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Eastern Illinois University

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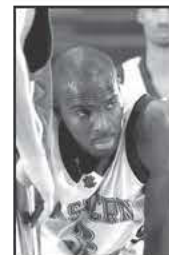
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Ousted

Eastern men's basketball loses to Division II Florida Gulf Coast 81-72 Monday at Lantz Arena.

Page 12 SPORTS



Illinois voters must register by Tuesday

♦ *Approximately 500 students have registered for the Illinois primary this far*

By Sally Regan
STAFF WRITER

The deadline to register to vote in the Illinois primary is Tuesday, leaving students little time to make their votes eligible to count.

Registration can be completed in the county clerk's office located in the Coles County Courthouse in the Charleston Square. Also, registration forms are available to download and print online at <http://www.elections.state.il.us>. The completed form must be post marked by Tuesday and sent to the county clerk's office.

Students who register can vote in the Illinois primary elections on March 16.

The Board of Registration committee will be wrapping up its voter registration drive by visiting resident halls and classrooms, collecting finished registration forms. Their main concern at this point is to make sure that the forms get in on time.

Bill Davidson, student executive vice president, said approximately 500 students have registered to vote in the primary elections; however, the committee's goal was to reach thousands of students.

When the voting committee came to her African-American Experience class, 20-year-old computer information system major, Sharece Davis, had the opportunity to register.

"I've been waiting to vote all my life and the idea of taking advantage of voting has been pumped into me by older people since I turned 18," Davis said. "Why not vote and make a difference? One person can make a difference."

It is important for students to vote in the primary elections, not just the general elections, because there are more candidate choices for the senate and house of representatives, Andrew McNitt, a political science professor, said.

Davidson said it is important for students to vote in the primary elections in Charleston because they live here nine months out of the year, and students are surrounded by people in their same age group who are concerned about similar issues.

"We want to send a message to local and state government that we are an active voice in the community," Davidson said.

SEE VOTERS ♦ Page 7



DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY STEPHEN HAAS

Abel Garcia, of Charleston, dries the hood of his Camaro Monday afternoon after washing it at the Hydro-Wash on Lincoln Avenue. Washing cars could be a trend this week as temperatures are supposed to rise and even reach the 50s by the end of the week.

Warm weather on its way

♦ *Temperatures to reach 40s and 50s this week*

By Brittany Robson
STAFF WRITER

Despite the groundhog seeing its shadow and promising six more weeks of winter, a warming trend is on its way for the rest of this week.

Temperatures should be in the mid-50s by the end of the week, said Dalias Price, local weather observer and former Eastern professor.

Price forecasted a high of 35 degrees for Tuesday and gradual temperature increases toward the weekend.

The average high for February is 44 degrees.

"We will see a warming trend as February progresses," Price said. "The

temperature will go up and down but not as much as it has been."

Price said because the days are getting longer and the sun is shining more, temperatures will naturally increase.

With temperature increases, snowfall will begin decreasing.

"March produces an average of one inch of snow," Price said.

He said it might snow some here in East-Central Illinois, but heavy snows and below freezing temperatures are more than likely out of the picture.

The National Weather Service Web site showed no chance of rain or snow for Tuesday or Wednesday, but a 40 percent chance on Friday.

Temperatures should get up to 50 degrees by Thursday, but return to 40s and as low as the 30s over the weekend.

The temperature increases open opportunities to take care of things not

accomplished in the cold.

Though many people manage to wash their cars in the winter, more people make it out as it gets warmer.

Owner of Nu-Wave Car Wash Distributors in Charleston Kim Clodfelder said business maintains over the winter.

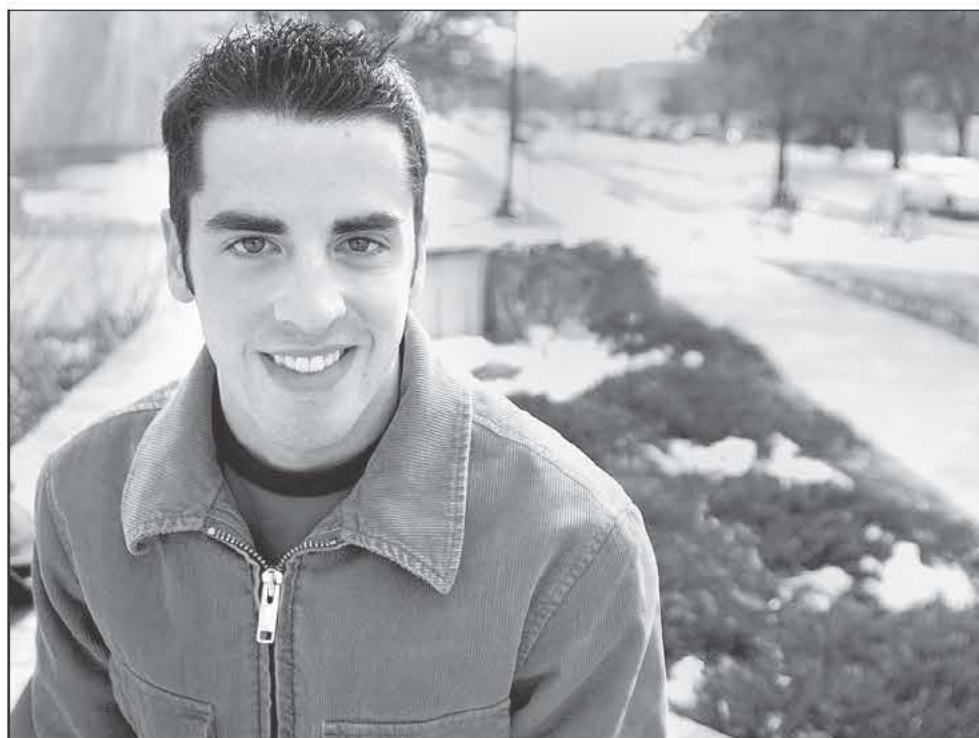
"If there are below zero temperatures, people usually don't come in," Clodfelder said. "But 15 degrees or higher people are always coming to wash the salt off their car."

She said more people use the automatic car wash in the winter as opposed to washing it manually, but they still see people coming in and washing their cars by hand.

"Even vacuuming," she said. "People still vacuum their cars in the winter; I think people see dirt and want to clean it up."

Patrick Sweeney, a freshman English education major, has been chosen as one of the finalists to be selected for a trip to MTV Spring Break.

DAILY EASTERN
NEWS PHOTO BY
STEPHEN HAAS



Eastern student is an MTV finalist

♦ *Freshman has sights on trip to MTV Spring Break 2004*

By Edith Traylor
STAFF WRITER

An Eastern student's picture has been placed on MTV.com as a finalist in a contest to win a free spring break trip.

Patrick Sweeney, freshman English education major, has been chosen as one of the finalists to be selected for a trip to MTV Spring Break.

He will have his picture on the web site Feb. 6 through 27. Nine men and nine women were chosen

as finalists and they will have their pictures on the MTV web site for visitors and MTV viewers to vote on.

"I just decided to enter the contest for fun. I didn't think I had much of a chance," Sweeney said.

He said he always enters contests and has never had much luck, so he just went to the web site and entered by e-mailing his picture and personal information. Several weeks went by and he received a call from MTV informing him he was one of the finalists.

The grand prize for the contest is a trip for the winner and three

SEE MTV ♦ Page 6

Minorities search for American dream

◆ *Lecture to discuss
minorities in today's
society*

By Amanda Abbatte
STAFF WRITER

The American dream and how well it is being achieved by minorities in today's society is one of the many discussions that will be tackled in a lecture Tuesday.

Dr. Myron Pope, assistant vice president of student affairs at the University of Central Oklahoma, will present the program, "Challenge for the Future," at 7 p.m. in Lumpkin Auditorium.

"In the past, minority students have endeavored extensively to be involved in the political process as well as in social issues," said Pope.

However, Pope said the last couple of generations have become too satisfied with their status. They continue to receive the benefits of these past generations' struggles, yet they feel little need to continue advancement in any of these activities, he said.

Pope will discuss the effects of the "me" attitude as a possible consideration for this reluctance to proceed in progression.

Many students believe since they have worked hard to get where they are, others should do the same and they feel it is not their responsibility to contribute to their society, he said.

Pope calls this the "I got mine, now you get yours" type attitude.

He said he will stress the need for students to become leaders and mentors in the same way they have been guided.

"Although the service level of civic engagement is on the rise, political engagement and community service is down," Pope

said.

In the session, Pope will speak to an estimated 75 people and will address the importance for minorities to reach out to those less privileged in our society, those who may not be able to achieve an "equal playing ground." He will also talk about the perception of today's generation as seen by older generations and the media.

"College students who are able to receive a higher education and a chance at a better life rarely return to the society they worked so hard to get out of," Pope said. "This is one of my major concerns."

Pope attended The University of Alabama along with Don Dawson, who is currently the academic advisor of Minority Student Affairs at Eastern; and the two have remained close ever since.

"This program should give some good insight on what college is all about and inform students about their civic responsibilities and future roles to their community," Dawson said.

In Pope's past years, he conducted a variety of research on higher education-related issues, including community college student and administration issues, minority student concerns, faculty governance issues and institutional trust.

Dawson expects a variety of groups to attend, including his Gateway classes, African-American students and diversity classes.

Since Pope was an ex-football player at the University of Alabama, Dawson said he asked Cindy Tozer, athletic advisor at Eastern to make an appearance along with some of Eastern's athletic teams.



DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY STEPHEN HAAS

Read this

Katelyn Gholson, a first-grader from Carl Sandburg Elementary School, looks at a book Monday afternoon in Room 1320 of Buzzard Hall. The Association for Early Childhood International is putting on the book sale from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Friday of this week.

FACULTY SENATE

Faculty to look at ways to improve life at Eastern

By Jennifer Peryam
STAFF WRITER

The Faculty Senate Tuesday will address an annual faculty forum event, which will cover issues on building a learning community, scholarship and improving the quality of life at Eastern.

The faculty forum will take place from 2-4 p.m. Feb. 24 in the Grand Ballroom of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union, replacing the Faculty Senate's regularly scheduled meeting.

"This event is important because it is a time for faculty to

come together as a college to discuss important issues that affect Eastern," said Faculty Senate Chair David Carpenter. He said the primary responsibility of professors at Eastern is to teach and the second responsibility is to institute scholarship as a creative activity.

"Scholarship is a requirement at Eastern that most of our teachers pursue professionally," Carpenter said. "But even if it was not required, our teachers would still pursue scholarship for the quality of teaching."

Building a learning community

at Eastern and strengthening the quality of life between Charleston and Eastern will also be discussed.

"Eastern is the cultural center of this area and affects the culture of the larger community," Carpenter said. Students and faculty will address the relationship and communication between Charleston and Eastern.

Bob Augustine, dean of graduate school and research, will address international programs and life at Eastern.

"We will review current issues in admitting international stu-

dents into Eastern with federal regulations since Sept. 11," Augustine said. Eastern's study abroad programs will also be discussed.

"Eastern's mission statement indicates becoming a responsible individual in a diverse world and discussing these programs is critical in carrying out this mission statement," Augustine said.

New business items will also be covered.

Faculty representation on the Board of Trustees will be discussed. The Faculty Senate Executive Committee has been

discussing the representation with Blair Lord, provost and vice president for academic affairs and President Lou Hencken.

"We are attempting to develop a faculty trustee system and we already have a student trustee membership in place," Carpenter said.

Bob Augustine will discuss international programs and Hencken's athletic funding proposal will be covered.

The Faculty Senate meeting will be held at 2 p.m. Tuesday in the Booth Library Conference Room 4440.

THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

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If you have any suggestions or ideas for articles you would like to see in *The News*, feel free to contact us at 581-2812 or jpchambers@eiu.edu





A close up of an individual riding a bicycle in the mural at Sixth and Van Buren.

DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY STEPHEN HAAS

◆ *Downtown murals depict images of city's rich historical roots*

By Michael Schroeder
CITY REPORTER

The history and culture of the city is captured on stone across downtown Charleston in a series of murals.

The first mural was painted in the summer of 1998 and the painting of new murals continues today.

Charleston Director of Tourism Connie Russell said, "(The murals) are there for the beautification aspect, economy and local pride."

"The Murals of Around the Square" tour presently consists of seven murals and one portrait sculpture of Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas.

The idea of creating the murals was first presented in 1997 by the Tourism Advisory Board. After the city council's approval and funding by the tourism department and federal grants and loans, the process was put into action, Russell said.

The mural projects are beneficial to Charleston in several ways, the number one reason being a revival of pride in the local community's heritage, she said. "(There is) a lot of pride to be in a small town like Charleston," Russell said.

Charleston's connections to Lincoln are also reasons for that pride, Russell added.

Charleston murals provide

A Ride Through History

On the Chamber of Commerce building on Jackson Avenue, there is a painting of President Lincoln bidding farewell to his mother for the final time. An event that took place at the Moore home just south of the square, according to "The Murals Around the Square" brochure.

On the outside of County Office Products Inc., a mural depicts the classic small-town atmosphere of Charleston. It is 63 ft. by 15 ft. and shows several storefronts from 1920s downtown Charleston.

Frank Perry, who owns the store, said he is very pleased with the mural being on his building.

Perry said an interesting effect from the mural is the number of people who have come in asking for a haircut, thinking the store is the barber shop in the mural.

"It is a nice added feature for the downtown area," Perry, who is also a Charleston native, said. "It distinguishes the downtown area."

Another goal of the project, Russell said, was to enhance the

downtown and promote the tourism by creating new attractions.

Russell said she knows Charleston's murals will not attract huge tourism by themselves. However, the Lincoln Log Cabin does attract many visitors during the summer months in particular.

"We have added satellite sights for visitors," she said.

People who come to the area for the Lincoln Log Cabin or to visit Eastern can walk around the square and get a feel for old time Charleston in a 30-minute tour. They can also go to Fox Ridge or the Lincoln-Douglas Debate Museum.

"There are a variety of things to do within a 20-minute drive," Russell said.

Chris Taylor, assistant art professor at Eastern and a Charleston native, said the murals are wonderful for people of Charleston.

"I also like that they are historical," he said. "A true mural has a sense of relevance and history."

The initial plan called for 12-15 murals, the brochure said.

Russell said there will be another mural painted this summer and one the summer after, which will bring the total number to 10.

Additional murals would depend on funding and wall space.

"Then we will have to search for the appropriate space and secure the proper funding," Russell said. "The wall has to be visible and in good condition to be used; sun exposure is also critical."

Tuesday, the City Council will discuss the funding, about \$3,260, for a mural to be painted this summer.

The new mural's wall has already been selected; however, the painter has not. The mural will be located on the wall across from Will Rogers Theatre on Monroe Avenue.

Russell said the new mural will be an arts and entertainment mural honoring Charleston's former artists and entertainers.



DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY STEPHEN HAAS

A painting of President Lincoln bidding farewell to his mother on the Chamber of Commerce building on Jackson Avenue.

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EDITORIAL

Apathy less than other big schools

Voter apathy is a concern at every university, including Eastern, but the question is do the students here care less about the democratic process than they do at other schools.

The quick assumption would be student voter turnout at Big Ten schools and other larger schools in Illinois would be more in elections.

It is true the University of Illinois has larger numbers for its student elections and voting in general, but they have more students and therefore, the U of I figure looks bigger if you put it under a microscope.

The U of I has maintained a consistent 10 percent voter turnout over the past five years and according to *The Daily Illini*, most of the Big Ten Conference ranges between 9 to 11 percent of the student body who voted.

Eastern recorded a 17.4 percent voter turnout, the largest in recent years at Eastern, for the last Student Senate elections which elected Caleb Judy student body president. Therefore, voter turnout at a little known university in Charleston, is higher than nationally publicized institutions. This is a fact Eastern should take pride in.

However, apathy to maintain these figures are starting to creep up into the democratic process. As a campus, we cannot allow this apathy to bring us down to mediocre voting results.

Student executive vice president Bill Davidson has been experiencing problems in his process to increase the figure in city and national elections. Davidson has said the average student on Eastern's campus is not interested in registering to vote.

Davidson said by registering and then voting, students could have more say over issues that affect them, including keeping tuition costs down.

Hopefully, Davidson's program will continue to make registering and possibly voting more convenient for the students of Eastern.

The Associated Press reported this week, as part of the Help America Vote Act, voters can download registration forms off the internet. The deadline to register to vote in the Illinois primary is Tuesday.

Campus voter apathy is growing and the only way to hold it in check is to possibly make the process more convenient to students. Remember, if Eastern students don't vote, dubious legislation will continue to get passed.

The editorial is the majority opinion of the *Daily Eastern News* editorial board.

OPINION

College group work impractical



Matt Williams
News editor and semi-monthly columnist for *The Daily Eastern News*

Williams also is a junior journalism major

He can be reached at mmwilliams1220@aol.com

Attention all professors: group projects should be avoided at all costs. The older students get, the more annoying and difficult it is to work in a group project for class.

I am in my second of two group projects I have had this year and it has been a hassle just to find a time where all of us aren't working, out of town or in class. The only time we had to meet was the night before our presentation for a few hours, and even then we didn't have enough time to complete the entire project.

The previous project I had was in a group of five, including one person who commutes every day from Champaign. It was required we all be present for the assignment because it could only be done using a certain computer program in Blair Hall.

The only time our schedules didn't conflict while Blair was open was at 7 a.m. I was cursing having to get up at 6:30, so I can only imagine what the guy from Champaign was saying when he rolled out of bed at 5:30.

The point is, most college students have a lot going on in any given day whether it's going to class, having a job, studying for tests or commuting to school each day.

Sometimes these tasks even leave little time to eat, so attempting to work on a group

"People either want to learn or they don't.

Group projects won't always change the minds of those who do little work to begin with."

project that requires a good chunk of time out of students' daily schedules can be very difficult.

Grading group assignments also can be unfair and, at the college level, can be tough to tell who actually put effort into the assignment.

If one group member slacks off while the rest does their assigned task, how does that help the learning process? People either want to learn or they don't. Group projects won't always change the minds of those who do little work to begin with.

In most cases, but not in any of mine so far, there is that one group member who just doesn't participate as much as the others. There is no way of grading participation unless someone in the group tells on that member and people rarely want tell on someone else.

I do understand it is an important asset to be able to work and think in a group setting, but if someone has reached the college level and can't already play well with others, obviously they have a social problem.

I think working in groups is essential in grade school and maybe high school, but college is a different setting.

Most college students don't have that problem and can manage to work with people for a few hours, even with people they don't like.

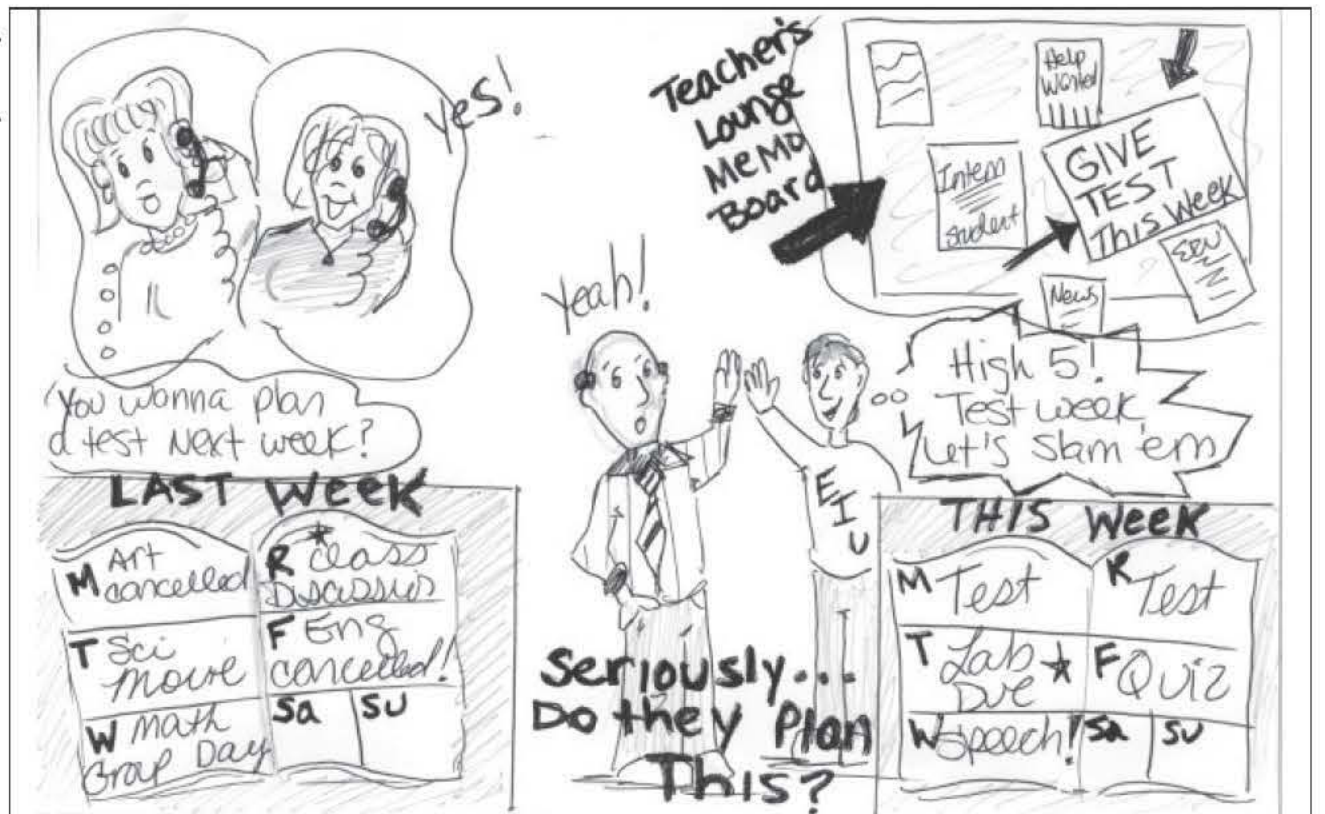
I also understand some professors have really large assignments that would be difficult for just one person to complete. How about a compromise here?

Cut the number of people in the group down to two or three and give them an extra week to work on it to make up for having less people. Another alternative is to give class time to work on the project.

These ways allow the teacher to hand out large, creative projects while the students don't have to worry about pulling their hair out trying to complete it.

It is in my experience that most people in college don't enjoy group work, so why continue to do it? Professors don't have to rework their entire curriculum for my proposal, but if an assignment can be done without groups, try to make it that way.

Cartoon by Gia Hyos



YOUR TURN: LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Presidents have confusing mission

George Bush I came to realize (1990 Gulf War I) that he could have could have it both ways, i.e. organizing war and doing it cheaply by calling up 500,000 weekend warriors, both old and young, to supplement the regulars. These warriors would then sanctify the lie of citizen soldier and fit easily into the mushy jingoism of "support our troops," confusing the issue of (who?) is inside the uniform! To be sure, a slogan of "support your local mercenary" could not work. I must submit, however, that the U.S. Marines (organized 1775) are in a different category than the regulars or national guard, since they are synonymous with "shock and awe," being a preemptive strike force of a long standing colonialist foreign policy and gratuitous violence historically upon

indigenous peoples. Further, since the regulars do not readily fit into the bourgeois persona, sacrificing one's life to make someone else rich is repulsive to the populace at large, however, when flag waving patriotics are energized and one's childhood racio-nationalist inculcation is activated and urged by warmongers, the submission is absolute by all concerned, after having subjected an innate protest within. Thus Bush I grousing the ignorance of many, (aided by the media) began Desert Storm. Claiming, as always a righteous victory; leaving 1.5 million dead Iraqis.

Now enter into this Falstaffian stage a ribald nonentity Bush II, without personal charm or innate reason, full of juvenility, covering himself with the onerous mantle of his nas-

cent father (only less delicately worn); willing his mercenary national guardsmen with false pride and stolid conformity, for some a second time around.

Ancient mercenaries unlike our modern ones were dependent on plunder. Whomsoever of them got to the spoils after their captains and lieutenants fought with each other over what was left, either human or material, momentarily satiated; not so for our moderns whether civilian or contract. Suffering all the discomforts of militarism but none of the rewards, only Brown and Root, et. al. do that. A \$10,000 bribe pales to noth-

ing in such a disingenuous enterprise, i.e. annexation by force of arms. Finally, our cretinary American merchant is denied all round, he or she gets no plunder but are only themselves plundered throughout the whole damning process, deprived of life and limb, then doomed to silence, being exploited by the trickery of capitalism and its manipulative cadres. As for change? There must be more than angels and prayer as some religious fascist would have humanity embrace.

Michael Strange,
Charleston resident

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Connie Martino and her daughter Stephanie talk with President Lou Hencken Monday morning about campus housing during the open house in the Grand Ballroom of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union. Martino, a senior at Hersey High School in Chicago, has been accepted and was getting information on the elementary education program.

Warm atmosphere, small size impress prospective students

◆ Eastern offers tours, informational sessions for first open house of the semester

By Evan Hill
CAMPUS EDITOR

Eastern hosted an open house Monday for prospective students to familiarize themselves with the campus.

Maxine Lane, an admissions counselor, said Eastern has been hosting open houses for at least 20 years and normally holds five each year including two in both the spring and fall semesters and one in the summer.

She said approximately 300 prospective students and their families attended today for tours and presentations.

Activities for the open house began at 8 a.m. with a "browsing session" in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union Grand Ballroom where the prospective students could browse informational booths set up by various campus organizations including Greek Life and other student services.

After the browsing session, guided tours were available

Open House Highlights

- ◆ About 300 students and their families attended the event
- ◆ Eager visitors showed up at 8 a.m. to view info booths
- ◆ Campus tours and various presentations were given throughout the day

throughout the day and Eastern gave presentations in the Grand Ballroom about applying and getting ready to attend college.

In addition, the residence halls had staff available to answer questions and give tours of the facilities.

Pat Quinn, assistant resident director at Thomas Hall, was on hand to answer questions. He said they had a variety of concerns including questions about bathrooms and laundry facilities. One father asked about how the Panther Card readers sent information to the washers.

"He was fascinated by how far they had come since he went to

school," Quinn said.

One high school senior drove down from Chicago to check out the campus.

"I like it a lot," Stephanie Martino said. "It's a nice campus, the atmosphere is real friendly and the people are easy to talk to."

Her mother, Connie Martino, said she would be glad to send her daughter to Eastern.

"We're pretty comfortable with it," she said. "The textbook rental is a definite plus."

Today's open house was the second visit for Shane Hawkins, a senior at Lexington High School, who said he was considering Eastern because of the text book rental and the smaller campus size.

"I think it's pretty nice, especially the library," he said. "I haven't decided where I want to go yet, but Eastern is a lot closer to home than Southern."

Prospective students were informed about the open house through mail and through Eastern's Web site. The site, which has details on when and where the open houses are and what activities are planned, can be reached at: <http://www.eiu.edu/~admissns/text/openhs>.

The next open houses are planned for April 17 and July 8.

Students head South for diversity lessons

◆ Eastern leaders visit Atlanta for purpose of improving, promoting campus diversity

By Brian O'Malley
STUDENT GOVERNMENT EDITOR

Thirty students hopped on board a bus for an 11-hour trip to bring diversity to Eastern's campus this past weekend.

A group of student leaders went to Atlanta for four days to visit Clark/Atlanta University and talk to their student leaders about what Eastern can do to spread diversity on campus.

Monique Cook-Bey, assistant director of student life, said each person who went on the trip is writing a journal about their experience. All journals will be put together to present at the forum during Unity Week in April.

"We're really going to do something," Cook-Bey said. "We're going to make an impact."

Student Senate member Keila Lacy said the students at Clark/Atlanta enjoyed their presence and gave the Eastern students ideas on how to improve the diversity of campus.

"They really wanted to help us," Lacy said. "They really enjoyed us being there."

Lacy said that since Clark/Atlanta is a historical African American university, the students there still deal with similar issues Eastern students do, but not the issues having to do with skin color.

"They still deal with diverse issues within their own race," Lacy said.

The bus left at 7:30 p.m. Thursday and entered Atlanta about 11 hours later, said Lisa Flam, student vice president for student affairs. The group returned at about 6 p.m. Sunday.

"It was a really, really great experience," Flam said. "It's good to know how we as individuals can make a difference."

Lacy said the group that went on the trip was a good representation of Eastern.

"It was a perfect group," Lacy said. "I couldn't have picked a better group if I picked it myself."

The group visited the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Park, which is near the church he used to preach at and the home where he grew up.

Many attendees said it was interesting to see that King was just as normal as everyone on the trip.

"You can read about the civil

Atlanta Outtakes

"You can read about the civil rights movement, but you don't know who Dr. King is until you see where he's from."

—Lisa Flam, on Atlanta

"He was just a regular person doing extraordinary things. If you listen to him now, he's still talking to us."

—Jeff Collier, on Dr. King

rights movement, but you don't know who Dr. King is until you see where he's from," Flam said.

"It was nice to see that he was like everyone else," Lacy said. "He wasn't afraid to take a stance and he wasn't afraid to take it head on. That really helped the student leaders who were there."

Jeff Collier, chair for the senate academic affairs committee, said King is like a prophet who is still working hard for diversity today.

"He was just a regular person doing extraordinary things," Collier said. "If you listen to him now, he's still talking to us."

Student Body President Caleb Judy said going to the Memorial Park and seeing King's house really made him think that he could do anything.

"He was just a regular guy, and yet he found it in himself to make this big stand," Judy said. "You could feel a certain spirit when you were down there."

The group will hold a forum within the next few weeks to share their experiences with the student body.

"We don't want this thing to fade away," Collier said. "But, we're going to take some time to plan the forum because we're on a high right now and we don't want to spoil it."

Collier said his advice for anyone who plans to go if this event is held in the future is to create a high tolerance for what is known as different.

"Have a high tolerance for racism, have a high tolerance for disagreement," he said.

Lacy said she hopes a trip can be planned for next year so more people can attend.

"I recommend it to anybody," she said. "It was a life-changing experience."

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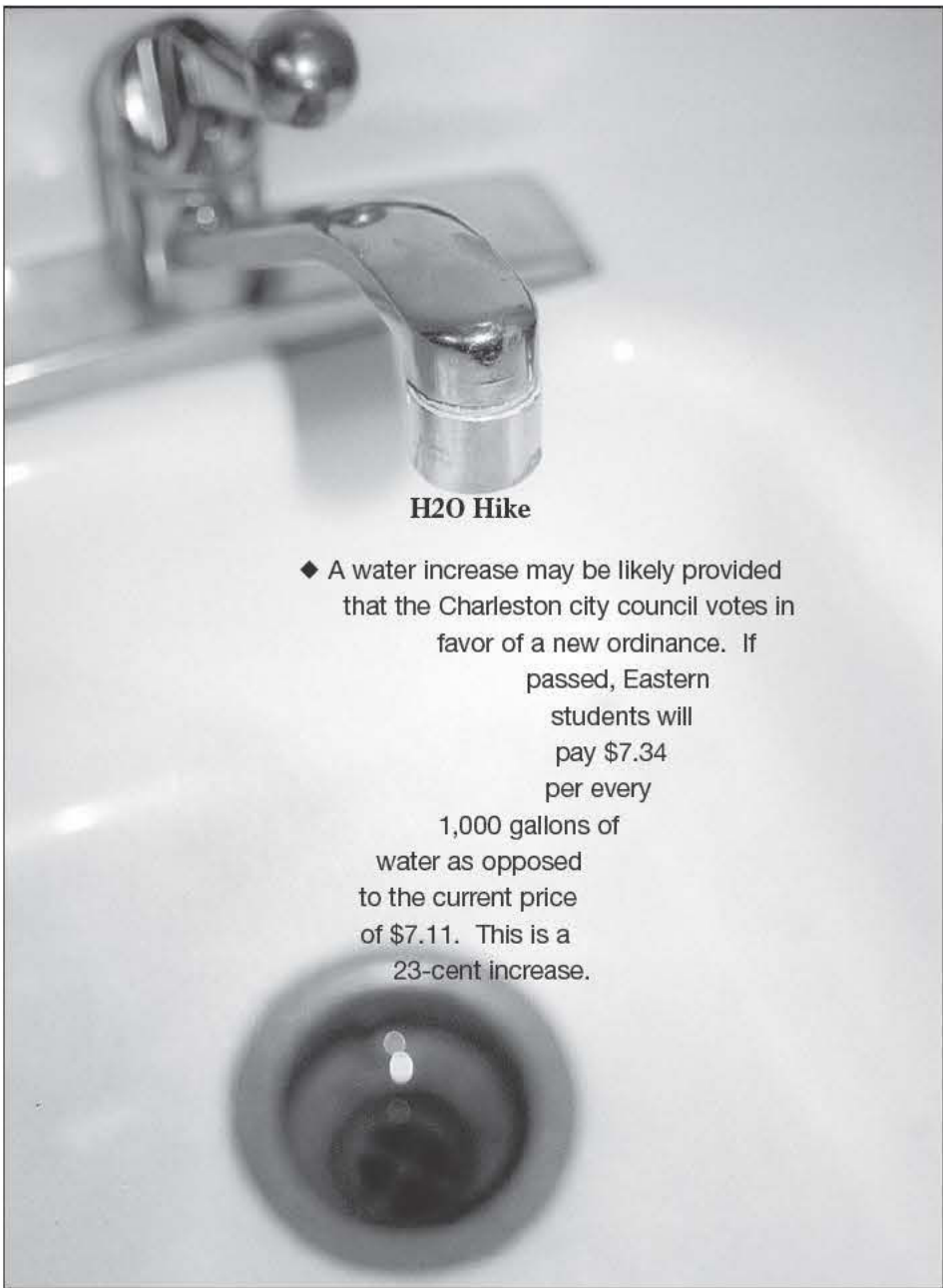
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H2O Hike

◆ A water increase may be likely provided that the Charleston city council votes in favor of a new ordinance. If passed, Eastern students will pay \$7.34 per every 1,000 gallons of water as opposed to the current price of \$7.11. This is a 23-cent increase.

DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY JOSH REELEY

The city council will vote tonight to place an ordinance on public inspection to increase the price of 1,000 gallons of water by 23 cents to \$7.34.

City council might hike Charleston water price

◆ *Ordinance proposes 23-cent increase for every 1,000 gallons of Charleston water*

By Jessica Youngs
CITY EDITOR

Students living off campus may find a larger water bill in their mailbox next month even though they are not using any more water.

At tonight's city council meeting, the council will vote to place an ordinance on file for public inspection that will increase the price per every 1,000 gallons of water by 23 cents.

The meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 520 Jackson Ave.

Mayor Dan Cougill said the increase is an effort to stay current with the city's municipal cost index which went up 3.2 percent last year.

Although the city has not changed water rates since a 20 percent rate increase in 1999, the city hopes to be able to increase the new rate 3.2 percent.

Cougill said most students only use the minimum amount of less than 1,000 gallons, which costs \$7.11; however, with the new ordinance, this basic cost could increase to \$7.34.

The costs for the university, which currently pays \$6.85, could increase 22 cents to \$7.07 per 1,000 gallons, Cougill said.

In addition, the council plans to vote on an ordinance that would prohibit parking on Ninth Street from Lincoln to Polk avenues.

The parking could be closed indefinitely because of the new stop lights that are in the process of being moved from the Seventh Street and Lincoln Avenue intersection to the Ninth Street intersection.

The ordinance, which was placed on file for public inspection for two weeks at the last council meeting Feb. 4, would take effect in 10 days if passed.

Other items on the agenda:

◆ An ordinance to amend the Charleston's School District 1 truancy policy.

◆ An ordinance to amend residency requirements for city administrative personnel.

◆ A resolution to authorize the sale of surplus cellular equipment on ebay.

◆ An ordinance to increase the price of amusement licenses on coin-operated machines.

◆ An ordinance to increase the price of garbage licenses.

◆ An ordinance to increase the price of trailer park licenses.

◆ A resolution to authorize a retirement agreement between the city and former firefighter Tom Daugherty.

◆ A resolution requesting the city to close sections of Sixth Street and Monroe Avenue during the Gregg Toland Day Festival Sept. 25.

◆ A resolution to authorize the expenditure of tourism funds for the city's 4th of July Celebration, the IHSA Track Spring Spectacular Fan Zone and a new Arts and Entertainment Mural.

◆ A resolution to abate the tax to pay on water and sewer bonds for the city.

◆ A resolution authorizing a rental agreement with Mitsubishi Electric Power Products for a trial run of the ozone treatment at the pilot test site for the new water treatment plant.

◆ A resolution to authorize an agreement with CB&I Constructors for a filter equipment trial for the pilot study at the new water treatment plant.

MTV:

Sweeney said he is one of the top male contestants

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

guests to fly out to MTV Spring

Break 2004. The location for MTV's Spring Break has not yet been released.

Also, the winner will get a meeting with a casting director to be featured on an MTV Spring Break television spot.

Currently Sweeney's picture is on the site and he said he is one

of the top male contestants.

To vote for Sweeney, students can go on MTV.com and click on the "contests" icon. On the next screen, click the icon for the spring break contest. The next step is to select the men icon and then find Sweeney's picture and rate his picture.

Erich Mousseau, a freshman undecided major, said he has known Sweeney since fourth grade and finds him to be a good choice for MTV.

"Patrick knows how to have fun," he said.

Also during Sweeney's senior year he was voted best personality

by his high school class.

"Patrick knows when to have fun and when to get in his books," Mousseau said.

He thinks if Sweeney wins the contest he will be one of the guests that goes with him since he is his best friend.

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Parking task force to work on survey

By Brian O'Malley
STUDENT GOVERNMENT EDITOR

The Residence Hall Association/Student Senate parking task force will discuss information members have about a possible student poll and the way other schools control parking.

Adam Howell, chair of the task force, said this meeting will be a follow-up on the last few meetings the group has held.

"We're going to call up on the goals that we set last meeting," Howell said. "It's going to be primarily a follow up meeting."

The task force of seven members, split up into two groups of three members leaving Howell to supervise both groups.

"We're going to take a student poll to find out if we need to limit or eliminate freshman parking," Howell said. "The poll will target a specific number of different people at Eastern."

Howell said the poll will probably have different portions aimed at freshmen or off-campus students.

Three members of the task force will handle the poll, while the other three work on finding information about the way Western Illinois University or another school of the same size, runs their parking areas.

"The school's population can line up with the freshman parking," Howell said.

Becca Finks, RHA parking representative, said at last week's meeting some schools outside Illinois could be equally helpful as inner-Illinois schools.

"If we need to go out of the state to get a school that's similar to our size, then we have to go there," Finks said.

The task force will not continue discussion on faculty parking issues, Howell said.

"We shouldn't talk about an aspect of parking that we'll have no ability to change," he said.

The group is a way for RHA and senate members to make suggestions to the University Parking Committee on ways to improve the parking situation.

"I wanted a mix of senate and RHA members," he said.

A topic that was discussed last meeting and could be brought up again is the possibility of having the campus escort program, which would give students a number to call to have someone walk with them at night.

Margaret Bookie, RHA parking representative, said other schools have escort programs.

"That is something Eastern doesn't have," Bookie said.

The Residence Hall Association/Student Senate will meet at 6 p.m. Tuesday in the Paris Room of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.



DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY COLIN MCAULIFFE

The parking committee will talk about finding more locations for parking spots Tuesday in its meeting. The group plans to have a possible student poll for other suggestions.

Voters:

More students expected to vote in presidential election

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Davidson expects there will be a greater number of students registering to vote for the presidential election in November than have registered for the primaries.

The committee's plan to get more students registered includes going door-to-door, visiting more classrooms and trying to make arrangements for MTV's Rock the Vote to come to Eastern.

This program is an attempt to get young people more aware of the presidential candidates and their stand on important issues.

So far, Sen. John Kerry is the front-runner and in recent polls he is favored to take Tuesday's primary in Wisconsin. Howard Dean, John Edwards, Al Sharpton and Dennis Kucinich are the other Democratic candidates remaining in the race.

Kerry bashes Bush while ignoring Democratic rivals

WAUSAU, Wis. (AP) — A confident John Kerry launched a full-throttle attack on President Bush's economic policies, mostly ignoring his Democratic rivals on the eve of the Wisconsin primary. Howard Dean's campaign shed another top manager and John Edwards vowed to press on no matter how he fares Tuesday.

Kerry, who has a commanding lead in the race to oppose Bush this fall, chided the president for taking time out Sunday to attend the Daytona 500, saying the country was bleeding jobs while he posed for a "photo opportunity." Bush had donned a racing jacket to officially open NASCAR's most prestigious event in front of some 180,000 fans.

"We don't need a president who just says, 'Gentlemen start your engines,'" Kerry said. "We need a president who says, 'America, let's start our economy and put people back to work.'"

Kerry for the most part has chosen in recent days to aim his Campaign 2004 rhetoric directly at Bush as he has lapped his competitors, winning all but the South Carolina and Oklahoma delegate-selection contests.

His broadside against Bush came as the president argued anew against any rollback in the tax cuts that Congress has passed at his behest, and on a day in which Dean divulged the departure of national campaign chairman Steve Grossman.

For his part Edwards declared "there are differences" with his Democratic rivals and said he was confident his campaign was gaining momentum. He said he would remain in the race well into March and the Super Tuesday round of electoral faceoffs.

Dean told reporters: "Let me remind you all that I have more delegates than everybody else in this race except John Kerry. So I think the campaign obituaries that some of you are writing are a little bit misplaced."

Kerry's latest criticism of Bush came during a town hall meeting at Northcentral Technical College, where he toured the school's machine tool lab and posed for press pictures with students who engraved an 40-pound aluminum plaque with "Wisconsin Backs Kerry in 2004."

Lasee Phillips, who is learning about the electrical and mechanical trades at the school, rose during the forum and told Kerry his support for the North American Free Trade Agreement was "throwing some red flags in my mind."

After working 22 years as an injection molder in the same factory, Philips lost her job last year and blames the trade agreement.

Kerry responded that the United State initially gained jobs under NAFTA, but blamed subsequent losses on the failure to enforce side agreements on labor and environmental standards.

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9Boy Scout unit

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15Soccer star Hamm

16Baseball Hall-of-Famer Combs

17Poolside wear

20Flat formation

21Harold Gray's Annie, for one

22Louse-to-be

23Mountain debris

25Gate pivots
- 27Bird of 29-Down

30Smart-mouthed

32Prefix with -asian

33A, B, C, D or E

35Marsh plant

39Giveaway: Var.

41Place for butts

43Final authority

44Copycat's words

46Auction ending?

47Race marker

49Be a buttin-sky

51Disco flasher

54Put a stop to
- 56Jackie's second

57Available, as a doctor

59Org. for Annika Sorenstam

63House wear

66Kosher

67Narc's grp.

68Place for rouge

69Idyllic places

70Map rtes.

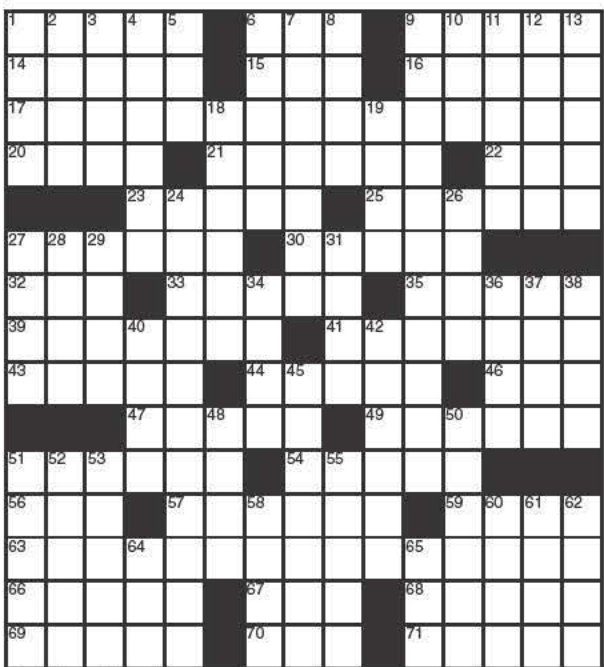
71Acts the stool pigeon

DOWN

- 1Radio letters
- 21996 Republican standard-bearer
- 3Elevator maker
- 4Meal
- 5Polar helper
- 6Campfire treat
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- 8Truck stop fare
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- 10"Awsome!"
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Puzzle by Kent Lorenzen

- 13Royal pains
- 18Country singer Morgan
- 19Contented sighs
- 24Ranch wear
- 26Russian's refusal
- 27Gridiron "zebras"
- 28Heavenly glow
- 29Mouse, to a 27-Across
- 31At the drop of _____
- 34Audition tape
- 36_____ Scott Decision
- 37Celt or Highlander
- 38Brontë's Jane
- 40Hockey great Phil, familiarly
- 42Mogadishu resident
- 45Placed in a box, say
- 48Late-night Jay
- 50Oracle site
- 51Fine fur
- 52In a tough spot
- 53Chain of hills
- 55Fitzgerald and others
- 58U.S.N. rank below Capt.
- 60Hammer's end
- 61Cyclist LeMond
- 62Questions
- 64_____ Tin Tin
- 65I.B.M.-compatibles

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

San Francisco gay marriages spark debate

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Hundreds of gay men and lesbians lined up outside City Hall in heavy rain Monday, hoping to join more than 1,700 other same-sex couples who had exchanged vows with the city's blessing before a court decides whether to halt the unprecedented wedding march.

Many couples camped out overnight so they could get marriage licenses in advance of a pair of court hearings scheduled for Tuesday, when two groups planned to ask a judge to block San Francisco from sanctioning any more same-sex unions.

"This is an opportunity we couldn't pass up," said David Miller of San Francisco as he and his partner, Guadalupe Jimenez, waited in a line that snaked from the county clerk's office and wound three blocks around the ornate building.

Since San Francisco officials began issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples last Thursday, hundreds of gays and lesbians have wed — many rushing to California from around the country to take advantage of special weekend and holiday hours offered.

While the weddings kept City Hall offices that would normally be closed in observance of President's Day buzzing, conservative activists promised a relentless legal challenge.

San Francisco Superior Court Judge James L. Warren had ordered attorneys for the city and for a conservative group challenging the marriages to file legal briefs by noon Monday. Last week the Arizona-based Alliance Defense Fund sued to block same-sex unions, and Warren scheduled a hearing Tuesday in the case. A second legal challenge, filed by a California group, also is scheduled for a hearing Tuesday.

STATE NEWS BRIEFS

Deadly nightclub stampede produces visible crackdown

CHICAGO (AP) — Bouncers now keep a close count of people they let beyond the velvet ropes at Chicago's nightclubs, and the lines outside are longer and more common than they were just one year ago.

Even at small neighborhood bars like Estelle's Cafe and Lounge, where lines were unheard of before the deadly stampede at the E2 nightclub across town, doormen like Al Myers now find themselves telling patrons they'll have to wait — the bar's already at capacity.

"What you hear people saying is, 'It's not even crowded in there,'" Myers said.

Crowding is exactly what the city has been trying to avoid since the E2 tragedy killed 21 people in the early hours of Feb. 17, 2003. Fire inspectors have dropped in on the city's clubs for more than 2,000 unannounced inspections — and temporarily shut down 16;

new rules require exits to be clearly marked; even 911 centers are better prepared to head off another disaster.

The E2 had been packed that morning when a fight broke out on the dance floor. A security guard trying to break it up released pepper spray, sparking a panic that sent hundreds of club-goers surging toward the already crowded stairwell leading to the street.

Twenty-one people died in the crush and 57 were injured, some trampled as the crowd pushed toward the exit. On Tuesday, the one-year anniversary, friends of the victims plan to hold a memorial outside the still-closed South Side club and read aloud the names of the dead.

The second-floor E2, then known as a magnet for celebrities and athletes, had a history of trouble with city regulators, who had been called repeatedly because

of disturbances. After the stampede, officials determined the overcrowded club had been operating in violation of a court order issued six months earlier barring the use of the second floor because of housing code violations.

Today, city procedures have changed to tighten control over crowding, and club-goers say they are paying more attention to their surroundings.

"I think about (E2) every night," Lupe Lopez said Friday while at the Funky Buddha Lounge, a nightclub with a maximum occupancy of 296 people. "When I go to a new place, I look for exits."

Fire department inspectors now go into clubs and bars across the city during peak hours each weekend. Using the maximum occupancy signs posted in each establishment as a guide, they check for overcrowding and other violations.

Blagojevich spending plan calls for job cuts

CHICAGO (AP) — Once again trying to fill a gaping hole in the state budget, Gov. Rod Blagojevich says he will follow last year's recipe of cutting jobs, ending tax breaks and streamlining services.

His spending plan includes ending more than \$300 million worth of business tax "loopholes" and reducing the number of state employees to save \$200 million. It also includes merging the state's small financial and regulatory agencies, he said Sunday.

Despite the prospect of a \$1.7 billion budget deficit, Blagojevich ruled out seeking a new tax on services, such as auto repairs or dry-cleaning, that are exempt from sales taxes.

Blagojevich also acknowledged the auction of an unused state-owned riverboat casino license will not happen during the current budget year as he had hoped. Now he is counting on getting \$350 million from the license in the next budget.

"We're not going to shortchange our

kids when it comes to how we spend money on education, health care, how we invest in public safety," he said. "We're going to ask those who have benefited the most from the system to lead in the shared sacrifice."

Business groups warned Blagojevich's tax proposals could harm the economy and cost jobs.

The Democratic governor will address state lawmakers Wednesday to lay out his proposals for filling the revenue shortfall in a \$53 billion budget.

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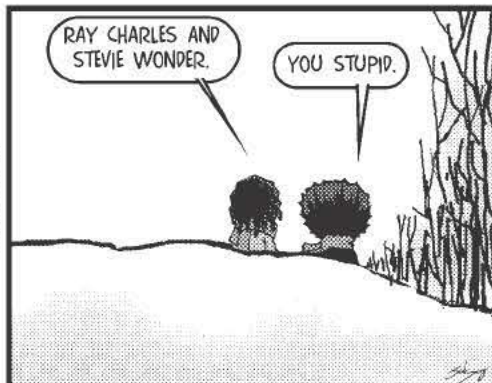
The Boosler Report

A review of stupid events by our news correspondent, Elayne Boosler.

Today's lead story: Women join the ranks of suicide bombers...



BOONDOCKS BY AARON MCGRUDER



Beating old team sweet for assistant

By John Hohenadel
SPORTS REPORTER

With 42.9 seconds left in the game and the Florida Gulf Coast Eagles up 12 points, Eastern alumnus and assistant Gulf Coast coach sat on the bench with a hand trying to cover the smile on his face.

"It feels good," Marc Polite said. "But it's kind of bitter sweet."

Eagle forward Leighton Bowie seemed to think Polite felt a little better than good.

"I saw him going into the locker room and he was just grinning," Bowie said. "He'll probably go out with his friends and celebrate this one."

Since the Eagles are not eligible for post season play this year, Polite tried to instill in his players minds this was as close to a post season game as they'll get. They came through with their first ever win over a division one program.

"Coach did say that," Bowie said. "He (Polite) said this needs to be our tournament and we have to end on a good note as opposed to a bad one."

"We have four Division I transfers and this game was a chance for them to come out and show they belong," Polite said.

Polite said coming in he knew his team wasn't expected to win, but he felt being a former Panther gave his Eagles a huge advantage.

"They're a great motion team," Polite said. "But I know all the nooks and crannies of that motion."

Polite said he knew the Panthers would be forced out of their motion offense if his Eagles went to a zone. And with 10 minutes left to play in the second half, the Eagles went to a 2-3 zone, and shut



Rick Samuels walks dejectedly out of Lantz Arena after Eastern's loss to Division II Florida Gulf Coast. Samuels coached FGCU's assistant coach Marc Polite when he played for the Panthers from 1997-2000.

the Panthers down.

"We had to disrupt their tempo and keep our guys from chasing through all of those screens," Polite said.

Polite said he knew head Panther coach Rick Samuels would try to mix up his offense and throw something other than their regular motion offense at the Eagles. But Polite said his guys just got down in their defensive stances and wouldn't let the Panthers score.

The Eagles wouldn't let the Panthers score, but the Panthers let Bowie score to the dismay of the few fans in attendance.

Bowie turned sneers and jeers from the crowd into dunks and boards on the court.

Bowie led his Eagles with 26 points and eight rebounds. He is averaging just over 19 points and seven rebounds a game but he'll do whatever his team needs him to do to get the win.

"My philosophy isn't strictly

scoring," Bowie said. "If I notice we're slacking in a certain aspect that night, I'll go do it. Whether it be rebounds, assists or just making a play, I'll go do it. If I'm not shooting well, I'll look for the open guy."

"Bowie is a great player and a top notch athlete from a top notch program at (Division I) College of Charleston," Polite said.

"This is a great win for our program," Bowie said. "It was a great effort to get our first Division I win."

Puzzled:

Shooting of Gomes, teammates bewilders coaching staff

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

The Panthers settled for more shots from behind the three point line than they were able to get from the free throw line. This was something Samuels had preached to his team about when the Panthers were able to beat Tennessee Martin and Southeast Missouri.

"We are a perimeter orientated team and that usually opens up the lane for us," junior guard Emanuel Dildy said. "But tonight we couldn't get into a rhythm from the outside and that meant it was more difficult for us to get shots inside."

Samuels was bewildered by the play of sophomore guard Josh Gomes who couldn't quite get on a roll against the Tigers. Gomes only ended up playing 21 minutes and finished with only six points. Many of his minutes were given to guys like Jason Wright and Cortez Forte, off the bench.

"It was encouraging when Josh (Gomes) went for 40 against Tennessee Martin, but then he has nights like tonight when it doesn't look like he can get a shot off," Samuels said. "His knees looked wobbly and it didn't look like he could finish around the rim."

The Panthers will take this loss into two more games this week, both of which are important for the team to get into the OVC tournament.

On Thursday they play Morehead State and then Saturday the Panthers take on Eastern Kentucky; both games will be at Lantz Arena.

Hockey:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

helping out the freshman knowing they'll be in my position in a couple of years."

Perry is the team president and Brian Blake is one of the vice presidents and with the help of other officers who take care of everything from organizing practice and game schedules to ordering jerseys. The team practices at the Recreation Center most of the week and only gets ice time once a week in Danville and also

travel weekends to play Friday and Saturday night games.

"The work of all the traveling was worth it when we won the championship," freshman Gavin Wilk said.

Perry and Brian Blake don't just take care of the off-ice operations they get the team fired up on ice as well.

"Brian helped motivate us late in the season because he had never gotten that far," Tom Blake said.

Last year Eastern finished with seven players and won only two games all season. It was a great win for Brian Blake

being able to see the program turn around before he left, Tom said.

Eastern started off the season a little rough, winning only four of their first 10 games but started to turn things around midway through the season. During split series against Missouri, the freshman started getting on the same page with the older players, Perry said.

"I knew these guys had knowledge of hockey," Perry said. "It came down to working as a team. Line one was producing all year and while we were in Missouri, lines two, three and four started

to."

While the Panthers will say goodbye to a pair of seniors, they have a conference championship to boast to any players interested in Eastern club hockey. Since recruiting for the club is done by students, mostly through contact with past teammates, Saturday's win could be a big boost for the program, Perry said.

"I'm really excited about making a name for the program," Tom Blake said. "I told my friends we won the championship and most of them didn't even know we had a hockey team."

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FOOTBALL

Ranked recruit treat for Panthers

By Matthew Stevens
SPORTS EDITOR

In what could be one of the biggest upsets on national signing day, Eastern landed a nationally-ranked high school prospect.

Norris Smith should be suiting up for spring practice in a month in attempt to make the depth chart for a Division I-A national championship contender, but he will be fighting for a starting role in Eastern's backfield.

"In the recruiting service we get, Norris was listed as a major D-I prospect which basically means BCS conferences," defensive coordinator Roc Bellantoni said. "This kind of kid is pretty rare for us to get."

The ironic part of Smith's recruiting process was that the Fort Lauderdale, Fla., native didn't fall because of attitude, injury or academics. Smith just simply fell on the wrong end of the numbers game in regards to timing.

The tailback, who led Ely High School to a district championship



Norris Smith

and had over 1,000 yards and 17 touchdowns in his senior season, had offers from Virginia Tech, Pittsburgh, Georgia Tech, Boston College, Ole Miss, N.C. State, Illinois, Wake Forest, Marshall, Mississippi State and San Diego State.

"He had lots of offers out there but I kept calling him, he visited the campus and loved it here," Bellantoni said. While Bellantoni took his second recruiting trip to the Sunshine State, he kept attempting to contact fellow coaches asking why Smith was still on the board.

"Pittsburgh assistant Charlie

"He had lot of offers out there but I kept calling him, he visited the campus and loved it here."

— Roc Bellantoni,
defensive coordinator

Partridge used to coach here and I would call him and ask, 'what's wrong with Norris?'" Bellantoni said. "He told me it's just a numbers game because he dragged his feet with his decision. It was nothing against the kid."

Bellantoni admired the honesty of Smith when he told Eastern he hadn't decided on a school yet.

"He told us he was trying to make the best decision possible and he meant it," Bellantoni said. "We had two kids verbally commit to us last year and then Rutgers swooped in and then they said we're going to Rutgers."

Until his senior year, Smith

backed up 2003 Miami recruit Tryone Moss and hopes to make a similar impact with the Panthers as an incoming freshman.

"We'd like to think he can come in and compete for a starting spot at tailback," Bellantoni said. "We've got Vincent Webb and Ademola Adeniji who are coming back but we will have competition at every position."

Ely High School head coach Steve Davis was disappointed that his star tailback wasn't being intensely pursued by I-A schools but kept reminding Bellantoni that Eastern had a shot to sign Smith.

"He couldn't understand it but kept saying that you guys still have a chance at him every time," Bellantoni said.

Bellantoni has stated repeatedly he really enjoys his Florida recruiting trips because of the amount of talent residing in Sunshine State.

"It really is a talent-filled area and that the hardest part about recruiting there because you have to narrow down your search to which good player will best fit our

program," Bellantoni said.

Bellantoni has given the usual speech to all of his Florida recruits and that includes the packing of a winter coat. He gave the same speech to Smith.

"I've told him that it gets cold, the campus is in the middle of nowhere and we're I-AA," Bellantoni said. "He is just really pumped about being at Eastern."

Being the defensive coordinator, Bellantoni has said he hands over offensive talent to the other members of the coaching staff along with Panthers head coach Bob Spoo.

"They have to give the thumbs up or thumbs down after I turn over everything about the kid," Bellantoni said.

Eastern's coaching staff is hopeful with the last two recruiting classes it has inked, it is in the mindset of reloading instead of rebuilding.

"We'd like to think this is true here and it's great to get five or six difference makers every year," Bellantoni said.

Gilbert: Runners, swimmers ponies to bet on for championship

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

struggling at times this season the Panthers will still head to Indianapolis as the defending champions.

Switching gears, the track and field squads will get their chance to shine in two

weeks when they host the OVC Indoor Championships at Lantz Fieldhouse. While the indoor season always seems to take a back seat to the outdoor competition, don't tell that to Jacob Stout and Justin Smith.

Both sophomores were named OVC Athletes of the Week for their performance at Indiana on Feb. 10 Stout won the mile run against competition from all over, including athletes from Big Ten schools, and Smith set a new OVC season-best in the triple jump with a distance of 46'01.25."

The men have a nice mix of talent spread throughout the entire roster and appear on

the verge of their seventh title in eight years.


The men may be the stronger team but Eastern's women are certainly the flashier team. There is one reason why and her name is Alicia Harris. One of the top three athletes walking this campus today, Harris has destroyed the old Eastern school records in the sprint events this year. The junior has already broken three indoor marks this season, but more important to Harris is winning her first OVC Indoor title.

Beyond Harris in the sprints, the Panthers may be a little thin, but the team

adds depth in the distance with Angie Simone and Nicole Flounders in the mile and Ronesha Franklin anchoring the specialty events. The competition will be tough with Southeast Missouri and Austin Peay returning solid crews, but the home cooking should do wonders for the Panthers.

If you're disappointed with the seasons turned in by the attention grabbing basketball squads, the performances about to be turned in by four unheralded teams over the next two weeks should make everyone proud to be a Panther.


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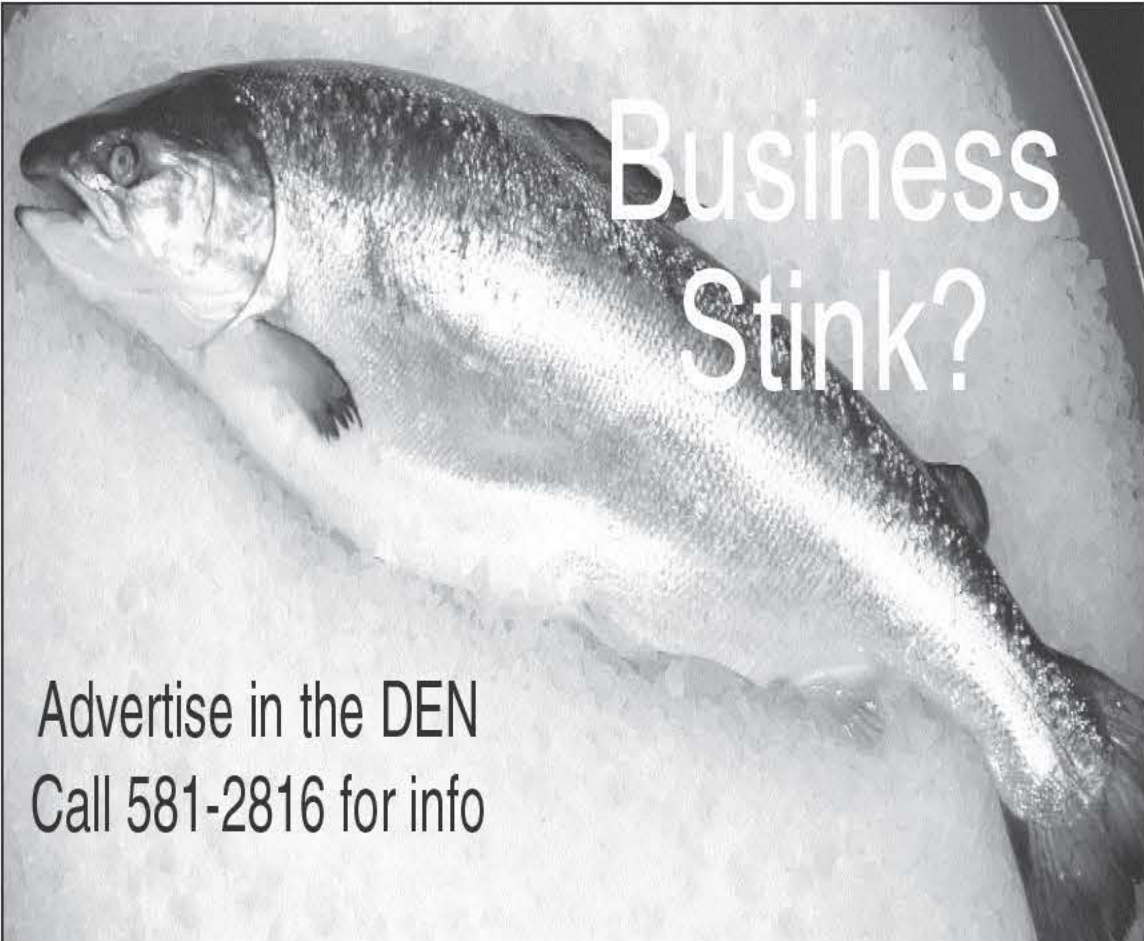
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SPORTS

Panther sports calendar

WEDNESDAY	Wrestling vs. SIU-Edwardsville	7 p.m.	Lantz
THURSDAY	W Basketball vs. Morehead St.	5:15 p.m.	Lantz
	M Basketball vs. Morehead St.	7:35 p.m.	Lantz
	Swimming at MW Classic	All Day	Indianapolis, IN



TEERING OFF

Mike Gilbert
ASSOCIATE SPORTS
EDITOR

Eastern is going title hunting

With Eastern, a school hungry for championships, the next two weeks will be as important as any for the Panther athletic program. Forget about the Ohio Valley Conference men's and women's basketball tournament, the best chance Eastern has to hoist a trophy will come from the swimming and track programs.

The swimmers will get the opportunity first, as Ray Padovan and co. will travel to Indianapolis for the Midwest Classic Championships beginning this Thursday. The Panthers have been waiting for this meet all season long and both squads appear to be peaking at the right time.

The men will head to IUPUI-Natatorium as one of the favorites after a regular season, which saw the Panthers go 9-2 and finish the year with an eight-meet winning streak. While Padovan said wins and losses aren't important, it's the swimmers' times which truly matter, one can't overlook the beating Eastern put on Midwest Classic opponents Butler (117-86), IUPUI (178-118) and Valparaiso (156-69).

After a disappointing season last year, when the Panthers went 6-4-1 and finished a distant fourth at the "Classics," revenge will certainly be on the minds of the Eastern swimmers. Not to mention, senior Rich Wahlgren would love to win a championship in his last meet in the blue and white. Wahlgren has been outstanding all year with 21 individual wins, and the Palos Heights native proved he is a big meet swimmer when he won two races on senior day against Saint Louis.

If Wahlgren needs any help, you can bet his roommate, Tom Watson, will come to the rescue. Watson has been dominating in the distance events and recently capped off a 19-win season with victories in the 500 and 1000-free against the Billikens.

Can the Panthers make it a sweep with the men on the brink of their second Midwest Classic victory in three years, and the women repeating as champions? While the women won't be the pick of many to win, place or show, it's tough to overlook what Eastern has accomplished over the last two months.

After a 1-5 start, the Panthers turned things around to finish the year 5-6 overall. Padovan saw the times drop for many swimmers toward the end of the year and equally important was the performance of sophomore Jenny Curry against Saint Louis.

Stuck in a sophomore slump, Curry broke out in a big way with a win in the 100-free and a second-place finish in the 200-free. Curry also took part in the winning 400-free relay swimming the second leg. When Curry was at her best last year, Eastern was tough to beat and it was proved when the Panthers won the "Classics" in 2003. Despite

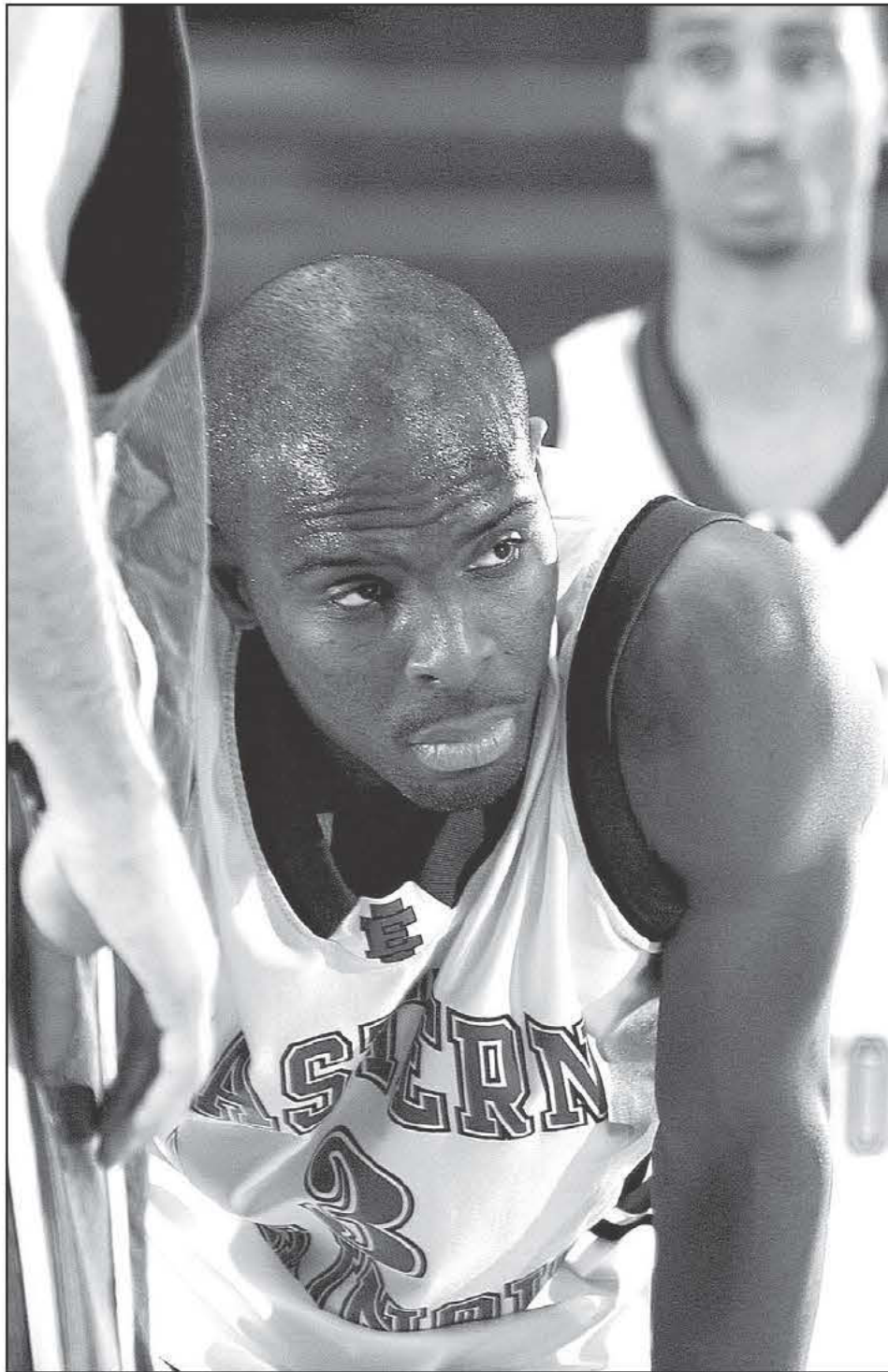
SEE GILBERT ♦ Page 11

MEN'S BASKETBALL

FLORIDA GULF COAST 81, EASTERN 72

'PUZZLED'

Panthers lose to Division II Eagles



DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY STEPHEN HAAS

Junior guard Emanuel Dildy haunches over and looks toward Eastern's bench moments before the end of Eastern's 81-72 loss to Florida Gulf Coast University. Dildy led the Panthers with 18 points four assists.

By Aaron Seidlitz
SPORTS REPORTER

With a little over three minutes remaining in the game, Florida Gulf Coast leading scorer Leighton Bowie finished a dunk and blew a kiss to a few select Panther fans at Lantz Arena.

He might as well have been blowing that kiss to the Panthers too because at that point, the Eagles had stretched their lead to 10 points and the game, in all reality, was over after Bowie's dunk.

As the final three minutes played out and the Panthers' nightmares became a reality, Florida Gulf Coast, a Division II team, had put a cap on their first victory over a Division I team in the history of the team's basketball program.

But for the Panthers, bigger worries were in order as the team continues to battle for the final spot in the Ohio Valley Conference. But against the Eagles, the Panthers couldn't beat a Division II team, confusing their coach in the process.

More inside

♦ At least one alumnus liked the game
Page 10

"It's a puzzle. There isn't any other way to explain this right now," Eastern coach Rick Samuels said. "The puzzle is that we look good one night against SEMO and hardly made any mistakes, but tonight we didn't execute at all."

While the Eagles are a Division II team, they do hold four players on their roster who transferred in from Division I schools.

The most notable of which was Bowie, who managed to lead his team to victory while carrying on numerous conversations with Panther fans on the sideline.

"That is the first time I talked that much, but I knew one of the kids and so we just kept going, and going and going," Bowie said. "But all that did was motivate me to play as well as I could."

Samuels felt that Bowie had the biggest impact on the game for the Eagles, but thought that neither he nor his team looked over the talented roster of the Eagles.

"When they have four guys who transferred in from Division I schools, you know they are talented," Samuels said. "Bowie came in from a good basketball school in the College of Charleston, so we knew he was a talented player for them."

Junior forward Andy Gobczynski dealt with Bowie for the majority of the night and felt that Bowie's quickness and ability was impressive.

"We knew coming in that he relied on his quickness and was effective playing that way," Gobczynski said. "He used his feet well tonight. He had a good spin move, and we tried to take that away from him but he found other ways to score tonight."

Besides Bowie, the rest of the Eagles were able to execute their offense the way Eastern felt they could have. The Eagles finished with eight more free throw attempts, even though more trips were earned to the charity strip Florida Gulf Coast as Eastern tried to play catch-up.

SEE PUZZLED ♦ Page 10

Hockey club takes Mid-American title

By Dan Renick
STAFF WRITER

The Eastern hockey club's hard work paid off Saturday when it won its division playoffs.

The Panthers (13-7-4) beat Northwestern 6-3 in the semifinals on Friday to reach the championship of the Mid-America Collegiate Hockey Association silver division. In the finals, Eastern beat Iowa in overtime when junior forward Wayne Perry's goal broke the 3-3 tie.

This was the first conference championship for Eastern's hockey club, which is an alternatively funded, student-run organization. The players elect officers from among the roster and schedule, practices and games with the help of a volunteer coach, Ron Zachara. Zachara is in his third season as

head coach and has a young group of players. The Panthers have only five upperclassmen and were led in points by freshman forward Dan Sechrist, who had 20 goals and 13 assists.

"Coming to Eastern I knew where I stood," Sechrist said. "I knew I'd be out there playing."

Another freshman, Tom Blake, finished third in points, scoring 12 goals and dishing out 17 assists.

"The core of this team is the freshman," Perry said. "I think it's a sign of the great years to come."

And while the Panthers looked to the young guys for points, they looked for leadership in veteran captains Perry and Tom's older brother, senior Brian Blake.

"I've always been in a leadership role on teams," Perry said. "I like

SEE HOCKEY ♦ Page 10



DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY HILLARY SETTLE

Members of Eastern's club hockey team practice last year at the David S. Palmer Arena in Danville.