

2-7-2012

Daily Eastern News: February 07, 2012

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Recommended Citation

Eastern Illinois University, "Daily Eastern News: February 07, 2012" (2012). *February*. 9.
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THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

FEBRUARY 7, 2012
VOLUME 96 | NO. 187

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Darwin's ideas verified, disputed over years

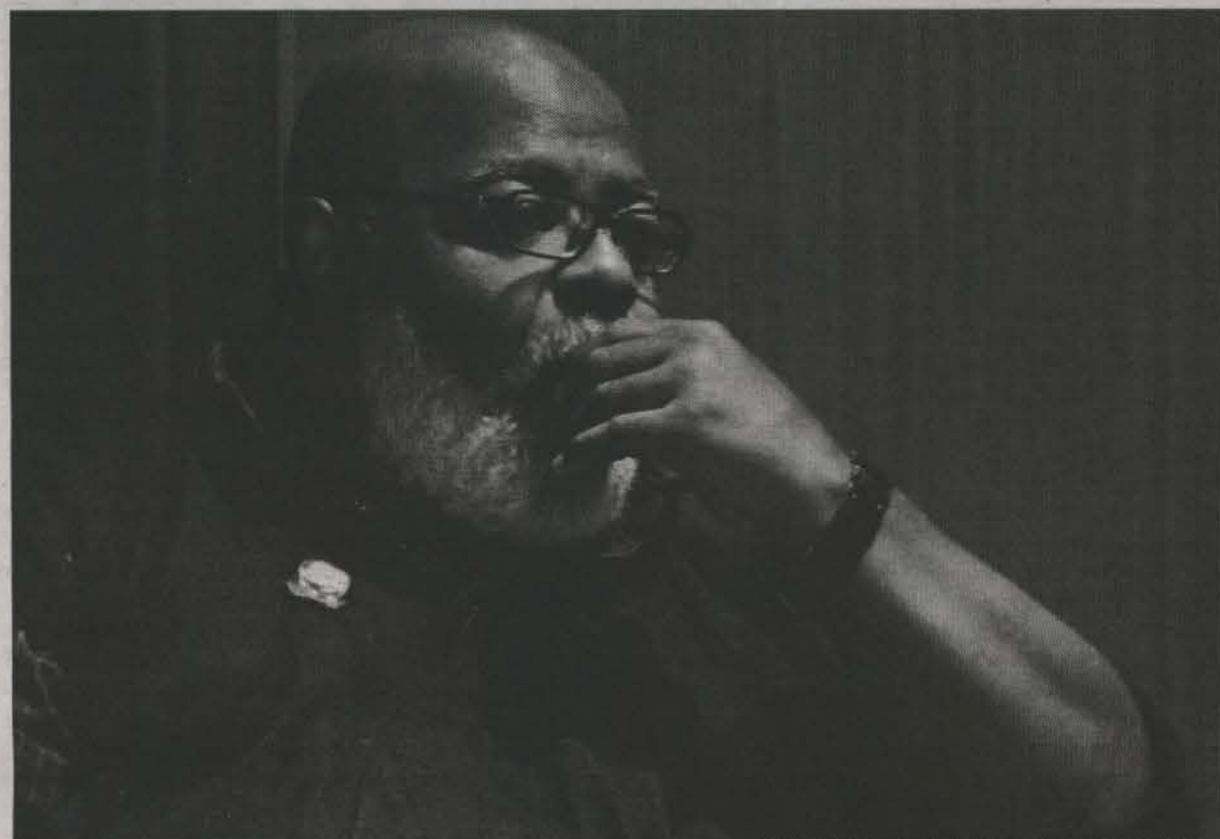
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Panther defense earns victory

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BLACK HISTORY MONTH



KIMBERLY FOSTER | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Ronoko Rashidi listens as he is introduced Monday at his lecture "The Global African Presence" in the Grand Ballroom of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union. Rashidi's presentation included many photos documenting Africa's historic and widespread influence around the world.

Speaker tells students to keep an open mind

By Robyn Dexter
Campus Editor

"What you do for yourself depends on what you think of yourself; what you think of yourself depends on what you know of yourself; and what you know of yourself depends on what you have been told," Ronoko Rashidi said.

Rashidi, a historian, research specialist, writer and world traveler, used pictures to show how African culture influenced the rest of the world during his lecture on Monday.

His pictures included personal photographs of his travels to 100 countries, six continents as well as ancient art.

He stressed how many blacks identify with slavery historically, but do not

often think back to the wide influence Africans had on the rest of the world before slavery.

"I encourage all of you to keep an open mind," he said.

Rashidi said popular culture teaches people that Africa is a place of poverty and a place of disease something he said is a contradiction.

The country itself is rich in culture and natural resources, he said.

"Africa is not poor; it's the African people that are poor," he said.

Rashidi gave several examples of how Africa is the birthplace of much of modern culture.

"Africa is the birthplace of mathematics and the birthplace of music," he said. "It's where people first buried their dead."

Rashidi has lectured in over 50 countries on six continents, bringing with him ideas of a more open-minded early-African culture.

"We're so programmed with the mentality that 'if you're white you're right and if you're black get back,' that we operate without thinking about it," Rashidi said.

He encouraged students to think about what American culture considers beauty.

"These are sensitive subjects, but they're discussions we need to be having in the family and in the community," Rashidi said.

These sensitive subjects include the black perspective of God and what is considered beauty, he said.

SPEAKER, page 5

Alumnus to speak about 'Our Black Year'

By Kaylia Eskew
Staff Reporter

Eastern will welcome back alumnus Ted Gregory as he and author Maggie Anderson speak about their book "Our Black Year."

"Our Black Year" is the result of a yearlong public pledge by Anderson and her family to only buy goods from black-owned businesses.

Janice Collins, a journalism professor, said Anderson found her task very difficult and was surprised that people acted opposite of what she expected.

"What she found was that it wasn't accepted and it was very difficult to find support," Collins said. "It really changed the community dynamics."

Gregory's involvement in the story came through an agent in New York who originally contacted him after he wrote a story for *The Chicago Tribune* about what Anderson was planning to do and asked if she would want to work together.

However, at the time, Anderson and her husband John were not interested in the arrangement, Gregory said.

"I thought that would be the end," Gregory said.

After Anderson's yearlong journey, Gregory wrote a follow up article about her experience.

"A few days later, I was contacted by the agent again and was told that (Anderson) was interested in working with me," Gregory said.

Collins said she became interested in the book and found out from James Tidwell, chair of the journalism department, that Gregory was involved.

Collins, then, contacted Gregory to see if he would be interested in speaking on campus.

"Immediately he said yes; there was no second thought," Collins said.

Gregory graduated from Eastern in 1981 and is currently a writer for *The Chicago Tribune*.

In 2008, he was part of *The Chi-*

cago Tribune staff that won a Pulitzer Prize for their work in exposing of faulty governmental regulation of toys, car seats and cribs, which resulted in a recall of numerous products and urged Congress to tighten supervision.

Sally Renaud, a journalism professor, said Gregory has been recognized as both a Distinguished Alumni and Journalist of the Year by Eastern.

Anderson got her bachelor's degree from Emory University and her JD and M.B.A. from the University of Chicago.

She is the CEO and cofounder of The Empowerment Experiment Foundation.

Anderson has appeared on many broadcast such as CNN, Fox News and MSNBC, where she has spoken on numerous subject areas such as economics and politics.

"She is really going above and beyond for us," Collins said.

Gregory said he was really excited to come back to campus for multiple reasons.

"A lot of what I'm looking forward to is seeing old friends who work there now," Gregory said.

Gregory also said he is excited to see the campus again and walk through the North Quad and Booth Library because he spent a lot of time there.

Gregory said he really enjoyed working with Anderson and learned a lot from the experience.

"It was a lot of fun working on the book," Gregory said. "I felt like I was taking a graduate-level course on African-American culture."

Anderson's story is important and reaches far outside the African-American community, Gregory said.

"She is working toward the common good for all," Gregory said. "It's about stabilizing all communities and creating strength in the economy."

Gregory and Anderson will be appearing at numerous events today.

ALUMNUS, page 5

BUDGETS

IBHE to vote on performance-based funding

By Rachel Rodgers
Administration Editor

The Illinois Board of Higher Education will vote today on the performance-based funding proposal to pool 0.5 percent of public university budgets and reallocate them based on the level of achievement in terms of certain metrics.

The Illinois Board of Higher Education will meet at 1 p.m. today at Kendall College in Chicago.

The Higher Education Performance Funding Steering Committee met on Jan. 6 at Chicago State University to present the committee's recommendations.

According to the presentation, the pool of combined funds totals about \$6.5 million.

President Bill Perry said universities will

compete for portions of the pool funds through the proposed performance-based funding metrics.

"From my understanding, some universities will get more than half a percent back and some will get less depending on how well they perform," Perry said.

Les Hyder, a journalism professor who has been a member of the Illinois Board of Higher Education Faculty Advisory Council for about 12 years, said the council's 0.5 percent should have a minimal effect, but could present a problem if it is raised.

"We don't think a higher amount can be justified because state appropriations for universities are at mid-1990s levels right now, and it could potentially become hurtful for universities," Hyder said. Jarrod Scherle, the student executive

vice president of student government and a member of the Illinois Board of Higher Education Student Advisory Council, said performance-based funding pool was discussed during the council meeting Saturday at Joliet Junior College in Joliet.

"We discussed how the amount will be (small) in terms of funding so there is not a huge culture shock, but it will most likely gradually become more intense," Scherle said. "I am not worried about Eastern's performance though because we do more with less as we have high graduation and retention rates even though we receive low funding."

The performance measures that will determine funding for four-year universities are based on three-year averages of bachelor's, master's, doctorate and professional degrees, total undergraduate de-

grees, education and general spending, and research and public service expenditures.

According to the presentation, the steering committee decided upon seven steps for the performance-based funding model, including collecting data, scaling it and weighting the results to distribute the funds.

Hyder said the council members expressed concern with the steps because they do not think that accurate, complete data is readily available to make the funding determinations.

"Each institution has its own unique mission, and the data for all institutions could be comparing apples to oranges," Hyder said.

A representative from the Illinois Board of Higher Education told the council that

the performance criteria revolve around the three major categories of retention, graduation and the student-achievement gap, Hyder said.

The council members displayed concern on whether the graduation criteria would be based on eight consecutive semesters or 10, Hyder said.

Some circumstances include non-traditional students who have jobs and families and do not live on campus who cannot commit to being a full-time student, Hyder said.

"We don't think four years is realistic because some issues and circumstances are beyond university control," Hyder said.

Rachel Rodgers can be reached at 581-2812 or rjrodgers@eiu.edu.

EIU weather

TODAY

WEDNESDAY

Partly Cloudy
High: 41°
Low: 31°Mostly Cloudy
High: 35°
Low: 25°For more weather visit castle.eiu.edu/weather.

CORRECTION

In Monday's edition of *The Daily Eastern News*, in the "Darwin Week kicks off" article, Stephen Mullin actually said "Nothing makes sense except in the light of evolution, and evolution attempts to enlighten that." *The News* regrets the error.

EASTERN NEWS

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

Contact

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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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ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK

Students to volunteer for spring break

By Emily Gallichio
Staff Reporter

The 20th anniversary of Eastern's Alternative Spring Break is quickly approaching as students prepare to leave their homes behind for a week and dig deep into numerous issues that are prominent in the country.

The program was started with only 17 students and has currently grown to 1,500 participants.

Doris Nordin, the campus minister, said Alternative Spring Break gives students the ability to step out of their comfort zone by working with less fortunate individuals while also developing relationship skills.

Nordin said she is looking for open-minded people.

She said for the first time, a volunteer site will be offered in Coles County.

"(It is an) eye-opening experience for them and a fun way to discover more about their self and others, as well as different social issues while opening our hearts to being compassionate to others," Nordin said.

Nordin said the cost to go on the different trips is \$175.

The fee includes everything from transportation to accommodations, as well as meals on site.

Fourteen different sites are being offered this year including Mexico, Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky and Louisiana.

Clare Smith, a junior history major, is the student leader for the New Orleans trip, which will be helping "Project Lazarus," the oldest and largest residential AIDS facility in the Gulf Coast region geared toward providing them with assisted living.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Abby Ford, right, a senior sociology major, throws away leaves as senior elementary education major Kimberly Braddock holds open a trash bag during a March 13-19 Alternative Spring Break trip at a Cherokee Nation Head Start in Tahlequah, Okla.

Smith said her group currently consists of six females and one male.

"I enjoy helping sick people," Smith said.

Smith said she particularly wanted to work with people instead of focusing on the environment like the other projects.

Project Lazarus is a non-profit organization.

New Orleans has the second highest report of AIDS in the United States, according to Project Lazarus.

Because environmental awareness has been a growing concern, Nordin said the Alternative Spring Break offers a "Land Between the Lakes"

nature conservation site.

Students are able to help build housing for those in need at four locations with Habitat for Humanity as well as the Christian Appalachian Project in Kentucky.

Nordin said students will be educating themselves by being able to participate in activities related to their major.

Education majors will benefit by being able to get used to working with children, Nordin said.

Alternative Spring Break is offered through the Student Volunteer Service and the Newman Catholic Center.

Nordin said the rules for the trip are simple: the group must stay together at all times and refrain from any use of alcohol.

Brochures and applications are available for those who are interested at Copy Express in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union or the Newman Catholic Center.

Nordin said for those interested, information is available by contacting her at the Newman Catholic Center.

Emily Gallichio can be reached at 581-2812 or ekgallichio@eiu.edu.

FOURTH STREET

City council to vote on speed limit change

By Kathryn Richter
City Editor

The Charleston City Council will be voting today on whether to decrease the speed limit on Fourth Street to 20 mph.

By reducing the speed limit on Fourth Street, City Manager Scott Smith said the street will no longer be considered a school zone and will be 20 mph regardless of whether or not Eastern is in session.

"The recommendation was we just make 20 mph all the time," Smith said.

Smith said the problem with keeping the 20 mph speed limit through the winter and summer months when

Eastern is not as heavily populated is Eastern still has numerous camps, conferences and tours.

By lowering the speed limit to 20 mph permanently, residents will exercise more caution when passing down Fourth Street, Smith said.

"It's better to get people in the habit of driving 20 mph all the time," Smith said.

Smith said he has also heard feedback from Charleston residents regarding the proposed speed limit.

"I, personally, have only heard from a few folks," Smith said. "The majority of those have (heard about it) have been in favor of it."

Smith said even if the city council votes to lower the speed limit, the pe-

destrian crossing markers and other Fourth Street signage will stay.

The city will swap out the signs that mark Fourth Street as a school zone for signs that just read the speed limit if the ordinance is passed, Smith said.

Smith also said the speeding ticket fine for Fourth Street will also be lower if the ordinance is passed, because Fourth Street will no longer be considered a school zone.

The city council will also vote on a resolution that would allow the city of Charleston and Eastern to enter into an agreement for student intern services at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

"This is a fairly typical agreement," Smith said.

Smith said there have been student

interns at the Wastewater Treatment Plant for the past 20 years. Smith also said student interns are present in different Charleston departments including the Charleston Police Department, the Charleston Parks and Recreation Department and the Charleston Fire Department.

Smith said many current full-time employees also started out as student interns from Eastern and are good opportunities for students who have interest.

"There are a lot of opportunities to get a variety of skills," Smith said.

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DARWIN DAY Darwin's ideas verified, disputed over years

By Samantha McDaniel
Activities Editor

Speaker Eric Meikle said fossil proof is continuing to verify and refute the evolutionary ideas of Charles Darwin.

Meikle, the education project director for the National Center for Science Education, spoke about Charles Darwin and his ideas of human evolution during "Darwin and the Human Fossil Record: 150 Years of Discovery, Exploration and Debate" on Monday.

Meikle said Darwin did not base his ideas off of fossil evidence, because during his time, there were not many fossils recovered.

Darwin based his ideas off of live organisms around during his time, Meikle said.

"That's one way to learn about the past is have the physical evidence, but you can actually come up with ideas about things that might have happened in the past, just by looking at organisms that are alive today," Meikle said.

Meikle said Darwin accepted two major theories: humans relation to apes and the timeline of human existence.

Darwin looked at apes and human and compared them to see what is unique to humans.

Darwin then proposed the traits that a common ancestor would have and would not have based off of the differences.

Darwin also suggested the two major differences as a larger brain size and skeletal differences.

Meikle said some fossils have been able to forge ancestral connections of humans and apes despite some missing links.

Meikle also said Darwin used his ideas of the possible ancestor to suggest the progression of evolution,



Eric Meikle, the education project director of the National Center for Science Education, opens with several "Calvin and Hobbes" comic strips focusing on evolution during his presentation "Darwin and the Human Fossil Record: 150 Years of Discovery, Exploration and Debate".

SETH SCHROEDER | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

which Darwin suggested were all connected with the other.

Because some primates spent more time on the ground that they began to stand straighter and walk on two feet, which Meikle said lead to throwing resulting in the development of stronger feet.

Meikle said some of Darwin's ideas still need to be proven.

"I would like people, who were not aware of it, to understand that it is possible to think about and study

the past and come to some ideas, without necessarily having only the fossils," Meikle said.

Iwo Gross, a junior biological sciences major, said he thought the lecture was interesting.

Gross said evolution is a topic that is always changing with new discoveries.

"They think they know the fact and then science comes and kicks them in the butt," Gross said. "It's cool we can refute the knowledge we

thought we knew."

Meikle said there are many people who are trying to find the different connection left in evolution.

"I would hope that people have an idea that there is a lot of fossil evidence about human evolution that has accumulated over the last century and a half," Meikle said. "There are people who spend a lot of time studying it, trying to make sense out of it."

Meikle said he hopes students

learned a lot about Darwin's ideas of evolution.

Sarah Baxter, a freshman biological sciences major, said she thought the lecture was very informative.

"It was brief, he didn't go through the whole book," Baxter said. "You can go really deep into it and be here all night."

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STUDENT LIFE

Students have love, hate relationship for dubstep

By Robyn Dexter
Campus Editor

Electronic music conveying a dark and brooding atmosphere through prominent basslines is the calling card of the music industry's most recent genres: dubstep.

According to a National Public Radio reporter Sami Yenigun, dubstep originated in London around the turn of the century and came from styles such as drum and bass, garage and dub.

"Dubstep seems to break down into two categories: dark, melancholy beats on one side, and aggressive, bass-heavy dance music on the other," he said in a broadcast.

Amy Nelson, a freshman psychology major, said when she first heard dubstep, she thought it sounded like "teenage noise."

"At first I wasn't a really big fan of it, but now that I've started listening to it more, I really enjoy it," she said.

Popular dubstep artists like Skream and Skrillex have gained popularity through the college scene and by collaborating with other dance and electronic artists.

Nelson said she started listening to Skrillex on Pandora Radio, and has found other artists of the genre through the station.

Simon Amr, a freshman undecided major, said although he personally does not listen to dubstep

much, he still finds it interesting.

"(Dubstep) is definitely one of the most innovative and viral forms of music in today's scene," he said. "I'm really impressed by its growth."

Yenigun's broadcast also discussed how the "aggressive, bass-heavy dance music" is usually what appeals to the college crowd and is sometimes known as "brostep."

Colleen Feeny, a senior family and consumer sciences major, said she is not a big fan of dubstep, but she can handle it at parties because it is good "pump up" music.

"I can see it sticking for a year or two, but it's nothing that's going to come on the radio in the future and we tell our kids 'I loved this when I was your age,'" she said.

Eric Ellsworth, a sophomore music major, said he thinks dubstep is not even music.

"It takes absolutely no skill to make, and is pretty much just experimental electronic music put through a mixer and a soundboard," he said. "It goes against every music principle known to man."

Dubstep has worked its way into the college night scene, with local bars such as Friends & Company featuring a frequent 8 p.m. Thursday event called Dub Club.

Matt Black, a senior music major, is one of the disc jockeys at Friends & Company's Dub Club nights.

He said he has Deejayed for Dub



Senior music education major Matt Black performs Thursday as the disc jockey during the weekly Dub Club at the Friends & Company bar on the Charleston square.

DANNY DAMIANI | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Club five times and will also be participating at this Thursday's event.

Black said the crowd at Dub Club varies from about 50 to 100 people, and everyone is there for the dubstep.

He said he first got into dubstep when he heard it in a friend's car and was hooked.

Black said he had already been mixing and recording music at the time, so he started researching and making dubstep.

"Most of the criticism behind dubstep is that it got too popular too quick," he said. "It's a very loud and very active music genre that people can rage to."

Black said it is a genre where people either get it or they do not.

"Dubstep is the new garage band," he said.

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

STAFF EDITORIAL

Sex offender registration safest path

Every two minutes in the United States someone is sexually assaulted, according to the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network.

College-age women are most likely to be victims of sexual assault. There are plenty of precautions women can take to decrease the likelihood that they will be victims of sexual assault, but the danger, disgustingly, will still exist. We realize that knowledge is power, and Eastern students got a bit more empowered on Jan. 1.

A new Illinois law requires sex offenders working for or enrolled in any Illinois institution of higher education to register with that university's police department.

We think this is great. Not only will this keep the university police department on the up and up, but it gives them a starting place when egregious acts such as rape occurs.

Some argue that this is unfair. Hypothetically, a person could have committed a minor offense that was not inherently sexual, been prosecuted as a sex offender and then have to register this stigmatic status everywhere they go. For example, a man urinates in an alley when he's drunk, gets caught and mouths off to the cop, who charges him with indecent exposure.

Others argue that sex offenders have a harder time becoming rehabilitated because the registration isolates them from the community.

These arguments, while important, are not a proper reflection of reality.

There are 36 sex offenders listed on the Illinois Department of Corrections' website, 12 of whom are in jail. Of those listed, not a single one is registered for any crime minor enough to be portrayed as being blown out of proportion.

Currently, no sex offenders are registered with the university police department.

Also, the recidivism rates for sex offenders are notoriously high. Forty-six percent of rapists who were released from prison were re-arrested within three years of their release for another crime, according to the RAINN.

The law will arm students with more knowledge, but the safest defense is preparedness.

There are 19 blue emergency light poles on campus and 26 armed university police officers (there are always three on duty) to prevent or report sexual assault.

The Student Recreation Center offers self-defense classes and the University Police Department offers the extensive, 12-hour Rape Aggression Defense course—unfortunately RAD is a women-only seminar. RAD is a free course that takes three days over a weekend.

Another resource that should be used is the Sexual Assault Counseling and Informative Service in the basement of Lawson Hall, which provides resources for Coles, Cumberland and parts of Clark counties.

SACIS provides services to survivors of sexual assault, sexual abuse and sexual harassment while also giving support services for family members.

This isn't a call for paranoia or witch-hunts. It's a reminder that students should be aware of their surroundings and capable of protecting themselves.

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COLUMN

#TwitterCensorship a blow for human rights

It finally happened. I have joined Twitter and my life has gotten better in every way possible. Just kidding.

My life hasn't really changed a lot and I think it's because I, somewhat, consider ours a generation of technological trial and error. We have been through quite a few different forms of social media. I have chatted with AOL Instant Messenger, connected with MySpace, passed the time with Facebook, but I swore that I would never join the Twitter-verse.

Why? Because Twitter to me was just a Facebook status update with a 140-character restriction. During my two weeks of actually using Twitter, I sometimes question what I should tweet about throughout the day.

Some tweets have been hilariously funny and others have been inappropriate enough to make my conservative mother cringe, but I felt liberated because I, like many, made the mistake of adding some close relatives to Facebook.

But I do like the freedom I have on Twitter. This freedom is something I find myself taking for granted because I have never lived in a world where I cannot criticize the government or make fun of my president's abnormally large ears.

This is not a liberty a lot of the world has, and while I could be content living in my own democratic bubble, I read and watch the news. It turns out that CNN's silver fox Anderson Cooper is not only great to look at, but he is rather informative.



Nike Ogunbodede

According to a Jan. 28 CNN report, Twitter said it will begin deleting users' tweets in countries where the tweets are in violation of laws, but will leave the deleted tweets visible for the rest of the world.

This means tweets from Thailand insulting the king, Turkey defaming the republic's founder Mustafa Kemal Ataturk or discussing the eight-year genocide of its Armenian people (any talk of the genocide is banned in the country) can and probably will be deleted.

Twitter does, however, recognize that this censorship is somewhat wrong because it also promises to alert users that their tweets will be deleted. How nice, right?

It's really not. Think of the people who used Twitter as a way to communicate during the Arab Spring. This censorship comes on the cusp of Saudi Arabian Prince Alwaleed bin Talal making a \$300 million investment in the now-compromised Twitter in December. Saudi Arabia saw its share of protesters during the Arab Spring, and human rights activists are still pushing the government led by Talal's uncle, King Abdullah.

Now, I'm not suggesting a slipper slope, but this is seriously screwed up.

If Twitter should take a stand, I would have hoped that it would have stood up for the civil liberties enjoyed by its owners in the U.S. of A. instead of hiding behind the cancerous millions invested.

I don't expect much of Twitter, which chose to stay mostly silent when Congress debated the now-defunct Stop Online Piracy Act and Protect Intellectual Property Act, but I did expect it to have some—for lack of a better term—balls.

Twitter should take a page from Google's owner's manual.

Google stood up against China in 2010 after announcing that the company would no longer censor results on China's Google.

China also currently has a block on Facebook, Skype, YouTube, Tumblr, Twitter, as well as its own shadow.

Twitter is not the soulless entity that people make it out to be—it is run by flesh-and-blood people. It's chilling when people rise up against injustice after years of knowing it was taking place, but turn a blind eye to injustice.

I think it's better to stand up in opposition against something than to sit idly by in complicity.

#But, that's just me.

Nike Ogunbodede is a junior journalism major. She can be reached at 581-7942 or DENopinions@gmail.com.

FROM THE EASEL

College Tip: Just because you don't remember something doesn't mean it didn't happen.



SETH SCHROEDER | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

GUEST COLUMN

Student Senate wastes time on SOPA resolution

By Sean McElhenny

The organization's ability to get 335 letters from students on campus [about SOPA] has me questioning what we need the Student Senate for? Did they really spend an entire meeting deciding whether to back something that has infuriated so many people in the United States that official government websites and phone lines of senators were clogged with screams of "FOUL" by taxpayers?

To take my tuition money, thus making me a "tax payer," and spend it on frivolous nonsense is ridiculous. Instead of spending hours of "working" on this, maybe they could come up with something better to do. Personally, I would rather see the Student Senate fix the rules of employment for students on campus.

Taylor Hall had openings for jobs at the

front desk for students for nearly a month without people applying. Rather than bringing up this matter to the school and finding the reasoning behind this, the Student Senate is spending my tuition dollars to sit and make up fake rules.

If the Student Senate created a statement that says "Dear senators Mark Kirk and Dick Durbin—The students of Eastern Illinois University are behind you," I would like to be given the opportunity to have my name omitted from the final letter.

I'm sure more students are behind me on this, some just afraid to come forward, others just not interested in taking the time to say how they feel.

I'm glad when I first started at this school and approached a member about getting involved with the Student Senate I was steered away, because the amount of wasted time and money by an organiza-

tion that is supposed to "serve the students in communicating with the school" makes me sick.

I honestly have just gotten more and more fed up with the hypocrisy of the Student Senate at this school.

I'm so glad that they took money from University Board and gave it to themselves (sarcasm). New plan—take the money being wasted by the Student Senate and give it to the University Board, because they actually put together things that I'm interested in.

And if that doesn't interest you, then just get rid of the Student Senate and give me a tuition refund. Honestly, I have not heard of a single thing it did that helped me out as a student at Eastern.

Sean McElhenny is a senior communications studies major

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.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Events raise awareness for black heritage

By Alice Villagomez
Staff Reporter

The heritage and culture of blacks in America is the subject of a month-long series of events put on by two Eastern organizations.

Yolanda Williams, the 2012 Black Heritage Month chairwoman, said it will be an exciting celebration with many scheduled events to increase awareness and appreciation of black heritage at Eastern.

This year's theme is "Young, Gifted and Black: Educating a NEW Generation."

"It is our goal to inspire positive and productive change with thought-provoking programming that provides the African Diaspora as the center," Williams said in an email.

"Culture is the New Crack: A Night with SpeakEasy" will be a show from 7-9 p.m. on Feb. 15 in the 7th Street Underground of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

SpeakEasy is a spoken word group created by Chris Harris, Blake Morris and Andrea Yarbrough, three Eastern students.

Williams said SpeakEasy uses slam poetry to educate the audience about the black heritage through spoken word.

"Black Movement: African Dance and Slide Workshop" will be from 7-9 p.m. on Feb. 22 in the University Ballroom.

The African Student Association

Heritage and culture events

- "Culture is the New Crack: A Night with SpeakEasy" is at 7-9 p.m. on Feb. 15.
- "Black Movement: African Dance and Slide Workshop" is at 7-9 p.m. on Feb. 22.
- The Miss Black EIU Pageant is at 6 p.m. on Feb. 25.
- "Teach My Children to Praise- A Musical Journey through the History of Gospel Music" is at 7 p.m. on Feb. 26
- "Harlem Night: Then and Now" is at 7-9 p.m. on Feb. 29.
- "Gullah Storyteller" is at 7 p.m. on March 1.

and Black Student Union will be teaching a few African dance moves and some of the latest "Slides."

The 41st Annual Miss Black EIU Pageant will be at 6 p.m. on Feb. 25 in the Grand Ballroom.

This year's theme is "A Touch of Beauty."

Miss Black EIU is a pageant that allows African-Americans to compete for the opportunity to represent their culture.

The women who enter will participate in four sections: creative expression, African garment, talent and impromptu question with evening gown.

"Teach My Children to Praise- A Musical Journey through the History of Gospel Music" with Unity Gospel Choir will be at 7 p.m. on Feb. 26 in the University Ballroom of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

Unity Gospel Choir will be singing songs that take the listener on a journey of gospel music throughout

history, Williams said.

"Harlem Night: Then and Now" will be from 7-9 p.m. Feb. 29 in the Grand Ballroom of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

Harlem Nights will include performance of popular R&B, Soul and Hip-Hop music.

"Gullah Storyteller: Aunt Pearl Sue" will be at 7 p.m. March 1 in the 7th Street Underground of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

With the exception of "2012 Miss Black EIU Pageant," all the Black Heritage Month's events are free.

Williams said she hopes students will attend the different events.

"It is not only our aim to increase awareness and appreciation for the African Diaspora among EIU, but the local Central Illinois communities at-large," Williams said.

Alice Villagomez can be reached at 581-2812 or avillagomez@eiu.edu.

Black heritage future to be discussed

By Nick Savage
Staff Reporter

An inspirational speaker will be trying to motivate black students to learn about their heritage on Thursday.

Chandra Gill will be speaking at Eastern this week in honor of Black History Month at "Blackademically Speaking," at 7:30 p.m. in the University Ballroom of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

Daniel Turano, the vice chair for the University Board, said Gill will be teaching audience members about black heritage.

"They are going to be talking about different aspects of African American heritage and cultures, stereotypes, stuff like that," Turano said.

Turano is a senior sociology major.

Gill said she hopes to encourage students to learn from the past.

"Blackademically Speaking 101 will educate individuals about the strength of our history (and) it will motivate students to strive and make history," Gill said.

Gill is the founder and CEO of Blackademically Speaking, a corporation directed towards educating and inspiring America's youth and one of Chicago's "35 under 35 leadership" honorees.

Gill has been featured as part of the United Negro College Fund, and been on highly viewed televised networks such as WGN-TV and BET.

She was one of Chicago's first African American public school recipients for The Gates Millennium Scholars Program and was in Phi Delta Kap-

pa fraternity with honors. She uses her academic integrity to help strengthen youth.

Dana Barnard, the assistant director of Student Life, said the UB members believe that Gill will be a great speaker for this event.

"As part of the committee, we were looking for programs that would go with our theme 'Young, Gifted and Black: Educating a New Generation,'" Barnard said. "A committee member shared with us the work of (Gill)."

Barnard said she is excited about Gill's lecture.

"As a committee we decided that she would offer students, faculty and staff a great opportunity to gain insight, not only of ourselves, but of the future/new generation we will be working with," Barnard said.

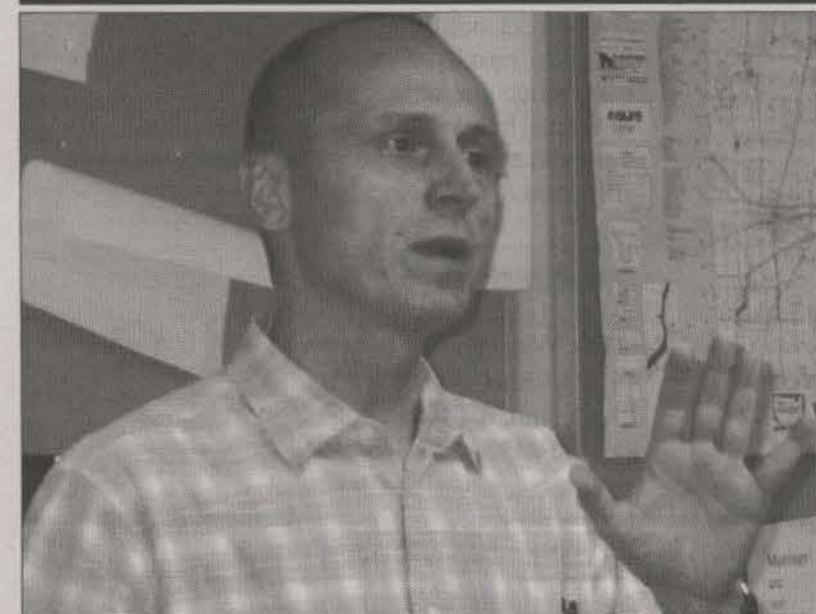
Gill said she is looking forward to her presentation.

"Whenever I have an opportunity to motivate and educate students, particularly college campuses I'm excited and honored," Gill said.

David Sims, a junior kinesiology and sports studies major, said he thinks it is important to support all of the Black History month programs.

"I feel that it is vital for the campus and community to come out and support the events that are being hosted this month," Sims said. "I think many can be enlightened and take something positive away from the different events and speakers."

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

Eastern alumnus Ted Gregory will speak about the book "Our Black Year." The first time Gregory will speak is at an open house discussion forum at 1 p.m. in Buzzard Room 1712.

ALUMNUS, from page 1

The first event Gregory will speak at is an open house discussion forum at 1 p.m. in Buzzard Room 1712.

"The discussion is during my usual class time, but it is open to everyone," Collins said.

From there, Gregory and Anderson will be speaking in the University Ballroom from 5 p.m. followed immediately by a 30 minute book signing and purchase at 6 p.m.

Collins said she will be broadcasting an interview with Gregory and Anderson on the radio program "Theoretical Tea" on Feb. 12, which can be accessed through the WEIU homepage.

"This way individuals who can't make the forum can still take part," Collins said.

Kaylia Eskew can be reached at 581-2812 or kbeskew@eiu.edu.

SPEAKER, from page 1

"This was definitely a wake-up call," said Allyssa Grayson, a sophomore elementary education major.

Grayson said she wished there had been more people at Rashidi's talk.

"Everyone needs to know more about their history, regardless of their race," she said.

Rashidi said many people of African descent he has met in his travels only associate their heritage with slavery.

"Our history is important, and not just in February," Rashidi said. "We make a mistake when we limit our history to 28 days out of the year; strong people celebrate our history all the time."

Rashidi said the effects of slavery are still felt by African-Americans today, and he encouraged students to make a statement in their lives.

"History is not just dates and facts and figures; it has substance and meaning," Rashidi said.

He asked students questions about their future and what they want future generations to see when they look back at the history books.

"You're not an African because you're born in Africa; you're African because Africa is born in you," Rashidi said. "Get comfortable with it."

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TRACK



DANNY DAMIANI | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Red-shirt sophomore pole vaulter Mick Viken looks up at the bar prior to his final attempt to clear the bar during the men's pole vault competition Jan. 21 at the John Craft Invite in Lantz Fieldhouse.

Success despite delay

By Dominic Renzetti
Sports Editor

The Eastern's men's and women's track and field team each saw a good amount of success at this past weekend's Notre Dame Meyo Invite, but it wasn't before running into some trouble.

The Panthers' bus caught a flat tire on the way to the event, causing the team about a two and a half hour delay going into South Bend, Ind. Despite the interruption, red-shirt senior Megan Gingerich thought the team handled the situation well.

"We heard a big pop, and I wasn't sure what it was; but we just kind of kept riding for a few more minutes, and someone on the bus said, 'I think we just got a flat,'" she said. "Then we pulled off to the side of the road, and we kind of had to wait for someone to come fix it; and then once the person got there he was fixing it, which took awhile."

She said that during the delay, members of the hurdle team began warming up, anticipating the delay.

"Some of us got off the bus. Some of the hurdlers who had to race that day were over on in a parking lot off to the

side of the road, doing a little shake-out because they had to race in a few hours," Gingerich said.

Gingerich said the team did not get too frustrated, even while waiting on repairs.

"Honestly, it wasn't as bad as I thought. I thought people would get a little more frustrated. We dealt with it and I thought everyone handled it really well," she said. "It was definitely an experience."

This is not the first time the Panthers have had issues in getting to the Notre Dame Meyo Invite. For last year's trip, the team had to be extra cautious due to the recent winter storms, resulting in snow and ice on the roads. The Panthers made it to the meet without any major problems.

Gingerich said this year was different from years past, as the Panthers saw more home meets leading up to the Notre Dame Meyo Invite.

"I think the difference between this year and past years is that we only had a few more home meets at the beginning of the year and Notre Dame was always kind of our big meet away," she said. "It's usually the first meet where we see a lot of competition, so I think people were more prepared for it this year."

With the Notre Dame Meyo Invite being home to some of the nation's top competition, Gingerich said Eastern represents itself well as one of the smallest schools in attendance.

"As a smaller school, I think we represent ourselves well," she said. "I think a lot of times people aren't expecting to hear 'Eastern Illinois University,' but I think in the heats that we're in and the race that we're in, I think we hold our own."

She also said it is good that Eastern is able to showcase its ability in front of the bigger schools at these top meets.

"For a smaller school, I think we've always represented ourselves well and shown the talent that we have, so I think we're lucky that we get to do that at the bigger meet and against bigger schools," Gingerich said.

Next weekend, the Panthers will head to Grand Valley State for the Grand Valley State Invite. The meet is scheduled to begin on Friday, Feb. 10, and conclude on Saturday, Feb. 11.

Dominic Renzetti can be reached at 581-7942 or dcrenzetti@eiu.edu.

TENNIS

Panthers look to rebound against Chicago State

OVC tennis finding its stride

Staff Report

With Eastern's men's and women's tennis teams each suffering losses, there was also other action going on in the Ohio Valley Conference.

In men's tennis, the Murray State Racers took on the Memphis Tigers last Sunday and lost their match with a score of 0-7 in Memphis, Tenn. Their next match is at home in Kenlake-Aurora, Ky., against Western Kentucky at 3 p.m. Feb. 25.

Tennessee Tech traveled to Elon, where they also lost 0-7. Their next match will be against Gardner-Webb at 11 a.m. Saturday.

The Eastern Kentucky Colonels took on Abilene Christian and won their match 5-2. Their next two matches will be against Campbellsville and Butler in Richmond, Ky., this Saturday. The first match will start at 9:30 a.m., and the second match will start at 2 p.m.

Austin Peay will face Western Kentucky in Clarksville, Tenn., at 2 p.m. Friday.

Jacksonville State will go one-on-one against North Alabama in Jacksonville, Ala., at 1:30 p.m. Thursday.

Southern Illinois-Edwardsville took on the Bradley Braves last Saturday and beat them 5-2. Their next match will be against the St. Louis Billikens in St. Louis at 2 p.m. Friday.

For women's tennis, the Mur-

ray State Racers took on North Alabama last Sunday as they won 7-0. Their next match will be against Evansville at noon Friday.

Southeast Missouri State will have their first match of the season against Arkansas State at 1 p.m. Saturday.

The Eastern Kentucky Colonels took on Butler in Indianapolis, winning 7-0. Their next two matches will be against Winthrop and Northern Kentucky in Richmond, Ky., on Friday. Their first match will start at noon and their second match will start at 5 p.m.

Austin Peay took on Alabama-Birmingham last Saturday as they lost 2-5. Their next match will be at noon Saturday as they take on Southern Illinois-Carbondale Salukis in Clarksville, Tenn.

Jacksonville State had two matches this past weekend as they took on William Carey last Saturday and beat them 4-3. They also took on Southern Mississippi last Sunday in Hattiesburg, Miss., as they lost 3-4. Their next match will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday as they take on Samford in Birmingham, Ala.

The Southern Illinois-Edwardsville Cougars took on Bradley Saturday as they won their match 5-2. Their next match will be against St. Louis at 2 p.m. Feb. 17.

The Tennessee-Martin Skyhawks took on Evansville Saturday, as they lost their match 1-6. Their next match will be at 6 p.m. Friday as they Lipscomb.

The Panther women will be back in action this weekend when they take on the Chicago State Cougars in Chicago. The match is scheduled to begin at 2 p.m. Saturday.

VICTORY, from page 8

Sallee said the Panthers shouldn't have a problem winning a game like the one Monday — scrappy and tough. He said Eastern should be willing to win games defensively.

"We are one of the top defensive teams in the league, if not the best," Sallee said. "If we have to win a game that way, well hello, why wouldn't you want to?"

Whether it's winning by 13 or winning by 25, Nixon said the Panthers just want the end result.

"We know at the end if you win by one or win by 21, you won," Nixon said.

Alex McNamee can be reached at 581-7942 or admcnamee@eiu.edu.



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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Panther defense earns victory

By Alex McNamee
Staff Reporter

There weren't any big runs or convincing advantages for one team rebounding. There weren't many differences to the naked eye. They didn't win by 30, or even 20. They weren't the Lakers. They didn't score 80 points.

But the Eastern's women's basketball team did have 36 points in the paint, held the lead for all 40 minutes of the game, totally bought into a defensive gameplan and beat Eastern Kentucky 64-51.

"Everyone wants to see us score 80 and be the Lakers and all this kind of bologna," Eastern head coach Brady Sallee said. "Well, that was beautiful what we did defensively. The gameplan was followed so, so well. We just gave (Eastern Kentucky) fits."

Eastern had to adjust to playing a different game than it had played in the past few games. The Panthers had won their previous four games by 19.5 points per game, but Eastern Kentucky stuck with the Panthers and didn't allow them to break more than a 10-point lead until late in the game.

"I knew coming in this was going to be a war," Sallee said. "I saw them on film and thought from a length standpoint, strength standpoint and athletically they matched up with us really well."

The Panthers couldn't win the way they had the past four games, but junior forward Sydney Mitchell said the team took advantage of what Eastern Kentucky was allow-

ing them to do.

"We were just taking what they were giving us," Mitchell said. "The inside was weak so we just went to the inside."

Mitchell was one of the leaders going into the paint, but she didn't score her 23 points easily. Eastern Kentucky's big bodies banged the Panthers around in the paint and challenged Eastern's toughness.

Mitchell said she lost count of how many bruises she had.

"I have 88-year-old knees and bruises. It just doesn't stop," Mitchell said.

Sallee said Mitchell stepped up when the Panthers needed her most in the game, coming up with key points and rebounds.

"She was just nails. She was tough and had to be," Sallee said. "I just thought she had her cape on tonight and came in to save the day many times."

Junior guard Ta'Kenya Nixon was the other high scorer for the Panthers, ending the night with 18 points.

Sallee said Eastern Kentucky was daring Nixon to be the Panthers' toughest player on the floor in a scrappy game.

"They picked the wrong (person) because she's the toughest cat there is," Sallee said.

Nixon said the team's overall composure helped the Panthers put the game out of reach at the end. She said the Panthers knew they needed to be tough to win the game, and they were.

"All the calls weren't going our way and we felt we were getting



DANNY DAMIANI | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Junior forward Sydney Mitchell becomes airborne while trying to make a layup against Eastern Kentucky during the Panther's 64-51 victory in Lantz Arena Monday. Eastern's victory over Eastern Kentucky moves their winning streak to 13 games.

beat up (in the paint) but wouldn't stop going (to the paint)," Nixon said.

Mitchell and Nixon admitted some of the calls frustrated the Panthers in the first half, but the Pan-

thers came out with new focus in the second half.

"We handled the adversity very well," Mitchell said.

VICTORY, page 7

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Familiar streak emerging



SETH SCHROEDER | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Senior guard Jeremy Granger attempts to get around Morehead State junior guard Marsell Holden's defense Saturday during Eastern's 56-55 home loss in Lantz Arena. The Panthers will travel to Cookeville, Tenn. for a game against Tennessee Tech Feb. 9.

By Rob Mortell
Staff Reporter

For the second consecutive season, the Eastern's men's basketball team has endured an eight-game losing streak in the middle of its Ohio Valley Conference schedule.

Last season, the streak started on

Jan. 22 with a one-point loss to Tennessee-Martin and lasted until Feb. 19, with a non-conference win over Toledo. However, the Panthers would continue their cold-streak and lose their last two conference games and miss the tournament.

This season, the streak started on Jan. 14 with a seven-point loss to

Southeast Missouri State and is still in progress.

The next game for the Panthers is against a tough opponent in Tennessee Tech. The Golden Eagles have the OVC's second best scoring offense, thanks in large part to the best scorer in the league, Kevin Murphy.

Eastern does play UT Martin, who is 0-13 in the conference this far with one of those losses coming against Eastern; however, every remaining opponent the Panthers play has at least five wins in the OVC, with the exception of the University of Illinois at Chicago, which is a non-conference game.

With just six games left on the schedule and a 2-9 record in OVC, the Panthers will need to turn things around if they hope to avoid a second consecutive absence from the conference tournament.

Senior guard and team captain Jeremy Granger said the team never counts themselves out of anything.

"You never say 'OK, we can't make it,'" Granger said.

Around the OVC

After a surprisingly close 65-58 win against the University of Tennessee at Martin, Murray State jumps to number No. 7 in the nation. It is the last

unbeaten team in NCAA Division I basketball.

The Racers have posted an unblemished 23-0 record and are 11-0 in conference play. Their offensive attack has now cracked the top 40 in the nation with 75.2 points per game.

With the loss, UT Martin falls to 3-22 overall and 0-12 in the OVC.

Murray State's guard Isaiah Canaan has also been nominated for the 2012 Oscar Robertson Award with 19 other Division I basketball players. The list is highlighted by North Carolina's Harrison Barnes and Kentucky's Anthony Davis. Canaan is averaging 18.9 points per game, which is second in the OVC and ranks in the top 30 in the nation.

In other Ohio Valley news, Tennessee Tech beat Jacksonville State 76-68 on the road.

Jud Dillard led Tennessee Tech with his sixth double-double of the season with a game-high 26 points and 12 rebounds. The Golden Eagles improve to 8-4 in the OVC with the win and 16-9 overall, while Jacksonville State falls to 10-16 overall and 5-7 in conference play.

Rob Mortell can be reached at 581-7944 or rdmortell@eiu.edu.

INTRAMURALS

Basketball squads square off

By Anthony Catezone
Staff Reporter

Monday saw two exciting yet different games of intramural basketball in the Student Recreation Center, with Kane Is Able taking on Tune Squad in the men's league and Arch Enemies taking on DZ What in the women's league.

Kane Is Able vs. Tune Squad

After a 33-33 tie at halftime in the intramural basketball game between Tune Squad and Kane Is Able, most would think that the second half would be much of the same. However, in the second half, Tune Squad used their speed and athleticism to move past Kane Is Able by a score of 74-63.

The two began the game in fantastic fashion, trading buckets with each possession. After a hard-fought first half, both teams were tied up at 33.

Much of the same was seen in the first six minutes of the second half as well, as it remained tied with 14 minutes left in the game.

Alan Broaddus, a junior accounting major and member of the Tune Squad, said his team needed a way to make up for the size difference between the two teams.

"We just wanted to try to run them, because we're all about 5-foot-8 and they were all a little bit bigger, so we figured that would be the best idea to try and score some points," he said.

At that point, Tune Squad went on a 24-8 run, in part because of the three-point shooting by sophomore undecided major Josh Krummel.

"I'm basically a three-point shooter, so they know that I can shoot," he said. "Today I was a little bit off, but yes, that is usually in the game plan."

Another strategy that was in Krummel's arsenal, only this time on the defensive end, was shouting in the face of the shooter.

"I am white and fat, so I can't jump and block it; so what my idea is, is to just scare the crap out of them," Krummel said.

In the end, Kane Is Able cut it close, but Tune Squad was too strong and a handful of late game free throws by Broaddus helped propel them to a 74-63 victory.

Arch Enemies vs. DZ What

On the women's side, the top-ranked Arch Enemies handled DZ What in a 44-9 win that was called with 16 minutes left in the second half.

Arch Enemies' intensity created turnovers and also allowed them to win the rebounding battle. Their conditioned fast break also allowed them to score fast and often.

Arch Enemies' biggest factor in the win was their team chemistry and ball movement. "We're all pretty much from different schools, and we've played against each other for so long that now it's nice to actually play with each other," senior marketing major and member of Arch Enemies Kristin Runde said. "We're all just used to being from competitive schools, so we like to go hard."

With Monday's win, Arch Enemies improve to 5-0 and look to keep adding wins as the season progresses.

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