Eastern Illinois University The Keep

April 2005

4-15-2005

Daily Eastern News: April 15, 2005

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EASTERNIE DAILY VOLUME 89, ISSUE 137

APRIL 15

Eastern Illinois University, Charleston



STEPHEN HAAS/THE DAILY EASTERN NEW

Amanda Meyers, freshman early childhood education major, donates money to the lemonade stand manned by Johanna Swanson, sophemore family and consumer sciences major, and Kate Henderson, a junior journalism major, Thursday afternoon at the intersection of Ninth Street and Roosevelt Ave. The lemonade stand was raising money for pediatric cancer.

A new twist on traditions

Lemonade fund raiser hits home for many students on Thursday

BY KATIE RAGONA STAFF WRITER

It was a typically sunny day for a lemonade stand on Thursday, but the stands that were found across campus were anything but typical.

The stands were set up on long, brown tables that were brightly decorated and held large round jugs of lemonade. There was a purple sign advertising the price and the cause along with pink and yellow balloons giving the table something extra.

It was different from a typical lemonade stand because it was not

children running the stands, but college students. There was also a bigger cause for the stands, which was pediatric cancer.

Many students volunteered their time to sell lemonade to help support the organization, Alex's Lemonade Stand. Alex's Stand was started by a young girl, Alexandra Scott, who would raise money to help her local hospital. Scott died this past August.

Jennifer Carlisle, sophomore business management major, was out at the stand for four hours to support the cause.

Carlisle said she was proud of her

"I'm really proud of how students on campus are donating their money and not asking for change."

JENNIFER CARLISLE,
SOPHOMORE BUSINESS MAJOR

fellow classmates and their efforts.

"I'm really proud of how students on campus are donating their money and not asking for change," Carlisle

The students were under the guidance of both Jennifer Dunavan,

SEE TWIST PAGE 9

Soccer for a cause

Delta Sigma Phi fraternity hosts soccer tournament in honor of former member

BY SABRINA MADRIGAL STAFF WRITER

For the past two years, the Delta Psi chapter of the Delta Sigma Phi fraternity has invited sororities on campus to participate in their philanthropic soccer tournament, Carnation Cup, to raise money for the Ryan Struebing scholarship fund.

"(Carnation Cup has) always had a pretty positive vibe," said Caleb Beiermann, a member of Delta Sigma Phi.

The winner of last year's cup was the Alpha Phi sorority.

"It's one of our favorite philanthropies of the whole year, and the whole house gets really into it because we have a lot of good soccer players," said Alpha Phi President Ali Stephans.

The inspiration for Carnation Cup, Ryan Struebing, was a former Delta Sig president and a speech communications and disorders major who graduated in May of 2002.

Struebing died unexpectedly of a viral infection that spread to his heart in the fall of 2003.

He was an active member of both the Greek community as well as Eastern's community, said Bob Dudolski, director of Greek life, who was able to get to know Struebing

Struebing became a member of Delta Sigma Phi in the fall of 1996 and held several important positions in the fraternity including president in 1998 and 1999. Struebing was named Greek Week King in 1999, and was a member of both the Homecoming and Greek Week Steering committees.

"Ryan was a really popular student. He had a great sense of humor and a positive attitude that was very contagious," Dudolski said. "He was so involved with campus that he was able to get others involved too."

Along with being president of his fraternity, he was also the vice president of the Interfraternity Council, which is the governing party for the nine fraternities at Eastern. Aside from his Greek involvement, Struebing was also an orientation leader and later on became an associate resident director as a graduate student.

Since Struebing's passing, the men of his former fraternity have held Carnation Cup to raise money in his honor. They have been able to raise \$20,000, which was used to dedicate a room to Struebing in the new speech communications disorders wing of the Student Services building, Dudolski said.

Dudolski said that after reaching their goal, they plan on raising another \$5,000 to start a scholarship fund.

"Due to the fact that Struebing was such an active student on campus, qualifications for the scholarship will be set to fit someone who is able to exemplify some of the same qualities Struebing possessed," Dudolski said.

Textbook rental asks for a new location on Edgar Drive

BY NICOLE MILSTEAD
STUDENT GOVERNMENT REPORTER

Textbook Rental Services has proposed an alternative location for its relocation.

Carol Miller, deputy director of Textbook Rental Services, proposed to the Student Senate that the building's new location be on Edgar Drive, not the proposed Ninth Street, to avoid problems.

The Ninth Street location will only allow the building to be the same size as the current location, Miller said. The available 12,000 square feet at Ninth Street is not a large enough area

for Textbook Rental to run at optimum level, she added.

The new building needs to be at least 15,000 square feet and have a foyer to house students in inclement weather, Miller said. If the building is placed on Ninth Street, it will have to be more than one level, which will present difficulties for the handicapped.

Though both locations are in the same proximity to residents, the Edgar Drive location will allow for parking that the Ninth Street location will not, and most students drive to pick up their books, Miller

The new location would also provide a space for students to scan and check out books when the technology becomes available.

The larger location, in the end, will cost less because of the demolition of the Ninth Street location and parking lot construction, Miller said.

The current parking lot will have to be reinforced to allow trucks to unload new books at the Ninth Street location. The Edger Drive location will also provide room for a muchneeded loading dock, which will not fit at Ninth Street, Miller said.

"I always drive to get my books,

"I always drive to get my books, and it would be a lot better if there were parking there. Scanning your books yourself and not waiting in line is also an idea I like a lot."

AUBREY GEDIS, SOPHOMORE HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT MAJOR

and it would be a lot better if there were parking there," said Aubrey Gedis, sophomore hospitality management major. "Scanning your books yourself and not waiting in line is also an idea I like a lot."

Edgar Drive will also provide room for restrooms and better accessibility

for the handicapped, Miller said.

The current campus master plan has the new Textbook Rental Services location on Ninth Street.

Textbook Rental Services needs support for the new location before it can start searching for funding, Miller said FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 2005

FIVE-DAY OUTLOOK

TODAY

69

43 Partly cloudy SATURDAY

72

51 Partly cloudy SUNDAY

74

Partly cloudy

73 55 Partly cloudy

MONDAY

TUESDAY 74

56 Partly cloudy

CAMPUS CALENDER

All day Cleaning Up for Charity at various locations across campus. The Black Student Union is collecting toiletries for the Coalition of People in Need.

1 to 3 p.m. SPSS Basics in CATS Training Lab, McAfee Gym Room 1214.

This workshop is intended for individuals wanting to learn how to use the basic features of SPSS.

5 p.m. and 8 p.m. Showing of "Hotel Rwanda" in Buzzard Hall Auditorium. Sponsored by University Board and Eastern's Single Parent Association. Discussion will follow the 5 p.m. showing along with free refreshments.

POLICE BLOTTER

April 7 Jonathon Daniel Stripens, 18, was arrested at 1:27 a.m. near Stevenson Hall on the charges of aggravated battery-government employee, obstruction of justice, consumption of alcohol by a minor, resisting and obstructing a peace officer, felony escape and possessing of an ID of another.

April 7 There was a beer bottle thrown through a window of the Heat Plant on Seventh Street.

April 8 A cell phone was left unattended and then stolen from the lobby of Taylor Hall.

April 11 The windshield of a 1993 Toyota was cracked while it was parked in the S lot of campus.



Telemarketers target residence hall students

NORMAL—The sound of a ringing alarm going off in the morning is not the most pleasant sound for an Illinois State University student to wake up to, but the sound of a ringing phone with a telemarketer on the other end may be more painful.

Recently, waves of telemarketing calls have been making their way through the residence halls on campus.

"The university does not publish lists nor sell lists to any telemarketing companies or any other marketing company," Maureen Blair, director of University Housing Services, said.

"Telemarketers can get their hands on numbers from the printed phone book or the University Web site," Blair added. "Anyone can call the Registrar's Office and ask for unlisted phone numbers.

"We have not had this problem in the past, that I know of, and I have not received any complaints from my faculty or from anyone in the Association of Residence Halls," Blair said.

SINGIN' PRAISES



JOSH REELEY/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Brittney Santoyo (left to right), sophomore elementary education major, Rachel Elam, sophomore history major, and Chris Agans, junior communications studies major, members of the All Campus Praise Team sing "You are God Alone" while warming up for their performance Thursday night in Buzzard Hall.

WTF?

Man to defend cow chip throwing title

BEAVER, Okla. (AP)—Fire Chief James Pratt returns Saturday to defend his title as champion of the World Champion Cow Chip Throwing Contest. People from across the country and from some foreign countries will be on hand for the 36th annual competition.

About 150 people usually compete in the women's, men's, VIP and team competitions. Tossing of the chips - officially recognized as "a piece of dried bovine dung" - starts at 1:30 p.m.

Contestants will choose from about 230 cow chips which are "grown locally," said Gwen Schlehofer, secretary of the Beaver County Chamber of Commerce.

Each contestant gets two throws, with the longest distance winning.

Pratt, who also is the town foreman, says he doesn't practice, but does take care selecting his chips. He throws with an overhand, baseball-like motion.

"I've seen people throw like a discus and under their leg," he said. "They've tried everything."

Pratt looks for chips that are about 6 inches in diameter and about an inch thick. If the chip is too thin, it breaks in the air.

The record for the contest is 185 feet. Pratt's best is 177 feet, he said.

PEOPLE

Britney Spears' reality show debuts May 17

NEW YORK (AP) - With Britney Spears and her husband, Kevin Federline, making headlines with the news that she's pregnant, UPN has announced a May 17 premiere for the couple's reality show.

The premiere will be a special one-hour episode (9 p.m. ET), UPN announced Wednesday. The series, not yet titled, will follow their courtship, engagement and wedding through private home videos, mostly shot by the couple with their own camera.

UPN said it is shooting new footage and commentary with Spears and Federline, who were married in September. Spears' pregnancy was announced on her Web site Tuesday.

"As we all know, Britney and Kevin's life together has been played out in front of the public through Internet speculation, the gossip columnists and entertainment magazines," Dawn Ostroff, president of UPN, said in a statement earlier this week. "But now, for the first time, their millions of fans will get to see and hear the couple's real story ... as told directly by them."

The show will lead into Jenny McCarthy's comedy, "The Bad Girl's Guide," which premieres May 24 (9:30 p.m. ET).

ONLINE POLL

Will the new city council extend bar hours?

A) Yes. A change in member com position will pro vide an opportu nity for a change in overall opinion.

B) No way. It will never happen.

C) Maybe. It depends on whether or not students get their after hours behav ior cleaned up. 16%

D) Unsure. We have to see if the new council real ly cares about what students want. 17%

VOTE @ THEDAILY EASTERN NEWS.COM

COUNTING

21

Days until Cinco de Mayo

WORD Du Jour

labefaction

 a shaking or weakening
 overthrow or downfall

EASTERN NEWS

The Daily Eastern News is produced by the students of Eastern Illinois University. It is published daily Monday through Friday, in Charleston, Ill., during fall and spring semesters and twice weekly during the summer term except during school vacations or examinations. Subscription price: \$50 per semester, \$30 for summer, \$95 all year. The Daily Eastern News is a member of The Associated Press, which is entitled to exclusive use of all articles appearing in this paper.



HAVE A SUGGESTION?

If you have any suggestions or ideas for articles you would like to see in *The Daily Eastern News*, feel free to contact us at 581-2812 or by e-mail mmwilliams1220@aol.com.

FIND A MISTAKE?

Let us know if you find a factual error in *The News* so we can provide the correct information to other readers. Contact the editor at 581-2812 or mmwilliams1220@aol.com.

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PERIODICAL POSTAGE PA	ID AT:
Charleston II 61920	

PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID AT:
Charleston, IL 61920
ISSN 0894-1599
PRINTED BY:
Eastern Illinois University
Charleston, IL 61920
ATTENTION POSTMASTER:
Send address changes to
The Daily Eastern News
Buzzard Hall, Eastern Illinois University
Charleston, IL 61920

Thrift store run by students

Eastern students run a community thrift store, donate profits to charities

BY CATHY BAYE STAFF WRITER

The Community Thrift Store isn't a typical thrift store.

Used clothing, furniture and household goods can be found at low costs, but the store isn't run to make money. And even more interestingly, the store is run predominantly by Eastern students.

The Furry family has owned the store since March 11, and the store is mostly run by owner Becky Furry's sons.

Brandon and Brent Furry will completely take over the store in May when their parents open another business in Mattoon.

"The store has a little bit of everything," said Brandon Furry, freshman hospitality major. He has a minor in business, and his twin brother, Brent, is majoring in business.

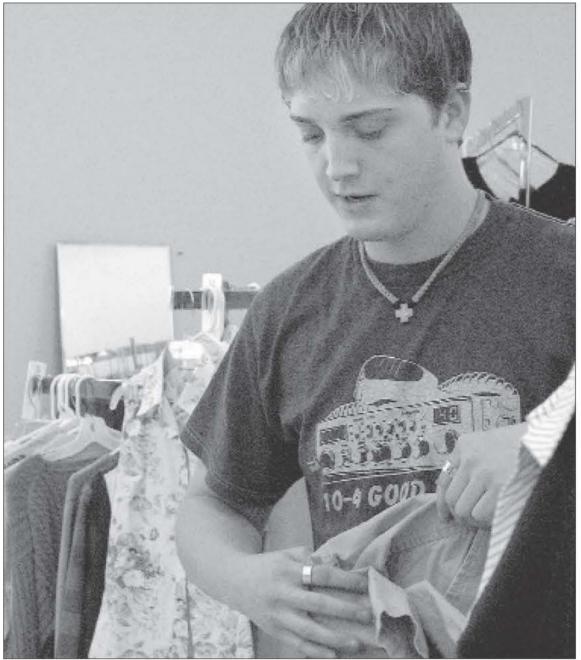
Their parents own four other businesses so their sons have been around business all their lives.

Brent and Brandon Furry take turns working when the other has class, but it's hard to balance school and running a business, Brandon Furry said.

The store is a not-for-profit shop and works on donations, said Becky Furry. Instead of keeping money made by the business, profits are donated to various local places like the Salisbury Church and its student ministries, the Crisis Pregnancy Center and the pediatrics center at Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center.

Furry said profits are also sent to the Cancer Center. The center needs DVDs and personal DVD players to help entertain patients while going through chemotherapy treatment.

Some of the items donated to the store are sent directly to people who need them. Project Hope and the Department of Human Services are a couple places that receive donations at



MICHELLE ARNOLD/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Brandon Furry, freshman hospitality major, wraps up a shirt for a customer at the family-owned Community Thritt Store Wednesday afternoon.

no cost, Furry said.

The store also saves items that are donated but can't be sold, such as towels, for the local humane society. Furry said she and her sons are animal lovers.

When students leave for college, sometimes they just throw things like clothing and microwaves away, but The

Community Thrift Store accepts those kinds of things, and it can be arranged to have them picked up, Furry said.

"We have all sorts of T-shirts with fun things on them; we sell those like crazy." Furry said.

Furry is a native of Charleston and started volunteering at this store when it began about a year ago when pastors of her church ran it.

They plan on sticking with the business for a while, working as business

The Community Thrift Store is located at 655 Castle Drive, one mile west of Dairy Queen.

Camping never was so close

BY KRISTIN HITTNER STAFF WRITER

A green sign with the words Fox Ridge State Park points straight ahead to the almost hidden entrance. Eight miles outside of Charleston rests an area where people go to camp, hike and enjoy the warm weather.

Anyone 18 years of age or older can rent one of the 43 campsites, provided they bring their own tent or trailer, pay \$15 per night and don't bring alcoholic beverages, said Jodi McKinney, office coordinator.

Only 12 campsites can be reserved and the remaining campsites are on a first-come, first-serve basis, she said.

There are also family cabins with electricity, bunks for six people, tables, chairs and a deck for \$40 a night, McKinney said.

Fox Ridge State Park also offers shower buildings with toilets, she said.

Designated picnic areas provide seating, tables and grills, McKinney said.

Playground equipment, baseball diamonds, sand volleyball courts and shelters for group gatherings encourage more outdoor activities, she said.

Collecting money and litter are a few of the jobs required of the campground host, McKinney said. The campground host starts this coming weekend and leave the campground in October, she said.

In 1942, the state purchased 2,078 acres from the federal government to create Fox Ridge State Park, McKinney said.

Other popular camping sites are Walnut Point in Oakland and several parks surrounding Lake Shelbyville, Jones said.

If you would like further information about the activities or reservations at Fox Ridge State Park you can call the office at 345-6416 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.











LADIES: GET YOUR SUMMER SUPPLY NOW!

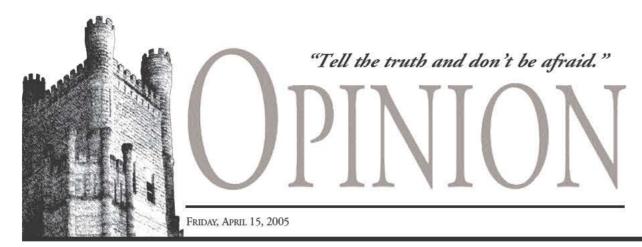
contraceptives at the Health Service by May 13th.

PLEASE ORDER EARLY TO BEAT THE RUSH!

Women who purchase contraceptives from Eastern's Health Service Pharmacy need to place orders for summer supplies. Students not enrolled

in Summer Session classes need to purchase





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mmwilliams1220@aol.com

COLUMN

A lasting effect in and out of class



APRIL MCLAREN

SENIOR, JOURNALISM MAJOR

McLaren is campus editor for The Daily Eastern I went into work over a week ago to see a good friend of mine red in the face, tears streaming. I was initially shocked to see the devastation in her eyes and was immediately concerned.

"Marty Scott died," she whimpered.

Marty, Eastern English professor, who died March 31, was not only my friend's professor, but he was her friend.

My friend was in his creative writing, non-fiction class and always told me about the meetings she would have with him and how he encouraged the use of swear words because it added "color" to a writer's personality.

When she talked about him I could tell she appreciated his work and his teachings further than any other professor. She respected him and he motivated her to be a better writer. Because of this, I knew he not only touched her life, but many others.

Jealousy soon overwhelmed me, and I wished I could have known him.

On April 7, I was told at the last minute that the services needed to be covered. The last thing I wanted to do was spring this sensitive subject on one of my writers. Not only that, but I was a bit curious and interested in Marty's life.

When I walked into Adam's Funeral Home, I was overwhelmed with the turn out. The chapel was packed with dozens more standing in and out of the chapel. As morbid as it sounds, I initially caught myself thinking, "I wonder if I will have this many people at my funeral."

"Even though I never had Marty as a professor, it still affected me in a way I did not expect. When I heard his colleagues, students and family members speak, I felt like I lost the same friend." Even though I never had Marty as a professor, it still affected me in a way I did not expect. When I heard his colleagues, students and family members speak, I felt like I lost the same friend.

Laughing is not usually a common element in a funeral home, but it was that night in Marty's remembrance. I could tell he made people laugh and he enjoyed life. For that reason, people who spoke about Marty celebrated the life he had and remembered the smiles he gave to others.

Not only did his friends remember his life, but they poked

fun at him in a way Marty would have laughed at.

They talked about his use of the "f" word, the middle finger, his musical and writing talents and the fun he had at local establishments such as Friends & Co.

A student said she did not talk to Marty on a regular basis, but she would leave him a few notes here and there. Because of Marty, she realized she does not have to have a conversation with someone to communicate with him or her.

As a result, she wrote Marty one final note and read it for everyone to hear.

"You left too soon...you left before I could hug you and tell you I'll miss you," she said. "I'll be glad to have known you."

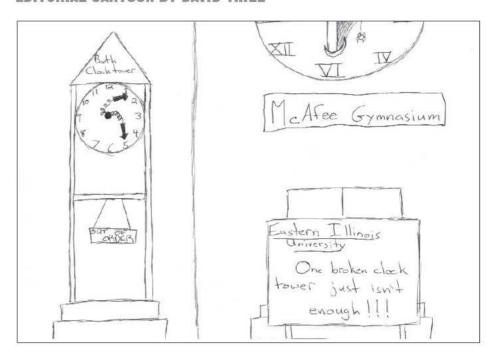
When I walked out of the services with my roommate, who was a student of Marty's, and her boyfriend, I realized I missed out on an amazing man. This man, whom I never even knew, touched my life because of the words of others.

I felt like I understood him on a writer's level and wish I could have understood him on a personal level in his classroom.

Regardless, I understand he was a man of generosity and dedication. And I think I speak for a number of people when I say this:

So long Marty, you will be missed.

EDITORIAL CARTOON BY DAVID THILL



EDITORIAL

Higher standards beneficial

At issue

Gov. Rod

Blagojevich's

plan to have

higher standards

for high school students.

Our stance

standards will

Increased

lead to an

increase in

high school

level.

learning at the

effort and

Gov. Rod Blagojevich's most recent plan, to increase high school standards, is an excellent idea that will benefit all future students.

It would require students to complete at least two years of math, two years of writing-intensive courses and an English course in every year of high school.

This measure will help students going on to college and those who wish not to. Those who don't continue their education would have more knowledge in the core subjects, which will help them in life.

Those who do go on to college will be better prepared. Eastern President Lou Hencken said unfortunately some students aren't as prepared as they could be because they don't take the classes they need.

To make up for this, Eastern offers remedial courses in math and other subjects. These classes do not count toward graduation and still cost students money.

This proposed standards adjustment shouldn't be seen as a deterrent for students who struggle in school, but as encouragement to set expectations higher and get a better effort.

By making these stiffer requirements, high school students are more likely to be better prepared to go to college.

Therefore, students will be able to start working for a degree from the get-go, instead of having to take remedial classes.

Unfortunately, many high schools-particularly the suburban schools in the North- have many classes that students simply don't need.

While learning arts is an important aspect of lives, too many students can take a full year of graphic arts, jewlery and other such classes that while beneficial, aren't going to help anybody study for a test or

type a research paper in college.

The increased standards would help the overall education of the state and the General Assembly should follow Blagojevich's proposal.

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

YOUR TURN: LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS IS WHAT MAKES A UNIVERSITY

An institution of education is the people who represent it, extract knowledge from it and believe in its mission.

Students and alumni will be loyal to an institution because of valued relationships with people employed at the institution, not because of connections to buildings, departments, or degrees hanging on a wall.

When I saw pictures of Blair Hall after the fire, I was saddened by the loss. However, that emotion could not be compared to my feelings following the retirement and loss of one of my professors or coaches.

It is not Coleman Hall or Lantz Gymnasium that elicit my loyalty, but history professors like Dr. Hockman or coaches like Rick Samuels.

Due to graduation of students and the retirement and mobility of faculty and staff, people who represent and make up the institution come and go. But, the institution remains the people, both past and present, who represent it. Loyalty to and from those people who make up the institution is earned through unquantifiable, personal relationships - unlike wins and losses. A decision was made to not retain one of the people that represented our institution for a quarter of a century. Coach Samuels has earned the respect and loyalty of this institution.

I agree that the new coach deserves a chance to earn the loyalty of the institution. It is the administrator's responsibility to make sure that he receives the respect he deserves.

I just wish the respect the editorial board is calling for would have been extended to someone who, in my opinion, has already earned it.

> ERIC FRANKFORD FORMER EIU BASKETBALL PLAYER

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: The Daily Eastern News accepts letters to the editor addressing local, state, national and international issues. They should be **less than 250 words** and include the authors' name, telephone number and address. Students should indicate their year in school and major. Faculty, administration and staff should indicate

their position and department. Letters whose authors cannot be verified will not be printed. We reserve the right to edit letters for length. Letters can be sent to *The Daily Eastern News* at **1811 Buzzard Hall**, Charleston IL 61920; faxed to 217-581-2923; or e-mailed to **mmwilliams1220@aol.com**.

Student group lobbies the legislature



NICOLE MILSTEAD/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Rep. Chapin Rose (left) of Mahomet speaks to Carolyn Bock, Adam Howell, and Kent Ohms of Eastern's Student Astion Team at the State Capitol Building in Springfield Wednesday afternoon. Rose was speaking to them about Pension Tax Bill 750.

BY NICOLE MILSTEAD
STUDENT GOVERNMENT REPORTER

The Student Action Team stormed the Capitol and made progress with legislators despite enormous crowds. The Student Action Team and eight faculty members traveled to the state Capitol in Springfield Wednesday to lobby for higher education funding.

"A lot of the legislators show support for aspects of higher education,"

said Adam Howell, Student Action Team chair. "An increase of funds is very important in the future because it is starting to limit accessibility to our public universities."

President Lou Hencken; Blair Lord, provost and vice president for academic affairs; and Jill Nilsen, vice president for external relations, spent the day sharing the "good news" of Eastern to legislators while meeting with officials from other Illinois universities.

"When money is tight it is especially important to meet with legislators and keep meeting with legislators because there are so many people wanting funding," Hencken said. "In the fall, I plan to invite legislators who are not from our area to come to campus to see Eastern first hand."

The team grouped up with members of the faculty and staff to speak with legislators and hand out information about Eastern. The groups met with approximately a dozen representatives and senators to discuss the 1.6 percent higher-education funding raise that is currently on the agenda.

Rep. Lou Lang spoke with Kent Ohms and Lindsey Rosales, Student Action Team members on the budget increase.

"We have some serious budget problems and the governor is trying to fix these problems by cutting higher education and this is not the place for it," Lang said.

The team also passed out literature that talks about Capitol money for building, ethic laws, a current bill on naming rights and thanks to them for their past efforts.

"The students did a wonderful job today," Hencken said. "I am so impressed with their commitment and willingness to take time out of their schedules to come and lobby."

Time for payback: In-class evaluations here again

Students worry their opinions don't get taken seriously

By Anthony Krajefska Staff Writer

Teacher evaluations are soon approaching, but some students believe the evaluations are irrele-

"I don't think the opinions are heard," said Amy Munson, sophomore communication major.

However, evaluating correctly is extremely important, said James Tidwell, chair of the journalism department.

These evaluations do help determine promotions for faculty members, said Richard Wandling, chair of the political science department.

"The written comments are more informative than just the numbers."

ANDREW METHVEN, CHAIR OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

"Informal complaints have no impact," Tidwell said.

A student who goes to the chair of the department to complain will not be considered, Tidwell said.

Professors are evaluated in three cat-

egories: teaching, service, research and creativity. Each department places different levels of importance on each category, but for the biological sciences department, teaching is the most important category, said Andrew Methyen, the chair of biological sciences.

"It is important to hear what the students have to say," Methven said.

On the back of the surveys is a comments section, which is often left blank, he said. "The written comments are more informative

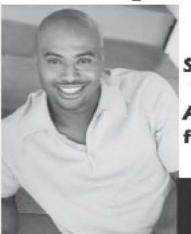
than just the numbers," Methven said.

In the journalism department, written comments are placed into the professor's portfolio, which is submitted to the department personnel committee, the department chair, the dean, the University Personnel Committee and eventually the president, Tidwell said.

"Always write down comments on the evaluations," Methven said. "They get attention and can be very helpful."

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April 19 University Ballroom 7:00 pm

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UPSIDE OF ANGER (R) 5:00 7:40 10:20 SAT SUN MAT 2:20 FEVER PITCH (PG 13) 4:15 7:00 9:40 SAT SUN MAT 1:30

SAHARA (PG 13) 3:45 6:40 9:30 SAT SUN MAT 1:00 SIN CITY(R) 4:00 7:10 10:00

SAT SUN MAT 1:15 BEAUTY SHOP (PG-13) 4:40 7:20 9:50 GUESS WHO (PG 13) 5:15 8:20 10:30 SAT SUN MAT 2:30

MISS CONGENIALITY: ARMED AND FABULOUS (PG-13) 4:50 7:30 10:05 SAT SUN MAT 2:00 ROBOTS (PG)SAT SUN ONLY 2:10

THE PACIFIER (PG) 5:45 8:10 10:25 SAT SUN MAT 3:00

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Final fairwell to graduate students

Awards handed out to graduate student as well as faculty members

BY MATT POLI STAFF WRITER

Eastern President Lou Hencken set the tone early at the Graduate Student Award Ceremony on Thursday.

"At Eastern, we do everything we can to give [students] the best possible education," Hencken said at the beginning of the

ceremony.

The ceremony was the first event of a three-day celebration geared toward commemorating 50 years of graduate education.

"It's sad to see all you graduate students leaving, but we know you will go out and make your fame and fortune, then give some of it back to Eastern," Hencken added

More than 50 graduate students and 100 faculty members and alumni attended the ceremony, which recognized and honored the accomplishments of graduate students from many different colleges.

Awards and scholarships were given out to graduate students, as well as a few faculty members who have done outstanding work in their departments, said Graduate School Dean Bob Augustine.

One of the most prestigious awards given out was the Distinguished Master's Thesis Award which went to Autumn Williams, master of arts in English, for her thesis "Love, Violence, and Creation: Modernist Mediums Transcendence in Sylvia Plath's Poetry and Prose."

The Master's Thesis Award of



KELLY CREMENT/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Tina Vogel (left), Aimee Wheat and Manda Geerts, all graduates of the communication disorders and science graduate program, celebrate in the Grand Ballroom on Thursday afternoon. Craduate students and a few faculty members received awards at the Graduate Student Award Coremony.

Excellence went to John Burke, master of science in natural sciences, for his thesis "Rugose Corals on the Livingston Limestone Member, Bond Formation, Coles and Edgar County, Illinois."

Honorable Mentions in this category went to James Arndt, master of arts in political science and David Bell, master of arts in history.

Winner of the Betty Wright Downing Graduate Scholarship was Manda Geerts, master of science candidate in communication disorders & sciences.

This scholarship was established by the family of Betty Wright Downing to provide financial support for a full-time graduate student enrolled in a master's degree program related to a pre-medical or health

Another scholarship winner was Lenee Moseley, master of science candidate in communication disorders & sciences.

She won the Frances Meyer Hampton Graduate Scholarship, which is awarded to a full-time graduate student in a master's degree program who demonstrates exceptional

Not only were graduate students given awards, but faculty members as well were honored for their excellent work in the graduate program.

The Graduate Leadership Award went to Ryan Hendrickson, professor of political science.

"Dr. Hendrickson has implemented effective recruiting strategies that have increased enrollment by 50 percent," Augustine said.

William Weber, associate vice president for academic affairs, was honored with the Award of Excellence.

"Dr. Weber has worked tirelessly for three years to increase stipends for the scholarships we are presenting [Thursday]," Augustine said.

The 2005 Outstanding Graduate Faculty Mentor award went to Jill Owen, professor of physical education, who was nominated by one of her graduate students.

Other awards included the Graduate School Research/Creativity Activity Award which went to 10 graduate students.

There were 30 graduate students who received the Williams Travel

Director search to be over soon

Facilities planning and management director finalists to be announced

NEWS BREIF

The search committee for the new director of facilities planning and management is preparing to announce the finalists for the position.

Chat Chatterji, chair of the search committee, said there will soon be a public announcement that will

announce the finalists, their current positions and the times of public meetings when they visit campus.

and ask questions

of the finalists.

The meetings for this." will be scheduled for before the end of the school year, CHATTERJI, SEARCH and the campus community will be allowed to attend

COMMITTEE CHAIR

"We are

developing

a Web site

"We are developing a Web site for this," Chatterji said. "Dates, resumes, names, etc. will be on it."

The new director will be expected to take over July 1. One of the finalists is Gary Reed, who is filling the position temporarily.

The position is in charge of the planning, supervising and coordinating all activities dealing with Eastern's physical campus.

The new director will also be in charge of directing and approving the plans for the construction of new buildings, including the current construction of the Doudna Fine Arts Center.









Federal judge strikes down ban on ephedra

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SALT LAKE CITY— A federal judge Thursday struck down the FDA ban on supplements containing ephedra, the once-popular weightloss aid that was yanked from the market one year ago after it was linked to dozens of deaths.

The judge ruled in favor of a Utah supplement company that challenged the Food and Drug Administration's ban. Nutraceutical claimed that ephedra has been safely consumed for hundreds of years.

Industry groups said supplements that included ephedra were once used by 12 million people. Last year's ban of ephedra was the first such ban of a dietary supplement.

Research shows ephedra— an amphetamine-like herb— can speed heart rate and constrict blood vessels even in seemingly healthy people, but it is particularly risky for those with heart disease or high blood pressure or who engage in strenuous exercise.

TEEN AND EX-GIRLFRIEND KILL GRANDPARENTS

FAYETTEVILLE, Ga.— A 15year-old girl and her ex-girlfriend pleaded guilty Thursday to stabbing her grandparents to death last summer so the young couple could be together.

Holly Harvey told the judge that while she was knifing her 73-year-old grandmother, "my eyes were closed the whole time."

Harvey pleaded guilty to two counts of malice murder and was sentenced to two consecutive life sentences. She will not be eligible for parole for 20 years. Sandy Ketchum, 16, was sentenced to three life terms,



to be served concurrently.

Shortly after the teens' court hearings, authorities arrested a man and charged him with murder for allegedly giving the girls crack and marijuana that they smoked the day of the killings.

OFFICEMAX NAMES DUNCAN NEW GEO

CHICAGO— OfficeMax Inc. on Thursday named Sam K. Duncan as its new president and CEO as the No. 3 office products retailer has seen its recent performance marred by sluggish sales, an accounting scandal and the departure of three top-level officials this year.

Duncan, 53, served most recently as president and chief executive officer of Shopko Stores Inc., a general merchandise retailer with more than 360 stores generating annual sales exceeding \$3 billion, according to OfficeMax. Before leading Shopko, he served as president of Fred Meyer Inc., a division of The Kroger Co., one of the nation's largest grocery retailers.

Duncan vowed to improve OfficeMax's profitability.

NOMINATION OF INTEL CHIEF APPROVED

WASHINGTON— The nomination of the nation's first national intelligence director, John Negroponte, was approved by the Senate Intelligence Committee on Thursday, clearing the way for the full Senate to consider President Bush's pick.

The closed-door vote means the former Iraq ambassador and long-time diplomat could be in his new job this month. Negroponte's nomination has generated little controversy in Congress.

However, Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., and an intelligence panel member, said Thursday that he will oppose the nomination because, among other reasons, Negroponte was not candid enough about his record as ambassador to Honduras in the 1980s. During a confirmation hearing this week, Wyden questioned whether Negroponte had adequately reported human-rights abuses while ambassador.

UMBILICAL CORD BLOOD NEEDED FOR SUPPLY

WASHINGTON— Blood saved from newborns' umbilical cords could help treat about 11,700 Americans a year with leukemia and other devastating diseases, yet most is routinely thrown away, a panel of influential scientists said Thursday in calling for a tripling of the nation's supply.

Cord blood is rich in stem cells, the building blocks that produce blood— the same stem cells that make up the bone-marrow transplants that help many people survive certain cancers and other diseases. When frozen from cord blood shortly after a baby's birth, stem cells are ready to be thawed and transplanted at a moment's notice, much easier than traditional bone-marrow donation.

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Now the government is preparing to open a national cord blood bank in hopes of providing an adequate supply to find a match for every patient who needs this kind of stem-cell transplant.

PROBLEMS REPORTED FOR COMCAST BROADBAND

PHILADELPHIA— Comcast's high-speed Internet customers nation-wide have suffered Web and e-mail problems since last week, the company said Thursday.

The intermittent nature of the problem made it difficult to pinpoint how many of Comcast's nearly 7 million broadband customers have been affected, Comcast spokeswoman Jeanne Russo said.

Some Web pages took a long time to load or were inaccessible altogether. Email was down for some.

The exact cause of the problem had not been determined, but the troubles related to Comcast's Domain Name Server system, which translates easy-to-remember domain names like "AP.org" into a Web site's actual numeric address, Russo said.

EGGS OFFER GLIMPSE AT DINOSAUR'S BIOLOGY

WASHINGTON— The rare discovery of eggs inside a dinosaur has given scientists new clues about the reproductive biology of the creatures and more support for the theory that birds came from dinosaurs.

The pair of shelled eggs is the first of its kind found inside a dinosaur, said researchers who reported the discovery in Friday's issue of the journal Science. Scientists found the dinosaur produced eggs in some ways like a crocodile and in other ways like a bird. Crocodiles and similar primitive reptiles have two ovaries enabling them to lay a clutch of eggs. Birds have a single ovary and can only lay one egg at a time.

The dinosaur's egg-producing capability lay somewhere in between, suggesting a link with the modern bird, researchers said. It could produce more than one egg, but only one from each ovary at a time.

HOUSE DEFEAT LATEST DEMOCRATIC PROPOSAL

WASHINGTON— House Republicans brushed aside the Democrats' latest attempt to rewrite ethics rules on Thursday, one day after a closed-door discussion that touched on the perils of political arrogance.

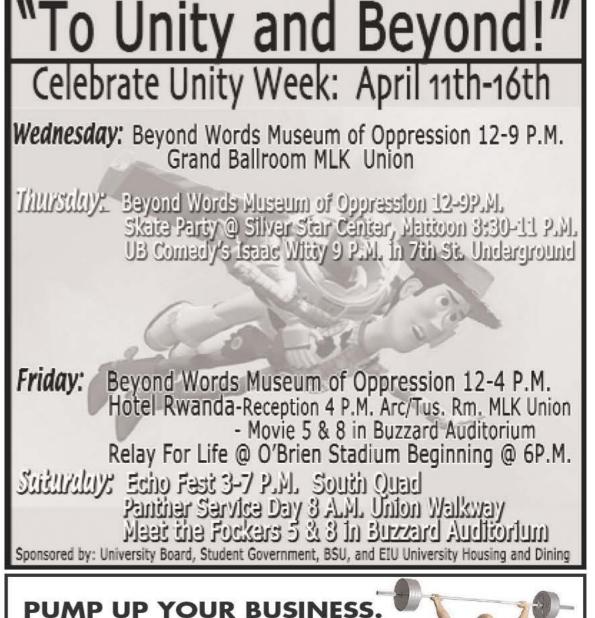
The vote was 218-195, along party lines, to kill the proposal by Rep. Nancy Pelosi, the House Democratic leader.

The California Democrat swiftly issued a statement accusing Republicans of showing "allegiance to the ethics standards of Tom DeLay." DeLay, the majority leader, is battling charges of misconduct.

Republicans held ranks one day after a few lawmakers expressed concern at a closed-door meeting over the party's handling of the ethics issue.

Several officials said Rep. Dan Lungren of California cautioned fellow Republicans about using power arrogantly, invoking the example of former House Speaker Jim Wright and the Democratic majority he once led. Wright was brought down in an ethics scandal in 1989.





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4/15 Going to be around this summer? Are you looking for a parttime evening position in a fun, professional atmosphere? Ruffalo/Cody Westaff i s seek-PROFESSIONAL TELE-PHONE FUNDRAISERS. Flexible scheduling, weekly paychecks. Holiday bonus, potential for extra cash. No "cold calling" required. Stop by Westaff at 651 Castle Dr. or call 345-1303 for more information.

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4/15

4/26

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No. 0304

The New Hork Times

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- 33 Remove

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- 19 Comforting persona
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Edited by Will Shortz

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52 "Artaxerxes"

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

sophomore art education/ elementary education major, and Todd Kleine, a technology graduate student.

Dunavan said she was pleased with the results of the event and said he was delighted the group would be able to send money to help with pediatric

The volunteers at other stands had the same traffic flow and estimated profits reached, \$10 an hour. A cup of lemonade was 50 cents, and it was estimated more than 20 people an hour made purchases.

Students were also pleased with the

Katie Reeter, a junior communications major, was quick to say she would buy another glass.

"It's very good, very sweet, just like pink lemonade should be," Reeter

Dunavan said she and her volunteers are thinking about having lemonade stand fundraisers more often. She said they are toying with the idea of having stands in both the spring and fall semesters of next year.

U.N. soldier from Philippines shot and killed

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti- A U.N. soldier from the Philippines was shot and killed Thursday on the fringes of a Haitian slum where troops have clashed with politically aligned street gangs, underscoring the volatile situation as the U.N. Security Council discussed expanding the mission.

The soldier was killed as U.N. troops prepared to set up an observation post at the entrance to Cite Soleil, a slum dominated by supporters of ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, U.N. officials said. He was the third soldier to be killed during the year-old U.N. mission in Haiti.

Philippine troops said the soldier, a 22-year army veteran, was driving an officer in a white U.N. sport-utility vehicle when he was shot. U.N. troops were barricading sidestreets and establishing a checkpoint at the slum's main entrance in an effort to clamp down on gangs.

Members of the U.N. Security Council, who were on a fact-finding

trip, were meeting at the Hotel Montana on a hill overlooking the city.

PRISONER SAYS HE WASN'T **AWARE OF SEPT. 11**

KUWAIT CITY- A Kuwaiti who returned home after three years in the American prison at Guantanamo Bay denied Thursday U.S. interrogation records that say he served on the front line of the Afghan civil war as a kind of mediator.

Nasser al-Mutairi accused the U.S. military of making up the record of his evidence before a military panel in Guantanamo. He told The Associated Press he was doing charity work in Afghanistan.

Speaking a day after he was released on bail by a Kuwaiti court, the bearded 27-year-old also denied telling the panel that in Afghanistan he heard about the Sept. 11 attacks soon after they happened. On Thursday, he said had not even heard of the Sept. 11 attacks when troops captured him in late 2001.

He also said the first he learned of the 1991 attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon was after he arrived at the U.S. naval base in Cuba.

"I was in shock. I had nothing to do with the situation," he said. "I hadn't heard of (the attacks). We did not have radios or televisions."

TURKISH TROOPS KILL 21 KURDISH REBELS

ANKARA, Turkey- Turkish troops backed by attack helicopters killed 21 Kurdish rebels near the Iraqi border overnight in the biggest clash since the rebels declared a unilateral truce more than five years ago, officials said Thursday.

The Turkish military has intensified anti-rebel operations following intelligence reports that hundreds of rebels had infiltrated Turkey from Iraq, a local military official said on condition of anonymity.

Three Turkish soldiers and a village guardsman also were killed in the clash 25 miles from the Iraq border between the town of Pervari in Siirt province and Eruh in Sirnak province, the governor's office in Sirnak said in a statement. The area is in southeast Turkey.

Several dozen rebels crossed the border from Iraq on Tuesday, an intelligence official said on condition of anonymity.

U.S., BRITAIN SHARE BLAME FOR SADDAM'S FUNDS

UNITED NATIONS- U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said Thursday that the United States and Britain are partly to blame for Saddam Hussein's regime making billions of dollars in illicit money from smuggling oil.

Annan said the Americans and the British could have stopped the smuggling but did not, and most of the money Saddam Hussein made illegally when his country was under U.N. sanctions in the 1990s was from smuggling oil, not from kickbacks under the U.N. oil-for-food program.

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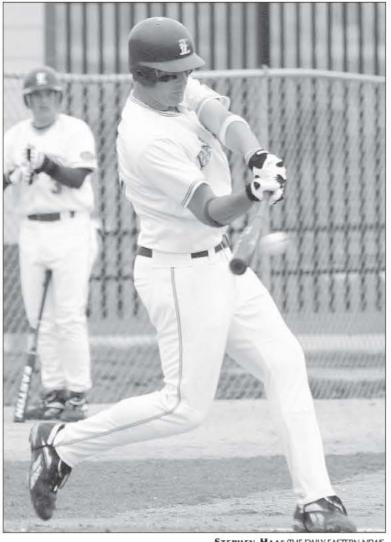
NDOCKS BY AARON MCGRUDER







Sophomore eateher Jason Cobb hits against Northern Illimois University at Coaches Stadium Samford comes lo town for a three-game series this weekend



STEPHEN HAAS/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Panthers push to break from the pack

BY JOHN HOHENADEL SPORTS REPORTER

This weekend features two teams struggling to break out of the middle of the pack in the Ohio Valley Conference baseball standings.

Eastern is 5-4 in the OVC and Samford is 4-5, good for fifth and sixth place in the OVC respectively. The best-case scenario for either team, of course, would be a three-game sweep, but even taking two of three could ignite a jog toward the top.

One game separates the two teams, but the records aren't the only similarity they share. Each team averages about 5 runs a game, 9 hits a game and both teams have around a 7.00 ERA.

The X-factor this weekend could be sophomore pitcher Chris Vaculik, who is the only player to win an OVC Player of the Week award on either team.

Vaculik won the award for throwing a complete game against Tennessee-Martin on March 25.

But Panther head coach Jimmy Schmitz has emphasized individuals don't make a team this year.

After the Panthers dropped a game to Northern Illinois last week, Schmitz brought the team together to reiterate that fact in practice. The Panthers

squad took it to heart and took two of three at Jacksonville State that weekend.

After a nice weekend in Alabama, the Panthers went to Carbondale and lost 9-0 to the Salukis of Southern Illinois University.

The Panthers had another game scheduled for this past week against St. Xavier, but it was rained out so the Panthers had a lot of time to focus on this weekend.

Schmitz was unavailable to confirm the rotation, but senior Kyle Widegren has pitched the series opener every weekend thus far and likely will likely get the ball tomorrow at 1 p.m.

Senior southpaw Ted Juske and sophomore Mike Budde will likely start the following contests

The projected starters for Samford will be junior Stephen Artz, sophomore Chandler Tidwell and senior Michael Neimkin. The three combine for a 4-11 record and a 4.97 ERA.

The Bulldogs are coming off a 13-1 home loss to 22nd-ranked Mississippi State on Wednesday where they only got four base hits.

This contest will be the first action at Coaches Stadium in 10 days since they lost to Northern and will look to repeat last season's success against Samford when the Panthers took two of three in Birmingham.

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TRACK & FIELD

Track team aims to set pace at weekend tourney

By DERRICK JOHNSON II STAFF WRITER

Indiana State University will take on the Eastern track and field team this weekend at the Pacesetter Invitational. The meet will take place at Marks Field in Terre Haute starting this Friday.

The Pacesetter Invitational has attracted a series of schools that would provide well-rounded competition for Eastern. The meet doesn't fail to bring in good competition, head coach Tom Akers said.

"Generally, it's a good meet and we'll see a number of the teams that we saw this past weekend," Akers said. Last weekend, Eastern saw some

breakthrough performances at the Big Blue Classic. Akers is looking for that same result as well as being strong overall in each event, he said.

"Obviously, our goal is to be competitive in every event," Akers said. "It's just the same goal of every meet to go out there an compete to the best of our ability. Hopefully, we can get some more guys to give break through performances."

Looking for more breakout performances, Akers said that he thinks this tournament might be the setting for Eastern to deliver after a week of good practices and- providing the weather forecast stays true to its prediction— for good conditions.

"I thought we had some pretty good breakthrough performances and hopefully we'll have a few more guys do the same," Akers said.

The men's teams participating in the Pacesetter Invitational will include Indiana State, Valparaiso, Eastern, Purdue, Louisville, Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Marquette, Vincennes University, Rend Lake College, Evansville, and Southeast Illinois College. The women's teams will include Indiana State, Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne, Valparaiso, Eastern, Purdue, Louisville, Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Marquette, Vincennes, Evansville, and Southeast Illinois College.

NBA

Curry to miss rest of season

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO — Chicago Bulls center Eddy Curry will miss the rest of the season because of an irregular heartbeat, but doctors are optimistic he'll be able to play again.

Curry will undergo further tests that will take another six weeks, meaning he'll miss the team's first playoff appearance since 1998. Doctors still aren't sure what caused the heart arrhythmia, which hasn't recurred in the last two weeks.

"We've been as diligent as we can to rule out anything possible that would put him at risk," Dr. Kathy Weber, a Bulls' team physician, said at a news conference Thursday night. "We're going to continue to do that until we feel it's safe for him to play."

The 22-year-old has been sidelined since March 30 with the heart ailment. He was a late scratch from the Bulls' game in Charlotte that night with what was listed as flulike symptoms, but the Chicago Tribune reported that he'd spent the game hooked up to a heart monitor.

Curry returned to Chicago on April

walking only 43 and opponents are

Bynum will have to face a Panther line-up that features four players hit-

Sophomore second baseman Katy Steele leads the way hitting .344.

Sophomore catcher Sandyn Short is riding a career-high 10-game hitting

Searle said the Panthers are ready

"The girls are really looking for

streak. She is hitting .307 and leads

for the weekend and expect to have a

ward to the weekend, and starting off

the series well after the disappointing

day (against St. Louis)." she said.

the team with 16 RBIs.

hitting just .183 against her.

PANTHERS: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

ting over .300.

1 and was admitted to Rush University Medical Center for further tests. When those were inconclusive, he saw specialists in Boston and Minnesota.

"We really haven't found out anything crazy that would make me think my career's over," said Curry, who smiled and looked relaxed when he arrived at the news conference. "There's nothing to be frowning about. We just have to do more tests."

The team wouldn't elaborate on what the tests would entail. Weber did say that Curry isn't on any medication.

"Although everything has been positive, we still have some unanswered questions," she said. "Until we have that completely put to rest, we've opted to continue testing."

Other NBA players have played through similar conditions without serious complications, including Hakeem Olajuwon, Derrick Coleman and Aaron McKie.

The Bulls are 6-3 since Curry's irregular heart beat was discovered, and 7-8 overall without him. But general manager John Paxson said the team is more worried about Curry's health.

"Eddy's health is our No. 1 concern,"

Paxson said. "It's one thing we take very seriously, and we're going to do everything we possibly can to be sure he's right before we put him back on the floor."

he ailment ends what had been a breakout season for Curry, who will be a restricted free agent this summer. After losing more than 30 pounds last summer, the 7-footer has become the inside force the Bulls envisioned when they drafted him fourth overall in 2001. He led Chicago with 16.1 points a game and was shooting 53.8 percent, fourth best in the NBA. He was averaging 5.4 rebounds. He had scored at least 25 points in his two previous games before being sidelined.

Curry's development has been a big factor in the resurgence of the Bulls, who have gone from NBA laughingstock to one of the best teams in the Eastern Conference. At 44-34, Chicago has the third-best record in the conference and has clinched a playoff spot for the first time since the Michael Jordan era.

With four games left in the regular season, Chicago is still fighting for home-court advantage in the first round of the playoffs.



DANIEL WILLIAMS/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Sophomore eastcher Sandyn Short hits against St. Louis University Wednesday afternoon at Williams Field.

good showing.

WOIKE: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

I learned that there is no feeling quite as satisfying as walking into a bathroom stall and seeing my column looking face up at me.

And, I learned my column's readership will never get any

higher than a coked-up Michael Irvin in a hotel room with a hooker. (God bless your addictions Michael Irvin, you've bailed me out again.)

Dan Woike, a senior journalism major, wishes his time as sports editor would have provided him with girls, free drinks and respect. Email him at woikeda@hotmail.com and offer him one of the three.

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SPORTS

PANTHER SPORTS CALENDAR

TODAY	MEN'S TENNIS AT OVC CHAMPIONSHIP	thru 4/17
	Women's Tennis at OVC Championship	thru 4/17
SATURDAY	TRACK & FIELD AT WESTERN ILLINOIS	All Day
	Baseball vs Samford	1 p.m.
	Softball at Tennessee Tech	1 p.m.
SUNDAY	WOMEN'S GOLF AT OVC CHAMPIONSHIP	All Day

Eastern Illinois University, Charleston



What I learned

Well, I've come to my last column written as sports editor for the Daily Eastern News, and instead of talking about my favorite Eastern sports moments of the year, I'd like to share with you, the reader, a few of the things I've learned about the Eastern sports world and the entire sports scene as a whole.

I learned being a good guy will cause an entire town to support you, even if you're a career .500 coach. I guess you literally can win for losing.

I learned that hundreds of Eastern students "live strong" the same way Lance Armstrong does. Oh, I meant they both wear yellow bracelets, not that they both have great pharmacists.

I also learned doing body shots off of a random girl while smoking a Marlboro Red is standard activity for someone "living strong" at one of Eastern's drinking establishments.

I learned any column can be saved by a strong Michael Irvincocaine-hooker-motel room joke.

If you want to piss people off, call Tennessee women's head basketball coach Pat Summitt a woman. We did and got letters about it for weeks.

I learned that for some reason, people still aren't lining up to go to volleyball games. Girls + spandex = fan excitement.

To borrow a David Cross joke, I think, in general, Cardinal fans are smarter than Cub fans. But, I also believe dogs are smarter than Cardinals fans.

The king of Charleston sports media, Brian Nielson, looks exactly like ex-Undertaker manager Paul E. Bearer.

I learned that all you need to know as a sports columnist can be found out simply by watching ESPN's "Around the Horn." Observe Jay Mariotti, ignore and repeat.

While attending a men's basketball game at Lantz Arena, no one is safe when T-shirts are fired into the crowd.

Being the sports editor will not get you girls, free drinks or respect. It will get you on a first-name basis with Gateway Liquors employees and doormen at Marty's.

It's fun reading the words "Give It A Yankee" in one of your columns.

It's a miracle it took people three years to realize Bulls center Eddy Curry has heart problems.

Freshman pitcher Karyn Mackie winds up Wednesday afternoon against St. Louis at Williams Field. The Panther softball team will head into its Ohio Valley Conference series at Tennessee Tech (9-20, 6-6) looking to bounce back.

TENNIS

Eastern Tennis seeks redemption

BY MATT DANIELS STAFF WRITER

The Eastern women's tennis team will try and overcome the odds this weekend at the Ohio Valley Conference Championships at the Centennial Sportsplex in Nashville, Tenn.

"We've had the best practices of the year in the past couple of days," Eastern head coach Brian Holzgrafe said.

The Panthers go into the tournament as the eighth seed, with a 5-11 record (3-5 in OVC play). They square off against the top-seeded Tennessee-Martin Skyhawks at 1:30 p.m. Friday. In an earlier match against UTM this season, Eastern dropped a 7-0 match.

"This is a bit of redemption match for us," Holzgrafe said.

UTM comes into the match with a 14-3 overall record and a perfect 9-0 conference mark.

They also come into the match on a roll, with a 9-match winning streak. Their three losses this year came to Division II powers North Florida, Valdosta State and Georgia State. All three of these schools are ranked in the top 15 nationally in the latest College Tennis Online rankings.

Senior Sari Nortje, who has compiled a 16-1 overall record at No. 1 singles, and a spotless 9-0 conference record, leads UTM. Eastern's Sandra Sasidharan will have her hands full against Nortje at No. 1. The freshman Sasidharan comes into the tournament with a 7-9 record (4-4 in OVC).

"Sandy's as tough as can be," Holzgrafe said.

While all of UTM's singles players except for No. 2 Gayatri Ramesh (8-8 overall) have a winning record, Madina Mambetova at No. 3 singles

has the only winning record for Eastern, at 9-6 on the season.

In the past couple of weeks, Sasidharan and sophomore teammate Mambetova have stepped up at No. 1 doubles, posting a 5-0 record at the top spot.

"We can beat anyone at No. 1 doubles," Holzgrafe said.

The No. 1 doubles tandem for UTM of freshman Elizma Schoones and senior Elly Shearman have a 14-2 overall record and an 8-1 mark in conference.

At No. 2 doubles, UTM has another formidable duo in junior Katrina Domela and Nortje. The pair sport an 11-4 mark overall, while going 7-1 in the OVC.

The No. 2 doubles duo of senior Sarah Freeman and sophomore Jill Wirtz come into the match with a 1-4 record as doubles partners.

"The No. 2 doubles are starting to feel better about their play," Holzgrafe said.

Holzgrafe believes that who really, "shows up for the tournament", will emerge as the tournament champions.

If Eastern is able to spring an upset, they will face the winner of fourth-seeded Eastern Kentucky and fifth-seeded Samford Saturday. Samford is looking to have the same type of success as they did last year in the tournament, where they took home the title.

Second seed Murray State, which had three-straight titles prior to Samford's victory last year, comes into the tournament with a 7-1- conference mark, its only loss came against UTM.

With all the focus on the top-seeded teams, Eastern is looking to fly under the radar this weekend.

"Really, we have no pressure at all," Holzgrafe said.



STEPHEN HAAS/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Senior Sarah Freeman returns a serve April 3 at Darling Courts. The Panthers face Tennessee-Martin today in the first round of the OVC Championships in Nashville.

SOFTBALL

Panthers head to Tennessee Tech



DANIEL WILLIAMS/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

BY MARCUS JACKSON STAFF WRITER

Coming off a doubleheader sweep at the hands of St. Louis at home Wednesday, the Panther softball team will head into its Ohio Valley Conference series at Tennessee Tech (9-20, 6-6) looking to bounce back.

The Panthers and Golden Eagles will meet for a doubleheader 1 p.m. Saturday before closing out the series Sunday afternoon with a single game at 1 p.m.

Head coach Lloydene Searle said despite dropping the St. Louis games, the Panthers are excited about the upcoming series.

"That was good practice for us," she said. "It's better to come out and play another team, rather than coming out and scrimmaging against ourselves."

Tennessee Tech (19-25, 4-8 OVC) dropped two of three last weekend to Jacksonville State, and will be looking to get back in the win column this weekend against Eastern.

Tech is led offensively by senior catcher Kacy Bennett. Bennett comes into the series sixth in the OVC in hitting at .389. She also leads the team with 7 home runs and 29 RBIs.

The only other Golden Eagle hitting over .300 is sophomore outfielder Ashley Potts. Potts comes in hitting .307. She has hit 5 home runs, and leads the team with 9 doubles.

In the pitching circle, Tech will give the ball to its ace, sophomore Bonnie Bynum.

Bynum is 14-14 with a 1.69 ERA. She has struck out 138 batters while

SEE PANTHERS PAGE 11

SEE WOIKE PAGE 11