now, a lot of the girls residing in other flooded rooms are staying in the lounge.

"Celia was so stressed out she got sick," said freshman speech communication major Chelsea Dubson.

Becker and Ehlers spent Sunday at the Comfort Inn because the flooding in their room was so bad.

Woods said a loose valve may be the cause of the flooding.

Last week, a pipe burst on the sixth floor on Carman's south tower. The cause of that was reported as a window left open over the weekend. The cold temperatures weakened the pipe and caused the burst which affected rooms on the fifth and sixth floors.



DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY JOSH REELEY

President Lou Hencken and Jill Nilsen, vice president of external relations, talk to Jeffrey Cooley, vice president for business affairs, at the Chamber of Commerce dinner on Saturday night in the Grand Ballroom of the Martin Luther King Jr. University

Chamber inducts new president

By Jessica Youngs
CITY EDITOR

At the Charleston Chamber of Commerce's annual dinner Saturday in the Grand Ballroom of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union, the ceremonial gavel was passed from old president to new president.

Former president Jill Nilsen said she is happy E.L. Kracker's owner Paul Mejdrich is taking over the position because during the last three years, he has been an invaluable part of a task-force assigned to help consolidate the two Coles County Chambers of Mattoon and Charleston into one.

"The organization will be fortunate to have (Mejdrich) because he understands completely the issues," she said. "He will be an excellent president for the community."

As the vice president of external relations at Eastern and its voice in the community, Nilsen said much of her day-to-day work as the chamber's president was presiding at monthly board meetings, working with the executive committee to formulate the agenda and working with various chamber staff.

Her two largest tasks as president included forming a formal alliance among five Coles County entities for economic development and serving on

the "chamber task-force" that planned the consolidation.

"It's an exciting time to be involved in the chamber; one of the most important," Mejdrich said.

The alliance was passed by the boards of the participating entities in November and is currently in operation among the Mattoon and Charleston chambers and cities and Coles Together.

The idea of consolidation, however, will be posed to voters on March 31, Nilsen said.

"I know that during the first part of (Mejdrich's) presidency, he will be focusing on providing education and listening very carefully to questions and concerns raised by members (about the consolidation)," she said.

Mejdrich agreed with Nilsen and said he was very excited about his new presidency that officially began Jan. 1.

Although presidents usually have the next year's agenda already planned for them when they take office in January, Mejdrich said everything this year is on hold until the March vote.

"Although the day-to-day work is still going on, a lot of committees are on hold," he said. "We're just kind of sitting back and waiting."

If the almost 400 Mattoon and 300 Charleston chamber members do decide to merge, the board of directors

will go on a planning retreat to form the new chamber agenda together, Mejdrich said.

Although Mejdrich's restaurant, E.L. Krackers, has been a member of the 85-year-old chamber for 20 years, he has only been involved in the Charleston Chamber since May when he and his wife Tammy bought the restaurant along with Stu's, he said.

"It all started back in 1986 when I came to school at Eastern and worked my way from cook to manager," he said.

Although Mejdrich originally planned on majoring in computer management, he switched to hotel and restaurant management after taking a year off school to be a full-time kitchen manager at Krackers'. After serving as manager, he said he was able to work school back in and graduate in May, 1992.

Both Nilsen and Mejdrich said after they serve their tenures as past-president, their time serving on the executive board will be up.

While Mejdrich joked that his wife won't let him serve any more years, Nilsen remembered the past and looked to the future of the two chambers.

"I really enjoyed my year as chamber president. I'm very grateful to have met and worked with the members of the chamber," she said. "I think we have a

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EDITORIAL

University community informed

The administration are making the rounds.

President Hencken and the university vice presidents visited the Faculty and Student Senates and the university's budgetary council last week, with plans to visit the Staff Senate and Civil Service Council next month.

Hencken said it is all to keep the university community informed on Eastern's budgetary situation, specifically the expected tuition increase.

The administration could choose to take care of business in their own offices and meetings and wait for word of finances to trickle down, but instead Hencken said they want to answer questions and halt any possible rumors.

Hencken and the President's Council visited senates and councils last Spring semester when the governor was tackling the worst budget crisis in Illinois' history.

Hencken now plans to make the visits a semestral routine.

Eastern is currently unsure what type of budget it will be dealing with next fiscal year, and the Illinois Board of Higher Education will meet in a little over a week to discuss the university's state funding.

The administrators have discussed tuition increases during their campus visits, reminding the university about the Truth in Tuition Act passed last semester guaranteeing incoming freshmen a fixed tuition rate for four years. Current students will pay less of an increase next semester.

The freshmen rate could be as much as 14 to 15 percent more than current tuition costs, similar to figures the University of Illinois has approved, Hencken said last semester.

The four-year rate leaves questions of what new students will pay if it takes longer than the traditional time to receive a bachelors degree. Hencken has said those situations will each work out differently, but students could end up paying a more current, higher rate after four years.

"We know how much it takes to run this institution," he said Wednesday. "We're not going to sacrifice institutional quality just so we can have two percent lower tuition."

The administration are stepping out of Old Main and keeping the rest of the campus in the budgetary loop, a direction toward keeping communication in the university community wide open.

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

At issue

Administration toured leadership bodies last week and plan to make visits every semester.

Our stance

Administration are keeping the rest of campus informed on the university budget.

OPINION

Look past the magic crystal ball



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

Have you ever heard the saying "Don't blame the messenger"?

Well, do it.

Claiming psychic ability is fraud, and psychics and televangelists have robbed many.

For years these con artists have schemed the innocent and gullable, claiming to predict futures, heal or contact the dead. These actors move from town to town, robbing communities and leaving with fortunes.

A great example is the movie "Leap of Faith" starring Steve Martin. In the movie, Martin's character uses hidden microphones and staged people in the crowd to create the illusion the Lord is sending messages through him, giving him the power to heal.

This con has not only become more frequent, but is now being awarded and credited.

I was surprised to discover the telepathy trend has spread to Berkeley, Calif. where a psychic institute which is "a psychic kindergarten which teaches students how to recognize and develop their own psychic ability" was developed.

Psychic radio and television talk shows like "Crossing Over" with John Edward and even "The Pet Psychic," Sonya, on Animal Planet are popping up everywhere and even starting national tours.

The trick to these magical performances is often illusion. These televangelists, as well as psychics, are like magicians, and what they claim to know or see is just an illusion to the observer.

Penn and Teller, put psychics to the test in the new show "Bullshit!" and were accurate in

"If God has some great, wondrous message to mankind, I doubt he is going to select some artificially tanned man decked in gold medallions and a wispy toupee to deliver it on the condition he receives checks and money orders."

their predictions. They revealed the performers contact the dead performing the age old skill called "cold reading."

Cold reading is a tool of manipulation using suggestion and flattery. Basically, it works by making broad accusations that apply to numerous people and playing off the person to make further predictions. Some cold readers are so good they can make people second guess facts they know are correct.

On my seventeenth birthday, some friends and I visited a psychic. Sure the beaded curtain, magic crystal ball and celestial garb intrigued us, but \$10, an analysis of our physical appearances and two minutes later, the show was over and it was just that, a show (unless of course we'd like to pay more).

I'm sure most of us have

caught at least once, while channel surfing, the psychic friends ads or the man with the mic claiming he can heal people and God wants you to send money right now.

A few years back Dave Barry said a statement along similar lines to what I am about to say, and I couldn't agree with it more.

If God has some great, wondrous message to mankind, I doubt he is going to select some artificially tanned man decked in gold medallions and a wispy toupee to deliver it on the condition he receives checks and money orders.

Don't get me wrong, it's great to have something to believe in or a belief system, but when your so called "messenger of faith" plays on those beliefs, it's manipulation and betrayal.

I highly doubt these messengers practice what they preach, giving back to the community and people contributing to the money made.

Currently, the Federal Trade Commission is charging Miss Cleo promoters, the largest providers of psychic audiotext services in the United states, with deceptive advertising, billing and collection practices.

Pay doctors and surgeons the tens of thousands of dollars to get little Timmy to walk, not the man on TV. Donate money to churches, which in turn donate it to needy organizations, not greedy self-serving actors.

If these proclaimed healers or prophets were accurate, the world would know by now and their skills would be used for relevant useful purposes, not if your dead dog had unresolved issues.

Cartoon by Becky Aurich



YOUR TURN: LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

New computers appreciated

The Graphic Design majors within the Department of Art would like to thank everyone who was involved in obtaining the new computers for Art Park West and for setting them up so quickly, making a smooth transition back to our school work. All of us at Art Park West really appreciate the new computers.

We would not be able to do the work we are being taught without them. When we left for break it seemed like new computers would not be a reality, so it was really exciting to come back to the new computers. There were a lot of plans and ordering done towards the end of finals week and all of this work made it pos-

sible and we appreciate it so much. Also a special thank you to Doug Lawhead and everyone who set up the lab in less then a week and for

pushing for the need of a new lab at Art Park West.

*Rebecca Hutchison,
senior graphic design 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.

Officers: Sprinklers stopped on-campus apartment blaze

By Evan Hill
CAMPUS EDITOR

A fire at University Court was prevented from spreading Friday by a sprinkler system, according to Captain Dan Ensign of the Charleston Fire Department.

According to a fire report Ensign read from, CFD received the call at 5:08 a.m. The department responded to Apartment 14 in the Yorkshire building of University Court with two pump trucks and an ambulance.

University Police Chief Adam Due said UPD received the fire alarm call at 5:06 and arrived on the scene a few minutes later to evacuate residents.

When the fire department arrived on the scene at 5:11 a.m., most of the residents had been evacuated.

Due said the university was listed as the victim on the incident report and the residents' names were not released.

The fire started under a bed that was too close to a heating vent Ensign said, but the sprinkler system had turned on by the time firefighters entered the apartment.

"I think the sprinkler system kept the fire from evolving any further," Ensign said.

Ensign said CFD estimated the

damage at \$10,000, most of which he said was caused by the sprinkler system flooding the room.

Russ Robertson, a sophomore foreign language major, lives in the Yorkshire building, next to the apartment where the fire occurred. He said the sprinkler system was effective because "it basically flooded the whole room."

Environmental control shut down the building's sprinkler system to prevent further damage, and residents had to remain outside until the system could be turned back on.

Ensign said CFD cleared the scene and left by 6:30, about 15 minutes after the sprinkler system had been reset.

"Kids that have beds next to heaters need to keep the beds six to eight inches away from the heater," Ensign said. He said even though the cause of the fire was an electric heater in this case, it still generated enough heat to catch the bed on fire.

"People need to be aware of the dangers with heaters," Due said.

Gary Hanebrink, safety officer with the Physical Plant, said previously that the building sprinklers are inspected every 12 months. Sprinklers were installed in University Court last summer along with sprinklers in Greek Court.



DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY COLIN MCAULIFFE

An Eastern worker plows snow off sidewalks on campus Sunday afternoon. Three inches of snow fell Sunday.

Senate to make over houses in need of paint job

By Brian O'Malley
STUDENT GOVERNMENT EDITOR

The Student Senate is planning an event called Bucket Brigade, which will have multiple houses in Charleston painted by Eastern students and community members.

Student Body President Caleb Judy said the event was held last year by former Student Body President Alison Mormino.

"Alison did a really good job,"

Judy said. "I have a lot of good information from her."

Judy said the event is still in the planning process and there hasn't been a date chosen yet. He also is in the process of nominating homes and getting a large group of people to represent Eastern and Charleston.

"I would like to see a bunch of different people represented," Judy said.

Last year the event helped

Charleston residents get a better idea of what Eastern students were like and at the same time see where they're coming from, Judy said.

"It kind of restores the perception of Eastern students of how we actually are," Judy said.

This year's Bucket Brigade will be aimed at reaching similar goals. "Hopefully we can restore their perception of Eastern students to reality and to how it actually is,"

Judy said.

Those who participated in the event last year served seven or eight houses, Judy said. He said he will aim for a similar amount and get as much help as he can.

"Of course I want to get as many people as possible to come," Judy said. "The more the merrier."

Judy said the event will be beneficial for both Eastern and Charleston residents.

Judy said he has a lot of infor-

mation from Mormino about how she ran the event last year. He said her information will be helpful in figuring out how to get as many town residents and Eastern students as possible to come and help.

The houses selected will be chosen from a list of houses in town that need a fresh paint job.

"It'll be a fun time and you'll get to lend a helping hand," Judy said to the Student Senate at Wednesday's meeting.

UB's Last Week of January Extravaganza!

Student Concert Wed.
Featuring:
Fadproof
Amanda Henderson
Renee Poston
7pm
7th St. Underground

Thurs. Jan. 29
BREAK
THE URBAN FUNK SPECTACULAR
7pm
EIU Grand Ballroom

Music For your Soul Fri.
Featuring Gospel Choir
& Songs of Praise
Jan. 30
7pm
EIU GRAND BALLROOM

Comics Redbone
Fri. Jan 30 @ 9:30pm
up all night 7th St. Underground

S.W.A.T. Sat.
Jan 31
See it on our BIG SCREEN
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5 & 8pm

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At EIU
Sat. Jan 31 @ 7pm
EIU Grand Ballroom
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SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE (PG-13) Daily 6:45

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Off Rt.16, East of I-57 by Carle Clinic
MATTOON: 234-8898
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ALONG CAME POLLY (PG-13) DAILY 5:30, 7:50, 10:05

BIG FISH (PG-13) DAILY 3:45, 6:40, 9:40

THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT (R) DAILY 4:15, 7:00, 10:00

CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN (PG) DAILY 4:30, 7:15, 9:30

COLD MOUNTAIN (R) DAILY 4:40, 8:00

LOVE ACTUALLY (R) DAILY 6:50, 9:45

TEACHER'S PET (PG) DAILY 5:00

TORQUE (PG-13) DAILY 5:15, 7:40, 10:10

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DAILY 4:50, 7:30, 9:50

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PLANNING & BUDGET

Lobbying trip, budget discussed

By Kevin Sampier
ADMINISTRATION EDITOR

The Council on University Planning and Budget Friday heard a presentation on the budget for next year.

Director of Budgets Jim Shonkwiler told the council he is still waiting for the Illinois Board of Higher Education to present a budget to Eastern.

Julia Abell, director of planning and institutional studies, also gave the council an update on the budget.

“We’re waiting to see what kind of money comes in, then we can see what things get funded,” Abell said.

Jill Nilsen, vice president for external relations, gave a report to the council on an upcoming trip to Springfield by the Legislative Action Team. Nilsen said the trip, scheduled for Feb. 19, will give Eastern more visibility in Springfield and a chance to meet with legislators.

“Every year the event has gotten slightly larger,” with four busses scheduled to make this year’s trip, Nilsen said.

The theme for this year’s trip is “teaching, engaging and discovering,” Nilsen said. “It’s a day to blitz the capital and talk about Eastern.”

Students, faculty and administrators plan to visit legislators in their offices and will send them letters to let them know of the visit. The trip takes place one day after Gov. Rod Blagojevich’s state of the budget address, Nilsen said.

Eastern President Lou Hencken said “legislators love this event, especially to see the students.

“I do think this is very important that (legislators) see Eastern. We can’t keep being the best kept secret in Illinois.”

Hencken also gave the council an update on the Doudna Fine Arts building renovation and talked about the budget.

Coles considering consolidation

◆ *Chamber of commerce looking to improve service*

By Jessica Youngs
CITY EDITOR

The Coles County chamber of commerce is debating consolidating into one chamber in hopes of becoming a stronger organization.

The consolidation will provide a threefold service for chamber members. It will offer a stronger business advocacy voice, increase efficiency and effectiveness of services and bring unity to the counties, former President Jill Nilsen said.

New Charleston Chamber of Commerce President Paul Mejdrich is excited to be involved with the organization during this consolidation time, which he called “one of the largest, if not the largest” events in the chamber’s 85 years.

A consolidated chamber would provide a larger pool of resources to operate and ultimately become a stronger and more financially secure organization.

Last year, the two chambers created a “chamber task-force” responsible for discussing the idea of consolidating into one. The

idea has been looked at in the past, but never acted upon, Nilsen said.

“This is an idea that has been (introduced) in the past; that looking at if putting two chambers together would it be a stronger one organization,” she said. “We felt that merging two good chambers would create one great chamber!”

Both Nilsen and Mejdrich were influential members of the task force that thought what was good for one community is good for two communities.

Nilsen said the Charleston chamber is fortunate to have Mejdrich as the new president because of his inside knowledge about the consolidation proposal.

“I know that during the first part of (Mejdrich’s) presidency he will be focusing on providing education and listening very carefully to questions and concerns raised by members,” Nilsen said.

The approximately 30 members of the task force spent more than 100 hours during the course of the year exploring the feasibility of merging the chamber.

During their December meetings, the board passed a planned proposal submitted by the task

force.

The consolidation proposal will be posed to the approximately 400 Mattoon and 300 Charleston chamber members on March 31.

Until then, everyone is sitting back and waiting for the decision, Mejdrich said.

His major task as the Charleston chamber’s new president will be educating members about the benefits of consolidation.

Two informational meetings in each city will be held during the next months to allow the members to listen to plans for consolidation and to ask questions and voice their thoughts, Nilsen said.

Although Mejdrich is hopeful the proposal will pass in March, he said there has been some concern voiced that one of the communities would take over the other.

“The biggest challenge is people that are not opposed to it, but don’t feel like they will vote for it,” he said.

April, May and June will serve as a transitional period and the consolidation will go into effect with co-positions for each position on the board on July 1, Nilsen said.

Arrested: Black Student Union plans investigation to clear itself

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

police officer’s hand. Then, only a few minutes into Saturday, two students were arrested, confirmed a police officer on the scene.

So, for the second time this academic calendar year, a fight marred an otherwise trouble-free Black Student Union dance. Little wants to apologize and reaffirm his fraternity’s role in the fight was only retaliatory. Day said “everybody is at fault” and that the football team does not want to cause any trouble.

“It was going fine; people were dancing moving around,” said Black Student Union President Erika Robinson. The BSU plans to conduct a full investigation to clear itself from wrongdoing to maintain its party-holding privileges. We don’t want to jeopardize entertainment for other students on campus.”

More than a half hour after the arrests were made, night custodians dust mopped the tile floor next to Java B&B, a coffee shop located in the union. Six or seven flower pots of dirt speckled the walls and

layered the navy blue carpet. The remains of the green shrubs sprung across the flower bed adjacent to the Grand Ballroom’s entrance.

As one female student walked down the steps, she was heard telling a friend: “They ruined it for us.”

Little, who said he was punched and plans to file charges, alleges his fraternity brothers stood up for their rights to a group of football players who live off of intimidation. Most of the pushing resulted from attempts to break up the skirmish.

“This incident on campus doesn’t represent the black community on campus as a whole,” Little, a senior journalism major, said. “(The Florida football players) live off fear, intimidation and antagonistic behavior. The men of Phi Beta Sigma only stand for principles and true manhood. Them being men you have to fight back when someone is like that.

“ ... these problems aren’t a problem with the whole African American community on campus, but it represents a bigger problem, the feeling they’re superior to everyone else, but they’re not.”

Day guessed the only reason why football players come across as intimidating is because they lift weights and are bigger than most students here.

“I think they are trying to prove something, but there’s no point to prove,” Day said. “I’m not sure what their point is.”

Fees: Some fear athletic spending takes funds from education

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“We’ve all heard the horror stories of students driving tired and late to get back for classes,” Richard said. “We would like to see a chauffeured system for our students.”

Other recommendations included an increase in the Grant-in-Aid fee, increasing the number of athletic scholarships and no further fee increases from the athletics department in fiscal years 2005 to 2009.

Several council members argued against the proposed fee increases because they said it would take money away from education.

Speech Communication Professor Joe Heumann said “when you talk about expanding opportunities for student athletes, you’re talking about taking away opportunities from students in the classroom.”

Heumann also said in addition to students paying increased fees, a portion of appropriated dollars is paid by students.

“It’s \$35 extra each term on top of the fees they’re being asked to pay,” he said.

Heumann wasn’t the only person opposed to the recommendations made by the task force. Physics Professor Steven Daniels asked

Richard “you want to triple (the athletics fee) to \$180 over six years? Is that reasonable when faculty can’t even ask for a 2 percent raise?” To which Richard responded “it’s not our decision to make.”

The current athletics fee is \$63.50.

Assistant English Professor Ray Watkins also had problems with the recommendations made by the task force.

“It sounded like something that was put on by the athletic department. It didn’t sound very dependent,” Watkins said. “Athletics sometimes feels to me like a sacred cow. Everyone is facing (budget) cuts. I expected the report to be ways to make cuts. Them saying there is no way to make cuts, I find surprising.”

Richard said the task force did look at the elimination of sports and said they can’t be cut because the funds saved wouldn’t be worth getting rid of programs, and because of the Office of Civil Rights being “very opposed to the elimination of women’s sports.”

As to why an increase in student fees was proposed instead of finding external funding, Richard said, “It’s really not realistic to think that annual giving in this community is going to go up \$1 million in one year.”

Richard will give the same presentation at 3:15 p.m. Tuesday in the Booth Library Conference Room 4440 and 7 p.m. Wednesday in the Arcola/Tuscola Room in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

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NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Comfort Inn fire kills six guests

GREENVILLE, S.C. (AP) — Fire broke out in a five-story motel early Sunday while guests were asleep, killing six and forcing others to leap from windows or climb down bed sheets to safety, authorities said.

At least a dozen people were injured, including at least five in critical condition at a burn unit in Augusta, Ga.

Guests and authorities said smoke filled the motel quickly, sending guests in their pajamas into a chaotic scramble for the exits and a cold rain outside.

"I opened the door and all we saw was smoke," said Donessa Wilson, who said she and her boyfriend were awakened on the fourth floor

by a fire alarm and then heard a woman running down the hall screaming.

The Comfort Inn had standpipes and wall-mounted hoses in the hallways and stairwells, but none had been activated and no fire extinguishers were used before emergency crews arrived, said Wade Hampton Fire Chief Gary Downey. He didn't know the last time the building was inspected but said it was not required to have sprinklers.

"If there had been sprinkler systems in the hallways, probably the fatalities and injuries would not have been near what they were," Downey said.

Long lines expected as same-sex couples prepare to register

CLEVELAND HEIGHTS, Ohio (AP) — Doug Braun and his partner of 14 years couldn't wait for Monday morning, the first day they could go to City Hall to place their names in a registry recognizing them as domestic partners.

They will walk away with a notarized piece of paper that legally means nothing, but to Braun, 42, and his partner, Brian DeWitt, 48, it will be the most important day of their lives.

"It's not a marriage," Braun said. "For us, it's a show of our commitment to each other, it's something concrete that we can hold on to and

show all of the thousands of hours we put in to work on this."

The domestic registry for gay and straight unmarried partners was approved in November by voters in Cleveland Heights, an upscale Cleveland suburb of 50,000 residents. It passed with 55 percent of the vote.

Domestic registries have been created by councils and state legislatures elsewhere — the Vermont Legislature created the nation's first law recognizing the relationships of same-sex couples, and California created a statewide registry for same-sex couples and

gave them some of the legal standing of married spouses — but this was the first through a ballot issue, according to the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

The opening of the Cleveland Heights registry also comes less than a week after the Ohio Legislature passed one of the country's most-far reaching bans on gay marriage.

The registry is not marriage and it's not binding on courts, governments or companies. But supporters hope it will make it easier for couples to eventually share employment benefits, inherit property or get hospital visiting rights.

Second Mars rover lands successfully, sends photos

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — NASA's Opportunity rover zipped its first pictures of Mars to Earth early Sunday, delighting and puzzling scientists just hours after the unmanned spacecraft successfully landed on the Red Planet three weeks behind its identical twin.

The pictures showed a surface smooth and dark red in some places and strewn with fragmented slabs of

light bedrock in others. Bounce marks apparently left by the rover's air bags on landing were clearly visible in the foreground.

"I am flabbergasted. I am astonished. I am blown away. Opportunity has touched down in an alien and bizarre landscape," said Steven Squyres, the mission's main scientist, at a news conference early Sunday. "I still don't know what we're looking at."


LOS ANGELES (AP) — Three months after losing her left arm in a shark attack, teen surfer Bethany Hamilton received a prosthetic limb.

The 13-year-old from Hawaii, who has already returned to competitive surfing, is on a whirlwind national tour.

She learned to snowboard in Steamboat Springs, Colo., taped an episode of "The Oprah Winfrey Show" in Chicago, and gave interviews to Glamour magazine and "Entertainment Tonight" in Los Angeles, where she also received the prosthetic arm Saturday.

"The best thing was my last day of snowboarding," Hamilton told The Associated Press in a telephone interview Saturday night before she went to a concert by teen singer Hilary Duff.

"I was getting better and went on real hard runs," she said. "It was a lot of fun."



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February 3, 2004 "Making Valentine's Day Cards" 6:00 p.m.

Lumpkin 1041

February 5, 2004 "Formal Interviews" 6:30 p.m.

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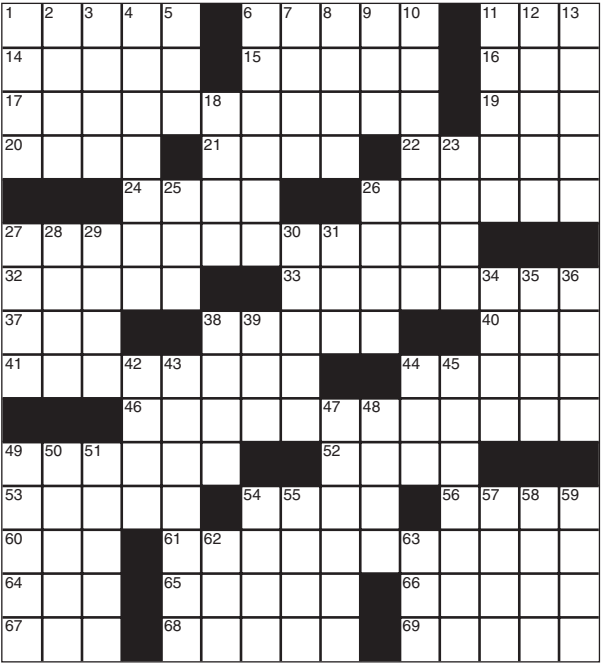
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11Relaxing resort
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16President Coolidge
17"Peter Pan" villain
19Assayer's material
20Dressed
21Suggestions on food labels: Abbr.
22Three-toed animal
24"There's a problem!"
26Flock leader
- 27Country dance
32Demean
33Missing companionship
37Droop
38Cope with
40Write quickly
41More reliable
44Abstract visual images
46Efficient manufacturing process
49Dwarfed tree
52Ascent
53Less cordial
54Fiendish
56Artist Salvador
60Comic's bit
61Water locator
64Encouragement at the bullring
- 65Big ape
66Christopher who played the Man of Steel
67_____ and feather
68Horse features
69Horse relatives
DOWN
11300 on a cornerstone
2Spoken
3Nightclub in a Manilow song
4Ballpark vendors' offerings
5Actress _____ Alicia
6The Father of India
7Turkish leader
8Down Under hoppers
9Friend in the 'hood
10Yellow ribbon site
11Listerine alternative
12Plaster of _____
13Warn
18Multivitamin supplement
23Is not well
25Hasten
26Remain unsettled
27Widespread



Puzzle by Sarah Keller

- 28Letter-shaped building beam
29Pasta sauce maker
30Security feature
31Howard of "Happy Days"
34City east of Santa Barbara
35"September" (Neil Diamond hit)
36Suffix with disk or novel
38Answer to a señor
- 39Golfer's gadget
42Business letter encl.
43Russian ruler's domain
44Pained cries
45Fraternity candidates
47Fetches
48Title role for Leslie Caron
49Intolerant one
50City between Gainesville and Orlando
- 51West African river
54Novelist Hunter
55Climber
57Son of Hera
58Honey
59Fateful day in March
62A Gershwin brother
63Gun owners' grp.

STATE NEWS BRIEFS

Drug ring used babies for cover

Friends try to clear ‘Black Sox’

CHICAGO (AP) — He knocked on the door of the squalid basement apartment, looking for a young couple. Their baby girl had been stopped at an airport thousands of miles away, and it wasn’t her first suspicious trip.

The 8-month-old had already traveled to Panama and London five times, usually in the arms of strangers and often exposed to danger: The latest trip had ended abruptly with an arrest — at Heathrow Airport.

“Your baby was with a woman who was caught with drugs,” U.S. Customs agent Pete Darling told the parents coolly, careful not to reveal all he knew. “Can you folks tell me what’s going on?”

Calmly — too calmly, he thought — the couple claimed their child had been taken from a babysitter’s house and they had filed a kidnapping report.

Darling noticed the parents were sickly looking and their apartment was a mess: dirty dishes in the sink, cardboard boxes on the floor, the smell of marijuana in the air.

He knew something was terribly wrong.

What Darling didn’t know was he had begun to unravel an international drug smuggling ring — a multimillion dollar business that stretched from flea-bag hotels in Panama to the gritty streets of the Bronx to the industrial heart of England.

And it ran through one of the poorest pockets of Chicago, the drug-ridden, decaying neighborhood where Darling now stood — the place the smugglers turned to for a precious commodity: Babies.

CHICAGO (AP) — He was a fiery and energetic player, who — after being banned for life from baseball because of a gambling scandal — spent years trying to get reinstated.

That describes Pete Rose. But it also applies to George “Buck” Weaver, a member of the infamous Chicago “Black Sox” team that threw the 1919 World Series against the Cincinnati Reds.

Now, as Rose intensifies his efforts to be reinstated to baseball — admitting in a book that he bet on the game — the 77-year-old niece that Weaver helped raise hopes he doesn’t get forgotten.

Patricia Anderson and a devoted baseball fan, Dr. David Fletcher, have mounted a “Clear Buck” campaign to persuade baseball commissioner Bud Selig to reinstate Weaver.

Anderson and Fletcher, along with supporters who include Eliot Asinof, author of the book “Eight Men Out” about the Black Sox, maintain Weaver never took money for the fix. They point out that he played superbly in the World

Series — batting .324 with no errors. And they say the most he was guilty of was hearing about the scheme and not speaking out.

“He kept his integrity and character and refused to rat on his teammates. He was true to his teammates — that’s what he was guilty of,” Fletcher said. “And he didn’t think they were going to go through with the plot.”

Anderson believes her uncle’s case should be considered along with that of “Shoeless” Joe Jackson, who led all hitters in the 1919 World Series with a .375 average. Supporters say Jackson tried to return the money.

“They certainly didn’t do anything that would hurt baseball,” Anderson said. “(Baseball officials) know darn well they didn’t try to throw a game. They played beautiful ball.”

Patricia Anderson is Weaver’s niece. But she considers him her surrogate father because he and his wife took 4-year-old Patricia, her older sister and the girls’ mother into their home on Chicago’s southwest side after Patricia’s

father died in 1931.

It was the Depression, and Weaver took whatever jobs he could to support the household.

“Years later, I thought he worked so hard to raise what he considered his family. And I don’t suppose we ever could have been grateful enough for what he did for us,” Anderson said.

Weaver, a Pennsylvania native, made his major league debut with the White Sox in 1912. He became one of the most popular players on the South Side, known for his smile and the dirty uniform that accompanied his energetic play.

Ty Cobb called Weaver “the greatest third baseman I ever saw,” and said he would never try to bunt when Weaver was playing third base.

The gambling scandal wasn’t exposed until almost a year after the 1919 World Series. Newly appointed commissioner Kenesaw Mountain Landis banned eight of the White Sox, including Weaver, from baseball in 1921, although a jury acquitted them.

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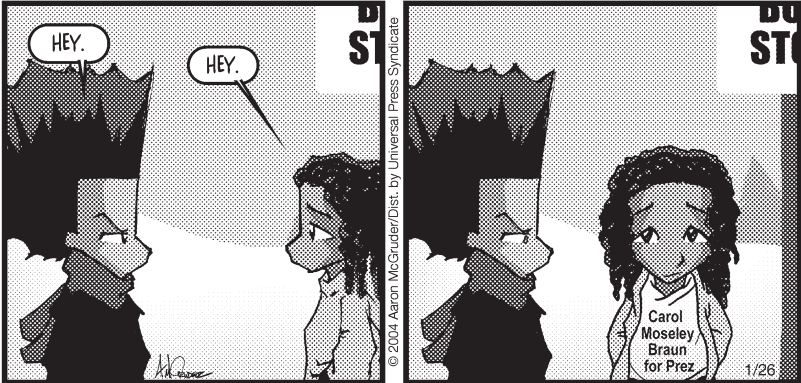
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SWIMMING

Padovan: ‘We had some pretty good swims’

◆ *Men’s team earns sixth consecutive win; Women’s team winner of three straight*

By Michael Gilbert
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

This past Saturday was a continuation of streaks for the Eastern swim squads during the Panthers’ meet against Valparaiso at the Athletics-Recreation Center in Indiana.

The men made quick work of the Crusaders with a 156-69 victory for the team’s sixth consecutive win. The Panthers opened the meet winning the first four events (200 medley relay, 1000-free, 200-free and 50-free) en route to a 55-18 lead. When all was finished, Eastern won nine of the 12 meets to cruise to the victory.

On a day of streaks, Panthers freestyler Rich Wahlgren continued his own by winning the 100-free for the fifth straight time. The senior won the race by nearly a full second over Valpo’s Bob Schmidt 48.83 to 49.64. Wahlgren also won the 200-free and took part in the victorious 200-free relay. With the two individual wins against Valpo, Wahlgren has won a team-high 17 races this year.

“Rich is really swimming well,” Padovan said. “He had some pretty good swims against Valparaiso.”

Also chipping in for the Panthers was freshman Bill Senese who won the 50-freestyle for the seventh time in eight meets this year. Much like his high school teammate Wahlgren,

“Yeah, I really thought we would have success.”

—Ray Padovan, head coach

Senese ousted Valpo’s Schmidt to win the short race.

Other winners for Eastern included junior Tom Watson in the marathon 1000-free (9:59.93) and the 500-free (4:50.66), freshman Dave Trabilsy (one and three-meter dive), and junior Eric Peterson with a time of 54.75 in the 100-butterfly.

“We swam really well,” Padovan said. “Valparaiso also swam well, and both schools had some good races. We were way too deep for them and that’s why we won.”

The women also stayed hot with the team’s third consecutive dual meet win, this time coming from behind to defeat Valpo 141-98.

Eastern was down by nine after starting slow dropping the 200-medley relay. However, the Panthers would not trail for long as senior Jordan Sherbrooke won the 1000-free for the second straight meet, and Eastern took three of the top four spots in the event to tie the meet up. Sherbrooke later broke a 37-37 tie and put the Panthers ahead for good with a win in the 200-individual medley. The Avon, Ind., completed her trifecta winning the 500-free in 5:18.22.

“The last two weeks (Sherbrooke) has been swimming phenomenally,” Padovan said. “Last week she set a school-record in the 1000-free

(10:44.50) and this week she was just a second off that time. She kept us solid winning three events.”

In the sprint events, freshman Marlise Davidson opened some eyes by winning the 50-free just ahead of sophomore Jenny Curry 25.72 to 25.75. Davidson also picked up the win in the 100-backstroke and was a member of the first-place 200-free relay.

Eastern received two more event wins from diver Lindsae Baldes in the one and three dives and closed out the meet taking 13 of the 17 points in the 200-free relay.

Heading into the meet, Padovan knew Valpo had a tough women’s team but said he expected the Panthers to be victorious.

“Yeah, I really thought we would have success,” Padovan said. “Valparaiso swam well, but especially in the diving events we had too much depth. We had a lot of close meets but we were able to win the close swims.”

Although on paper the Panthers seem to be on a tear, Padovan admitted there is work needed to be done before the season culminating Midwest Classic Championship arrives on Feb. 19.

“The women really seemed tired and sluggish this meet while the men didn’t,” Padovan said. “But we have about three and a half weeks to figure it out before the Midwest Classic Championships.”

Stevens: Illinois experiencing a different type of brain drain of talent

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

Not one school in this state is ranked in any Top 25, and it will continue that way for at least a couple more weeks. What’s sadder is the lack of Illinois teams in the RPI Top 25. The Ratings Percentage Index is a major component of the NCAA selection committee’s task to pick the field of 65 known as March Madness.

The highest ranked local school is not in Champaign-Urbana, but in Carbondale as Southern Illinois is ranked No. 38. The Fighting Illini have fallen like a brick (deservingly so) to 50. Two schools in the Top 50, this has to be a joke, at least it sounds like one.

Past the Top 50, it just gets sad. Depaul is at 68 (three schools in the Top 100), Northwestern is No. 137 (granted they don’t even expect to produce in athletics), Illinois State is 158, Bradley is 168 (you have to figure the Peoria schools rejects would be good talent) and then it gets down right depressing.

UIC and Loyola-Chicago are 176, 197 respectively. These guys aren’t hurting for a recruiting environment but still aren’t playing solid basketball.

It takes a while before you see another Illinois school until Northern Illinois pops up at 284 (so far, the Rob Judson era isn’t exactly producing results).

You would think Western would round out the list at 306, but that’s right, I haven’t mentioned the Panthers yet.

Eastern is officially the worst Illinois school this year during an era where Illinois basketball is

Ratings Percentage Index

◆ **What is this?** A major component of the NCAA selection committee to determine postseason play

School	Rk
SIU-Carbondale	38
Illinois	50
Depaul	68
Northwestern	137
Illinois State	158

pretty mediocre. The Panthers show up at 319 and yes, there is 326 Division I basketball schools currently.

For all you math majors out there, that means there are seven schools worse than us.

The only explanation I can give is the idea that this in-state high school talent is packing up and taking their game elsewhere. I’m going on record as saying this has to stop now.

If you’re a talented basketball player at the IHSA level, attend Illinois, or how about Depaul who has a great tradition? Why not go to SIU where they are one of the best mid-majors in America? How about being the big fish in a small pond at NIU, WIU or Eastern?

Until talented Illinois prospects decide the Dorothy theory is accurate and there is no place like home, the Lincoln state will never be the mecca of college basketball talent ever again.

Then again, if Coach K of Duke came to my front door like he did with this season’s soon-to-be Illinois Mr. Basketball Sean Livingston out of Peoria, I would be very interested too.

It’s just disappointing to think of March Madness and not mention a serious run by an Illinois school.

Martin Luther King Jr. University Union

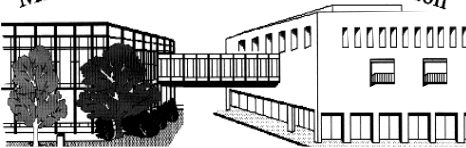
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DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY STEPHEN HAAS
Eastern hurdler Jermaine Jones won his heat at the 2004 preliminary EIU Mega Meet held Saturday. The Eastern track team had not participated in a meet since December. Jones is a senior hurdler from Belleville East High School.

TRACK & FIELD

Eastern’s fresh faces propel team to victory

◆ *New athletes, rookies, post strongest performances for the Panthers at Saturday’s Mega Meet*

By Dan Renick
STAFF WRITER

Performances from underclassmen and transfer students helped the men’s track team take first at Saturday’s EIU Mega Meet, while the women’s team put in a good effort with a third place finish.

Eastern had strong performances in the whole field, but sophomore Dan Strackeljahn and sophomore Jake Stout’s one, two finish in the mile run and junior college transfer Pete D’Agastino’s top shotput finish helped lift Eastern above in-state rivals Western and UIC.

“We had some new guys and rookies that made an impact in the meet,” Eastern’s men’s head coach Tom Akers said.

Only four of the 17 teams competed in team scoring on the men’s side, and many of the schools were junior college and Division II schools that don’t get a chance to compete in indoor events, assistant coach John McInerney said. The meet helps recruit transfer students from those schools.

The men also had top finishes by Erik Werden in the 800 meter run and Monty Buckley in the long jump.

On the women’s side, Alisha Harris broke the school record in the 600 meter run on her way to first place with a time of 1:34.36, and Denise Jones finished first in the high jump finals. Miami of Ohio took the top spot in the women’s team scoring and Western placed second.

“I think this was a good indication of things to come for Alisha,” Eastern’s women’s head coach Mary Wallace said.

Wallace said that there were some events they hadn’t run before, and it affected some of the runners.

“This was a good chance for some of the underclassmen to get their feet before conference,” Wallace said.

This was the first meet since the beginning of December for some runners, and Akers was pleased with his men’s team’s ability to perform after a long break.

“Each week someone new steps up, or puts in a good performance” Akers said, “but we have to keep building otherwise we’ll be in trouble.”

Both of the coaches agreed that this meet was just a road stop on the way to the conference meet next month, and both are hoping to top the OVC this year.

“Conference will be on us before we know it, and this was a good start,” Akers said.

Christian:

Eastern had led by 13 in the first half

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

A Scaggs basket gave Eastern its biggest lead at 29-16.

“I think it was huge for two freshmen to do that tonight,” Wunder said.

“It’s a big confidence builder for them and the team.”

With two early fouls, center Pam O’Connor was held scoreless in the first half, but the Panthers went to

“I think it was huge for two freshmen to do that tonight. It’s a big confidence builder for them and the team.”

—Linda Wunder, head coach

the locker room up 35-32.

The Eagles went on a 18-2 run during the final six minutes that kept TTU in the lead for good.

When the Panthers attempted to make a comeback with proficient free throw shooting, Christian slammed the door on Eastern’s hope by converting consecutive three-

point plays to push the deficit back to double-digits.


The Panthers will look to clinch a .500 finish on this Ohio Valley Conference road trip as they travel to Samford Friday afternoon.

Before winning their last two games, the Panthers had lost eight consecutive games.

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SPORTS

Panther sports calendar

WEDNESDAY	Wrestling at E. Michigan	7 p.m.
THURSDAY	W Basketball at Samford	5 p.m.
	M Basketball at Samford	7 p.m.
FRIDAY	Swimming at IUPUI	5 p.m.

"I've never had a team like this."

—Rick Samuels, head coach

MEN'S BASKETBALL

TENNESSEE TECH 84, EASTERN 67

2nd half dooms Panthers again

◆ *Led Golden Eagles by 2 points at halftime, but Panthers lose 5th straight*

By Aaron Seidlitz
SPORTS REPORTER

Tennessee Tech, the only team Eastern has been able to beat this season in the Ohio Valley Conference, had its revenge against the Panthers Saturday night.

The second half, which has been the Panthers' Achilles heal all year, once again proved to be the downfall for Eastern as the Golden Eagles outscored the Panthers 51-32 in the final 20 minutes.

Behind that second half effort, Tennessee Tech was able to turn a three-point first half deficit into an 84-67 win.

"I've never had a team like this," Eastern head coach Rick Samuels said. "We don't have a solid presence every night."

The inconsistency shows in the statistics for the Panthers, as they again were led in scoring by a different player.

On Saturday night the man to step to the forefront of the Eastern offense was junior point guard Emanuel Dildy.

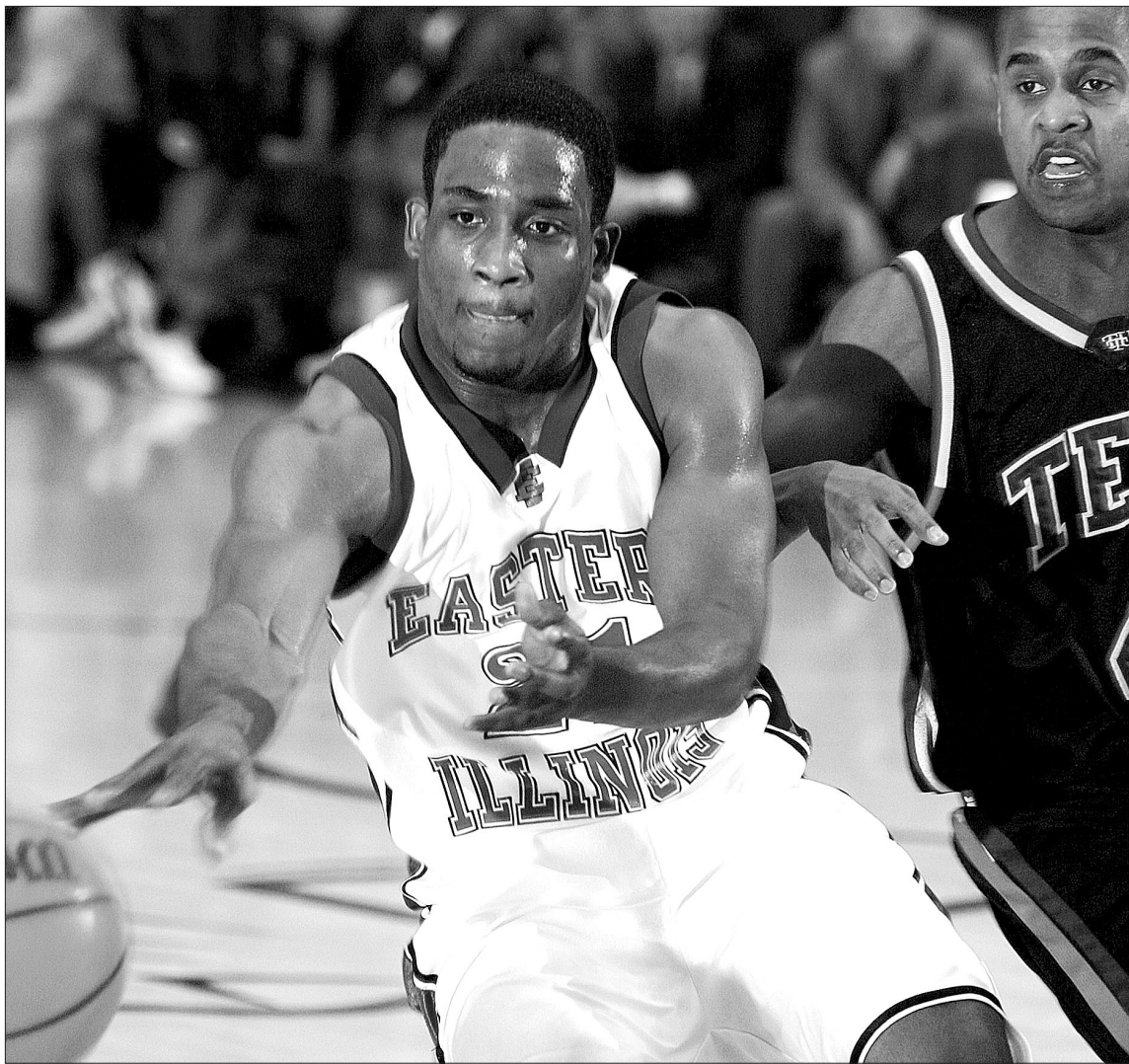
Dildy, who finished the game with 21 points, sparked the team in the first half from the outside and, overall, made five of his nine three point attempts.

But the player who had been the leading scorer, sophomore guard Josh Gomes, he's struggled since Eastern has been on the road for the past two games.

Gomes shot only 3-11 from the field and finished the game with just eight points. Gomes, who had high expectations placed on him at the beginning of the season and throughout the year by Samuels, has yet to be the consistent scorer the team desperately needs.

"There certainly is a lack of a go-to scorer," Samuels said. "We don't have perimeter players who can penetrate."

The lack of an inside impact player also showed throughout



DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY STEPHEN HAAS

Jason Wright, left, scored 11 points in 20 minutes as Eastern lost 84-67 at Tennessee Tech Sunday evening. In the first match-up between the two Ohio Valley Conference schools, an 83-70 Eastern win, Wright torched the Golden Eagles for 20 points and 4 assists. The junior guard ranks third on the team with 9.1 points a game.

the game as Aaron Patterson only had two points on two free throws. The Panthers as a whole were out-rebounded 42 to 38.

With the Panthers in the midst of a five-game OVC losing streak, the team will continue its road trip looking for a win when they travel to Samford on Thursday.

The uncertainty of how the team will perform has coach Samuels preparing for Samford's Princeton style offense by just

playing a simple zone.

The Panthers' ineffectiveness against motion offenses when playing man-to-man has Samuels thinking that they will not be effective against a more complicated offense.

"We'll end up playing a lot of zone against them," Samuels said. "In just a short week of practice I don't think we would be prepared enough to play other defenses against them."

Who was the go-to guy this game?

◆ Emanuel Dildy	21 points
◆ Jason Wright	11 points
◆ Josh Gomes	8 points
◆ Jesse Mackinson	8 points



DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY STEPHEN HAAS

Freshman guard Megan Casad reached her career high for a second consecutive game scoring 17 points in the Panthers' loss to Tennessee Tech.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

TENNESSEE TECH 78, EASTERN 64

Tech center uses Eastern as her record-setting game

◆ *Christian drops 40 points in 14-point win over Eastern*

By Matthew Stevens
SPORTS EDITOR

Emily Christian apparently enjoys playing Eastern at Eblen Center.

It seems the sophomore center can always pencil in a new career-high when the Panthers come to town.

Christian came into the game with a career high 39 points against Eastern last season as a freshman and couldn't wait to top that performance in 2004.

The Braxton Tenn., native

"... we had some horrible post defense."

—Linda Wunder, head coach

topped her prior point total by a single point as she totaled 40 points and led her Golden Eagles (8-8, 4-2) to a 78-64 win over the Panthers Sunday evening.

"She did a great job of finishing, but we had some horrible post defense against her," Eastern head coach Linda Wunder said.

Eastern allowed Christian to shoot 16 of 29 from the field in 35 minutes while Panther's center

Pam O'Connor was on the bench in foul trouble.

"This wasn't pretty to watch tonight," Wunder said. "Post defense is something we haven't done recently, and I was kinda hoping we'd be much more competitive than that."

A pair of freshmen Megan's led Eastern in scoring as Casad and Scaggs each totaled 17 points.

Scaggs got her first double-double in Eastern history as the Mt. Zion, Ill. native pulled down 10 rebounds.

Casad hit three consecutive field goals from beyond the arc to give Eastern (5-12, 2-4) an early 9-0 lead but only made two more field goals the entire evening.

SEE CHRISTIAN ◆ Page 11



THROWING HEAT

Matthew Stevens
SPORTS EDITOR

Give me the good, 'ole days

When exactly did the state of Illinois stop becoming a basketball state?

Since I was born, the Land of Lincoln has had some of the most solid basketball squads at the collegiate level.

The late 1980s was a notable time for Lou Henson and the Flying Illini teams that in '89 went to the Final Four.

The early 80s were made famous by the Depaul Blue Demons, led by their old head coach Ray Meyer before his son Joey flushed the program down the toilet.

University of Illinois-Chicago had been under a minor revival under the head coaching of master recruiter Jimmy Collins with two NCAA Tournament berths and an NIT berth last season.

The best player to come out of Northern Illinois is Kenny Battle who went on to finish his career at Illinois but was named one of the best players in Huskies History calling him a one-man Phi Slamma Jamma or King of the 360s.

Even at Eastern, in our run through mediocrity, the Panthers program has produced recognized talent like Henry Domercant, Kyle Hill and Kevin Duckworth. Head coach Rick Samuels has even found a needle in a 24-year haystack by getting to the NCAA's twice.

There is always high school basketball talent that comes out of the city of Chicago. As long as it's a little breezy in the Windy City, there's a kid in a small gym putting up a triple-double in front of larger crowds than Lantz Arena. Isiah Thomas, Mark Aguirre and Doc Rivers are all great examples of the talent that the city produces annually.

However, it's sad to look at the college basketball rankings and see all the Illinois schools on the downswing this year with the possibility of all of them missing the NCAA Tournament.

SEE STEVENS ◆ Page 10