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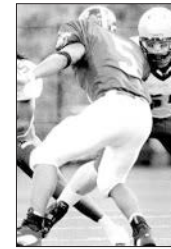
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and don't be afraid."

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THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

March 11, 2004 ♦ THURSDAY



Athlete addition

For the first time, a player joins the men's Panther football team's search committee.

Page 12 SPORTS

STUDENT SENATE

One of two athletic fees OK'd

By Brian O'Malley
STUDENT
GOVERNMENT EDITOR

The Student Senate Wednesday passed one part of a motion and failed the other to increase the athletics and grant-in-aid fees for the upcoming fiscal year.

The first portion specifically focused on the athletics fee passed 17-8-1, b

Sean Anderson, chair for the senate Diversity Affairs Committee, said he did not agree with the plan that saw a yearly of 4 percent over the next five years starting on July 1, the beginning of Fiscal Year 2005. There will also be a one time travel cost of \$6.00 for the next fiscal year.

The current athletic fee is \$63.50 for full time undergraduate students.

"I'm for giving the athletics department money, but I'm against the five year plan," Anderson said.

Kyle Donash, chair for the senate External Relations Committee, said he doesn't want to speak for future students.

"It's their money; it's not mine," Donash said.

Lisa Flam, student vice president for student affairs, said by approving the five year plan, the senate will actually save the students from paying too much.

"This is the best way to ensure that they don't pay a higher increase in the end," Flam said. "This is ensuring that they don't go crazy with it."

The second portion, specifically focused on the grant-in-aid portion of the motion, was failed almost unanimously.

Student Senate Speaker George Lesica said the motion failed because of disproportional increases to the fees.

The current grant-in-aid fee is \$77.50 for full time undergraduate students.

The senate voted 18-8 in favor of the health service fee, which was a motion that Student Body President Caleb Judy vetoed after the senate passed the motion at last week's meeting.

"My purpose was to give us enough time to have our questions answered," Judy said. "My purpose was served with the veto."

The vote to override the veto covered a required two-thirds decision to pass the motion on to Shirley Stewart, vice president for student affairs, who will discuss it with President Lou Hencken.

Nikki Kull, chair of the senate Tuition and Fees Review Committee, said Health Service is currently in a deficit and originally asked for a 4 percent increase. Kull said the committee decided to give them a 6 percent increase to help them avoid more deficits.

"We're trying to keep them out of the red," Kull said.

The current health service fee is \$67.55 for full time undergraduate students.

The senate also passed unanimously the other vetoed motion, which recommended a 4 percent increase to the Student Recreation Center fee.

SEE SENATE ♦ Page 9

Supporters offered final words of advice

By Tim Martin
SENIOR REPORTER

While one faculty member debated athletics' desires for the best of both worlds in size and funding, supporters reaffirmed original requests for heightened student fees at Wednesday's Student Senate meeting.

The senate considered a recommendation proposed by its Tuition and Fees Committee that increased the athletics fee from \$63.50 to \$72.04 and the grant-in-aid fee from \$62.00 to \$70.96. Also included was a one-time \$6.00 travel cost fee to help weaken the additional expenses caused from the addition of two schools from Alabama to the Ohio Valley Conference.

After a meeting that lasted almost four hours, the senate passed the athletics fee and failed the grant-in-aid fee.

The athletics fee covers operational costs, such as travel, meal and referee expenses. Part of the boosted

SEE BLITZ ♦ Page 9



DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY STEPHEN HAAS

Warmth welcomes work

Steve Percy, a university painter, works on replacing a window outside of the University Ballroom Wednesday morning. Wednesday's high temperature of 50 degrees made for pleasant working weather.

Square may be refurbished pending passing of Tax Increment Financing

By Jessica Youngs
CITY EDITOR

The Square could receive a facelift if a Tax Increment Financing allocation is passed at the next city council meeting.

At the next meeting, which will be held the Tuesday over spring break, the council will discuss allocating \$200,000 for various infrastructure improvements within the Tax Increment Financing District, which is roughly located around the Square, said council member Lorelei Sims.

Of this allocation, \$78,000 of it would be spent on materials for courthouse square renovations, with the remaining \$122,000 going toward materials for various projects throughout the district, Sims said.

These repairs will include sidewalk replacement and repair, street replacement and repair, street light repair and installation, construction of planters and other landscaping, the maintenance, repair, construction and acquisition of parking lots and areas and underground utility work including water main, sanitary sewer main and storm main repair and installation along with the installation and repair of underground electrical wiring.

Last year, the same proposal was brought before the council; however, it faced resistance from the Coles County Historical Society, ultimately preventing the application from passing.

City council and historical society members debated whether the current sidewalks met the Americans with Disabilities Act requirements.

Department of Public Works Director Curt Buescher said the society was concerned that passing the application which would result in the sidewalks around the square being widened onto the courthouse lawn by means of destroying a retaining wall and rebuilding it with paver bricks for disability purposes, the council would be destroying some the historic significance of the building.

"If this would have occurred, the paver

What is Tax Increment Financing?

- ◆ An allocation of money that may be used to revitalize Charleston's downtown area in the Tax Increment Financing District located around the Square.
- ◆ Allocations can be granted to both the city and private property owners.
- ◆ Money is granted in either a grant or loan format.

bricks would not have been uniform because the ground is not level, the retaining wall would have been higher due to the slope of the lawn, and the loss of green space would have been disproportionate to the appearance of the courthouse aesthetic considerations, but important to the appearance of our downtown," Sims said.

The application was also voted down because of safety considerations. The 60-degree parking spots, which would have been created, are considered unsafe and not sanctioned by the Illinois Department of Transportation which limits the acceptable angle to 45 degrees, Sims said.

"I support all aspects of the current plan, except for the 60-degree parking," Sims said. "It is dangerous and the square is heavily trafficked throughout the workday, and it is not uncommon to find delivery trucks double-parked around the Square."

Although several council members had concerns about the plan and requested that changes be made to the original plan, the Coles County Board opted not to consider the requests, so the plan was voted on "as is" and was defeated by a vote of 3-2, Sims said.

She was one of the council members voting against the proposal because of the aforementioned safety and aesthetic reasons, she said.

For the current application, however,

Buescher said the county and the society worked together to come up with the proposal to the council.

"It's another attempt to redesign and reconsider. We've tried to incorporate everybody's ideas, and everybody's been involved in the discussion," he said. "Everybody's in complete agreement as proposed."

The current proposal will extend the sidewalk into the street, rather than into the lawn, Sims said. Buescher explained that the council can grant the allocations to either itself or private property owners for public improvement in the district, which is located between Railroad Avenue on the north, 11th Street on the west, Van Buren Avenue on the south and Fourth Street on the east.

When an individual or a business applies for an allocation, they have to go through an application process complete with a public hearing as to why an allocation is needed; however, Buescher said for the city there is no application process, but the city's request is still included in the public hearing for almost all Tax Increment Financing allocations at the beginning of the year.

Unless there is an unusual or dire circumstance, the application is put on a two-week public inspection by the council prior to a final vote, Sims said.

Currently, the application by the city for improvements around the Square is in its second week of being available for public viewing.

However, because the application is for a city project instead of a private one, the allocation will be given by way of a grant; however, when an allocation is given to an individual, it usually consists of a one-half grant and one-half loan format, Sims said.

Eighty percent of the funding for the project will occur on property owned by Coles county, which will provide \$29,000 for materials. The city of Charleston will provide \$78,000 in Tax Increment Financing money for materials and will also provide city employees to perform all of the labor for the project, an estimated additional \$78,000, Sims said.

Today
Showers



41° 21°
HIGH LOW

Friday
Sunny



39° 26°
HIGH LOW

Saturday
Mostly sunny



48° 38°
HIGH LOW

Sunday
Light showers



54° 41°
HIGH LOW

Monday
Showers



49° 34°
HIGH LOW

Tuesday
Showers



48° 35°
HIGH LOW

Wednesday
Partly cloudy



52° 38°
HIGH LOW

Students flock to buy Day tickets

By Ryan Terrell
STAFF WRITER

Tickets for Howie Day went on sale at 10 a.m. Wednesday at the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union Ticket Office with the line stretching around the inside of the union.

Fans like Chad Simeur planned on showing up well before the ticket office opened for the April 4 concert.

"I know it doesn't open until 10 a.m. but I am going to the ticket office at 8 a.m.," said Simeur, a sophomore family and consumer sciences major.

Day, a 22-year-old singer-songwriter from Maine, is part of the University Board's spring concert lineup. His songs explore themes of love, regret and loss in his lyrics, according to a press release.

"I've been a fan for two years. I haven't been able to attend any of his concerts yet so I'm really looking forward to attending this one," Simeur said.

Simeur said he is looking forward to hearing Day perform "Ghost," a track off Day's first album.

Day began his musical career as a solo artist, using live loop sampling and delay pedals to create rhythms, melodies and backing vocals that served as a band while he played guitar and sang. This tour marks the first time Day is bringing a band with him to his concerts.

"I've been looking forward to taking a band on the road for such a long time," Day said in the press release. "I love playing solo, but I can only take the songs to a certain point. I think a lot of people are going to be surprised by how big some of the old songs sound with a band behind me."

Gino Pacetti, a sophomore political science major, bought tickets to the show but did not express as much enthusiasm as Simeur did.

"I would have preferred if a different group was going to play," he said. "But it is



Danielle Seifried, of the University Union Ticket Office, sells a ticket Wednesday morning for the April 4 Howie Day concert. Tickets went on sale yesterday.

only \$8 and he still has some good songs."

Pacetti said he would rather see bands like Maroon 5 or Jason Mraz come to Eastern.

"Those bands play at venues that are about the same size as Lantz," he said. "I think more people know those two bands and would be more likely to go to those concerts than Howie Day."

"Perfect Time of Day," the first single off of "Stop All The World Now," Day's lat-

DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY JOSH REELEY

est release from Epic Records, is receiving radio play across the country.

Day also appeared on "Late Night with David Letterman" show Tuesday, performing "She Says," a song he wrote when he was just 17.

The ticket office is open Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The price for students is \$8, while tickets for the general public will go on sale Monday, March 22 for \$15.

Speakers will give women's history insight

By Brittany Robson
ACTIVITIES EDITOR

With March in full swing, so is Women's History and Awareness Month. Originally started as women's history week in California, then becoming national, Women's History and Awareness Month is now nationwide for all of March.

The Education Task Force of the Sonoma County (California) Commission on the Status of Women initiated a women's history week in 1978. March 8 was selected international women's day as a focal point to ensure that the events and celebration would include a multicultural perspective, according to the National Women's History Project's Web site.

The Web site stated that in 1979, Molly MacGregor, director of the commission was invited to a women's history institute at Sarah Lawrence College to discuss the importance of women's history week.

All of the conference leaders agreed to work toward securing an official congressional resolution that would declare the week of March 8 National Women's History Week. By the end of 1980, then Rep. Barbara Mikulski, D-Md., and Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, had cosponsored the first joint congressional resolution that declared the week of March 8 National Women's History Week.

The Web site also stated that in 1987, at the request of women's organizations, museums, libraries, youth leaders and educators throughout the country, the National Women's History Project successfully petitioned Congress to expand the national celebrations through entire month of March.

Diana Slaviero, coordinator of the women's studies program on campus, said Eastern started celebrating Women's History and Awareness Month not long after it was declared a national celebration.

There are eight events that the women's studies program is sponsoring in support of Women's History and Awareness Month. Along with the events WEIU, Eastern's television channel, will show a variety of shows and movies dealing with famous women in history.

"The most popular event might be Erin Weed. I expect it to be a good presentation," Slaviero said.

She said Weed is an Eastern alumna and was friends with Shannon MacNamara, a former Eastern student who was murdered during the summer of 2001.

Slaviero said Weed decided to devote part of her life to teaching women self defense after MacNamara's death.

Weed will speak about sexual assault prevention and lead a self defense workshop.

"There is a committee made up of people in the women's studies program who plan well in advance for this month," Slaviero said. "We also work with a lot of other Eastern groups."

The next event celebrating Women's History and Awareness Month will be the Fifth-Annual Graduate Symposium on Women's and Gender History, with keynote speaker Thomas Laqurur at 4 p.m. Friday at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

RESIDENCE HALL ASSOCIATION

Member to be nominated for board

By Brian O'Malley
STUDENT GOVERNMENT EDITOR

The Residence Hall Association Thursday will take nominations for multiple executive board positions to be chosen March 25.

RHA President Nachel Glynn said any RHA member can be nominated as long as they have attended at least three meetings, have a 2.25 grade point average and will live in a residence hall next year.

"We are encouraging anybody to run," Glynn said. "We're looking for people who are energetic. We want fun and exciting people who want to become great student leaders."

Five of the six positions are up for nominations. Last semester, Peter Salvadori, freshman history major, was elected the National Communications Coordinator/Illinois Communications Coordinator for next year.

Glynn said she has enjoyed being on RHA's executive board this year.

"It's absolutely fabulous to be on the exec board," she said. "You get a chance to change campus for the better."

The University Board's Homecoming Committee is working with RHA to let students know that homecoming is not only an event for sororities and fraternities.

Glynn said RHA is a liaison to the committee.

"It's so people don't think homecoming is just a Greek thing," she said. "Homecoming is for everybody."

RHA is also working on revising their constitution to make the original information connect with the newer additions.

Glynn said some areas of the constitution do not make sense because parts of the constitution might conflict with the changes.

"It needs to flow better," she said.

At 7 p.m., March 25, RHA is hosting a bowling fundraiser to collect money for an RHA housing scholarship.

"It'll be fun," Glynn said.

RHA will meet at 5 p.m. Thursday in the basement of Andrews Residence Hall.

THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

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To ensure accuracy and improve our services to our readers, *The Daily Eastern News* reserves this space every day for corrections.

SUGGESTIONS

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





DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY COLIN MCAULIFFE

Stair gazing

Steven Malehorn, a returning art student, works on a stairs assignment for his drawing 1000 class Wednesday afternoon in Buzzard Hall.

COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Program considering class changes

By Jennifer Peryam
STAFF WRITER

The Council on Academic Affairs will act on a program revision for the sociology minor and a proposed name change for the Department of Speech Communication.

"The revision of the sociology major will give students more flexibility and put some pressure off of the core courses serving the major and minor in sociology more effectively," said Gary Foster, department chair for sociology and anthropology.

The current minor in sociology requires four core classes.

The proposed minor would eliminate one of the four courses and only require Social Stratification, SOC 2721, and Classical Social Theory, SOC 2850, because they offer extensive exposure to theoretical perspectives.

"Originally, our sociology minor required 21 hours of course work with 12 hours specified. With this new proposal, six hours would only be needed to specify," Foster said. "The rationale for this minor revision is the vast majority of sociology minors are majors in other social sciences and have substantial exposure to research methods in the social sciences."

The council will also act on a request to change the title of the speech department from Department of Speech Communication to Department of Communication Studies. The request was made by members of the speech department.

"The National Professional Association changed their title to the National Association of Communication. We felt a title change for our department would explain how our department tends to move well beyond oral communication skills," said Douglas Bock, speech communications professor and member of the Council on Academic Affairs.

The speech department at Eastern deals with broadcasting, film, radio, television, public relations and corporate communication. Reviewers of the department recommended that it seek a name change to keep up with national trends to clarify the mission of modern university communication programs.

"I feel it is time for an update in our departmental title to help staff and students as well as those outside of the university to better understand the variety of expertise we teach," said Joe Heumann, speech communication professor.

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

Memo outlines ethical do's and don'ts

By Dana Peterson
STAFF WRITER

A memo outlining prohibited activities regarding ethics legislation was sent to all staff and faculty members on March 1 by President Lou Hencken.

Hencken received the memo by e-mail from Gov. Rob Blagojevich's office, which included a list of activities that state employees cannot participate in during work hours.

Four sections outline different areas describing unacceptable work behavior. The sections include prohibited political activities, prohibited offer or promise contributions on state property and a ban on gifts from prohibited sources.

The memo said faculty and

staff are not to use any work facilities for prohibited behavior. Work facilities include state offices, telephones, state cell phones, photocopiers and computers.

Section one of the memo prohibits political activities like preparing for a political meeting or soliciting contributions, while section two prohibits state employees from promising anything of value to the state government like promotions, job positions or salary increases to political parties, political committees or candidates for political office.

Contributions on state property inhibit "political campaign contributions to be solicited, accepted, offered or made on state property," the

"I am pleased that the 12 Illinois public universities are seeking to determine whether all faculty and staff really have to report everything we do in 15 minute increments."

—John Allison, English professor

memo stated. A ban on gifts from prohibited sources include five types of people,

such as a registered lobbyist, and there are 12 types of gifts that are outlined as exceptions.

Staff and faculty members were already widely aware of the expectations of what the memo contained.

"Nothing in the communication surprised me," said English professor John Allison.

Ann Brownson, assistant professor and reference librarian, said, "There was nothing in the memo that I did not understand."

"I am pleased that the 12 Illinois public universities are seeking to determine whether all faculty and staff really have to report everything we do in 15-minute increments," Allison said.

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EDITORIAL

Student input will add to coach search

Eastern's athletic department deserves applause for one of the first steps it took in finding a new women's basketball coach.

When it formed the six-person search committee for a new coach, Eastern added someone most universities wouldn't have: one of the basketball players.

Sophomore guard Megan Sparks will join committee Chair Linda Simpson, Associate Athletic Director Deb Polca, Panther Club member Paul Wieck, Pat Osterman, assistant sports information director, and Betty Ralston, assistant athletic director for compliance, in the search for a new coach.

Eastern is one of the only state universities in Illinois that has included a member of a team to serve on the search committee for a new coach. Other institutions like DePaul and Northwestern universities have allowed players to be consultants to the committee, but they did not have a vote in which coaching candidate the school selected.

Having a player serve on the search committee is an innovative and unique idea that seems almost natural. Some may argue having a member of the team picking their coach is a conflict of interest, but the advantages of having a player on the search committee outweigh most criticisms. Those selecting Sparks for the committee had to assume she would not let any personal biases she might have determine the input she offers.

The players want to win and they want to find a coach that will help them do so.

The members of Eastern's women's basketball team will be spending more time with the coach than anyone else on campus. It is important for the players to coincide happily with the new coach. What better way to ensure that than having one of the players represent the team on the search committee?

A committee of alumni, administrators and other officials are capable of selecting a quality coach, but there is no guarantee the coach will get along with his or her players.

The underlying theme having an athlete on a search committee is loyalty. The decision to add Sparks shows Eastern is loyal to its student athletes and cares about their happiness. The university made the right decision to include input from different areas, something other institutions haven't always done.

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

OPINION

Classes, friends create balancing act



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

Time management has always been a struggle for me. A main contribution to my constant juggling routine is a combination of my indecisiveness and my strive to always please everyone.

Since childhood, I have always been the peacemaker between my friends and the designated planner. These traits have carried on throughout college and have even expanded to include designated relationship counselor (ironic considering I am the single one of the group).

Lately, I find myself endlessly apologizing to someone for never being around. It is hard sometimes to make the judgment calls between being a good friend or a good student.

Despite my busy schedule and the accusations of all my friends, I have always tried to put those I care about above school and work. I have done my fair share of de-boyfriending rooms (removing gifts and pictures from frames) and skipping studying and sleep to lend a shoulder to cry on. I have spent hours on end in a hospital waiting room during finals week and even walked out of work just to ensure promised attendance at special celebrations for friends. Many times I have even skipped out on my family, breaking plans to instead be there for a friend.

Breaking up catfights at the bar between two girls over "DJ 7th year senior" or working damage control at a party split down the center like a junior high dance because you've mistakenly set two friends up and it didn't work out, often don't turn out to be the best Saturday nights, but

"It is hard sometimes to make the judgment calls between being a good friend or a good student."

sometimes need to be chalked up in the name of friendship.

Through it all, I have not only learned this semester you can't please everyone, but the true meaning of the saying "if you give them a foot, they'll take a mile."

Often I find myself trying to take everything on at once instead of choosing, just so no one is disappointed or feels unimportant. Since I was a little kid (and I hate to admit even now), I am the worst decision maker. I cannot even decide what to order at a restaurant, let alone choose between friends.

So I do not choose. I have zombied through the day many times which only exhausts me and provides no benefit to anyone else, all for trying to take on everything at once instead of choosing.

This has made me begin the countdown to graduation sooner and dread college life altogether.

Though it is important to be there for friends, it is also important to look out for your own enjoyment. It's hard to enjoy anything while always worrying if others are having a good time. Through all the chaos, enjoy college experiences and try not to be so concerned with everyone

else.

For the other over-worriers and time-jugglers, my advice is this: don't kill yourself trying to please everyone; take time to rest and do what is important to you. If they are true friends they are there for the long run anyway.

Also, I am guilty like many of getting caught up in the focus or work and activities which help in finding a job after graduation, forgetting that your work will speak for itself and employers do not expect you to be killing yourself or your social life just to gain experience. They would rather see well-rounded graduates.

After the monumental college stresses of classes, work and equally distributing time between campus friends, I look forward to a care-free Spring Break with my family and friends from back home; time with the people that know me best.

As for those on the receiving end of the time-jugglers, my advice is simple: demonstrate patience and understanding of friends with others commitments. A friend of mine put it best, though rather juvenile: "tell them to make like a Kit-Kat and give you a break."

Between all the coursework, summer jobs and internship, there are experiences and friendships we take for granted and may never have the opportunity to either have again or keep for the future. Students should be involved on campus, but also enjoy the life they work so hard to balance.

Cartoon by Derek Clem and Aaron Ganci



YOUR TURN: LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editorial page for different opinions

As a rule, I do not acknowledge pedantic criticism of my public remarks on the editorial page. However I'll make an exception for Andy Caruso (12/12/03) and Carl Jasieniaki (2/20) letters in *The Daily Eastern News*.

The editorial page is what it is, filled by both amateur and professional endeavor.

Hopefully it will remain a

venue for public commentary and openness.

Both Caruso and Jasieniaki repeat each other in belittling my "poor grammar" and the "use of a thesaurus." What these two "teens" do not comprehend (is) that a life-time of study requires only a dictionary, not a thesaurus.

When juveniles are

taught by juveniles and consult with other juveniles the product is static juvenilism, i.e. when juvenile society teaches juvenile ideas the whole

process becomes destructive and backward looking.

*Michael Strange,
Charleston resident*

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.

Viewpoint

Editor's note: These essays are the top three winners in the lower division of the Cultural Diversity Essay Contest. The contest was open to any undergraduate enrolled in an English course during the fall of 2003. Submissions were judged on how well they approached issues of cultural diversity. All essays were cut for space reasons. The top three winners in the upper division of the contest will be printed in Friday's edition.

Diverse experiences change lives, sense of self

FIRST PLACE

A perfect world

Our ability to communicate verbally is what separates us from other animals in the world; it is also our ability to communicate that separates us from each other.

I remember the first time I heard *nigger*. I was five years old. My mom and aunt took my cousins and me to play at the park across from our apartments. My cousins and I were playing tag on the jungle gym when gunshots filled the air. The screaming of the children on the playground grabbed the attention of our mothers, and they came running to our rescue.

My mom took my cousins and me to a nearby building. We entered the building not even noticing the trash or the smell. We were too afraid. We waited inside of the building until we thought it was safe to exit.

When my mother was finally ready to lead us home, we reached to open the door when a man ran inside. We were scared at first, but we were relieved when we saw the man was a police officer. Our fears quickly resurfaced when the officer aimed his gun toward us and said, "Freeze, niggers." The echo of that word rang in my ears like the lunch recess bell. I couldn't believe that this man who was supposed to protect me was saying this word to my family. I didn't even know what this word meant or why it was bad, but I knew that it was inappropriate for a white man to say to a black person.

When we got home I asked, "Mommy, why did that policeman call us niggers?"

I didn't even ask about the gun. My mom just looked at me and said some people are just ignorant. Today I can still see the hurt in her eyes. She was hurt because she had never experienced racism like this, but what hurt her even more was that she could not protect me from it. It was hard for her, and even today she chooses not to speak of the incident.

As I got older and noticed that my family was using *nigger* more and more, I became curious about why we were able to use this word but white people couldn't. I asked my older cousin this one day. He said that black people calling each other *niggers*, is like you talking about your own mother when you are mad at her. He said that no matter how mad you get, you never let anybody outside of your immediate family talk about your mother.

White people using the word *nigger* is offensive because their ancestors used the word in reference to blacks to hold us down and make us feel less than human. Black children grow up knowing that being called a *nigger* by a white person is not a good thing. Many are taught that being called a *nigger* justifies fighting. No black parents want



Cessily Wilson

their child to feel powerless when faced with this situation so they teach their child to fight. It is sad that a word can have so much power.

Some people talk about how we as a nation should embrace the word and even promote its use, but most of the people that feel this way are white. It

is easy for a white person to say "come on guys, it's just a word," because it is their word. White people gave *nigger* the power that it has by using it to oppress a people, and although times are changing, the word is still attached to the history of blacks and our struggle in this country.

There is no word in the English language for whites that compares to *nigger*. If there was, then it would be easier for whites to understand why *nigger* should not be used. Using the word in any context toward a black person is hurtful. Unless you are black, you cannot understand the pain that many black people feel when they hear or are called *nigger*.

I think of my people being hung from trees and beaten for looking into a white person's eyes. It is hard for me to understand how people who have used this word to oppress and separate us from the mainstream can use the same word to embrace us. There is no way, at least not in my lifetime, that a white person can call a black person a *nigger* without somebody questioning his intentions.

There are some exceptions. Although it is socially acceptable for blacks to use *nigger*, it doesn't make it right. Black people only use *nigger* because we can. We can say it whenever and to whomever we wish and nobody can get angry. It is one of the only things in this country that we can own, and white people cannot. We control who says it and when, but most black people don't understand that by using *nigger* we are only internalizing the stereotypes people have of us.

In a perfect world, *nigger* would just be another word, but this is not a perfect world, and *nigger* is not just another word. It is a word deeply rooted in hatred and oppression, a word that represents the ignorance of this nation.

Everybody using *nigger* will not bring us together because that is not what the word was initially intended to do. It was coined as a tool of separation, and as long as we continue to use it we will continue to be separate.

SECOND PLACE

Defying discrimination

For years, society has been plagued with the obstacle of overcoming discrimination. Whether it has been a local dispute or landmark Supreme Court case, the issue has always been one of great controversy.

Discrimination was the root of slavery and its devastating effects are unforgettably displayed in Frederick Douglass' autobiography, *Frederick Douglass*, which allows the audience to read how this brand of torture feels. Starting off as a young boy, he describes how slavery tore apart his childhood. Growing older, Douglass felt compelled to gamble his life for freedom.

Through enduring this discrimination, Douglass strove to eradicate slavery. By relaying his life story, this author successfully convinces all skeptics of how horrible this form of hatred really is.

Childhood is a time when most kids are gradually exposed to the real world under the discretion of their parents or guardians.

Though they are occasionally thrown obstacles such as divorce or illness which they must overcome, most kids are able to move on. But victims of slavery tell another story.

Instead of an occasional hurdle, each day they endured was packed with adversity, testing their survival skills. Douglass begins the heartbreaking tale of his childhood by saying, "I have no accurate knowledge of my age, never having seen any record containing it ... a want of my life concerning my own age was a source of unhappiness to me even during childhood. The white children could all tell their ages. I could not tell why I ought to be deprived of the same privilege."

Douglass grew up in the decades prior to the Civil War, a time when racial discrimination was more accepted than questioned. Hatred caused people to act malevolently against certain races, and even the children were treated inhumanely. They were separated from their mothers at an early age, victims of a hatred that attempted to terminate the child's affection for his mother. Such was the case with Douglass, as he met with his mother only four times in his whole life. Having to fend for himself, Douglass recollects having such intense hunger and severe coldness that he could not sleep at night. When he was only 12 years old, he remembered "regretting my own existence and wishing myself dead." Truly slavery ripped apart its victims' childhoods, leaving them miserable and alone, questioning their own existence.

At the dawn of each day, many slaves started by wondering if that would be their



Allison Getty

last. Others suppressed this worry with dreams for the future. Bursting with hope, their condition caused Douglass and some other slaves to exhaust all possibilities in achieving freedom. They knew this was a dangerous hope that could cost their lives, but they were determined nevertheless.

Upon devising a plan for freedom, Douglass feared being "harassed with the frightful liability of being returned to slavery with the certainty of being treated tenfold worse than before." But his courage and determination could dominate the chains of oppression: he and his fellow slaves had had enough. They were hungry for the freedom which all people of this country deserve.

After several failed attempts, Douglass finally succeeded in running away, entering the free state of New York. He reported that his death defying escape marked "the moment of the highest excitement I ever experienced." And remarkably, for Douglass, this was only this beginning.

After surviving an agonizing childhood, then gambling everything for freedom, Douglass' actions truly began to set a precedent for an organized resistance to discrimination and ultimately the successful campaign for abolition. Now a free man, he found a job doing hard labor he described as "dirty land work for me but I went at it with a glad heart and willing hand. I was now my own master."

Encouraging people to question a detrimental devastating norm, this freed slave's story helped changed the minds of the stubborn and timid.

Clearly the root of slavery was discrimination, causing pain, death and adversity.

Though unfathomable to most, this horror continues to be read about and discussed so that nothing like it will ever happen again. With the help of Douglass' autobiography, a clearer picture is painted of how bad it must have been. Such hate forced him to endure an unsettling childhood. His conditions were so desperate that he risked his life for a small chance at freedom. This activist truly helps relay the effects of discrimination through slavery.

With his bravery, persistence and compassion for other slaves, Douglass' demand for change has had a profound effect on this country.

My culture

HONORABLE MENTION

Joey Darning was his name. It was Joey Darning who first did a certain amount of damage to my soul and dignity. I can still remember the time all the way back in kindergarten. I can remember the feeling of shame--feeling as small as an ant.

"Chink eyes" is what he called me and I went home, locked myself in my room and cried. I cried alone and curled up with my embarrassment, afraid to tell my parents.

Before that moment in my childhood, I never took into account that people could hurt someone just for their satisfaction alone. I never ever thought human beings could be so cruel. It was unimaginable to me. Who knew kids that young really cared about what another person looked like? My friends obviously didn't.

I am adopted from South Korea, and my mom is German and my dad is Irish. I was five years old, and one day when I nonchalantly mentioned to my friends that I

was adopted, they looked at me in bewilderment and said, "You are?" They had never even noticed the physical differences.

There was another young boy who was Joey's little accomplice, and he was black.

I find it really funny that a boy who is African American would ridicule a girl of a different culture even though at some point in his life, he probably endured discrimination himself.

My parents went to the principal and asked him to do something because I had to ride the bus with these two kids everyday, and this wasn't the first time that I had to put up with their ridicule. It would have eventually broken me down.

Ironically, the principal's response was that he couldn't say anything to the black boy because it was discrimination. Here I was, being discriminated against, but it couldn't be stopped because in turn, it would be discrimination.

As the years passed, I moved on with my life. I wasn't really both-



Melissa Neil

ered about my race by anyone to my face ever again until junior high. I became "friends" with a girl whose whole purpose in life was to hurt me. My parents and

true friends claimed she was jealous. It didn't become a relevant fact to me until I was already friends with her for so long that she had done me permanent damage.

At the worst point of one of our arguments, my back was turned and she pulled her eyes with her fingers making her eyes slanted to mimic mine. That was the second time that I can recall having to deal with my ethnicity. Ultimately, I eventually grew to forget anything the girl ever did to me because I learned that what you should really do in those situ-

ations is feel sorry for the person. Inevitably, high school approached, and my ego suffered again.

A group of kids I hung out with liked to call me "gook" and "chinky." It really aggravated me because one of the kids who used to call me this was Asian himself. He thought it might make us have this connection or some sort of bond. I didn't think so. He just liked to get a rise out of me. I tried to not let it bother me, but at the time, I had a lot of other personal issues to deal with.

I didn't have a great sense of self-security or the capacity to just let things brush off my shoulders.

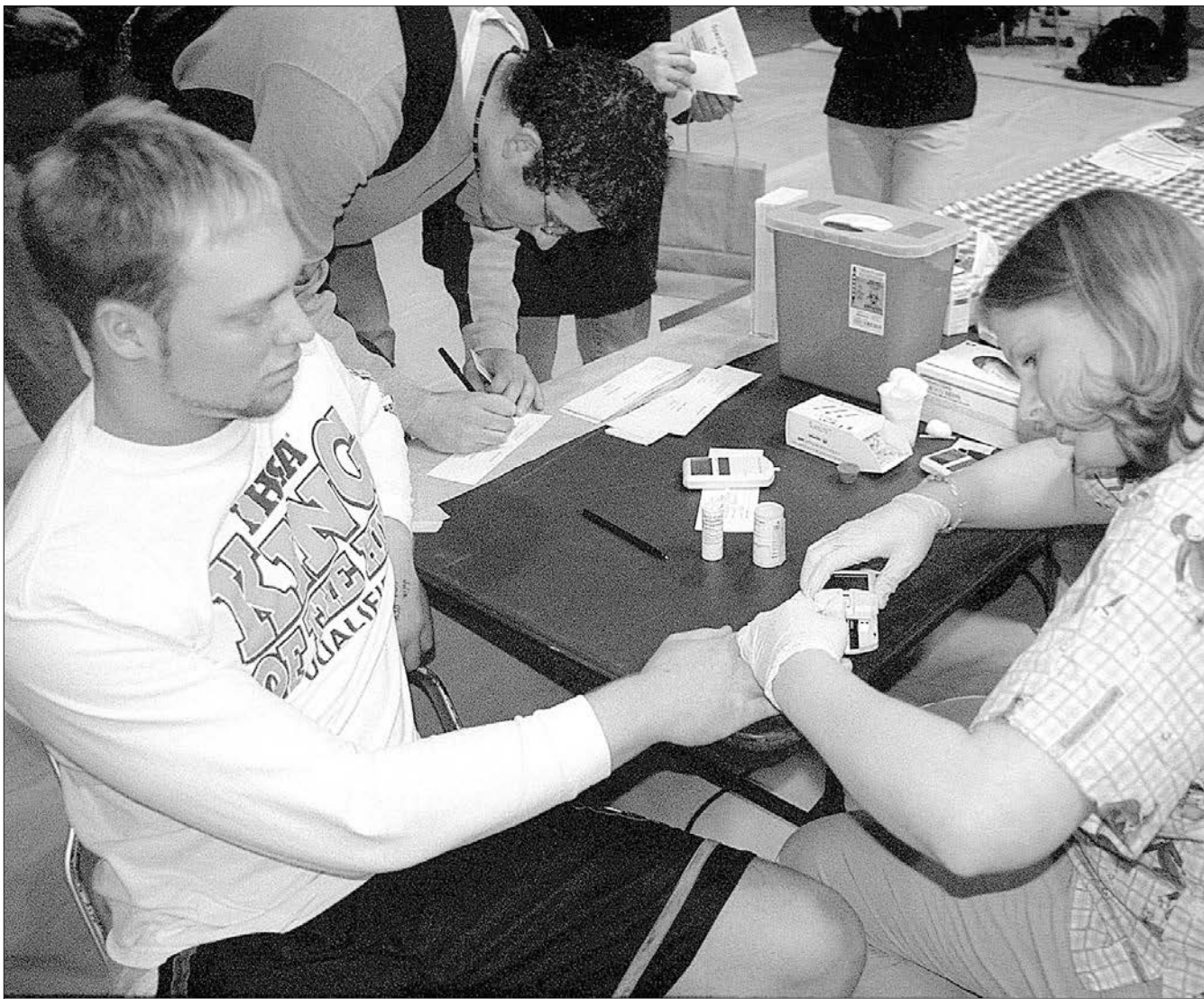
Inside, I was dying but I never gave the others enough satisfaction to let them know. My friend said he didn't know it really hurt me and stopped after I told him it did. Since then, I have been able to ignore people because I have grown in other areas of my life where I finally realized life is too

short to let other people control how you feel about yourself.

I was born the way I am, and today I understand that there's no changing about to occur. Nor would I want to change. I didn't get to choose or pick from a chart what kind of eyes or skin tone I would like to have, and I appreciate what I have.

Writing this paper at this moment helps me release some of the past pain that I have dealt with because of discrimination. But I can truly say that good did come out of these experiences of distress. As cliché as it sounds, discrimination makes you a stronger person and less susceptible to adapting a naïve

perception of people. It made me realize that not everyone will love me for who I am, and not everyone will be willing to accept me either. But after all, those people don't make a bit of difference because it's the people who do love you that count most in your life, and I surely adore those peo-



DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY JOSH REELEY

Stick it to 'em

Ame Kelley, a phlebotomist from Health Services, performs an Accu-Check test Wednesday morning on Luke Kacher, a sophomore physical education major, during the Health Fair at the Student Recreation Center. The test checks blood sugar and cholesterol levels.

Council to fill committee place

By Stephen Larrick
STAFF WRITER

The Student Leadership Council Thursday will appoint a member to fill one of the four coordinator positions.

Lisa Flam, Student Senate vice president for student affairs, heads the council, which is made up of four committees. Each committee has a coordinator who reports directly to her.

The finance and records coordinator, who is in charge of establishing and maintaining the criteria needed for funding Recognized Student Organizations, will also be responsible for keeping attendance, taking and posting minutes for meetings and creating and maintaining RSO folders to keep on file in the Student Activities Center in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

Last week, Ken Bauer was appointed the council's public relations coordinator and Tim Brannan was named the programming coordinator.

The council is still looking for a community service coordinator who would help the RSOs network together, plan campus wide community service projects each semester and keep a running total of community service hours contributed by the organizations.

Flam said the council was formed with hopes to increase communications among different RSOs, promote the importance of RSOs working together and provide funding for various projects the RSOs organize.

"The (council) is an awesome organization for RSOs to utilize," Flam said. "The benefits are as much as the RSOs want to get out of it. (RSOs) should at least come to see how the council will benefit their organization."

The council will also discuss Student Senate's vote on the council's bylaws, which, if approved by the senate, will formally make the council part of the student government.

The Student Leadership Council will meet at 6 p.m. Thursday in the Kansas Room of the Union. Members from all RSOs can participate.

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The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 0129

ACROSS

1 Ready to work

8 "Now where ___?"

12 Kennedy adviser

13 End ___ era

14 Start of a definition of "elbonics" (a word that doesn't exist but should)

16 Greek god sometimes pictured as blindfolded

17 Novelist Seton

18 Each

20 Delighted reaction

21 Gathering place: Abbr.

23 Delilah player in "Samson and Delilah"

25 Definition, part 2

29 Israel-based bank

30 Kind

31 Kind of history

33 Actor Herbert

34 Definition, part 3

39 1961 Literature Nobelist _____ Andric

40 Drill

41 "___" fallen ...

42 "Siddhartha" author

44 Definition, part 4

49 Oil worker?

DOWN

1 Holiday cheer?

2 Cholera

3 Confederate

4 "Wheel of Fortune" request

5 C, alternatively

6 Not very profitable

7 "A kind of praise": John Gay

8 Try to win a hand

9 House with a steep roof

10 Caesar Park International Airport site

11 Sell out, in a way

12 Kind of vote

15 Proverb ending?

16 Have something

19 Choice

21 Former name of Sulawesi

22 Ginza locale

24 Everywhere

26 Teledyne Water ___

27 One keeping one's own company

28 Work unit

32 Blazing

34 Holy war

35 Make too much of

36 Hollywood studio department

37 Something that may be rolled over: Abbr.

38 Court matter

43 Paul and Carly

45 CH₃

46 The Rockets of the Mid-American Conference

47 Accustom

48 Holiday quaff

50 ___ chi ch'uan

55 Castor's mother

56 Big World Cup power: Abbr.

57 Diva, e.g.

59 Letters on a brandy bottle

60 Season in Haiti

61 Big World Cup power: Abbr.

Puzzle by David J. Kahn

Teaching scholarship recipients concerned about plans

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP) — Winners of a scholarship for future teachers are worried over news the state plans to cut funding for their program. The Golden Apple Scholars program provides four-year scholarships for 100 high school seniors and about 300 college students in exchange for teaching in needy schools after graduation. Gov. Rod Blagojevich has proposed cutting \$3.8 million earmarked for the scholar-

ships from next year's budget. Blagojevich spokeswoman Becky Carroll said Tuesday that budget constraints forced the state to stop funding the program. "It was a tough decision," Carroll said. "In an ideal time we would give a program like this one more money." Many of the students said the financial assistance was crucial. "What am I going to do? I was counting on that scholar-

ship," said Benita Arguellez, 18, a senior at Curie High School in Chicago. Golden Apple Scholars could apply for other scholarships, Carroll said. They included state college assistance grants, and money from the Future Teacher Corps Program and the Minority Teachers of Illinois program. Despite the other funding, state lawmakers vowed to try and restore the Golden Apple program. "We need teachers to be better trained and teach in low-income schools and inner-city areas. That's what this program does," said state Education Committee Chairman Miguel del Valle, D-Chicago. "It seems like we keep talking about education being our top priority, and then you have actions like this that have us moving backward." The program has received state funding since 1993.

Senate:
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Jeff Collier, chair for the Academic Affairs Committee, said Ken Baker, director of campus recreation, was looking to benefit the students with the proposed increase. "I feel that Ken Baker was keeping the best interest of the students in mind," Collier said. The senate also passed unanimously a motion recommending a 3 per-

cent increase to the health and accident insurance fee. Larry Ward, student vice president for financial affairs, said the increase will help students that don't have health insurance and students that do have insurance can use it just as much. "It will benefit the students that need it the most," Ward said. The BOT will likely make the final decisions on the fee increases in April.

Blitz: Grant-in-aid fee pays for student-athletes' scholarships

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

fees would upgrade the travel arrangements of some athletics teams, who travel by vans instead of buses. The grant-in-aid fee pays for the student-athletes' scholarships. Although the grant-in-aid fee also funds students in eight academic departments, 80 percent goes to athletics, and the increased fees would only cover that portion. Nikki Kull, chair of the senate's Tuition and Fees Committee, asked how 80 percent of a scholarship fund could disproportionately go to the 463 athletes who make up about 5 percent of the campus population. "We're a community here," said Fischer, the assistant chair of the biological sciences depart-

ment. Fischer drew a parallel of student fees obligations to the taxes one pays in his or her hometown. He explained he did not use the community's airport, but that he still pays taxes to help fund it. "You're being asked to pay for a resource," he said. In total, the proposed fees would have cost students \$143 a semester to help support athletics next year, up from the \$125.05 this year. Students pay \$535.35 a semester, which is spread across 11 student fees. The two fee increases equate to less than \$20 — a meal at a nice restaurant — but one faculty member lobbied those seemingly "piddley, little" fees add up. "When somebody comes and asks for a \$10 fee, students think, 'Oh, that's not much,'" said chemistry professor Jonathan Blitz, who talked to the Faculty Senate on Tuesday. "But it's serious money when you multiply it by 10,000 students ... all of a sudden you look at student fees, and they're huge."

Presenting his information on an overhead projection, Blitz's last transparency warned the senate "fees are forever," and they should "separate wants from needs." The issue rubs some faculty the wrong way because athletics, which originally requested doubling its total student fees in the next five years, is seemingly taking money away from academics. The fee boost, which originally would have been a more than \$1 million hike, could have been used for students to conduct research or help subsidize travel to conferences, Blitz said. But on Wednesday night, supporters of hiking the athletics fee made a last-ditch effort to convince the senate to supply the additional funding to an athletic department one of the speakers called "chronically underfunded." The senate's Tuition and Fees Committee lowered the Athletic Department's initial request in a move Larry Ward, student vice president for business affairs, said met the requests "half way." "You asked for a Corvette, but

you're still getting an Impala," Ward said. "But we started with a Pinto," said Bud Fischer, a faculty member on the Athletic Task Force. The supporters stated a lack of funding would lessen the quality of athletics, cheat deserving coaches out of higher salaries and continue to put some athletes in danger because of inadequately funded travel. The athletic department received 18.7 percent of its total budget from the athletic fee and 31.55 from the grant-in-aid fee for the current fiscal year, Fiscal Year 2004. The remaining budget is funded through fund raising or external revenues and state appropriation. Calling poor performing athletic teams an "embarrassment," Director of Athletics Rich McDuffie said the fee increases would only cover the needs and not the wants. "We're down there with the worst," McDuffie said. Not quite. Eastern does carry the conference's largest athletic budget — almost \$7 million — but those numbers are skewed

because of the large number of sports offered and the athletic department's ability to fundraise. While it's unsure whether additional funding equates into success, Eastern's funding per intercollegiate sport falls in the middle when compared to other OVC schools, according to numbers from the Athletic Task Force, the 9-person group President Lou Hencken appointed to find ways athletics could alternately fund itself. One option to better fund sports would be to get rid of one or more of Eastern's 22 sports — the most any school in the OVC and Illinois has — but the gender equality Title IX Law, along with the long-term payoff limits that option. McDuffie said in an interview on Tuesday even if the senate had passed the original proposal, the Athletics Department would still need to generate additional fund raising to cover all the expenses. Athletics, McDuffie said, brings students to Eastern who may not have come otherwise while helping stabilize enrollment.

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SOCCER

Former Panther stock still burns

By Michael Gilbert
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

Former Eastern standout Jason Thompson netted his first professional goal for Major League Soccer's Dallas Burn on Feb. 28, against Dynamo Kiev in the La Manga Cup held in Spain.

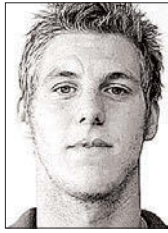
Thompson entered the game in the 80th minute and immediately made an impact. With the Burn trailing 2-1 in stoppage time, midfielder Ty Maurin sent a cross pass over the head of a Dynamo Kiev defender into the penalty box where Thompson was able to redirect the ball into the goal.

"It was great for him," Adam Howarth, Eastern soccer head coach said. "I'm glad he was able to notch his first professional goal."

Although it was Thompson's first professional goal, the Garland, Texas, native is no stranger to finding the back of the net. In a three-year career at Eastern, Thompson ranks third all-time on the Panther's goal-scoring list with 40.

During his freshman season in 2000, Thompson was the national

goal scoring leader as he tied an Eastern record with 21 goals including an all-time Eastern high of six in one game against Belmont University. His 49 points that year were the second most in the country and was also the second highest Eastern mark in school history.



Jason Thompson

goals and he had a very hard work ethic."

In 2001, Thompson nearly averaged a goal per contest for Eastern as 14 of his shots found the back of the net in just 15 games. Thompson left Eastern to enter the MLS draft after his junior season.

During his final season for the Panthers, Thompson tied his record of six goals in one game.

According to Howarth, the pair of six goal games by Thompson are

among the greatest individual performances he has witnessed.

"It was pretty awesome what he did," Howarth said. "He scored six goals against Belmont on a Friday and then scored four more during the Sunday game, so he had 10 goals in one weekend."

After the season, the MLS came calling and Thompson entered the draft where the Dallas Burn selected him in the second round much to the delight of Thompson's family, Howarth said.

Before hitting the field for the Burn, Thompson suffered a torn ACL in his right knee while training with the Under 23 National Team in Portugal. Thompson did not appear in any games for the Burn last season who went 6-19-5 in 2003.

Howarth and his former star still communicate by the telephone on a regular basis. Howarth said when he is on recruiting trips, he will often mention the success Thompson had in Charleston to let the potential Panther know of Eastern's storied history.

"Any coach who has a player at the professional level is going to mention him," Howarth said.

Stevens:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

are more than sports. In rare occasions, in the blink of an eye, games become the drama of human competition and people are suddenly taken on emotional roller coaster that they never want to end.

With less than three minutes left and the Tigers down 52-47, Olney made this contest memorable. Olney guards, who looked like their gas tanks were on empty two minutes ago, began to come off of curl patterns and nail three-pointers cutting the Pana lead. Olney hit three consecutive shots from beyond the arc, and suddenly the game was tied with 53 seconds left. After two free throws, Olney center Thomas Campbell missed a lay up and, at that moment, my reporter John Hohenadel proclaimed, "He'll remember that for the rest of his life." The

sad part is, John's probably right.

Olney looked to be dead and buried before a Pana turnover gave the Tigers life and Lantz erupted. With six seconds left, Olney forward Alex Berry had a good look at three to tie the game. Now, I'm a reporter and my job requires that I not care who makes the shot but I wanted Alex to hit nothing but the bottom of the net for a totally selfish reason. In those final two minutes, I became a basketball fan, specifically an Olney fan, instead of a reporter, and I didn't want the game to end. Berry missed, Pana won and once again, it was proven what sports can do.

This sports event at the same time turned a reporter into a fan, a non-fan into somebody who cared and transformed a basketball game into the most important event in the towns of Olney and Pana. That is what sports can do, this is why it's called March Madness.

Search:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

men's basketball program, led by legendary Head Coach Ray Meyer, uses a committee made up of members of the athletic department but did stress that player involvement is a part of the routine.

"It's important to understand that the athletic director has the final say, but we do allow for player input on this issue," Depaul Sports Information director Scott Reed said.

When the Blue Demons hired its new men's basketball head coach this fall, a committee was used as the beginning of the process. Depaul hired former Connecticut Assistant Dave Lieto, who led the Blue Demons to a regular season championship in Conference USA this season.

"When Dave was hired, a committee was used, but once we got permission from UConn to talk to him, (Depaul Athletic Director) Jean (Lenti Ponsetto) knew who she wanted to hire," Reed said.

Northern Illinois provides a means for its returning athletes to have a forum with which to make its presence felt without being named to the search committee.

The Huskies athletic department uses search committees for all of its head coaching hirings, but the members of these are traditionally advisors to the athletic director.

"Some of the members are administrators in the department, other head coaches at Northern, the head sports information director of that sport, an alumni booster and maybe somebody like the head trainer," Assistant Athletic Director at Northern, Dee Abrahamson, said.

Northern has in its policy that after the list of candidates is made, the athletic director must take his hire to the human resource department for internal checking. This is

to avoid a disaster situation like what happened when the University of Notre Dame hired George O'Leary as its head football coach and discovered he falsified his resume.

"They've never really overturned a decision, but they always ask specific questions about person X and about where we advertised the position for our lower sports," Abrahamson said.

When Northern brings a candidate into Dekalb to interview for a position, it schedules time during that specific day for a visit with members of the returning team.

The returning players are asked to fill out a survey, which includes giving a statement on what they are looking for in a coach.

"Obviously, some of the surveys don't get filled out, but most of them (players) have questions about what he or she is looking to accomplish if given the job," Abrahamson said.

The candidates for Huskies head coaching positions will spend half of their two days in Dekalb talking in meetings with returning players. "We feel like the coach has the most impact on the players themselves so we need to have them involved in some way," Abrahamson said.

When Eastern hired Linda Wunder as its women's basketball coach in 1998, arguably its most prominent hire since Director of Athletics Rich McDuffie took the job six years ago, a returning player was on that committee as well.

However, when discussing Eastern's way of being innovative, McDuffie was unable to comment except to defended his practice.

"I don't know whether or not it's a matter of us being innovative," McDuffie said. "I do believe that it's always good that at Eastern we've always been rather public with alumni, fans and the media with the way we do things here."

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NFL scouts scour Eastern's talent pool

By Aaron Seidlitz
SPORTS REPORTER

Anxiety kicks in right about now for the departing Eastern senior football players.

Due to the upcoming National Football League draft in April, the busiest and most worrisome moments of a young player's career are beginning.

This process started for select Panther players Wednesday, proving that Tony Dungy and the other Indianapolis Colts representatives were not the only people involved with the football program at Eastern.

Seven teams, with the likes of the Colts, Cleveland Browns, Seattle Seahawks, the Green Bay Packers and the Jacksonville Jaguars, came to Eastern to check out the various prospects from Eastern.

In the first workout of the postseason for players with professional scouts, the prospects understand that they need to make a name for themselves quickly to have a chance of being drafted come April.

"It's definitely nerve-racking for us as soon as this starts," senior tight end Nick Eller said. "There is so much time in-between the start of these workouts and

the draft itself, that waiting seems like forever."

Eller, who Defensive Coordinator Roc Bellantoni said was the most improved player at the workout, may have an NFL body but he is not sure if he has the ability to make it on draft day with an NFL team.

The tight end stands at 6 feet 4 inches and 264 pounds and was often a favorite target for Eastern quarterbacks in the end zone because of his large frame.

This year Eller was second on the team in receptions with 47 catches, but without former Eastern quarterback Tony Romo Eller only caught touchdown passes twice.

Because of Eastern going under the radar and Eller being a role player in the Panther offense, he is not sure how realistic it will be to see his name come up on draft day, but that does not mean he is unprepared for the NFL. He figures he will have a chance to sign as a free agent after the draft is completed.

"There is no doubt that I'm pushing really hard to make the next step (in his football career)," Eller said. "I would be kind of surprised if I was drafted, but I do want to test free agency after the draft and I see if I can be picked up."

The limbo these players are in right

now might be difficult for them, but many of the Panther's departing players are making a dedicated effort to take the next step in their career.

Other Eastern players at the workout yesterday included linebackers Nick Ricks and Fred Miller and running back Andre Raymond.

"For us, running the workout, we just get to hang around the scouts, but they stay pretty tight-lipped about who they think is performing well," Bellantoni said. "But in my opinion Nick Eller has also improved and made a good impression."

"Guys like Andre Raymond proved they could come back from an injury and perform well. Finally, Ricks was doing really well until he tweaked his hamstring again."

But as for how much this matters at this point in time, no one is sure, except for the scouts, how this is impacting their status.

"They can learn what they need to improve on right now, but the scouts won't let you know what they're thinking at this point in time," Bellantoni said.

That is why these players consider these next few months the most stressful during their young career all because of the uncertainty.



DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY STEPHEN HAAS

Former Panther running back Andre Raymond was one of the players scouted by NFL teams Wednesday.

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- PRSSA

- Thomas Hall Council
- Asian American Association
- Sigma Kappa
- Zeta Phi Beta
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- Student Athletic Training
- TAGA
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Please bring an actual photo or a photo on CD with a list of those pictured (in order) to the Student Publications Office
THIS WEEK!!

Also thank you to those groups who have turned in their photos so far!

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Panther sports calendar

FRIDAY	Softball (Winthrop Ringor Classic) 11 a.m.	Rock Hill, S.C.
	Baseball at S. Mississippi	3 p.m. Hattiesburg, Miss.
	M Golf at Bearkat Classic	All day Huntsville, Texas
SATURDAY	Softball (Winthrop Ringor Classic) 11 a.m.	Rock Hill, S.C.
	Baseball at S. Mississippi	3 p.m. Hattiesburg, Miss.



The search committee replacing former Head Coach Linda Wunder, pictured on left, includes one of Wunder's former players Megan Sparks

DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY STEPHEN HAAS



THROWING HEAT
Matthew Stevens
SPORTS EDITOR

The madness of March

We've officially entered March Madness.

To be honest, I've been to church, and I take my faith seriously, but I had as close to a religious experience as I'm probably going to get.

For that moment only, I officially became a member of the church of basketball.

Tuesday's service was held at the sold-out Lantz Arena. The ceremony involved 94 feet of hardwood, a pair of hoops and an orange ball. It didn't need a priest because the leader of this experience was a pair of schools from two towns I probably couldn't point to on a state map. Needless to say, this event moved me in a building that I didn't believe could produce a reaction out of me like that.

Eastern annually hosts the Class A Boy's Basketball Supersectional and in 2004, Olney (East Richard) High School went up against Pana for the right to go to Peoria to compete for the state championship.

The two towns combined do not match the Eastern student population, but fans packed Lantz to witness high school basketball history live. It was true passion with the adrenaline-filled electricity in the building capable of lighting the entire Coles County area.

It was clear from the start that Pana was the deeper and more talented team, but the underdog Olney wouldn't do away.

In a game that seemed to be dominated by Pana, it happened. This basketball game suddenly turned into a Disney movie. It was at that moment, my photo editor, who doesn't like sports at all, couldn't believe how much this game mattered to him. This is why people who love sports can say that events like Tuesday night

SEE STEVENS ♦ Page 10

Search committee rarity

◆ Direct student input in coach hiring process uncommon

By Matthew Stevens
SPORTS EDITOR

Eastern is finding its head women's basketball coach in a way nobody else in the state handles its business.

The athletic department's six-person search committee is rare in the Lincoln state, but Eastern has taken it one step further by putting a returning player on said committee.

Two schools in the state of Illinois do not use a committee system in the hiring process of its coaching staff positions, and the decision is left up to the athletic director, who needs to get approval for the school chancellor or president.

The reason other Illinois schools do their business differently is simply a matter of tradition and continuing with a pattern that a university has always used.

"It's a system that our school has always used, and as you can see with the success of our athletic programs, it seems to work pretty well," University of Illinois Assistant Sports Information Director Cassie Arner said.

U of I leaves all of its head coaching hires up to Athletic Director Ron Guenther, who has hired its last three men's basketball coaches (Lon Kruger, Bill Self and Bruce Weber) during his tenure with the athletic department.

Before the hiring of Weber this fall, Guenther alone went on a nationally publicized, but privately

"I don't know whether or not it's a matter of us being innovative."

—Rich McDuffie, director of athletics

discussed, search to find the leader of the Fighting Illini basketball team.

"At Illinois, we leave all of our staff position decisions up to Ron and allow him to make the decisions he sees fit," Arner said. "He does need approval from our chancellor, however."

Southern Illinois University applies the same policy in its athletic department as U of I.

SIU sports information director Tom Weber stated that search committees are not apart of the decision making process done in Carbondale.

"Our athletic director, except

for taking comments for others in the department and getting approval from the president, has the final say," Weber said.

After Weber left the Salukis for Illinois, it was Southern Athletic Director Paul Kowalczyk's decision to hire former Eastern assistant Matt Painter to take over the defending Missouri Valley Conference Champions.

"Besides the track coach, Matt was the only other hire by our athletic director, and it's the final say of Paul," Weber said.

Closer to Chicago is where the committee system is used more often.

DePaul University and Northern Illinois use search committees, but with one catch, neither have had returning or former players in on the process.

DePaul athletics, which were arguably put on the map by its

SEE SEARCH ♦ Page 10

Turf better for Indy Colts to graze upon this time around

By John Hohenadel
SPORTS REPORTER

It would be hard to fathom that, when Eastern agreed to terms with Turf USA, they envisioned the artificial surface as a gateway to hosting an NFL team's training camp.

However, Assistant Athletic Director for Development John Smith said when they considered switching to turf, they definitely envisioned bringing an NFL team to campus.

When representatives from the Indianapolis Colts came to visit campus Tuesday, they cited the O'Brien playing surface as a big plus.

Indianapolis Head Coach Tony Dungy said one of the advantages of having field turf is players can play on, in any kind of weather.

Dungy also said his players fully approve of the field turf.

"We have it in our indoor facility and the players love it," Dungy said.

Eastern Head Football Coach Bob Spoo agrees with Dungy. He said before Eastern had the turf, if they got a good hard rain, they wouldn't be able to practice. Now that they have the artificial surface they can practice no matter what.

Smith said the NFL recently shortened training camp so teams cannot afford to lose



Indiana Colts Head Coach Tony Dungy at a press conference on Tuesday in the football meeting room at O'Brien Stadium

DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY STEPHEN HAAS

any practice time.

If the Colts were to come to Charleston, it would be the first time in a while, Eastern will host an NFL training camp. They have been close to hosting two others in the past 25 years.

Most recently, when the Chicago Bears moved their training camp from Platteville, Wis., to Bourbonnais, Ill., a few years back, Eastern was in the running.

"The Bears came in and did a complete research of the facilities," Smith said. "They were close to coming here."

However, when representatives from the Bears asked Eastern if they had plans to install field turf and the response was no, the Bears chose Olivet Nazarene University.

The addition of the \$500,000 ProGrass will make it that much harder for the Colts to turn Eastern down.

Long before the Bears expressed interest in using Eastern for its training camp, the St. Louis Cardinals, held their training camp here.

"We hosted the St. Louis Cardinals here for eight years," Smith said.

The Cardinals training camp stint at Eastern started in the late 1970s and ended in the mid 1980s.

In between the Cardinals and the Bears visits with Eastern, the Colts actually looked at Eastern about five years ago but eventually chose the Rose Holman Institute of Technology over Eastern.

Although Eastern lost the Colts five years ago, it learned from the experience and now know what it has to do to make it happen this time.

"We can't be equal because if we are, they'll stay in Indiana," Smith said. "We have to be head and shoulders better than our competition."

Smith compared the Colts first visit to Eastern five years ago to a football game.

"We were down seven points with two minutes left to play, but we didn't have the ball," Smith said.

Smith believes his comparison ended with an outcome that was positive.

"We scored," Smith said. "Unfortunately it's still under review."