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April

2012

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4-12-2012

## Daily Eastern News: April 12, 2012

Eastern Illinois University

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### Recommended Citation

Eastern Illinois University, "Daily Eastern News: April 12, 2012" (2012). *April*. 9.  
[https://thekeep.eiu.edu/den\\_2012\\_apr/9](https://thekeep.eiu.edu/den_2012_apr/9)

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Students simulate homelessness

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Thoma's multi-homer game leads Panthers

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GREEK LIFE

Little Men that could



ZACHARY WHITE | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

The Delta Tau Delta Little Men's rope tugs against Sigma Nu on Wednesday, April 11 at Campus Pond. Sigma Nu won the tug after 1:39.

Greeks tug at second round of competition

By RYAN DOLPH | STAFF REPORTER

Fists were clenched and muscles were tensed at Campus Pond Wednesday as Eastern's fraternities and sororities fought it out for the continued first round of three intense tug of war tournaments.

Sigma Chi tugger Danny Putlak let go of the rope, laid on the ground in exhaustion over the Big Men tug competition, said Aaron Wiessing, a Greek Week steering committee member.

Wiessing, a senior management information systems major, is a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon, who won against Putlak during the Big Men tourney.

"He didn't get up for the rest of the tug," Wiessing said.

Wiessing said the different training techniques for the two teams might have contributed to the exhaustion.

"I think they might have trained more for strength than stamina," Wiessing said.

However, Wiessing said the length of the tug was an accomplishment for both fraternities.

"It was an insanely long tug," Wiessing said.

The event consisted of three divisions: Big Men's, Little Men's and Women's.

Most of the teams have trained more than two months for what is by far the most physically demanding event of Greek Week.

The rules are simple. Two teams grasp

the end of a long rope, which stretches across the pond. The team who pulls the other into the water is victorious.

Hoads of dedicated Greeks turned out in support of their brothers and sisters, cheering their hearts out with each startling blast of the starting gun.

The rope was raised significantly higher with the Big Men's Division, whose first winners Sigma Pi who defeated the Deltas with a time of 1:01.

Lambda Chi took the next match against over the Pikes in two minutes and three seconds. The third heat was the longest all day and the hardest fought.

SEE 'TUG', PAGE 5

CITY

5th Annual Kick Butts Walk/Run approaching

Event seeks to stomp out smoking tobacco

By Robyn Dexter  
Campus Editor

The Eastern community will walk and run to stomp out smoking at the annual Kick Butts Walk/Run on Saturday.

The 5K run/walk sponsored by the Health Education Resource Center seeks to raise awareness about tobacco and tobacco control.

Catherine Bocke, who is organizing the event, said there has been a growth in participation the past few years for the walk.

"Last year we had over 90 participants, and this year we have 93 pre-registered. We're expecting around 120 with walk-up registrations," Bocke said.

Walk-up registration begins at 8 a.m.

The run will take place in Morton Park beginning at 9 a.m., with the run beginning at 9:05 a.m.

"The walk should wrap up about 10:15 a.m., and there will be a picnic afterwards," she said.

There will be a variety of activities after the walk/run including games, a chance to hang out with Billy the Panther and an inflatable moon bounce.

"We will have several informational tables with tobacco and nutrition information," Bocke said.

Michelle Hartke, an intern at the HERC, said there will also be a smoker-alyzer available for people to try out.

"It tests the amount of carbon monoxide in your lungs, so how much you've been exposed to smoke and secondhand smoke," Hartke said. "It's interesting to compare someone who has never really been exposed to smoke to someone who is a smoker or grew up in a smoker's household."

Bocke said the walk is in its fifth year at Eastern, and is glad participation has been growing.

"Feedback has been good, and I think the fact that we've had so many pre-registrants shows that people liked it last year and are registering again," she said.

She said she hopes participation continues to grow each year as it has been so far.

"The main goal of the walk is to promote smoking cessation and tobacco safety, but it's also a fun day for EIU and the community to come together and enjoy the great outdoors," Bocke said. "We want to celebrate a healthy lifestyle and have fun while doing it."

She said students come from Eastern, and people from surrounding communities register as well.

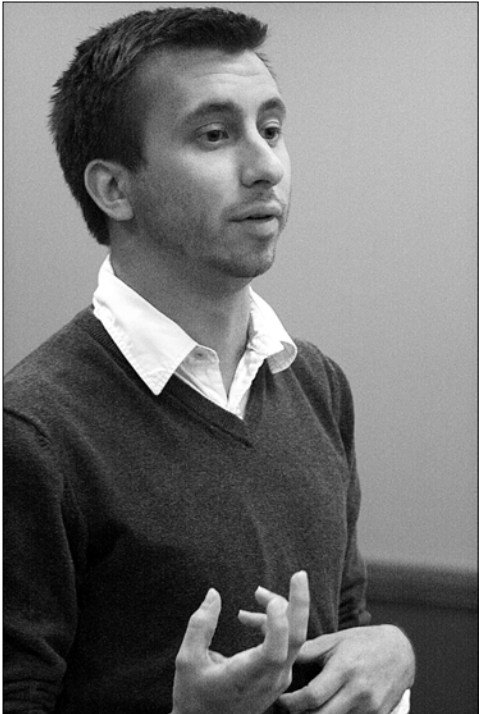
"It's a really great mix of both, about 50/50 (with Eastern and outside communities)," Bocke said.

She said she likes seeing how Eastern and other communities come together against smoking.

"It's a great way for Eastern to give back to the community," she said. "It's good for EIU and the community to come together and mingle as well."

Robyn Dexter can be reached at 581-2812 or redexter@eiu.edu.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT



SHEA LAZANSKY | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Eastern alumnus Steve Joebogen voices his support of an amendment to the Elections Reform Act during the Student Senate meeting in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union on Wednesday.

Student Senate debates student political parties

By Amy Wywialowski  
Staff Reporter

"There is no government without political parties," Michelle Murphy said Wednesday at a Student Senate meeting. "The fight is what makes it fun."

Murphy was the student body president from Fall 2009 to Spring 2011 and is now working for State Rep. Chapin Rose.

Murphy attended the Student Senate meeting to voice her opposition to the proposal suggesting the elimination of student political parties.

The proposal is a revision to the currently enacted Election Reform Act, which is typically revised every semester.

Murphy said she felt the need to address the Student Senate members because political parties were a major part of her time as a member and the student body president.

She said she was also a founder of the Party United Leaders Supporting Excellence student political party in Spring 2009, which is based on "proactive and energetic leadership."

"The semester before I ran for student body president I began PULSE selfishly to help myself get elected," Murphy said. "That is what happens in real politics and should happen at the university level."

The proposal was eventually tabled but not until Student Senate members had debated it for more than 30 minutes.

The other debated proposal was one introduced at the last meeting and concerned adding a "vote of no confidence" option to student government election ballots.

A vote of no confidence means that the voters do not believe any candidate is qualified for the position.

A two-thirds majority of student votes would be required for a candidate to be elected. If no one received the two-thirds, then another election would take place.


The proposal was changed from a constitution change to a proposal at the suggestion of Jarrod Scherle, the student executive vice president.

PARTIES, page 5




# EIU weather

TODAY



Mostly Sunny  
High: 58°  
Low: 37°

FRIDAY




Mostly Cloudy  
High: 65°  
Low: 48°

For more weather visit [castle.eiu.edu/weather](http://castle.eiu.edu/weather).

# EASTERN NEWS

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

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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.

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## Sumo in the South Quad



MARCUS SMITH | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Diamond Whitfield, a Lake Land College student, and Carolyn Boyd, a sophomore biology major, square off in a sumo wrestling match Wednesday in the South Quad. The event was sponsored by Phi Beta Sigma to raise money for the March of Dimes. Phi Beta Sigma was also selling shirts and having races through an inflatable obstacle course.

To see the photo gallery, check out  [dailyeasternnews.com](http://dailyeasternnews.com)

### FUNDRAISER

## HOPE to host BINGO for kids

By Kathryn Richter  
City Editor

HOPE of East Central Illinois will be hosting a fundraising event to raise money for their organization through a BINGO tournament that will take place next Wednesday.

Camille Gordon, a children's advocate for HOPE of East Central Illinois, said the Basket Bingo for HOPE will provide money for East Central Illinois' children programs.

The event will take place at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Center in Charleston on April 18, Gordon said.

"(The people who give) would be able to support the children programs," Gordon said. "They may even be able to buy items for Christmas, birthdays or school supplies."

Gordon said the doors will open at 5:30 p.m. for an early-bird game that will begin at 5:45 p.m.

Gordon also said the rest of the

games start at 6 p.m.

The event costs \$10 to participate in 10 games, with the money benefiting the children's programs, Gordon said

The event will feature a silent auction and raffle ticket items including Longaberger baskets, Lia Sophia jewelry, a handcrafted metal heart-shaped box, a \$200 Gandolfi Chiropractic gift card and a \$50 Verizon Wireless gift card, among other items Gordon said.

Gordon said the event will provide food for an additional cost from Buffalo Wild Wings in Mattoon and desserts provided from the family and consumer sciences departments of Mattoon and Charleston high schools.

The event will also include door prizes and a 50/50 raffle, Gordon said.

Gordon said the proceeds will go to purchase items and fund future events including birthday and Christmas gifts, school supplies and different summer activities through their summer program.

gram.

The money will also benefit children involved in their summer program, Gordon said

Gordon said the organization takes the participants swimming on Fridays and often participate in activities like bowling.

The proceeds from last year's event went to a day trip for the children and their mothers to the Indianapolis Zoo, Gordon said

"My goal last year was to give them something so they didn't have to worry about what their home life was like," Gordon said.

Gordon said the program helps children in seven counties through after school programs, support groups and summer programs.

"The more involved that people are, the more aware they are of some of the issues going on in the community," Gordon said. "The kids need the support as much as they can, as well."

Kathryn Richter can be reached at 581-2812 or [kjrichter@eiu.edu](mailto:kjrichter@eiu.edu).

### LGBTQA ADVISORY COUNCIL

## Council hosts Safe Zone training

### Staff Report

The EIU LGBTQA Resource Advisory Committee hosted five training sessions for the Safe Zone campaign Wednesday.

Terri Fredrick, an English professor, said the five people came to the two-hour training seminar to discuss how to handle the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questining, and Ally issues on campus.

Fredrick is also the faculty adviser for EIU Pride.

Fredrick said the program starts with common terminology and moves into a discussion about the coming out process.

She said the program has been going on for two years, and Fredrick said she has performed 12 to 20 training sessions in the past two years.

"I just really enjoy interacting with people from around campus," Fredrick said.

Frederick said she likes to hear about the different problems and issues facing the LGBTQA community in various departments and majors on campus.

The EIU LGBTQA Resource Advisory Committee modeled the Safe Zone program after the national program in schools nationwide, Fredrick said.

She said the program is important because the members of the LGBTQA community need support.


Fredrick said the committee wanted to make the program something the university was involved in.

"What we are really talking about is making spaces on campus for individuals who either work at the university or attend the university," Fredrick said. "This is a place you can be yourself. You don't have to hide who you are."

BINGO

@ The MOOSE

Family Fraternity



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TONIGHT

7 pm


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HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

# Students simulate homelessness

By Samantha McDaniel  
Activities Editor

A 16-year-old homeless girl and a father who could not find housing to live with his daughters were just two of the situations during a housing simulation on Wednesday.

The Habitat for Humanity sponsored a housing simulation in which participants received different situations that would determine their housing arrangements.

The situations include whether they have children, jobs, education, credit and income.

Ashley Myers, a junior family and consumer sciences major and a member of Habitat for Humanity, said they wanted participants to see what homelessness sometimes looks like.

"It is meant to bring awareness to poverty in general," Myers said. "These people come in here and be homeless and see what people go through to actually find a decent place to live."

Kateri Tonyan, the public relations chair for Habitat for Humanity, said participants learned the ways people become homeless.

"They learn that everyday situations can cause (people) to become homeless," Tonyan said. "Most of these people experience economic situations and lost their homes. It seems to be coming up more lately than in the past."

Tonyan said in the situation of the 16-year-old girl, the participant was unable to find housing because all the shelters and other forms of housing only allowed people over 18.

"It is eye-opening for her that she can not get into any of these places," Tonyan said. "Others will get into places."

Roy Lanham, the director of the Newman Catholic Center and the adviser of Habitat for Humanity, said he thinks this is a good way to see homelessness.

Lanham was unemployed with two children, who he put into the women's shelter.

"The situation is crap; it's really hard

to find housing," Lanham said.

Lanham said it shows people what it is like to find housing.

"Sometimes we think it is easy, put down a mortgage and get a house, but it's not," Lanham said.

Ashley Merriweather, a freshman psychology major, was 30 years old with two children. Merriweather's character lived with her mother and her mom's boyfriend who beat her children.

"I have been denied everywhere," Merriweather said. "I've learned that homeless people obviously have it hard, but it's a ton harder than we see because what I've gone through with her."

Merriweather said she felt helpless while doing the simulation.

"You feel sometimes like you don't have anywhere to go, and you feel like you want to give up," Merriweather said.

Tonyan said being on the street is not something people want to experience.

"You don't want to be in a homeless situation all your life, you want to find an apartment or house," Tonyan said.

Each of the housing places had specific qualifications that the applicants had to meet.

Donte Owens, a junior accounting major, was one of the runners of Prestigious Reality, which was more expensive than the others.

Prestigious Reality has two requirements: excellent credit and an income of over \$50,000, and they can only accept two people.

"This is really meant to bring awareness to housing around the world," Owens said. "You can have something as expensive as our table, or you can have something inexpensive like section 8."

Owens said this simulation shows that being homeless is not confined to an age, race or gender.

"All walks of life can be homeless," Owens said. "You can have children who are homeless, and you can have people as old as 87 be homeless. People are homeless in every shape and size."

Kelsey Lucas, a junior family and



KATIE SMITH | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Roy Lanham cheers after receiving housing in a rescue mission during Habitat for Humanity's housing simulation at 8:30 p.m. Wednesday in the Charleston-Mattoon Room. Roy assumed the fake identity of Tom Vance, an unemployed construction worker with two daughters, who was having a hard time finding shelter for his family.

consumer sciences major, said she played a 35-year-old with a General Education Development and two children.

Lucas said she was lucky and got into women's shelter, but was denied other places.

"It's very hard to get into housing; if you don't have any money you're screwed," Lucas said.

Megan McQueen, a sophomore sociology major, said she has had to turn

people away in real life.

"Last summer I worked at the Salvation Army, and people would fill out food request or housing request and I had to reject people because they didn't meet the qualifications," McQueen said. "It was really hard to tell them we could not help them."

*Samantha McDaniel can be reached at 581-2812 or slmcdaniel@eiu.edu.*

LECTURE

# Alum to talk about cartography

By Samantha McDaniel  
Activities Editor

Eastern alum Bill McNulty is currently the map director for National Geographic Magazine and will visit Eastern Friday to tell students about the art of map making.

After graduating Eastern in 1996 with a bachelor's degree in geology, McNulty also worked for The New York Times and The Washington Post.

McNulty will be presenting "Making Map Supplements" at 2 p.m. Friday in the Phipps Lecture Hall of the Physical Sciences Building.

"I graduated from Eastern as a geologist, and the things I learned really helped me see things visually, because it is a very visual field," McNulty said.

After graduating from Eastern, McNulty went to work at the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) where he studied old earthquakes.

When he left USGS, he went to work for The Washington Post graphic department.

"When I went to work in the daily news cycle, it was a big change; I kind of loved it," McNulty said. "I fell in love with the visual side of it, and I fell in love with the type of science I did."

After The Washington Post, McNulty went on to work for The New York Times.

"I did a bunch of work up there. I worked on the election, the census and 9/11," McNulty said. "I was seen as an innovator. I brought new techniques and sensibilities to the graphic department."

After McNulty left The New York Times, he started working for National Geographic Magazine.

"From there I got recruited here to become the director of maps because National Geographic was noticing me and the type of work I was doing," McNulty said. "There was a want here to do better, more forward-thinking mapping."

Michael Cornebise, the department chair for geology/geography, said McNulty has a hand in all the maps shown in the magazine.

"Whenever National Geographic Magazine comes out, he directs the map supplements in them," Cornebise said.

Cornebise said the maps in National Geographic Magazine are interesting.

"They have these map supplements that they put in that you can take out, and they are designing new ones," Cor-

nebise said.

Cornebise said McNulty will be sharing some of his experiences during his presentation on Friday.

"He is going to really be looking at these techniques to produce maps at National Geographic," Cornebise said. "The other part of the talk he is going to be telling students how they can acquire these skills and prepare themselves for a job in cartography."

McNulty said as a student he participated in many things that would give him experiences in the field.

"Our group was constantly trying to go out into the field and go caving, seeing things in the query and actually see it for real because that was really important," McNulty said. "Our professors emphasized it."

McNulty said it was his field experience that helped with knowledge and jobs.

"When I entered into the USGS, I had a big chip on my shoulder because I was one of the few people there that wasn't from an Ivy League school," McNulty said. "I found that not only was I as good as the other guys, but I knew a lot more; and I have a lot more experience in the field on the ground, which was a huge leg up."

McNulty said he wants to show students what the field of cartography and geology is like today.

"I want to do a simple look at what we do," McNulty said. "It is a good way to show what we do here and what it means and how it's going to change and where we are going in the future."

Cornebise said he thinks students will learn what they need to do to get a job in the future.

"Because he is at National Geographic, they have internship programs that a lot of our students are interested in," Cornebise said. "This will help them understand if they want an internship or a job, what they need to do to start preparing for that."

McNulty said he thinks he can help show students what they need to prepare for the future.

"I think it relates to what I learned at Eastern and what I think is important for people to learn," McNulty said. "I've been doing this for awhile and created positions and hired people, and I want to be able to tell people the type of skill sets and things I look for."

*Samantha McDaniel can be reached at 581-2812 or slmcdaniel@eiu.edu.*

RELAY FOR LIFE

# Relay to fight cancer

By Robyn Dexter  
Campus Editor

Students and community members dedicated to helping find a cure for cancer will participate in Relay for Life all night long on Friday.

This year's relay will feature an opening ceremony beginning at 6 p.m. and will continue all night until 6 a.m. Saturday morning at the Lantz Fieldhouse.

Dawn Howe, president of Colleges Against Cancer, said the night will begin with an opening ceremony featuring speakers.

Speakers will include a fight back speaker and a father whose son is battling cancer. Afterward, the Pink Panthers will perform.

"We also have two bands coming in directed by Rachel Fisher and Minute To Win It games going on as well," Howe said.

More features of the evening include a silent auction from 6-10 p.m., Zumba at 10 p.m. and a live auction at 3:30 a.m.

Howe said there are currently about 25 teams registered, and each team is made up of varying numbers of people, though she said most teams have 10-15 members.

"My committee and myself have put in a lot of work all year from last April until this week to plan this, so it's been a year-long process for all of us," Howe said.

Howe said she got involved with Relay for Life when she was elected president of Colleges Against Cancer and was automatically nominated chair of Relay for Life.

"I was nominated last April after last year's Relay for Life and I accepted it and have been working to plan it since then," she said.

Howe said the relay is an important part of Eastern's school year.

"Cancer has affected many people's lives," she said. "Everyone knows someone who has been affected by or has had cancer, and Relay for Life helps us come together as a whole and celebrate the lives of those who have fought battles with cancer."

She said the Relay also enables Colleges Against Cancer to get the word out about cancer awareness and that people are not alone in their battles against cancer.

Howe said participants can come out and participate in the walk at any time. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and are open until 6 a.m. on Saturday.

"Each year I've participated, we've had a strong committee behind us, so it should be a success," she said. "I'm really proud for my committee to stand behind me on Friday."

Howe said the one thing that really affects participants is watching the survivor lap for participants who have survived cancer.

"The survivor lap will open Relay for Life 2012," Howe said. "And at the end of the night, even a penny will help contribute to the fight against cancer."

*Robyn Dexter can be reached at 581-2812 or redexter@eiu.edu.*



## STAFF EDITORIAL

# Plucky tweet shouldn't lead to expulsion

An Indiana teen, Austin Carroll, was expelled from his high school for tweeting...a word that rhymes with "pluck."

Late at night, the teen posted only the word pluck on his twitter. Carroll said he only dropped the word to show it can be used as an expletive, according to an article in the *Huffington Post*. The word was not directed at anyone in particular, and Carroll said he did not write pluck on school grounds.

We see Carroll's expulsion is a clear violation of his free speech rights. Would school officials expel Carroll if he was caught saying pluck in the hallways at school? The answer is, probably not.

The school district has no right to expel Carroll for what he said on his own time, especially since it was not directed at one student and it did not disrupt school activities.

If Carroll's tweet did disrupt the education of other students, or had he told fellow students to go pluck themselves, punishment would at least have some basis.

In fact, the nature of Carroll's tweet was more academic than anything else. He simply observed, as many linguists have before him, the versatility of pluck: "(pluck) is one of those (plucking) words you can (plucking) put anywhere in a (plucking) sentence and it still (plucking) makes sense."

What is the difference between #pluck and the casual dropping of the f-bomb?

Like other students, Carroll deserves to express himself outside the classroom and the school has no right to censor Carroll's language outside the school doors. The Supreme Court has ruled since 1969 that students' rights do not disappear once students walk into the school doors. So why is Carroll being expelled for a four-letter word made in the comfort of his own home?

The school district's defense is that Carroll was logged onto the school network when he wrote the tweet, or may have been using a school-supplied computer. He wasn't using the computer at school or posting the tweet to a school account.

So, why is the school district censoring language on Twitter? Why is it their business what students are saying in their spare time? This is not a matter of the school protecting its students. The school reached into the private life of a student to punish him for expression.

Carroll's Twitter account was a place to be himself and post his own thoughts. But it shouldn't matter if he had posted it at school.

What was Carroll's offense? It was not hateful words or bullying. It was using a four-letter word in an academic way. Does the school district plan to eradicate the f-bomb from all their students? Even if it was possible, it is not the school's place.

Expulsion is an over-reaction to any four-letter word. The school district has messed up Carroll's life in order to correct his language, which is plucking ridiculous.

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## COLUMN

# I know who stole five bucks from you in January

The natural order of an academic year at Eastern has been upset.

Beyond simply the weather (hot to warm to cool to cold and then back again), there are other patterns that are a feature of each year.

The 2011-2012 academic year, my last at Eastern, has provided a major, surprise exception to this pattern in the area of campus entertainment.

There was no spring concert this year. I was initially nonplussed by this major change. I, like thousands of other Eastern students, never attended the spring concert before, so why would I care if there wouldn't be one now?

I thought this until I factored in one of the most important things in our society: the money.

Eastern students pay what are referred to as "fees" in addition to tuition. These fees are broken down into eight general categories (not counting the Graduate Student fee). These categories include a Health Service & Pharmacy Fee and a Computer Network Fee.

In addition to revenue from ticket sales, a portion of the concert's funding comes



**Doug T. Graham**

from the Activity Fee. The Activity Fee in the spring was \$102.03.

When we last reported on the concert fee on March 2, 2011, "Mattoon bus route possible," it was \$5.

Assuming the amount has not changed much since then, that means every one of the nearly 12,000 Eastern students paid \$5 to help fund this semester's concert.

Anyone with a calculator can tell you that this means there is about \$60,000 that was collected from students this semester that is not going to fulfill its stated purpose.

In the eternal words of Sen. Bob Dole, "Where is the outrage?"

The university has made a \$60,000 mistake. That is a big mistake.

I probably wouldn't care about this \$60,000 mistake if I wasn't facing graduation.

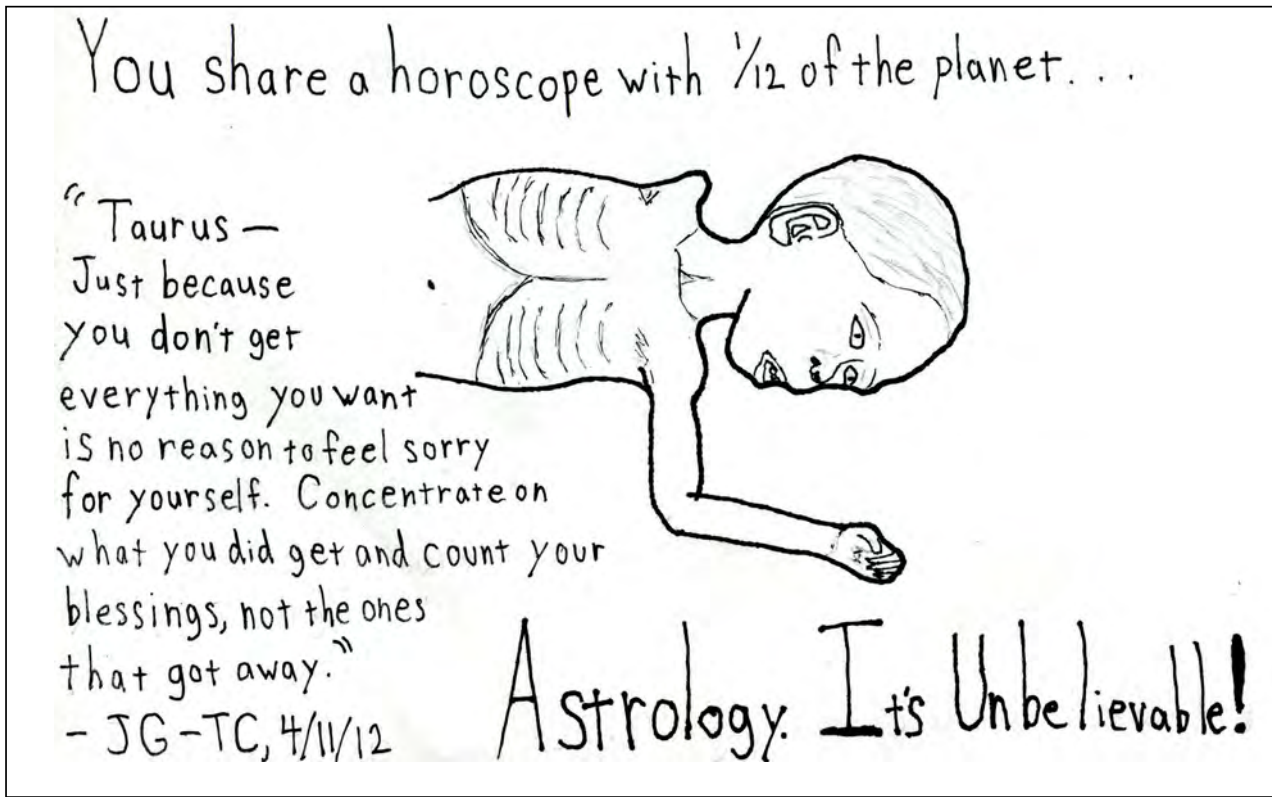
I'm a senior, dammit. This is it. Even if every cent of the money they took from us Spring 2012 students was used to go toward an even better concert for semesters to come, it doesn't matter to me.

I understand that not every last bit of the \$9,400 I spent to attend Eastern this semester goes to benefiting just me. Some of that money will go toward future expenses that will make the university better for Eastern students to come. The difference between that money and this semester's concert fee is that the concert fee was never intended to benefit future students. The reason that the money may benefit future students is because someone, somewhere was unable to use the money to book a suitable act. And until every student gets their money back, that will be true.

So let's send a message to the university: Give us our money back.

*Doug T. Graham is a senior journalism major. He can be reached at 581-7942 or DENopinions@gmail.com.*

## FROM THE EASEL



DAVE BALSON | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

## COLUMN

# Dear lord, spare us from TV-based video games

With the hit series "Game of Thrones" making waves on HBO, game developer Cyanide Studios, along with publisher Atlus, are pushing forward with a video game based on the show.

Wait, stop the presses, another TV- or movie-based video game? Stop the insanity for us all, please. Enough already. History tells us gamers that movie-based video games rarely succeed. So, will this one be any different? It won't. Movie-based video games are destined for failure.

Since I started playing video games, I have only played a handful of games that were based on films or TV. What comes to mind is "Beavis And Butthead," "GoldenEye," "007: Quantum of Solace," "Kingdom Hearts," "Kingdom Hearts II," which are based on a collection of Disney movies, and "LEGO Harry Potter: Years 1-4."

While some of these titles are fairly decent—and in the case of GoldenEye, it was one of the best games of the past 15 years—making a video game based on a film or TV show describes at least two things:

First, the developers and publishers are obsessed with said movie or TV show and



**Jose Gonzalez**

have visions of what it would look like in the game realm. Secondly, it shows they have little or no originality, and/or patience to come up with a concept that is completely original and fresh to gamers.

Besides the titles I listed above and other rare movie-based gaming gems that work, most don't seem to pan out. Now what causes this sudden failure?

Firstly, from a gamer's perspective, I think we don't want to see our favorite movie or TV show massacred in the video game realm.

I mean, if Activision or THQ all of a sudden wanted to create a video game based on the TV show "The O.C." or the anime "Elfen Lied," I would be inclined to at least give them a shot before damn-

ing it into video game hell, mainly because I've seen both shows and noticed instances where they could potentially be video games.

Now, would they get put into that dastardly category of movie- or TV-based video games that flop? Of course they would. Mainly because of the developers, who want to rush games out for a quick profit, but really, in the end, it all depends on a gamer's interests, because there are some cases where TV- and movie-based video games can actually succeed.

Secondly, sometimes developers have little or no originality. I mean would you catch Rockstar Games red handed making a movie- or TV-based video game? No. Its games are 100 percent original. I mean, take a look at both "Red Dead Redemption" and "L.A. Noire." They are both original titles, and both excellent titles. Originality sells.

Video games should be purely original, not based off of TV shows or films.

*Jose Gonzalez is a senior journalism major. He can be reached at 581-7942 or DENopinions@gmail.com.*

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

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

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

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



PARTIES, from page 1

“I am afraid this body has begun to forget that it does not have the power to change the constitution, which is sacred,” Scherle said.

Steve Joeegen, a 2011 alumnus and former student supreme court justice, attended the meeting to voice his opinion of the necessity of the proposal.

“I was surprised to learn that this was not already option,” Joeegen said. “It is used in many other organizations I have seen on campus and keeps involvement and accountability high.”

After about 45 minutes of discussion, the proposal was tabled and will be discussed at the meeting next Wednesday.

The Student Senate also passed two proposals, one requiring the online posting of Student Senate member voting records and copies of proposals.

The other proposal was a \$475-spending proposal for travel and supplies for the Student Action Team Lobby Day.

The Student Senate will have its final meeting of the semester at 7 p.m. on April 18 in the Arcola-Tuscola Room of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

*Amy Wywialowski can be reached at 581-2812 or alwywialowski@eiu.edu*

TUG from page 1

Sigma Chi and SAE battled for more than 3 minutes, neither of them willing to relinquish an inch.

When Sigma Chi’s lost a man to physical exhaustion, the remaining men were no match for their opponents and soon found themselves soaked.

After training for over two months, Matt Levan, an SAE tugger, said he was exhausted but overjoyed.

“This was definitely our longest tug by far,” Levan said. “My legs and lower back are burning; it’s probably one of the worst feelings I have ever felt.”

The final match of the day became the shortest when Sig Ep had Sigma Nu in the water in just 29 seconds.

The day actually began with the fraternities competing in the Little Men’s tourney, whose first winners were Sigma Phi Epsilon, who won over Pi Kappa Alpha with a time of 1:17.

In the next heat, Lambda Chi Alpha defeated Sigma Chi with a time of 1:16.

Soon after, Sigma Nu beat Delta Tau Delta with a time of 1:39.

In the last match of the Little Men’s division, Sigma Pi pulled their way to victory over SAE in 54 seconds.

As the last of the SAE Little Men

dragged themselves from the water, the sorority competitors prepared for their turn.

Alpha Phi, who had Sigma Kappa drenched with a time of 1:48, took the first match.

In the next heat, Kappa Delta faced Alpha Sigma Alpha, claiming the match in just 57 seconds.

Delta Delta Delta took the third match over Alpha Gamma Delta with a time if 1:31.

Kristy Kolzow, an Alpha Gam tugger, described the experience with a heavy heart.

“We gave it all we had and we were extremely tired after (the match),” Kolzow said.

“It definitely helped to have our coaches in the lane with us though, telling us to be patient work together as a team.”

In the final women’s match, Alpha Sigma Tau fought hard for 2 minutes and 15 seconds against Sigma Sigma Sigma, but Tri Sigma fought harder.

The final round will be at 11 a.m. on Saturday at Campus Pond.

Danny Putlak was unavailable for comment.

*Ryan Dolph can be reached at 581-2812 or rgdolph@eiu.edu.*

STATE

Zimmerman arrest follows puzzling disappearance

The Associated Press

SANFORD, Fla.— The neighborhood watch volunteer who shot Trayvon Martin to death had been out of touch and, his ex-lawyer says, "a little bit over the edge" before his arrest on a second-degree murder charge.

As George Zimmerman turned himself in Wednesday in the Feb. 26 shooting of the unarmed black teen, experts offered this advice: Stop talking.

"My advice to the client would be, 'Save it for the trial. It can't help you.'" said Roy Kahn, a Miami defense attorney..

The 28-year-old Sanford man was in custody in Florida after a puzzling disappearance that had his lawyers expressing concern for his health and announcing they couldn't represent him anymore. Zimmerman had called special prosecutor Angela Corey, his former lawyers said, had an off-the-record chat with a Fox News Channel host and put up a website asking supporters for money.

"It would not be in a client's best interest to give any statement before it's

his time to testify at trial," Kahn said.

"For him to give a statement, since he already has given an interview to the police, any additional statement at the State Attorney's Office would just create the possibility of him creating conflict with his previous statements."

Zimmerman's new attorney, Mark O'Mara, said after his client's arrest Wednesday that Zimmerman "is very concerned about the charges, but he is OK."

"I'm not concerned about his mental well-being," O'Mara said.

Former lawyers Craig Sonner and Hal Uhrig on Tuesday portrayed Zimmerman as erratic, said he hadn't returned their calls and texts and was buckling under the pressure that has built in the month since the shooting.

Jack Schafer, a professor at Western Illinois University and a former FBI behavioral analyst, said Zimmerman's behavior shouldn't cause undue concern. After all, Schafer said, he wasn't charged with any crime and was free to go wherever he wanted after he spoke to authorities after the shooting.

Money down toilet for good cause



KATIE SMITH | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Members of Habitat for Humanity accepted donations in a toilet bowl in the north quad on Wednesday. The charity was raising money as part of Act! Speak! Build! week. The event is meant to raise awareness and help eliminate poverty housing and homelessness. Members say that many students do not know Eastern has their own Habitat for Humanity chapter and hope that this fundraiser will get people more involved.



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VIEWS, from page 8

Individually, the Panthers also reign supreme in the OVC as three Panther pitchers rank in the top four in ERA. Junior Troy Barton paces the pitching staff with a 1.73 ERA, good for second in the OVC. Redshirt senior Mike Hoekstra has also been dominant this season, posting an ERA of 2.30 in a team-high 54.2 innings pitched. Rounding out the sub-three ERA's is sophomore left-hander Christian Slazinik. Slazinik has recorded a 2.70 ERA to go a long with a team-best four wins in 46.2 innings of work. Clearly, Eastern boasts the most efficient pitching staff in the OVC as the weekend starters (Barton, Hoekstra, Slazinik) can completely dominate the opposition.

Unfortunately, the Panther pitching has not totaled the number of wins you would expect from an over-whelming pitching staff. The Panthers have been plagued by poor and untimely hitting throughout the season as they rank near the bottom in every major offensive statistic in the OVC. The Pan-

thers rank last in batting average (.241), slugging percentage (.343), hits (231), runs scored (112), and RBI (99).

Although the offense has struggled to score on a consistent basis, the Panthers have seen an increase in offensive production of late. The Panthers are averaging just 3.86 runs a game in 2012, but have averaged 6.22 runs since beating then No. 30 ranked Saint Louis on March 27. The increase in run production has the Panthers winning five of their last nine games as they have not dropped a series since losing two-of-three to Southern Illinois-Edwardsville on March 23-25.

If the Panthers can continue to provide runs for an already dominant pitching staff they should be poised for a deep postseason run in the Ohio Valley Conference Tournament.

Jordan Pottorff can be reached at 581-7942 or at jbpottorff@eiu.edu.

STATE

Chicago poses stiff opening for Coyotes

By The Associated Press

GLENDALE, Ariz.— In the moments after clinching their first division title in 33 years as an NHL franchise, the Phoenix Coyotes shared a couple of hugs and pats on the helmet, then skated toward the tunnel leading to the locker room.

As celebrations go, it wasn't much more emotion than they would have shown for any other game.

That's because the division title isn't what they're after.

Sure, it's nice, a historic moment for a franchise that began in Winnipeg. For the players, the best part of the division title is that it earns them home-ice advantage for the first round of the playoffs.

Against the Chicago Blackhawks and all those snipers, the Coyotes will need any edge they can get.

"Winning the division, it means home ice — it's something you want to hang your hat on," Coyotes coach Dave Tippett said Wednesday from Jobing.com Arena, where the best-of-seven series will start Thursday night. "It's an accomplishment for our group and we'll certainly take that, but ... it's something we need to take advantage of."

Phoenix played well down the stretch of the regular season, winning its last five games behind the superb goaltending of Mike Smith. With a 4-1 win over Minnesota on Saturday night, the Coyotes wrapped up the Pacific Division, the first in the franchise's NHL history.

The division crown earned the Coyotes attaboy status from all over because it meant they would get to open the playoffs at home instead of facing teams like Detroit, which knocked them out of the first round the previous two seasons, St. Louis or Vancouver.

Thing is, the Blackhawks don't figure to be a much easier opponent.

Chicago finished ahead of Phoenix in the standings, earning two more wins (45) and four more points (101). The Blackhawks have one of the most potent top lines in the league with Patrick Kane, Jonathan Toews and Marian Hossa, and their second line can match

the No. 1 for many teams.

Chicago also has an experience advantage; the Coyotes haven't won a playoff series since moving to Phoenix in 1996, while the Blackhawks won the Stanley Cup in 2010 and pushed Vancouver to a seventh game in the second round last year.

"They're a good team, they've had a good year, and we feel we've had a good year, too," Kane said. "We are confident in the team we have, so we'll see what happens. It's going to be a fun series. It'll be pretty intense, playoff hockey."

The Blackhawks played well in the final stretch of the regular season, finishing 8-1-3 despite playing without Toews.

Chicago's captain missed the final 22 games with a concussion, but started practicing this week in preparation for the playoffs and was symptom-free after Wednesday's workout. He's expected to play Thursday night in the desert, though an official decision isn't expected to be made until after the team's morning skate.

If Toews does return, he'll center the first line and Kane, who had been in the middle with the captain out, will slide back to the left side. The line combined for 81 goals and 119 assists, even with Toews missing the big chunk of time at the end of the season.

"I'm right there," Toews said. "It's been another day where I'm getting better and better, getting back to where I want to be as far as if I'm going to play a game. We'll see how it goes tomorrow."

He may want to look over his shoulder against the Coyotes.

While the Blackhawks play a free-and-easy style under coach Joel Quenneville, Phoenix's forte is to grind games out any way they can to keep it close.

Against a team as fast and filled with skill players as Chicago, that means the Coyotes will have to muck it up, knock the Blackhawks down every chance they get.

It worked during the regular-season matchups between the teams — the Coyotes won three of four — and they'll likely pick up the intensity in the playoffs, particularly with Toews coming back from injury.



SETH SCHROEDER | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS  
Freshman infielder Bailey O'Dell throws the ball during a game against Murray State on March 31 at Williams field. The Panthers will play Illinois-Champaign-Urbana 5 p.m. today at Williams Field.

SOFTBALL, from page 8

The Panthers can expect to see Illini ace Pepper Gay on the mound. For the season, Gay is 11-10 with a 1.75 ERA in 132 innings

pitched. She also has 128 strikeouts on the season, which is good enough for almost one strikeout per inning.

Erik Jensen can be reached at 581-7942 or eajensen@eiu.edu.

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BASEBALL



ZACHARY WHITE | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Junior infielder Ryan Dineen tosses his bat to the side after hitting a line drive into the outfield. The Panthers won the game at Coaches Stadium 2-1 after falling short earlier 8-7 in a 17 inning bout on Saturday, April 7.

# Thoma's multi-homer game leads Panthers

By **Jordan Pottorff**  
Assistant Sports Editor

Coming off a loss to in-state rival Illinois-Urbana-Champaign, Eastern's baseball team responded by beating the Illinois College Blue Boys 10-3 on Wednesday. The Panthers used a balance offensive attack as they scored runs in four of the first five innings of play and belted three home runs en route to picking up the mid-week win.

The Panthers, coming off of a disappointing performance in a loss to the Fighting Illini, used the match-up against Division-III opponent Illinois College to gain some confidence and get the reserves some playing time heading into the weekend series against OVC-rival Eastern Kentucky. "We don't play too many Wednes-

day games and we wanted to give guys the chance to play and feel apart of the team," Eastern head coach Jim Schmitz said. "That's why we schedule games like these."

The Panthers got their offense going in the third inning as they loaded the bases with just one out. Freshman Dane Sauer capitalized on his run-scoring chance as he roped a bases-clearing line drive to left center field to give the Panthers a 3-1 lead. Eastern would add to its lead in the third inning when redshirt senior Ben Thoma belted his team-leading fifth home run of the season to give the Panthers a 4-2 lead.

"I didn't have the best game against Illinois, and I was talking to coach before the game and he said to just see the ball and get some fastballs," Thoma said. "That's what I did. I at-

tacked the fastball today and laid off the breaking stuff and hit some balls hard."

The Panthers would add two insurance runs to take a 6-2 lead in the eighth inning before freshman Trent Whitcomb belted his first home run of his collegiate career. Whitcomb smashed a two-run homer to right field to give the Panthers a commanding 8-2 lead.

"I was just trying to get my first hit today, because it's been a little rough in the beginning of the year," Whitcomb said. "Making good contact with the ball is a big part of the game, and this will definitely boost my confidence."

Two batters later, Thoma showed off his power for the second time of the game as he belted a two-run home run to left center field. It was Thoma's sixth

home run of the season and his fifth multi-home run game of his career.

"The goal for today was to get Ben Thoma and Trent Whitcomb going," Schmitz said. "We need Trent at the end of games to pinch-hit and just getting those guys on track is a real positive."

On the mound, the Panthers had several pitchers seeing action as freshman right-hander Matt Borens made his second start of the season. Borens gave up two runs (one earned) on five hits in four innings of work. He also recorded two strikeouts and showed good command of his pitches as he did not issue a walk while toeing the rubber.

In relief, the Panthers turned to a trio of right-handed arms to keep the Blue Boys offense in check. Juniors Scott Houdek and Keith Koser and red-shirt junior George Kalousek each saw

time on the mound as they combined to limit Illinois College to just two hits and one unearned run in the final five innings of play.

"I was really impressed with Scott Houdek," Schmitz said. "Scott's a guy who hasn't got a lot of inning lately, but all of a sudden I thought his ball was sharp and fast and sunk and did some really good things."

With the win, the Panthers improve to 13-17 overall and 4-4 in OVC play. Eastern will be back in action this weekend when it will travel to Richmond, Ky., to take on the Eastern Kentucky Colonels in a three-game series. First pitch is scheduled for 3 p.m. on Friday.

*Jordan Pottorff can be reached at 581-7942 or jbpottorff@eiu.edu.*

SOFTBALL

## Panthers hope to win against Illini

By **Erik Jensen**  
Staff Reporter

The Eastern softball team had its five-game winning streak snapped in a hard fought game at Indiana State. Indiana State won the game with a final score of 3-0 with great pitching and opportune hitting.

The Panthers overall record is now 20-16.

For the game, both Eastern and Indiana State finished the game with four hits. Sophomore second baseman Carly Willert led the Panthers at the plate with a game-high two hits in three at bats. Willert has worked her batting average all the way up to .333. She also has 12 RBIs and 10 runs scored on the season. Her eight doubles placed her second on the team behind freshman short-stop Bailey O'Dell, who has twelve.

O'Dell and junior Ally Seplak were the only other Panthers to record a hit in the loss. O'Dell has a team-leading batting average of .379. As the leadoff hitter, she leads the team in hits with 47 and RBIs with 19. She has also scored a team-high 23 runs. Seplak has proven herself to be one of the top Panther hitters. For the season, her batting average is sitting at .340, which is the second best mark on the team.

Sophomore Hanna Mennenga started the game on the mound for Eastern and had yet another solid outing. She pitched five innings and allowed three runs (one earned) on three hits and a walk. She also recorded three strikeouts. Mennenga is now 9-5 for the season. Her defense did not help her out, allowing Indiana State the chance to

score some easy runs off Panther errors. Eastern made two errors in the game, which both resulted in a run for ISU.

The Panthers next game will be tomorrow at Williams Field when they play their in-state rival, the University of Illinois, with the game getting underway at 5 p.m.

It is likely that Eastern will start Stephanie Maday on the mound, who currently has an 11-8 record with a 1.93 ERA. When Maday starts, she usually finishes the game. In a team-high 20 starts on the mound, she has pitched 11 complete games.

The Fighting Illini will come into Charleston with a record of 16-18.

SOFTBALL, page 7

VIEWS

## Pitching pacing Panthers in 2012

Eastern's baseball team is coming off of a double-digit outburst that had it knocking off in-state foe Illinois College 10-3 on Wednesday. Although the Panthers have been paced by stellar pitching all season, the recent emergence of a reliable offense could have the Panthers contending for a conference championship come late May if the offense can continue to provide run support.

The main reason for success in 2012 has been the Panther pitching staff. Eastern has been dominant this season as it easily leads all OVC clubs in ERA. The Panthers boast an ERA of 3.02, which is nearly a run and a half lower than the second best pitching staff in



**Jordan Pottorff**

the conference. OVC-leading Austin Peay ranks second in ERA with a mark of 4.45 while Murray State rounds out the top three with a 5.14 ERA. The Panthers also rank first in opposing batting average (.240), runs allowed (122), earned runs allowed (85), hits allowed (223), and home runs allowed (5).

VIEWS, page 7



## Justice for Martin: Appearances not deceiving

By Staff Reporter  
Lauren Thomas

Students and faculty united on Tuesday, April 3, 2012 in remembrance of Trayvon Martin, the 17-year-old African-American boy who was shot and killed in Sanford, Fla. because of his appearance. Many believe the incident was a case of racial profiling.

Martin was returning from a store on Feb. 26 when he was confronted by 28-year-old George Zimmerman, a neighborhood watch captain, who shot and killed Martin. Zimmerman was taken into custody but was later released.

The rally began with a march from Carman Hall down Roosevelt Avenue with participants chanting "justice for Trayvon." Marchers wearing hoodies carried signs with various phrases written on them such as "Stop All Violence" and "Save Our Brothers." The march ended with students and faculty coming together on the steps of the Doudna Fine Arts Center.

A few professors addressed the participants about the case, including Kevin Anderson, a political science professor. He spoke to the crowd about the importance of not judging people based on appearances.

"You don't get to determine the trajectory of someone's life," he said.

Anderson urged rally attendees, especially students, to show society that they are more than what their appearances show in order to prevent cases like Martin's from happening elsewhere.

"If we let this stand in Sanford, Fla., it's going to happen somewhere else. It's to happen in Chicago, it's going to happen in East St. Louis, it's going to happen in Decatur," he said.

The rally also featured a poetry performance by Blake Morris of the poetry group Speak-Easy.

The Unity Gospel Choir sang

**"If we let this stand in Sanford, Fla, it's going to happen somewhere else. It's going to happen in Chicago, it's going to happen in East St. Louis, it's going to happen in Decatur."**

Kevin Anderson, a political science professor

two songs and invited attendees to join in as they sang "I Need You to Survive."

Mary Walter, a senior graphic design major and Unity Gospel Choir member, said she was happy to be a part of the rally and glad that so much of the Eastern community came out in support of the cause.

"Everyone's giving their input and trying to find some type of positive out of this tragedy," she said.

Eastern's rally was one of several dozens that have been held on college campuses nationwide since Martin's story made national news.

Students said they felt these events were necessary to get the word out about social injustices taking place in today's society.

"I felt that it was well needed, especially since this is a predominantly white school and not enough African-Americans speak up for what they believe in," said Kadija Stallings, a sophomore 2D studio design major.

Seong-Oea Hibner, a junior family and consumer sciences major, said rallies like the one at Eastern are needed to bring awareness to events such as the Martin case.

"It's really sad that people can get killed just for looking 'suspicious' and I think people should take better precaution before acting on things like that," she said.

Following the rally on the Doudna steps, participants attended the "Will We Ever Get Justice for Trayvon Martin" forum held in the Charleston/Mattoon room in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union. The forum, hosted by Phi Rho Eta Fraternity Inc., featured video clips related to the Martin case along with questions and discussions about the case and how it reflects today's society.

Currently, no charges have been filed against Zimmerman. This has sparked outrage across the country in those who feel that he should be punished for killing Martin.

"It's unjust and it's unfortunate that Trayvon had to suffer like that but we can make a change if we stand up for it and hopefully justice is served. And hopefully he's the last person that suffers that kind of crime and harm," Stallings said.

Rally participants agreed that Zimmerman's actions were cruel and unnecessary and that he deserves to be called to justice.

"I don't know what Trayvon Martin was going to become. But the saddest part was that George Zimmerman should not have been the judge of what he was going to be," Anderson said.

Lauren Thomas can be reached at [llthomas2@eiu.edu](mailto:llthomas2@eiu.edu).



Students are gathered to listen to what others had to say about the untimely death of Trayvon Martin Feb. 26, 2012 on the Doudna steps. Photo by Rikki Wright.



Students and faculty come out and march for Trayvon Martin, a young man that was killed Feb. 26, 2012. Photo by Rikki Wright.



Students gather for Trayvon Martin march on February 26, 2012 near Doudna. Photo by Rikki Wright.



## Dino Babers stands by his decision

By Bryce J. Ricketts  
Staff Reporter

Since the former Head Coach of the Panthers football team, Bob Spoo, ended his 25-year career at Eastern Illinois University to retire, many have wondered if the person to take his place in the offices of O'Brien Stadium would be both willing and able to do so.

Newly hired Head Coach Dino Babers seemed just the type of man to fill the much needed position left by Spoo. Being welcomed back to EIU must have been a relief for Babers.

Babers said it is wonderful to come back it seems like everything here has changed yet nothing has.

"Everyone has welcomed me back with open arms," he said.

Babers was previously employed at EIU in 1987 as an assistant coach under the then Head Coach Bob Spoo. Since that time he has worked at many colleges across the country building up an impressive resume.

His Coaching experience includes Hawaii graduate assistant 1984, Arizona State graduate assistant 1985, Eastern Illinois running backs 1987, UNLV special teams/RBs 1988-89, Northern Arizona special teams 1990, Purdue wide receivers 1994, Arizona WRs/RBs/QBs 1998-00, Texas A&M off. Coord./ QBs 2001-02, Pittsburgh running backs 2003, UCLA, Asst. head coach/RBs/WRs 2004-07, Baylor recruiting coord./WRs 2008.

His last position was at Baylor University a private, Christian university located in Waco, Texas. With his impressive resume it was no surprise to anyone that Eastern would choose him to replace Coach Spoo to be head coach of the panthers. But replacing a man who has been head coach for 25 years could not have been easy.

"I feel honored to be given the opportunity to step into the shoes of a man I have the utmost respect and admiration for," said Babers. Babers had nothing but kind words for the now retired Bob Spoo saying he will try to continue the legacy the man had built at EIU. But being the new head coach at EIU, what can he bring to the table that Spoo hasn't already?

His answer was his ability to read people, and to know what their personality is. He says he tries not to make things too complicated and tedious, "a quality that many young people respect these days," Babers said.

Babers stands by his decision to choose EIU as the next step in his impressive Coaching career and is happy with what the position still has in store for him.

## Facing the limits- challenges are met

By Megan Johnson  
Staff Reporter

Like so many students that graduate from Eastern, Darius Frazier, is on a mission to start a career and figure out what exactly life has in store for him.

However, Frazier is different from other postgraduates, he lives with Asperger syndrome, a mild form of autism. Frazier describes his Asperger syndrome as being highly functional.

"I am one of three percent of people in the autistic spectrum that can live on their own outside of a group home," he said.

Yet, Frazier has the amazing talent to name the day of the week a person was born just by knowing their birth date and he knows each and every sports fact including teams, score, date and even what television network it was broadcasted on.

Frazier was diagnosed with Asperger syndrome at the age of

two. Asperger syndrome is an autism spectrum disorder (ASD) that is characterized by difficulties in social interaction, along with patterns of behavior and interests. ASD differs from other autism spectrums because of cognitive development.

Frazier said his parents noticed he was nonverbal and they took him to several specialized child pediatrician. One pediatrician even told his parents he shouldn't receive any type of education because he would never be able to function properly.

Frazier said his parents did not believe that he wouldn't be able to properly function and they decided they wouldn't medicate him and decided he would function and learn at the same rate as his peers.

"My parents drive to make me function as my peers, it is how I was able to attend college and live a normal life," Frazier said.

Autism is a complex developmental disability that

affects a person's ability to process information, communicate, and interact with others. In the United States Autism affects more than two million individuals and more than 10 million worldwide.

According to autismspeaks.org, boys are four to five times more likely to be diagnosed with autism than girls.

Life with autism can create many social challenges and Sigma Phi Epsilon helped Frazier improve his social skills while introducing him to new friends and ultimately improving his networking skills.

"Sigma Phi Epsilon adopted me into their fraternity as a full member, I learned to communicate with a variety of people, and their support helped me to incorporate those strategies in my everyday life," Frazier said.

Dr. Gail Richard, the chairwoman of the Communication Disorders Department, initially introduced Frazier to Sigma

Phi Epsilon. Frazier credits Dr. Richard for the reason why he attended Eastern.

"It took me sometime to get use to Charleston," said Frazier. "Dr. Richard really helped me and she was able to provide the services I needed to survive on campus and the real world."

Frazier said because of Dr. Richard it did not take him long to get into the swing of things. He started to become involved with several different groups and activities on campus.

Frazier graduated from Eastern with a degree in Sports Broadcasting. He said he wants to pursue a career as a sports broadcaster in efforts of becoming a sports commentator for either ESPN or NBC Sports.

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## Margins to the center:

More children will be diagnosed with autism this year than with AIDS, diabetes & cancer combined

While there is no medical detection or known cure for autism, thousands of children have shown significant improvement resulting from early diagnosis and use of effective interventions

<http://www.tacanow.org/family-resources/latest-autism-statistics-2/>

## Retiring chief of detectives reflects

By Jeremy Nowell  
Staff Reporter

"I am able to look in the mirror and say I did my best," retired police detective Rick Fisher calmly stated.

Fisher, 56, sat in the center of the room dressed casually as his gray hair reaffirmed that he has experienced life. Rick has worked a total of 30-years in the police workforce and has worked in departments that included 20-years in the patrol officer field and 10 more as the chief of detectives. Many people automatically associate danger with the word 'police' however Fisher's life wasn't always so complicated.

Fisher was born in Bourbonnais, IL. From the beginning he always knew he would be in a career field where his main priority was to help people.

In high school Fisher had a knack for defending. He often battled off bullies with his huge physique in school. This ability to empathize with people became the determining factor in his decision to become a police officer in 1976.

"I always wanted to help those that could not help themselves," Fisher said. "As a police officer I wanted to help victims become less

of a victim."

Fisher began his career as a patrol officer. His duties included taking action in unusual or serious situations, preparing and processing police reports, non-criminal reports, accident reports and witness statements and much more.

In his 20 years as a patrol Officer Fisher experienced a variety of cases such as domestic disputes, sexual assault cases and alcohol related problems. Dealing with such issues on a daily basis made Fisher join several programs within the police field.

"I was one of the first police officers on the council of age and domestic violence," Fisher said. "I worked closely within the programs and gained knowledge about these issues."

The career as a patrol officer often led Fisher into some dangerous situations. Fisher calmly told of two occasions where he found himself in a difficult situation.

Fisher approached a typical domestic dispute, however, Fisher found out one of the people had a weapon. After talking the guy down Fisher relieved the man of his gun and dealt with the situation.

The next dangerous situation

that Fisher would face was dealing with the homicide of Shannon McNamara. The killer left little to no evidence and Fisher had been a novice when it came to dealing with homicide cases. The only knowledge Fisher had on homicidal cases is that they are easy to figure out with ease.

"Homicides are easy to solve, because usually the murders have a close relationship with the victim," Fisher said.

Fisher and the officers formed an idea of a suspect in mind. They believed it to be a man by the name of Anthony Mertz. Mertz was a long time Charleston resident, who was known to be trouble by various residents in Charleston. He had never been charged with a major crime, so Fisher couldn't exactly attach his name to the crime.

Then all of a sudden Fisher received a call with evidence that could not only put Mertz behind bars for the McNamara case but maybe another pre-existing case as well. After the tip officers received turned out to be factual Mertz was charged with first degree murder of McNamara. The winning of this case had its own pros and cons.

Professionally Fisher career got

rewarded with a new job as Chief of Detectives. Normally the police department is known as a field that does not have much opportunity to move up the ladder. This meant with more responsibility came the stress of having to balance work, a wife, and three children at home.

As chief of detectives he frequently did background checks on people and found any red flags that stood out. He also frequently dealt with reporters, which allowed him to form a common bond with them. After working as the chief of detectives for 10 years, Fisher decided to retire. He knew he had made a mark from looking at the changes the police department had made during that time.

Fisher now spends his retirement working as a part-time police officer at Lakeland, golfing, and spending time with his wife and children. When asked during this reflective time what is the most rewarding part in his 30-year career span? Fisher takes a moment and ponders that question internally before stating "surviving til the end of retirement."

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# Childhood crosses over into adulthood

By Dana Jackson  
Editor in Chief

Living in a world where people are afraid to speak certain words, or about particular issues. This creates an avenue for people that do not like to listen with openness but defensiveness. So I have a choice to be open or defensive, and I choose to be open in this column.

The first thing I remember when I think about my "childhood" is having no concerns. All I had to do was go to school, which I loved to do. My wants were met, but the only problem of mine was that I had to be monitored and told what I could and could not do as a child.

Now, 23, getting ready to graduate from college, I still have my childhood name "Dana boo," which I have had since I was 3-years-old. I also still watch my childhood cartoon, Arthur occasionally. But, why, I never really questioned it, or been afraid to let people know that I still watch

Arthur. Is this uncanny, or is this something to hold on to.

When something is challenged in society, or does not go as everyone plans. People will avoid it, criticize it, or judge it. Why do some people do this, instead of further exploring the issue, and learn from it?

There are many reasons why we continue our childhood experiences that become long-established within our adult lives.

Some people take out what they love from their childhood, which is what I have done. My mind has matured but I still love Arthur, Beauty and the Beast, Aladdin, Tarzan, and Mulan. These are the times in my childhood that I loved and continue to choose to experience throughout my life now.

Then there are the people that repeat the typical childhood desires, throughout their adulthood because of nonfulfillment or their overly sheltered experiences within their childhood.

For example, Michael Jackson, he had no childhood when he was younger. His father stressed that his music was more important than anything else. His childhood was lost.

This resulted in him as an adult doing things that he would have done as a child. Of course this challenged the norm, and he was heavily criticized about his behavior.

But, what is considered the norm? Is it when an adult still sleeps with their childhood teddy bear, or is it an adult that still sucks their thumb?

More than a third of us still hug a childhood soft toy while falling asleep, according to a survey of 6,000 British adults.

According to dailymail, more than half of the Britan population still have a teddy bear from childhood and the average teddy bear is 27-years-old.

Those who slept with a teddy told researchers that they found it was a comforting and calming way to de-stress at the end of the

day.

And 25 percent of men surveyed, said they took their teddy away with them on business trips because it reminded them of home.

Is this normal? Until someone gets to know who a person is, and what they have been through everything is questionable.

Is it the norm for an adult to still suck their thumb? I know a lot of people that suck their thumb. However, people may associate this behavior as immature, when that is not the case.

According to, adult thumb sucker.com, the Wall Street Journal ran a story number of years ago that about 10 percent of adults still suck their thumb.

A Huff Post Healthy Living blog written by Thomas P. Connelly D.D.S NYC Cosmetic dentist, provided some amalgamated statistics from a variety of sources: About 95 percent of babies suck their thumb, about 10 percent will do so beyond the age of two to three, and about 5 per-

cent will do so beyond the ages of four and five.

Numbers on adult thumb sucking are difficult to find, or even believe. This is because the habit is not something most people easily admit. But as a dentist, Connelly said that he knows some adults that still suck their thumbs.

In the end, every aspect of our lives is being challenged. Things are not always going to happen the way we expect or plan. Age modifications have been scrambled there are now 9-year-old genius, or 12-year-old students in college, but adults that could not even answer a math question.

So there are childhood experiences that can still be embraced today, and some that should not. Allow judgment to be the first option is something that should not be acceptable. So listen with openness and not defensiveness.

Dana Jackson can be reached at [dajackson@eiu.edu](mailto:dajackson@eiu.edu)

## Delta Probate



The new Delta girls have a small performance to show what they've learned on Sat, April 7, 2012 in the Buzzard Auditorium. Photo by Jesseca Rhymes.



Lauren Lewis, Junior Marketing major, crossed Delta. Photo by Megan Johnson.



The new Delta girls show their sisterly love on Sat, April 7, 2012 in Buzzard Auditorium. Photo by Jesseca Rhymes

## End of the semester reads:

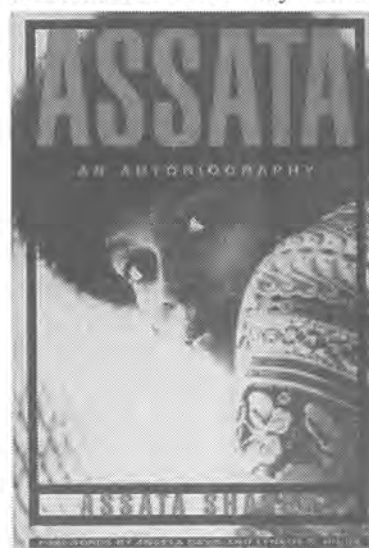
By Jeremy Nowell  
Staff Reporter

What is a leader to you? Is it somebody that has intellect from books? Or maybe it is someone who is brave enough to stand up against rules the government have made? "Assata: An Autobiography" has redefined the meaning of what a real leader is. Assata experienced a life that was jam-packed with distraught, bravery, determination and a need to change the way life was instead of allowing life to change her.

This book can be interpreted as more than just about Assata herself. The book can be seen as an example of the kind of life African-Americans have faced in the United States since there influx as slaves. Assata represents the exception to all of the women whose voices were not heard because of the spiral of silence.

Assata shakur was born on as Joanne Deborah Byron on

July 16, 1947. Throughout this book her name changes several times before she finally stays with the name Assata Shakur. She is a woman of many different aliases, which seems to only coincide with the many differ-



ent opinions supporters and haters have of her. Supporters seem to believe she is a woman of not just color but power. A woman who made sure her mark was left on this world

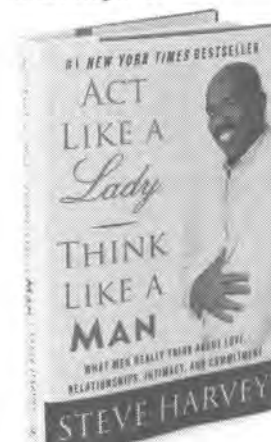
by participating in various organizations that promoted the equality of African-Americans.

This book is a must read for readers. It not only has the drama, and excitement, but it also has various poetry pieces inside as well. It is more than just an autobiography; it is the autobiography of everyone in the world. I say this because no matter what your race is, no matter what your age or gender is, every one can identify with this story in some way or another. Everyone has experienced some kind of racism, everyone has gone through tough times.

Assata Shakur shows in this book it is not the number of obstacles a person goes through, nor is it the amount of pain the obstacle causes that is important. It's the determination to survive and prosper through any and all obstacles that remain the vital features to a beautiful story.

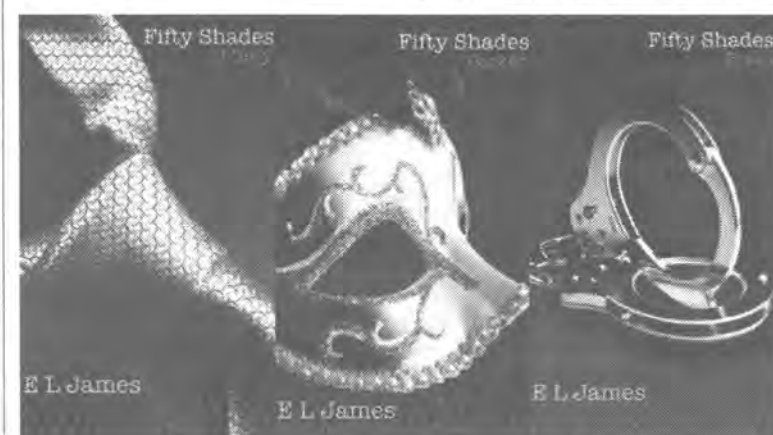
Jeremy can be reached at [jjnowell@eiu.edu](mailto:jjnowell@eiu.edu)

By Jasmine Randle  
Staff Reporter



A must read:

The self help book Act Like a Lady Think Like a Man: What Men Really Think about Love, Relationships, Intimacy, and Commitment by Steve Harvey has become #1 on the best sellers the first week it debuted as a self help book February 5, 2009, according to USA Today's bestsellers list. The book has gotten so much recognition that the book has been made into a motion picture "Think Like A Man," which is to come out April 20th of this year. The book gives tips on how to spot a mama's boy, the ninety day rule: ford requires it of its employees. Should you require it of your man?, and so much more.







**eastern illinois university**  
*A Proud History... A Promising Future*

**2012 ASIAN HERITAGE MONTH**

**March 3 - May 27**  
**Three Folk Art Traditions of Northeast India** (Ongoing Exhibit)  
 Tarble Arts Center

**Saturday, March 24**  
**Golden Dragon Chinese Acrobats**  
 McAfee Gym | 7:00 PM

**Thursday, March 29**  
**WHAM: Punk in the Shadow of War**  
**Speaker: Dr. Fiona I. B. Ngo**  
 3732 Coleman Hall | 11:00 AM

**Monday, April 2**  
**Arab Springs: What Lies Beneath**  
**Speaker: Dr. Ahmed Abou-Zaid, Economics**  
 Arcola-Tuscola Room | 3:30 PM

**Wednesday, April 4**  
**Taste of Asia Culture - Opening Reception**  
 Doudna Fine Arts Center 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

**Thursday, April 5**  
**Asian Cinema Organization - "Film"**  
**Film Title TBA**  
 Lumpkin Auditorium | 6:30 PM

**Saturday, April 7**  
**Japan House Field Trip**  
 Champaign, IL | 9:30 AM Departure Time  
\* For more information contact Dr. Jinhee Lee at jlee@eiu.edu.

**Tuesday, April 10**  
**Three Folk Art Traditions of North East India Gallery**  
**Talk with Kit Morice**  
 Tarble Arts Center | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

**Student Research Presentation Symposium**  
 Charleston-Mattoon Room | 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

**Thursday, April 12**  
**Tea: Biology, History & Culture**  
 Life Sciences | Room TBA | 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

**Asian Cinema Organization - "Film"**  
**Film Title TBA**  
 Lumpkin Auditorium | 6:30 PM

**Saturday, April 14**  
**Asian American Association: Asian Heritage Story Time**  
 Lawson Hall Basement | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

**Monday - Wednesday, April 16-18**  
**Asian American Association: Henna Fundraiser**  
 Coleman Hall Atrium | 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

**Tuesday, April 17**  
**A Touch of Chinese: Learning Phrases**  
**Speaker: Dr. Rose Z. Gong,**  
 Secondary Education & Foundations & Introductory Chinese II class  
 Charleston-Mattoon Room | 3:00 PM

**Thursday, April 19**  
**Asian Cinema Organization: "Film"**  
**Film Title TBA**  
 Lumpkin Auditorium | 6:30 PM

**Friday-Sunday, April 20-22**  
**Celebration Festival of the Arts**  
 EIU Campus - 7th - 9th Street  
 (International Fair, Salaam, Japanese Tea Ceremony)

**Sunday, April 22**  
**Three Folk Art Traditions of Northeast India**  
**Performer: Sharbari Ganguly**  
 Tarble Arts Center | 2:00 PM

**Tuesday, April 24**  
**Transnational Adoption: Changing Faces of American Families Panel**  
 Charleston-Mattoon Room | 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

**Sponsored By:**  
 Asian American Association, Asian Cinema Organization, Asian Studies, Doudna Fine Arts Center, EIU Academy of Lifetime Learning, Interdisciplinary Center for Global Diversity, Minority Affairs, Student Life, Tarble Arts Center, University Board, Women's Studies.



## Cooking for Campus

### Materials:

2 medium size pots  
 1 small pot  
 1 medium size pan  
 1 can of cream of mushroom soup  
 1 can of green beans  
 1 chicken breast  
 1 cup of Rice  
 1 stick of butter  
 Canola oil spray  
 Olive oil  
 Bacon bits  
 Creole seasoning  
 Garlic salt  
 Salt  
 Pepper

**Time it takes to cook:**  
 25 minutes

### Green Beans:

1) In a medium pot on medium heat melt 1 tablespoon of butter and 1 teaspoon of olive oil  
 2) Drain green beans in sink and place the green beans in the medium pot  
 3) Add salt, pepper and bacon bits  
 4) Cook for 10 minutes

### Chicken:

1) Clean off chicken  
 2) In a medium size pan spray down with canola oil on medium heat  
 3) On a plate season chicken with whatever seasons you want, however I used (season salt, creole seasoning, pepper and a little garlic salt)  
 4) Place in medium pan and cover  
 5) Cook on both sides 5-10 minutes (or until brown on both sides)  
 6) Cut down the middle to make sure each the chicken is fully cooked

### Rice:

1) Fill medium pot half way with water on medium heat  
 2) Add 1 cup of rice  
 3) Cook until tender  
 4) Drain water from rice  
 5) Place back in pot and add 1 tablespoon of butter

### Cream of mushroom sauce:

1) In small sized pot pour the



cream of mushroom soup in  
 2) On low heat stir in a little pepper, salt and 1 tablespoon of butter  
 3) Cook for 10 minutes stirring on a regular basis to not burn

**Cost:** under 15  
 A bag of Chicken breast: \$5.89 plus tax  
 Green beans: \$1.00 plus tax  
 Rice: \$2-\$3  
 Cream of mushroom: \$1.00

plus tax  
 Bacon Bits: \$1.89 plus tax  
 Everything else should be a household product already at your use for everyday cooking