

3-11-2010

Daily Eastern News: March 11, 2010

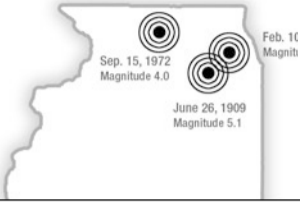
Eastern Illinois University

Follow this and additional works at: http://thekeep.eiu.edu/den_2010_mar

Recommended Citation

Eastern Illinois University, "Daily Eastern News: March 11, 2010" (2010). *March*. 9.
http://thekeep.eiu.edu/den_2010_mar/9

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the 2010 at The Keep. It has been accepted for inclusion in March by an authorized administrator of The Keep. For more information, please contact tabruns@eiu.edu.



Recent earthquakes plague Illinois

Page 3



Relay members break 32-year record

Page 11

STATE

\$1.3B proposed cuts to education

By Emily Steele
News Editor

Gov. Pat Quinn proposed cutting \$1.3 billion from education in an effort to offset the \$13 billion Illinois debt in the budget address Wednesday.

While Quinn spoke about being optimistic, the realistic cuts would reduce state funding by 17 percent to elementary and high schools statewide.

"I am making this cut with the greatest of reluctance and only because our current fiscal emergency leaves me no choice," Quinn said.

President Bill Perry said a cut for higher education was expected, but

the plan is to continue to budget conservatively.

"In other words, the measures we put in this year to deal with the cash flow issue will also help us manage next year," Perry said.

However, most of the education cuts will affect elementary and secondary education; funding for Eastern in the recommended budget would increase by 4.4 percent.

During the 21-minute speech, Gov. Quinn outlined his five-part plan to reduce the state deficit, which included cutting spending, using strategic borrowing, maximizing the use of federal funds, creating jobs and improving state revenues.

Sen. Dale Righter (R-Mattoon) said in a press release that poor planning for the loss of federal funding has lent to the situation.

"The governor and democratic leadership have used federal stimulus money as a way to increase expenditures for education," Righter said. "Those funds were temporary. Illinois schools are now in a critical situation in part because there wasn't a plan to replace those funds."

To offset the cuts in education, Gov. Quinn proposed a one percent income tax surcharge for education.

Quinn asked lawmakers to raise the tax rate to 4 percent, up from 3

percent currently. That would generate \$2.8 billion a year, the same amount he sought unsuccessfully last year. His staff said the money would go solely to prevent education cuts and to make overdue payments to Illinois schools.

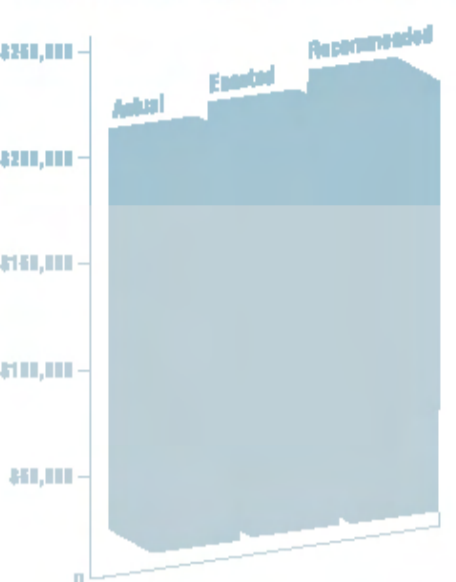
James Bruehler, a member of the economics department, said, "It isn't a good way to ensure that it does."

Bruehler said that it is a promise that cannot be audited and cannot be verified.

Emily Steele can be reached at 581-7942 or easteele2@eiu.edu.

The AP contributed to this report.

Eastern Illinois State Appropriations (\$ thousands)



CITY

School board cuts positions

Kayleigh Zyskowski
City Editor

Three staff members from the Charleston School District will be eliminated from the payroll for the 2010-2011 school year after the school board voted in favor of the cuts at Wednesday's meeting.

During the meeting, Charleston's School Board reviewed and voted on the next phase of recommendations for the school's budget cuts. The budget cuts and situations are ongoing; therefore, the budget cuts are being presented in a set of phases.

The recommendations included the reduction of certified employees by honorable dismissal, resignation and personal transfer, said Jim Littleford, the Charleston School District superintendent. The projected savings for the reductions are about \$700,000.

The eliminated teachers include Sheri Cash, a social studies teacher from the high school, Lindsey Kinkelaar, a business teacher from the high school and Dana Gieseke, a part time preschool teacher.

The individuals who have been cut will have recall rights if the state budget works itself out; however, the district's financial consultant, David Kuetemeyer, said the governor's budget suggestions look grim for the state's school districts.

For the fiscal year 2011, the governor has suggested a cut of \$450 per student at the foundation level across the state, Kuetemeyer said. If accepted, this budget may cost the Charleston School District about \$1.6 million.

"Reducing the foundation level funding is completely devastating," said Ron Miller, president of the school board. "It's getting tough and we've worked hard for the schools and the kids. I'm just totally frustrated."

In response to Miller's comment, school board member Kevin Oakley said no matter the situation, the decision had to be made.

"No matter how you look at it, we have \$1.6 million to cut out of the budget," Oakley said. "We've been told to live within our means and find a way to do the least amount of damage

SCHOOL BOARD, page 7

CAMPUS



MEGAN MATHY | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Emily Beebe, a junior biology major, waits to give blood at the health fair on Wednesday in the Student Recreation Center. The health fair hosted a variety of ways to improve health, from exercising to better sex.

Students go 'Back to the Health Fair'

Topics range from breakfast, to exercise, to sex

By Heather Holm
Activities Editor

Students went "Back to the Health Fair" Wednesday, referring to the "Back to the Future" film trilogy, starring Michael J. Fox and Christopher Lloyd.

Each person or group with a booth had a piece of paper made to look like a license plate with "Cali-

fornia" and the name of their organization attached.

"The (original) movie was set in California, and the license plates would always fall off (the DeLorean car) and spin in the movie, so that's why we used the nameplates," said Ryan Messinger, assistant director for Health Services and one of the event coordinators.

The Health Education Resource Center, Lakeview College of Nursing, the School of Family and Consumer Sciences, My Charleston Dentist and the Charleston Fire Department, among a number of others, had booths set up at the

event. The CFD handed out pamphlets about how to handle situations dealing with burns, poison ingestion and the inhalation of carbon monoxide, plus information about fire extinguishers and smoke alarms.

The booth also had a "Guide to Medicine Safety" and "Guide to Plant Safety."

"With the fire department running the ambulances, we are a part of health care," said James Calvert, a captain at the fire department and the fire prevention/public education officer. "Since we are the care

providers for the students, we want to give them tools to take care of themselves."

Patty McHugh, a junior dietetics major, set up a booth as part of her Community Nutrition class.

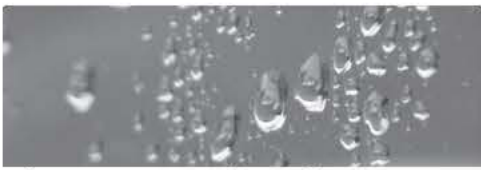
The booth was organized with four breakfast choices, from healthy ones to unhealthier ones, such as a doughnut.

Students rated the breakfast options with A,B,C or D on what was the healthiest choice.

"We wanted to give the benefits of eating breakfast, even if it is a doughnut," McHugh said.

HEALTH, page 7

WEATHER TODAY



Showers & Thunderstorms

HIGH 66° Scattered showers this morning along with breezy conditions. A few thunderstorms are expected this afternoon. Lighter isolated showers are still possible overnight tonight, and more scattered showers on Friday. Mostly cloudy on Saturday with a few light isolated showers again possible Saturday night.

LOW 44°

WEATHER TOMORROW

Friday
Scattered Showers
High: 55°
Low: 43°

Saturday
Mostly Cloudy
High: 52°
Low: 39°

For more weather information: www.eiu.edu/~weather

BLOTTER

It was reported that criminal damage to government property occurred Monday near Greek Court. The incident is under investigation, the University Police Department said.

A harassment report was filed Monday at Thomas Hall. The incident was referred to the Office of Student Standards, the UPD said.

A private property accident involving a red Chevrolet and a blue Chevrolet occurred Monday in the north Coleman parking lot. No citations were issued, the UPD said.

A gold Ford was reported damaged while parked near Pemberton Hall Monday. The incident is under investigation, the UPD said.

A hit-and-run traffic accident was reported Monday near University Court, the UPD said.

A cannabis complaint was reported Tuesday in Carman Hall. The incident was referred to the Office of Student Standards, the UPD said.

The Charleston Police Department responded to a burglary on Feb. 20 at MLB Outdoors, 1503 Olive Ave. The items stolen were: eight Stihl brand chainsaws, one Stihl brand pole saw and two Stihl brand hedge clippers. The total estimated loss of property was approximately \$3,700. The CPD is asking that any information regarding the burglary be given to the Coles County Crime Stoppers, which can be reached at 866-345-8488. The CCCS will pay up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and/or conviction of criminals in Coles County, the CPD said.

Shadow twins



Doubles teammates freshmen Merritt Whitley and sophomore Amanda Dibbs high-five each other after winning a point in their match Wednesday afternoon at Darling Courts.

AMIR PRELLBERG | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

DENNEWS.COM



Int'l student talks of differences

Find out what it's like to be an international student with Jennifer Yap in this podcast at DENnews.com.



Chilean animals need help too

Online reporter Adam Larck reminds readers that animals have been affected by the earthquakes just as much as people have. Check out his animal blog at DENnews.com.

University Board Comedy presents...

Jessica Kirson

Zach Braff's Sister

9 pm
Thursday, March 11
7th Street Underground

*Free Admission & Free Raffle
for D/D's and T-Shirts



SPRING BREAK HOURS

OPEN
Monday, March 15 - Friday, March 19
8:00 - 12:00 and 1:00 - 4:30

CLOSED
Saturday & Sunday, March 13 & 14
And
Saturday & Sunday, March 20 & 21

REGULAR HOURS
WILL RESUME
Monday, March 22



REMEMBER

The EIU Pharmacy will be closed March 15-19
Any questions - call 581-7779

Refill all prescriptions
(including contraceptives)
before leaving for Spring Break

Last day to pick up refills will be
Friday, March 12

Also stop by the HERC to pick up
your Rubber Lovers packet!



THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

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

Contact
If you have corrections or tips, please call:
217-581-7942
or fax us at:
217-581-2923

Printed by Eastern Illinois University on soy ink and recycled paper.

Attention postmaster
Send address changes to:
The Daily Eastern News
1802 Buzzard Hall,
Eastern Illinois University
Charleston, IL 61920

Editorial Board
Editor in Chief Tyler Angelo
DENeic@gmail.com
Managing Editor Collin Whitchurch
DENmanaging@gmail.com
News Editor Emily Steele
DENnewsdesk@gmail.com
Associate News Editor Sarah Jean Bresnahan
DENnewsdesk@gmail.com
Opinions Editor David Thill
DENopinions@gmail.com
Online Editor Sam Sottosanto
DENnews.com@gmail.com

Production Staff
Night Chief Tyler Angelo
Lead Designer Caleb Branson

Copy Editors/Designers Alycia Rocky
..... Karolina Strack
..... Kate Vandermeer
Online Production Jennifer Brown

About
The Daily Eastern News is produced by the students of Eastern Illinois University. It is published daily Monday through Friday, in Charleston, Ill., during fall and spring semesters and twice weekly during the summer term except during university vacations or examinations. One copy per day is free to students and faculty. Additional copies can be obtained for 50 cents each in the Student Publications Office in Buzzard Hall. The Daily Eastern News is a member of The Associated Press, which is entitled to exclusive use of all articles appearing in this publication.

Subscription:
\$50 per semester,
\$30 for summer, & \$95 year.

Comments / Tips
Contact any of the above staff members you believe your information is relevant.

News Staff
Activities Editor Heather Holm
Administration Editor Sarah Ruhoff
Campus Editor Jason Hardimon
City Editor Kayleigh Zyskowski
Photo Editor Amir Prellberg
Sports Editor Bob Bajek
Student Government Editor Erica Whelan
Verge Editor Brad York

Advertising Staff
Advertising Manager Kelly Twaits
Promotions Manager Lisa Vinyard
Ad Design Manager Brittney Ferris

Faculty Advisers
Editorial Adviser Lola Burnham
Photo Adviser Brian Poulter
DENnews.com Adviser Bryan Murley
Publisher John Ryan
Business Manager Betsy Jewell
Press Supervisor Tom Roberts

Corrections
The Daily Eastern News is committed to accuracy in its coverage of the news. Any factual error the staff finds, or is made aware of by its readers, will be corrected as promptly as possible.

Please report any factual error you find by e-mail, phone, campus mail or in person.
1811 Buzzard Hall
Periodical postage paid at Charleston, IL 61920
ISSN 0894-1599

STATE

Earthquakes wake up call to world

Not uncommon to state of Illinois

By Steven Puschmann
Staff Reporter

The devastating earthquakes to hit Haiti and Chile in recent memory have been a wakeup call for the rest of the world.

Illinois also experienced an earthquake in early February that was felt in the northern part of the state.

It is a cause for concern for Illinoisans, because the active New Madrid fault is located on the border of Southwest Illinois near the town of Cairo.

In the past three years alone, Illinois has had two notable earthquakes. The first occurred in April 2008 with a magnitude 5.4 and was centered in West Salem. The second one occurred in early February in the towns of Virgil and Sycamore and measured as a magnitude 3.4.

These earthquakes are small in comparison to the magnitude 8 earthquake in Chile and magnitude 7 earthquake in Haiti.

A magnitude 4 earthquake can cause moderate damage, while a magnitude 7 earthquake is capable of widespread and heavy damage.

John Paul Stimac, department chair and associate professor of geology/geography, said that these frequent earthquakes are no cause for concern.

"The number for earthquakes worldwide is normal for the year so far," Stimac said. "Earthquakes with a magnitude of 8 or higher will occur once a year, and earthquakes with a magnitude of 7 occur three to five

times a year. Earthquakes are a daily occurrence by the New Madrid Fault with some earthquakes even measuring negative on the Richter scale."

An earthquake that measures negative on the Richter scale will break rock when moving and releases energy. The movement and energy release is so small that it cannot be felt by humans, only instruments.

That does not rule-out the possibility of any large-scale earthquake happening anytime soon. The last massive earthquakes from the New Madrid Fault happened in 1811 and 1812, separated by three months. These earthquakes registered at an 8 on the Richter scale and were felt across the Midwest, including St. Louis and Chicago. These earthquakes could be felt as far away as Boston.

"It was such a large earthquake that it shook church bells in Boston and created Reelfoot Lake in Tennessee," Stimac said. "An earthquake of that magnitude really only occurs every thousand to two thousand years, but that doesn't mean that it cannot happen again tomorrow or next week."

The possibility of a large-scale earthquake occurring in the area brings to question if the school's buildings are up to code for large earthquakes.

"If an earthquake larger than a magnitude 6 would occur, it would cause damage to the building(s), because the buildings are made from

brick," Stimac said. "Brick is strong when it is compressed but can break when a force is shaking it from side to side."

Stimac also noted that the bedrock that Eastern's campus and most of Illinois is over is glacier rock, which, unlike regular bedrock material, is prone to shake more during an earthquake. This is not a cause for concern, but Stimac said he thinks people have become more aware after the recent earthquakes.

"(In) some way, earthquakes are good, because it causes people to think about natural hazards," Stimac said. "The university offers classes with risk management as a way to prepare students for any situation, including earthquakes."

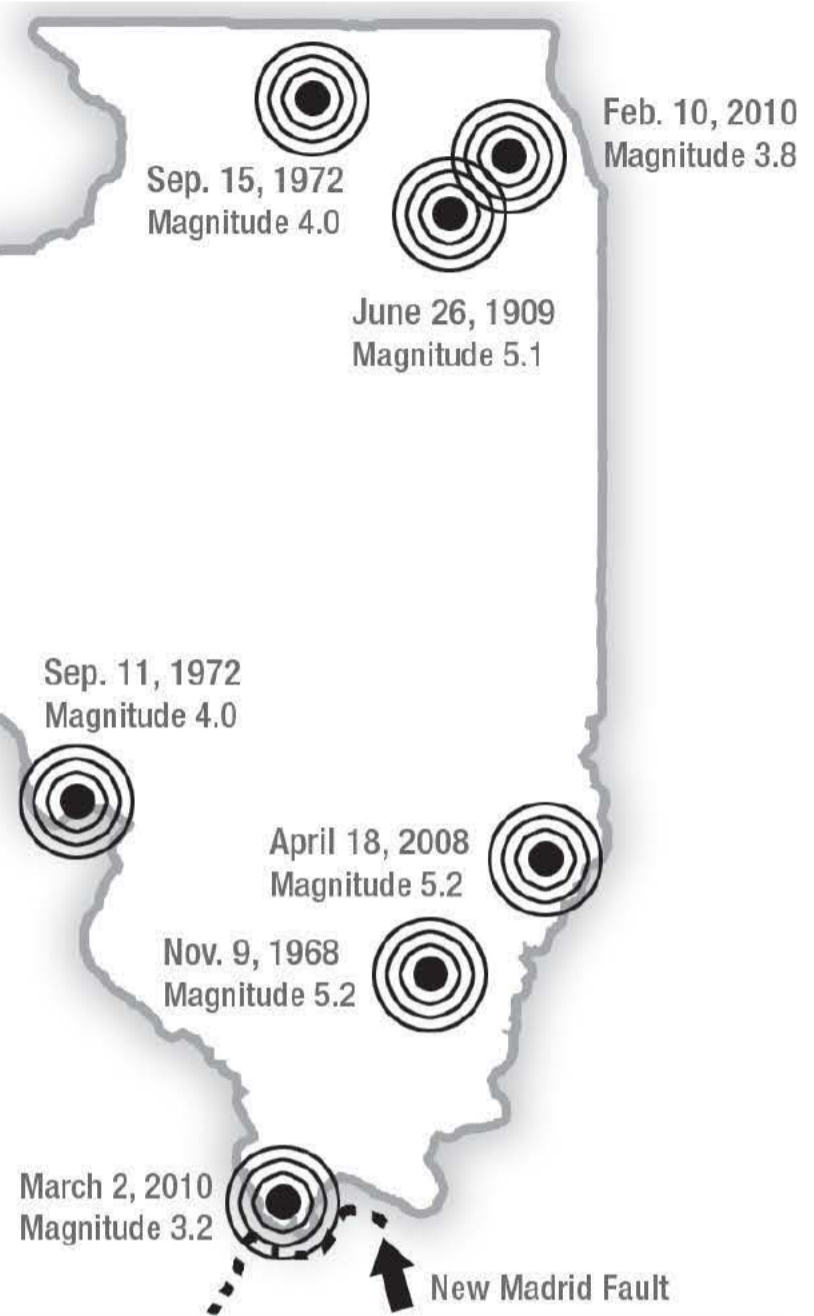
Steven Puschmann can be reached at 581-7942 or srpuschmann@eiu.edu.

GRAPHIC BY
CALEB BRANSON
THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Earthquakes 2010



Chile and Haiti have been the two earthquakes everyone has been talking about, but there have been six others this year. Take a look at this timeline at dennews.com to find out more.



BROADCAST

WEIU-TV transitions to high-definition

By Kenji Ohseki
Staff Reporter

WEIU-TV is set to make the transition from standard definition to high definition during spring break.

High definition, or HD, is video with a higher resolution, resulting in sharper pictures. Once the process is complete, the station will be able to offer programming with improved video and audio quality.

WEIU-TV will broadcast one channel in HD and two in standard definition.

The change involves replacing production, master control and other news equipment.

Chief Engineer Kevin Armstrong has orchestrated the entire conversion from purchasing the equipment to its installation.

"Students will be exposed to the latest technology," he said.

Broadcast equipment operators will begin training on the new equipment Friday. Among those who will be re-trained are master control operators, production staff and news students.

Mac White, the traffic continuity supervisor, said most of the training would be done "on the job."

"It's really exciting," said Zach Nugent, a graduate student who works for WEIU as a reporter, anchor and producer. "We've been waiting for a long time and are anxious to get our hands on it and see what it's all about."

The transition is the final step in the progression from analog transmission to digital to HD.

"It is part of an ongoing, slow, meticulous project," said Brenda Good, WEIU's director of administration



Cameramen junior communications studies major Derek Manson and sophomore communication studies major Dustin Tylman work the in the WEIU studio Wednesday in Buzzard Hall.

and finance.

To pay for the new equipment and training, the station applied for a Public Telecommunications Facilities Program grant in December 2008. A

grant for \$685,780 was approved in October 2009. PTFP awarded the station \$514,335, and WEIU committed \$171,445 in matching funds. The equipment was delivered in Janu-

ary and February this year.

WEIU-TV will begin broadcasting in HD over the air on channel 51-1 by the week of March 22, Armstrong said. Mediacom, Charleston's local cable

provider, will carry the HD broadcast in early summer.

Kenji Ohseki can be reached at 581-7942 or at kohseki@eiu.edu.

AUDREY SAWYER | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

VIEWS



Dr. Janice Collins

We were anything but angry

We were not angry that night, but the headline that graced a story on the front page of the Feb. 18 edition of *The Daily Eastern News* said we were — “Angry community speaks on violence.”

I was the moderator of a town hall meeting aimed at stopping violence, so I am obligated to respond. I also have chosen to respond because some of the wonderful, caring citizens of Charleston, whom I have come to know and care about, called me to ask why we were so angry.

I have chosen to respond because others called me saying they didn't read the article because the headline was so negative. I am responding because audience members who actually read the article said that they did not understand the “angry” part. I am writing this column because the negative light that was mistakenly cast over us must be addressed so that all the work we did that night will not go awry because of journalistic mistakes.

I have talked to the editor who allowed the mistake to be printed, and she acknowledged that she didn't have the time to read the article or the headline. In a rush, the headline writer thought: *Violence, town hall, panelists, a community — they had to be angry.* And if you mix in the accompanying photograph of African Americans on the panel who may have looked worried, not angry, it wasn't a bad guess.

It simply was not true. The rushed news decision turned into a big mistake, but I truly believe the associate news editor had no malice in her decision.

I won't go into the mistakes the writer made point for point, because the editor in chief said he would handle that part. I will say that none of the 11 panelists, moderator and organizers, were interviewed and if they were, none of their comments were included. Comments were taken out of context and there were several factual errors.

It's a learning process so I'm sure the journalist will be more careful in the future. But, again, no one was angry — the damage is done.

So, what can we learn from all of this? First, there is power in words and pictures. Second, for the record, our three-hour town hall conversation proceeded and ended with young and old, black, brown and white students, citizens, and faculty members speaking freely, passionately, compassionately and warmly about their grief and possible solutions. The house was packed, and strangers hugged, shook hands, smiled at one another, thanked one another and left feeling that we had accomplished something great — a dream of a non-violent world and a determination to be non-violent agents of change in the war against violence.

No, we were not angry, but we could have been. Anyone who cares about humanity can be angered, easily. We can all be angry because all of our children — black, white, yellow, brown — are dying every day, senselessly.

I'll end this column like I ended the town hall meeting, because my sentiments have not changed.

Audre Lorde once said that we must *passionately* desire a world of tolerance and love and better understanding. It is through our desire to be better than we were yesterday, to be our brother's and sister's keepers, that will guide us through...illuminating a better tomorrow.

We must do more. I wish this for you, for me and the ones who have yet to be born.

Dr. Janice Collins is a professor in the journalism department and can be reached at 581-7942 or DENopinions@gmail.com.

THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

“Tell the truth and don't be afraid”

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

Lord deserves to face accusers; faculty should face accused

One of the most important tenets of the American legal system is that a man has the right to face his accusers. The reasons for this are both plentiful and obvious. It keeps unwarranted and false accusations from clogging the system.

It is time for the faculty members circulating the no confidence petition against Blair Lord, provost and vice president for academic affairs, to step out of the shadows and reveal themselves to the public.

These faculty members clearly have strong opinions about the way Lord has handled his responsibilities; otherwise, the petition would not exist.

What is not clear, however, is what these opinions are exactly.

The university as a whole, and Lord specifically, deserve to know what is going on and what the issues at hand actually are.

The petition makes vague references to Lord's policy

“Instead, they cower in the shadows, throwing stones at Lord and then refusing to accept responsibility.”

decisions and hiring practices. As a high-ranking administrator, Lord makes a lot of policy decisions and oversees all academic hires. In order to make a strong argument against Lord, the petitioners must be more specific and tell us what exactly they are against and why.

The charges being brought against Lord in the petition are serious, and the potential repercussions are even more so. The accusers are attempting to force Lord out of his position, the people who are trying to force him out have not come forward.

Instead, they cower in the shadows, throwing stones at Lord and then refusing to accept responsibility.

As of March 4, none of the rabble-rousing faculty have spoken with Lord about the petition. The question, then, is why are they hiding? What are they afraid of?

For such a petition to hold any credibility, it needs to be backed up.

If you want to rabble-rouse, we support that, but please, do it publicly.

High-definition another step in WEIU-TV's continued excellence

We all know what spring break means for college students: Writing papers, studying for finals a bit early and practicing fill-in-the-bubble Scantron techniques.

But for those who are not overachievers and return from some exotic spring break location full of drunken debauchery, some will notice a difference when they flip to local TV channel WEIU: It will have stepped things up a notch. It's taken its broadcasting to the next level. The station is switching to a high-definition television viewing experience.

An article in today's edition of *The Daily Eastern News* said the station will soon have one channel in HD and two in standard definition. To receive the upgrade, the station applied for a grant in December 2008. It was approved a year later, and the equipment was delivered in January and February this year.

Spring break is a perfect opportunity for the station to make the switch to HD.

WEIU-TV will begin broadcasting in HD over the

“WEIU is on quite the roll right now, and we are happy it continues to move forward and stay on top of the broadcast game...”

air on channel 51-1 by the week of March 22, said Chief Engineer Kevin Armstrong. Mediacom, a local cable provider, will carry the HD broadcast in early summer, the article said.

This switch to HD comes after the WEIU-TV News-watch staff won a Mid-America Emmy for best student news production in early October.

Not only is the station and its production moving forward, one of its weathercasters, Kevin Jeanes, also took home third place for best weathercaster in the nation in this year's Broadcast Education Association Student Media Awards. It was the third time he took third place in those awards.

Students looking to watch last weekend's Ohio Valley Conference Tournament games were also able to do so by tuning in to WEIU-TV.

WEIU is on quite a roll right now, and we are happy it continues to move forward and stay on top of the broadcast game, both for our school and for the people who work hard to make it successful.

FROM THE EASEL

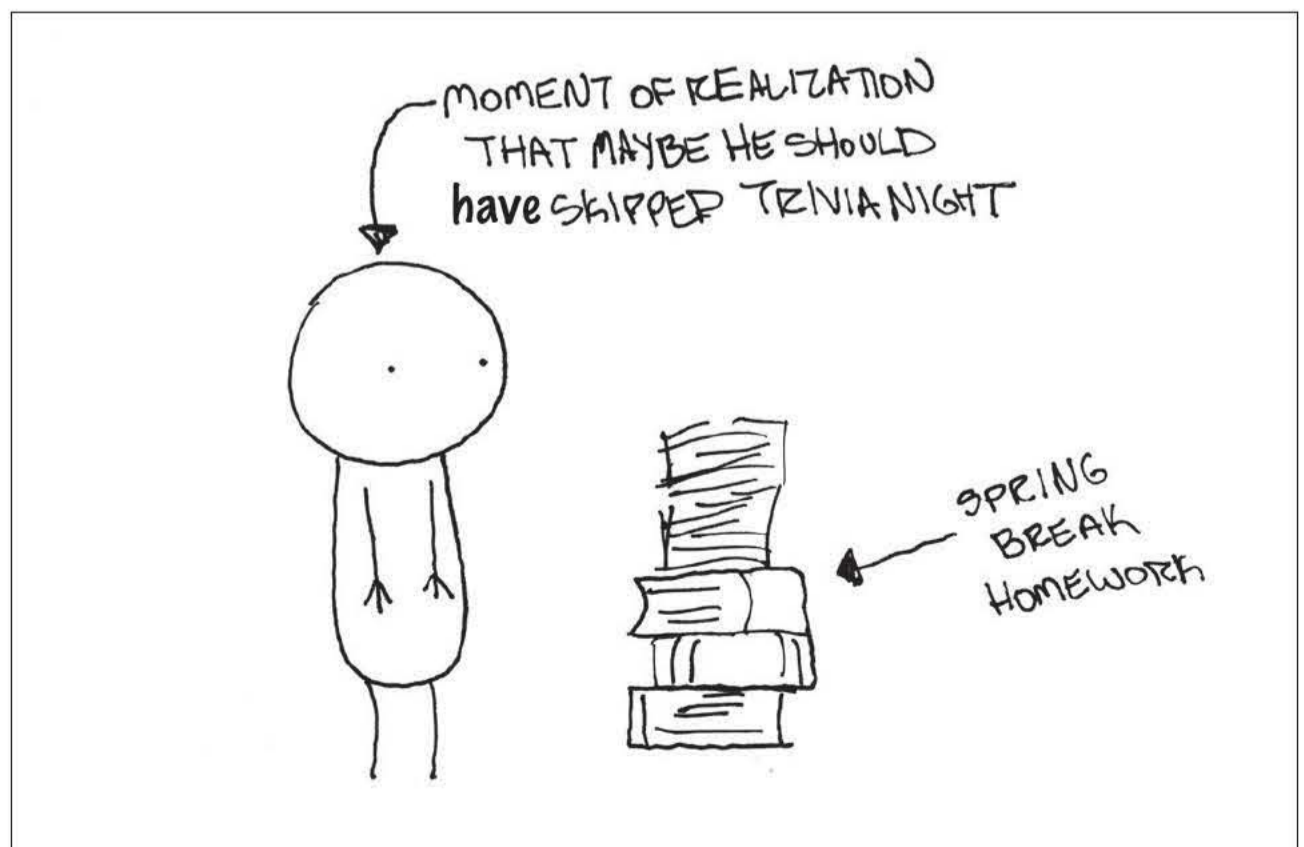


ILLUSTRATION BY DARIUS JUTZI | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

EVENT

Open Mic Night sees good turnout

By Megan Tkacy
 Staff Reporter

Zach Weislo won Wednesday's Open Mic Night in the Java Cafe. The night featured 11 performances, including a showcase performance by Natalie Gelman, a singer/songwriter from New York who is currently touring the county.

Weislo, a junior music education major, sang two songs while playing acoustic guitar. The first song he dedicated to a friend in the crowd.

"That one was for Leslie," Weislo said, "This next one is an original called 'I am the One.'"

Weislo won a \$50 gift card to Guitar Center and performed fourth.

The show opener and co-host was Jacob Unterberger. Unterberger, a sophomore communication studies major, performed three rap pieces to a backtrack from his album "Free for all Vol. 1".

During the first song he encouraged clapping from the audience saying, "This is a free for all so make them hands clap." He also performed "Trying to Expand" and "What's Going on with the World Today."

Jared "Ziggy" Chuck performed twice last night, once solo and another time with an instrument ensemble. For his solo performance he did two songs, the first being his personal take on Led Zepplin's "Stairway to Heaven," and the second was a cover of

Bob Marley's "No Woman, No Cry."

During his performance he played guitar and harmonica while tapping his guitar rhythmically, adding a drum-like beat to his music.

With a crowd of friends and fans in the audience to support him, Brad Ohlwine took the stage third. Ohlwine, a sophomore pre-nursing major, played two songs last night and was excited to entertain everyone in the audience.

"Alright everyone, my name's Brad, and I'm gonna' rock n' roll with you all for a little bit," Ohlwine said before getting into his first number.

During his first song he had some technical difficulties, which he laughed off before continuing on.

"My pick broke during that first song so judge me how you want," he said. "This next song is called the 'Drinking Song.' Let's hope my pick doesn't break, and thanks for listening."

His last song, which he combined acoustic guitar with harmonica, made the audience laugh, as he impersonated a drunken singer toward the end.

Fifth to perform was William Davis, who goes by the stage name Mouse. Davis, a freshman business marketing major, introduced himself by rapping, which set the tone for the rest of his performance.

"Ladies and gentleman, Mouse in

the building," Davis said introducing himself to the crowd.

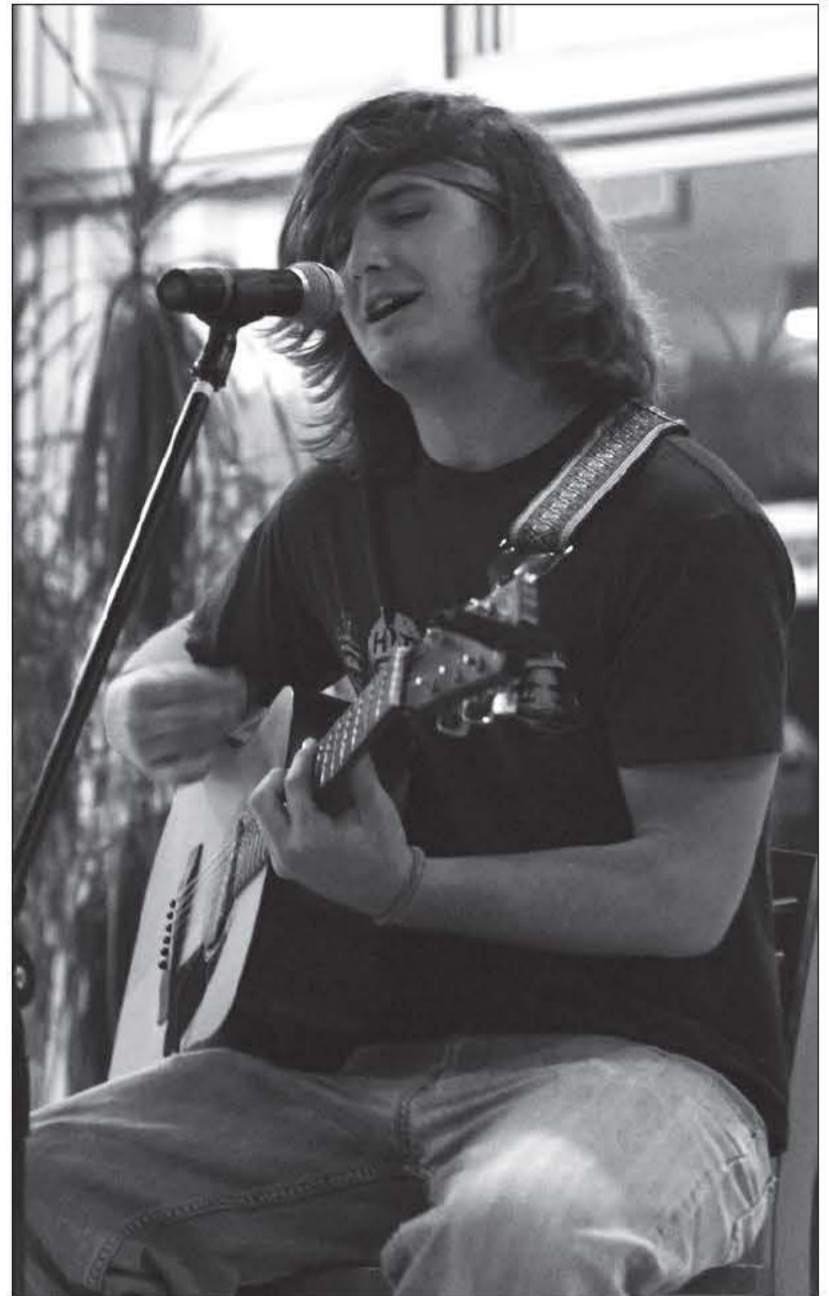
He then transitioned into a rap, further introducing himself to the crowd, before he got into his first rap number, which was followed by a cover of Keith Sweat's "I Wanna Love You Down."

Next to perform was Chuck's instrument ensemble, Manifest Destiny, which featured guitar, keyboard, saxophone, a hand drum and a tambourine. The band played an instrumental rendition of One Republic's "Apologize," which featured a saxophone solo.

Ian Winston, a senior art major and the second place winner of the night, performed next. He goes by the stage name of I2K and performed a rap song for the audience.

"It's kind of dead in here right now, but I love the enthusiasm," Winston said as some crowd members shouted his stage name. "I'm doing this one song called 'Rock the Bass,' and I want you all to come up for this one."

Megan Tkacy can be reached at 581-7942 or DENnewsdesk@gmail.com.



DAVE PARKS | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Sophomore nursing major Brad Ohlwine plays an original song, "Dizzy In My Head" at Open Mic Night on Wednesday. It was at the Java Beanery and Bakery coffee house in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.



For a more in-depth version of this, visit DENnews.com

WHAT DO YOU REALLY PAY TO LIVE IN YOUR APARTMENT?



	Our Competition	Campus Pointe
Rent	\$385	\$415
Electric	\$150	Included (up to \$75)
Water	\$30	Included
Cable	\$30	Included
Internet	\$30	Included
Trash Service including recycle valet	\$25 (without recycling)	Included
Gas to get to class	\$50	Included in our FREE shuttle service
Tanning Bed Package	\$30	We have a tanning bed in our clubhouse
Fun, Friends, And Great Customer Service	PRICELESS	We just throw this into the whole experience!

WHAT DO YOU PAY? **\$730** **Still just \$415!**



217.345.6001

apartmentseiu.com



A Regency Apartment Community

STUDENT SENATE

Murphy admonishes substandard senate support

Students appeal to senate for transportation

By Erica Whelan
Student Government Editor

Two students representing the Student Education Association requested the student senate's assistance in acquiring transportation to a lobbying event for education majors.

Shahrukh Rahman and Amanda Bobka appealed to senate members at Wednesday's meeting to arrange for interested participants to join other state schools in lobbying legislators on April 21.

Rahman said education majors make up approximately 62 percent of the undergraduate population at Eastern and that nearly 30 students have already approached him about attend-

ing the event.

Last year, 12 students were able to attend, though Rahman said more intended to participate but could not find transportation to Springfield.

Isaac Sandidge, student speaker of the senate, promised to notify Eric Wilber, executive vice president and chair of the student action team, whose arrival was delayed.

Michael Stopka, chair of the shuttle bus committee, encouraged Rahman and Bobka to attend the Student Action Team meeting to discuss the matter further.

Following their address of the senate, Student Body President Michelle Murphy confronted the senate members about what she views as inadequate support of the student government budget she helped organize and present to the Apportionment Board Thursday.

"If you have a problem with the budget, you should've said something in the weeks I gathered input," Mur-

phy said. "No one had anything to say, but now everyone's turning on it. That's not how it's supposed to go. It's just not productive. It's moving backwards, and it's not doing anything for the student body."

Members then considered old business, which included the approval of the student supreme court procedures to establish rules of conduct.

Wilber compared the court procedures to the senate's bylaws and executive rules.

The resolution passed with a vote of 25-3-1. The senate also tabled a resolution presented by Zach Caskey to distribute a technology survey to the student body.

As each student pays a technology fee of \$100 per semester, Caskey hopes to gather input on what technologies students are using and which they would like to see implemented on campus.

In addition to the survey, the senate

"If you have a problem with the budget, you should've said something in the weeks I gathered input. No one had anything to say, but now everyone's turning on it."

Student Body President Michelle Murphy

tabled a resolution to transfer funds to support their Spring 2010 inauguration for May 2.

The final resolution, deemed emergency legislation, focused on the long-standing issue of hiring a webmaster to maintain the student government Web site.

The resolution establishing the salary for the Web master was passed unanimously.

During the audience participation

portion, members heard a presentation by Dave Evers, the energy executive director from Honeywell, about measures Eastern will undergo to become more efficient.

Tiffany Turner, former student speaker of the senate, was appointed as a non-senate member to the committee on bylaw revision adoption.

Erica Whelan can be reached at 581-7942 or elwhelan@eiu.edu.

7TH STREET UNDERGROUND

Actor's comic sister to perform comedy today

Comedian related to Scrubs' Braff, set for 7th Street at 9 p.m.

By Heather Holm
Activities Editor

Jessica Kirson, a comedian from New York City, has performed at numerous places, including Gotham Comedy Club, Laugh Factory, Caroline's and the Improv.

Kirson, who is related to actor Zach Braff, will perform at 9 p.m. today in 7th Street Underground of the Martin

"I like how she talked about how she was Zach Braff's sister."

Mary Ham, University Board graduate adviser

Luther King Jr. University Union.

Rovion Reed, comedy coordinator for the University Board, first saw Kirson as part of the National Association for Campus Activities.

"She was different — in a good way," Reed said.

Reed, along with the rest of the comedy committee, also chose her

to perform because of Women's History Awareness Month. Reed said he wants to encourage women to attend the event.

"The ladies should come out, because we don't have a lot of female comedians coming to the school," Reed said.

Reed picked Kirson to perform at

Eastern because she had a lot of energy, a positive vibe and could connect with people in the crowd.

Reed said Kirson was hilarious when she performed, and her jokes were well received, since she talked about a wide range of issues.

"She is a voluptuous lady, so she talks about her size," Reed said.

Reed saw her as the funny older cousin that everybody has in their family.

"This is a good trait to have that made people comfortable around her," Reed said.

Reed said he does not laugh easily, but Kirson had him cracking up at

the performance he attended.

Mary Ham, a graduate adviser for UB, said she thought Kirson worked well with the crowd and was humorous.

"I like how she talked about how she was Zach Braff's sister," Ham said.

There will also be a hip-hop cultural event, Def Comedy Jam, two or three more comedians and the Last Comic Standing as part of UB comedy events later this semester.

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

KA KA KA KA KA KA KA KA KA KA KA KA KA KA KA KA
COME JOIN in the dodgeball/nerf paintball tournament for the Shamrock Event on March 27th!
Contact Sarah Tassone at setassone@eiu.edu or 815-325-5374 for more information!
KA KA KA KA KA KA KA KA KA KA KA KA KA KA KA KA

Did you work for your high school yearbook staff?

Join the Warbler yearbook staff!

Do you enjoy...
design?
photography?
editing?
writing?



Come to our first meeting

on Monday March 22, at 5:30 p.m.

in the Journalism Department Conference Room, Buzzard Hall 2521

E-mail warbler.eic@gmail.com for any questions

DO YOU REALLY LIKE YOUR PROFESSOR?
HOW MUCH? IT'S TIME TO LET THEM KNOW!

Vote for your favorite teacher for the Student Distinguished Professor Award!

Applications must be picked up and dropped off by Friday Apr. 2 in the Student Activities Center in the MLK Jr. Union.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

SAVE YOUR MONEY FOR SPRING BREAK!

\$99.00
deposit
and
\$150.00 off
Aug. rent!



Call today for details: 345-1400

Tanning Beds ~ Fitness Center ~ Rent Starting at \$375.00
Most Utilities Included ~ \$99 Security Deposit
Free Internet ~ Washer & Dryer in every unit ~ Pets Welcome

www.universityvillagehousing.com

UNIVERSITY

HEALTH, from page 1

She also handed out pamphlets about portion size.

Kailee Berggren, a student at Lakeview College of Nursing, had a booth for a project in one of her classes.

She was selling T-shirts that said "Got Boobs? Get Checked" for \$5, and was taking other donations for the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

Berggren said the group collected \$750 before Wednesday.

"We are trying to get at least \$1,000 by the end of the semester," Berggren said. "It's easier to spread the word here than in our little nursing school."

A blood drive was also part of the fair. "It's a good opportunity and lots of people are donating," said Angie Vonderheide, donor relations coordinator.

A booth for Gowin Parc, an alternate care program for people with Alzheimer's or dementia in Mattoon, was also at the event.

Rachel Frazier, a supervisor at the center, said care providers from Gowin Parc came to let people know about

"Right when we opened we had 1,500 students, and we are expecting 3,000 to 4,000 by the end of the day,"

Ryan Messinger, assistant director for Health Services

their facility and how it could be an alternative to a nursing home for people with those conditions.

A wide range of students participated in the event.

Laura Gibson, a junior nursing major, said she had never been to the fair and wanted to see what the event was like.

David Gilbert, a sophomore nursing major, thought going to the event would be an opportunity to find out about his health, along with some other interesting facts.

He went to the cholesterol booth, the My Charleston Dentist booth, which had a life-sized Crest Toothpaste bottle and the "Back to Healthy

Portions" booth, where students spun a wheel that informed them about portion sizes.

"Right when we opened we had 1,500 students, and we are expecting 3,000 to 4,000 by the end of the day," Messinger said.

He said organizations from across the state came to set up booths for the health fair, with about 75 exhibitors providing information for students, from Effingham to Chicago.

"(The health fair) lets them see all the organizations at Eastern and in other communities," Messinger said.

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

SCHOOL BOARD, from page 1

possible, and there is nothing we can do about that."

The school board passed all of Littleford's recommendations.

They included a plan to narrow the amount of transfers into Charleston from Ashmore to only the students dictated by medical or individualized education program needs. Appropriate language will need to be adopted within board policies.

"Charleston has been very accepting towards students from other schools, but we simply can't afford (to be) any longer," Littleford said.

Along with the three teachers who will be eliminated from the district, five other positions will be reduced. The current staff occupying those will be transferred to other positions within the district.

The terminated positions will in-

"Charleston has been very accepting towards students from other schools, but we simply can't afford (to be) any longer."

Jim Littleford, Charleston School District superintendent

clude a physical education position, a computer technology position and an art teacher position at the Charleston Middle School, and two literacy coaches from Carl Sandburg Grade School and Mark Twain Grade School.

With the school board's vote, the district will also refrain from hiring six of the seven positions of resigning staff members.

The only position that will be replaced

after the resignations will be a reading teacher from the Charleston Middle School.

The district will do the same with two of the seven retirement positions.

The eliminated positions will include two of the four first, second or third grade teaching positions at Carl Sandburg Grade School. Staff members currently in the district will replace the two remaining positions.

Finally, the compensation of the district's energy manager, Bill Lumpkin, will be reduced by \$7,000, which will now total about \$13,000 per year.

The board finally established a special school meeting for March 24 at 6:30 p.m. to be held in the high school auditorium.

Kayleigh Zyskowski can be reached at 581-7942 or kzyskowski@eiu.edu.

NATION

Pelosi: Dems close on health care agreement

The Associated Press

ST. CHARLES, Mo. — Democrats claimed momentum Wednesday in their drive to enact the sweeping health care legislation sought by President Barack Obama, citing near agreement on crucial issues despite persistent Republican efforts to knock them off stride.

Obama himself, rallying support outside Washington for the second time this week, shouted to a crowd in Missouri, "The time for talk is over. It's time to vote."

At the Capitol, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said that after days of secretive talks, key Democrats were "pretty close" to accord on additional subsidies to help lower-income families purchase insurance, more aid for states under the Medicaid program for low-income Americans and additional help for seniors who face a coverage gap under current Medicare drug plans.

Pelosi, D-Calif., offered no details, and other officials cautioned that any final deal would hinge on cost estimates under preparation at the Congressional Budget Office. Pelosi said as she left the Capitol late Wednesday that the unresolved issues were mostly "minor, just technical things." She and other leaders planned to brief rank-and-file lawmakers Thursday morning and Pelosi said she hoped the remaining issues could be largely resolved then.

House Budget Committee Chairman John Spratt, D-S.C., said legislation that embodies the agreements among congressional Democrats and the president could move through his panel next week.

At stake is the fate of Obama's call to expand health care to some 30 million people who lack insurance and to ban insurance company practices such as denial of coverage on the basis of pre-existing medical conditions. He also hopes to begin to reduce the rise in the cost of health care nationally.

Almost every American would be affected by the legislation, which would change the ways people re-

"The time for talk is over. It's time to vote. It's time to vote. Tired of talking about it."

President Barack Obama

ceive and pay for health care, from the most routine checkup to the most expensive, lifesaving treatment.

Pelosi made her comments as Obama followed his campaign-reminiscent Pennsylvania trip of Monday with an appearance near St. Louis, pushing hard in the home stretch of the marathon battle to pass his signature domestic legislation.

"The time for talk is over. It's time to vote. It's time to vote. Tired of talking about it," he told the crowd.

With his shirt sleeves rolled up, Obama denounced waste and inefficiency in the government's health care system, and he announced that he had signed an executive order directing Cabinet secretaries and agency heads to intensify their use of private auditors to root out fraud.

House and Senate Democrats are working on a complex rescue mission for the health care legislation that appeared on the cusp of passage late last year, before Senate Republicans gained the strength to sustain a filibuster that could prevent final passage.

The current hope of the White House and Democratic leaders is for the House to approve last year's Senate-passed bill, despite serious objections to numerous provisions. Both houses would then pass a second bill immediately, making changes in the first measure before both could take effect. The second bill would be debated under rules that bar a filibuster, meaning it could clear by majority vote and without Democrats needing to amass a 60-vote supermajority that is beyond their reach.

KERASOTES
Movies with Magic
1-800-FANDANGO + EXPRESS CODE #
VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.KERASOTES.COM
FREE REFILL ON POPCORN & SOFT DRINKS!

BARGAIN MATINEES - all shows before 6pm
WILL ROGERS CODE # 1556
705 MONROE AVE., CHARLESTON • 345-9222
FREE POPCORN TUESDAYS!
Complimentary popcorn with every Tuesday ticket purchased

MAR 12-18
ALICE IN WONDERLAND (PG)
DAILY 7:00 FRI SAT 9:40 SUN 2:15
PERCY JACKSON AND THE OLYMPIANS: THE LIGHTNING THIEF (PG)
DAILY 6:45 FRI SAT 9:30 SUN 2:00

SHOWPLACE 10 CODE # 1573
JUST OFF ROUTE 16, E. OF I-57 • MATTOON

STUDENT DISCOUNT for shows after 6pm
BARGAIN TUESDAY!
\$5.50 ALL SEATS - ALL TIMES - INCLUDES POPCORN
*NO PASSES OR SUPERSAVER TICKETS

*GREEN ZONE (R)
4:30 7:20 FRI SAT 10:05 SAT SUN 1:40
*SHE'S OUT OF MY LEAGUE (R)
3:30 6:40 FRI SAT 9:40 SAT SUN 1:10
*REMEMBER ME (PG13)
4:10 6:50 FRI SAT 9:55 SAT SUN 12:50
*ALICE IN WONDERLAND (PG)
3:30 4:20 6:20 7:00 FRI SAT 9:00 9:50 SAT SUN 12:30 1:30
*BROOKLYN'S FINEST (R)
4:00 7:10 FRI SAT 10:15 SAT SUN 12:40
COP OUT (R)
4:50 7:30 FRI SAT 10:00 SAT SUN 1:50
CRAZY HEART (R)
3:40 6:30 FRI SAT 9:30 SAT SUN 1:00
SHUTTER ISLAND (R)
4:40 7:50 SAT SUN 1:20
THE CRAZIES (R)
5:00 7:40 FRI SAT 10:10 SAT SUN 2:00

Want **FIVE BUCK MOVIES?**
SIGN UP TODAY AT www.fivebuckclub.net
BUY TICKETS ONLINE AT FANDANGO.COM

Spring Break Special

The Courtyard

Sign Before March 12th and Receive \$100 off 1st Months Rent

1515 9th Street

Covered Parking ***Pool Table*** ***Hot Tub***

3 Bedrooms ***Vanity in every room***

Unique Properties (217)345-5022
www.unique-properties.net

STREAK, from page 12

doubles matches was a big plus today," Blackburn said. "It's nice to not just get two, but three of them."

The singles play was dominant, as the Panthers took four out of the five matches.

Brooks defeated Hullett in straight sets, 6-0, 6-2.

"I felt good," Brooks said. "I thought we played well, not the best, but pretty well."

Junior Cara Huck earned her first singles win of the season as she de-

feated Janel Seng in straight sets, 6-1, 6-0.

Freshman Merritt Whitley was the other Panther to earn a win, beating Alisha Haskett in straight sets 6-2, 6-2.

Blackburn was impressed with the team's aggressiveness in singles play.

"All of the girls came out and took care of business," Blackburn said. "But Kristen in particular. I liked the aggressiveness coming to the net."

The highlights of the day came from all of the singles winners.

"All of the people who won in singles were the highlights; Shannon, Carra, Kristen and Merritt all played good singles."

The Panthers will hit the court again on March 21 when they will host conference foe Tennessee Tech at 11 a.m. on Darling Courts.

Dane Urban can be reached at 581-7944 or dcurban@eiu.edu.

SHIFT, from page 12

shortstop, but he had to switch positions.

"He is such a big guy and such a big, tough specimen that we knew a transition to third would not be that hard," Meade said. "But he was sitting behind Zach Skidmore who was hitting .340 and had 11 jacks. He's not leaving his spot."

The reason Borenstein moved to third, Meade said, was because freshman Danny Rowe is a phenomenal athlete and started out at second; but began to struggle.

So, Rowe is in right field now and freshman Ryan Dineen is penciled in at second base.

"What you will see happening is just some guys have platooned a little bit," Meade said. "We are just trying to find that lineup that gives us the defense to win games but get that offensive spark to win (close games)."

Describing Borenstein as a great athlete, Meade said No. 18 has the arm strength and ability to be a great third baseman, but he still needs work.

"Borenstein played a little better this weekend," Meade said of the University of Alabama-Birmingham series. "Yesterday (against Indiana State) at third, he had a really good game. Seeing him have success at third is good, because being a captain, we want a captain that can keep the infield calm and together."

Junior closer Matt Miller agrees with Meade's assessment.

"He's been solid at third," Miller said.

Borenstein said third base is the "hot corner" in baseball, where most of the action occurs.

In the outfield, Borenstein said he could get lackadaisical when the ball is not coming his way.

Also, one major difference for Borenstein is throwing the ball to teammates.

"Last year, I was transitioning from infield to outfield and I was working on a more over-the-top release," Borenstein said. "This year, I'm trying to have no tail on the ball."

Fielding has been a little challenging for Borenstein, who has four errors in 10 games.

"This year, it's staying consistent," he said of his fielding. "My mistakes have come when I take a bad at bat to the field. Especially on the infield, you can't do that. I need a clear head."

The bat is where Borenstein does the most damage.

He is hitting .302 and has 13 hits, one homer and a team-leading eight RBIs.

Last year, the third baseman hit .394 with 5 five homers and 28 RBIs. He also led the OVC with a .506 on base percentage.

Hitting, though, will be different, because Borenstein will have a new approach.

He was a No. 1 and No. 7 hitter in 2009 but now is at No. 3 as the power hitter.

"I was supposed to get on base and draw walks and set the table for the other guys," Borenstein said. "We (now) have other guys who could fill in that role, and I'm trying to drive them in."

The sophomore's bat will be needed this year, Miller said.

"We need him to stay hot for the rest of the year, and hopefully he does," Miller said. "He's been hitting the ball very well."

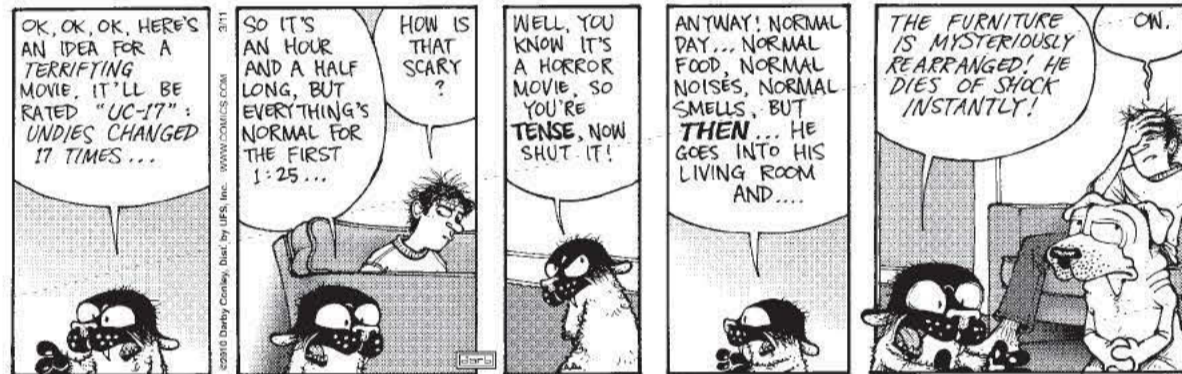
Bob Bajek can be reached at 581-7944 or rtbajek@eiu.edu.

COMICS

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE BY STEPHAN PASTIS



GET FUZZY BY DARBY CONLEY



CLASSIFIEDS

<p>For rent Grant View Apartments: 4 bedroom, 2 full bath, fully furnished. Across from Rec Center. \$395/month. 345-3353</p> <p>Grant View Apartments: 5 bedroom duplex, 2 1/2 bath, kitchen/living area, laundry room, big backyard. Behind Greek Court. \$375/month. 345-3353</p> <p>5 bedroom house for students. Fall 2010. Hardwood floors, dishwasher, washer/dryer basement. Very nice. Across from O'Brien Field. No Pets. 345-7286 www.jwilliamsrentals.com</p> <p>2 bedroom apts. all utilities included, just east of Greek Court. 345-7008 or 549-2615</p> <p>NEW 5 BD 5 BATH. 1705 12th St. Tons of Space and Very Nice! \$395 each. 217-345-6100 www.jensenrentals.com</p> <p>NOW LEASING FOR 10/11 SCHOOL YEAR: Large 5 bdrm house at 1109 4th Street. Washer/dryer & garbage included. 10 Mo lease \$260 per student. Call 345-6257</p> <p>Houses: 5-7 ppl 1533 or 1537 3rd. 3 BR apt 1521 1st. 345-5048</p> <p>Close to campus: 3 & 4 BR units available. Newly remodeled, very nice. www.pantherproperties.net 217-962-0790</p> <p>Brittany Ridge Townhouse: 10-11 school year- Walking distance to campus, 3 BR, 2.5 bathrooms, washer/dryer in unit, full kitchen w/ dishwasher, trash and parking included, furnished option available, low monthly rent. Call 217-508-8035</p> <p>6 bedroom, 2 bath, A/C, washer & dryer, \$350 each, 1521 2nd St. 345-3273</p> <p>2 BR Apts. 5 minute walk from campus. All inclusive rates available. Great Deal. 217-273-2048</p>	<p>For rent Extremely close to campus. 3 & 4 BR Apts. 1/2 block from Rec Center. Great Deal at \$325/each. Call 217-273-2048</p> <p>Large, close to campus 1 bedroom apartments. Water, electricity, over 100 channel cable package, and internet all included at a low, low price of \$590/month for singles, \$100 OFF first month's rent! Pet Friendly. Call or text 217-273-2048.</p> <p>FOR FALL 2 and 3 bedrooms. Individual leases, all utilities included, lots of extras. Only \$415 per month and can be furnished or unfurnished. Visit apartments@eiu.com or call 345-6001 for details.</p> <p>Now renting for Fall 2010, 4 bedroom house. W/in walking distance to campus. Call 345-2467</p> <p>4 bedroom house, May lease. 6 bedroom house, August lease. Close to campus. 345-6533</p> <p>3 bedroom nice house, 4 blocks from campus, central air, washer/dryer, dishwasher, bar, parking. 217-202-4456</p> <p>NOW LEASING FOR 10/11 SCHOOL YEAR! Large 5 bdrm house at 1109 4th Street. Washer/dryer & garbage included. 10 mo. lease. \$260 per student. Call 345-6257.</p> <p>www.tricountymg.com</p> <p>FOR FALL 2010: 7 BEDROOM, 2 KITCHEN, 2 LIVING ROOM, 2 BATHROOM HOUSE WITH HUGE BACKYARD AND FRONT PORCH IN THE HEART OF CAMPUS. CALL 217-493-7559 OR myeiuhome.com</p> <p>JOIN THE EXPERIENCE! At Campus Pointe Apartments we'll pay for your water, trash, cable TV, internet and we'll give you a monthly electric allowance. NO ONE ELSE IN TOWN INCLUDES ALL THIS IN THEIR RENT! We offer 2 bedroom / 2 bathroom and 3 bedroom / 3 bathroom units with dishwashers, microwaves, washers and dryers, walk-in closets,</p>	<p>For rent ets, and privacy locks. You'll also enjoy our 24 hour computer lab and fitness center, tanning facility, media lounge and all of our outdoor amenities. PRICES START AT \$415! \$99 security deposit. Visit apartments@eiu.com or call 217-345-6001 for more info.</p> <p>For Lease Fall 2010! 2-6 bedroom houses, great locations and rates, www.blhi.org 217-273-0675</p> <p>www.pantherproperties.net</p> <p>NEW ONE BEDROOM APTS AVAILABLE AUG 2010, washer/dryer, dishwasher, central heat & a/c, very nice & quiet. www.pprentals.com 348-8249</p> <p>For Rent: 2010-2011. www.littekenrentals.com 217-276-6867</p> <p>FOR FALL 2010: VERY NICE 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8 BEDROOM HOUSES, TOWNHOUSES, AND APARTMENTS. ALL EXCELLENT LOCATIONS. FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL US AT 217-493-7559 OR www.myeiuhome.com</p> <p>NOW LEASING 1, 2, 3, and 4 bedroom houses! Enjoy FREE tanning beds, a fitness center and game room, fully furnished duplexes and homes with up to 1600 sq. ft. FREE cable, FREE water, FREE internet, and FREE trash! Our residents love the full size washer and dryer, dishwasher and the queen size beds that each home comes with. It's your choice... 6, 10, or 12 month individual leases! We offer roommate matching and a shuttle service to campus. PETS WELCOME!! Call us today at 345-1400 or visit our website at www.universityvillagehousing.com</p> <p>PETS WELCOME! 1, 2, 3, AND 4 bedroom duplexes. Cable, Internet, and Water included. Call 345-1400</p> <p>WWW.EPPROPS.COM</p> <p>Great Apt. for one. Great location, Great deal. Very</p>	<p>For rent large. Call or text 217-273-2048</p> <p>Apartments on the square. Efficiency 1 and 2 bedrooms \$375-\$500. Call 234-7368. NO security deposit Required with approved application.</p> <p>4BD, 2 BATH APT. 1140 Edgar Dr. Furnished \$350 or Unfurnished \$325 each. Nice, Large and New! 217-345-6100 www.jensenrentals.com</p> <p>1 bedroom apartment close to campus. Heat, water, parking and trash included. 345-6533.</p> <p>January Semester: 2 BR Apts. 5 or 6 mon. lease options. Call Lincolnwood Pinetree Apts. 345-6000</p> <p>Lincolnwood Pinetree Apts. has 1st semester apts. available beginning August 2010. 345-6000</p> <p>Stop by or call Lincolnwood-Pinetree Apartments for your Studio 1, 2, and 3 bedroom apartments. Rent you can afford and you can walk to campus! Call 345-6000 or stop by 2219 9th Street #17 or email us at: lincpineapts@consolidated.net</p> <p>3BD- So Close to Campus! 2009 11th St. \$350 each. 217-345-6100 www.jensenrentals.com</p> <p>HOMES, DUPLEXES, 4, 3, or 6 Bedrooms. BUZZARD 1 BLOCK. W/D, C/A, 4 Bedroom with 2 Baths 345-3253</p> <p>HOMES: 5, 4 & 3 Bedrooms, Campus 1 Block, W/D, C/A, D/W 2 Baths. 345-3253</p> <p>Property available on 7th St.: 5 Bedroom House. Call 217-728-8709.</p> <p>WWW.JBAPARTMENTS.COM</p> <p>OLDETOWNE APARTMENTS: 1, 2, & 3 BEDROOMS. CLOSE TO CAMPUS. 4 LOCATIONS TO CHOOSE</p>	<p>For rent FROM: 345-6533</p> <p>FALL 10-11: 1, 2 & 3 BR. APTS. WATER & TRASH INCLUDED. PLENTY OF OFF-STREET PARKING. BUCHANAN ST. APTS. CALL 345-1266.</p> <p>1, 2, 3, and 4 bedrooms. Trash and parking included. Great location. Call 217-345-2363.</p> <p>Houses for rent: 3-6 bedrooms, A/C, off street parking. www.EIUnighborhood.com or call 273-1395</p> <p>www.CharlestonLApts.com</p> <p>Close to campus, 3 BD house, 2010-2011 school yr. Large yard, W/D, A/C & heat pump. 10-12 mo. lease. trash included. \$350/person. 549-5402</p> <p>Large 3BD house for rent, 2010-2011 school yr. W/D, HE A/C & HE furnace, trash included. 10-12 mo. lease, \$300/person. 549-5402</p> <p>2BD apartment, trash & water included, furnished, 10 or 12 month lease, \$265/person, 1111 2nd St. next to City Park, call 348-5427</p> <p>Campus clips It's time for the Special Olympics and we need volunteers! The Department of Special Education is hosting the special olympics Friday, April 30 from 7:30 a.m.- 2:30 p.m. at the O'Brien Stadium. Special Olympics Volunteer forms are available in 1212 Buzzard Hall, Department of Special Education, and are due by 4:30 p.m. March 22nd.</p> <p>Come learn about multicultural games that can be used with young children!! The Student Association for the Education of Young Children (SAEYC) is hosting Multicultural Game Night March 23 at 6:30pm in Klehm 2321.</p>
--	--	---	--	---

SWIMMING | PROFILE

Assistant grows personally, athletically

By Bob Bajek
Sports Editor

Six years can be a long time, but for graduate assistant Holly Hooe, those years were filled with athletic and personal growth with Eastern's swim program.

Hooe was an Eastern swimmer from 2004-08 as a breaststroker and individual medley racer.

She said she will miss the pool lifestyle.

"Being a part of Eastern swimming is like being a part of a big family with alumni, current swimmers and everyone," Hooe said. "If you are a part of the family once, you will always be a part of it. I will just miss being around swimming."

Eastern became home for Hooe because of the amphibious Panthers.

"It definitely helped me fit into Eastern and adjust to campus life," Hooe said. "I've been involved in swimming for 16 years since I was 8, so it gave me a place to fit in. All my friends swam."

Her stay at Eastern began when former swim coach Ray Padovan recruited her from Salem Community High School. He said Hooe has always shown dedication to the sport.

"Holly has always been pretty locked into swimming," Padovan

said. "It's been a big part of her life all along. When she came here and swam, she helped us a lot. She was always a part of the team and liked to be at the pool."

Padovan said he picked Hooe as he was retiring to help the next coach transition and said the graduate assistant was by far his first choice.

"It's been great to see her go along the way she has, as a great student and athlete," Padovan said.

Bos, also a former athlete under Padovan, said Hooe has been instrumental in assisting him in his transition.

"Holly was a great help for me (in moving) the team from Ray to me," Bos said. "She does so much work for me with organization that I don't know what I would do if she wasn't here."

Hooe said through swimming, she has been able to pay for graduate school and be still involved with the team where she personally knew the juniors and seniors.

"Ray and Matt have been great coaches and influences on me," Hooe said. "(However), it takes a really special person to be a coach like a teacher. It is a possibility, but right now, probably not right away."

Adjustment was needed for Hooe, who became an assistant coach. The juniors and seniors swam with her for two years before her promotion.

Senior Laura Zillmer said she could see the difference between Hooe as a coach and as a teammate.

"She was a lot more laid back and fun," Zillmer said. "She was a good captain too and a good leader. Now, she realizes this is a job and she takes it more seriously."

Zillmer said Hooe helps a bit with fixing swimmers' techniques and helps Bos organize everything.

Senior Brian Stole agrees with Zillmer on Hooe's coaching ability.

"It is a hard transition from swimmer to coach, but she's done it very well and kept the respect of the swimmers," Stole said. "After awhile, we adapted to the idea that she was an authority figure."

This authority is demonstrated with senior Sarah Jones, who said she and Hooe are friends.

"It would be really hard being friends with people and then going to be (their) coach," Jones said. "Things are a little different, but we are still friends; it's just a different relationship right now."

Hooe is getting her master's in college student affairs, and she wants to do academic advising in athletics. She said she is applying to many schools and is looking for a new experience.

Bob Bajek can be reached at 581-7944 or rtbajek@eiu.edu.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY BART RETTBERG

Holly Hooe swam for Eastern from 2004-08 as a breaststroker and individual medley racer.

STATE

CHICAGO SPORTS

Sharp scores in OT for Chicago Blackhawks over Kings

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Patrick Sharp scored his second goal of the game 2:08 into overtime to give the Chicago Blackhawks a 3-2 victory over the Los Angeles Kings on Wednesday night.

Dave Bolland picked off an errant pass by the Kings' Brad Richardson at center ice and made a long pass to Sharp, who skated in and beat goalie Jonathan Quick.

Sharp opened the scoring for Chicago in the first period, Kris Ver-

steeg added a goal and Antti Niemi, making his first start in four games, stopped 28 shots.

Anze Kopitar and Dustin Brown scored for the Kings, and Quick finished with 40 saves.

Bears sign FB Eddie Williams

LAKE FOREST — Fullback Eddie Williams has signed a one-year contract with the Chicago Bears.

Drafted in the seventh round by Washington last year, he spent most of the season on the Redskins' prac-

tice squad before being elevated to the active roster Nov. 2. He was inactive for three games before being placed on injured reserve with a broken leg in late November.

The 6-foot-1, 249-pound Williams caught 100 passes for 1,205 yards and 11 touchdowns in four seasons at Idaho, while carrying 19 times for 195 yards and three TDs.

Bulls fading in tough stretch

DEERFIELD — A year ago, the Chicago Bulls were piling up wins and

building momentum that carried them into the playoffs and an epic showdown with the Celtics. Now? It's losses that are piling up, along with injuries.

If the season ended today, the Bulls would be out of the playoffs.

At 31-32 and with five straight losses, the Bulls were ninth in the Eastern Conference through Tuesday and trying to orchestrate another turn in a season that has seen no shortage of them.

From the slow start and speculation about the coach's job status to a

mini resurgence to the recent struggles and injuries to key players such as center Joakim Noah and now Luol Deng, it's easy to see why Vinny Del Negro used the word "interesting" to describe it all on Wednesday.

Difficult might be appropriate, too.

The Bulls will have a tough time duplicating what they did around this time last season, when they went on a run in mid-March that took them to that thrilling first-round playoff series with Boston, point guard Derrick Rose said.

Campus Special
Large Unlimited Toppings Pizza
only **\$9.99**
Carry Out Only

Thursday @ **Marty's...**
OPEN 11am
Bud Light Presents
Mega-Burger w/ Fries & Drink \$4.99
Quarter Bouncer Tourney
Be Crowned Bar Champion & Win a CASH Prize!!!
\$2 Domestic \$3 Imports
Join Marty's Beer Drinking Team

ADS ARE FOREVER
Run an ad in the DEN
(217) 581-2816

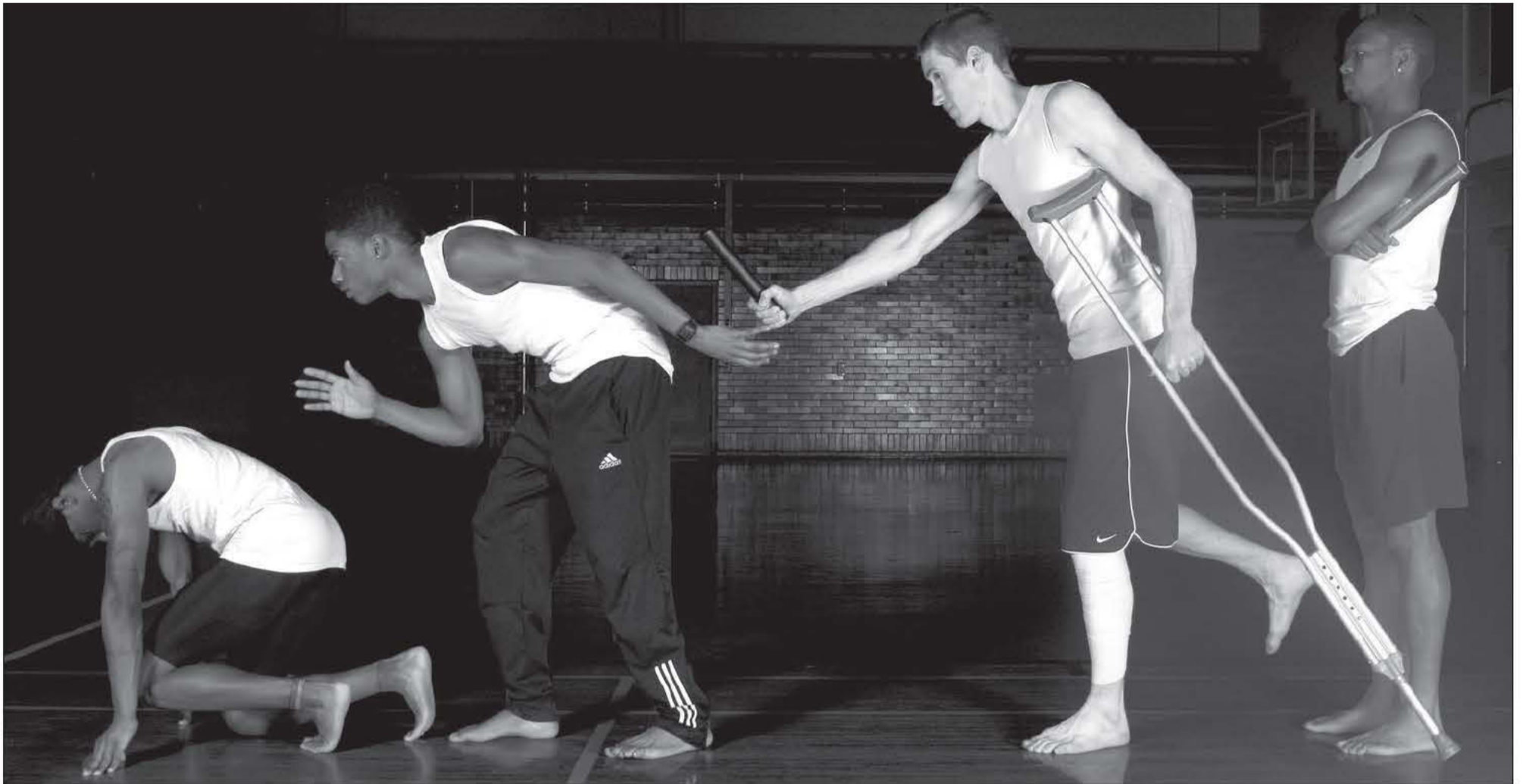
TRI COUNTY Management Group
WINTER SPECIALS!
3 Bedroom Apartments
12 Month Lease
Must sign lease before spring break
Royal Heights
1509 2nd Street
\$795/month
Park Place II
715 Grant Avenue
\$785-\$960/month
Second parking pass FREE at this location!
Charleston Office:
715 Grant Avenue #101
Phone: 217-348-1479
Open Mon. - Fri. 11:00-5:00
Our Locations still available:
Park Place, Royal Heights, & Lynn Ro
Floor plans, pictures, prices, and more online!
www.tricountymg.com

Call Center Agents
\$8.00/hr, Long Term
Part Time 20 hrs per week
5p-9p M-F, No Weekends!
Paid Training
Customer Service and No Sales! Represent a government funded program assisting customers over the phone. Great resume builder and work experience. Prime hours and great pay! **Apply today - 25 positions available start March 15th.**
SolixCMR
Consolidated Market Response
700 W Lincoln Ave, Charleston
(217) 639-1135
www.staffsolutions.biz

Top of the Roc
Thursday @ 10 p.m.
Ladies Night w/ the Jager Girls
•\$6 Fishbowls
•\$5 Cosmos
•\$2 Tequila & Lemon Drop Shots



Top Cat with 1,600-meter relay team



AMIR PRELLBERG | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Junior Darren Patterson, sophomore Sean Wiggan, red-shirt junior Wes Sheldon, and red-shirt senior Marcus Williams, broke the school record by completing the 1,600 meter relay in 3 minutes, 10.92 seconds.

Teamwork overtakes 32-year record

4 relay members have unique stories in breaking 1,600-relay mark

By Kevin Murphy
Staff Reporter

Breaking a record is not that easy, and as Eastern head coach Tom Akers said, sometimes you need a little bit of luck.

"Some of (the records) are pretty tough," he said. "They take great pride in that."

The men's 1,600-meter relay team took the long road, literally, to establish a school record and top the previous best, set by a 1978 relay team.

Red-shirt senior Marcus Williams, junior Darren Patterson, sophomore Sean Wiggan and red-shirt junior Wes Sheldon notched the school record in the 1,600-meter relay. They completed the relay in 3 minutes, 10.92 seconds.

In 1978, John Calozzo, Steven Jones, Robert Johnson and Ed Hatch comprised the team that ran the event in 3:12.40.

Besides traveling to Ames, Iowa, each of the current runners had to overcome an obstacle. In the end, they gelled together and ran a perfect time.

Sheldon overcomes injuries

You name it, Sheldon went through it.

He went through mono, a slight hamstring injury, respiratory problems and battling a cold week-in-week-out.

"It could've been worse," he said.

But Sheldon, along with Wiggan, did not run in any other events at the NCAA Qualifier Meet at Iowa State's Lied Recreational Center on Saturday.

"You better get something out of it," Sheldon said. "If you're going to make that trip, you better make it worth it."

He said he did not feel any pressure but was excited.

"I felt like I ran faster than I did all season," Sheldon said.

Sheldon said he and the indoor season do not mix well — with numerous injuries and sickness being the main reason — but he was excited to be a part of the record more than anything.

Sheldon's humbleness about the record shows.

"Those guys are the studs," he said. "It's an honor. It's definitely nice to end on a high note."

Williams works with new team

Williams had worked with Sheldon and Wiggan, but not simultaneously.

He is part of a 1,600-meter relay that ranks seventh all-time in the indoor program, and he also is a part of two 1,600-meter relays in the outdoor season that rank second and third all-time.

Williams' teammates in those three relays — Pat Tortorici (red-shirting), Brenton Pegues (graduated), Zye Boey (injured), DeMarcus Brooks (no longer attending Eastern), and Kris Gehrke (red-shirting)— were not available for the indoor season.

Williams said the one constant among the guys is that everyone works hard.

"It's important, especially for something like this," he said.

"This is actually my first relay record. I hope it lasts another 32 years."

Williams has some field records in high school, but this is his top record.

"It's a relief," he said. "It was good to actually break it."

He is preparing for his team to qualify provisionally and aiming for the outdoor 1,600-meter relay record. The best time is 3:08.40.

Williams and Sheldon are part of a

team that has the second-best record in the event, 3:09.99.

Williams aims for his relay team to qualify for the national championships, which is not that far of a stretch. While only nine teams qualified for the finals at last year's outdoor meet, 18 teams competed in the preliminaries, with Auburn running last in 3:10.62.

"It's definitely a visual thing seeing Zye go last year," he said. "He made it a reality. If he can, we can do it. The fact that we ran fast means we can go even faster."

Patterson shifts to leadoff man

Patterson was not too happy with his 200-meter dash, but he came back in the relay—that was how his transition within the relay team happened.

At Notre Dame earlier this season, the group moved Patterson into the leadoff role.

"They moved me there, and I wasn't too happy about it," Patterson said. "It worked out really well. Ever since then, there's been no looking back."

Patterson is more of a sprinter than Wiggan, who was the original

leadoff.

The 200-meter specialist is not that big, but he avoids the elbowing and jockeying for position by going out fast.

"I like to get out hard and put pressure on the guy to catch me," he said.

The transfer from Rend Lake College has embraced the relay team, something he did not necessarily have happen at Rend Lake.

"We're like brothers now," he said. "It's a lot better now. I feel like people should really appreciate us when we run the 4x4."

Wiggan finds role of relay team

"It's funny because I don't start in blocks," Wiggan said.

Wiggan was the anchor on his high school relay team, and refers to himself as an "even runner."

Wiggan said moving to the second leg of the relay helped.

"I was getting pushed around," he said. "That pretty much was bringing our times down."

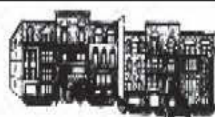
Kevin Murphy can be reached at 581-7944 or kjmurphy@eiu.edu.

This Space For Sale

- Prime Location
 - On Campus
 - Put Your business in front of 10,000+ Students Faculty Staff
- call the Den
217-581-2816

1, 2, 3 Bedrooms Close to Campus

345-6533



OLDTOWNE MANAGEMENT

CHEAPBOOKS
Sell your textbooks for **CASH!**
TEXTBOOK BUYBACKS
CHEAPBOOKS.COM

(925) BUY-BACK (260) 399-6111 - English
(212) 380-1763 - Español

VIEWS



Dane Urban

Home court, crowd gives team boost

The Eastern women's tennis squad finally hosted its first home match of the season, as it welcomed Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis.

Because of the weather conditions in Charleston, the Panthers are forced to schedule their first half of the season on the road.

As the players have to travel into hostile environments match after match, it can take its toll on them.

Eastern head coach John Blackburn felt like it was a well-deserved change of pace to get the crowd behind them for once.

"We played at Ball State, and they had a big crowd that was against us, and it was nice to have it the other way around today," Blackburn said.

The crowd can be a large factor in the mindsets of the players, and the Panthers really enjoyed the chance to play in front of their home crowd.

Freshman Kristen Laird's play, like other Panthers, seemed to feed off the crowd.

"We had the crowd behind us all match," Laird said.

"It was just fun to play in a home atmosphere."

Playing on their home courts, in front of their home crowd gave the Panthers advantages over their opponent.

The players are more familiar with how the courts play, which gives the team the upper hand.

"Home crowd, home surface, every tennis facility plays different, and familiarity was a big plus today," Blackburn said.

Yesterday also marked the first outdoor match of the season for the women's team.

Playing outside is a whole different game than playing inside. It presents a new handful of challenges.

Sophomore Shannon Brooks noticed differences on the outdoor court.

"It was definitely different than inside," Brooks said.

"The ball was slower and you have to move your feet a lot more but we adjusted well enough to get the win."

Blackburn said he thought his team played well in its first outdoor match, but he said they still need to adjust.

"We did a decent job, but we still have some adjusting to do for playing outside," Blackburn said. "Like being more aggressive when the ball is slower."

Dane Urban can be reached at 581-7944 or dcurban@eiu.edu.

WOMEN'S TENNIS | RECAP



AMIR PRELLBERG | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Sophomore Shannon Brooks returns a shot during her doubles match against IUPUI Wednesday afternoon at Darling Courts.

Four-match losing streak ends

Panthers defeat Jaguars 5-2 in home match

By Dane Urban
Staff Reporter

The Panthers clawed past Indi-

ana University-Purdue University Indianapolis 5-2 in their first home match of the season yesterday at Darling Courts.

The Eastern women's tennis team now sits at 3-6 on the season as it snapped a four-match losing streak, while IUPUI dropped to 0-11.

The team started the day off hot as it swept the Jaguars in doubles play, earning the point.

The team of freshman Kristen Laird and sophomore Shannon Brooks took their doubles match easily, beating Hunter Bullock and Shelby Hullett, 8-4.

"I think we played pretty

good," Laird said. "Shannon and I did really good finishing out points."

Eastern head coach John Blackburn was pleased with his team's performance on the doubles court.

"Winning all three of the STREAK, page 9

BASEBALL | SPOTLIGHT

Shift from right to third natural

Soph. Borenstein moves from right field to third

By Bob Bajek
Sports Editor

Coming off a hot 2009, sophomore ballplayer Zach Borenstein was asked to switch positions.

Eastern coaches decided the 5-foot-11 right fielder — who was a Louisville Slugger Freshman All-America and Ohio Valley Conference All-Freshman Team selection — would be better suited for third

base. However, Borenstein said adjusting to third was not that difficult.

"Last year, I was practicing at third base all the time," Borenstein said.

"(Graduate Zach Skidmore) definitely helped me out a lot because I never played that position before until I got here. I used to play short (stop). It's been a long process this summer getting ready, and I still have a lot of work to do."

Eastern pitching coach Syklar Meade said head coach Jim Schmitz recruited Borenstein as SHIFT, page 9



AUDREY SAWYER | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Sophomore third baseman Zach Borenstein started his first season in a new position, before the spring 2010 season he was a right fielder for the Panthers.

EASTERN SPORTS SCHEDULE

Baseball
Friday at South Florida
6 p.m. - Tampa, Fla.

Men's tennis
Saturday at Michigan State
9 a.m. - East Lansing, Mich.

Baseball
Saturday at South Florida
6 p.m. - Tampa, Fla.

Softball
Saturday at Evansville
1 p.m. - Evansville, Ind.

Baseball
Sunday at South Florida
6 p.m. - Tampa, Fla.

For more please see eipanthers.com

NATIONAL SPORTS

College basketball
Big East quarterfinals
6 p.m. on ESPN

College basketball
ACC first round
6 p.m. on ESPN2

NHL
Blues at Islanders
6 p.m. on FSN

NBA
Bulls at Magic
7 p.m. on TNT

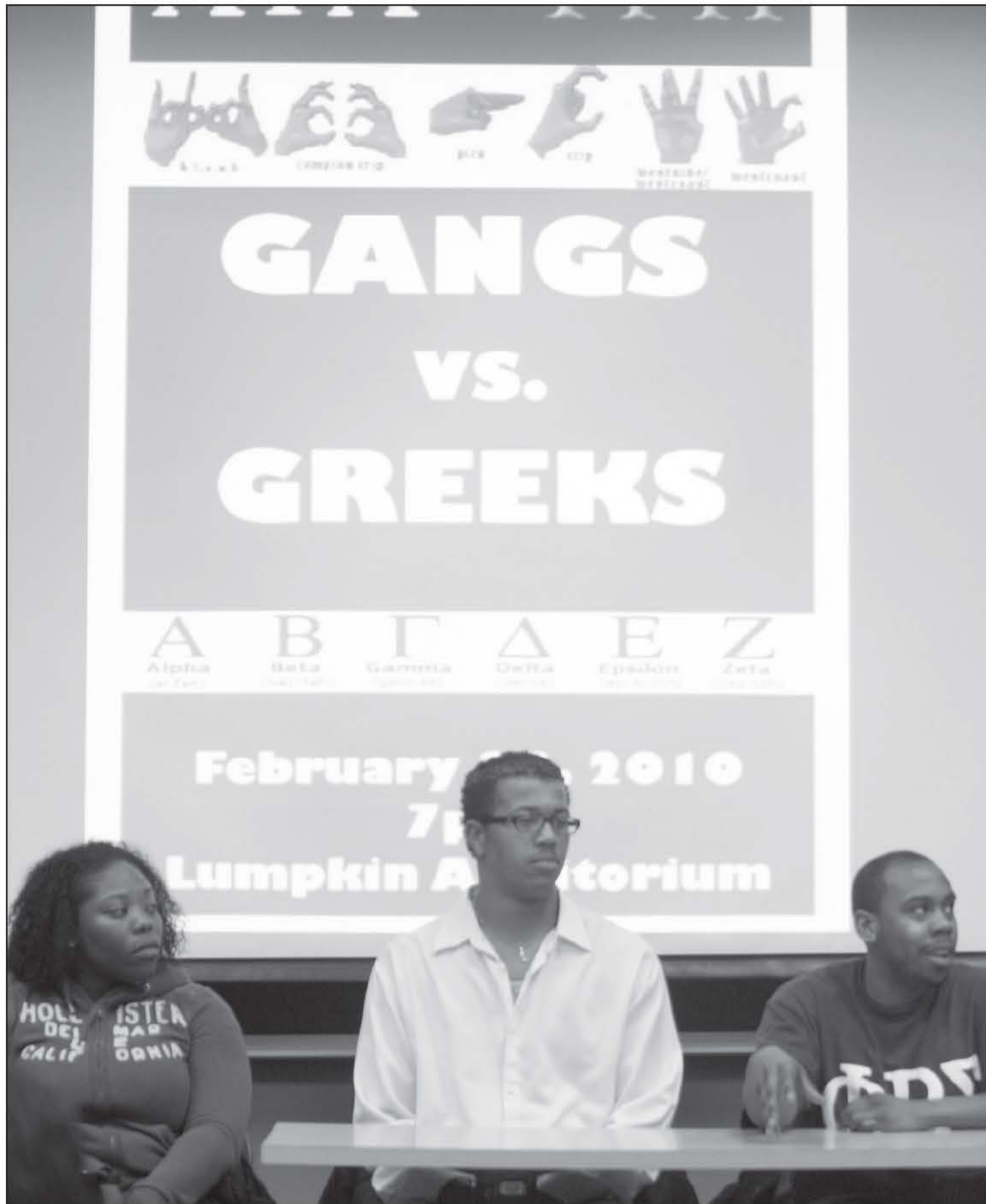
NBA
Trailblazers at Warriors
9:30 p.m. on TNT

MINORITY TODAY

THURSDAY 03.11.2010

Minorities... More than race & gender

CAMPUS | EVENT



AMIR PRELLBERG | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Ebony Frasier, a Delta Sigma Theta member; Kendall Jackson, a student government representative; and Stephen Tyler, a member of Phi Beta Sigma, talk at "Greek vs. Gangs" Feb. 23 in the Lumpkin Hall Auditorium. "Greek vs. Gangs" explored similarities and differences between the two

More than Gangs vs. Greeks

By Spenser Nobles
Editor in Chief

Young black men across the country gather together wearing similar colors and sharing hand signals and calls that are only distinguishable to those within certain circles.

Those dressed in red share hand signals and calls that are only shared

among others in red – and the same applies to those dressed in blue and those who wear black and gold.

At first glance, the group may be identified as a gang, but by digging a little further one may be able to differentiate between those in gangs and those in fraternities.

On Feb. 23, men of Phi Rho Eta Fraternity, Inc. and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. hosted an

event, titled "Greeks vs. Gangs," in Lumpkin Hall Auditorium which they discussed this comparison.

Reading an article to open the event, Dorrian White quoted from an article: "Stepping onto a college campus would confuse anyone trying to identify these groups, because Greek-letter organizations share very similar customs."

Within the event, a panel of

four students, along with the audience members, spoke about the similarities and differences between the Greek organizations.

A similarity that students noted the passion and pride that gang members and Greek-lettered students have for their respective organizations.

See GREEKS, page 3

PROFILE

Close call in pageant competition

Leal plans to be positive role model

By Zinika Livingston
Staff Reporter

Vionka Leal was crowned the 39th winner of the Annual Miss Black EIU 2010 pageant in the Grand Ballroom of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

Candice Collins, last year's winner of Miss Black EIU 2009, said winning the title takes hard work and Leal handled it well.

"She is a very hard worker and organized," she said.

Collins said Leal has a clear idea of what she wants and goes for it.

"One of the most important aspects of winning the title of Miss Black EIU, is being a positive student and a great role model," she said.

Leal, a senior psychology major, said preparing for the pageant is a lot of work.

See PAGEANT, page 3

FEATURE | FOCUS

Professional seeks students to be honest

By Rashida Lyles-Cowan
News Editor

Angela Robinson veteran and Emmy award-winning broadcast journalist is the current host and producer of the award-winning News and Public Affairs Talk Show, "In Contact."

"In Contact," is a news and public affairs talk show that airs on Atlanta's PBS station, WPBA.

Produced by the Atlanta Association of Black Journalists, "In Contact," delivers topics and discussions from an African American perspective.

Robinson shared personal experiences about being an African American woman in the media with Eastern's campus while visiting in February.

Robinson said black women in the media constantly face dilemmas of not being the ideal "type" for producers.

They wanted me to change my name, change my hair, I wasn't black enough, I was too black, I'm not white enough, I'm too white, it's always a consistent issue," she said.

Robinson said people of color must work harder and prove themselves constantly.

See ROBINSON, page 3

COLUMN | JANICE COLLINS

First step is not always that easy

The “night I stood” alone started out like any other night, day, and time. There have been many times when I’ve stood alone. I stood alone when I became the first female little league baseball player in the state of Kentucky... because my sister took the last cheerleading spot at Fort Knox. First female basketball player in the history of Wake Forest University to be selected to an All-ACC basketball team. First female athlete to be asked to speak to the “Deacon Gold Club,” one of the biggest financial groups supporting the academic/athletic community at my undergrad home. I stood alone when I was the first female videojournalist at WGHP in High Point, N.C. I stood alone when I saved my brother Donald from drowning when I was around 5 years old, and the list goes on. There are many instances in my life that I can pick and choose from to tell you about. Some of them happened when I was a youngster, others when I was older—but it all felt the same in a weird sort of way. But, let’s leave those stories for another time and skip to about 30-plus years later.

I find myself alone once again—Nov. 4, 2008. Forget the thoughts I had leading up to that night, “Oh my gosh, is he really going to do it?” He is. “Does he really have a chance?” He does. “He won the nomination?” He did. “And he’s still alive?” He is. I started to emotionally and mentally hyperventilate. Oh my gosh! I can’t take it! It seemed so much easier to dream the “dream” but for it to really be this close within our reach? Oh my gosh! I’m happy. I’m sad. He might win. He might get shot. Will he win first and then get shot or will he get shot as he walks outside for his daily jog before the end of the night even gets here? I can’t take it!

I looked around the newsroom I was working in and thought to myself, who could I talk to? I don’t want to make anyone feel uncomfortable. I don’t even know if I want anyone to know the mixed emotions I was dealing with inside of my heart and my intellectual mind that sometimes took over and reminded me of Martin, Robert, John, Medgar, James, Andrew and Michael. I sometimes feel that I can call them by their first names because in some twisted, almost metaphorical way, these “super heroes” instantly became mere humans, just like me, when the bullets pierced their skins and took away their powers.

Anyway, there I was, sitting at the desk, pulling in numbers from the county I was responsible for as part of my duties for the newscast. I work part-time as faculty-adviser for the college-campus television station that produces the local news and is managed by professional journalists and operated, superbly, by volunteer students. Throughout the year, I had worked with these students in and out of the classroom. I knew who was Republican, who was a Democrat and who just didn’t care. And, oh yeah, I was basically the only African American, the only black, once again.



Janice Collins

There were a couple of African American students who worked in the newsroom from time to time, but I didn’t see them there that night for some reason. Boy, oh boy, of all the times in my life, this was one of those moments that I TRULY felt alone. And then the ping-ponging began. I didn’t know if I should share my thoughts with the students because they were just kids and perhaps what I was feeling would be a little too deep for them. Plus, I didn’t know if it was fair to share my “black, old” thoughts with them because they were all white kids from a totally different generation than I was. I just wasn’t sure of what to do. I didn’t know them like I knew my best friends from grade school but I still knew them.

So, as I looked around I thought to myself, “I really wish I could talk to them. Maybe I should.” They have always treated me with respect and have always been kind and loving so that’s not my problem. Race was not the problem, at least not in my heart. On the other hand, the media and the candidates made race everyone’s “problem.” So, race couldn’t be entirely ignored. I guess I just didn’t want them to see all of the emotions I felt deep inside. Forget the earlier years. Now, the WHOLE WORLD was watching and I felt that the eyes of the ENTIRE WORLD were on ME that night. Right there. Right on my left shoulder. Were they feeling a little awkward about how to respond when the votes for Obama kept coming in? I didn’t know whether to show my happiness, my fear, my caution or just sit there and take in the numbers and write my scripts. So, I did what I always do in a newsroom. I remained professional and impartial. In other words, I had no emotion.

Physically, it felt like I didn’t move even an inch for hours and hours. I was determined to just sit there and do my work. Now that I think of it, I don’t even think I excused myself to go to the ladies room. For some reason, I was locked into professionalism. I think it was easy at times not to show any emotions because of the fact that I really didn’t know what to feel. Wait! This is strange because if you look in my high school yearbook from Bethel High, it says that I wanted to be president of the United States. Hmm, that’s strange...but yet, I was still in disbelief. I think life has somehow rudely interrupted some of my dreams and changed my course of life without me really knowing it,

without my permission. Anyway... I was OK until ... IT happened.

Part 2

I started to pay attention to the national numbers and suddenly, I was no longer deaf. I began to actually hear the numbers being announced. I started to hear the students around me talk about the great possibility that this all may not be a dream. Where did all of this noise come from? I hadn’t heard it for the first four hours I was there and now all of a sudden I couldn’t help but to notice and hear all of the “noise.” I couldn’t help but notice the beats of my heart becoming faster and deeper and, oh my gosh, is it becoming louder too?! I heard the national anchors start to predict and call state after state and then the students, using their iPods, iPhones and all the other gadgets I debate about in class all of the time, began calling out the numbers and the dream started to move closer and closer to me every second. I became paranoid. “Oh my goodness.” “Please God, don’t let them see me cry! Don’t let them see me scared! Don’t let me lose it! Don’t let them hear me scream out in agony and relief for all of the lives, black and white, brown, yellow and red, that had been taken over and over again, so that something like this would never, EVER happen! Oh my gosh! They’re my students! Please, don’t let me lose it, God!”

I began to wiggle in my seat from side to side, front to back. I just couldn’t get comfortable. “Were they watching me?” Me? The only black in the room?” I looked over my left shoulder to see and the moment I did that, one student had moved his chair closer to my desk and started to calmly, softly, smoothly, call out the numbers. I think he delivered the numbers in this way because he saw that I was in shock. “I think he’s going to do it Professor Collins,” he whispered. Then another student walked by my desk to turn a script in and said “Yep, Professor Collins. It seems like he’s going to do it,” and kept walking. Why are they talking to me? Are they not going to let me hide? Another student walks by and then another and they both smiled but said nothing. I looked again over my shoulder, my left of course, because I was trying to hold in and hide the tear that was about to fall from my right eye. Yeah. If I turned this way, they won’t see it, I thought to myself. And as I turned for the second time it

seemed that there were even MORE students behind me but this time they were even closer and so were the numbers to Obama’s victory. “Why are they moving so close to me?” “Are they moving closer to me or am I just trippin?”

And then... there was silence...

The numbers came in... higher, higher, this state, that state, they were all Obama’s. And for the very first time I let it happen... I let reality sink in. I faced the monitor sitting on my desk and faced the truth. This was MY moment. Obama was about to be president of the United States. Obama. A black man was about to be president of the United States and it’s because of the races, the young people, the same people we tell to “stop letting technology do all of the work for you” and physically walk to the library. They were the ones who voted him in.

My isolated, alienated, cold and familiar place of always being the “only one” suddenly became warm and safe and protected like I remembered as a child but I didn’t really know why at that time. The tears began to fall with raging force from both of my eyes like the water from the ocean that brought all of us here, both black and white and other colors, hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of years ago. I felt a warmth on my shoulders and my neck that was once cold. And as I faced the courage of accepting myself for who I am the way I’ve done hundreds of times in my life before, as I prepared to turn around and introduce myself and reveal myself with the courage I had developed over the years to an audience I kept at bay, as I prepared to show myself in my true rawness to a group of young, white, students, who came from mostly old, white towns, I took a deep breath and slowly turned my chair...COMPLETELY to the left. And there... before me, through my tearing, salty eyes – I saw the students, all of them, surrounding me, embracing me, loving me, with tears in their eyes and smiles on their faces telling me, without words, that they too are happy. They too, are proud of themselves and if they didn’t vote for Obama, they were proud of America, and yes, even some I think, were proud of the white race. They were crying because perhaps they were now becoming free from the GUILT they felt for just being white in America. For being associated with the murderers, murders and laws that were regulated by the color of someone’s skin, and always having the skin color of the “righteous.” It is a heavy burden. It is an unfair process of hasty generalizations on both sides. That maybe now they also could be judged by the content of their character and not just by the color of their skin. They were crying because they could imagine what I felt. They cared for me and I cared for them and their feelings and their thoughts... even though I was the only one. We cared for each other.

Part 3

As I continued to quietly cry with

my students, recording a memorable, historical piece of history and burning it into my brain so that I will never forget, no one said a word... but they continued to move closer and closer to me. We all just stood there and sat there, facing each other and just smiled and cried.

In that room at that precise moment, we all had an inauguration and emancipation of our own. For a beautiful moment in time, we were the TRUE AMERICA. We were the America that believed love, respect, and acceptance could and can conquer all. I truly felt unconditional love at that moment from those students that blanketed me better than any piece of cloth I could pull from any old closet. And the interesting, most striking fact of it all is that we never, EVER talked about who voted for whom. Some people guessed that I voted for Obama because I was black, but they never asked and I never said. Interesting, huh?

Then, in the thickness of the silence that had filled the room, I wiped my eyes and opened my mouth and said, softly, “Oh my goodness. Wow. We did it.” And cried some more and became a little louder. “He’s President?!” I asked in disbelief? They replied with only a smile. “He’s really President,” I asked again? And the student who had moved closer to my desk replied, “Yes, Professor Collins. He’s President. We did it.” And then I had to repeat it over and over and over again. “He’s President. He’s President. Oh my gosh. He’s President. He did it! He did it! Yes! Yes!” And for the first time since the announcement of his running, almost 2 years before, I SMILED and I LAUGHED OUTLOUD! In front of everyone! I allowed myself to feel great, happy, and proud. I still felt the remnants of the black man’s burden that night, even with all of my degrees of education.

Of course, as I’ve said, there will be those who would disagree with me for the rest of their lives and having President Obama in the White House changes nothing really, but that’s OK with me. Because when this happens, if it happens, all I have to do is close my eyes, take a deep breath and remember that one night. That one night I stood alone in a sea of love, compassion, and forgiveness that will defeat any point of argument in the most ferocious of racial debates. The night I stood alone with 33 students, all white, who also stood alone. That one night when we all decided to move closer to each other and to the reality and to the real America that we desire. I would say the moral of this story is that although we may stand alone from time to time in our lives, miracles can happen even in the smallest of places when we join together and move, without hesitation, as ONE. But we, you, in all of our challenges, in all of your endeavors, if you truly want to be elevated to your greatness, our greatness, you must be willing to take the first step alone. For we must not forget that the greatest, most beautiful oceans began with a single drop of rain.

**MINORITY
TODAY
STAFF**

Editor in Chief: Spenser Nobles
News Editor: Rashida
Lyles-Cowan
Designer: Kevin Murphy

Contact *Minority Today*

Email: minoritytoday2@gmail.com

Phone: (217) 581-7942

Web site: Minoritytoday.wordpress.com.

COLUMN | SPENSER NOBLES

An inaccurate portrayal

So often when you here an American athlete's name in the news, it is in a negative light.

Constantly in the news you will hear about the players like Terrell Owens, Adam "Pacman" Jones and Tiger Woods.

My thoughts are that, yes, these players do deserve to have their names plastered in the news for their mischief and misconduct because less privacy comes along with being a famous athlete or celebrity. But my question is: why is it that so much attention is paid to these athletes' trials and misfits, but so little attention is given to their personal contributions to society and other people?

I believe the athletes' image is one that can be completely controlled by the media and its portrayal of said athletes, so how about a little balance being provided? The constant negative imagery of would lead some, possibly the more easily influenced, to believe that American athletes are criminals in the making who use their riches as the means to perform illegal activities or act in ways that some may see as immoral.

Instead of dwelling on the actions that promote negative generalities and stereotypes, especially among minority athletes, I would like to shed some light on some positive acts that have come from them.

In a more recent act of kindness,



Spenser Nobles

Atlanta Hawks forward Josh Smith has promised to help the family of Rajaan Bennett by paying for his family's living expenses for six months. Who is Rajaan Bennett, you ask? Bennett was a high school senior who was recruited to play football at Vanderbilt. On Feb. 18, Bennett was shot and killed by his mother's ex-boyfriend.

In one of the most generous acts that I have heard of, Cleveland Cavs' center Shaquille O'Neal decided to pay for the funeral of 5-year-old Shaniya Davis whose mother was accused of trafficking the little girl to settle a drug debt, an allegation that came after a man was charged with the girl's rape and murder. Shaniya Davis' body was found beside a rural road on Nov. 16. Touched by the incident, the 37-year-old NBA

center paid for the funeral, which more than 2,000 people attended.

Aside from this act of kindness, "Shaq" has donated to the less fortunate on many occasions, just as other athletes have, which is shown by the many foundations and charities that have been started by athletes of multiple sports.

Although, Smith's and Shaq's acts of generosity don't necessarily take away from the negative acts that they and other athletes have taken part in, it's nice to hear of someone stepping up and helping others.

In a society that seems very apathetic and dark, it's relieving to see another side. Sadly, the negativity is what has become "normal."

Spenser Nobles can be reached at 581-7942 or at swnobles@eiu.edu.

ROBINSON, from page 1

"If you do the work and work hard in this industry you do not have to relinquish who you are," she said.

Robinson said never minimize what you bring to the table; maximize what you are and what you bring the table.

Robinson a graduate of Syracuse University was awarded the Chancellor's Citation from Syracuse University for a distinguished achievement in journalism.

Robinson said when in college and preparing for the real world, students should never put themselves in a place where they're not ready.

"Understand what is for you, is for you, not anyone else," she said.

Robinson said if a student does their part, things will come together.

Having a humble attitude and personality, good will come to you," she said.

Robinson said because of her support system she was able to make it this far.

"I have had a great supportive village to push, encourage, and put me in my place, no matter what I wanted to do," she said.

Robinson said she has always been driven by faith.

"If I had nothing else, I always had my Jesus," she said.

Robinson has several differ-



COURTESY PHOTO

Angela Robinson came to speak at Eastern in February. She is broadcast journalist in Atlanta.

ent awards and honors and is also a member of the National Association of Black Journalists' Regional Hall of Fame.

Despite all of the achievements and awards Robinson said she still has big things to accomplish.

"My journey is not over yet, I keep myself open and listen to the higher power that has guided me through my course," she said.

Rashida Lyles-Cowan can be reached at 581-7942 or at rnyles-cowan@eiu.edu.

PAGEANT, from page 1



COURTESY PHOTO

Vionka Leal was named 2010 Miss Black EIU on Feb. 27.

"Imagine being a full-time student, working 16 hours a week, having practices five to seven hours a day and getting about five hours of sleep," she said.

Leal said the only way to make it to the next day is pushing yourself and seeing the light at the end of the tunnel.

"But it was all worth it," she said.

Leal said she did not know who would win because the other contestants were all very talented.

After not ranking number one in any of the four categories, Leal said she did not expect to win.

"I prayed that I would win but was not expecting it," she said.

Leal said after winning more people acknowledge her but she is still the same person.

"The title is great, but it doesn't change who I am," she said.

Leal said this shows that God answers prayers.

"I was dreaming before but now I'm living my dreams," Leal said.

Leal said volunteering sophomore year in Miss Black EIU 2008 increased her interest after realizing the pageant was more than a beauty contest.

"The pageant is not just based off beauty, but is based off intellect and is a good representation of a black woman compared to what is shown in the media," she said.

Leal said she was ready to compete

in the pageant after helping behind the scenes.

"It was my last year to do it, it was time to complete my goal," she said.

Growing up in Skokie, Leal said growing up here provided her with many opportunities.

"I was involved in everything," she said.

Leal said during senior year of high school managing a wrestling team gave her experience to work with different types of people and help build organizational skills.

"The experience helped with competing in the pageant," she said.

Janice Collins, head judge of the pageant, said the pageant was a close call but Leal scored well across the board with all of the judges.

"She was poised, articulate, had a vision and a goal that spoke to EIU and their mission of education and young people," Collins said.

Collins said all of the contestants talented and beautiful.

"It was hard to pick only one winner," she said.

As Miss Black EIU 2010, Leal must plan events including Miss Black EIU 2011, attend all BSU events and run for Homecoming Queen 2010.

Zinika Livingston can be reached at 581-7942 or at zclivingston@eiu.edu.

NEWS | EVENT

English, African American professors address whiteness

By Spenser Nobles
Editor in Chief

During the month of February, Eastern hosted several events celebrating African American History Month including "How Did I Get So White?" a lecture that addressed the issue of "Whiteness."

Former director of African American studies Michael Loudon said African American literature and African American voices are key components to the study and the deconstruction of whiteness.

"In fact this would be impossible in the absence of black voices," he said.

Loudon, now an English professor, said whites need to look into the issue and understand how history has affected them as well as minority groups.

"You have to understand that their inequality is your own inequality," he said.

Loudon said by deconstruction, whites will understand how some people have privilege over minority groups.

"The construction of privilege has been possible only through the deprivation of opportunity for other people," he said.

Loudon said he hates to see whites who are unwilling to look at how whiteness was constructed.

"The whites who still rely on some half-based sense of natural hierarchy that was disputed and overturned by science in the early in

"BUT ONE OF THE POINTS I MAKE IS THAT WHITE PEOPLE TEND TO NOT KNOW MUCH ABOUT WHAT IT MEANS TO BE WHITE EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE WHITE."

-TIM ENGLS, ENGLISH PROFESSOR AND LECTURER AT EVENT

the 20th century," he said.

Lastly, Loudon said an individual has to hear those voices, and then deconstruct individual whiteness and it will make more sense.

Tim Engles, English professor and lecturer of the event said it is an odd topic for African American History Month.

"But one of the points I make is that white people tend to not know much about what it means to be white even though they are white," he said.

Engles said an idea that whiteness is invisible occurs especially in white people.

"For white people, the fact that we are white is significant to our lives," he said.

Engles said white students need to be aware of the ideas of whiteness.

"People think we do not live in a racist country and that racism no longer exists," he said.

Engles said whiteness has more to do with who and what we are than most of us realize.

The lecture was based on elements of Critical Whiteness studies, an area of study that has existed for "about 12 years" according to Engles.

"This area of study goes against the idea that racism is no longer a problem," he said.

Engles said one of the fundamental presumptions in Critical Whiteness studies is that we still live in a racist society.

Engles said if a white-dominated society instill an inferiority complex into non-white children, then does it not also instill the opposite into white children?

"White favoritism in America and the sheer demographic preponderance of white people tend to instill a sense of inferiority within non-white children," he said.

In closing Engles ended the lecture with a quote by Socrates.

"The unexamined life is not worth living."

Spenser Nobles can be reached at 581-7942 or at swnobles@eiu.edu.

SUCCESS provides outlet for women empowerment

By Stephen Tyler
Staff Reporter

Sisters Utilizing Christian Challenges to Evolve into Successful Students (SUCCESS) is a registered student organization at Eastern, invoking academic and social enhancement in women through sisterhood, spirituality and emotional support.

SUCCESS's statement is to do this: create an atmosphere where women can be honest, and open about their feelings, thoughts and concerns. Those trials and tribulations that only women can endure will be its primary focus.

The group serves as a spiritual

More Events		
Wednesday-April 10, Booth Library, North Entrance: "Women and the Economy: From the Great Depression to the Great Recession"; South Entrance: "Women and Economic Justice Around the World"	Music Written by 19th, 20th, and 21st Century Women" with Elaine Fine, Violin, and John David Moore, Piano	Color: Redefining the Political Through Creative Activism"
March 21, 3 p.m., Tarble Arts Center Atrium: "An Afternoon of	March 24, 7 p.m., Grand Ballroom: Keynote Address Aimee Cox, Professor of African American and African Studies, Rutgers University, "Women of	March 29, 12-4 p.m., Buzzard Hall, Exhibit of Student Research
		March 31, 7 p.m., Tarble Arts Center Women's Studies Awards Reception

support system, which will assist in leading us to be successful, spiritual students and staff.

Shawn Peoples, the adviser for SUCCESS, said having a membership of 60 women makes the mission statement sustainable because of student involvement.

Peoples said she takes pride in SUCCESS.

"This organization has been a positive experience," she said.

Rhonda Bowdry, a student leader for SUCCESS, collaborated in the creation of the organization.

Bowdry said the goal was to create

a positive rapport for females.

"We're trying to encourage females to be professional," she said.

Kelli Bradley, a SUCCESS member and a junior public relations major, said this is a great organization for women because it allows women

to empower each other by helping with every day issues.

"At the meetings I receive spiritual and emotional encouragement," she said.

Brittanie Ellis, a junior sociology major, said the organization welcomes all women.

Ellis, a member of the organization, said SUCCESS makes women feel comfortable in participating in activities targeted to help people.

"I encourage women to come and support because they may have a story that can help someone else," she said.

Stephen Tyler can be reached at 581-7944 or styler@eiu.edu.

NATION | NEWS

Minority births on track to outnumber white births

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Minorities make up nearly half the children born in the U.S., part of a historic trend in which minorities are expected to become the U.S. majority over the next 40 years.

In fact, demographers say this year could be the "tipping point" when the number of babies born to minorities outnumbers that of babies born to whites.

The numbers are growing because immigration to the U.S. has boosted the number of Hispanic women in their prime childbearing years. Minorities made up 48 percent of U.S. children born in 2008, the latest census estimates available, compared to 37 percent in 1990.

"Census projections suggest America may become a minority-majority country by the middle of the century. For America's children, the future is now," said Kenneth Johnson, a sociology professor at the University of New Hampshire who researched many of the racial trends in a paper being released Wednesday.

Johnson explained there are now more Hispanic women of prime childbearing age who tend to have more children than women of other races. More white women are waiting until they are older to have children,

but it is not yet known whether that will have a noticeable effect on the current trend of increasing minority newborns.

Broken down by race, about 52 percent of babies born in 2008 were white. That's compared to about 25 percent who were Hispanic, 15 percent black and 4 percent Asian. Another 4 percent were identified by their parents as multiracial.

The numbers highlight the nation's growing racial and age divide, seen in pockets of communities across the U.S., which could heighten tensions in current policy debates from immigration reform and education to health care and Social Security.

There are also strong implications for the 2010 population count, which begins in earnest next week, when more than 120 million U.S. households receive their census forms in the mail.

The Census Bureau is running public service announcements this week to improve its tally of young children, particularly minorities, who are most often missed in the once-a-decade head count. The campaign features Nickelodeon's Dora the Explorer, the English- and Spanish-speaking cartoon character who helps "mommy fill out our census form."

The population figures are used

to distribute federal aid and redraw legislative boundaries with racial and ethnic balance, as required by federal law.

"The adults among themselves sometimes forget the census is about everyone, and kids should be counted," said Census Bureau director Robert Groves. "If we fail to count a newborn that is born this month, that newborn misses all the benefits of the census for 10 years."

Whites currently make up two-thirds of the total U.S. population, and recent census estimates suggest the number of minorities may not overtake the number of whites until 2050.

Right now, roughly 1 in 10 of the nation's 3,142 counties already have minority populations greater than 50 percent.

But 1 in 4 communities have more minority children than white children or are nearing that point, according to the study, which Johnson co-published.

That is because Hispanic women on average have three children, while other women on average have two. The numbers are 2.99 children for Hispanics, 1.87 for whites, 2.13 for blacks and 2.04 for Asians in the U.S. And the number of white women of prime childbearing age is on the decline, dropping 19 percent from 1990.

SPORTS | NEWS

Hendry says signing Bradley was 'a mistake' for Cubs

The Associated Press

MESA, Ariz. — Cubs general manager Jim Hendry says Milton Bradley should stop blaming the team, manager and fans for his failure to produce during his tumultuous season in Chicago.

"I think it's time maybe Milton looked himself in the mirror," an agitated Hendry said Wednesday in response to Bradley's latest charges that he was mistreated by the Cubs.

"He just didn't swing the bat," Hendry said. "He didn't get the job done. It's really unfortunate that you ... try to use the other areas for excuses."

Hendry said signing Bradley to a three-year, \$30 million contract be-

fore last season was "a mistake." He added the atmosphere of the entire organization has improved since the outfielder was traded to Seattle in December. Several players have said clubhouse chemistry has improved.

Bradley, who batted .257 with 12 homers and 40 RBIs last season, was regularly booed at Wrigley Field. He told ESPN in an interview that aired Tuesday that he was fearful of racist fans in Chicago and was "a prisoner in my own home."

Bradley said Chicago was a difficult place for black players "unless you're Superman, you're Andre Dawson, you're Ernie Banks, you're in the Hall of Fame."

He also said manager Lou Piniella should have apologized in front

of the team instead of in private for a disparaging remark Piniella made during a game in June.

"I apologized to Milton," Piniella said Wednesday. "I did the best I could. I'm human like everybody else. I bent over backward to make it as comfortable as I possibly could."

"I don't know why we're revisiting these things. I'm very pleased with the personnel we have here, with the chemistry we have here, and I'm looking forward to a really good season."

Bradley refused to take any questions after he departed Seattle's spring game against the Texas Rangers on Wednesday.

The Cubs, who won 97 games and the NL Central title in 2008,

STATE | NEWS

Young immigrants emerge

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Tania Unzueta has kept a secret for more than 10 years and is finally ready to come clean: She's an illegal immigrant.

The 26-year-old University of Illinois at Chicago graduate was among dozens of young illegal immigrants who publicly "came out" during protests Wednesday in several cities. They hope their stories will call attention to the plight of an estimated 12 million illegal immigrants living in the U.S. and renew calls for federal reform — even at the risk of deportation.

"It's scary on one hand, but it's also liberating," said Unzueta, of Chicago, one of eight people who disclosed their immigration status at a downtown ceremony. "I feel like I've been hiding for so long."

Several hundred people, many holding American flags and signs that read "Undocumented and Unafraid," observed as each of the eight took the microphone and vowed to continue telling others about their status.

Students took similar approaches Wednesday in Detroit, New York and at Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass., with more events in the coming weeks in Los Angeles and New York. Some activists dubbed Wednesday a "National Coming Out Day" and quoted gay rights activists, like the late Harvey Milk, one of the first openly gay elected officials, in their testimonies.

One student group, the New York State Youth Leadership Council, posted an illegal immigrant student's bio and photograph online and a vow to continue adding more.

Experts say the public disclosure tactic is on the rise, especially among younger activists. Many have been marching, writing letters and calling legislators since the immigrant rights movement was re-energized in 2006, when more than a million people marched in cities nationwide to fight against a bill that was considered anti-immigrant.

The next step, they say, is public disclosure.

Unzueta and others also hope that President Barack Obama makes good this year on his promise to tackle immigration reform and support Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., who has again introduced a bill to allow high school

graduates to continue their education or join the military as a way to become legal immigrants. The bill has failed repeatedly since 2001.

"There's a sense of urgency," Unzueta said. "We're angry. We're frustrated. We thought this would be a good strategy to get our community mobilized."

Each year, about 65,000 illegal immigrants graduate from U.S. high schools, according to the Pew Hispanic Center, a Washington-based research group. Some researchers estimate the young adult population, those aged 18 to 24, is approximately 3.2 million — and those are the illegal immigrants in limbo. Many were brought to the U.S. as children by their parents and have closer ties to U.S. culture than to their native countries.

Because they're not citizens, they live in constant fear of getting kicked out of college, losing scholarships and not being able to apply for jobs.

That was the case for Isabel, 18, a Boston resident at Harvard's ceremony Wednesday night who said she earned a private high school scholarship but cannot afford college. Her immigration status prevents her from receiving financial aid.

Isabel, who declined to give her last name, said she came with her parents from the Dominican Republic on a tourist visa in 2000, which has since expired. Her three younger sisters were born in the U.S., but her attempts for legal status failed because of miscommunications with a lawyer, she said.

"The hardest part is seeing my parents," she said. "They came here so I could have a better future, but they see me struggling. I can't go to school."

There are few ways to become a U.S. citizen or obtain long-term visas without significant life disruptions. Most immigrants would have to return to their native countries to apply for legal U.S. status or hope that a legislator sponsors a personal bill.

Neither route is quick or easy, as Unzueta knows personally. She came to the U.S. with her family in 1994 on a tourist visa, which expired in 1999.

She went back to Mexico in 2001 and tried to get a student visa but was denied.