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

SPORTS ♦ Wrestler wins three matches in national tournament: page 12

THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

TUESDAY
MARCH
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2006

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90th Anniversary

Eastern Illinois University, Charleston

Bush cites some success in Iraq

President urges Americans to look for signs of progress

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CLEVELAND — President Bush on Monday cited success in stabilizing an insurgent stronghold in northern Iraq, saying critics should look beyond the images of violence to see clear signs of progress heading into the fourth year of the war in Iraq.

Bush tried a new tactic to boost sagging support for the war, relating to his audience in Cleveland a lengthy story about a campaign to rid the northern city of Tal Afar of terrorism against civilians.

Bush said Tal Afar, a city of more than 200,000 near the Syrian border, was a strategic location for al-Qaida to recruit terrorists to come into the country and fight legitimate government.

Success there "gives reason for hope for a free Iraq," he said.

The president's detailed description of the campaign — and the eventual success story — was meant to underscore another point the White House is trying to make: evidence of progress is more difficult than daily bombings and deaths to capture in media sound bites.

"In the face of continued reports about killings and reprisals, I understand how some Americans have had their confidence shaken," Bush told the City Club of Cleveland.

U.S. forces had gone into Tal Afar in September 2004 to clean out insurgent strongholds, but the insurgents returned after the Americans left. U.S. commanders said the insurgents were murdering and torturing civilians and kidnapping youth and turning them into terrorists.

The 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment was



ED SUBA/AKRON BEACON JOURNAL/KRT

President George W. Bush delivers a speech on the war on terror to a large crowd attending the City Club luncheon in Cleveland Monday.

sent back in a year after the first Tal Afar campaign, along with some Iraqi soldiers, and was more successful.

"The strategy that worked so well in Tal Afar did not emerge overnight," Bush said. "It took time to understand and adjust to the brutality of the enemy in Iraq."

More than three-fourths of the public thinks it's likely that Iraq is headed toward civil war, an AP-Ipsos poll taken in early March found.

And two-thirds of Americans say the U.S. is losing ground in preventing civil war in Iraq,

according to a Pew Research Center poll taken in the same period, up from 48 percent in January.

On Capitol Hill, Sen. Joe Biden, the lead Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, blamed "the dangerous incompetence of this administration" for an "increasingly dismal" outcome, thus far, in Iraq.

Sen. Chuck Hagel, R-Neb., said the U.S. is limited in its military options because it would be too hazardous to precipitously withdraw.

Students sign up to lose weight

EIU Biggest Loser competition draws new participants

BY BRADEN LATHAM-JONES
STAFF REPORTER

More than 142 students signed up to participate in EIU's Biggest Loser weight loss competition earlier this month at the Student Recreation Center's Health Fair.

Kevin Wysocki, a senior corporate communications major, said the turnout for participation was better than anticipated.

"We were packed non-stop," Wysocki said. "It was truly way more than what we expected at sign up."

The limit was 50 participants at first, but because of the unexpected results, more people were allowed to participate. The final count was nearly triple the number expected.

This weight loss competition was started for a health communications class and involved a total of eight students and one faculty member.

"We were told to take what we learned in class and apply it to the real world," Wysocki said. "From there, the class brainstormed and came up with the idea to create a campaign as an offshoot of the NBC television show."

The competition is structured so that teams of two of the same sex compete against other teams of the same sex.

SEE LOSER PAGE 9

Spring begins with floods and winter weather

Hundreds of schools close for snow storms

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. — A storm system barreled across the Plains states on the last day of winter, dumping more than a foot of snow that stalled highway travelers Monday in South Dakota and Nebraska and causing flooding in Texas.

Hundreds of schools were closed Monday in Nebraska, Kansas, Colorado and South Dakota, and at least two deaths were blamed on the storm. Six-foot snowdrifts were reported in western South Dakota.

Spring officially began Monday at 12:26 p.m.

A stretch of about 200 miles of Interstate 90 was closed Monday across South Dakota from Rapid City to Chamberlain because of the heavy snow and stuck trailer-trailer rigs. It had been shut down since Sunday afternoon.

About a 50-mile section of westbound I-80 was closed in western Nebraska, the State Patrol said.

Up to 18 inches of snow was reported in South Dakota, with 13 in Nebraska and 11 in



BRANDON WADE/FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM/KRT

Members of a swift-water rescue team take Ed and Tricia Gutierrez to safety after floodwaters hit their home in Arlington, Texas on Sunday.

eastern Colorado.

Stiff wind piled the snow in 6-foot drifts in northwestern South Dakota, said weather service meteorologist Kyle Carstens.

On Sunday, two passenger trains were stalled for hours in the mountains after a separate rail maintenance vehicle derailed because of the storm.

The Ski Train, which runs between Denver and the Winter Park resort, was stuck for about five hours with some 700 aboard.

Farther south, heavy rain soaked parts of Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana.

Up to 8 inches of rain was reported in North Texas, causing weekend flooding around the Dallas area, easing a "severe" drought in the region, though the National Weather Service said the Dallas-Fort Worth area is still 11.5 inches below normal.

"There are houses that have water coming in them, and there are cars that are submerged" across the Dallas-Fort Worth area, said National Weather Service meteorologist Ted Ryan.

About 300 miles northwest of the Dallas area, northern parts of the Texas Panhandle ravaged by deadly wildfires last week were under a winter storm warning with up to 8 inches of snow possible.

The body of a woman was recovered from a Dallas creek, police Senior Cpl. Max Geron said. Officials believed high water swept her car off a road.

In Colorado, one person was killed in a traffic accident on a slush-covered road, the State Patrol said.



GREG WALKER
SENIOR
JOURNALISM MAJOR

"I think Fry's Electronics may be a cult."

Think about it for a second. These people at Fry's not only work together, they live together. The café in the middle is there so they never have to leave to get food.



RYAN TERRELL
SENIOR
JOURNALISM MAJOR

"If you're a sports fan, March is a great month."

Not just every March, but particularly this March. It has been full of great stories, and not just the NCAA basketball tournament either.

FIVE-DAY WEATHER

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
33	40	42	43	45
17	24	29	29	32
Morning snow	Sunny	Mostly cloudy	Partly cloudy	Partly cloudy

WTF?

Stapp sues over sex tape promo

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — Scott Stapp is suing in an effort to stop a California company from selling or promoting a sex video featuring himself, Kid Rock and four women.

The federal lawsuit, filed in Los Angeles on Tuesday against World Wide Red Light District, is similar to one Kid Rock's lawyers brought last month in Detroit.

A U.S. District Court judge there has signed a temporary order barring the company from distributing or promoting any portion of the tape, including a 40-second preview clip that was displayed on Red Light District's Web sites.

Stapp's lawsuit alleges that two

tapes, described as a "video diary" of his 1999 concert tour, were stolen from a safe at his house. The lawsuit states that Red Light District violated the former Creed singer's trademark and privacy rights, causing him embarrassment, pain, suffering and emotional distress.

The action seeks a restraining order barring the company from distributing the video.

A call to Red Light District lawyer Ray Tamaddon after business hours Tuesday went unanswered.

Red Light District has said the tape came from a third party, but Tamaddon denied it had been stolen. He has declined to say how the company's source acquired the video.

HUNGRY LIKE A STUDENT



ERIC HILTNER/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Elliot Brown, a freshman psychology major, waits for his Italian sub dinner in Stevenson Dining Center Monday night.

COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY NEWS

South Korean professor fired for stem cell fraud

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEOUL, South Korea — Disgraced cloning scientist Hwang Woo-suk was fired Monday as professor of Seoul National University over his stem cell fraud, news reports said.

The university made the decision at a meeting of its disciplinary committee, South Korea's Yonhap news agency and cable channel YTN said.

Last month, the school suspended Hwang from teaching and conducting research as an interim disciplinary measure, but he had remained professor.

School officials refused to confirm the reports, but said they would release the outcome of the disciplinary meeting soon.

Last week, South Korea's government revoked Hwang's license to conduct embryonic stem cell research.

Hwang's reputation as a pioneer in stem cell research was shattered when his university concluded in January that his claims of research breakthroughs were fake.

Hwang's purported breakthroughs

in the field had raised hopes worldwide of new cures for hard-to-treat diseases like Alzheimer's and Parkinson's.

Hwang publicly apologized for claiming to have created more stem cell lines than his team actually had, but accused other researchers of deceiving him with falsified research results.

Hwang has also been questioned by prosecutors, who are expected to soon wrap up their investigation into the research fraud.

BLAGOJEVICH PRAISES BRADLEY, DEFENDS "BRAVES" NAME

CHICAGO — Gov. Rod Blagojevich said Sunday he is excited by Bradley University's underdog victories in the NCAA basketball tournament, and he defended the Peoria school's use of the name "Braves."

"That's exciting news," he said after Bradley made it to the Sweet Sixteen by beating Pittsburgh. "I'm not surprised. There's a lot of basketball enthusiasm in Peoria. It's almost like a little piece of Indiana in central

Illinois."

The NCAA is cracking down on "hostile or abusive" team nicknames that involve American Indians. The Bradley Braves are one of the teams under fire.

Bradley has appealed, but if the school loses, it will no longer be allowed to use the "Braves" name or logo at NCAA tournaments.

"They ought to lighten up," Blagojevich said when asked about the NCAA's position. "Tell them to ban it in major league baseball. Leave Bradley alone."

Other politicians offered similar sentiments.

Republican gubernatorial candidate Bill Brady and Judy Baar Topinka said the name "Braves" is not a concern.

"Right now, I just want to see them win," Topinka said.

The NCAA has also targeted the University of Illinois and its Chief Illiniwek mascot. Blagojevich has refused to discuss Illiniwek in the past, saying he doesn't want to tell the university's board of trustees what to do.



EARLY HEADLINES

Listen to "Wake Up Live" with Rob and Jenn Monday through Friday for morning headlines on 88.9 or at weihitmix.net

SPORTS ISSUES

DEN sports editor Marco Santana and columnist Dan Woike talk about March Madness and Eastern women's softball tonight at 6:30 p.m. on WEIU Hit-Mix 88.9.



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PHOTOS BY CARRIE HOLLIS/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

(Above) Members of the Muntu Dance Theater of Chicago tell different proverbs during their opening act at the fashion show in the Grand Ballroom of the MLK Union Monday.

(Upper Right) The Muntu Dance Theater performs their second dance at the fashion show in the Grand Ballroom of the MLK Union Monday evening.



Unity week fashion show not just a demonstration, but a performance

By EVAN HILL
STAFF REPORTER

Drums thumped and bare feet slapped the stage floor of the Grand Ballroom in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union, heralding the start of Unity Week 2006.

The "Oh, I Think They Like Me" cultural fashion show was produced as a collaborative effort between the Student Government and University Board.

Keila Lacy, student vice president for student affairs, who is also in charge of Unity Week, said Unity Week serves to spread education and information about the diverse culture the Eastern community has to offer.

The event attracted approximately 150 people and featured Asian fashions. Official national dress from countries across Asia including India, China, Japan, Vietnam, Nepal and Philippines were represented.

Jesse Wu, an Asian American Association member, said the clothes were all on loan from an Asian Cultural Center in Champaign.

The Asian American Association, in addition to contributing the models donning the garments, contributed a traditional Philippine dance titled "Pandarango Sa Ilaw," which translates to "go and dance with light."

This was the six Asian models' first experience with modeling.

Lacy said the fashions for the African portion

of the show were all traditional garments taken from the models' own closets.

In addition to a fashion show with traditional dress from many Asian and African countries, the Muntu Dance Theater of Chicago performed a traditional African dance at a cost of \$3,500.

"We thought it would be a wonderful way to kick off Unity Week with all the ethnicities," Lacy said.

Lacy said she had seen the Muntu Dance Theater perform at the African American Heritage Banquet two years ago and was so impressed she wanted to have them back again.

Wu said the Latin American Club and International Students Association were also invited to the event but chose not to attend.

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OPINION

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

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COMMENTARY



ERIC HILTNER
PHOTO EDITOR

PATIENCE WILL HELP AMERICANS DURING CONFLICT

I wasn't among the first soldiers who made the initial push into Iraq, or among those who fought to take over Baghdad.

But I did spend nearly 15 months in the wasteland that people call Iraq, all of it spent in Baghdad. I didn't have some comfortable job inside of a secured area. I split my time in Iraq as a driver and a gunner during my 1,200 plus patrols through the streets of Baghdad.

Iraq wasn't fun, not fun at all.

Rationing of water and food during one of the hottest Baghdad summers on record turned me into a 6-foot-5-inch, 144-pound, unhealthy twig.

Five hours of interrupted sleep that I would get a night did not increase my health. Nor were the many attempts by insurgents to end my life.

I am not looking for pity, I arrived in Baghdad not long after it was liberated. When I arrived, the people were happily waving to every soldier that would roll past. They were excited for us to be there.

"It takes time to accomplish the tasks of restructuring a nation, and patience is also a plus."

leaving, I haven't paid much attention to what has been going on with the conflict in Iraq.

The one thing that I have paid a little bit of attention to has been the growing distaste of the war by the American public.

War crimes, rising costs and a rising death toll are all valid reasons to not be behind the war effort. But what you see on the news is not all that happens over in Iraq.

My company supported a small town's school on the northwestern outskirts of the city. Once a month we would provide the school and children with school supplies and other sundry items that friends and family would mail to us.

The look on the children's faces was priceless as they slung their arms through the loops of their brand new backpacks loaded with pencils, notebooks and crayons.

Helping people was a daily occurrence that none of us thought twice about. I vividly remember rushing a frail 6-year-old boy to an Iraqi hospital after he was a victim of a hit-and-run while riding his bike, and once reaching the hospital, handing all of our first-aid kits to the nurses because they had very little to work with.

I met numerous Iraqis that had such great hope for their own future, and their children's future that it gave me a sense of hope for their perpetually war-torn country. And I don't remember a single person who was upset that Saddam was not still in power.

Now obviously, not all Iraqis want us there, and I can accept that fact even though I disagree with it.

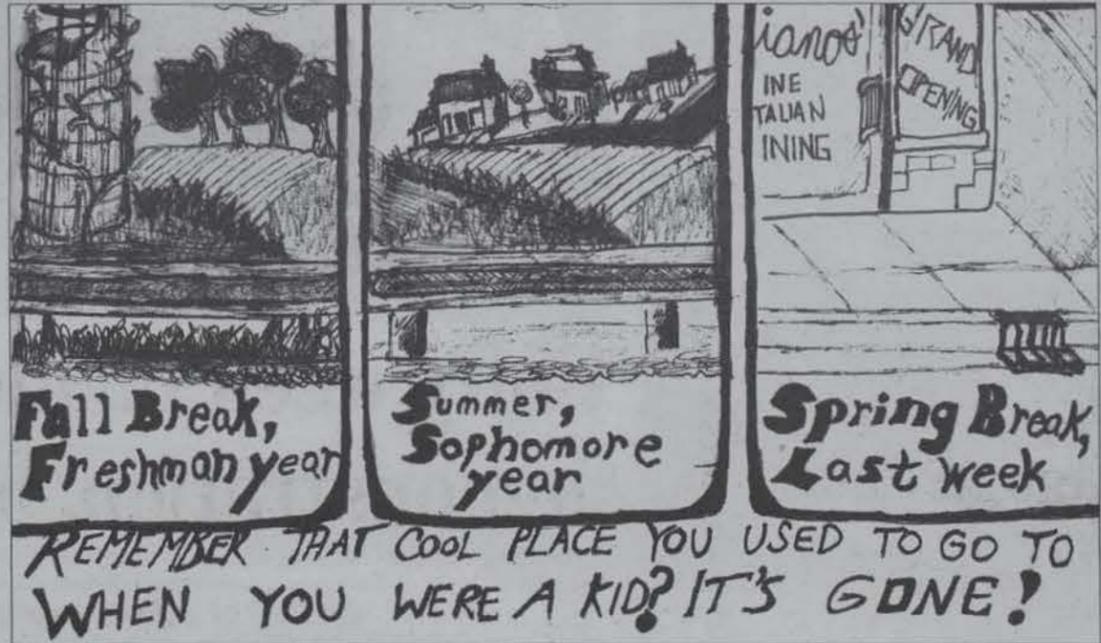
America has spent billions and billions of dollars to rebuild other countries that we fought, and many of those countries we still have soldiers in. It takes time to accomplish the tasks of restructuring a nation, and patience is also a plus.

Like some of the Vietnam and WWII veterans, I would like to go back and visit the battle zones that I faced during my time, but maybe in a few decades.

Iraq has such potential to become a great country, but I think that it just needs some time to get back on its feet.

Hiltner, a freshman journalism major, can be reached at DENphotodesk@gmail.com.

EDITORIAL CARTOON BY RICH LAKEBERG



EDITORIAL

Iraq conflict has no end in sight

Yesterday marked the third anniversary of the United States' invasion of Iraq. The reason it's important to note the anniversary of our country's Iraq invasion is because our military is still there and has been since the initial invasion.

In those four years, Saddam Hussein was found and put on trial and Iraq's government has been overthrown and changed into a democracy.

According to Monday's issue of the *Boston Globe*, President George W. Bush spoke with the U.S. Ambassador to Iraq, Zalmay Khalilzad, who said Iraqi leaders are moving closer to forming a government there.

Former Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi said Iraq is in the midst of a civil war, but current Iraqi President Jalal Talabani assures no civil war has begun.

"We're a long way from a civil war and we are working toward a formula for a national accord (government)," Talabani said, according to Monday's issue of the Lebanese newspaper *The Daily Star Regional*. The U.S. government is still very involved in the Iraqi government and they will be until the occupation in Iraq ends.

In a *Washington Post* column, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said the U.S. military will not evacuate Iraq until the problem is resolved.

"Now is the time for resolve, not retreat," Rumsfeld said. "Turning our backs on postwar Iraq today would be the modern

At issue

The United States' third anniversary of the invasion of Iraq.

Our stance

The fact that it is the third anniversary of the invasion proves our military has been in Iraq too long and it seems the departure from Iraq is not going to happen any time soon.

equivalent of handing postwar Germany back to the Nazis."

We understand why the military can't leave Iraq, but we don't understand why soldiers have been there this long. CBS News reported that in May of 2003, Bush declared the end of major combat operations, which was only weeks after the invasion. That was almost three years ago and the U.S. military has been present in Iraq every day since.

In President Bush's 2003 State of the Union address, he said the goal of the war on terror is to not allow the "triumph of violence."

"Our war against terror is a contest of will in which perseverance is power. In the ruins of two towers, at the western wall of the Pentagon, on a field in Pennsylvania, this nation made a pledge, and we renew that pledge tonight: Whatever the duration of this struggle, and whatever the difficulties, we will not permit the triumph of violence in the affairs of men — free people will set the course of history," Bush said.

Since the invasion in 2003, more than 2,300 U.S. soldiers have lost their lives in combat, and the numbers won't stop there.

This war on terror has gone on too long and the violence will continue until there is a proper solution. That solution is nowhere to be found as of yet.

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

YOUR TURN: LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE RIGHT CANDIDATE FOR THE RIGHT JOB

I've chosen to examine a few of the important issues that should matter to you regarding your vote for Coles County Sheriff.

I'm a Coles County Sheriff's Lieutenant with more than 28 years of service. I believe Steve Darimont will make effective, efficient changes. Darimont, who has more than 30 years of experience and dedication, proposes to hire less costly deputized servers to serve court papers, providing for more patrol in rural areas at no

additional taxpayer expense.

Another serious issue which faces us all is the continuing problem of methamphetamines. These drugs have ripped apart the lives of individuals and their families alike. As your next Sheriff, Darimont will expand his efforts to rid out communities and rural areas of this and other illicit drugs, such as cocaine by making it unprofitable to manufacture or possess them.

Darimont has the support of former Sheriff's from both sides of the aisle. Both worked with Darimont for many years and agree he has the leadership, honesty,

integrity, experience and dedication to serve Coles County residents as your next Sheriff.

When your ballot is cast for Steve Darimont, you'll also be showing support for the majority of deputies of which 75 percent of patrol command and 90 percent of patrol line officers prefer he be the one to lead not only them, but us all through the next four years on a path to a safer Coles County.

PHILIP EPPINETTE
COLES COUNTY SHERIFF'S LIEUTENANT

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: The Daily Eastern News accepts letters to the editor addressing local, state, national and international issues. They should be fewer 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. We reserve the right to edit letters for length. 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 DENeic@gmail.com

More than \$43,000 from motor fuel tax and tourism funds is up for grabs

Money may fund entertainment, track meets and construction projects

BY KRISTEN LARSEN
CITY EDITOR

The City Council may authorize the use of \$43,615 from the motor fuel tax and tourism funds during tonight's meeting at City Hall.

The council will vote to approve \$12,500 from the tourism fund, which will secure entertainment for Red, White and Blue Days, Charleston's Fourth of July celebration. Pop country star Josh Gracin, who appeared on American Idol, will be the entertainment at the event.

Fireworks are held at the airport and a band plays the night of July 3 and the afternoon of July 4.

Eastern will host the Illinois High School Association Girls State Badminton Championships and IHSA State Track and Field Championships in May. The council will vote whether to authorize the expenditure of \$2,000 for expenses related to hosting and sponsoring the Spring Spectacular Fan Zone at the Track and Field Championships. In addition, \$1,400 for expenses relating to hosting the State Badminton

Championships.

To pay off the final payment of the Fourth Street project and Second Street Right-of-Way costs, the council will vote to appropriate \$27,715 from the motor fuel tax. Three years ago a bridge was constructed over the town creek on Fourth Street.

To help build the bridge, the cost was shared with the state of Illinois and the \$21,715 from motor fuel tax funds will reimburse the state for the money the city owes, said Curt Buescher of the department of public works.

Second Street Right-of-Way costs have not started construction yet but will include widening and resurfacing the street.

The council plans to look at approving an agreement with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency that would prohibit the use of groundwater as a potable water source.

The City Council will also vote whether to authorize a revolving loan fund for Charleston True Value and Michael Domani's and approve the city budget.

Chicago Archdiocese releases findings of priest's sexual abuse investigation

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO — A priest charged with molesting three boys had been accused years before of having questionable conduct with a minor while he was in the seminary and was still allowed to be ordained, according to a report released Monday that outlines a widespread breakdown in communication at the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago.

The report, based on investigations conducted by two outside consultants and an internal review, said the archdiocese's failure to follow its own procedures put children in harm's way and might have violated Illinois law.

Cardinal Francis George said he was "deeply troubled" by what the investigation uncovered.

"This is a tragedy for the children, for their families and all who are involved. But it also represents failures within the archdiocese to react promptly and appropriately to what happened in these cases," George said in a statement.

The report found that various archdiocese departments responsible for dealing with abuse allega-

tions failed to communicate. It also found that the archdiocese didn't follow its own procedures and determined that its policy of monitoring priests accused of sex crimes is inadequate.

Local Ethanol industry to get unwanted attention

WASHINGTON — After a spurt of good fortune, the fledgling U.S. ethanol industry is anticipating some growing pains that could bring it unwanted attention this summer.

Ethanol's public profile rose significantly for the better last July when Congress passed an energy bill that mandates the doubling of biofuels output by 2012. In January, President Bush gave the industry a further boost with a strong endorsement in his State of the Union speech. And with the imminent phaseout of a petrochemical added to gasoline to reduce tailpipe emissions, more U.S. motorists will depend on the corn-derived fuel than ever before.

But there's trouble looming: The

ethanol industry might not be ready to satisfy the expected summertime jump in demand. And by crimping the overall supply of motor fuel, this could contribute to a spike in gasoline pump prices at the start of the country's peak driving season.

That, at least, is the view of the Energy Department, which issued a report last month detailing the challenges Midwestern ethanol producers will have in getting their fuel to key markets along the East Coast because of railroad, trucking and other distribution bottlenecks. The report also highlighted concerns about the limited output capacity of an industry still in its infancy.

The Renewable Fuels Association, a trade group representing ethanol producers such as Decatur, Ill.-based Archer Daniels Midland Co. and Pacific Ethanol Inc., says the industry's challenges and their influence on gasoline prices are being overblown. The association sent an angry letter to the Energy Department last week, questioning the overall thoroughness of its research and accusing it of creating "unnecessary fears in the marketplace."



CAMPUS BRIEFS

"Creating the Unstoppable"

STAFF REPORT

Motivational speaker Steve Birdine will present his show "Creating the Unstoppable You" today as a part of Unity Week.

The event will run from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Lumpkin Auditorium.

'Sports issues' airs on WEIU- FM tonight

WEIU-TV and *The Daily Eastern News* will present "Sports Issues" tonight at 6:30 p.m. on 88.9 FM.

The show will feature sports editor Marco Santana and sports reporter Daniel Woike discussing campus sports.

POLICE BLOTTER

On March 3, a credit card that had been reported lost by a student had been fraudulently used at two Charleston businesses.

On March 6, personal property was damaged in the chapter room of the Sigma Chi fraternity house in Greek Court.

Events for Tuesday

"THINGS TO LOOK FOR WHEN INVESTING IN A CELL PHONE"

1 p.m.

Part of the "Women and Technology" series, presented by Clay Hopkins, of EIU Telecommunications
CATS Title Room, McAfee Basement

CONVERTING POWERPOINT FOR THE WEB

1 p.m.

CATS Training Lab, McAfee Room 1214

STUDY ABROAD INFO

3:30 p.m.

Register for this event at www.eiu.edu/~edabroad/calendar.htm

Lawson Hall Classroom (Basement)

FOREST FOR THE TREES

7 p.m.

A free film at the library, "Forest for the Trees" is about Melanie Pröschle, a young teacher from the countryside that starts her first job at a high school in the city.

Booth Library, Room 3202

"GETTING GOOD ZZZ'S"

7:30 p.m.

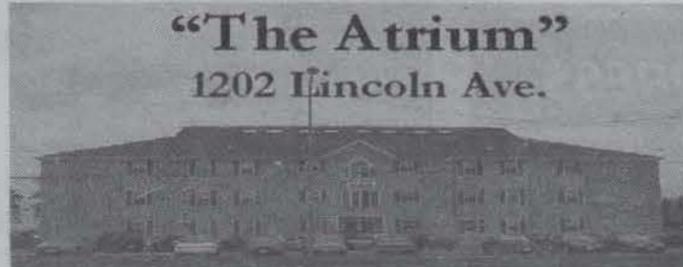
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SHOWTIMES FOR MAR 20 - MAR 23

V FOR VENDETTA (R) ON TWO SCREENS

3:40 4:40 6:50 7:50 9:50

SHE'S THE MAN (PG13) 4:00 6:30 9:00

SHAGGY DOG (PG) 3:50 6:40 9:15

FAILURE TO LAUNCH (PG13)

4:30 7:00 9:30

THE HILLS HAVE EYES (R) 5:00 7:30 10:05

16 BLOCKS (PG13) 4:15 7:15 9:40

EIGHT BELOW (PG) 5:15 8:00

DATE MOVIE (PG13) 5:30 8:15 10:15

PINK PANTHER (PG) 4:50 7:40 10:00

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SHOWTIMES FOR MAR 20 - MAR 23

ANNAPOLIS (PG13) DAILY 6:45

MADEA'S FAMILY REUNION (PG13)

DAILY 7:00

VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.KERASOTES.COM

Third anniversary of Iraq war draws protesters in Ohio

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CLEVELAND (AP) — About 150 war protesters gathered outside the building where President Bush gave a speech Monday about progress in Iraq, banging drums, holding peace signs and chanting for him to leave.

As Bush spoke at the City Club about the third anniversary of the war, police cordoned off a part of the busy Public Square across the street for demonstrators who held signs reading "Bush step down" and "No blood for oil."

"It's a good turnout of people who are very upset about this ongoing and disastrous war and occupation," said Greg Coleridge of the American Friends Service Committee.

Marcy Wessbecher, 50, a Navy veteran, ventured into the crowd to voice her disagreement with their views.

"I believe I know why we went to war and what it's about, and I believe we went for the right cause and that our men and women are not going to die or be injured in vain," she said.

About 60 police officers watched over the protest, but there were no arrests, police Lt. Thomas Stacho said.

Darren Hamm, 27, from the Cleveland suburb of Brooklyn, carried his handmade sign that read, "All we have to fear is Bush himself."

"I don't shout," Hamm said. "But I believe freedom via bloodshed is not true freedom."

During the weekend, protesters marking the third anniversary of the Iraq war made their voices heard worldwide, staging large marches in

NATIONAL BRIEFS



London, Chicago, Portland, Ore., and elsewhere, although many of the demonstrations were smaller than in previous years.

FBI agent testifies that 'criminal negligence' allowed 9/11

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AP) — The FBI agent who arrested Zacarias Moussaoui in August 2001 testified Monday he spent almost four weeks trying to warn U.S. officials about the radical Islamic student pilot but "criminal negligence" by superiors in Washington thwarted a chance to stop the 9/11 attacks.

FBI agent Harry Samit of Minneapolis originally testified as a government witness on March 9, but his daylong cross-examination by defense attorney Edward MacMahon was the strongest moment so far for the court-appointed lawyers defending Moussaoui. The 37-year-old Frenchman of Moroccan descent is the only person charged in this country in connection with al-Qaida's Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

MacMahon displayed a communication addressed to Samit and FBI headquarters agent Mike Maltbie from a bureau agent in Paris relaying word from French intelligence that

Moussaoui was "very dangerous," had been indoctrinated in radical Islamic Fundamentalism at London's Finnsbury Park mosque, was "completely devoted" to a variety of radical fundamentalism that Osama bin Laden espoused, and had been to Afghanistan.

Marine Corps lawyer claims Guantanamo Bay lets the guilty free

WASHINGTON (AP) — America risks convicting the innocent and letting the guilty evade justice in how it handles detainees at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, the military attorney defending an Australian terror suspect held at the U.S. prison camp said Monday.

Maj. Michael Mori, a Marine Corps lawyer, told an audience at George Washington University that no civilized justice system would accept "information being acquired potentially under torture or questionable methods."

Mori spoke after several former detainees recounted their experiences at the camp, which holds roughly 500 prisoners. Most were taken in the aftermath of the U.S.-led invasion of Afghanistan following the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

Mori's client, David Hicks, was caught in December 2001, allegedly while fighting alongside Afghanistan's Taliban regime. He has pleaded innocent to the charges.

Senate will review the benefit of student EWP's

Updates on issue will be discussed

BY KAYLA CROW
ADMINISTRATION EDITOR

Eastern's Faculty Senate will host a speaker to discuss the Electronic Writing Portfolio at its meeting today.

Karla Sanders, director of the Center for Academic Support and Achievement, will be at the meeting to talk to the senate about the Electronic Writing Portfolio, said senate chair Assege HaileMariam.

The senate discussed the EWP's last semester and decided at the last meeting that it wanted to get an update on the issue. Last semester, many senate members were concerned that students do not benefit from the portfolios.

Also at today's meeting, the senate will hear from Student Senate Liaison Jeffrey Melanson. He will be updating the senate on the resolution passes by Student Government suggesting changes to the advising process, HaileMariam said.

At the meeting, the senate will hear a list of upcoming faculty development events. These events include "Full and Bright Opportunities" on Wednesday and "Managing your Workload" on April 5.

The senate will also hear the minutes of the Feb. 27 College of Education and Professional Studies meeting and read a letter from March 9, from Blair Lord, vice president for academic affairs and provost on the Achievement and Contribution Awards Selection Committee.

Senate members will also see an email from March 9 from Melinda Mueller on

the Parking Advisory Committee and from Kathleen Moreno from March 14 on the submission of items for the university newsletter.

The senate will also hear reports from the election committee, which is preparing for next week's faculty elections. Also on the agenda are reports from the Student-Faculty Relations Committee, Executive Committee and the Provost Report from Lord.

The senate will also discuss possible future agenda items. At its last meeting on March 7, the senate discussed many possible items for the agenda.

Some of the items mentioned by senate members included having Jill Nilsen, vice president for external relations talk to the senate about how Eastern runs its external relations department. Also mentioned was the possibility of having someone give an update on the new Banner computer system and having a summary of last month's faculty forum.

Other possible agenda items include creating a faculty handbook, a discussion on the campus atmosphere and discussing housing on campus.

The senate meeting will be at 2 p.m. today in Room 4440 in Booth Library.

Faculty Senate Meeting: How to stay informed

◆ **What:** Faculty Senate Meeting

◆ **When:** 2 p.m. today

◆ **Where:** Room 4440 Booth Library

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INTERNATIONAL

12 soldiers placed under investigation for war crimes

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD, Iraq — After a roadside bomb killed a U.S. Marine in western Iraq, American troops went into nearby houses and shot dead 15 members of two families, including a 3-year-old-girl, residents told The Associated Press on Monday.

The military says about 12 Marines are under investigation for possible war crimes by the Naval Criminal Investigative Service following the Nov. 19 insurgent attack in Haditha, 140 miles northwest of Baghdad.

The allegations against the Marines were first brought forward by Time Magazine, which reported this week that it obtained a videotape two months ago taken by a Haditha journalism student that shows the dead still in their nightclothes.

The magazine report mirrored what was told independently to the AP by residents who described what happened as "a massacre."

A military spokeswoman said Monday the allegations were being taken "very seriously."

Khaled Ahmed Rsayef, whose brother and six other relatives were killed, said the roadside bomb exploded at about 7:15 a.m. in the al-Subhani neighborhood, heavily damaging a U.S. Humvee.

A U.S. military statement in November described it as an ambush on a joint U.S.-Iraqi patrol that left 15 civilians, eight insurgents and a U.S. Marine dead in the bombing and a subsequent firefight. The statement said the 15 civilians were killed by the blast, a claim residents denied.

"Regrettably the American military goes too far in their strikes against civilians because they consider many civilian areas as targets."

WAIL AL-TAI, BAGHDAD CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS STUDIES

They said the only shooting done after the bombing was by U.S. forces.

"American troops immediately cordoned off the area and raided two nearby houses, shooting at everyone inside," said Rsayef, who didn't witness the events but whose 15-year-old niece says she did. "It was a massacre in every sense of the word."

The troops then shot and killed four brothers who were walking in the street, Rsayef and Hamza said.

U.S. troops also shot dead five men who were in a car near the scene, Hamza and Rsayef said.

It was not clear if the nine men were involved in the attack as the military statement said.

Time said the available evidence did not prove the Marines deliberately killed civilians. The magazine, however, said its investigation showed that walls and ceilings in both houses were pockmarked with shrapnel and bullet holes as well as sprays of blood. The video did not show any bullet holes on the outside of the houses — holes that might support the military report of a gunbattle.

The military, after being shown the videotape in January, concluded civilians were killed by Marines, Time said, victims of "collateral damage."

"Regrettably the American military goes too far in their strikes against civilians because they consider many civilian areas as targets," said Wail al-Tai of the Baghdad Center for Human Rights Studies.

U.S. military spokeswoman Lt. Col. Michelle Martin-Hing issued a statement Monday in response to an e-mail query from the AP:

"We take these allegations very seriously, and I believe the fact that two additional investigations are ongoing concerning this incident clearly demonstrates that. The incident in question was the first in a series of engagements that day that began when the Marine patrol was ambushed in a residential neighborhood with an IED followed immediately by small arms fire from multiple directions."

Saying Marines tracked insurgents for more than five hours, Martin-Hing said "the investigation will examine whether any rules of engagement were violated in the Marines' response to the insurgent attack. We are committed to thoroughly investigating this incident."

Lt. Gen. Peter Chiarelli, the No. 2 U.S. commander in Iraq, said about 12 Marines were under investigation for possible war crimes in the incident.

Russian president seeks deeper ties with China as U.S. criticizes both

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BEIJING — Russian President Vladimir Putin arrived Tuesday for a visit to China that is to include talks on building a pipeline to deliver Siberian oil to fuel China's booming economy, and his fifth meeting in under a year with the Chinese president.

With China's wealth and might on the ascendancy, Putin's meetings with Chinese President Hu Jintao and other officials are expected to be spectacles of symbolism and overtures to Russia's gigantic neighbor.

Officials in both Moscow and Beijing are looking to spur new investment between the former Cold War adversaries and double last year's \$29 billion in trade by 2010.

Both Tokyo and Beijing, a leading buyer of Russian oil and gas, have maneuvered hard for the best routing of the 2,550-mile East Siberian-Pacific pipeline. For now, China imports all Russian oil by rail.

China is also Russia's top customer for military weaponry and equipment.

The two countries have also moved to deepen political ties following years of Cold War suspicion. Both have pledged commitment to a "multipolar world" and last year warned other nations against attempts to dominate global affairs and interfere in sovereign nations' domestic matters.

In an interview with China's official Xinhua News Agency, Putin gave a veiled warning over U.S. policies to encourage democracy in the former Soviet republics, saying that attempts to "forcibly export democracy and impose cultural standards and values" result in conflicts.

"We do not impose our viewpoints by force, we never 'flex our muscles', but instead we consistently advocate political and diplomatic approaches to the settlement of conflicts," Putin was quoted as saying.

Last week, the Bush administration released a foreign policy review that expressed dismay at rollbacks in democratic reform in Russia and warned China against denying personal and political freedoms.

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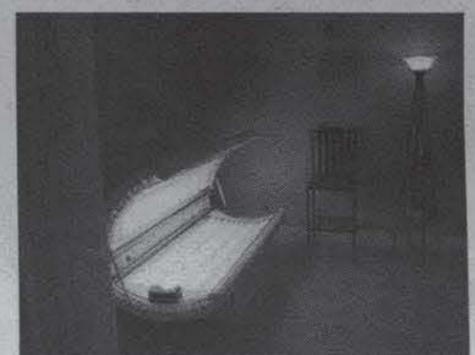


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announcements

ATTENTION ALL GRADUATING SENIORS! If you are interested in a yearbook of your senior year, and are not sure how to pick it up, come to the Student Publications office, Room 1802 Buzzard Hall, and for only \$6 we will mail you a copy in the Fall when they are published. Call 581-2812 for more information.

personals

Attention: Whoever removed the wheelchair from the Charleston Lanes on Thursday, March 2, please return it. It belongs to a handicap person. 345-6330

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campus clips

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LOSER:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

While weight loss is the main goal, only a few events in the competition require participant attendance.

One of the required activities is setting up a physical fitness analysis through the Assessment Testing and Prescription lab at the Student Recreation Center.

The other requirement is to keep a food journal where participants log what they eat three times a week.

"If their habit is to sit on the couch and eat a bag of chips, subconsciously they might not know they're doing it," Wysocki said. "We hope that this journal will help them to realize their own habits and will help them towards getting a better understanding of a healthy way of life."

The final requirement for the participants is attending a nutritional assessment hosted by the Health Education Resource Center where they will be given a pamphlet asking them questions about their eating habits and lifestyles.

"It draws out things that they wouldn't think about day-to-day and focuses attention on things that could be improved upon," he said.

The participants fill out a nutritional assessment, and then a meeting is set up for the officials at the center to review this assessment.

The officials at the center then speak with the participants on things they might do to improve their quality of life.

Along with these required activities, there are periodic weigh-ins.

Initial weigh-ins, done at the beginning of the competition, provide the participants with a starting weight to compare to their final weight at the last weigh-in, on April 19.

All participants finish the competition by hosting a closing ceremony where awards are given out to the winning teams. Prizes include a \$200 gift certificate to Wal-Mart.

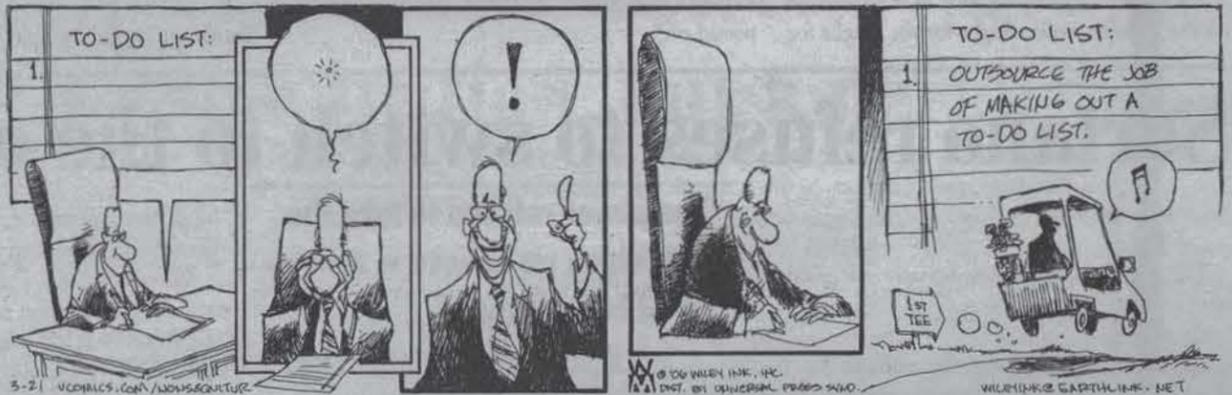
"We mainly wanted them to realize the free facilities that Eastern has to offer for health," Wysocki said. "We just came up with some motivation and insight to lose weight and eat healthy, so that they would build up their own routine that lasts after 'EIU's Biggest Loser.'"



ERIC HILTNER/
THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Students exercise on a set of elliptical machines in the Student Recreation Center Monday night.

NON SEQUITUR BY WILEY MILLER



BOONDOCKS BY AARON MCGRUDER



Exelon tests private wells near tritium leak

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BRAIDWOOD — Exelon Corp. is distributing bottled water to about 420 residences as it tests drinking-water wells at homes near an underground pipeline that leaked radioactive tritium several times dating back to 1996, the company said Monday.

Exelon will test private wells in the village of Godley and at other residences near the Braidwood Generating Station at the request of Illinois' attorney general and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, a statement from the Chicago-based company said.

The testing will take about 12 weeks and the Illinois Department of Public Health will verify the results, the company said.

Exelon already has conducted extensive groundwater testing near the Braidwood station to gauge the level of tritium contamination, and company officials said they do not expect the new tests to show any additional contamination in the area, about 60 miles southwest of Chicago.

"We have no reason to believe any detectable tritium exists in those residence wells, nor do we suspect it," said Keith Polson, a spokesman for the Braidwood station. "But at the same time, we want to ensure our neighbors' peace of mind until we can demonstrate it scientifically."

Tritium is a radioactive substance commonly found in small concentrations in most surface water. Studies have shown long-term exposure, through drinking or bathing, can lead to cancer and birth defects.

Since testing programs began in late 2005, Exelon said, only one private well near the Braidwood station was found to have levels of tritium above the amount that occurs naturally in the environment.

Last week, a lawsuit filed in Will County Circuit Court accused Exelon of failing to properly maintain the underground pipeline that leaked.

The lawsuit, filed Thursday by Will County State's Attorney James Glasgow and Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan, names Exelon and subsidiaries ComEd and Exelon Generation Co. as defendants. It asks the court to impose a fine of \$50,000 per violation and an additional penalty of \$10,000 for each day of the violation.

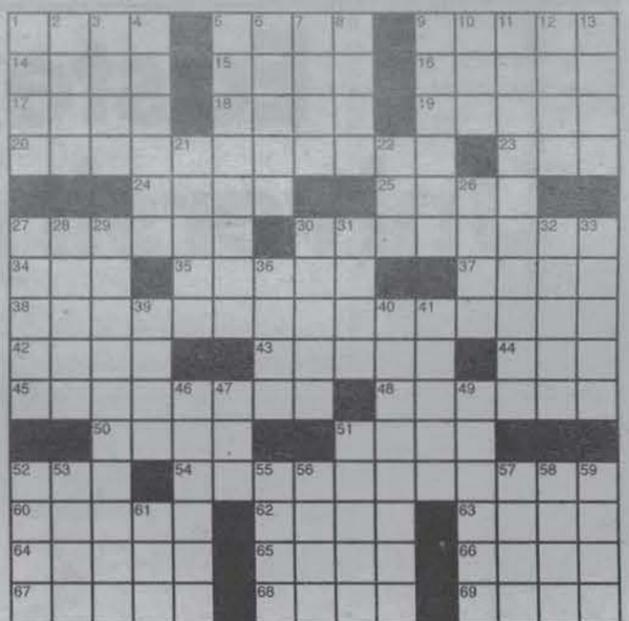
Exelon officials have said the leaks posed no danger to the surrounding communities.

The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

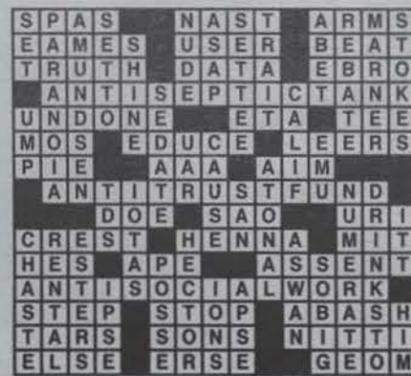
No. 0207

- ACROSS**
- 1 Actor B. D. of "Law & Order: S.V.U."
 - 5 Bridge maven Sharif
 - 9 S.U.V. alternative, informally
 - 14 Earth Day subj.
 - 15 Yellow-striped ball in pool
 - 16 One of the Astaires
 - 17 Sewing case
 - 18 Cereal choice
 - 19 Paint ingredient
 - 20 "We never had this conversation, O.K.?"
 - 23 Former flier to J.F.K.
 - 24 Abridges
 - 25 "Vid"
 - 27 "Am I supposed to be impressed?"
 - 30 Avoidance of reality
 - 34 Inventor's cry
 - 35 Truth, old-style
 - 37 Son of Isaac
 - 38 "Just mumbling"
 - 42 "Rule, Britannia" composer
 - 43 4:1, e.g.
 - 44 Holiday celebrated in Little Saigon
 - 45 Therapy session subjects
 - 48 Dracula player
 - 50 ___ II (razor)
 - 51 ___ Wenner, founder of Rolling Stone
 - 52 Middle O of O-O-O
 - 54 Musical with the song "Shall We Dance?"
 - 60 Bring down
 - 62 See 49-Down
 - 63 Promise
 - 64 Bluffer's game
 - 65 Marshes
 - 66 Like the president's office
 - 67 Boardroom V.I.P.'s
 - 68 Tart plum
 - 69 Basketball great Archibald



Puzzle by Elizabeth C. Gorski

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



- DOWN**
- 1 Garden intruder
 - 2 Eight: Prefix
 - 3 Proper ___
 - 4 Computer snag
 - 5 Computer starter
 - 6 Some Spanish Surrealist works
 - 7 Gray's subj.
 - 8 Philosopher Descartes
 - 9 Solidarity leader Lech
 - 10 Oklahoma city
 - 11 Figures out
 - 12 Cheers for el toro
 - 13 What one at the head of a line likes to hear
 - 21 Somewhat
 - 22 Boom box port
 - 26 Monkey's uncles?
 - 27 Exorcist's target
 - 28 Chicago air hub
 - 29 Baked dessert with shelled ingredients
 - 30 Singer James and others
 - 31 Whiskey order
 - 32 After-Christmas events
 - 33 Civilian clothes
 - 36 Meanie
 - 39 Deborah of 54-Across
 - 40 Pasta style
 - 41 Children
 - 46 Many John Wayne flicks
 - 47 P.T.A. meeting venue: Abbr.
 - 49 Chew, as a 62-Across
 - 51 Ultrapatriot
 - 52 Gift-wrapping need
 - 53 "Life is like ___ of chocolates"
 - 55 Flows back
 - 56 Marlboro competitor
 - 57 Astronomical sighting
 - 58 "Shoot!"
 - 59 Nothing doing?
 - 61 Wall St. regulator

NFL commissioner Tagliabue to retire this summer

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Paul Tagliabue is leaving the NFL, and he's leaving it both peaceful and prosperous.

The 66-year-old commissioner will step down in July after 16 years, his tenure marked by labor harmony and unprecedented riches through television deals.

Tagliabue has been in charge since 1989, when he succeeded Pete Rozelle, and agreed last March to stay to complete the TV deal and a long-term contract with players.

He finally got that done 12 days ago, finishing the most arduous labor negotiations since the league and union agreed on a free agency salary cap deal in 1992.

"I really want to emphasize how much of a privilege it is to spend most of your adult life with the NFL. This is not an easy decision for me," Tagliabue said on a conference call Monday.

"As difficult as this decision is, I also know it's the right decision. Right for me. Right for

the league," he said.

Roger Goodell, the NFL's chief operating officer, and Atlanta general manager Rich McKay are the two leading candidates to succeed Tagliabue. Baltimore Ravens president Dick Cass also is considered to have an outside chance and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has said she would like the job.

"Ask her," Tagliabue said when quizzed about Rice's candidacy.

Tagliabue said the search is wide open and that he will stay on beyond July to avoid the kind of seven-month deadlock that occurred between him and the late Jim Finks after Rozelle stepped down in March 1989.

Owners will begin to look for a new commissioner at their meetings next week in Orlando, Fla.

As for his own tenure, Tagliabue said, "Building a strong relationship with the NFL Players Association is the thing I'm most proud of."

"Everyone involved in the NFL in the '80s saw that as a negative," he said.

More than anything else, Tagliabue took over a league that already had already become America's game under Rozelle and took it to the next level, enriching it and restoring labor peace.

In many cases, he turned millionaire owners into billionaires. The value of many franchises has increased tenfold since 1989 those worth \$70 million then are worth \$700 million now.

With the labor and TV deals done, Tagliabue made no secret that retirement was near.

Last week, he told players' union executive director Gene Upshaw that he would spend the weekend at his vacation home in Maine. Tagliabue also said he might look at buying a boat for retirement.

Upshaw heard about Tagliabue's decision while vacationing in Hawaii, and e-mailed him: "I didn't expect I'd start my Monday morning this way. I guess you bought the boat."

Turns out Tagliabue didn't although he did

go shopping.

Tagliabue's first phone call with the news went to Pittsburgh's Dan Rooney, the NFL's senior owner. The other owners learned of it by e-mail.

"We've got the best labor deal in sports. We've got the best league. He's been our leader. The whole way he's done this has been wonderful," Rooney told The Associated Press.

Tagliabue will stay on with the NFL as a senior executive and a consultant through 2008, part of the contract extension he signed last July.

His term will be remembered most for labor peace following strikes in 1982 and 1987. His close relationship with Upshaw finally led to a long-term agreement after five years without a contract.

But the bargaining was hard this time, with three straight deadline extensions needed. The agreement avoided the prospect of entering free agency this year with the possibility of an uncapped year in 2007.

Soriano refuses to switch to the outfield

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The lineup said Alfonso Soriano was playing left field.

He won't.

Soriano refused to play the outfield for the Washington Nationals in what was supposed to be his spring training debut Monday night, and general manager Jim Bowden said his biggest off-season acquisition could go on the disqualified list if he doesn't agree to switch positions this week.

"The player refused to take the field, which we believe is a violation of his contract," Bowden said in Yera, Fla.

Soriano, a four-time All-Star second baseman, was acquired from Texas in a December trade. He was listed as batting leadoff and playing left field on a lineup sheet posted in the Nationals' clubhouse before Monday night's 11-5 loss to the Los Angeles Dodgers.

But when the Nationals took the field in the top of the first, Soriano wasn't out there. With play just about to begin, left field was empty and nobody on the Nationals seemed to know where Soriano was.

Confused players and fans looked toward Washington's dugout. The only person to

"The player refused to take the field, which we believe is a violation of his contract."

JIM BOWDEN, TEXAS RANGERS GENERAL MANAGER

emerge, however, was Nationals manager Frank Robinson.

He approached plate umpire Mike Estabrook and made a defensive switch, moving Ryan Church from center field to left and putting Brandon Watson in center to replace Soriano in the lineup.

The Nationals already have an All-Star second baseman in Jose Vidro, so they told Soriano they want him to move to the outfield, and he indicated he doesn't want to do that. But Monday provided his most concrete — and visible — objection.

"We told him if we get to Thursday, and he refuses to play left field, we told him at that point we will request that the commissioner's office place him on the disqualified list, at that time — no pay, no service time," Bowden said.

"If he refuses to play and goes home, and the commissioner's office accepts our request to place him on the disqualified list, then at that point, if he were to sit out this year, he would not

be a free agent, he would stay our property because his service time would stay the same."

When Soriano first reported to camp last month, the question of whether he would accept the switch was left open until his return from the World Baseball Classic.

Soriano played for the Dominican Republic, which was eliminated in the tournament semifinals Saturday. He joined the Nationals on Monday and worked out with teammates in the afternoon, but wouldn't speak to reporters. He wasn't in the clubhouse after Monday night's game.

Soriano lost his arbitration case this winter and is due to be paid \$10 million this season, still a record for the highest salary awarded in arbitration.

Robinson sat down privately with Soriano for 20 minutes before the game to explain the team's position.

"If he's going to play here, he's going to have to be out in left field," Robinson said. "He said he's ready to play, he needs to play, he's ready for the season, and I penciled him in the lineup in left field."

Robinson said the meeting with Soriano was civil, but the player's position was clear.



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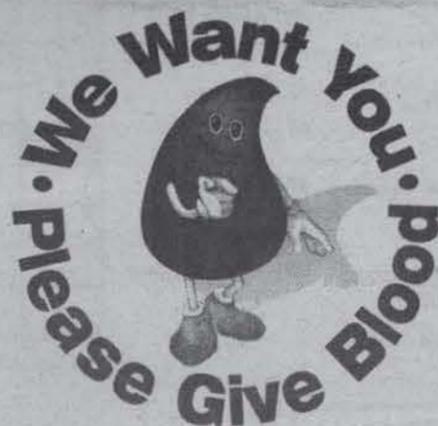
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DELAY:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

Wade didn't allow a run in 8 1/3 innings in Florida, while Manns pitched a career-high five innings (one run allowed) in the victory over Vermont on Saturday afternoon.

Schmitz said the plan will be to continue to start Manns and use

Wade in relief.

"Our pitchers are starting to find their roles," Schmitz said. "We feel good about all of them."

If today's game against Blackburn gets snowed or rained out, the Panthers will have only one game remaining before Ohio Valley Conference play.

Eastern will travel to Northern Illinois on Wednesday.

"Missing games is never a good thing," Schmitz said. "With the continuity we built on the trip, we want to stay as sharp as possible."

Schmitz said the goal for the spring break trip was for the Panthers to come together and develop as a team.

"I felt we came together during the trip," Schmitz said. "There's no question that winning helps."

WOIKE:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

However, upsets still happen. Eastern assistant coach Michael Lewis knows this too well. As a guard for Indiana, Lewis played on teams that qualified for the NCAA tournament each year between 1997 and 2000.

During his senior year, Lewis experienced an improbable upset first hand.

"We got bit by the mid-major bug and got beat by Pepperdine."

The sixth-seeded Hoosiers lost 77-57, and because of his experience, Lewis knows how upsets can happen.

It's combination of parity and cockiness — with the higher-seeded

teams sometimes looking past their early opponents. But that's not the only reason upsets are happening. Lower seeds are getting better.

"They've really closed the gap," Lewis said. "I think it's been going on for several years."

But is the OVC really any closer to pulling off big upsets?

No. The MVC has committed energy and resources to becoming a basketball conference. MVC schools get better players, have better facilities and win bigger games.

The OVC came close to pulling off an upset Friday in Dayton, but it is years away from truly making an impact in the NCAA Tournament.

But the time is right to make that move.

With the best collegiate talent heading for the big contracts and barrage of groupies in the NBA, mid-majors are taking advantage.

Lewis said teams like Wichita State and Bradley have developed their talent over time, and the experience has paid off against freshmen-dominated teams like Kansas.

It has to start somewhere, and Murray State took a step toward it happening in the OVC.

Trouble is, there's still a long way to go.

Dan Woike is a senior journalism major. E-mail him at woikedad@gmail.com.

NATIONALS:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

Perz (17-14) lost both of his matches in his debut at nationals, beginning with a first round 10-2 major decision to No. 8 Eric Bradley from Penn State.

He then lost his first match in the 184-pound wrestlebacks to No. 9 Raymond Jordan from Missouri by a 7-1 decision.

It was the second time this year that Perz lost to Jordan. On Jan. 7, Jordan beat Perz by a 5-0 decision at Missouri.

Perz enjoyed his first experience at nationals but made sure not to be star struck.

"I tried not to think of the crowd when I was warming up in front of 15,000-16,000 people, that was crazy," he said. "I thought I did pretty good for my first time and now I know what it takes to beat the best and make it to the third day and be an All-American."

McCausland knows that for a first-time participant, wrestling in the national spotlight could be an intimidating experience.

"For a sophomore to have that experience is immeasurable," he

said. "I think Ken will tell him that it is a lot to take in, wrestling in the arena with 15,000 people in the crowd."

Eastern finished the tournament in a five-way tie for 49th place with a team score of 4. Oklahoma State won the tournament with a score of 122.5.

Wrestling Results

174- Kenny Robertson (Jr.) 3-2

- ◆ W- No. 10-Gabriel Dretsches, Minnesota—Dec., 3-2
- ◆ L- No. 7-Kenneth Cook, UC-Davis—Dec., 4-6
- ◆ W- Joseph Lowe, UNC-Greensboro—MD, 10-0
- ◆ W- Nicholas Hernandez, Cal Poly—MD, 10-1
- ◆ L- No. 8-Travis Frick, Lehigh—Dec., 5-6

184- Greg Perz (So.) 0-2

- ◆ L- No. 8-Eric Bradley, Penn State—MD, 2-10
- ◆ L- No. 9-Raymond Jordan, Missouri—Dec. 1-7



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SPORTS

TUESDAY, MARCH 21, 2006

Eastern Illinois University, Charleston

PANTHER SPORTS CALENDAR

TUESDAY	BASEBALL VS. BLACKBURN COLLEGE	2 p.m.
WEDNESDAY	BASEBALL AT NORTHERN ILLINOIS	2 p.m.
	SOFTBALL AT INDIANA STATE (DH)	1 p.m.
	MEN'S TENNIS AT INDIANA STATE	3 p.m.
SATURDAY	WOMEN'S GOLF AT SALUKI INVITATIONAL (THRU 3/27)	All Day



FROM LEFT FIELD
DAN WOIKE
SPORTS REPORTER

Mid-majors give OVC some hope

It was a pretty good week for the Missouri Valley Conference.

The MVC sent four teams to the 65-team NCAA Tournament field; two of them (Bradley and Wichita State) survived the first two rounds and in the Sweet 16.

With the two MVC teams and George Mason from the Colonial Athletic Association taking the spots in the Sweet 16 from powerhouses like Kansas and North Carolina, this has become the year of the mid-major.

But one team that could have been there with them was the Ohio Valley Conference's Murray State.

The No. 13-seeded OVC champs came up just short of pulling off a first-round shocker over fourth-seeded North Carolina, losing 69-65.

The Racers had a shot to take the lead with under 30 seconds left, but guard Trey Pearson's three-point try bounced off the rim.

While the OVC didn't get a taste of March Madness success, the Racers came pretty close.

OVC Commissioner John Steinbrecher was in Dayton, Ohio, to watch Murray State. He said the OVC representative in the NCAA Tournament did almost everything right.

"If you watched the Murray State game, we did everything we wanted to do but put in the last shot," Steinbrecher said. "I think our champion went in and competed very well."

"Murray State went into that game and competed very well and showed, clearly, that the top teams from this league can compete with the top teams from virtually any league you can pick."

The Racers certainly competed, just like Eastern Kentucky did in the first round of the 2005 NCAA Tournament when the Colonels lost 72-64 to Kentucky.

But is the league ready to elevate itself to MVC-status?

"We're at that point," Steinbrecher said. "There's probably no bigger thing we can do to elevate the conference's profile than to go into the NCAA Tournament and pick up some wins."

But winning in the tournament isn't easy, especially when you're under-manned. The OVC is winless in its last 18 Tournament trips.

SEE WOIKE PAGE 10

WRESTLING

Robertson wins three at nationals

Sophomore Perz struggles with 0-2 tourney record

BY PATRICK VITT
STAFF REPORTER

For two underclassmen, the experience of being in the national tournament will serve as motivation for next year.

Junior 174-pounder Kenny Robertson finished 3-2, and was one loss away from competing for eighth place while sophomore Greg Perz ended his first trip to nationals winless in two matches.

This was Robertson's second time qualifying for nationals after he finished second at last year's West Regional and finished nationals with a 1-2 record.

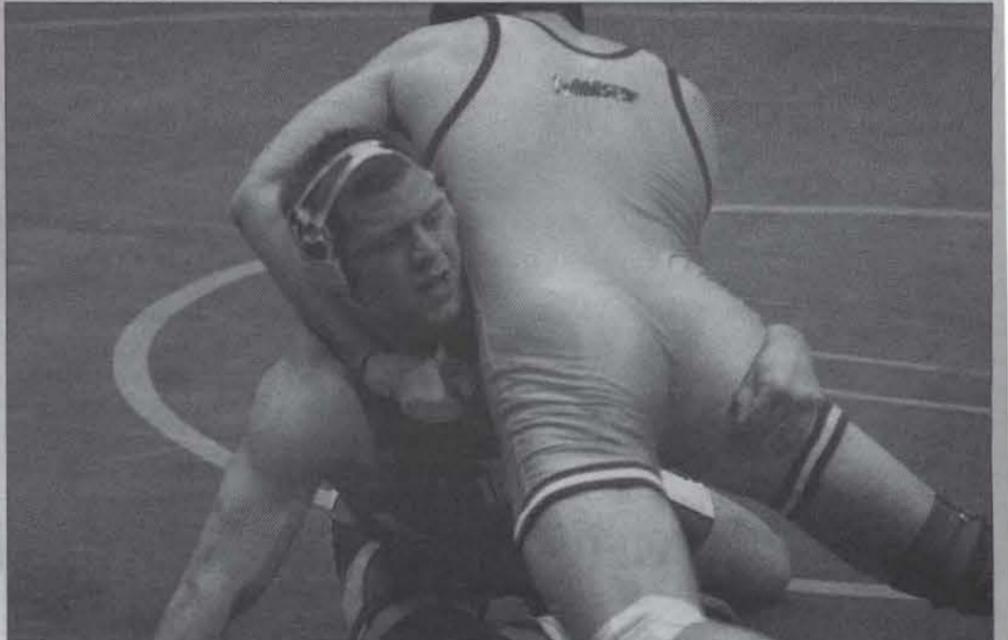
"This year I was more loose, trying to have fun at the tournament and not take it too seriously," he said.

Robertson (28-9) had three of his five matches against top ten wrestlers. His first round upset was a 3-2 decision over No. 10 Gabriel Dretsch from Minnesota.

His only losses of the tournament came against No. 7 Kenneth Cook from the University of California-Davis, which sent him to wrestleback bracket, and No. 8 Travis Frick from Lehigh, who went on to finish in sixth place.

If a wrestler loses a match, they are sent to the wrestleback bracket where they compete for third through eighth place. After losing in the wrestlebacks they are finished in the tournament.

Eastern head coach Ralph McCausland realizes how close Robertson came to being on the



ERIC HILTNER/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Junior 174 lb. wrestler Kenny Robertson finished 3-2 at the NCAA national wrestling tournament in Oklahoma City last weekend. Robertson ended the season 28-9.

trophy stand.

"Kenny came within two points of being an All-American," he said. "Frick was a two-time All-American and Kenny was going with him, wearing him down."

"What a great collegiate experience, this is the ultimate stage for our sport and for Ken to be that close was amazing."

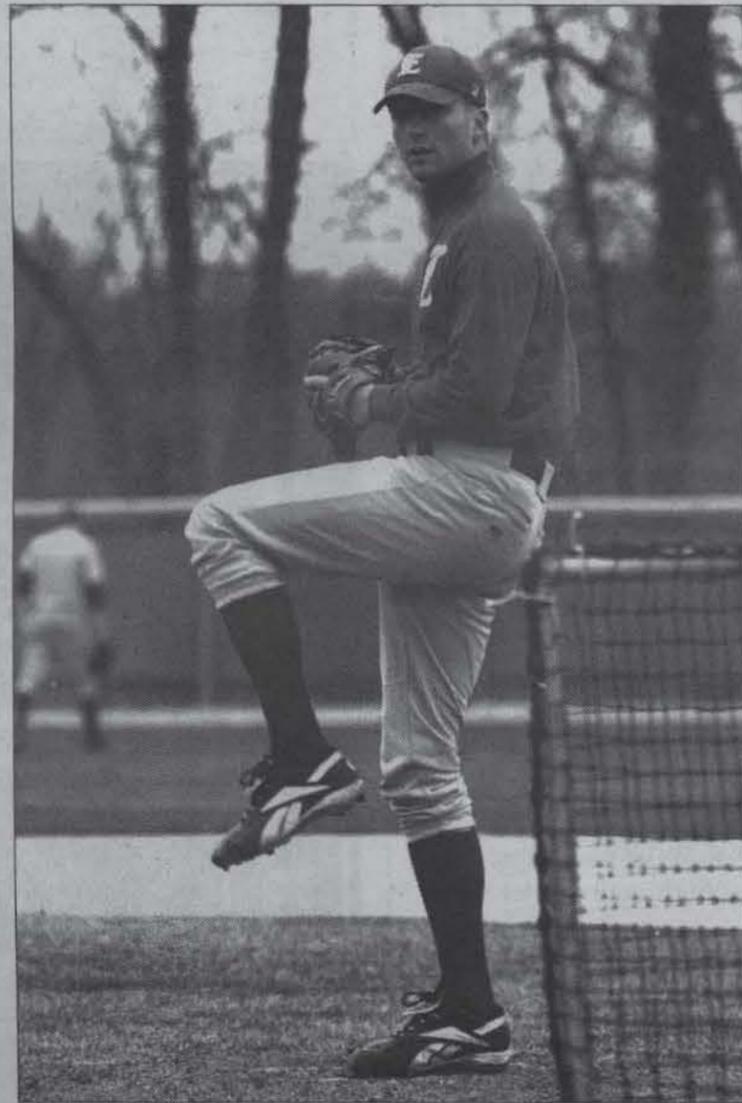
SEE NATIONALS PAGE 10

BASEBALL

Eastern wins six out of eight over spring break

But the team's home opener could be delayed once again

BY MARC CORRENTI
STAFF REPORTER



JOHN BAILEY/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Senior pitcher Kenny Firlit throws during Monday afternoon's batting practice. Eastern's next game is at home against Blackburn College, which may be postponed because of weather.

Although the Eastern baseball team won six of eight games during its Spring Break Tournament, the Panthers might go 0-for-2 in home openers.

"We can't get a break," Eastern baseball coach Jim Schmitz said.

The Panthers were originally going to open their home slate with a game on March 8 against Quincy, which was rained out.

Eastern was to get another shot at opening the home season today, but with snow and rain in the forecast, it's unlikely the Panthers will be able to play against Division III Blackburn College.

With the likely off-day coming, the Panthers had a chance to take in the positives from a strong showing in Bradenton, Fla.

In the eight-game trip, the Panthers averaged 7.2 runs per game. In the first seven games of the season, Eastern (7-8) averaged 2.2 runs per game.

A lot of the credit could go to the hot-hitting streaks of freshman centerfielder Brett Nommensen and junior first baseman Erik Huber. The two combined for 28 hits in 64 at-bats in Florida.

Schmitz deflects most of the

"Our pitchers are starting to find their roles. We feel good about all of them."

JIM SCHMITZ, HEAD COACH

credit to hitting coach Sean Lyons and for Schmitz's ability to stay out of the other coach's business.

"We made a decision after the Kansas State trip that I was going to let my assistants do their job and I was going to keep my nose out of (their duties)," Schmitz said. "It seems to be working."

Schmitz also said that Eastern hitters are starting to go with the pitch rather than try to pull a pitch for a home run.

"Earlier in the season," Schmitz said, "there were too many situations where we tried to pull every pitch we saw. Now, we're starting to go with the pitch and the numbers show it."

The Panthers also got plenty of help from their youthful pitching staff, namely freshman Jake Wade and sophomore Mike Manns.

SEE DELAY PAGE 11