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"TELL THE TRUTH AND DON'T BE AFRAID" WWW.DENNEWS.COM

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY, CHARLESTON

The DAILY EASTERN NEWS

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23, 2009 VOL. 93 | ISSUE 83

CAMPUS | ACADEMICS

KAROLINA STRACK | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Kevin Geanes, a senior geography and communications major, displays a funnel that is used to measure the amount of daily precipitation at Eastern's weather station located east of Greek Court. A number of students work with Cameron Douglas Craig to gather weather information at the station daily; Geanes has worked for WEIU as a weather reporter for over two years.

Learning a 128-year-old tradition

Professors, students collect information for the National Weather Service

By FRANK BENIK
Staff Reporter

Waking up at 8 a.m. two or three times a week is a common occurrence for Eastern students, but waking up that early 7 days a week is a regularity for Cameron Douglas Craig and some of his students in documenting weather in Charleston.

The geology and geography department faculty member and his students have taken weather readings every morning for the past year in order to collect important data for the National Weather Service.

The data collected comes from a 128-year-old historical climate station that uses analog equipment to record temperature readings and precipitation accumulation.

This data is then used to create average temperature and precipitation models of the Charleston area, and to determine U.S. climate trends.

While Craig and his students also have digital equipment that measures wind as well as temperature and precipitation, it is in the old analog station where the most reliable and accurate information comes from.

Craig recalled an incident when he ran the analog station at Indiana State University where accumulated bird droppings were enough to throw off the digital precipitation readings by over 17 inches.

» SEE **TRADITION,** PAGE **5**

UNIVERSITY | MEETING

6 percent housing, dining rates up for vote

New fire system for Stevenson also up for BOT approval

By KRYSTAL MOYA
Administration Editor

The Board of Trustees will vote to raise housing and dining rates for the 2009-2010 school year at today's meeting.

The board will also vote to approve bids for a fire safety system in Stevenson Hall.

"The housing rates will be presented to the board for a proposed increase of about 6 percent," said Jill Nilsen, vice president for external relations. "A rise is typical of each new school year."

> **"The housing rates will be presented to the board for a proposed increase of about 6 percent. A rise is typical of each new school year."**
>
> **— Jill Nilsen, vice president for external relations**

Residents of residence halls, Greek Court and University Apartments will see increases if the plan is approved by the board.

The 7-meal plan would increase $217, the 10-meal plan would increase $227, the 12-meal plan would increase $235, while 15-meal plan would increase $245.

The nine-and-a-half-month lease at University Apartments would increase $118 for one and half rooms, $124 for two rooms and $110 for super efficiency.

No increase to University Court rates will be proposed.

Over the summer options and special room options, such as double rooms as singles and triple rooms as singles, will also face increases.

Summer options range from increases of $38 to $96.

Special room options will increase $50.

The Board of Trustees will also approve the purchase of a sprinkler system and fire alarm upgrade for Stevenson Hall.

The cost of the project is over $1.2 million but includes over $100,000 for contingency.

"This is part of our ongoing efforts to provide sprinklers and fire safety in all the residence halls," Nilsen said.

» SEE **RATES,** PAGE **5**

FINANCE | AID

Students urged to file early for FAFSA

By KRYSTAL MOYA
Administration Editor

As the economic recession continues, both federal cutbacks and increased student reliance for aid threaten the status of financial aid for the 2009-2010 school year.

Eastern students are being urged by the Office of Financial Aid to apply early to better their chances at receiving aid.

» SEE **FAFSA,** PAGE **5**

EIU WEATHER

FRIDAY

42°|17°
Partly Cloudy
SW 10-15/25

SATURDAY
21°|12°

SUNDAY
22°|16°

WEATHER BRIEF

This morning, rain will move into the area and expect it to last through tomorrow morning. The daytime high will be in the low 60s. Tonight the low will get down into the high 50s.

For current conditions visit EIU WeatherCenter at *www.eiu.edu/~weather*

More than a building

KAROLINA STRACK|THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Students walk through the main hallway in Doudna as early afternoon light pours in through the glass walls and bounces off mirrors. Apart from becoming a shortcut through campus the building has become popular with students that gather between classes to catch up on homework, chat with their friends or even squeeze in a quick nap on the couches in the red room downstairs.

CAMPUS | PHOTO OF THE DAY

Akon claims he does not know his true age

The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Even though Akon has a birth certificate, he said his age is still a mystery – and he'd rather keep it that way.

"All it's going to do is depress me," he told *The Associated Press* in a recent interview. "I don't want to know I'm getting older. Then I'll start to think about getting check-ups and insurance. I don't want that."

Numerous reports have put his age between 25 to 35 years old. In 2006, he gave his age as 25. But now, he claims his birth certificate shows he was born on April 16, 1977, which would make him 31.

Some have accused Akon of trying to push back his age. But the singer, who was born in the United States but spent his early life in Senegal, where his family is from, said he never knew it.

"In Africa ... age is not important over there. They don't care. People only focus on it here (America) and in Europe," Akon said.

Dillon pleads not guilty to speeding in Vermont

CHELSEA, Vt. — Matt Dillon pleaded not guilty Wednesday to a Dec. 30 speeding charge in which police said they spotted the actor doing 106 miles per hour on an interstate highway.

Dillon's lawyer, Mark Kaplan of Burlington, entered the plea on behalf of the 44-year-old actor. Kaplan said there was no reason for Dillon to attend the arraignment, and he hoped to resolve the case without going to trial.

"He lives in New York. As you can see from today's proceedings it's a 2-minute deal, so it's really not worth the trip for him to come up here when I can take care of it," Kaplan said after the hearing.

In an affidavit filed with the Vermont District Court in Chelsea, a state trooper said Dillon was apologetic and cooperative.

Because Dillon was allegedly traveling more than 30 mph over the posted 65-mph speed limit on the interstate, he was charged with criminal negligent operation.

WHAT THE... | WEIRD, UNEXPECTED, BIZARRE NEWS

Campus police arrest student during snowball fight

The Associated Press

GREENVILLE, N.C. — Authorities at a North Carolina college said a huge snowball fight got out of control, forcing campus police to use pepper spray on some students to contain the rowdy crowd.

Police were called to a dormitory at East Carolina University three times Tuesday as hundreds of students pelted each other with snow, *The Daily Reflector* of Greenville reported.

The college is in a part of the state which doesn't get snow often, but a rare storm dropped several inches on campus that day. Police said some students were getting too aggressive and an officer used pepper spray on a group that rushed officers trying to make an arrest.

Junior Brandon Davis said "it all started in good nature, but then people were throwing them as hard as they could at each other." Junior Matt Lunchick said an officer chased and arrested a student after being hit in the back with a snowball.

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Contact any of the above staff members you believe your information is relevant to at their provided e-mail address.
You may also call 581-7942 or visit the student publications newsroom at 1811 Buzzard Hall.

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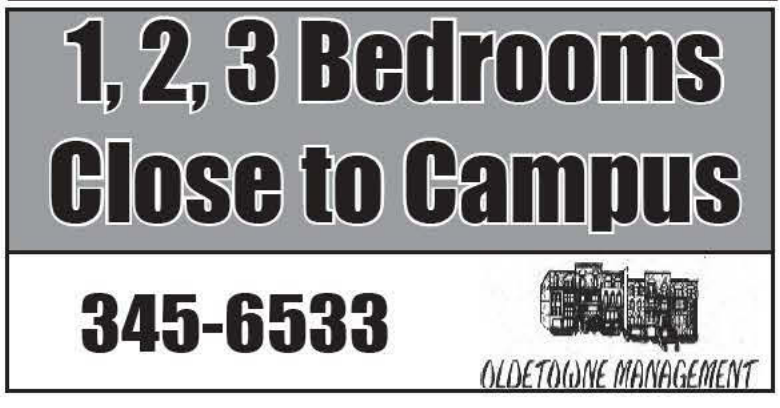

LOCAL | PROGRAMS

Students volunteer to tutor kids

Teachers hopes reading scores in elementary students will increase

By HEATHER HOLM
Activities Editor

ERIN MATHENY | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS
Jefferson Elementary School Counselor Roxanne Cornebise speaks to freshman science education major Kiley Sturn who attended the iSharpen informational meeting Thursday afternoon in the Buzzard Hall Auditorium. iSharpen is a tutoring program that pairs university and elementary students.

The student becomes the teacher.

Eastern student volunteers have the opportunity to tutor children at Jefferson Elementary School.

The after-school tutoring program, titled iSharpen, takes place on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 3:05 to 4:05 p.m. in the library of Jefferson.

Jill Lyons, literary coach at Jefferson, said about 60 children are usually tutored by about 20 to 30 volunteers each time.

Lyons, who works with staff and teachers on reading and writing instructions, identifies the children who need extra help.

"We look at students' scores and test assessments," Lyons said. "Kids who are struggling in basic math and reading skills are helped through our after-school tutoring program."

Jefferson then places those children with volunteers, and the school monitors the children's progress.

Kiran Padmaraju, education professor at Eastern, said the program has been around for at least eight to nine years.

"The volunteers are assigned to fourth, fifth and sixth grade students at Jefferson," Padmaraju said. "Volunteers help with reading skills, math skills, educational games and ISAT tests."

Padmaraju said both the volunteers and the school personnel have both had positive feedback from the program.

"The school monitors the progress, and the children make good progress when they are involved in this program," Padmaraju said.

A reading assessment is handed out to the Jefferson students at the beginning of a semester and then the student retakes the assessment at the end of the semester to see if the volunteers have made progress with them over the semester.

In the first week of tutoring, volunteers are given some type of training, Padmaraju said.

In this training, how to talk to the Jefferson students, and what materials are available for the volunteers and the elementary students are discussed.

"How to work in paired reading groups is an example of what Eastern students are trained to do," Padmaraju said. "It depends on what the school wants to focus on each semester."

Students should volunteer on a regular basis, such as coming on a certain weekday every week. Volunteers shouldn't attend one day here and another day there.

"This is to help (the volunteers) become more comfortable with the Jefferson students and have the Jefferson students become more comfortable with (the Eastern students)," Padmaraju said.

Tutoring in the after-school program can provide experience for education majors.

"I am interested in this program because it is good for me to have involvement with children," said Jessie Gillen, a freshman elementary education major.

Abby Tehner, a senior elementary education major, also thought it would be a good thing because of her major.

Roxanne Cornebise, school counselor for Jefferson, said sometimes the program gives some elementary school children a reason to come to school.

A variety of Eastern students have participated in the program.

"Several volunteers are people from the College of Education, sororities and fraternities and the Black Student Union," Lyons said.

One does not have to be an education major to participate.

"We are also looking for people who can multi-task," Cornebise said. "This would also be good for Eastern students who want to network and build their portfolio."

Lyons said Jefferson relies heavily on all of the volunteers at Eastern.

"They are the heartbeat of the program," Lyons said. "We do it three nights a week and we have 20-30 volunteers a night. We have a one to three ratios and have had such great response from many of the volunteers."

Heather Holm can be reached at 581-7942 or at haholm@eiu.edu.

CAMPUS | SENATE

Eastern to host IBHE-SAC conference

Student Senate members will discuss tuition costs with board

By BOB BAJEK
Student Government Editor

Student Government will host the Illinois Board of Higher Education Student Advisory Committee this Saturday and Sunday on campus for the first time since 2005.

The committee's main function is to lobby its concerns to the Illinois Board of Higher Education, said Eric Wilber, student executive vice president. During the two-day conference, the committee will discuss various topics to lobby for in the future.

Student Body President Levi Bulgar said 33 delegates from colleges and universities throughout Illinois will attend this weekend's conference.

Bulgar and Wilber are Eastern's delegates.

"We are ready to host," Bulgar said.

Other Student Senate members are also welcome to attend, Bulgar said.

The delegates will stay at Mattoon's Holiday Inn Express. Bulgar printed directions from the hotel to Eastern for the representatives and finalized catering on Wednesday.

The student committee will talk about issues during the conference that coincide with IBHE's agenda.

One issue to be discussed during the conference is the cost for students to pay tuition, fees and textbooks more easily.

"We talk a lot on affordability and how, as students, we could put pressure on our institutions to make sure that everyone could have access," Wilber said. "And we try to push for expanding college budgets from the state, but that hasn't happened for a few years."

With the state possibly asking universities to give back 2.5 percent of their endowments to help soften the state budget shortfall this year, Wilber said budgetary lobbying would be harder.

Bulgar said another concern for the committee is institutional expenditures.

For example, students at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale are worried about helping fund a new football stadium, the basketball arena's renovation and the relocation of the tennis courts through increased tuition and fees as a major source of funding, Bulgar said.

According to the SIUC Board of Trustee minutes from Sept. 11, the projected cost for this construction will be $83 million.

Saluki students are questioning why Southern's need for academic structural renovations is being ignored, Bulgar said.

"We are going to talk about how universities in Illinois prioritize their internal funding," he said. "We need to go back to academics as the number one priority for renovating older academic buildings or putting money into programs."

As of Jan. 1, higher education institutions are required to have new guidelines with regard to campus safety.

This piece of legislation, Bulgar said, came from the governor's task force on Campus Safety and Mental Health, which Bulgar was a member of in 2008.

"These standards are having a plan for hazardous situations with messaging systems or some form of active communication from administration to faculty and students for any type of emergency," Bulgar said. "Whether it be weather related or an active shooter."

Bulgar said a conference for the Campus Safety Enhancement Act is at 9 a.m. today at Malcolm X College in Chicago. Some delegates from the IBHE Student Advisory Committee will attend.

Bulgar will also talk about campus safety during the conference.

The cost of the event is $1,000, which is $300 to $400 less than the initial assessment, Bulgar said. Expenses included $850 for catering, $50 to $60 for using the Doudna Fine Arts Center and $50 to $100 for entertainment.

The university covered all costs for the conference as announced at the Student Senate meeting on Jan. 14.

In years past, two Eastern delegates would have cost $500 to travel to the conference.

"The benefit of hosting this is the greater opportunity to meet other student government members from across the state and showcase Eastern," Wilber said.

Bob Bajek can be reached at 581-7942 or at rtbajek@eiu.edu.

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Apportionment Board cancels meeting

The Apportionment Board's meeting scheduled for Thursday night was canceled.

The University Board planned on asking AB for $31,000 for three different lectures at the meeting.

Honors fraternity seeks student involvement

Phi Sigma Pi is looking for Eastern students who want to be a part of social events, leadership roles and scholarship events.

Informational meetings about the co-ed national honors fraternity will be held at 4:45 p.m. Jan. 26 in Lumpkin Auditorium and at 6:15 p.m. Jan. 27 in Room 2153 of the Physical Science Building.

For more information, contact jmcosme@eiu.edu.

Heritage Banquet tickets on sale now

Tickets can be purchased at the Gateway Office, 2170 Blair Hall, until noon on Feb. 4. Adult tickets are $15, and student tickets are $8.

The African-American Heritage Banquet will begin with a 5 p.m. social Friday, Feb. 6, in the Grand Ballroom, Martin Luther King Jr. Union and will feature a one-man play with a question-and-answer session by Carl Ray.

Hearing testing now available

The Department of Communication Disorders and Sciences at Eastern is offering diagnostic hearing testing for individuals concerned about possible hearing loss, and for individuals wanting a screening evaluation or annual check-up.

The cost for a hearing test is $35 for the general public or free for Eastern students.

Tests are being offered on Fridays throughout the Spring 2009 semester.

To register, call 581-2712 or e-mail Linda Huddlestun at ldhuddlestun@eiu.edu.

— Compiled by Associate News Editor Emily Zulz

BLOTTER

Anne Hennigan, 19, of Naperville, was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol with a blood alcohol content of more than 0.08, obstructing justice and driving with a suspended license after a 2:58 a.m. Jan. 17 arrest at the 1600 block of Fourth Street, University Police Department said.

A silver Pontiac was reported damaged on Jan. 18 while parked at Greek Court, police said.

COMMENTS, CORRECTIONS, OR EVENTS
To report any errors, local events or general suggestions for future editions please contact our Editor in Chief, **Kristina Peters**, via:
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JAMES STEWART

'Sea kittens' still delicious

I love cats. I really love cats. It's almost unnatural. If I could afford to, I would already, at 21, be a creepy cat guy; you know, that guy who has 25 cats and calls them all their names, both first and last, and converses with them regularly.

They're just so cute and furry, but not obnoxious like puppies. The only other animal that comes close in level of adorable is a ferret, and they generally smell funny.

If only I didn't just barely break even at the end of the month after rent and my utilities, my dream of cat ownership could be realized.

If PETA, the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, has their way, though, I may be able to own a kitten without the hassle of litter box maintenance and clawed furniture. PETA is trying to change the word "fish" into "sea kitten" in an effort to save fish from the carnivorous public.

Now, while I enjoy the taste of murder, I think animals should be treated humanely before they're turned into delicious Taylor Hall chicken strips.

But really, PETA? Is there really an issue of fish being mistreated? Are fish being denied water? Are they being under or overfed? Are they being chained up so they can't exercise?

According to the PETA website, peta.org, they are trying to change the "slimy" image of fish into something cuddlier. Personally, I don't want my fish to be cuddly. I want my fish grilled, thank you. If not grilled, I want my fish in a glass box.

In the "South Park" episode "Fun with Veal," when the boys fought to change the word "veal" to "tortured baby cow," their campaign made sense. Those animals were being mistreated.

The boys saw this and fought for humane treatment of the calves. That made sense. I don't see how changing the word "fish" into "sea kitten" will change anything. People will still order fish in restaurants. Salmon will still taste wonderful on the grill.

Which raises another question: Will salmon be salmonkitten? Kittensalmon? Will fully-grown salmon be called catmon? What about tilapia? Tilapiakitty? Tilacat?

This whole thing seems like it was a monumental inside joke with a bunch of PETA members that got way out of hand. In fact, that's what I thought it was until I actually went to PETA's website and saw they are indeed serious about this.

The unintended effect, though, may be that people are suddenly hungry for kitten meat, which is not cool at all. Kittens are friends, not food.

Fish, however, are food. They are delicious, flaky food which can be paired wonderfully with a white wine and rice. Or can be battered and fried. Or they can be baked and flaked and used as a light and flavorful alternative for beef in a taco.

Okay, now I'm hungry for sea kitten. It's time for a run to County Market.

James Stewart is a junior English major. He can be reached at 581-7942 or at DENopinions@gmail.com.

Drawn to Amuse | Ian Winston

STAFF EDITORIAL

Open area should be used for Bio Building renovations

The bright white snow glistens on the ground as ice on the trees hangs perilously overhead, bending and reflecting sunlight shining down through the branches.

Every step you take creates a loud "crunch" as you walk between the Tarble Arts Center and Buzzard Hall as the cold air nips at your nose.

You round the corner near the smokers' bench and are greeted by an eyesore standing just a few yards away.

With its chain-link fence and its desolate, concrete interior, it looks like a prison courtyard.

The empty space between Klehm Hall and the Biological Sciences Building is an eyesore on an otherwise gorgeous campus.

For years, chain-link fences wreaked havoc on the North Quad, making some sidewalks inaccessible and forcing some students to walk through mud.

Once construction on the Doudna Fine Arts Center was completed, most of the fences were removed, allowing clearer paths for pedestrian traffic.

However, one set of fences was curiously left standing.

What was once a parking lot now looks like a small wasteland, remnants of the construction that choked Eastern thoroughfare for nearly five years.

In Thursday's edition of *The Daily Eastern News*, it was reported that Stephen Shrake, associate director of facilities planning and management, said the space would be used as part of an extensive remodeling of the Biological Sciences Building.

It's about time. Biological Sciences has been in desperate need of remodeling.

Temperatures in the building have been known to wreak havoc with faculty and students, from water freezing overnight in beakers to sweltering summer heat pushing faculty members to desperation.

"With its chain-link fence and its desolate, concrete interior, it looks like a prison courtyard."

On dennews.com, an anonymous faculty member expressed outrage at the apparent lack of motivation to renovate the Biological Sciences building, saying the project has been "buried" underneath a number of other projects that have been proposed or completed, including Doudna, Textbook Rental and the new power plant.

It seems as though the source of outrage for faculty members is the apparent attitude expressed by the administration, as if they have other priorities ahead of Biological Sciences.

If this is the case, the administration needs to fairly redistribute its budget as to benefit departments that need it most, then focus on the university as a whole.

That way, Eastern could allocate enough funds to renovate the Biological Sciences Building and would therefore allocate the proper funding needed to maintain a building that is actually conducive to learning and studying biological sciences.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The editorial is the majority opinion of *The DEN* editorial board. Reach the opinions editor at: **DENopinions@gmail.com.**

OTHER VIEWS ON THE NEWS

LIBERAL ARTS PROGRAMS DON'T DESERVE REPUTATIONS

SYRACUSE — Since high school I have been told by teachers, friends and respected elders that a liberal arts education was the best education I could possibly get in college. According to them, the liberal arts experience would make me intellectually well-rounded, transform me into a good citizen, and prepare me for a rewarding career.

My eyes would open to the beauties of the world as I submerged myself in science, history and culture. I'd develop a love for learning. I'd be drowning in job offers with high salaries and great benefits months before graduation.

I was painted this incredible picture of the liberal arts education. Nothing seemed more perfect. I bought it.

Now a sophomore here at Syracuse University, I've experienced firsthand the real liberal arts education. Surprisingly enough, it bears no resemblance to the one described by my high school teachers and other adults.

Here's a quick summary of what I've learned during my three semesters of liberal arts coursework at SU:

1. Astronomy 101: Pluto is no longer a planet.
2. French 201: "Grapefruit" in French is "le pamplemousse."
3. Astronomy 104: Pluto is still no longer a planet, and Earth has a density of 5.59 gm/cm².
4. Fine Arts 195: Presto is faster than allegro, which is faster than adagio.

Katie Lewinski
Daily Orange

Letters to the editor can be submitted at any time on any topic to the Opinions Editor to be published in *The Daily Eastern News*.

The DEN's policy is to run all letters that are not libelous or potentially harmful. They must be less than 250 words.

Letters to the editor can be brought in with identification to *The DEN* at 1811 Buzzard Hall.

Letters may also be submitted electronically from the author's EIU e-mail address to DENopinions@gmail.com.

CAMPUS | EQUIPMENT

Big Ass Fan installed in Rec Center

Fan expected to cut energy costs, cool building

By MELISSA STRUTEVANT
Staff Reporter

A Big Ass Fan was installed in the Campus Recreation Center to help the circulation of the air.

Big Ass Fan is not only an expression to describe the fan, but the name of the company that manufactures the fans.

The new fan's blades measure 11.5 feet each. Ken Baker, the director of campus recreation, said Dan Nadler, vice president for Student Affairs, noticed a large fan when at Arkansas University.

Baker said that a fan was necessary because the technology available in the Rec is from 1991.

The hot air would make the area so hot that in the winter the doors would have to be open to let the cold air in.

The fan can lower utilities by 25 percent and make the Rec six to 12 degrees cooler, Baker said.

A similar fan is in Lambeau Field, in Green Bay, Wisc., and in the University of Florida's Ben Hill Griffin Stadium, also know as "The Swamp."

"(The staff) just call it the B.A.F. Apparently the head of the company noticed that when people would look up and see their fan they would call it that, and that's how the name came to be."

— Ken Baker, director of campus recreation

Lisa Fresso, a sophomore nursing major, said she noticed a difference in the temperature while working out.

"It's just ridiculous," she said. "That's all I have to say. It's ridiculous."

Jessica Owen, a freshman nursing major, was enthusiastic about the new fan.

"I can tell that there is a big difference," Owen said. "It definitely makes the cardio area a lot cooler." Baker also commented on the name of the manufacturer of the fan.

"(The staff) just call it the B.A.F.," he said. "Apparently the head of the company noticed that when people would look up and see their fan they would call it that, and that's how the name came to be."

Melissa Sturtevant can be reached at 581-7942 or at denewsdesk@gmail.com.

» Tradition

FROM PAGE 1

Misreadings are not the only reason these older analog stations are much more valuable than their digital cousins.

They are low maintenance and do not require an annual roof top battery change, which makes them less expensive and more reliable, Craig said.

Geography major Cameron Hopman said he enjoys working at the station because it allows him to "interact with the science part of it, rather than just sit behind a desk."

"You're able to interact with these things, instead of going on weather.com to find out what the weather is going to be like today. You just go out there yourself, and it's kind of neat," Hopman said.

Since welcoming the historical station back to Eastern, they have not only helped the National Weather Service with the data they provide, but have ensured that the sacrifices made by their predecessor, Dalias Price, who single-handedly recorded the stations readings since the 1970s, were not for nothing.

"Without stations like this and data from them, we don't know what we can expect from the future," Craig said. "We don't understand what has happened in the past. Weather is exciting."

Frank Benik can be reached at 581-7942 or dennewsdesk@gmail.com.

» FAFSA

FROM PAGE 1

"Because of the economy, we can estimate that more students will be filing for federal and state aid," said Director of Financial Aid Jone Zieren. "This means that getting aid will be more competitive, especially those who apply for the state scholar program and the MAP Grant."

Zieren explained that both the state scholar program and MAP Grant have limited funds and have already reported an increase in applications for the 2009-2010 school year.

FAFSA applications began to be accepted Jan. 1.

"They are reporting that more students are filing and have warned that they may be forced to move the deadline for MAP Grant aid to applying before the end of June when it was July 26 last year," she said. "In my time here, I have never seen something end as early as June. That is what is so scary."

The state scholar program and the MAP Grant program are the areas losing the most aid, Zieren said, decreasing 6.4 percent between the fiscal year of 2007 and 2008.

This is countered by an increase in federal loans, which students borrowed collectively over $51.5 million, an increase of almost $1 million.

Zieren said the stat of the economy also threatens the Federal Work-Study program because of possible federal cuts.

The federal government supplies the university with funds to provide students with work-study.

However, if the economy continues to dip, the work-study program could be one of the areas to suffer.

"My suggestion is to file taxes early and apply by the end of February for the best chances of receiving aid."

— Jone Zieren, director of Financial Aid

Other federal programs at risk are the Federal Perkins Loan and Federal Supplementary Educational Opportunity Grants.

For fiscal year 2008, 80 percent of Eastern's enrollment was receiving aid at an average amount of $9,479.

This decreased .5 percent from the last fiscal year.

Numbers for the 2009 fiscal year cannot be estimated until the office receives notice of the amount of aid, which will be provided in late February.

The trend of decrease is expected to continue as FAFSA awards become more and more competitive, Zieren said.

"My suggestion is to file taxes early and apply by the end of February for the best chances of receiving aid," she said. "Also, any student should apply because you never know what the financial future holds. Even if you don't receive aid, your parent could lose their job, and you could qualify for special circumstance aid - but you have to apply first."

Krystal Moya can be reached at 581-7942 or at ksmoya@eiu.edu.

» Rates

FROM PAGE 1

The recommended vendors of the equipment are Femley-Dickerson Company of Bloomington, who will install the fire protection equipment.

They are also Bodine Electric of Decatur, Inc. of Champaign, for the electric aspect.

Each company was the lowest bidder.

"This is coming out of local funds from housing and dining, not out of appropriated funds," Nilsen said.

In other items, the board will discuss the approval of the revision of board bylaws, governing policies.

The board will also discuss regulations outlined in their September meeting.

The board will also discuss the movement of a meeting date set last year on April 20.

The date will be moved to April 27 to accommodate for the Association of Governing Boards conference, held from April 18-21, which the board must attend.

Krystal Moya can be reached at 581-7942 or at ksmoya@eiu.edu.

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CAMPUS | ORGANIZATIONS

Alternative spring break encouraged

Conference and Board of Trustees meeting discussions also presented

By HEATHER HOLM
Activities Editor

CODY RICH | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWs
Financial Advisory Board Committee Chair, Bradley Saribekian, looks over his notes during Thursday's RHA meeting in the Stevenson Hall lobby.

Residence Hall Association member, Jarrod Scherle, wants students to participate in an alternative spring break.

Scherle encouraged students to participate in alternative spring break at the RHA meeting Thursday night.

"It's put on by the student volunteer center in the Newman Center," said RHA member Brittany Kraft. "Students will spend the entire spring break on a service trip with many options to choose from."

Some of the places offered are camps in Alabama, Pennsylvania, Canada and Mexico.

Also, Mark Hudson, director of Housing and Dining, said that at the next Board of Trustees meeting, room and board rates would be reviewed.

"The Board of Trustees is the governing board of the institution (of Eastern)," Hudson said. "They will vote on recommendations that came from the bond revenue committee that went to President Perry."

Hudson said first the offer goes to Dan Nadler, vice president of student affairs, then to President Bill Perry and voted on at the Board of Trustees meeting on whether or not it should be enacted.

The Board of Trustees meeting will be next Tuesday at 4 p.m.

Furthermore, the Illinois Residence Hall Association conference will be Feb. 13 to 15.

"I am the liaison between the state and regional (RHA) organizations," said Allison Burge, national communication coordinator/Illinois communication coordinator. "Illinois Residence Hall Association is the name of our state organization. It is a huge networking conference and we pick a team of delegates to go."

This year, IRHA will take place at Illinois State University in Bloomington.

Also at the meeting, Student Senate Speaker Drew Griffin introduced himself to all RHA members.

He wants Student Government to become more involved with RHA this semester by becoming the voice that students in RHA have with Student Senate.

He said he wants to attend more RHA meetings in the future.

Heather Holm can be reached at 581-7942 or haholm@eiu.edu.

STATE | POLITICS

New reform panel told of rampant corruption

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Emotional warnings that corruption is rampant across Illinois s filled the air Thursday as Lt. Gov. Pat Quinn's new reform commission launched a 100-day search for ways to bring a new era of ethics to the deeply troubled state.

"I'm sickened by the level of corruption in state government – embarrassed by it," said commission member Lawrence Oliver, a former federal prosecutor who is now the chief of investigations at Boeing Corp.

Quinn has given the commission headed by former federal prosecutor Patrick M. Collins 100 days to come up with a blueprint for cleaning up Illinois government.

Quinn launched the commission in hopes it will produce a program to combat the wave of corruption that has made Illinois a national joke – a program he can push once Gov. Rod Blagojevich is removed from office and Quinn himself is the governor.

Blagojevich, facing federal fraud conspiracy and bribery charges, already has been impeached by the Illinois House. The trial expected to lead to his removal from the governor's office is scheduled to get under way Monday in the Illinois Senate.

"We want you to call it as you see it and let the chips fall where they may," Quinn told the commission in getting its first session under way. "Don't worry about political consequences and ramifications."

Witnesses and commission members alike warned that the state's lack of campaign contribution limits, government secrecy and power concentrated in the hands of a few legislative leaders have all contributed to some of the nation's worst corruption.

STATE BRIEFS

The Associated Press

Governor's attorney could sue to stop trial

CHICAGO — One of Gov. Rod Blagojevich's attorneys tells *The Associated Press* he could file a lawsuit within days in an attempt to stop the governor's impending impeachment trial.

Speaking outside his Chicago office alongside Blagojevich on Thursday, attorney Samuel E. Adam said rules for calling witnesses and mounting a defense at the state Senate trial are unfair. Blagojevich, meanwhile, reiterated that he has no intention of resigning.

Adam and Blagojevich's other attorneys said last week they would not participate in the impeachment trial, claiming biased trial rules meant certain conviction and removal from office for Blagojevich.

Adam said Thursday that any lawsuit he'd file also would claim the impeachment articles assume federal corruption allegations against Blagojevich are true.

Ex-governor nominated for Nobel Peace Prize

CHAMPAIGN — A University of Illinois professor believes George Ryan deserves the Nobel Peace Prize for his stand against the death penalty, even if the former Illinois governor is in prison.

Francis A. Boyle, a professor of International Law and Human Rights, has nominated Ryan for the 2009 prize.. Ryan declared a moratorium on executions in Illinois in 2000. He was convicted on corruption charges in 2007 and is serving six and a half years in federal prison.

Lawmaker wants safety study done on 2 bridges

EAST ST. LOUIS — A southern Illinois lawmaker wants the state's highway officials to improve safety on two narrow Mississippi River bridges linking St. Louis to Illinois. Republican state Rep. Ron Stephens' resolution Wednesday calls for the Illinois Department of Transportation to consider installing crossover barriers on the Martin Luther King and McKinley bridges.

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NATION | WHITE HOUSE

Obama: first president to use e-mail

Keeping his BlackBerry becomes personal win

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The first family settled into their new lives in the White House on Thursday as President Barack Obama won an important personal victory: He gets to keep his BlackBerry.

Obama will be the first sitting president to use e-mail, and he has been reluctant to part with his ever-present handheld device. Its use will be limited to keeping in touch with senior staff and personal friends, said White House spokesman Robert Gibbs.

"I've won the fight, but I don't think it's up and running," Obama said as he walked through the White House briefing room Thursday evening to meet reporters.

And though Gibbs said Obama had to ask at one point where to go next in his "pretty big house," he also said the president was enjoying living above the store and had time for dinner with the family on Wednesday.

"I think that obviously means a lot to him as a father," Gibbs said.

"I know the family's moved now three times in only a few weeks. But if you know them and you know their family, they've had a routine for a long time," Gibbs said. "This is a monumental testament to Michelle."

The monumental testament to her husband? He won the BlackBerry battle.

Gibbs joked that the development was "almost as exciting as the presidential dog." He poked fun at the White House press corps for stirring at the news during his briefing. "Let's make sure the pen still works."

But the BlackBerry victory is a big concession. Obama said earlier that he was working with the Secret Service, lawyers and White House staff to keep the device.

Gibbs said the president will limit its use, and security has been enhanced to ensure that Obama can communicate in a way that's protected. Only a small number of senior staff members and personal friends would be given his e-mail address.

Previous presidents chose not to use e-mail because it can be subpoenaed by Congress and courts and may be subject to public records laws.

And Gibbs said the presumption from the White House counsel's office is that Obama's e-mails will be subject to the Presidential Records Act, which requires the National Archives to preserve presidential records.

But he also said there are exceptions for "strictly personal communications."

Obama has often been seen checking his e-mail on his handheld device, even when it meant getting his hands slapped by Michelle during his daughter's soccer game.

Presidents George W. Bush and Bill Clinton didn't e-mail while in office, although Bush was an active e-mailer before becoming president.

That was before the era of the BlackBerry, a device now ubiquitous in Washington and precious to Obama.

When asked by *The Associated Press* about his worst habit during the campaign, Obama responded, "Checking my BlackBerry."

Gibbs said the president believes that using the device is an effective way to keep in touch with people without "getting stuck in a bubble."

He said Obama's e-mails to him personally have ranged "from something that's very strictly business to, why did my football team perform so miserably on either any given Saturday or any given Sunday?"

Those who have access to the president's e-mail will be briefed about appropriate communications, Gibbs said, without offering specifics.

NATION | ECONOMY

Google reports first-ever drop in quarterly profit

Internet search leader still doing stronger than analysts expected

The Associated Press

"Our business is quite healthy, especially given the economic climate."

— Eric Schmidt, Google chair and chief executive

SAN FRANCISCO — Google Inc. reported its first ever drop in quarterly profit Thursday, but the Internet search leader is still weathering the economic storm better than analysts anticipated.

The fourth-quarter results indicated Mountain View-based Google was able to rein in its free-spending ways enough to offset a slowdown in the online ad market that generates most of Google's revenue.

That contrasted with a missed forecast and 5,000 layoffs announced earlier in the day by rival Microsoft Corp.

Even so, there were signs the 13-month-old recession is starting to bear down on Google.

The downturn forced Google to write down $1.1 billion of the combined $1.5 billion that it has invested in two troubled companies, AOL and Clearwire Corp.

And Google is allowing its 20,222 employees to swap their outstanding stock options for new ones that will carry a lower exercise price, giving the workers a better chance of making money from the options.

The move was driven by a 47 percent drop in Google's stock price over the past year, leaving about 17,000 employees holding options that are "under water" and can't be cashed in now at a profit.

Although he hailed his company's strength in a decrepit economy, Google Chairman and Chief Executive Eric Schmidt signaled the challenges are becoming more daunting by describing the fourth quarter as "the easy part" and calling the upcoming months "uncharted territory."

"We don't know how long this period will last," Schmidt told analysts in a conference call. "We obviously hope it will be short. We're certainly prepared to get through this, no problem."

Google made $382 million, or $1.21 per share, in the three months ending in December.

That was a 68 percent drop from the same period in 2007. Google's profit had climbed by at least 17 percent in its previous 17 quarters as a public company.

If not for employee stock compensation costs and the charges on its deteriorating investments, Google said it would have made $5.10 per share.

That beat the average estimate of $4.95 per share among analysts polled by Thomson Reuters.

Revenue climbed 18 percent to $5.7 billion. That marked the first time Google's revenue growth had fallen below 30 percent from the previous year.

After subtracting commissions paid to its ad partners, Google's revenue stood at $4.22 billion – about $100 million above analyst estimates.

Google shares gained $5.24, or 1.7 percent, in extended trading after finishing the regular session at $306.50.

In a sign that skittish consumers are still coming to Google when they are in a mood to shop, the volume of clicks on Google's ads rose by 18 percent from the same time last year.

That's important to Google because the clicks trigger payments by advertisers.

"Our business is quite healthy, especially given the economic climate," Schmidt said.

Google is holding up far better than rivals like Yahoo, whose earnings have been sliding for much of the past three years, and AOL, which has become an albatross for its owner, Time Warner Inc.

AOL's woes are now hurting Google, which paid $1 billion for a 5 percent stake in AOL in 2005. The $726 million charge Google absorbed in the fourth-quarter suggests AOL's market value now ranges between $5 billion and $6 billion.

The estimate could be of particular interest to Yahoo, which has been mulling a possible merger with AOL.

WORLD BRIEFS

The Associated Press

Iraq cuts funds as oil prices plummet

BAGHDAD — Iraq's government will have dramatically less money to spend this year than expected because of plunging oil prices – a dire economic situation that's already forced the country to slash rebuilding plans by 40 percent, The Associated Press has learned. As the U S. seeks a timetable for withdrawal, cutbacks on spending and jobs could trigger heightened violence.

U.S. commanders have repeatedly warned that without speedy economic development and reconstruction, the sharp improvements in security since the U S. troop surge of 2007 could be at risk in a country where about 38 percent of the work force is estimated to have no job or just part-time employment.

Rebuilding requires money. And with oil prices plummeting, the government has been forced to cut planned spending – by one-third overall and 40 percent for rebuilding, Iraqi officials told *The AP* – and to consider even deeper reductions. It's an ironic turnaround from just months ago when U.S. lawmakers complained that Iraq was swimming in cash from high oil revenues and should do more to help itself, rather than spend U.S. taxpayer money to rebuild.

Hamas calls Palestinian for reconciliation

DAMASCUS, Syria — Hamas called Thursday for reconciliation with supporters of rival Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas but insisted on pursuing "resistance" against Israel.

The condition appeared to preclude any agreement with Abbas, who seeks a peace deal with Israel and whose moderate Fatah faction was not among the groups that backed the statement by Hamas and seven other Damascus-based radical Palestinian factions.

The call came days after Israel ended a devastating 23-day war with the Islamic militant rulers of Gaza that Palestinian officials say killed about 1,300 people in the territory. Hamas seized control of Gaza from Fatah by force in 2007 and Fatah set up a Palestinian government in the West Bank. It has been conducting peace talks with Israel for more than a year.

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» Morse

FROM PAGE 12

The program was designed to raise the performance of collegiate athletes in the classroom.

It has become increasingly popular in the last decade for college athletes to leave college early to enter the NBA or the NFL. The APR is a great program to defend this because it provides an incentive for athletic programs to keep their athletes' grades up, and to put more emphasis on education than on performance on the field, court or mat.

The mat is where this school has an issue. Because the APR rate for the wrestling program did not meet standards, in just three years, the athletic director at the time made a rash decision. In an attempt to prevent sanctions against the entire athletic department even though no school had been penalized yet – former Eastern athletic director Rich McDuffie made the decision to cut the wrestling program.

"We could not take the risk of affecting the whole athletics program," McDuffie said at the time.

Eastern wrestling was the first program in the country cut because of APR requirements.

Nowhere in the APR sanctions does it state that a program must be cut immediately if they do not reach appropriate scores. In fact, the NCAA Web site states that.

The NCAA Web site said that when a school has APR challenges, they are encouraged to present the NCAA with a get-well plan. The NCAA national office staff then works with the school to make sure the plan is a bona fide way to achieve the necessary improvement.

Eastern did not have to cut the program when there were many outlets of assistance available.

Wrestling is a rich tradition at Eastern. The Panthers have had 60 national qualifiers (at least one each year), six Division I All-Americans and five Academic All-Americans. With a new athletic director and university president in place, I think it would only be fair if reinstatement of the program were reconsidered. The student-athletes deserve a chance to compete with pride for their school. We had a great program, and it's a shame that it has now just become a statistic – 466 varsity collegiate wrestling programs have been cut since 1972.

Richard Morse can be reached at 581-7944 or at rjmorse@eiu.edu.

» Struggles

FROM PAGE 12

The Racers (12-6, 7-1 OVC) jumped out to a four-point halftime advantage. The Panthers (12-7, 6-2) fought back and were able to tie the game at 43 with 7 minutes, 34 seconds remaining before Murray State pulled away.

Panthers' senior forward Rachel Galligan scored a game-high 21 points, but was the only Eastern player to score in double-figures.

"Defensively they played off of us, and they would give us open shots," said Sims, who finished with six points on 3-for-14 shooting.

The Panthers were able to hold all off what Sallee called Murray State's "three-headed-monster" under their scoring averages. Senior guard Ashley Hayes (21.1 points per game) finished with 16 while senior guards Amber Guffey and Paige Guffey (21 and 13.9 points per game, respectively) finished with five points each.

"I was able to get some steals, get in there, get some rebounds and affect the game in that way," said Hayes, who also had eight rebounds and five steals. "It's not about scoring for me; it's doing whatever it takes to win."

Eastern junior forward Maggie Kloak left the game early in the first half with a sprained ankle.

Kloak returned a few minutes later, but was limited to only four points in 11 minutes.

Sallee said after the game that Kloak's ankle was sprained and he is unsure of her status for Saturday.

While the win knocks the Panthers out of first place in the OVC, Galligan said that she is not worried about the team dwelling on the loss.

"We'll dwell over this tonight, and then tomorrow forget about it and get ready for UT Martin," Galligan said. "We'll get them again in our place."

Eastern and Murray State play in Lantz Arena on Feb. 21.

The Panthers conclude a two-game road trip Saturday when they travel to Tennessee Martin at 4 p.m. in Martin, Tenn.

Collin Whitchurch can be reached at 581-7944 or at cfwhitchurch@eiu.edu.

» Struggles

FROM PAGE 12

Sophomore guard Tyler Laser was the only Eastern player to score in double-figures as he finished with 15 points. Junior center Ousmane Cisse added nine points and eight rebounds. The Panthers travel to Tennessee Martin on Saturday to take on the Skyhawk at 6 p.m. in Martin, Tenn.

Collin Whitchurch can be reached at 581-7944 or at cfwhitchurch@eiu.edu.

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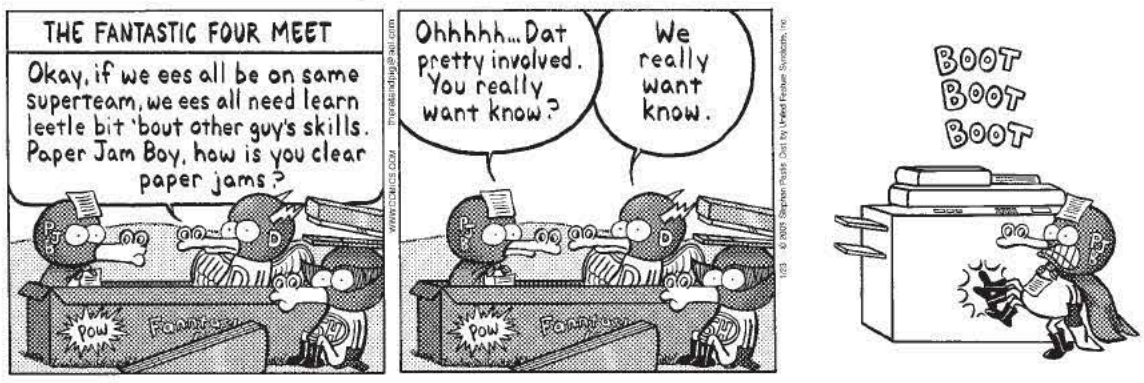
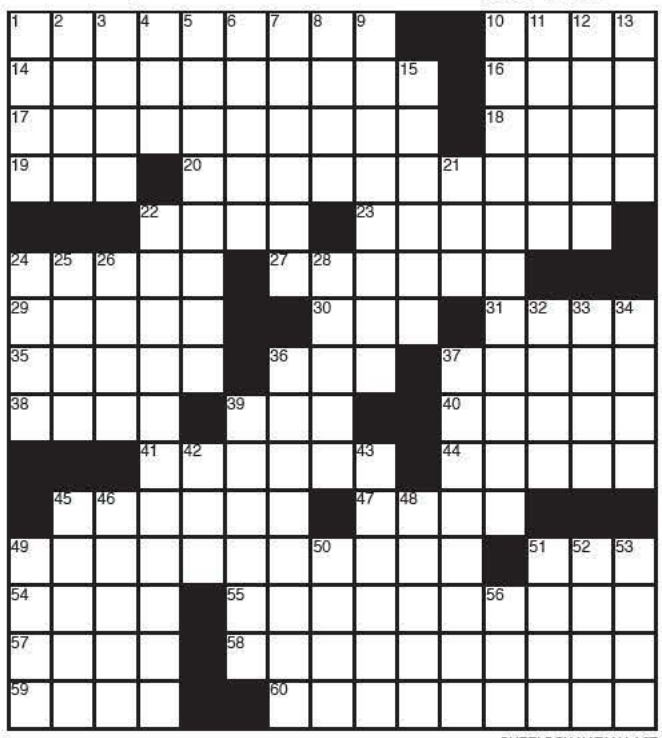
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE | BY STEPHAN PASTIS



GET FUZZY | BY DARBY CONLEY

The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz — No. 1219



PUZZLE BY NATAN LAST

ACROSS

1 Ding-dong
10 Remarkably, in commercialese
14 Exuberant cry from Pinocchio
16 React angrily
17 Hit video game series launched in 2005
18 Minor area?
19 Option for seeing the sites quickly, for short
20 Hammering away at
22 Basher ___, one of the eleven in "Ocean's Eleven"
23 Networks, e.g.
24 Third book of the Book of Mormon
27 Like a baby's bottom, often
29 In a state of entanglement
30 Annual honoree: Abbr.
31 Precursor to 41-Across
35 It's often hard to maintain under pressure
36 Blooming period
37 "Da Ali G Show" persona
38 Longtime Delaware senator William
39 Unpopular singer
40 Parry
41 Successor of 31-Across
44 Club with a big ball
45 Alternative bookstore section
47 Lead, for one
49 Russian's neighbor
51 Lummox
54 Showed respect, in a way
55 Flood
57 Table center piece?
58 Wind instrument Down Under
59 Bop
60 Reacts to a big buffet

DOWN

1 Cowboy's home, informally
2 ABC Radio host
3 Alternative to air
4 Sullivan Travis, in a 2000 film title
5 Not too awful
6 More enticing to a philatelist, say
7 Wynton Marsalis's first trumpet was a gift from him
8 Response of disbelief
9 Response to a disbeliever
10 Work with raw material?
11 Quaint note opener
12 They may pound the pavement
13 "She's ___ doll" (4 Seasons lyric)
15 Of whom Hamlet said "He hath borne me on his back a thousand times"
21 Be altered?
22 Common A.T.M. feature
24 Five-time N.H.L. scoring leader of the 1990s-'00s
25 Its locks are tight
26 Snow on the ground, say
28 "___ should keep himself to himself": "Treasure Island"
32 They may hold the lead
33 One looking for a deal?
34 Nobel-winning physicist Stern
36 Some people like them dirty
37 Those who aren't super dupers?
39 Put down anew
42 Hot ___
43 Like goldfish
45 Gas with a penetrating odor
46 Sports basket
48 Waves on l'océan
49 Desert mount
50 Law with many parts
51 Musical that opens with "Every Story Is a Love Story"
52 Description of 15-Down
53 Fourth book of the Book of Mormon
56 Start of an exchange

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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

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MEN'S AND WOMEN'S INDOOR TRACK AND FIELD | MEGA MEET

Both squads host next event

By WALLY SWENSON
Staff Reporter

The Eastern's men and women's indoor track teams are looking to build off of their experience and to get into the Ohio Valley Conference Championships.

But for right now, both squads are focused on the Eastern Mega Meet on Saturday at Lantz Fieldhouse.

Freshman mid-distance runner Erica Foltys knows the importance of this meet.

"The Mega Meet is an opportunity for us to take that second step towards preparing ourselves for conference," Foltys said.

The freshmen are beginning to bond, which will lead to better performances.

"As a team we can definitely tell that we have grown closer, and we are all excited for this indoor season to get underway with many meets ahead of us," sophomore Gena Nance said.

And that is something Eastern head coach Tom Akers will need that throughout the season.

"As a team we must have a good start to our season, and our individual successes will keep that chip on our shoulder throughout the rest of the season and leading into conference," Akers said.

This goes for the men's team as well.

"After that first meet we really have bonded well as a team," freshman sprinter/hurdler Tyler Carter said. "And we are all very excited for the Mega Meet."

Carter is not the only freshman that gained experience in the first meet, the Early Bird Meet on Dec. 12 at Lantz Fieldhouse.

Freshman DeMarcus Brooks finished first in the 60-meter dash in 6.75 seconds.

Sophomore Chevon Walker was second finishing in 6.77 seconds. Red-shirt freshman Zye Boey was third in 6.84 seconds.

Freshman hurdler and jumper Tyler Carter won the long jump in 23 feet, 3.5 inches.

Carter also finished second in the 60-meter hurdles in 8.38 seconds.

But behind these young contributors, there is experience.

"Clint Coffey is a leader on our team who has seen it through," Akers said. "He is extremely hard working and knows how to win."

Coffey, a senior, essentially knows what it takes.

"We really need to show up at the meet Saturday and we need to show a sense of urgency during our individual races," Coffey said.

Wally Swenson can be reached at 581-7944 or at wfswenson@eiu.edu.

KELLY CREMENT | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

A member of the men's indoor track team stretches while walking the track during practice on Jan. 14 in Lantz Fieldhouse. Eastern will host the Mega Meet this Saturday in the fieldhouse.

» Nowak

FROM PAGE 12

Sullivan said the rest of the soccer training is up to the players and leadership will rely on the upperclassmen.

"This is our time to be together," Sullivan said.

The Panthers made the OVC Tournament every season Nowak was coach.

The Panthers only made the semifinals of the league tourney in 2006 and 2007 and lost in the first round in 2008.

Eastern is the only OVC program that has qualified for the league tournament every year the event has been held.

Nowak was an assistant coach at Louisville from 2001 to 2004.

Nowak was as a goalkeeper at Western Illinois and graduated in 1997.

He was a graduate coach in 1999.

Only three seniors graduated from this season's team and 17 letter-winners are expected to return next season.

This includes red-shirt freshman defender Sam Balek, who earned Second-Team All-OVC honors and was named to the All-Newcomer squad.

Eastern junior midfielder Alexis Miller also returns. Miller earned 2007 OVC All-Tourney Honors.

Eastern junior goalkeeper Jenny Williams is also set to return. Williams was named to the 2007 All-OVC Newcomer Team.

The Panthers are still expected to compete with a regular spring schedule as they have in past years.

"Eastern Illinois appreciates the years of service Tim (Nowak) has given to the Panther women's soccer program," Eastern athletic director Barbara Burke said in a release. "We understand this is a good career opportunity and wish him the best of luck."

The Razorbacks finished 11-8 in 2008, but failed to make the Southeast Conference Tournament.

The Razorbacks have not made the conference tournament since the 2000 season.

They also started off the season 9-1 before fading down the stretch. Arkansas defeated fellow OVC members, Jacksonville State and Austin Peay.

Burke said a national search for Nowak's replacement will begin immediately.

Nowak was the only the second coach in the history of Eastern women's soccer.

Nowak never posted an overall wining season, but posted a 17-11-7 in OVC play in four seasons.

Steve Ballard, Eastern's first coach, guided the team from 1995-2004.

Kevin Murphy can be reached at 581-7944 or at kjmurphy@eiu.edu.

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MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SWIMMING | EASTERN AT MILLIKIN

Three freshmen help Panthers

First-timers use help to form top relay team

By JAMES SCHNEIDER
Staff Reporter

The Eastern men and women's swimming teams have a new coach this season.

But the Eastern women's team also has three freshmen that are making a difference for the Panthers this season.

Tyler Crittenden, Story Pumphrey and Alex Green are all freestyle relay freshmen swimmers.

These freshmen will try to help the Panthers as both squads, (who are a combined 4-10) will compete against Millikin, a Division III school, at 1 p.m. on Saturday in Decatur.

Eastern head coach Matt Bos has certainly noticed the difference they have made.

"They have come in and added some good depth to our team," Bos said. "Last year, we were kind of weak in the sprint-freestyle relay and that is a big part of the swim meets. I think that the three of them have really come in and fed off of what each other is trying to do, and the fact that all three come in with high school swimming experience really helped them progress."

These three freshmen and junior Lauren Zillmer have the second-best 200-yard freestyle relay time in the Summit League.

Crittenden said that because they are freshmen it has made it easier to work together.

Crittenden won the 100-yard backstroke relay at the House of Champions Meet in 1 minute, 1.04 seconds.

She also had a personal best of 25.15 seconds in the individual 50-yard freestyle relay on Nov. 20.

"It has helped us understand what each other is going through during the season," Crittenden said. "We always practice together, and we live close to each other so I think all that has helped us swim more effectively together."

Green said the constant competition and working with each other has really helped the trio compete.

"I feel (that) our best moments are at the swim meets," she said. "We really feel our strengths are in sprinting and in the relays."

Pumphrey said Zillmer has helped guide the trio.

"Lauren really took us under (her) wing and helped us through the early stages of this season," Pumphrey said.

The four won the 200-yard freestyle relay place in the House of Champions in 1:38.82.

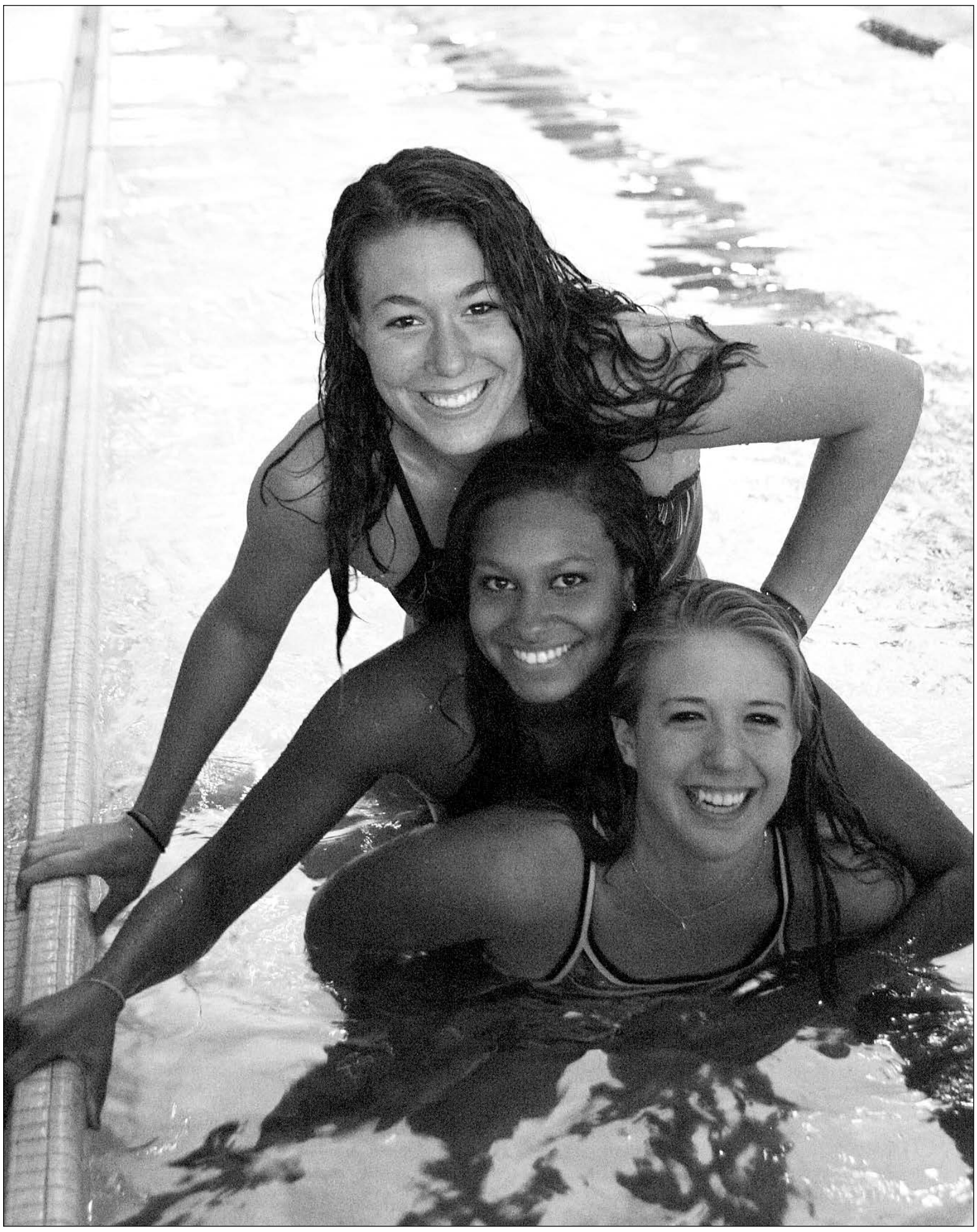
Pumphrey set a personal best in the 50-yard freestyle relay in 25.14. Green has a personal-best time of 55.06 seconds in the 100-yard freestyle.

"All of us were very pleased with the way the House of Champions Tournament turned out," Pumphrey said. "It was nice to come out and turn things around from last year."

All three freshmen said Bos has been a big help.

"Because he is a new coach with a new team, I think he really has disciplined us," Pumphrey said. "He has really been determined with us and made an effort to help us work on the little things we need to improve on."

James Schneider can be reached at 581-7944 or at jnschneider@eiu.edu.



ERIN MATHENY | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Freshmen swimmers, from back, Story Pumphrey, Tyler Crittenden and Alex Green, all are helping the Eastern women's swimming squad this season. These three freshmen and junior Lauren Zillmer have one of the best times in the 200-yard freestyle relays in the Summit League.

PANTHER BRIEFS

Eastern's volleyball coach being announced today

Eastern sports information director Rich Moser said that Eastern's next volleyball coach would be announced today.

Former Eastern head volleyball coach Lori Bennett resigned on Dec. 6.

The Panthers finished the 2008 season 5-24 overall and 2-16 in the Ohio Valley Conference.

Panthers seek first win

After a pair of losses last weekend, the Eastern women's tennis team (0-2) looks to rebound this Saturday at 3:30 p.m. with a visit to Southern Illinois-Edwardsville (2-2) at the Meyer Center YMCA in Edwardsville.

Although the Panthers took two tough losses (both 7-0 losses) on the road this past weekend, Eastern head coach John Blackburn remains confident in the talent of his players.

This is a team made up of four freshmen, two sophomores and a junior.

Softball tabbed to finish fifth

The Eastern softball team was picked to finish fifth in the league by the Ohio Valley Conference by the league's head coaches on Friday.

The Panthers finished fourth last season, and return with five starters and eight letter-winners this season.

The Panthers start their season on Feb. 13-15 at the Troy Cox Classic hosted by New Mexico State in Las Cruces, N.M.

-Compiled by Staff Reporter Vince Zager and Sports Editor Kevin Murphy. They can be reached at 581-7944 or at DENsportsdesk@gmail.com.

NATIONAL SPORTS

NBA
Dallas at Detroit |
6 p.m. on ESPN

NBA
Toronto at Chicago |
7:30 p.m. on CSN

SATURDAY

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Maryland at No. 2 Duke |
11 a.m. on ESPN

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
DePaul at No. 10 Marquette |
1 p.m. on ESPN2

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Wisconsin at No. 24 Illinois
3 p.m. on ESPN

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
No. 14 Xavier at LSU |
7 p.m. on ESPN2

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
No. 23 Baylor at No. 5 OK |
9:30 p.m. on TNT

TENNIS
Australian Open |
10 p.m. on ESPN2

SCOREBOARD

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Murray State 58, Eastern Illinois 46*

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Murray State 60, Eastern Illinois 51*
SEMO 64 , Tennessee Martin 52*
*Ohio Valley Con ence games

MORE ONLINE

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www.dennews.com.

RICHARD MORSE

Wrestling deserves second chance

Almost two years ago, a major decision at Eastern was made.

The Eastern wrestling program was eliminated.

During that time, there was outrage and an outpouring of support from the Eastern community and wrestling communities alike.

Why?

Because a relatively new program called the Academic Progress Report (APR) was instituted by the NCAA.

» SEE **MORSE,** PAGE **9**

WOMEN'S SOCCER | EMPLOYMENT

Nowak leaves for Arkansas

By KEVIN MURPHY
Sports Editor

Eastern women's soccer head coach Tim Nowak is leaving the program.

Eastern sophomore forward Kaitlin Sullivan said that Nowak told the team on Monday that he was leaving Eastern to become a coach with the Arkansas women's soccer program. Arkansas named Erin Aubry as its head coach on Jan. 12.

Aubry was the former head coach of Ohio Valley Conference member, Morehead State.

Nowak, who was the head coach for four seasons, led the Panthers to a runner-up finish in the OVC Tournament in 2005 after the Panthers had won four straight OVC Tournament titles and went to four straight NCAA Tournaments.

Nowak said in an official press release that he would no longer be a part of the program.

"I have very much enjoyed my time as the head coach at Eastern Illinois," Nowak said in the release. "I want to thank the administration for the opportunity to be a part of this university,"

Sullivan said the announcement was a last-minute surprise, and that the team has mixed emotions.

She said team members are excited about the change, and others are disappointed by the announcement.

"We are shocked," Sullivan said. "We really didn't think it (was happening)."

Sullivan said the women's soccer team has a graduate assistant leading the team in weight training and conditioning.

There is no other coach at this time because former Eastern assistant coach Jenny Anderson-Hammond was drafted in the Women's Professional Soccer League on Oct. 6 by the New York/New Jersey's Sky Blue.

» SEE **NOWAK,** PAGE **10**

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL | MURRAY STATE 60, EASTERN 51

Turnovers push Panthers out of first

Panthers shoot only 35 percent from field

By COLLIN WHITCHURCH
Assistant Sports Editor

MURRAY, Ky. — The Eastern women's basketball team seemingly had their turnover problem mastered. That is until they reached the second half.

Second-half turnovers plagued the Panthers as they lost 60-51 to Murray State on Thursday night in a battle for first place in the Ohio Valley Conference.

The Panthers committed 19 turnovers, including 15 in the second half and dropped to a game back in the league with the loss.

"We turned the ball over, and that hurt us," Panthers head coach Brady Sallee said. "I think the difference in the turnovers and the second chance points for them definitely hurt us."

» SEE **TURNOVERS,** PAGE **9**

ERIC HILTNER | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS
Eastern senior guard Megan Edwards shoots a free throw as her teammates look on during Saturday night's game against Morehead State at Lantz Arena. The Panthers lost 60-51 on Thursday night at Murray State.

MEN'S BASKETBALL | MURRAY STATE 58, EASTERN 46

Team struggles offensively on the road in loss

KARLA BROWNING | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS
Eastern junior guard T.J. Marion tries to get around Morehead State sophomore center Kenneth Faried during the game Saturday night in Lantz Arena. The Panthers lost 58-46 against Murray State on Thursday night.

Panthers shoot only 29 percent; drop to fourth in league

MURRAY, Ky. — The Eastern men's basketball team has surprised a lot of teams this year.

That was not the case Thursday night.

The Panthers, off to a surprising start in the Ohio Valley Conference, shot only 29 percent in falling to Murray State 58-46 at the Regional Special Events Center.

"It was very frustrating," Eastern head coach Mike Miller said. "It wasn't a very fun game to play in, and it wasn't a fun game to watch. Both teams probably feel that way. We, in-particular, played very poorly on the offensive end."

The loss drops the Panthers (8-10, 5-3) from third to fourth place in the league.

The Racers shut down Eastern's leading scorer, junior guard Romain Martin. Martin entered the game averaging 15.7 points per game and finished with only two points on 1-of-10 shooting.

The Panthers trailed by six at the half and, despite the poor shooting, still trailed by only six with 2 minutes, 51 seconds remaining. But Racers' senior guard Tyler Holloway's 3-pointer, one of his three on the night, extended the lead and put the Panthers away.

Holloway finished with 15 points.

The Racers (9-9, 4-4), like the Panthers, struggled from the floor and shot only 37 percent for the game.

However, Holloway and Murray State junior forward Danero Thomas, who finished with 14 points, hit key shots down the stretch to stop the Panthers' winning streak at three games and deny them a shot at hitting the .500 mark.

"We turned it over too much," Miller said. "We got in a bad tempo and couldn't break it. We went through everything we tried to do and tried to execute and didn't do it well."

» SEE **STRUGGLES,** PAGE **9**

EASTERN SPORTS SCHEDULE

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TRACK	SWIMMING	WOMEN'S TENNIS	WOMEN'S BASKETBALL	MEN'S BASKETBALL
Saturday vs. Mega Meet |	**Saturday at Millikin** |	**Saturday at SIU-Edwardsville** |	**Saturday at UT Martin** |	**Saturday at UT Martin** |
9 a.m. – Lantz Fieldhouse	1 p.m. – Decatur	4 p.m. – Edwardsville	4 p.m. – Martin, Tenn.	6 p.m. – Martin, Tenn.

ROSES AND SAKÉ ADD TRUMPET TO ROCK, PAGE 3B

01.23.09

on the verge

of • the • weekend

www.dennews.com/verge

ALL-WOMAN PLAY DEBUTS AT TARBLE

By Doug T. Graham
Verge Reporter

It is rare to see a production that is played entirely by women, even though there are usually more women than men in theater said Ashley Corbett.

The senior theatre arts and journalism major's sentiment of frustration is one often expressed by actresses everywhere, so many great plays lack the amount of female parts necessary to meet demand.

One play that bucks this tradition is "The Women" performed by the Charleston Community Theatre at the Tarble Arts Center. The play opens at 7:30 p.m. today and is directed by Monica Mazzaro and produced by Kathryn Stewart.

Clare Boothe Luce wrote "The Women" in 1936. Her intention for the play was not merely to fulfil a niche for actresses; she strove to tell a story of female friendships.

One of the ways she made sure to cover such a large topic was by making a huge volume of characters. There are over 40 in the play.

The Charleston Community Theatre's presentation of the play has 22 actresses filling the 40 plus roles.

Among the cast is long-time Charleston actress Judi Vaughn, who has been acting for the Charleston Community Theatre and the Charleston Alley Theatre since the late 1970s.

Vaughn has nothing but praise for the cast.

"We have a good group of people," Vaughn said. "Some who have never acted before and some who have. It has been a hoot!"

The two theatre organizations are often mistaken for the other. The reason for this confusion is understandable. They have similar names and produce high-quality plays with local actors and actresses, primarily from Charleston and Mattoon.

"We are so lucky that we can pick people from each other, " said Vaughn, describing the relationship between the two companies.

Also among the cast is Rachel Fisher, an Eastern employee in the Student Life Office.

Fisher has been impressed by the theme of the play.

"It is such an interesting concept to me," Fisher said. "A play with just women talking about their lives... It is a human story, both happy and sad. (The play says that) at the end of the day you have your friends."

Crucial to any play is the variety and strength of its characters.

Vaughn plays Countess de Lage, who is a larger than life presence on the stage.

"I've never played a role like this before both in CAT and CTT," said Vaughn. "(Countess de Lage) has been married five times, she is a bit self absorbed I think."

Countess de Lage would be an example of a character that playwright Luce uses to mock the ways of the wicked women of her day.

CARI WAFFORD | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Rachel Z. Fisher, Kathryn Stewart and Heather Holley rehearse 'The Women,' a play by Claire Boothe Luce. The play will be performed in the Tarble Arts Center this weekend.

Another character who embodies an element of women is Edith, who is portrayed by Fisher.

"Edith is a woman who loves to have babies," Fisher said. "At the beginning of the play I have four babies and by the end I have six. Edith is a wonderful comedic relief who complains about being pregnant because she loves the attention her complaints get."

Corbett is a perfect example of the kind of person Vaughn described. This is her first play with CCT after several productions with CAT. She has taken full advantage of the opportunities offered by community theatre.

"It gives you a different variety," Corbett said. "Acting at Eastern you get to act with pretty much the same people but in my community experience it has been very beneficial to act with others."

Corbett will be playing the part of Olga, the gossipy manicurist who blabs to the main character that her husband is cheating on her.

Other Eastern students in the play are Brenna Correll, a junior English major, and Alexis Evans, a freshman undecided major.

Because of the surplus of characters, there is an opportunity to portray almost every personality type.

"I challenge the viewer to find the character in the play that they can relate with, because there will be at least one," Fisher said.

GOT THE WINTER BLUES? FORGET ABOUT TELEVISION

Sarah Ruholl
Assistant Verge Editor

I cannot think of anything I would rather do on a cold afternoon in January than curl up with a book for hours on end. Add a cup of hot tea and some Radiohead in the background, and I am in heaven.

The recent biting cold makes staying inside more tempting with each degree the temperature drops.

And without a television to keep me entertained, I am left to my own devices.

Lately, I have been reading collections of the best short fiction, essays, comics and various other works of the written word from 2008.

Every year around this time, I find myself doing this. And every year, I am impressed by the quality work being created across the country.

While attention rapidly shifts to viral videos and social networking sites, the short story bubbles beneath the surface of mainstream entertainment.

The stories are there for anyone willing to pick up a quarterly publication, but few people do.

Even most avid readers overlook short fiction, preferring novels or nonfiction works.

It was short stories, though, that gave some of history's best writers the story telling practice they needed. "The Great Gatsby" and "Slaughterhouse Five" would never have existed without short stories.

To me, winter has always been a time for reading. To some that may seem odd.

But I like to think the generalization that college students do not read is inaccurate.

Like the beginning of all semesters, the Booth Library is sponsoring a reading program, now called "Spring Read 2009."

I admit, I am not planning on reading "Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace… One School at a Time."

Instead, I am going to stick with the short stories for another month until the temperatures start to rise again.

In the current economic climate, everyone seems to be looking for cheap entertainment. The library is free and has something for everyone.

Whether you want to read science fiction, biographies or something by Jack Kerouac, the library has something to offer.

Reading is a very personal experience because it is not shared by anyone else except the characters in the story.

When it's too cold to go out, it is easy to start feeling lonely. So, I keep myself company with the characters in a story.

I often find myself lost entirely in the world of a short story or book. It helps to pass the time when it is too cold to be outside.

INDOOR LIVING

By Dylan Polk

WE'RE ONLINE!

DON'T FORGET TO CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK AND MYSPACE PAGES, AS WELL AS DENNEWS.COM!

THERE, YOU CAN FIND STAFF BIOS AND BLOGS.

SOON, WE WILL HAVE VIDEOS, PODCASTS, PHOTOS AND SLIDESHOWS.

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Guest Online Blogger ..... Collin Whitchurch

Calling all student groups on campus:

Come get your group picture taken!

No appointment necessary (and it's free!)

Photos will appear in the 2009 Warbler yearbook.

• Tuesday, Feb. 3 5 to 8 p.m. Paris Room, MLK Union
• Thursday, Feb. 5 5 to 8 p.m. Effingham Room, MLK Union
• Tuesday, Feb. 10 5 to 8 p.m. Martinsville Room, MLK Union

For more information contact Emily Steele at warbler@eiu.edu

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The Vehicle
The literary journal of Eastern Illinois University
Do you enjoy writing and/or art? Does your work often receive compliments? Are you looking to add some publications or features to your resume? Spring submissions are now being accepted! We welcome work from all students regardless of major. We are looking for:
- Fiction
- Poetry
- Creative Nonfiction
- All visual media (anything that can be photographed)

Submission deadline is **Wednesday, February 25th**. Submission guidelines are as follows:

Fiction / Poetry / Creative Nonfiction:
1. Leave your name off of all submissions.
2. Include an index card with your submission(s) that lists your name, the title(s) of your work(s), your most frequently checked e-mail address, your phone number, and a short biography about yourself
3. Submission box is located in the English Department Office (3rd floor, Coleman Hall)

Art / Photography:
1. Art and photography MUST be submitted via e-mail to TheVehicle@gmail.com.
2. Please include in your e-mail your name, the title(s) of your work(s), and a short biography about yourself.

Limit: 10 submissions per person.

ROSES AND SAKÉ GIVES ROCK A NEW SOUND

By Nick Draper
Verge Reporter

It's not everyday that a band as original as Roses and Saké play a show right here in Charleston.

Tonight at Friends & Company, however, local students will have a chance to see them live and on stage.

Roses and Saké take the trends of classic rock and bring them to a new and fresh light.

"We draw our inspiration from Bob Dylan and Bruce Springsteen," said Steve McNamee, a student at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and three-year drummer for Roses and Saké.

"We're much younger and angrier than those guys, so we have a lot of energy."

Their latest EP, "Love is Dead," was released last November and was recorded solely by the band.

"It was a ton of fun," said John Maloney, year-and-a-half guitarist and songwriter for the band. "We did it all in our house. We just set up all of our stuff in the kitchen."

Though some of the members come from different areas, they still find the time to get together and make some truly amazing music.

"It can get a little difficult," said Mark Stankowicz, who has been playing trumpet for the band for a year and a half. "It's tough to have practices, but when we do we try to get everything done."

Stankowicz's trumpet playing is an interesting element not seen in many bands today, which provides the band with a unique sound.

Matt Brunner, the most recent addition to the band and a junior history major at Eastern, said the lyrics really help drive the songs.

When it comes to playing local shows, Brunner says that Charleston is one of the most fun towns to play in.

"It's awesome!" Brunner said. "They yell at me a lot because I'm not as crazy as them. They get into it."

The band's performance songs are both covers, like "California Dreamin'" by The Mommas and the Pappas to original compositions.

"I like to make music that can resonate with people," said Frank Maloney, three year vocalist and songwriter for the band. "We just kind of let it happen."

Also playing tonight are Little Boy Jr., of Charleston, and Howling Poppies, of Chicago.

Free to stream MP3's, picturess, band information, videos and more are available on their Myspace page myspace.com/rosesnsake.

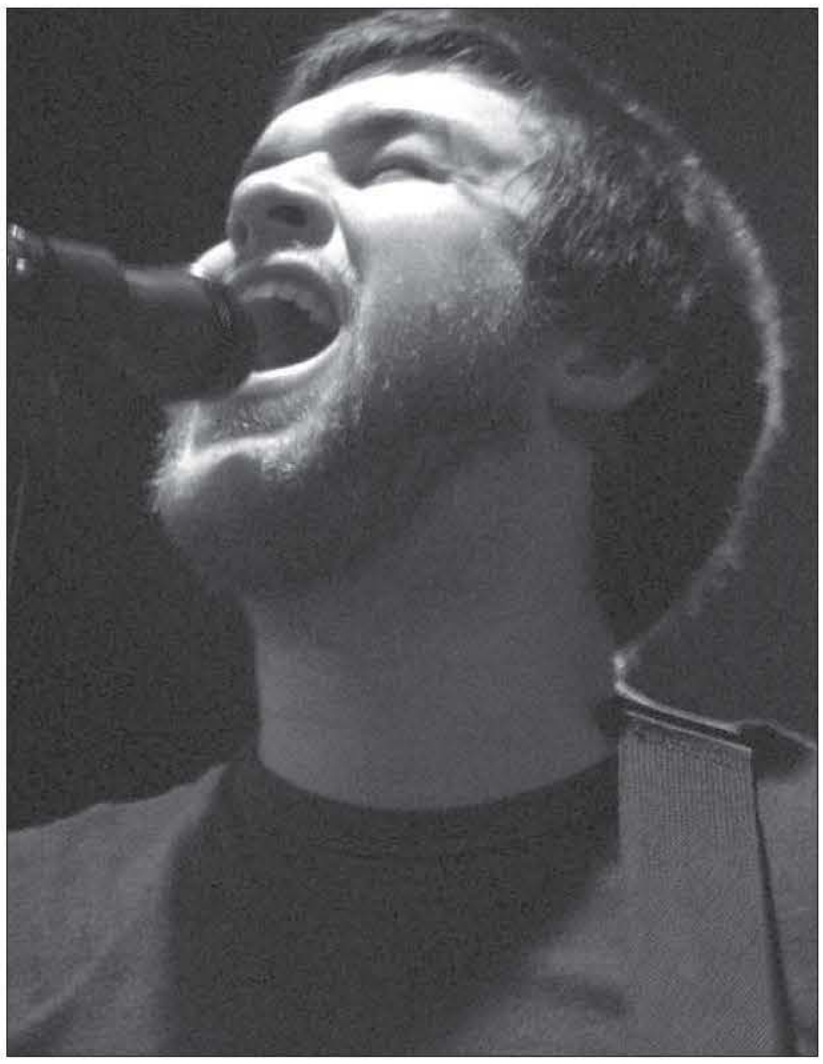


PHOTO COURTESY OF HAMPTON PHOTOS

Frank Maloney, guitarist for Roses and Saké, performed with the band at The Hideaway on Jan. 5. Roses and Sake` is playing at 8 p.m. tonight at Friends & Co. with Howling Poppies and Little Boy Jr.

COLUMN: 1UP.COM BOUGHT BY UGO, HEARST CORPORATION:

COLUMNIST DOUG T. GRAHAM DISCUSSES HOW THE MERGER AFFECTS THE GAMING COMMUNITY, 40 EMPLOYEES LAID OFF

By Doug T. Graham
Verge Reporter

The gaming industry was at one point thought to be "recession-proof," but the evaporating U.S economy has proven that optimism to be misplaced.

On Tuesday, Jan. 6, it was announced via press release that 1up.com (one of the largest gaming websites) and its affiliate sites gamevideos.com, mycheats.com, and gametab.com had been purchased by UGO, whose parent company is the Hearst Corporation.

Confusion followed the press release, for almost an hour about which members of the editorial staff were being let go ran rampant among game related blogs and forums.

At 8:35 a.m. Pacific Time, Sam Kennedy, the founder of 1up.com and the site's Editor-in-Chief for its five year run, posted a blog entitled "1up is now a part of UGO," in which he cleared up what the move meant for the future of 1up.com.

He writes, "...many of the larger vide ogame Web sites have been acquired by the big media companies. GameSpot is now part of CBS, IGN is owned by FOX, GameDaily is owned by AOL, and now 1UP is owned by UGO and its parent Hearst Corporation, one of the largest and long running publishers in the nation. And, to be honest, that's really good news. Not only do we now have the backing of a fantastic company like Hearst, but we have the support and oversight of a great group like UGO, who have the utmost belief in 1UP and the content and sites we produce..."

But there was a darker side to the deal.

"THIS HAS BEEN THE HARDEST DAY OF MY LIFE."

-Sam Kennedy,
founder of 1up.com

"Not everyone in the 1UP family was able to make the transition and Ziff Davis let them go today," said Kennedy in his blog. "Emotionally, that hurts. It really hurts. I can't even begin to tell you, with many of them being some of my closest friends and people I personally hired. This has been the hardest day of my life. Believe me, I'll have much to say on the subject in the future, not to mention the closure of EGM, the magazine that I grew up with and made me choose this as my career."

His mention of the closure of EGM, the largest and longest running gaming magazine in America, and his hinting at the loss of staff members are what dominated the user feedback to the blog post. The first comments to his post were hopeful. The positive tone of the comments decreased rapidly with time. User Cspringer left a message saying, "...I've been reading EGM for over 13 years.... Best videogame site and magazine ruined. You guys laid off the soul of 1up."

Part of the reason for this increasing backlash against the deal is the immense loss of staff: 17 out of the 34 1up network editors (including all of those who worked on legendary print magazine EGM) 3three out of 6 Designers, and nearly all of the Technology and Marketing staff. A list of all 40 people who were laid off as a result of 1up's purchase by UGO and Hearst Corp. can be found online.

Speaking personally, the news of 1up.com's staff exodus devastated me. I've been a member of the 1up community for two years and have been an active listener to four of the six audio podcasts for the same amount of time.

So fervent was my admiration for the editorial staff of 1up that not only was I too intimidated to post on their message boards (lest one of my idols comments on something I say and I pee myself).

One of the greatest thrills of my entire life was hearing my user name spoken by 1up Yours host Garnett Lee as he read a question that I had submitted to be discussed by such video game journalist gods as Stephen Totillo of the MTV Multiplayer Blog, N'Gai Croel of Newsweek, and my personal idol Shawn Elliott, formerly of 1up. The decision that changed the course of my life was made while listening to an episode of the now retired GFW radio. It was the decision of what I wanted to spend the rest of my life doing, and while listening to the show's hosts talk about the state of the video game press and the opportunities of it and all emerging online media I chose to become a video game journalist.

study break

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO DO?

FRIDAY

Opening Night of The Women
TIME: 7:30 P.M.
PLACE: TARBLE ARTS CENTER
COST: $10 ADULTS, $8 SENIORS, $6 STUDENTS

ROSES AND SAKE` WITH HOWLING POPPIES AND LITTLE BOY JR.
TIME: 8 P.M.
PLACE: FRIENDS & CO.
COST: $5

NICK AND NORAH'S INFINITE PLAYLIST
TIME: 7 P.M.
PLACE: BUZZARD AUDITORIUM
COST: FREE

J BOOZER WITH FIRESKY FUTURE
TIME: 9:30 P.M.
PLACE: TOP OF THE ROC
COST: $3

JOBU
TIME: 10 P.M.
PLACE: MAC'S UPTOWNER
COST: $3

SATURDAY

THE STAFF BLUES BAND
TIME: 9 P.M.
PLACE: JOE'S SPORTS BAR, MATTOON
COST: FREE

THE STATION WITH CORN DESERT RAMBLERS
TIME: 9 P.M.
PLACE: MAC'S UPTOWNER
COST: $3

FEAST BY FIRE, ARTIFAKT, THIRD FINGER UP AND VISCERA
TIME: 8 P.M.
PLACE: FRIENDS & CO.
COST: $5

SUNDAY

FUTURE ROCK W/ DISCO BUSCUITS (18+)
TIME: 8 P.M.
PLACE: THE CANOPY CLUB, URBANA
COST: $15

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY CARI WAFFORD| THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Positively 4th Street, located on the corner of 4th and Lincoln, sells copies of the Charleston Chew CD. The Charleston Chew puts on shows to raise money for the Charleston Food Pantry.

MUSICIANS RAISED $770 FOR FOOD PANTRY

By Cari Wafford
Verge Reporter

During the past holiday season, most people thought about the exhausting lines on Black Friday, the inevitable doom once their bills started rolling in and, most importantly, themselves.

Scott Chaplinski, along with other Charleston musicians, promoted their musical achievements to benefit charity rather than their own personal gain.

Chaplinski, a senior communications major, said he had one month to find artists, venues and donated prizes to create an arena that would promote the release of the Charleston Chew CD.

The ultimate goal was to raise money in CD sales to support the Charleston Food Pantry.

Jennifer Black, the Paper Café owner, aided in the artwork for the album while Chaplinski promoted upcoming events on local radio stations.

Chaplinski said the kick-off event for the album was during the release party at the Paper Café on Dec. 1.

MugWump Specific, the Staff Blues Band and Little Boy Jr. helped draw in fans to Mac's Uptowner and Friends & Company where albums were sold.

A show at Top of the Roc's, located in the upstairs bar of Roc's Blackfront Restaurant and Lounge, also featured raffle prizes donated by local businesses, which Chaplinski said taught him how to better address the community.

The CD includes tracks from Brien Thomas, Dan Lazzarotto, Andy Masters, the Iron Tigers, and Charles Scott and the Papercuts, which featured Chaplinski.

The Charleston Chew CD is still available at Jackson Avenue Coffee and Positively 4th Street Records for $5.

Chaplinski said he enjoyed creating an event that gathered different types of crowds.

"We were playing for a crowd not only interested in the music but also charity," Chaplinski said.

Eastern student Kat Slawson said she was impressed and thrilled by the Charleston Chew movement.

"I'm so proud of the Charleston Chew, I tell my friends and family back home about it," Slawson said.

Local donations, CD sales and private donations provided about $770 for the food pantry.

Chaplinski said he didn't have any upcoming events regarding the Charleston Chew.

However, Chaplinski added he is hopeful for the future.

"The music scene is thriving," Chaplinski said "And there are more opportunities to do something."

EASTWOOD BALANCES HIS CHARACTER WELL IN 'TORINO'

By Samantha Wilmes
Verge Reporter

☆☆☆
☆☆

The film "Gran Torino" is getting praise from critics, winning awards, for best actor, Clint Eastwood, and for best original screenplay, Nick Schenk, by the National Board of Review and being nominated for the Golden Globes.

The entire appraisal is well deserved and definitely lives up to the expectations.

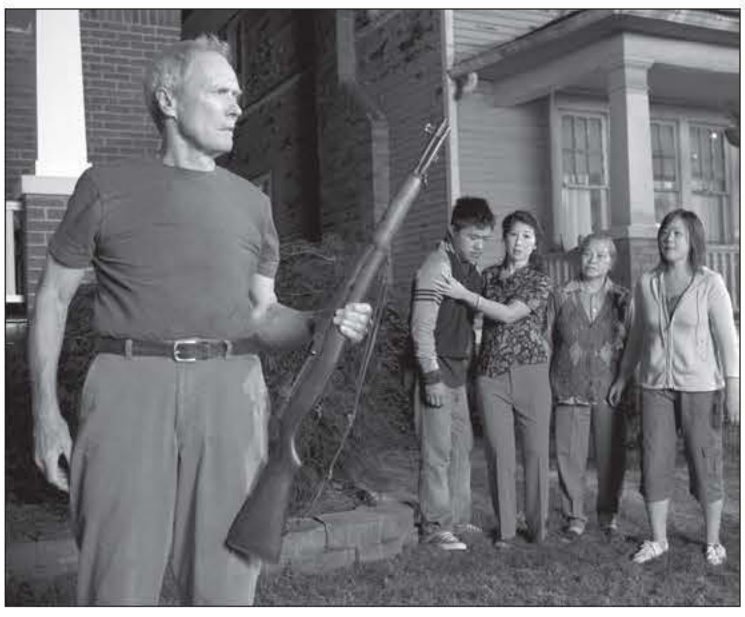
Clint Eastwood has lots of experience in film, on screen and behind the camera.

In his latest, "Gran Torino", he plays a Korean War veteran who is extremely bitter and racist, but pretty pleased with himself.

Eastwood's character, Walt Kowalski, just lost his wife and is facing problems with his gang-infested neighborhood.

Walt puts up a good fight, even though he is not doing that well on his own.

After Walt's neighbors' teenage kids, who are of Hmong decent, get in a brawl with their cousin's gang, Walt threatens the gang with a rifle.



WARNER BROS/MCT

Walt Kowalski (Clint Eastwood,), Thao (Bee Vang), Vu (Brooke Chia Thao), Grandma (Chee Thao) and Sue (Ahney Her) appear in a scene from Warner Bros. Pictures' and Village Roadshow Pictures' drama "Gran Torino."

His neighbors are grateful for the protection.

Walt soon decides that the teenage boy next door, Thao (Bee Vang), needs a man's guidance and takes him under his wing to keep him out of the gangs.

Through his guidance, a soft side of Walt comes out, but with his racism still intact.

Although Eastwood's character is so pessimistic, racist and out of touch, it is hard not to really enjoy the character.

He is far from being the bad guy in this film, but he is still tough and wins you over with his wittiness.

The racist slurs that he exchanges just roll off of his tongue without any concern for who he is talking to.

The racist slurs Walt uses are bluntly obscene, but in the film it is necessary for showing the characters and setting, like in the film "Crash."

The rest of the film's cast is largely unknown; however, the characters are all portrayed well.

The characters all have a place in their hearts for Walt.

The characters want to hate him, but through his anger something keeps them around.

A young priest, Father Janovich (Christopher Carley), who helped Walt's wife when she was dying, continues coming around asking Walt to go to confession, even after Walt refers to him as the "27-year-old virgin boy straight out of the seminary."

Every scene in the film was essential.

The film never seemed to drag or have unnecessary parts.

The story built each time Walt threatened someone with his rifle, made a racist remark or sat around pounding Pabst Blue Ribbon beer.

Each scene built the characters and their stories consistently to the end.

'TONIGHT' CATCHY, BRINGS NEW SOUND

By Doug Graham
Verge Reporter

Neither 'third time's a charm' nor 'odd man out' really encapsulate the feel of the new album from Franz Ferdinand, although it is one of their best efforts to date.

"Tonight: Franz Ferdinand" is the Scottish group's third effort after their smash self-titled debut in the summer of 2004 and the hasty follow up album titled "You Could Have It So Much Better With... Franz Ferdinand," which was released just 19 months later.

The band has learned their lesson, the quality of "Tonight: Franz Ferdinand" suggests they spent a lot of time learning new musical tricks and how to implement them well.

It is easy to identify examples of tricks not heard in their previous work. "Lucid Dreams" and "Can't Stop Feeling" use techno inspired synthesizers. A pregnant pause opens "Turn It On" and provides a false ending to "Send Him Away."

A demo version of "Can't Stop Feeling" was made available to the public via Franz's official Web site before the release of their second album. The three to four years in the can that this track has spent have been extremely beneficial.

I remember when I first downloaded it as a demo in my sophomore year of high school, and I thought the track was a piece of garbage. A musician's best friend, the computer, has helped out the once boring guitars and blood curdling vocals.

The lyrics to the verses may be questionable in content, but the choruses of Franz Ferdinand songs have always been the main attraction. "Twilight Omens," which, despite a less-than-creative introductory verse, is so catchy, and its chorus is so much fun to sing, I cannot skip it.

"Katherine Kiss Me" is the last track and, like previous Franz releases that are slow and feature a piano solo, is really boring.

Songs like "Ulysses" and "What She Came For" use "La, la, la, la, la" in the chorus, "Ho Feet" off their last album, and are incredibly catchy like previous Franz works using the same technique.

Incredibly short instrumental intros keep the pace of the album moving. Franz has learned that the fastest way to the chorus is by getting the verse out of the way quickly. It takes an average of 12.3 seconds for singer Alex Kapranos to jump in on vocals.

This is an album worth buying when it comes out on Tuesday.