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Eastern Illinois University

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the **DAILY EASTERN NEWS**

THURSDAY
3.22.07

Eastern Illinois University, Charleston

Volume | 93 Issue | 47



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UNIVERSITY | PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH

CAMPUS | EQUALITY

Women capable leaders

International and local stories fill forum

By Sarah Whitney
Senior Reporter

Is it true that women can be bank tellers but not bank presidents?

English professor Michael Loudon's daughter came home from school one day and asked him this question.

“No, it's not true,” he told her. “I'll introduce you to one who is.”

At the next English department party, Loudon introduced his daughter to another professor's wife, who was president of a Charleston bank.

Loudon told this story to attendees of the “Lessons Learned From Great Women Leaders” forum.

It served as an example of how parents have a responsibility to their children, especially their daughters, to be open to questions about inequality and to model equality through their own relationships.

Becoming a leader is more than just having an important job title.

Assege HaileMariam, event lecturer and psychology professor, said that leading is more than just a nine to five job.

Leaders must have a fighting spirit for justice, be assertive, build consensus and be committed to caring for others, she said. HaileMariam grew up in Ethiopia, where having a queen as the head of government was not unusual.

“I come from a country with a long history of women in leadership,” she said. “The importance of this, to me, is that we were taught in school about every one of these queens.”

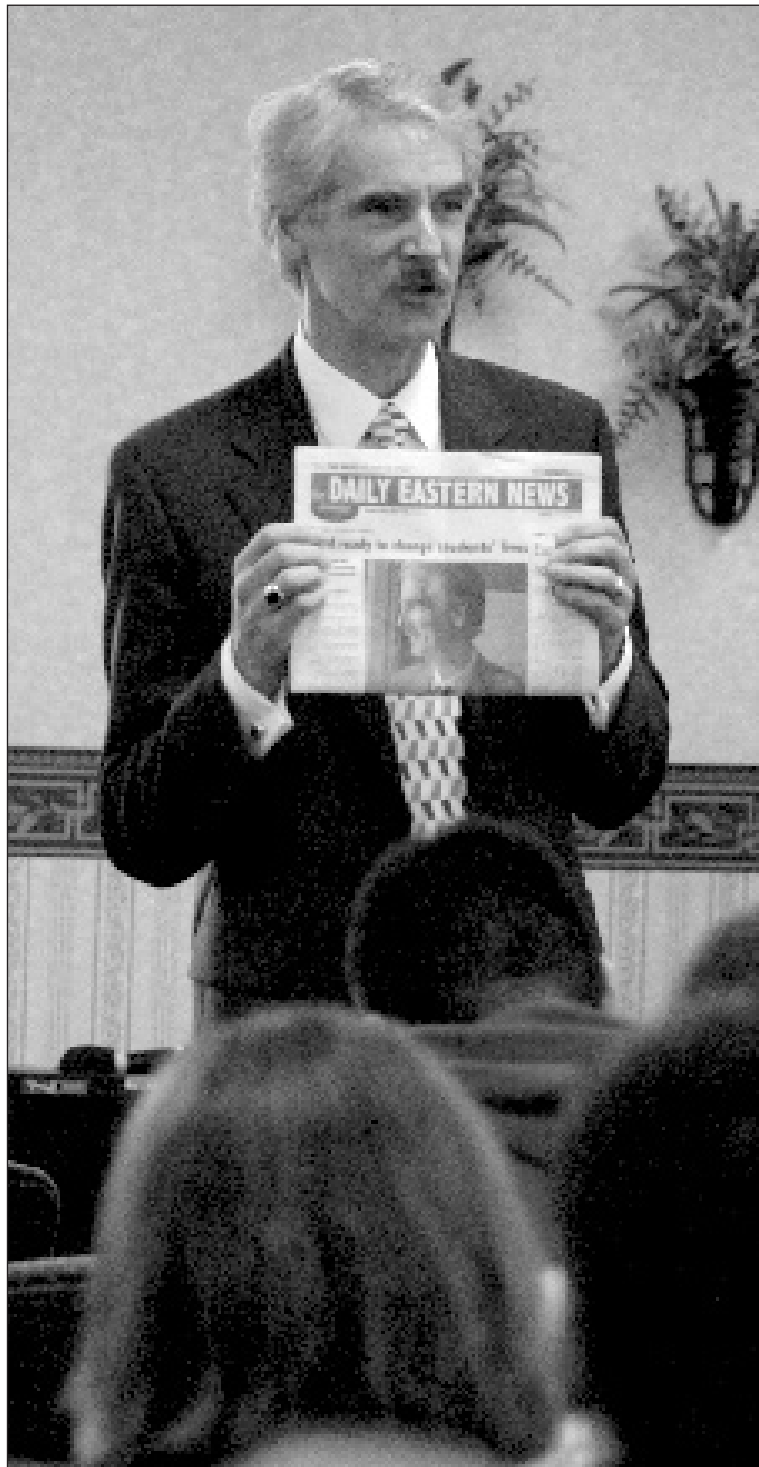
Ethiopian Queen Yodit Gudi, Mother Theresa, former Indian Prime Minister Indra Ghandi and former Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir are women international leaders HaileMariam said shared these qualities.

The idea of a leader has been evident in history, but the idea of leadership was not developed until the 1990s, HaileMariam said.

She defined leadership as influence. A leader achieves leadership by significantly affecting the thoughts and actions of others, she said.

“In essence, the new model of leadership is really a type of collaboration that women have learned and practiced before they even go out into the world,” HaileMariam said.

» SEE **WOMEN**, PAGE 6



JOHN BAILEY | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Blair Lord, provost and vice president of student affairs, talks about his time at Eastern and why he is suited for the position of president Monday in the 1895 Room of the Martin Luther King Jr. University

Lord knows advantage

Provost hopes five years on campus leads to hiring

By Marco Santana
Campus Editor

Blair Lord has an advantage in the race to becoming Eastern's next president.

His more than five years of experience on Eastern's campus has allowed him to develop relationships the other two candidates don't have.

And he knows the university's culture.

“I've had a chance to get to know, talk with, discover what I think are institutional aspirations, institutional objectives in ways that would really help me as president as they have helped me as provost,” he said.

Lord talked about his career and his qualifications for the job in an open session that drew community leaders, students and coworkers Wednesday night in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

Lord is one of three finalists, along with William Perry of Texas A&M and Sue Kiefer Hammersmith of the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, to be Eastern's next president.

Lou Hencken's contract expires June 30.

Perry was in Charleston on Monday and Hammersmith will go through the sessions Friday.

During Lord's introduction,

he told the crowd what he would bring to the job. He also said why he wanted to continue his ascension in the administrative ranks.

“In some ways I think people go to higher education because they are drawn to that because of the importance they have in students' lives,” he said. “I feel my contributions are changing people's lives in the most fundamental ways.”

Lord began his career as a professor of finance at the University of Rhode Island in 1976. During his time at URI, he shadowed the president of University of Bridgeport for a year in 1988.

He stayed at URI until 2001, when he began at Eastern as provost and vice president for academic affairs.

Since he arrived at Eastern, Lord said reductions in state financial appropriations have been hard to adjust to, but his experience with them has helped in his candidacy.

“It makes me feel, at times, a little like the captain of the Titanic, trying to keep a ship afloat,” he said. “But nevertheless I think we have been able to manage a number of academic initiatives (despite cutbacks).”

One program Lord said he is proud of is Study Abroad.

He said Eastern's Study Abroad program was the third largest in the state with no chance to ever reach the University of Illinois' numbers.

» SEE **LORD**, PAGE 6

‘Our water no longer tastes like fish’

City receives award for water treatment plant

By Stephen Di Benedetto
Senior City Reporter

A proposed housing complex in Charleston might be off limits to students.

Rich Smith Development plans to build a complex of single-family homes on the east side of Charleston that would not allow students to live on site.

Kyle Bach, the company's Midwest regional director, presented the proposal to the City Council on Tuesday night.

The houses will be sold on a rent-to-purchase basis, meaning the residents will lease the homes for the first 15 years of the project and then have the option to purchase them.

“Obviously the goal is to have the person living there in year one

buy it in year 15, but it doesn't always work that way,” Bach said.

The homes will have an appraised value between \$130,000 to \$150,000. The buyer will pay whatever amount is left on the bank note at the end of 15 years. That amount is usually between \$15,000 and \$20,000, Bach said.

There are regulations to the program requirements.

“One of the stipulations of the program is that you can't lease to students,” Bach said.

The exception to this regulation is a student who is married with at least one person in the relationship earning an annual income.

Not only will students be unable to lease property, they will be unable to live on site. Parents will not be able to lease the homes and allow their children to live there, he said.

Tenants caught allowing students to live on site will be evicted.

» SEE **COUNCIL** PAGE 6



JOHN BAILEY | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Kyle Bach, the midwest regional director for the Rich Smith Development company, speaks before the members of the City Council and residents of Charleston at Tuesday night's City Council meeting. Bach introduced plans for a new subdivision of single family homes.

CAMPUS | FACULTY SENATE

Internet causes election trouble

Spring committee elections inaccessible on some web providers

By Kevin Kenealy
Online Interactive Editor

Those looking to partake in Faculty Senate elections Wednesday had some trouble.

When elections went online last year, they ran smoothly for the most part, said Jeff Ashley, vice chair on the executive committee for Faculty Senate elections.

However, this year has been nothing short of a headache for him.

"If you use Firefox, you're able to get in, but you're not able to vote as once you get to the end of the ballot, you're kicked off," he said.

The Internet browser Firefox was the least of the problems for Ashley and the rest of the senate.

The elections were launched at 8 a.m. and still did not work in most browsers by 1:30 p.m.

Information Technology Services sent an e-mail to the faculty notifying them to download Firefox and Internet Explorer 7,

JEFF ASHLEY | VICE CHAIR ON THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

"(When I talked to ITS) they told me it was a software problem, a PC problem. I don't see that. I tested it on my computer (Tuesday) on Explorer 6 and it worked fine."

but to keep Internet Explorer 6 so Banner, a program that operates in 6, could still run, Ashley said.

The difference between last year and this year is that the person who was operating the faculty elections was assigned elsewhere so another person could regulate the site, a problem Ashley attributes to managerial inefficiency at ITS.

"(When I talked to ITS) they told me it was a software problem, a PC problem," Ashley said. "I don't see that. I tested it on my computer (Tuesday) on Explorer 6 and it worked fine."

Although the online voting yielded a much higher turnout last year than paper ballots in years prior, Ashley is now

considering going back to paper.

"It was reported by several faculty," said Tom Sinclair, a member on the FacultySenateElectionsCommittee. "You only can access it with Firefox and updated Outlook Express."

The ITS help desk received less than 20 calls on the problem and said they are not working on the same playing field as last year, said Chat Chatterji, assistant vice president for ITS.

Chatterji said ITS is trying to find the source of the problem and will continue to work with Oracle and Microsoft.

"I am somewhat pessimistic that a fix will be quickly forthcoming," he said.

As a result, Ashley is considering extending elections to Friday.

CAMPUS | SMOKING

Is smoke-free the way to be?

Debate about a possible smoke-free campus heats up

By Mike McGlothlin
Staff Reporter

Nearly 30 percent of Eastern's campus may be out of luck.

That's the estimated number of people who smoke on campus.

The university continued to look at the possibility of a smoke-free campus, and the debate is getting hotter.

Chris Stanfield organized a debate to decide whether a smoke-free campus is Eastern's best choice.

Stanfield, the tobacco/stress/wellness coordinator for the Health Education Resource Center, said the debate was intended to be educational and address health concerns.

Smoke-free supporters stressed that a ban would not be an attack on students' freedoms, but a proposal for a healthier campus in general.

"It's a health issue, not a personal rights issue," Stanfield said. "Less than 30 percent of people on campus smoke; they come out when they are affected."

Stanfield and Eric Davidson, head of HERC, led the smoke-free side of the debate.

Tyson Holder, Rich Higginbotham and Isaac Sandidge represented the opposition. Mike Wentzloff, president of the registered student organization Tobacco Enthusiasts, joined them.

With both sides of the issue on the table, students could see for themselves the pros and cons of each.

Davidson began by relating the proposed smoking ban at Eastern to a nationwide movement on smoke-

ISAAC SANDIDGE | STUDENT ACADEMIC AFFAIRS CHAIR

"My personal opinion on the matter is it is direct discrimination against people living on campus. There are health concerns, but that's a choice someone makes."

free cities and communities across the country.

Throughout the debate, Davidson spoke as if Eastern would more than likely be a smoke-free campus in the future.

"It is not a matter of if Eastern goes smoke free, it is a matter of when Eastern goes smoke free," he said.

Sandidge, student academic affairs chair, agreed with the health issues that are consistent with smoking, but stated that a smoking ban would be infringing on students' personal rights.

"My personal opinion on the matter is it is direct discrimination against people living on campus," he said. "There are health concerns, but that's a choice someone makes."

The opposition also voiced their opinions on the smoking ban as forcing students to quit smoking and that a simple revising of the

current campus smoking policy would be a better course of action.

Davidson disagreed, adding that a complete smoking ban would be a viable solution because of the lack of enforcement involved in current smoking rules.

The conclusion of the debate allowed the audience to ask questions about the smoking ban.

Some students believed the entire smoking ban idea had been abruptly pushed onto them instead of gradually introduced.

Other students stated that health risks alone are reason enough for a smoking ban because it can impact their learning experience.

Before students left the debate, Keith Kohanzo, retired director of judicial affairs and debate moderator, asked them for an impromptu vote on the matter.

The result was an even split in opinions on the issue.

SMOKING BAN

A campus-wide smoking ban was approved by the Faculty Senate Oct. 17 to make the campus smoke-free by July 1, 2008.

At its Oct. 20 meeting, the Committee for University Planning and Budget also voted 15-12 in favor of a smoke-free campus.

The Student Senate, however, opposed the smoking ban on Nov. 1, and instead encouraged the university to enforce the current smoking policy.

The policy states: "The right of non-smokers to protect their health and comfort shall take precedence over another person's right to smoke."

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Contact any of the above staff members you believe your information is relevant to at their provided e-mail address.

You may also call 581-7942 or visit the student publications newsroom at 1811 Buzzard Hall.

Corrections

The Daily Eastern News is committed to accuracy in its coverage of the news. Any factual error the staff finds, or is made aware of by its readers, will be corrected on this page as promptly as possible.

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SUNDAY
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Partly Cloudy



campusbriefs

Coordinating Greek Week

Nick Krizic is overall co-chair for event

By Stacy Smith
Greek Life Reporter

Nick Krizic wasn't sure what to expect when he received the overall co-chair position in November for 2007 Greek Week.

Krizic, a business administration major, was in the Steering Committee last year with the Awards and Banquet Committee, but was recommended by peers and advisers to go for a higher position.

He attends about eight to nine meetings a week, not including other Greek events and meetings.

Starting Nov. 13, Krizic and other advisers interviewed 110 applicants to form committees.

The advisers spent 30 hours Monday to Wednesday interviewing potential committee members.

"We looked for well-developed leaders who would be the best people for the job," he said. "Sometimes it can be overwhelming and we wanted people that can handle it all."

Krizic works closely with Megan Dolan, the co-chair for National Panhellenic Council. She advises the 12 sub-committees and each individual chapter to ensure everyone is on the right track.

Dolan said she enjoys working with Krizic and has developed a close friendship with him throughout the years.

The overall co-chair helps chapters keep up with important events.

"There are so many dates and meetings, people get confused what's due when," Dolan said.

Being involved with the committee has helped develop good relationships with peers and become more open-minded, Dolan said.

"He's a well-rounded person and one of the few people who listen to what everybody has to offer," Dolan



JAY GRABIEC | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

IFC steering committee overall co-chair Nick Krizic, a junior business administration major, discusses Greek Week with other members of the steering committee board at the IFC meeting on Tuesday evening at the Arcola-Tuscola Room in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

said. "He also knows when to have fun and work."

Although Krizic is applying for the position of Interfraternity Council president next year, he thinks the experience has been extremely valuable and is grateful to have a partner.

"It has helped build delegation skills not setting things up alone, and built leadership, which will be beneficial in the future when I want to run for IFC president," he said.

Mike Nowak, president of IFC, has worked closely with Krizic because he is vice-president of public relations.

"Nick is definitely organized. He's excited about what he does and has a lot of interest in it. He is also a

people person," Nowak said.

Although the committees are running smoothly, there have been a few minor details that needed improvement. For instance, the committee is having a difficult time updating the Web site.

"There have been a few bumps in the road, but nothing major," Krizic said.

Another bump in the road has been communication with committees. It can be difficult to keep everyone on the right track, he said.

"I'm interacting with such a broad group of people," he said. "A different group of people I didn't know before."

Even though Krizic said he

has benefited from having this opportunity, it can be difficult to keep up with academics with his busy schedule.

"It can sometimes be difficult to prioritize my time with so many things to do and then my schoolwork on top of that," he said.

With so many events and meetings occurring, Krizic said he misses being a participant in Greek Week instead of monitoring the events.

"Airband was my favorite, it was a really fun night," he said. "I don't miss the practices for two to three hours each night, but on the day they perform I wish I could be up there."

RHA releasing committee chair applications

» Applications for RHA committee chairs will be released at today's meeting.

According to RHA President Carrie Mueller, people can apply for the next school year.

Also on the agenda, the RHA exam kit fund raiser and spring retreat will be discussed.

The meeting will be held at 5 p.m. in Weller Hall.

-Matt Hopf
Student government reporter

AB deals with budget proposals

» The Apportionment Board will begin reviewing budget proposals for the next school year.

University Board, AB, the Student Senate and the Student Recreation Center have all presented their budgets, and now it is time for AB to examine them.

AB will also be voting on the removal of a member from the board.

The meeting will be held today at 7 p.m. in the Arcola-Tuscola Room in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

-Zach Nugent
AB Reporter

oncampus

TODAY
MS PowerPoint introduction

Time | 9 a.m.

Location | 4450 Booth Library

More info | 581-6061

Study Abroad info session

Time | 4 p.m.

Location | 1207 Blair Hall

More info | 581-7267

Film "Heaven and Earth"

Time | 6:30 p.m.

Location | Lumpkin auditorium

ourmistakes

» The information listed in the outline of a photo was incorrect on Page 5 of Wednesday's edition of the Daily Eastern News.

Mayor John Inyart was discussing item 10 on the agenda, which concerns amending Title 3-3-18 Keg Sales.

The DEN regrets the errors.

COMMENTS | CORRECTIONS | EVENTS

To report any errors, local events or general suggestions for future editions please contact our news editor, **Cathy Bayer**, via:
Phone | **581-7942**,
E-mail | **DENnewsdesk@gmail.com**
Office visit | **1811 Buzzard Hall.**

Textbook rental fee increase proposed

Senate hears proposal for \$1 per credit hour textbook rental fee increase

By Matt Hopf
Student Government Reporter

A \$1 per credit hour increase in the textbook rental fee was introduced at Wednesday night's Student Senate meeting.

The fee would increase from \$7.95 per credit hour to \$8.95.

This would be the first increase in the textbook rental fee since 2003.

The proposed increase is due to rising textbook prices and the increased minimum wage, which goes in effect July 1.

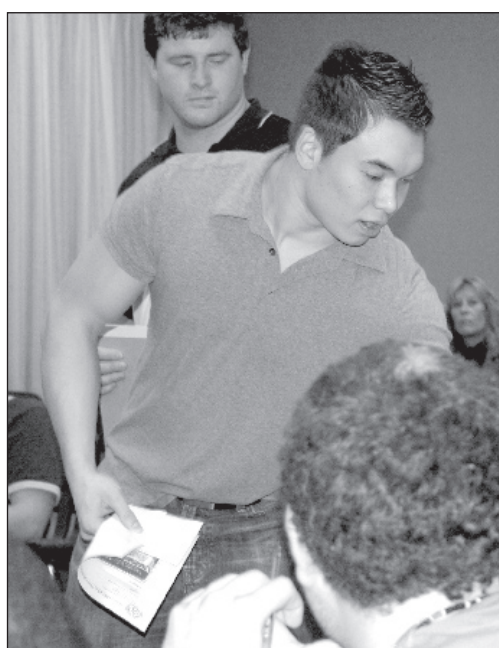
In Fall 2004, \$1.4 million was spent on textbooks, said Carol Miller, deputy director of the Textbook Rental Service.

Textbook purchases cost \$1.6 million in Fall 2006.

Miller stressed that textbook prices were increasing more than four times the rate of all finished goods.

She presented a theatre arts textbook that increased in price by 35 percent and a zoology textbook that increased 24 percent.

Textbook rental saves the average student



JESSICA CANTARELLI | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Dave Keys hands out literature he received at the COSGA workshop during the Student Senate meeting Wednesday evening at the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

\$1,158 per year, she said.

Earlier in the meeting, Student Body President

Sean Anderson reminded everyone that fee increases are the most important reason why the Student Government exists.

"We're making a decision whether it is in the best interest of the students," he said.

Student Senate member Isaac Sandidge said that he is almost religiously against fee increases, but he paid \$800-\$1,000 on textbooks at another school.

"First thing you have to ask, is it something that will directly benefit the students?" said Cole Rogers, student vice president for student affairs.

This increase would directly benefit the students, he said.

The proposal was tabled until next week's meeting.

In other business, delegates from the Conference on Student Government Associations at Texas A&M University presented what they learned.

Ideas that were presented included the distribution of RSO funding, a carpool program on the weekends, expanding the newspaper readership program and a massive service day, such as Panther Service Day.

Dave Keys, student vice president for academic affairs, and senate members Rich Higginbotham, Jeff Melanson and Leah Pietraszewski attended the February conference.

VIEWS

THURSDAY

3.22.07

YOUR TURN | LETTERS TO THE EDITOR Eastern students are members of Charleston community

I read with great interest Michael Peterson's March 9 column about the limited range of music available on Hit Mix 88.9 FM, and was also interested to read the rather dismissive response by WEIU FM news director Jonathan Mattson on Wednesday.

As an Eastern faculty member who is also a member of the Charleston community, I can certainly say I am not being served by Hit Mix 88.9 FM, which seems to provide a similar content to commercial radio stations that already exist in Charleston. Given the lack of diversity on the FM dial in Charleston, it seems unusual that we would argue we are using a valuable resource, a broadcast license, to serve clients who are well served by existing stations. It is also disturbing that we would argue that a university could serve its community members by not exposing them to new music and a variety of musical genres.

While I realize a letter to the student paper will do little to change the current format, it should at least be realized that there are other people, in addition to Peterson, who don't believe WEIU Hit Mix is a valuable contribution to the campus or the surrounding community.

Instead of serving as a valuable educational asset to the Charleston community, we have a college radio station that is not run in the interests of the community interested in music for its own sake, a station that is not run in the interest of students, or even faculty. It is a shame, really, that in order to listen to classical music, we must suffer the interference common to WILL FM and AM, and for those students interested in learning about and hearing music relevant to their lives, they must turn to the internet. I'm not sure who made the decision to make this switch from a decent college radio station to the current format, but the new format certainly doesn't benefit all the members of the community, and we shouldn't pretend that it does.

Eric R. Hake | Associate economics professor

TO COMMENT.....

The Daily Eastern News welcomes responses to our original content.

For consideration, e-mail letters to DENopinions@gmail.com.

All letters to the editor may be edited for accuracy, clarity and length. Letters 250 words or fewer have the best chance of being published. Only letters that include a name, address and phone number that are verified by The DEN will be considered for print publication.

You may also choose to join in conversations taking place online by going to www.dennews.com.

FEATURED BLOGGER | KATEY MITCHELL

"The movie "Battle Royal" is a more gruesome Japanese version of a "Lord of the Flies" meets "The Lottery"-like thriller.

It is violent and suspenseful while at the same time restating chief Japanese values in a more twisted way."



ourview

AB should kick King out

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The Apportionment Board, among other things, decides where a large portion of our student fees go.

So, we would expect its members to be responsible adults – including eight students and three faculty members – dedicated to the student body.

AB members' dedication to the students should be shown everywhere from their votes to their attendance.

This semester there has been a problem with one member's attendance record.

Student Harold "Skyler" King has not graced us with his appearance at a single of the five meetings this semester.

This is simply irresponsible and unacceptable.

Members are allowed one unexcused absence according to the AB bylaws, and can call in for excused absences, which include personal issues and prior engagements such as conferences.

As if this policy is not already relaxed enough, AB chair Levi Bulgar said he has been lenient this year when handling absences.

For members that have missed meetings, Bulgar has gone out of his way not only to provide packets, but video footage of

meetings this semester.

One concern members expressed is that the AB does not have set meetings.

To avoid this problem, Bulgar said it might be better in the future to consider there will be a meeting every week unless the board decides otherwise.

However, all members know about meetings at least one week ahead of time and know they will always be at 7 p.m. on Thursdays. It is still possible for students to keep their schedules clear for a couple hours every Thursday night with one week's notice.

The rules are lenient enough right now that more than one or two unexcused absences should be seen as inexcusable and intolerable.

King's case is even more extreme since he has failed to attend a single meeting all semester.

To add to the irresponsibility of the situation, King never contacted the board ahead of time to explain his absences, nor has he returned phone calls from Bulgar and board members.

It could not possibly be acceptable for someone to miss every meeting for the past two months without the smallest effort to be respectful to the board and student body and make a simple phone call.

This is a disgrace to the AB and student body, and the matter should be handled appropriately.

We at The Daily Eastern News feel that at tonight's meeting, the AB members should vote to remove King from the board.

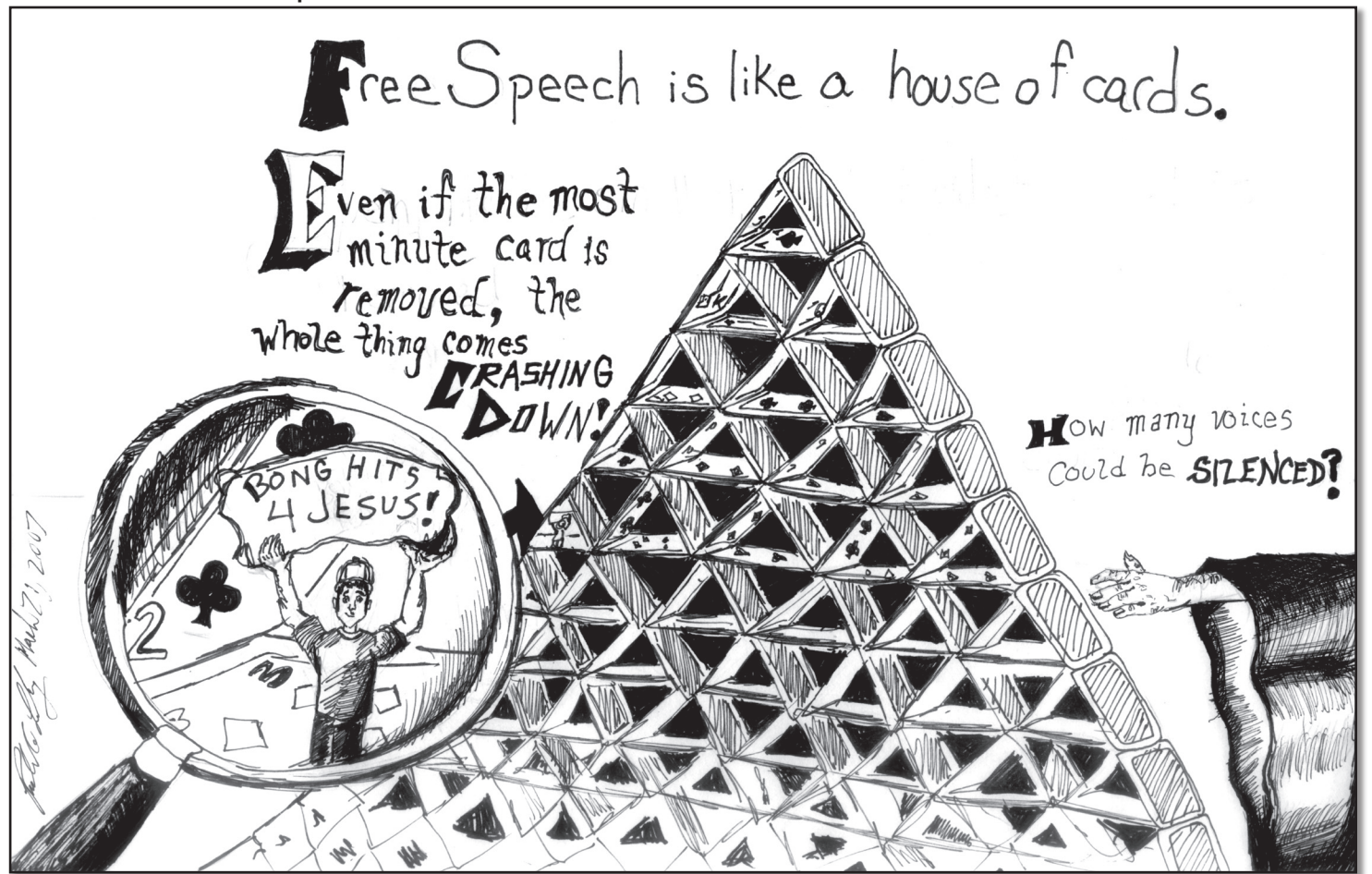
We feel that he has failed as a representative of the student body.

He has failed not only to be responsible enough to make it to a single meeting, but has failed to show the consideration of calling in his absences and disrespectfully ignored the phone calls from the AB chair and board members.

This indeed is a very poor representation of Eastern students.

The editorial is the majority opinion of The Daily Eastern News editorial board. Reach the Opinions editor at DENopinions@gmail.com.

DRAWN FROM THE NEWS | RICH LAKEBERG



COLUMNIST | MICHAEL STRANGE

Violence brought forth by lack of a middle adult

The development that should and does push a fully grown human body does possess a nearly mature brain in upper childhood already filled with the learning from upper infanto-childish society, as taught by those in lower adulthood. Lacking the knowledge that upper juveniles should already have to reflect back upon upper childhood experiences and the backward interpretation of those symptoms of which only a middle adult is capable of reinterpreting after the dialectic has been damaged by false self-reliance and the ensuing terror of ignorance recognized by the helpless victim. When no middle adult is present to fill the vacuum of social disruption created by other upper juveniles a so-called self-reliance begins to harden all the social issues at hand and the level of social violence starts to grow precipitously from there.

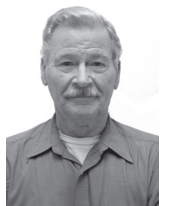
I must again help clarify the above by explaining what is obvious, that all life forms have and do transition through four stages of evolution of three each; lower, middle and upper. For humans, it's three of infancy,

of childhood, of juvenilism and adulthood, plus the interplay of development and classic symptoms, sometimes existing as one of the three dialectic forces that exist outside the proclivity of an ever-present urge in an existential vacuum to solve maniacal contradictions in a desert environment through rapid calculations and predictable failure by such miscalculations and the knowable genealogy of the events and its results.

The dire results of humanity in having NO third stage practicing human adults condemns that species, and all others, to predictable extinction and suffering in the meanwhile, and what could have been is being wasted wantonly by obvious corruption of cyclic repetition thundering toward premature extinction by miscreant educators trapped and surrounded by their own symptoms of dereliction and subservience to paradigms either wholly misinterpreted, or married illegitimately and willingly to lower urges of denial, hemmed in by cultural taboo and prejudice. As

certain as anything can be, there are, and in great numbers, upper adults of advanced age who know and understand perfectly what this piece is trying to articulate and are withholding (especially the U.S.) the vital energy that will explode the myth of consumerism/privilege, and illuminate the only viable collective mind set, and open the path to constructive worker-socialist-communist continuity of non-sexist, racist or social inequality among humans, deflecting the certainty of homogenization and sectarian manipulation, insuring the survival of this terrestrial sphere.

Michael Strange



Michael Strange is a Charleston resident



Illinois may be next to grant civil unions

Bill approved by committee will go to state legislature

The Associated Press

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — Gay Illinois couples would be allowed to enter civil unions with the same legal rights as marriage under legislation approved Wednesday by an Illinois House committee.

If the measure becomes law, Illinois would become only the fifth state to offer civil unions, which would give couples rights to estate benefits, child custody or adoption, property ownership and others now enjoyed by married couples. Massachusetts is the only state that allows gay marriage.

"Illinois is ready now for civil unions," the sponsor, Rep. Greg Harris, D-Chicago, said at a Statehouse news conference. "The outpouring of public support shows it's ready for civil unions, and I hope one day it will come around to the concept of same-sex marriage."

After discussions with House colleagues, Harris abandoned his efforts to legalize gay marriage, saying the idea faced too much resistance. Illinois just last year banned discrimination based on sexual orientation after a decade of debate.

Civil unions would be very similar to marriages and would be available to heterosexual couples, Harris said. But civil unions would be authorized by their own law, separate from the one governing marriage, and would not require religious sanction.

Some opponents, however, see little difference between civil unions and same-sex marriage.

"He said the religious groups would not have to consecrate the marriage, but it seems as though the real spirit of the bill is a marriage act," said Rep. Patti Bellock of Hinsdale, the top-ranking Republican on the Human Services Committee, which OK'd the measure 5-4.

It now moves to the House floor, where Harris said he hopes to call it for a vote this spring.

Civil unions are allowed in Connecticut, Vermont and, as of February, New Jersey. Domestic partnerships that offer benefits similar to civil unions are obtainable in California.

In addition to the Human Rights Act that took effect in January 2006, Illinois has extended insurance coverage to the same-sex partners of members of the largest state-employees' union in a contract negotiated in 2004.

Chicago and Cook County in October 2003 started a domestic-partner registry, but it is largely symbolic, carrying no legal or financial protections for gay and lesbian couples.

Lee Korty, a Springfield resident who this fall will celebrate the 25th anniversary of his same-sex relationship, said the issue is one of fairness.

When his partner lost his job several years ago, Korty could not extend his generous insurance policy to him, so the couple had to buy expensive private insurance.

While they have made health

care power-of-attorney and long-term financial arrangements, Korty said married couples do not have to maneuver the same "legal hoops" he and his partner did.

"I find it hard to stand up here and have people tell me how giving my partner the same benefits that you would your wife or your husband is somehow detracting from your marriage," Korty said.

But Rep. Paul Froehlich, a Schaumburg Republican, said despite its name, a civil union changes the definition of marriage. "If it can be defined to mean anything, then it may mean nothing," he said.

Froehlich said the legislation allows civil unions between two consenting adults, but could be changed in the future to allow for three or more.

Froehlich and others are sympathetic, however, to some problems gay couples face, particularly when hospitals allow only legal family members to visit patients. But other legislation could address those difficulties, they said.

Blagojevich tax plan takes hits from both sides

Governor tries to raise money without raising sales or income tax

Associated Press Writer

SPRINGFIELD — Gov. Rod Blagojevich's proposal for \$7 billion in business taxes suffered new waves of criticism Wednesday, including from a member of his own administration.

Lt. Gov. Patrick Quinn said he dislikes Blagojevich's idea of creating a new tax on most business transactions in the state.

Comptroller Daniel Hynes, a fellow Democrat, said the governor's plan wouldn't do enough to erase the state's backlog of unpaid medical bills.

Meanwhile, business groups said a new study shows Illinois corporations already pay half of all state and local taxes. They estimate Blagojevich's proposals would push that to 55 percent; one of the highest levels in the country.

Blagojevich spokeswoman Abby Ottenhoff said in an e-mail that there is widespread agreement the state needs more revenue.

Blagojevich's plan would produce that money without raising income or sales taxes, she said.

Blagojevich argues that many big companies avoid paying income taxes, forcing working families to pay more of the cost of government services. He proposes two major new taxes that would produce money for schools and for a new initiative to make health insurance available to everyone in Illinois.

A "gross receipts" tax would produce about \$6 billion. All businesses with more than \$1 million in annual revenues would be taxed on most of their transactions. And a new payroll tax would yield \$1 billion for health care.

Blagojevich says the gross receipts tax would be simple and fair, creating little extra pain for consumers.

But Quinn disagrees.

"The businesses pass it on. The ultimate consumer at the store suffers the burden," he said in a telephone interview. "The notion that everyday people will be exempt from this levy is not correct at all."

Quinn suggested there are loopholes in the state tax code that

could be closed to make the system fairer without hurting ordinary businesses.

Hynes accused the governor of repeatedly failing to include enough money in the state budget to pay Medicaid bills. The shortfall now is more than \$2 billion, meaning many hospitals and nursing homes must wait months to be paid, he said.

The administration says it has made dramatic progress in reducing the backlog and now pays bills promptly.

The governor's budget proposal would provide an additional \$276 million, plus federal matching funds, so that bills could be paid after an average wait of just 30 days, said spokeswoman Amy Rosenband.

Hynes said he's not convinced.

"Lie" is a strong word, but it's a great mystery as to what happens over there," he said at a Statehouse news conference.

Hynes did not reject the governor's proposal outright but said he couldn't support a new tax and expanded health care services without taking care of existing

debts first.

Businesses made a new attempt to counter Blagojevich's claim that corporations get off too easy under the current tax system.

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» Council

FROM PAGE 1

City Attorney Brian Bower said this process of excluding students is legal because the use of tax credits in project funding makes it a federal project.

The county currently owns the land, so it will need to be annexed by the city.

The City Council will hold a public hearing at 4 p.m. March 29. The Council will also vote to begin the pre-annexation process of the land.

"I'm a little disappointed that was the time that was picked because it limits who can come to the meeting," said Council Member Lorelei Sims.

In other business, the Council discussed the renovation of the alley between City Hall and Friends and Co.

The proposed ordinance calls for the improvement of the City Hall parking lot and would also add several new parking spots.

Friends and Co. manager Mike Gherardini agreed to give up half the alley to make way for the proposed change.

"Whatever the city wants to do is normally in the best interest of the citizens, community and small businesses," Gherardini said.

He said that City Hall plans to use the parking lot during the day and they are allowing Friends and Co. customers to use it during the night.

The Council voted to put the ordinance on file for public inspection.

The city was also presented with an award from Crawford, Murphy & Tillis, the engineering firm that completed the Water Treatment Plant project in Charleston.

The project received an Honor Award from the American Council of Engineering Companies, the top prize awarded.

The project is said to have improved the taste and odor of Charleston's water.

"It definitely is doing what it is designed to do," said Mayor John Inyart. "Our water no longer tastes like fish."

The three requirements for an Honor Award are that the client must view the project as a success, the project must benefit the general public and it must advance the engineering profession.

"We're very proud of the project as it was completed," said Project Manager Jim Roth.

-Verge Editor Adam Testa contributed to this report

» Women

FROM PAGE 1

Attendees were broken into small groups in the second half of the presentation. They considered what responsibilities and roles parents, schools, higher education and women leaders have in preparing girls and young women for leadership.

Inspiring confidence and making sure their daughters know their options are responsibilities parents have, said Bonnie Irwin, dean of the Honors College.

"We have to show them," said Allan Baharlou, retired geography/geology chair and president of the EIU Annuitants Association.

Baharlou cited Susan B. Anthony's as a role model for her persistence in getting the 20th Amendment passed.

If more women followed her leadership and stopped attending the Catholic Church, we'd start having women priests, he said.

Leaders, both men and women, develop the ability to collaborate to accomplish their goals.

"You can have wonderful ideas," HaileMariam said, "(but) unless you bring people together to help you realize that idea, it's not going to work."



SARAH WHITNEY | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Penka Skachkova, women's study coordinator, listens to Michael Loudan, English professor, talk about his daughter at "Lessons Learned From Great Women Leaders" Tuesday in the 1895 Room of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union. In his discussion group, Loudan said his daughter approached him one day and asked why women could be bank tellers and not bank presidents. Loudan then introduced his daughter to a colleague's wife who was a bank president.

» Lord

FROM PAGE 1

Eastern is just behind Illinois State's head count in the program.

He also said something the next president will have to address is a continuing commitment to fund raising.

"We need more horsepower on the street," he said. "It's probably about that simple 'how we get there' that I don't have an answer for because it requires money, and money is something we don't have in copious supplies."

An adjustment he will have to make is looking beyond the campus, he said.

As provost, his main focus is

what is going on academically.

If hired as president, one thing he'll have to change is developing relationships off campus, he said.

Alan Baharlou, who was the chair of the geology and geography department for 25 years and is now the president of Eastern retirees, was on the search committee that hired Lord in 2001.

He said the years he has worked with Lord have shown how he would deal with situations if he were president.

"We know him," he said. "He's been tested for six years. We know his character, his philosophy, his education, his style, (and) his vigor. Everything."

What really sets Lord apart, Baharlou said, is the external relationships he has developed.

This includes dealings with alumni and state legislators, something Lord said he has done a good job of, even though it was not a primary duty of his job.

Brian Clarke, a graduate student, asked Lord what skills he possessed that would help him secure funding from the state.

Lord said fund raising was going to be one of the most important tasks for the new president and that state funding was too erratic to be relied on.

Clarke said he was disappointed in the answer.

"I agreed with what he said but I was looking to actually hear what personal skills he could bring to the position," Clarke said.

But Clarke said he was impressed with his knowledge of working with

state lawmakers.

"Things like that were things I did not know about him that I found to be strong qualities," he said.

Lord said the fact that he is an internal candidate can give him a leg up, but it can also be a detriment.

"This institution knows me," he said. "I'm not an unknown quantity. They know what they like about me and they know what they're not so pleased about."

If Eastern didn't choose Lord as president, he said would have no problem continuing with his job.

"I have a wonderful job as provost and I think I've done it well," he said. "I'd be delighted to continue to do that job as well as I'm able to were I not chosen for president."

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Kroger still not stocking 'morning after' pill

Controversy surrounds store after it claims to make the pill available

The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Two weeks after Kroger Co. said it was clarifying its policy on stocking the so-called "morning after" pill, activists say dozens of stores continue to block sales of the emergency contraceptive.

Representatives of NARAL Pro-

Choice America, an abortion-rights group that also works on other reproductive health issues, sent a letter to Kroger officials Wednesday asking them to carry the drug at all of their pharmacies.

Ted Miller, communications director for the group, said members called 231 Kroger-run pharmacies across the country and found that 21 percent of the stores did not make the drug immediately available.

Reasons ranged from an employee in Kansas who said he

would not sell the drug to another in Utah who said it had not been approved for over-the-counter sales in that state, the group said.

A Kroger spokeswoman said that the Cincinnati-based chain does stock the drug at all of its locations and blamed the confusion on employees who did not understand the company's policies.

The company sent messages to all of its pharmacies clarifying the policy and said many of the calls NARAL members made to stores came before the policy was clarified,

she said.

"We think some of this is due to some confusion over the policy," said Kroger spokeswoman Lynn Marmer.

Sold as Plan B, emergency contraception is a high dose of the drug found in many regular birth-control pills. It can lower the risk of pregnancy by up to 89 percent if taken within 72 hours of unprotected sex.

Critics argue that the pill encourages promiscuity and unprotected sex.



nationbriefs

Man sentenced to 240 years for taking hostages

NEW YORK — A judge sentenced a black man to 240 years in prison Wednesday for taking hostages in a bar and telling patrons that "white people are going to burn tonight."

Johnson, 39, was convicted March 1 of attempted murder, assault and other charges, including some designated as hate crimes.

Johnson invaded Bar Veloce, in Manhattan's East Village neighborhood, while nine men and six women were inside it June 16, 2000. He was carrying three pistols, a samurai sword and a container of kerosene.

He told police he had left the Brooklyn housing project where he lived and taken the subway to go look for "happy" white people to avenge the mistreatment of black people.

Report reveals why levees broke in New Orleans

Errors date back to 1965 plans, which relied on 1929 land measurements

The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Decades of mistakes, some as basic as not knowing the elevation of New Orleans — led the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to believe its levees and

floodwalls would protect the city from a storm as strong as Hurricane Katrina, a report released Wednesday concludes. The corps used obsolete research to design flood-control structures that were built too low and improperly maintained, a group of engineers and storm researchers called Team Louisiana said in its 475-page report.

The report was commissioned by the state Department of Transportation and Development.

The system was intended to be

strong enough to handle a Category 3 hurricane like Katrina, which devastated New Orleans when levees broke. Two major studies last year looked at the engineering problems that caused the 2005 breaches, but the new study also closely examines whether the problems could have been foreseen when the flood-control system was created.

The report said the errors date to the original plans in 1965, which relied on land height measurements from 1929. Because the city had

sunk over the years, the plans called for levees that were 1 to 2 feet too low.

"This mistake was locked in" for continuing construction by a policy adopted in 1985, even though scientists knew how fast New Orleans was sinking, the report said. By the time Katrina hit, the levees were as much as 5 feet too low.

The report also said the corps never used a storm surge model released in 1979 by the National Hurricane Center.

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Waltasti

FROM PAGE 12

While there are more than a few capable players waiting to get their chances to start, having a coach set — with a full practice schedule — is important to get the new group to play with the same cohesiveness and understanding that last year's line displayed.

The last interview took place Wednesday with former Buffalo offensive coordinator Roy Istvan, who also coached the offensive line there, visiting campus and making his presentation to Spoo and his staff.

A decision should be made by this weekend and all three outside candidates will be anxiously waiting to get the phone call that tells them they got the job, whichever job that may be.

But the most anxious has to be the one candidate who is still a part of Eastern's staff — Munoz.

Munoz should be the next offensive coordinator for the Panthers but the administration is making him sweat out the week because if he is not chosen, he will actually be demoted. While officially titled a co-offensive coordinator last

season, Munoz called the plays and led a balanced Panther offense in addition to maintaining his duties as the quarterbacks coach.

If a new offensive coordinator is brought in, that means a new system for quarterback Cole Stinson to digest.

Hardly an ideal situation for a senior quarterback, who would have to learn his second offensive scheme in as many years.

Munoz was effective last year and deserves to be full-time offensive coordinator and bring the same offense back this season, but I have already sung his praises on that issue.

Eastern's athletic department got greedy.

They wanted to wait and see if they could get someone better than Munoz but all the process has done is push back spring practices and potentially piss off a coach that did not flee for a better position like Hutson.

The Panthers, with two consecutive Ohio Valley Conference championships and another solid recruiting class, are on their way to becoming an elite in I-AA football.

An unorganized team and slighted staff is not what will help the Panthers take the next step.

NCAA TOURNAMENT | SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

Salukis' Shaw hopes to play today

By The Associated Press

SAN JOSE, Calif. — Forward Matt Shaw won't decide until game time whether he'll play in Southern Illinois' West Regional semifinal game against Kansas after spraining his ankle last week.

Shaw, who averaged 11.4 points and 5.7 rebounds as the fourth-seeded Salukis' third-leading scorer this season, was hurt in Southern Illinois' opening-round win over Holy Cross.

He returned to practice Wednesday in San Jose, but plans to see how he feels before deciding whether to play Thursday. He missed the Salukis' second-round win over Virginia Tech last week, snapping the junior's streak of 81 consecutive starts.

"It's definitely been a roller-coaster," Shaw said. "Going from one moment fighting off tears that you can't play, and the next moment the game starts and you have to be there for your teammates and be positive."

"I was able to get up and down and run a little bit in straight lines (at practice), and even jump a little bit. Cutting definitely hurts, so we'll see."

Southern Illinois (29-6), which has won 15 of 16, must beat the top-seeded Jayhawks to reach the round of eight for the first time in school history.

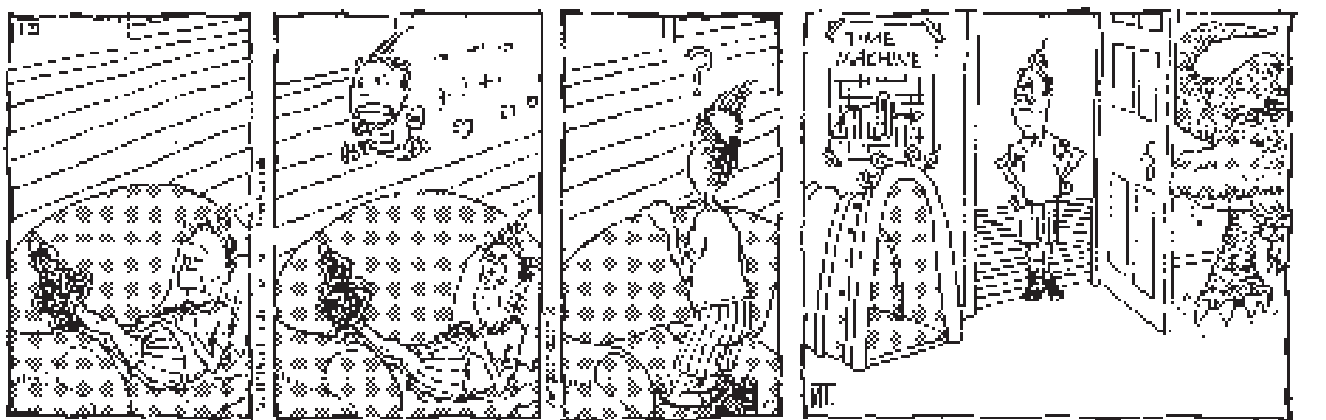
Coach Chris Lowery said Shaw was "still very ginger, but I assume he's going to try to play."

Tony Boyle scored a career-high 14 points while filling in for Shaw.

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campus clips

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Special Olympics are being held on Friday, April 27 from 7:30am-2:30pm at O'Brien Stadium--EIU. Special Olympics Volunteer forms are available in 1212 Buzzard Hall, Department of Special Education, and are due by 4:30pm March 23.

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Sudoku By Michael Mepham

Sudoku puzzle grid with numbers and instructions.

Sudoku solution and other puzzle-related information.

The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0208

- ACROSS: 1 Designer for Jackie... 5 When one might have a late lunch... 10 Damage assessment gpr... 14 One-cloth of an inch... 15 Indian palace... 18 Long periods... 17 Yield... 18 Web listings for an old washer?... 20 Floozies provide... 22 Ingredient in a liqueur dish... 23 Hockey gear for rams and swags?... 25 Hot Wheels company... 26 Socks are personal... 28 Move remote... 30 Side in an annual all-star game... 33 Building, seaside part of Rockefeller Center... 38 Cocktails' cousin?... 40 Suffix with bellad... 41 Upbeat... 42 Beat... 43 Erection, maybe... 45 Bush White House ring... 48 Part ownership in a bar?... 51 Live-core chemical bonds... 52 Erupting... 53 Comment on a woman from Copenhagen?... 55 "___ living"... 58 Strip between stripes... 59 Loud rumble?... 61 Pilgrimage... 62 Added conditions... 63 Sytan loader... 64 Days of ___... DOWN: 1 Kind of column... 2 Table of stories... 3 Unbleached: Fr... 4 Soprano, for one... 5 Dutch beer... 6 A lake or a Chevy... 7 "Movin' Out" boy singer... 8 Ebbs... 9 Good cheer... 10 Deceptions... 11 "Bessie Street" regular... 12 Speedy sharks... 13 Part of 57-Down: Abba... 14 Top of bricks, 9,5... 21 Sci-fi writer ___ & Tapper... 24 The Green Hornet's valet... 25 Tiny critter... 26 Pain... 27 Stature... 28 "___, me?"... 31 The invaders in "The Invaders"... 32 Farm enclosure

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-64.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

Grid of answers for the previous crossword puzzle.

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INTRAMURAL SPORTS | NOTEBOOK

Sigma Phi Epsilon cruises in kickball

Sig Ep 8 crushes Delta Sig White 17-0

By Chris Sentel
I-Sports Reporter

The Sig Ep 8 intramural kickball team may not have won their game by a forfeit, but the Delta Sig White team may have wanted to consider it after getting blown out 17-0 Tuesday night.

The game went three innings and only lasted 15 minutes.

Sig Ep 8 scored eight points in the first inning.

"We wanted to keep the ball on the ground," said Dane Boudreau, a junior recreation administration major and captain of Sig Ep 8. "And

then have one or two guys go for the homerun once we have several people on base."

Intramural kickball has a slider rule, which means if either team scores 15 points more than the other team, the game is over.

Boudreau said the team is hoping to build on last year's success.

"All of us played last year," Boudreau said. "We made it to the semi-finals then lost. Hopefully we get just as far this year then go to the finals and win it all."

Delta Zeta wins by forfeit

The first game of the intramural women's softball season proved to be the easiest win the Delta Zeta team has had all season.

The team ESA did not show up

for the game on Tuesday, which resulted in a forfeit giving Delta Zeta the win.

"I didn't think I was going to get all the girls out here because we didn't find out that the game wasn't cancelled until 2 p.m.," said Katie Schuerman, a junior marketing major and captain of the Delta Zeta team. "We worked really hard just to get nine girls out here."

Softball was supposed to begin Monday, but all of the Monday games were cancelled because of wet conditions.

Captains can check to see if games are cancelled by calling 581-2821, extension 2. If there is a message from Kevin Linker, the director of intramural sports, or one of his staff, the game is canceled.

Forfeits continue

The theme of easy wins continued Tuesday night. The intramural volleyball team, The B Bongers forfeited to Holy Shirts and Pants.

But the team hardly needs a forfeit to get victories.

"Not only are we undefeated, but we haven't lost a single set," said Ryan Wilson, a junior communications major and member of Holy Shirts and Pants. "We just got a player back, Vincent Stubstad. He was injured the last game and we were really looking forward to playing him, but no dice."

Wilson says the team is usually in the playoffs every year.

He fully expects the team to not only do well in the playoffs, but also win the championship.

pantherbriefs

MEN'S TENNIS

Panthers nationally ranked

» The men's tennis program has achieved a new program best.

The Intercollegiate Tennis Association ranked the Panther



Chuck LeVaque
Senior Men's Tennis Player

squad as the No. 75 team in Division I.

This is first national ranking for the Panthers (7-3, 1-2 Ohio Valley Conference). They are the only team ranked in the OVC.

Senior Chuck LeVaque posts the best singles record for the team (8-2), but lost his last two matches. Eastern plays Saint Louis at 3 p.m. today at Darling Courts.

MEN'S GOLF

Imburgia wins weekly award

» The Ohio Valley Conference named senior Anthony Imburgia the OVC male golfer of the week.



Anthony Imburgia
Senior Golfer

Imburgia won the Kauai Collegiate Cup in Princeville, Hawaii on Saturday. Imburgia helped the Panthers finish fourth as a team.

The Effingham native fired a three under-par rounds with rounds of 71, 67 and 70 to finish at 208 (-8). The course was set at a par 72.

Imburgia leads the men's golf team with a 74.8 stroke average through 20 rounds of play which ranks him 23rd overall in the OVC in stroke average.

» Mistakes

FROM PAGE 12

"I've hit off her for three years now," Steele said. "She consistently comes out year after year."

Karyn Mackie set the tone for the game and did not give up a hit until the second inning.

"I just wanted to make sure I got that first strike and that first batter," Karyn said.

Karyn pitched 6.2 innings, struck out four and walked only one.

"Anytime you can get a lead for your pitcher she'll relax a little bit and do her job," said Eastern head coach Kim Schuette.

The only trouble she faced was in the sixth inning.

The Sycamores (14-10) had already scored one run and had runners on second and third with

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one out.

"We kept our composure," Steele said.

Karyn Mackie had Sycamore Katie Iocoangeli at a full count, but got Iocoangeli to strike out swinging.

"I actually missed my spot, but I got her to swing," Karyn said of her drop-ball pitch on Iocoangeli.

Sophomore pitcher Kathleen Jacoby replaced Karyn in the sixth inning and earned her first save of the season.

The Panthers return to Ohio Valley Conference action this Saturday.

The Panthers will travel to Birmingham, Ala., to take on Samford in a three-game series.

Eastern 5, Chicago State 2

Inning by Inning	R	H	E
CSU	0	0	1
EIU	1	1	2

WP: Morrell, Brian (1-0) LP: Freshour (0-5)

E - Morgan -CSU; Peppenhorst, Kory (3), Varrassi, Adam (6) - EIU. DP - EIU 2; CSU 2. LOB - EIU 11; CSU 4. 2B - Campbell, Ryan (5), Cobb, Jason (2), Varrassi (4), Kroke, Jorda (4), Astrouski, Mike (1) - EIU. HBP - Nommensen, Brett - EIU. SB - Wilson, Packard, -CSU, Chagnon, Mark (4).

Key Inning: Bottom of the Third

Eastern turned a 2-1 lead into a 4-1 lead thanks to two key runs. DH Jason Cobb's two-run double drove home both Panther runs.

Eastern 4, Indiana State 1

Inning by Inning	R	H	E
ISU	0	0	0
EIU	4	0	0

WP: Mackie, Karyn (4-4) LP: McCurdy, Meagan (7-2)

E - Simpson, Meredith, Kopp, Natalie, Tovar, Yvette - ISU. DP - EIU 1. ISU 1. LOB - EIU 4; ISU 2. 2B - Steele, Katy (4) - EIU. SB - Brackett, Lauren (4), Mackie, Robyn (2) - EIU.

Key Inning: Bottom of the First

Eastern scored all four of its runs thanks to sloppy ISU defense. The Sycamores committed three errors, with the Panthers only having two hits.

» Contain

FROM PAGE 12

However, head coach Jim Schmitz wasn't pleased by the performance his closer gave him.

"Not sharp," Schmitz said on Derbak's performance, in which he gave up a walk and a single to put the tying run to the plate. "Yeah, his changeup's his best pitch and he didn't locate anything. He's got to understand that 5-2 doesn't mean 15-2. He's got to be sharper when he comes in the game."

Now the Panthers (5-10) have two days off before entertaining Tennessee Tech for a three-game series this Saturday and Sunday at Coaches Stadium.

"I think it could have gone better," senior shortstop Adam Varrassi said. "I guess there's some things we still got to work on."

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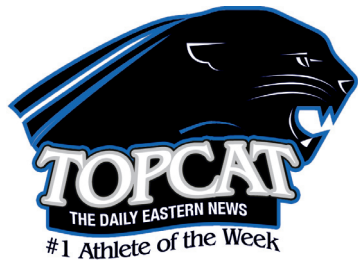
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TOP CAT | NATALIE MARTIN

Martin off to a hot start

Life-changing moments off the court fuel Montreal native on it

By Adam Tedder
Online Editor



Sophomore women's tennis player Natalie Martin says she has much to prove.

After all, the Montreal native has had to overcome the death of her mother, temporarily quitting tennis and missing her first season last year because of eligibility issues.

But now Martin has proved herself – so far.

She has compiled a 12-1 record at No. 2 singles for the Panthers this year, and just suffered her first loss Tuesday against Saint Louis University.

The hot start this season is not a surprise to anyone, though.

"She may have exceeded our expectations, but I'm not shocked by this strong start," head coach John Blackburn said. "I think she's an outstanding athlete. She can play in the big moments extremely well."

Big life-changing moments off the court have affected Martin's life and her tennis career. But the real turning point in her career may have been when she quit tennis at the age of 15.

Martin said the loss of her mother affected her and made the game feel different – it lost its fun.

She returned to tennis when she turned 18.

"I was just doing it for myself and not for anyone else," Martin said. "It was just fun again."

After she returned to the court, Martin said she had to look for a future in tennis. But in order to find it, she had to find someone from her past. That someone was current Eastern tennis player Charles LeVaque, who is also from Canada.

"We played tennis together when we were younger at the same club," she said. "It was kind of random, we were talking online and he said 'You should come play at Eastern' and I was like 'OK.'"

She said she e-mailed Blackburn and a month later, found herself set to enroll.

What makes Martin's 12-0 start even sweeter is the fact that she could not play last season.

"It was because of my eligibility. I was ineligible to play, so I couldn't travel with the team and was forced to miss most of the season," Martin said.

Martin said her lost year disappointed her, but also gave her a boost to play even better this season.

But Martin is far from being a newcomer to tennis.

She has been playing since she was 4 years old, when her aunt, Andree Martin, helped teach her the game that would bring her to Charleston.

"My aunt was a professional tennis player," she said. "She played all the tournaments like Wimbledon, French Open, the Australian Open and stuff. She taught me how to play tennis; we're a tennis family. So it was kind of obvious I would get into it, too."

Her aunt, however, was not her sole influence in playing tennis. Martin said her older brother also helped her and encouraged her to play tennis, in addition to other sports.

"Well, every sport my brother

did, I did too," she said. "I played so many sports because of him."

Martin said it was not until she was 10 years old that tennis got serious for her. By the age of 12, Martin made Team Canada.

Blackburn said he thought Martin had given the team encouragement through her play this year.

Some of her teammates agree. "If I didn't even know her or I was from another school, I would still look up to her," junior Stephanie Harmazy said. "And it's not just her record, it's the way she plays. She just knows what to do on the court."

Blackburn said he was even more impressed by the way she handles

MEET NATALIE MARTIN

» **Class:** Sophomore

» **Age:** 22

» **Hometown:** Montreal

» **Superstitions:** Always listens to music before a match.

» **Least Favorite Sports Movie:** Wimbledon

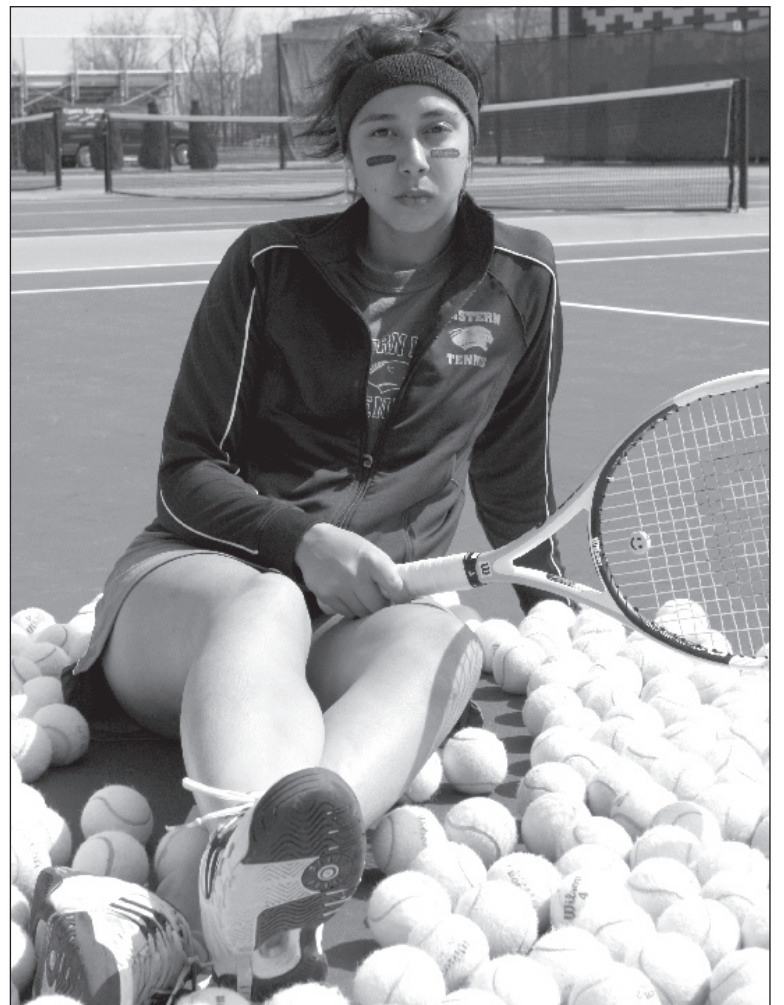
"(Kirsten Dunst) obviously never played tennis before. She didn't know what she was doing."

her success.

"She's playing strong tennis and she's a good teammate," he said. "She wants the team to win though, she doesn't get full of her own success."

Despite how well Martin has been playing this season, she said she has, and will, played better.

"I don't think this is the best tennis I've ever played," she said. "I'm doing as much as I can, but I don't think I'm quite there yet, since I'm a bit injured. But I'm getting there."



AMIR PRELLBERG | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Natalie Martin began playing tennis when she was only 4 years old and earned a spot on Team Canada when she was 12.

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SPORTS

THURSDAY
3.22.07

sportschedule

MEN'S TENNIS

TODAY vs. Saint Louis | 3 p.m.
Darling Courts

WOMEN'S GOLF

SATURDAY at Saluki Invite |
Carbondale

TRACK AND FIELD

**SATURDAY at Southern Illinois
Collegiate Series** | Carbondale

BASEBALL

SATURDAY vs. Tennessee Tech |
Doubleheader Noon Coaches Stadium

SOFTBALL

SATURDAY at Samford |
Doubleheader 1 p.m. Birmingham, Ala.

joewaltasti

The Extra Point

Indecision delays practices

What do you mean no spring football game?

Because of the lengthy search for an offensive line coach/offensive coordinator/combo of both, Eastern head coach Bob Spoo said the Panthers might have to forgo the annual spring intra-squad football game.

The athletic department's indecision in deciding which one of Mark Hutson's two positions would be filled by a new hire has forced spring practices to start a week later than normal.

The Eastern brass did decide they would only hire one coach and they did decide they would start the hiring process after national signing day.

But they did not decide which position the new coach would fill.

It is important to have the hole in the coaching staff filled before spring practices begin, but that hole should have been plugged a week ago – and Eastern should have decided on hiring a new offensive line coach.

Just an offensive line coach.

Not an offensive coordinator or even a co-offensive coordinator like last year's set-up with Hutson and Jorge Munoz sharing the role.

No additional titles or responsibilities are needed because coaching the offensive line this year will be a demanding role.

Eastern's offensive line will have three new starters this spring with Jon Rueter, Eric Johnson and Steve Sobolewski all graduating.

The Panthers will also have to replace second all-time leading rusher Vincent Webb Jr. at running back.

» SEE WALTASTI
PAGE 9



Joe Waltasti is a senior history major with journalism minor. He can be reached at jwal717@yahoo.com.

SOFTBALL | EASTERN 4, INDIANA STATE 1

First inning mistakes doom Sycamores

Eastern plates four runs to start game

By Kevin Murphy
Associate Sports Editor

It wasn't like Eastern was hitting the ball in the gaps or home runs over the fence at Williams Field in the first inning of Wednesday's game against Indiana State.

Instead, it was the mistakes of the Sycamores that helped the Panthers out early.

The first inning was all Eastern needed in its 4-1 win against Indiana State on Wednesday at Williams Field.

The Panthers (9-13) scored all four of their runs in the inning, thanks to three Sycamore errors.

"We gave up four unearned runs," said Indiana State head coach Brenda Coldren. "It was tough to climb out of a hole."

Sophomore second baseman Sarah Coppert hit a bloop single over Indiana State's second baseman's head to start the Panthers scoring spree.

"She set the tempo right away," said senior first baseman Katy Steele.

Coppert went 2-for-3 on the day.



JAY GRABIEC | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Sophomore pitcher Kathleen Jacoby closes out the game Wednesday afternoon against Indiana State in Eastern's 4-1 win at Williams Field.

Freshman leftfielder Lauren Brackett reached on an error by the Indiana State second baseman, which advanced Coppert to third base.

Junior designated player Robyn Mackie reached first on another Indiana State error and scored Coppert. Brackett was caught stealing home for the possible

second run of the inning.

Senior catcher Sandyn Short scored Mackie on a fielder's choice. Short scored the third run of the inning on a double from Steele.

Sophomore centerfielder Angela Danca made a sacrifice hit and advanced Steele to third.

Junior pitcher Karyn Mackie helped her own cause when she hit what was supposed to be a lineout.

The Indiana State right fielder dropped the ball and Steele scored.

"(Indiana State's errors) gave us energy and gave us a kick," Steele said. "It gave us adrenaline. (Softball is) all about highs and lows. That first inning was a high."

The early offensive spurt made it easier on Panther starting pitcher Karyn Mackie.

"It was nice to go out on the mound, knowing you had four runs under you," the junior said.

The Sycamores out hit Eastern (5-3) but only scored one run.

Sycamore pitcher Darcy Wood replaced starting pitcher Meagan McCurdy in the first inning and the Panthers only managed one hit after the first inning.

» SEE MISTAKES, PAGE 10

BASEBALL | EASTERN 5, CHICAGO STATE 2



AMIR PRELLBERG | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Senior outfielder Mark Chagnon looks to make contact with a pitch Wednesday afternoon against Chicago State at Coaches Stadium. Chagnon had two hits and two RBIs and the Panthers defeated the Cougars 5-2 in Eastern's first home game of the season.

Morrell contains Cougars

Starting pitching effective, Eastern hitting timely in win

By Kevin Kenealy
Online Interactive Editor

The forecast had originally called for rain, but the sun shone brightly over a team that has undergone some foul-weather play.

Eastern capitalized when they had to en route to a 5-2 win against Chicago State in Wednesday's home opener at Coaches Stadium. The start of the game foreshadowed how the rest of the day would go for the Panthers.

A diving catch by Eastern's leftfielder Mark Chagnon in the first kept Chicago State off the scoreboard in the first inning.

The Panthers scored first, thanks to a Chicago State error that allowed Panther centerfielder Brett Nommensen to score and give Eastern a 1-0 lead after the first inning.

Nommensen's run in the first showcased the

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Panthers' ability to take advantage of Chicago State's miscues.

Mark Chagnon singled an inning later to put Eastern up 2-0 an inning later.

Chagnon would finish the day 2-for-3 with two singles and drove in two runs. Eastern starter Brian Morrell was solid in his three innings aside from allowing a run in third, cutting the Panthers' lead to one.

But in the top half of the inning, Eastern scored two runs to take a 4-1 lead, which also came as the result of a walk.

Designated hitter Jason Cobb drove in both with a bases-clearing double.

The bases remained clear following the hit as he was thrown out trying for third.

The lead would stick as righthander Tyler Brandon allowed one hit in two innings of

work, along with a strikeout.

Things got shaky for the Panthers late in the game when the struggling relief pitcher Chris Vaculik was put to the test.

Vaculik, who came into the game with an ERA above 10.00, was rough in the top of the eighth. A walk turned into a triple with a stolen base and an error on the throw.

Despite getting the strikeout on a curve ball low to the next batter, a sharp single through the shortstop-third base gap got the run home for Chicago State, closing Eastern's lead to 4-2.

But Vaculik's defense helped him out following the run, turning a double play and getting Eastern out of the inning.

Back-to-back doubles by Jordan Kreke and Mike Astrouski gave freshman closer Richie Derbak a three-run lead heading into the top of the ninth.

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