Panelists look at threats to higher education

By Brooke Schwartz
Administration Reporter | @brookesch_wartz

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CHICAGO (AP) — An off-duty police commander was shot and killed Tuesday afternoon in downtown Chicago after he spotted a man matching the radio description of an armed suspect officers were chasing on foot, the city’s police superintendent said.

Cmdr. Paul Bauer was shot multiple times after he “saw the offend- er and engaged in an armed physical confrontation,” Superintendent Ed- din Johnson said. He choked back tears as he spoke to reporters out- side Northwest Memorial Hospital, where Bauer was pronounced dead.

The shooting occurred near the 1000 block of North Michigan Avenue, the state government office building. Johnson said officers initially con- firmed the suspect because he was actu- ally suspicion. Police captured the man a short time later, and a gun was recovered at the scene, he said.

Bauer, 53, was a 31-year veteran of the department.

There were initial media reports that the man may have been in- volved in the robbery of a local business, but Johnson did not pro- vide details about what the man was doing that prompted officers to want to speak with him. Witnesses to parts of the incident near said they heard gunshots.

“I was walking down the street and I heard ‘pop pop pop pop pop pop,’” Noreen Dranks, who was walking to her office nearby, told the Chicago Tribune. “And I said to the girl next to me, ‘Is that what I think it is?’ And she said ‘Yes.’ I said ‘I am wrong. And everybody is scurrying all over and I see the police head to the door.”

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Poetry to be showcased at ‘My Black is Beautiful’

By Andrew Paisley

With work from students and a professional, the University Board will commemorate African-American Heritage Month at a poetry slam Wednesday in the 7th Street Underground.

The UB has invited poet Natasha “T” Miller to read her poetry at the slam. Students will also be able to share their own poetry expressing how they appreciate and accept their race and who they are.

UB chair Nia Douglas said the board wants to allow students to speak out.

“A lot of students are very talented and have something to say,” Douglas said. “We want to give them an opportunity to do that, as well as allow everyone the opportunity to see someone who has perfected their craft and be able to speak to them personally.”

Douglas said it will be good for students to hear each other’s and Miller’s points of view.

“Hopefully, students will be able to think about themselves, where they came from, their race and the issues they deal with, as well as how they feel,” Douglas said.

Douglas said Miller is an African-American, openly lesbian woman from Detroit, Mich. who not only stands up for African-American rights, but is also a dedicated LGBTQA+ activist.

Miller is also a three-time Women of the World Poetry Slam finalist. She has published two books, “Dreams of a Beginner” and “Coming Out of Nowhere,” a social networking memoir about religion, cyberbullying and homosexuality.

Tony Talley, public relations coordinator for the UB, said the board thought Miller is the perfect candidate to speak at the poetry slam.

“Given her background, I would say she definitely will turn out to be a good person for students to hear and look up to,” Talley said. “She has a history of having really good work, and we are excited to see her perform.”

Douglas said although this will be a great learning experience for students, it is also about entertainment.

“We want to see everyone have a great time and hopefully enjoy all the poetry that is recited at the event,” Douglas said. “We will also be serving food, and there will be giveaway T-shirts as well for students to take home.”

Andrew Paisley can be reached at 581-2812 or abpaisley@eiu.edu.

Candidates for county clerk, sheriff, state representative to speak at forum

All candidates for contested positions in the primary for Coles County Clerk, Coles County Sheriff and State Representative for the 110th District will speak at a candidates’ forum at the end of the month.

Sponsored by the Charleston Area Chamber of Commerce, the forum is set for 5:30 p.m. Feb. 27 in the banquet rooms of the Unique Suites Hotel at 920 West Lincoln Ave.

The candidates speaking will be Julie Coffey Coe and Jackie Freezeland for Coles County Clerk, Jimmy Rankin and Steve Spear for Coles County Sheriff and Terry David and Chris Miller for State Representative.

According to a press release, candidates will introduce themselves and give opening statements. The audience can then ask them questions.

All questions must be submitted in writing and will be screened before being given to the candidates.

The News desk can be reached at 581-2812 or dennewsdesk@gmail.com.

Ciara Lohman, a family and consumer sciences major, cuts T-shirts Tuesday night in the University Ballroom of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union. Students joined Eastern President David Glassman in the latest “Prowlin’ with the Prez” event sponsored by the student government.

Andrew Paisley | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

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**Valentine’s Day is a chance to spread love**

Today is the holiday everyone loves—or more commonly, loves to hate. Candy hearts in hues of pink and red, notes dripping in sappy clichés and commercials encouraging viewers to see the new “Fifty Shades of Grey” movie are practically unavoidable for the first two weeks of February.

While it is easy to succumb to the bitterness rather than the sweetness of this holiday, we at The Daily Eastern News want to remind everyone that Valentine’s Day is not just for young couples who fall under the stereotypical “head over heels in love” category.

Valentine’s Day is a time to celebrate and share the love all of us have with whomever we want. It is the time to reach out to your family members and remind them how their love has shaped you into the person you are today. It is the time to gather with your friends and reflect on your relationships, remembering all the times their friendships have made your heart feel full.

It is the time to give ourselves the love we deserve. We can be our own valentines. It can be easy to forget self-love when we find ourselves swept up in the stress of school or are too busy focusing on not having a significant other during holiday days like today.

Today, and every day, do not forget to take the time to give yourself and the others you hold dear the appreciation that is deserved. Whether it be by embracing the “Treat Yo’Selﬁ” attitude (thank you, “Parks and Recreation,” for that iconic episode) or sending a Candygram to a friend on campus, everyone deserves to be reminded of the impression they have left on someone’s heart.

You can perfectly cap off the Valentine’s Day feeling by doing one of things you can do to make the day a fun one:

1.) Buy yourself a gift. You do not need to wait for someone to buy a gift for you to show how awesome you are. You are an independent college student and can treat yourself. Maybe you have had an eye on a book, a dress or a pair of heels. Just go get it. Spoil yourself. Love comes in many forms, and self-love is one of the most important.

2.) Celebrate Gal-entine’s Day. If you have friends who are single, this is a great time to spend some time together and have a Gal-entine’s Day instead. Get together and celebrate how awesome you are. Laugh about everything, go to the movies, order some pizza, plan a fun activity, go bowling. This will create some great memories with people you love.

3.) Enjoy a Netflix marathon with great romantic movies. If you want to stay indoors, that is ﬁne! Order pizza or your favorite ice cream and slip into your pajamas. Light some candles and have an indoor date with yourself.

4.) Have a spa day. Take yourself to a spa (it need not be expensive) and pamper yourself. Make sure you reach new heights of relaxation, deepen relaxation and shift your energy to a place of beauty and well-being. You cannot imagine how much younger you will look.

5.) Take a relaxing bubble bath. When did you last have a bubble bath? Rather than the usual 10-minute shower, switch on some background music, light a few scented candles, pour yourself a glass of your favorite drink—remember to grab enough so last the entire bath—then get a good book, add some bubble bath and jump in.

Germany says no. They lived through it. They know what happened. They looked in the mirror and saw what waited on the other side.

“What about the KKK?” you may ask. “What about Christian groups who are against homosexuality? What about Nazi’s? They are just a word for ‘white people’ I don’t like.’ Where do you draw the line?” You can use this thinking to silence anyone.

This should have been easy, but welcome to the modern world. Since outlawing ideology with tragic historical consequence and statements about the inherent supremacy of certain “races” is controversial, I suppose we have to look at it from another direction.

I am against society policing behavior, because depending on who is doing the policing, lots of people can disappear overnight. But you cannot just allow everything, because then Nazis happen. Damn if you do, damn if you do not.

So let us make the Nazi issue easy. If your ideology resulted in the Holocaust, then you should no longer practice it. But what about the other ones? The KKK has a history of killing and tormenting people. Should they be allowed to preach their ideology? For most people, this is an easy no. But, again, just once on the path, people get uneasy. What about religious groups that fund organizations that actually work to deny gay people rights? Ahh, now we have hit some interesting territory, but I am out of words, as until next time, just remember: Nazi’s are bad, empathy is good and you should examine what it means to tolerate intolerance.

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...and universities around the nation, for much longer than just the past two-year budget impasse.

“(Students and parents) are going to see higher education more as a product like a mortgage, like a car payment, and we can’t blame them, right?” Hung said. “Because we are asking them to invest more directly and in larger quantities.”

Young said the increasing opinion of higher education acting more like a product is starting to affect students.

“Of course [students] are concerned about their future, but they’re also concerned about getting the most out of their education,” Young said.

Ludlow said there should be a positive correlation between happiness and higher education, which would supersede the current importance placed on job placement after graduation.

“We are not in the business of making or selling products, or even teaching people to sell products,” Ludlow said. “We are, if you will, in the business of promoting and enabling the pursuit of happiness.”

Hung said the threat of lower funding from the government has been hitting Illinois universities, and universities around the nation, for much longer than just the past two-year budget impasse.

“Yes, we had a budget impasse in 2015/2016 that was horrible, terrible,” he said. “We don’t want to do it again, but even if we take that out, even if we take two years of no budget out of the picture, we’re still seeing a gradual, consistent, persistent, insistent downward trend in public funding for higher education, and (Eastern) is not the only one.”

Ludlow’s presentation at HB 4103, which proposes many educational reforms, including a one-application system for all Illinois universities and which would require Illinois universities to accept all high school students with a B average or higher.

This bill uses the word “efficiency” 14 times, with eight of those times being in just one proposal, Ludlow said.

“Do you think we are a business? This is dangerous because using efficiency because we do not include a student’s quality of education.

Ludlow said universities must change the language being used to discuss higher education and its potential reforms, especially when they use words like “efficiency.”

“When we are arguing using our opponent’s language, when we allow those who oppose us to set the terms of the debate, we have already lost,” Ludlow said.

Gatrell said making changes that adhere to Eastern’s mission and its goals of student success is of utmost importance.

“You can have great ideas, but if you’re not talking about mission, if structure doesn’t follow mission, (change is) problematic,” Gatrell said.

Ludlow offered a list of solutions centered around the idea that collective is powerful. These include keeping in mind that scarcity is not a normal thing, having a necessity for faculty and staff to take on extra work is not normal, prioritizing time and saying no is respectable and that open communication with the community is key to changing public opinion.

Young echoed Ludlow, saying the threats currently coming toward higher education from the public are because of misunderstandings between the public and institutions of higher education.

“What can we do to spread the message beyond this room, beyond our classrooms with our students, that (Eastern) is efficient, (Eastern) is inspirational, (Eastern) is bringing resources to the state and the community?” Young said.

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For the love of Shakespeare

Hannah Brickey, a sophomore English language arts major, works on an essay about William Shakespeare Tuesday night in Booth Library. Brickey said the semester has been going well because she is finally taking education classes.
Eastern to face struggling Redhawks team

By JJ Bullock
Assistant Sports Editor | @DEN_Sports

The loss of Demetrius McReynolds, who capped the offensive domain.

With a conference record of 1-14, the Eastern women’s basketball team’s season is all but lost with just four games left to play this season. But, the opportunity for the Panthers to play spoiler for opponents trying to make the OVC tournament has presented itself, and is more prevalent in the Panthers’ next game than ever before.

Eastern plays Southeast Missouri on the road Wednesday, where they will meet a Redhawks team that has lost their last three games and is currently battling through the densest part of the conference standings for a playoff spot.

Southeast Missouri’s three-game slide has dropped the team to 6-8 in the conference and in possession of the seventh seed in the OVC tournament.

However, Murray State and Eastern Kentucky, both with 5-9 conference records, are waiting in the wings for Southeast Missouri to stumble once again, and Eastern is ready to deliver that blow to the Redhawks.

Panthers’ head coach Matt Bollant is trying to keep his team focused on themselves this week; however, and he is not trying to get wrapped up in Southeast Missouri’s playoff race.

“We’re trying to get better and win a basketball game.” Bollant said. “But we know we have got a lot of improvement to do, so that’s what the focus is right now.”

The last time Eastern and the Redhawks met on Jan. 20, Southeast Missouri’s third-ranked defense beat down the Panthers in the first and fourth quarters, holding Eastern to just a 28.6 shooting percentage in its eventual 77-54 win over the Panthers.

Although they failed last time in stopping the Redhawks’ leading scorer Teisia Thompson, who dropped a game-high 18 points in the Jan. 20 win, the Panthers will make another effort to stop the guard from doing damage.

“She is a really good penetrator and we have got to do a good job of keeping her in front,” Bollant said of Thompson. “We didn’t do a great job at our place and we’re going to have to work harder at that and make sure we find her in transition. She is a really good athlete, she can rebound, she is really good off the dribble.”

Bollant will have a mixture of players covering Thompson throughout the game, but freshman guard Taylor Steele will start the game on Thompson, he said. The Redhawks almost entirely controlled the boards in the last game as well, they outrebounded the Panthers 52-28.

“For us, (rebounding) comes down to we have to leave the zone and block out,” Bollant said. “We work on rebounding every day, we just really have to pursue the ball as well because we’re not very long, we’re not very athletic, so we have to really have great heart when we pursue the ball.”

As the season winds down for the Panthers, Bollant said he will continue to look for individual and team improvement as the team “builds for the future.”

Eastern and Southeast Missouri will play at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday.
Swimmers confident going into conference

By Adam Shay
Swim Reporter | @DEN_Sports

The Eastern men’s and women’s swim team’s effort and hard work will be put to the test as they travel to Sioux Falls, S.D. for the Summit League Championship.

As the Panthers leave Monday, they embark on a 688-mile road trip to compete in the four-day championship from Wednesday to Saturday. At the championship, there will be six other schools going up against Eastern.

Because of the long drive, the Panthers have plenty of down time on the road-trip. While on the bus, the Panther swimmers are not only focused on the meet, but must work on their school assignments as they miss a week of classes.

“As of now, it’s more just annoying that we have to be on a bus for this long,” said junior Nick Harkins. “We’re all doing homework or something productive because we have plenty of time to work on it.”

Since the Panthers are focused on their school work, the competitive nature has yet to set in. Harkins said he imagines Tuesday will be more focused on competing since that is when they arrive in Sioux Falls.

Long road trips for certain schools, like Eastern, can take a toll on a team. However, for the Panthers, the team is confident that the road trip will not impact them during the championship.

“Traveling on a bus for two days is rough,” said junior Caro Lamarque. “But we all have big expectations for the meet and won’t let the long drive affect us.”

When the Panthers arrive Tuesday, the swimmers will check in and head to the Mako Aquatic Center to check out the pool. This is also the first time any of the Panthers will see the pool as well, creating a different atmosphere than what they are used to for an unfamiliar pool, they feel the need to go and test out the waters before conference begins Wednesday.

“We’re going to swim at the pool Tuesday night to familiarize ourselves with everything,” Harkins said. “It will be a good time to work on starts, turns and relay exchanges.”

Despite wanting to win every individual meet, this championship is one all the swimmers focus on and care about. All the other meets pertain to this one. Harkins said.

For individual meets, Harkins is prepared on competing since that is the event he is ranked most confident in the 100-free be care about. All the other meets were focused on competing since that is when they arrive in Sioux Falls.

“Only having relays the first day is nice because it lets us get used to the pool before we start our individual events,” Lamarque said.

Going into the relay events, the Panthers are coming off breaking the pool record for the women’s 800-relay, giving them confidence boosts.

Not being tapered and still putting up good times makes it exciting to see what the team can do at conference, Lamarque said.

Comparing last year’s team to this year’s, there are differences that the swimmers feel could play in their advantage during conference. Most noticeably, the women’s swim team is going into the conference with a winning record.

“We’ve overall had a pretty good season, so I think that has given us some confidence and a better mentality going into this conference compared to previous years,” Lamarque said.

Also, for the women’s team, they have a unique roster that has more underclassmen than upperclassmen. With this type of roster, there is a different energy to the team that creates an uplifting and encouraging atmosphere.

Those underclassmen, such as sophomores Gloria Gonzales and Karleen Gernady and freshmen Sarah Lohman and Lindsay Wood, have been handling the pressure of their first conference well, helping the team have a positive mentality.

Throughout the season, the women’s team has been working on keeping a positive mentality, which has paid into their success. Their positivity is shown through on-deck atmosphere.

“During season, we have done a really good job of having a strong energy on deck while cheering everyone on,” Lamarque said. “And I think that has helped us be successful. When everyone is having fun and cheering each other on, we always swim our best.”

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