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POWERFUL POEMS

Poet and LGBTQ activist Natasha T. Miller recited her work for students Wednesday night in the 7th Street Underground

PAGE 3

READY TO RETURN?

Junior guard D’Angelo Jackson is the only injured player on the men’s basketball team who could play again this season— and he might come back as soon as Thursday.

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THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Thursday, February 15, 2018 “TELL THE TRUTH AND DON’T BE AFRAID” VOL. 102 | NO. 104 CELEBRATING A CENTURY OF COVERAGE EST. 1915 WWW.DAILYEASTERNNEWS.COM

Change in pension plan might burden universities and colleges

By Analicia Haynes Managing Editor | @achaynes1943

Gov. Bruce Rauner proposed shifting the responsibility for paying pension costs to local school districts and public universities in an attempt to balance the state budget Wednesday. Rauner said in his budget address that the pension revamp will cut \$1 billion in taxes, claiming that the legislature can no longer increase the income tax and instead, a heavy pension reform is needed. If passed, this plan will be phased in over the course of four years and those at the “employer level” will pay the pensions in 25 percent increments per year, Rauner said. The proposal also offered local governments and schools the tools they need to “offset the costs” acquired from paying the pensions. These tools include an increase in education funding, the power to dissolve or consolidate units of local government and more flexibility in contracting, bidding and sharing services. Universities will therefore have to pay their pension costs and pick up healthcare costs. However, Rauner proposed an additional \$205 million in appropriations to universities for FY19 to offset that cost. Charlie Wheeler, the director of the public affairs reporting program at the University of Illinois – Springfield, said the difficulty is figuring out how the universities will be able to afford picking up the pension costs, which he said is not possible. Such a shift would result in potential fee increases, tuition increases or cuts, depending on each university and the actual numbers resulting from the pension costs, Wheeler said. Richard Wandling, the chair of the political science department, said this pension sharing idea is something that downstate schools and public universities will not be happy about.

Other things said about higher ed

In his Budget Address, Gov. Bruce Rauner said this year, “we bring an end to budget reductions for our university and community college systems.” Here’s a recap about what else he mentioned:

- \$100 million in capital funds to meet “deferred maintenance needs” has been added
- MAP grants are being maintained at FY18 levels
- a capital grant is being recommended to the U of I for its Illinois Innovation Network and Discovery Partners Institute

information taken from The Chicago Tribune

If Eastern is given the flat budget it has relative to FY18, there would be a budget reduction if the university has to take up the responsibility for funding pensions, he said. Wandling said Rauner’s budget seems to be based on the idea that school districts and universities are draining the state budget. “It’s as though (local governments, school districts and public universities) are separate from the responsibilities of the state and when it comes to the promotion of education (on all levels),” Wandling said. He said it is as though public universities and school districts are imposing these costs on the

state when in reality they are part of an “overall matrix” to deliver education as a public good to residents. “We have a comprehensive education system in which we have other institutions in the state that play an important role... and it’s important that they be self-sustaining entities because they contribute great things to the collective benefit of the state,” Wandling said. He said Rauner values higher education in a very narrow sense of how it contributes to his vision of economic development.

Pension, page 5

Gov. says changes needed to pensions

Springfield, Ill. (AP) — Republican Gov. Bruce Rauner said Wednesday he could balance the Illinois budget and cut taxes by \$1 billion provided the Democratic-controlled General Assembly agrees to make massive changes to the pension system and health insurance benefits for state workers. Besides again advocating for a constitutionally questionable overhaul of employee pensions, Rauner told lawmakers during a budget address that he wants to shift retirement costs to local school districts and dictate health insurance benefits for state workers. The first-term governor, who is facing a tough re-election bid, said pension and health expenses consume 25 cents of every dollar the state doles out. “The simple truth is this: We have to change the way we manage pension costs and group health expenses,” Rauner said. “If we don’t, our finances will continue to deteriorate, our economy will remain sluggish and our tax burdens will stay high and keep rising.” The overall pension revamp would save \$1 billion a year, Rauner said. Although he wouldn’t count on that money in the 2019 budget that begins July 1, it ultimately would allow him to drop the income tax rate from 4.95 percent to 4.7 percent, he contended. It’s likely to face a court challenge as past proposals have because the Constitution prohibits promised pensions from being “diminished or impaired.”

Budget, page 5

Student Senate approves statue purchase

By Analicia Haynes Managing Editor | @Haynes1943

The idea to buy a \$3,785 bronze panther statue will now go forward after the Student Senate approved it 12-7 Wednesday night. The statue, which will be funded by student fees allocated to student government, was met with controversy campus-wide regarding how it will be paid for. Student Senator Patrick Delgado, who voted against the purchase of the statue, very few people in turn will pay attention to the statue. “I just think there wouldn’t be as much of an impact (on campus),” he said. “If people aren’t even going to go to events, then I don’t think (the statue) is really going to propel us further into our school spirit.” Student Senator Antonio Valdez said with the negative effects of the budget impasse still looming on campus, purchasing a statue would be frivolous. “I can tell you that I personally saw the castle on the horizon and I nearly said, ‘That is the place I want to go’ and I think that we diminished that quite a bit,” Valdez said. “We think too much about our mascot, and I think that if we were to include the castle we can promote just as much school spirit as (the statue).” The reason Valdez said he voted against the

statue was because he wanted to represent the students who did not want it. Executive Vice President Derek Pierce said the statue would benefit students, whether it be by them taking a picture with family or helping the university market its brand. “Every student is going to see a return on their student activity fee, rather than just an event where we pay a couple thousand dollars and (students) are unable to attend or just 100 students attend and the rest foot the bill,” Pierce said. Pierce said the statues shows that students want to invest in the university. “We believe in the school, we believe in its future, we believe that we will turn things around and we look forward to what the future holds for Eastern,” Pierce said. Student Senator Ethan Osborne said the statue would be a great way to develop a leave a legacy in the Student Senate. “This statue is a representation of a greater idea present beyond the six years, ten years....we are here,” Osbourne said. The idea still has to go before the Apportionment Board, the entity that distributes student fees to student government ; the Student Recreation Center and the University Board, to ask for funds for the statue’s commemorative plaque, base and concrete pad. They will also ask for the money needed to



ANALICIA HAYNES | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Executive Vice President Derek Pierce (right) defends the purchase of a panther statue Wednesday night during a Student Senate meeting.

pay for the labor associated with the installation of the statue. Pierce said the statue will be completed either by the end of the semester or during the fall semester. “A lot of it is dependent on the pressing proj-


ects on campus with the limited staff and the administration’s priorities,” Pierce said.

Analicia Haynes can be reached at 581-2812 or achaynes@eiu.edu.


Local weather

THURSDAY

FRIDAY



Rain
High: 63°
Low: 31°



Partly Cloudy
High: 35°
Low: 22°

THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS


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


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State and Nation

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

17 killed by gunman at Florida high school

PARKLAND, Fla. (AP) — A former student opened fire at a Florida high school Wednesday as classes were being dismissed, killing at least 17 people and sending scores of students running into the streets to escape the bullets.

Frantic parents rushed to Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, where SWAT team members and ambulances had surrounded the campus. Live footage showed emergency workers who appeared to be treating the wounded on sidewalks.

"It is a horrific situation," Superintendent Robert Runcie said. "It is a horrible day for us."

The 19-year-old suspect was taken into custody without incident about an hour after he left the school, authorities said.

Broward County Sheriff Scott Israel said the suspect, who was previously expelled for disciplinary reasons, had at least one rifle and multiple magazines.

Most of the fatalities were inside the building, though some were found fatally shot outside, the sheriff said.

The gunman was identified as Nicolas

Cruz by a U.S. official briefed on the investigation. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the information publicly.

The day started normally at the school, which had a morning fire drill, and students were in class around 2:30 p.m. when another alarm sounded.

Noah Parness, a 17-year-old junior, said he and the other students calmly went outside to their fire-drill areas when he suddenly heard popping sounds.

"We saw a bunch of teachers running down the stairway, and then everybody shifted and broke into a sprint," Parness said. "I hopped a fence."

Beth Feingold said her daughter, Brittani, sent a text at 2:32 p.m. that said, "We're on code red. I'm fine," but sent another text shortly afterward saying, "Mom, I'm so scared."

Brittani later was able to escape the school, but was running along a busy road for part of the time, in what was a very chaotic scene around school — one of

the state's largest in the county with about 3,000 students.

Inside the school, students heard loud bangs as the shooter opened fire. Many of them hid under desks or in closets and barricaded doors.

Live footage showed those students who fled leaving in a single-file line with their hands over their heads as officers urged them to evacuate quickly. Caesar Figueroa said when he got to the school to check on his 16-year-old daughter, he saw police officers drawing machine guns as they approached the campus.

"My wife called me that there was an active shooter, and the school was on lockdown. I got on the road and saw helicopters. ... It was crazy and my daughter wasn't answering her phone." She finally texted him that she was inside a closet with friends.

Len Murray's 17-year-old son, a junior at the school, sent his parents a chilling text: "Mom and Dad, there have been shots fired on campus at school. There are police sirens outside. I'm in the auditori-

um and the doors are locked."

A few minutes later, he texted again: "I'm fine."

Murray said he raced to the school only to be stopped by authorities under a highway overpass within view of the school buildings. He said he told his son to save his battery and stop texting, while the boy's mother told him to turn off his ringer.

Authorities told parents to gather at a nearby hotel to get information.

"I'm scared for the other parents here. You can see the concern in everybody's faces. Everybody is asking, 'Have you heard from your child yet?'" Murray said.

Murray said he's had just one thought running through his mind since he got his son's text: "All I keep thinking about is when I dropped him off this morning. I usually say, 'I love you,' and I didn't this morning. He's 17, he's at that age, and I didn't say it this morning, and I'm just kicking myself right now over and over and over. Say it early and often, I'm telling you."

Group of senators reaches immigration deal

WASHINGTON (AP) — A group of senators reached a bipartisan agreement Wednesday aimed at balancing Democrats' fight to offer citizenship to young "Dreamer" immigrants with President Donald Trump's demands for billions to build his coveted border wall with Mexico.

Though the compromise was announced by 16 senators with centrist views on the issue and was winning support from many Democrats, it faced an uncertain fate. Leaders were trying to schedule votes on that plan and three other immigration proposals for Thursday, which they hoped would bring the chamber's showdown over the hot-button issue to a close.

While not specifically mentioning the bipartisan pact, Trump urged lawmakers to oppose any plan that doesn't meet his more stringent demands, which include curbs on legal immigration and the abolition of a visa lottery. The Senate's No. 2 Republican, John Cornyn of Texas, warned that lawmakers need to address Trump's entire proposal, saying, "We need to take the president seriously."

There were also qualms among Democrats. The party's No. 2 Sen-

ate leader, Richard Durbin of Illinois, said some Democrats had "serious issues" with parts of the plan. Those concerns focused on its spending for Trump's wall and its bar against Dreamers sponsoring their parents for legal residency.

"We're not there yet," Senator Richard Durbin said of the 60 votes the proposal would need for approval.

UN gets report on what some say is Gaza catastrophe

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The United Nations' Mideast envoy briefed the Security Council behind closed doors Wednesday at the request of Kuwait and Bolivia on what Palestinian Ambassador Riyad Mansour called the "catastrophic" humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip.

Bolivian Ambassador Sacha Llorentty Soliz said Nikolay Mladenov, the special coordinator for the Middle East peace process, told the council that drinking water is short, hospitals have been closed and "doctors stopped doing surgeries." Mladenov also cited Gaza's 47 percent unemployment rate, rising to 60 percent for young people, he said.

Llorentty Soliz said he highlighted that the situation in Gaza has been worsened by the U.S. suspension of

millions of dollars in funding for the U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees.

The U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees, known as UNRWA, was notified Jan. 16 that the U.S. was withholding \$65 million of a planned \$125 million installment. The U.S. demanded a "fundamental re-examination" of the agency in addition to changes to its programs, which have been heavily criticized by Israel.

Llorentty Soliz said he told the council the primary responsibility for "the catastrophic situation in Gaza" rests with Israel.

Israel's U.N. ambassador, Danny Danon, countered that the responsibility lies with the Islamic militant group Hamas, which dominates Gaza.

Scandals finally catch up with South African President Zuma

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — As scandal after scandal unfolded, South African President Jacob Zuma maintained an affable demeanor in public, rallying his support base, dispatching lawyers to fend off court challenges and, it is alleged, enabling his corrupt associates.

Finally, the astute political operator whose on-stage dancing and singing delighted loyalists ran out of options, his reputation shattered by revelations of systemic graft in government. Abandoned by once-steadfast allies in the ruling party, Zuma was forced to resign Wednesday, ending a presidential tenure of nearly a decade, much of it marred by questions about his conduct and character.

Zuma has denied any wrongdoing. But the steady flow, and then flood, of allegations of impropriety on his watch reinforced a sense that South Africa had failed to live up to the hopes of its young democracy when apartheid ended in 1994.

Certainly, South Africa's economic inequity and other sweeping problems could not be pinned on any one person, and Zuma could point to significant improvements since the end of white minority rule, including during his presidency. But the culture of corruption and impunity that flourished in his orbit could take years to overcome.

As public opinion turned against Zuma, some members of the ruling African National Congress party began to see him as a risk to its hold on power ahead of 2019 elections. His appearances in parliament turned chaotic as protesting opposition members were removed from the chamber.

TODAY ON CAMPUS

Designs of Duty Tattoo Exhibit | All Day | Booth Library

Yoga Flow | 8:00 AM - 8:45 AM | Student Rec Center

Circuit Training | 12:00 PM - 12:45 PM | Student Rec Center

Pilates | 4:00 PM - 4:45 PM | Student Rec Center

Tabata | 4:30 PM - 4:55 PM | Student Rec Center

Panther Power | 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM | Student Rec Center

Yoga Strength | 6:00 PM - 6:45 PM | Student Rec Center

Werk! | 6:25 PM - 7:00 PM | Student Rec Center

Poetry slam connects activist with students

Mike Santoria
Staff Reporter | @DEN_News

By using a mix of personal stories and interacting with audience, LGBTQ activist and writer Natasha T. Miller was able to connect with students at the 'My Black is Beautiful' poetry slam.

Miller performed six poems for the roughly twenty Eastern students attending. "Anytime I get on stage and someone listens to me, that's a memorable moment," Miller said. "I did, however, find myself performing in front of 40,000 people, getting two standing ovulations and being asked to come back to Ford field."

Miller was in tenth grade when one teacher gave her a positive response to a poem she wrote for class. She remembers that moment as something that continues to resonate in her life.

Miller said over the last five years, poetry has been her base. She said she wants poetry to always be a part of what she does but commercial opportunities, more community engagement and entrepreneurship aspirations have been driving her for the last half-decade.

Miller has performed in nearly 150 colleges. She recently was involved with corporate vendors to recite her poetry for companies like Ford and advertisement magazines like Elle.

Miller said most of the opportunities she has been getting have come from connections she has made through writing poetry.

UB chair Nia Douglas hosted the poetry slam in honor of African-American Heritage Month, where students received free snacks, complementary "black excellence" scribed T-shirts and listened to Miller's spoken word for an hour.



MIKE SANTORIA | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

LGBTQ activist and writer Natasha T. Miller recites a poem for students in the 7th Street Underground of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

"Not only is (Miller) LGBTQ, but the way she delivers her work, her content is real and it's personal," Douglas said.

During the show, Miller said she was comfortable with getting personal and engaged the crowd in a Q&A segment. Miller told stories about her past relationships during the Q&A, with one story about an old girlfriend cheating with her cousin.

Miller paused after each recited poem and explained the context behind the pieces. She said her race had a big impact on

her decision to be a writer.

Miller pulls situations from her diverse upbringing and transcends them into words.

"As much as the outside was impacting me to continue thinking about race and being queer and womanhood, I had a really strong base that kept me balanced and that keeps me balanced today," Miller said. "I'm a black, queer, women navigating her way through America and that is offensive enough for me."

Shakeinah West, a junior communication studies major, said her favorite part was the Q&A because she loved what Miller had to say about her background and where she started.

West did not hear of Miller before coming to the 7th Street Underground Wednesday night, but said she "fell in love" with her after the performance.

Mike Santoria can be reached at 581-2812 or mtsantoria@eiu.edu

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Campus closed Friday, no paper

Staff Report | @DEN_News

There will be no classes this Friday in honor of former President Abraham Lincoln's birthday.

The *Daily Eastern News* will not print either on that day.

According to the university's website, the dining halls will be closed for that day as well.

On Saturday and Sunday, all dining centers will be consolidated to Thomas Hall.

The Booth Library will close on Friday but resume its regular hours on Saturday.

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



TODAY'S CAMPUS
clue

COLEMAN HALL IS HOME TO
THE FOLLOWING DEPARTMENTS:

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English Room 3135	Political Science Room 2135
Economics Room 2159	Philosophy Room 3542
Foreign Language Room 1159	Women's Studies Room 3139

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COURTNEY SHEPHERD | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Talking about sexuality is important

The main idea of A.F. Bogaert's 2012 article "Understanding Asexuality" is to re-educate individuals to view sex and human sexuality in general as something relevant, appropriate and acceptable to talk about in an academic environment to uncover the mystery of the human life.

Efforts made by scholars like Bogaert to enlighten people about the need for freedom to speak about sex is indispensable to triggering human curiosity and shedding light on closely related areas like inclusiveness of sexual minorities, gender identities, sexual orientation, intimacy and reproduction.

Inherently, human sexuality and sex matters are frequently perceived by the majority as a taboo to discuss in classrooms and various learning scenarios, which in turn prevents the interesting elements of sexual lives and identities to be discovered.

To solidify this claim, the author reveals how aging affects the way certain people talk about sex. According to the article, this is marked by the period when most adults experience the middle-aged body then start to shift all their concern and focus to nurture their young ones.

Fortunately, in 1970, human sexuality started gaining attention since psychologists were intrigued to study sex for academic endeavors. It became more interesting as they enlightened others and posed crucial reasons why the study and free expression of sexual matters is beneficial for the individual and society.



Toluwalase Solomon

Sexuality is a major component and a dominant force in virtually everyone's life. Therefore, it is an unavoidable topic for various individuals to reflect on in their personal lives.

In this instance, the text informs that sex talks are innately exciting and fascinating to both young and old people. The author uses the narratives of Lady Gaga, a pop music star with a hyper-sexed persona who is more sought after than prominent individuals on the internet, to drive home his points on the fact that sex discourses fascinate the whole.

In a nutshell, sex is compelling to most people, therefore such interest should be used to stimulate the strong desire to inquire around human sexuality to make the world a better place.

Since sexuality is an undetachable element of human life, then the way we perceive, feel and react is affected by our sexuality. One of the primary reasons why human sexuality should be deeply investigated is because it en-

compasses human life and wellbeing.

The author poses that sex is not something to be ignored when making efforts to improve the world, because it is a significant phenomenon that cuts across social life and health issues. Therefore, talking and learning about sex helps us find solutions to problems like gender inequality, overpopulation, sexually transmitted diseases, divorce and family disruption and child abuse.

As aforementioned, a move that gives sex topics attention opens doors for a strong orientation toward human sexuality and people with marginalized sexual identities.

Given the small amount of current scientific attention of asexuality as a human orientation, the article goes on to discuss why there has been little prior research into asexuality. Conceivably, asexual individuals are invisible because they do not engage in explicit sexual activities. Explaining this stance, the author informs how sex and romance is socially constructed and used interchangeably, though they operate on a whole different level. In this light, the fact that asexuals do not engage in sexual activities does not mean they are not romantic.

Thus, the study of asexuality will not just create opportunities to view sexuality in a new lens, but will also enable scholars to access a wide range of topics around human sexuality.

Toluwalase Solomon is a graduate in communication studies. He can be reached at 581-2812 or tvsolomon@eiu.edu.

STAFF EDITORIAL

College degrees offer more than a job

We think it is pretty safe to say that college students want a job after they graduate. *The Daily Eastern News* editorial board does not anticipate many angry emails disputing this fact in our inboxes tomorrow.

It is also pretty safe to say that in this day and age, going to a 4-year university is almost a necessity. According to *USA Today*, college graduates, on average, earned 56 percent more than those who only graduated high school in 2015. While there are many ways to earn a respectable living and contribute to society without a college degree, we imagine that students and others reading this editorial chose to further their education with a certain career in mind. This career choice, in turn, dictates what major they choose and then what classes they take.

However, your college experience is about more than just getting a career. While the importance of being prepared and thinking about your future cannot be overstated, going to Eastern or any university is more than just a way to get a good job. It is about learning everything you can while you are still going to school, from people who are oftentimes experts in their field. It is a chance not many get, and unless you are going to graduate school, a chance you might not get again.

However, some people do not see it like that. As one panelist pointed out at a forum about threats to higher education, some students are going to see higher education more as a product. This is an unfortunate truth in society: that higher education is only seen as valuable if you can get some monetary gain out of it. But what about the connections you make in classes, with professors and other students? What about the facts you might learn in a general education course that stick with you your entire life, even if this class isn't necessarily for your major? What about all the other classes you take that might not get you the job, but will teach you to think critically, and empathize with your fellow human beings? What about the fact that students, alumni, faculty and staff members of higher education institutions regularly make a difference in their community?

Though college can help students when it comes to getting a career, there is so much more to it than that. We need to start thinking of college as more than merely a means to an end, and really invest in the time and what we can gain from being at a university while we are there.

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

Make time to stay connected with friends

For the past two weekends, I said farewell to Charleston to visit my lifelong friends from home at their universities.

The first weekend of February I found myself wearing blue and gold in celebration of National Marquette Day. This past weekend, I was fully surrounded in hues of purple, gold and green with both loved ones and strangers on the streets of St. Louis.

Visiting my friends at Marquette University and St. Louis University was not just a pleasant change of scenery from the small town setting (which often times makes me feel claustrophobic when I compare it to my life at home in Chicago) that I have become so accustomed to the past three years.

It was also a chance for me to get a taste of the lives my friends have built for themselves from scratch.

Whenever my friends from home and I talk about college, I refer to it as a "second life." On the South Side of Chicago, we share countless memories, laughs and plans to continue building our friendships.

But when the summer sun turns to a fall breeze, we return to college and resume a life that has become almost as familiar as the one we leave at home.



Carole Hodorowicz

It is hard to believe that before college, a "second life" seemed as far away as it seemed impossible to achieve. But here I am today, catching myself calling Charleston, Ill. "home" from time to time and missing the one-of-a-kind charm this place emanates.

And here my hometown friends are today, doing just the same.

Sharing a brief moment in the second lives of my friends was incredible. Meeting their new friends, seeing where they live and simply witnessing who they are in a new element they discovered and fostered for themselves are experiences I will always keep in my heart.

Although our second lives may not overlap as easily as our lives in Chicago do, that does not mean we cannot be a part of each other's growth.

It is no secret: the older we get, the harder it is to find the time to do the things we unknowingly take for granted with our friends. As we get further in our college careers and closer to our futures in the "real world," finding this time to spend with our friends takes second place.

Of course, doing your best and working hard are important. But keeping in touch with your friends and loved ones and sharing your lives—both first and second—with each other is equally as important.

Make time to call, write, visit your friends and share moments outside of the lives you participate in together at home.

Though you and your friends may be growing from different vines every time you return to your different universities and get older, that does not mean your lives will stop intertwining.

Carole Hodorowicz is junior journalism major. She can be reached at 581-2812 or cdhodorowicz@eiu.edu.

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» Pension
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“For example, in higher education we are state employees we are not an independent entity here, but Gov. Rauner is obviously trying to extract whatever resources he can because fundamentally he does not value public education and certainly public higher education,” Wandling said.

Wheeler said it was dishonest to promise universities an increase in appropriations while expecting them to make up for the dollars they will not receive in the pension fund.

“I think the governor is full of baloney when he proposes that this is a way to save \$1 billion,” Wheeler said.

State rep. Reggie Phillips (R-Charleston) said the idea of the governor’s proposal is to ensure public universities and other public entities are responsible with spending and will be able to start saving.

Phillips agrees with the governor’s idea, but said a democrat-dominated legislature will not pass it.

However, he does not know if the \$205 million would cover the pension and health costs that are currently at the higher education level.

“I don’t have a problem with making the universities responsible for their own payments, as long as we have a way of funding them,” Phillips said.

Phillips said another budget impasse is not likely, but the pension reform plan will be met with heavy debate and will not be agreed on by the General Assembly.

“The question is will the democratic controlled legislature see (the pension plan) as a good idea and the answer to that is no,” Phillips said.

Wandling said difficult times are ahead, though that does not necessarily mean there will be another impasse.

“All I can say is in listening to a public radio interview with (John Cullerton, the president of the senate), you have senator Cullerton using terms such as deceptive, and using a term such as deceptive in referring to the governor’s budget address and proposed budget; that’s not exactly a promising sign of good times ahead,” Wandling said.

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‘Anne’ Gogh



OLIVIA SWENSON-HULTZ | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Anne Hudson, a senior art history major, creates origami hearts to sell along with chocolate ears that she constructed to commemorate Vincent Van Gogh, who cut his ear off to give to a lover for the Art Club’s Valentine’s Day sale in the Doudna Fine Arts Center. Hudson calls them Vincent “Anne” Gogh ears.

» Budget
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Of more immediate concern to Democrats was the pension cost-shift plan. They called it a massive property tax increase — something Rauner has railed against for years — because school districts will have no other choice for taking on the huge cost.

Reassigning responsibility for the employer portion of teacher pensions to school districts would reverse a yearslong practice of the state picking up the tab for all districts outside Chicago and was even extended to that city as a matter of fairness in last summer’s education-funding package.

A sponsor of that plan, Sen. Andy Manar, said the shift would reverse the entire reason for the funding-formula changes — more equity in how the state pays for education.

“The governor’s proposal appears to spend hundreds of millions of dollars but doesn’t result in greater equity because of that cost-shift provision that he’s proposing,” the Bunker Hills Democrat said. “That would shift those pension obligations onto local property taxpayers.”

One of Rauner’s toughest budget critics, Chicago Democratic Sen. Heather Steans, said the plan would severely hurt human-services, although she acknowledged it would balance a budget.

“This is the closest the Rauner administration has ever come to a real, balanced budget, which I appreciate,” she said.

Rauner proposed his \$37.96 billion blueprint which he claims would leave a surplus to be put toward billions of dollars in overdue bills. However, all require approval from Democratic legislators with whom he’s feuded for years. A two-year stalemate without a budget — which created the huge bill backlog — finally broke last year when Republican lawmakers crossed over to override Rauner’s budget veto and implement an income tax hike from

3.75 percent to 4.95 percent.

The group health insurance changes would mean union employees would no longer be able to bargain for health care, which Democratic lawmakers are almost certain to oppose.

Rauner defended the ideas, saying giving local schools the responsibility for paying teacher pensions gives local taxpayers “plenty of incentive to lower costs.”

House budget expert Rep. Greg Harris, a Chicago Democrat, said the budget plan requires lawmakers to “turn their backs on the middle class” by cutting services and implementing a “pension scheme” that would take \$1 billion away from classrooms.

“Throughout Gov. Rauner’s time in office, progress has been made only when legislators agreed to work together without him,” Harris said. “If the governor is finally sincere in his desire to be a part of this process, he’ll find willing partners in House Democrats.”

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U-no it's a good time



McKenzie Stephens, a sophomore special education major, and Brandon Jones, a freshman psychology major, play Uno in the lobby of Thomas Hall Wednesday evening. They were accompanied by their friends and a box of pizza.

THALIA ROULEY | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 0111

- ACROSS**

1 Start of a magic incantation

5 Hasbro toy that involves pulling and twisting

10 Degree in abstract mathematics

13 AMC's "Better Call ____"

14 Celebrating Hanukkah, say

15 Opposite of 29-Down

16 Line from someone who's been interrupted

19 Kinda ... or a continuation of 16-Across

20 Bump heads

21 Like a course labeled "101"

22 School in San Luis Obispo

24 Some almanac info

25 What may take its toll?: Abbr.

26 Most hajjis

28 Cousin of contra-

31 Pass on, as lore

33 Ewe can do it!

36 Line from someone who's been interrupted

39 Joined ... or a continuation of 36-Across

40 Is appealing

41 Hollywood's Cameron

42 Some canasta plays

43 Square figure?

45 Big pipes

47 Body shot?

51 Actress Hayek of "Frida"

52 Elite group

54 Hit 2011 animated film

55 Line from someone who's been interrupted

58 Beethoven's "Minuet ____" ... or a continuation of 55-Across

59 Visibly embarrassed

60 "I can't ____"

61 Photographer Goldin

62 Giving orders

63 Bingo relative
- DOWN**

1 Jiggly dish

2 Makings of a model?

3 Oscar winner Mercedes

4 Imitating

5 Stop, at sea

6 Sees red?

7 Crux

8 School of thought

9 Co-written best seller

10 Wham or bam

11 City near ancient Carthage

12 Fruity drink brand

14 Fruity filled cakes

17 Clumsy boat

18 Man buns and the Mannequin Challenge, once

23 Dr. ____

24 Engages in some pregame banter

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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61				62						63			

PUZZLE BY SAM TRABUCCO

- 26 Provider of global support?

27 Tara of "American Pie"

28 Bustle

29 Only spoken word (by Marcel Marceau) in Mel Brooks's "Silent Movie"

30 50-50, e.g.

32 Just made (out)

33 Obesity meas.

34 Computing pioneer Lovelace

35 The whole shebang

37 Plan to pay later, say

38 Exchanged bonds?

42 Marcel Marceau, e.g.

44 Weakling

45 Hawaii's ____ Loa

46 Ally (with)

47 Stylike

48 Really, really want

49 George ____, Vermont senator for 34 years

50 It's taboo

51 Ad space meas.

52 Leatherworkers' tools

53 T-shaped crosses

56 Nigerian tribe

57 Quaint cry

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Jackson eyeing potential return Thursday

By Sean Hastings
Sports Editor | @DEN_Sports

The injury madness got so bad for the Eastern men’s basketball team, it forced coach Jay Spoonhour to shave his “cursed” beard clean off after the Panthers lost their fourth guard.

Junior guard D’Angelo Jackson is the only one who has a shot at returning this season, and it may be as soon as Thursday when the Panthers play Southeast Missouri on the road.

Spoonhour said they have to wait until Thursday to decide if Jackson can get back into the lineup.

“I feel confident, I’ve been working, going through rehab and treatment, so I feel (about) 100 percent with it and feel it is going to be a good ride with the team,” Jackson said.

Jackson has been out since Dec. 30 with an ankle injury.

He has been practicing with the team, and Spoonhour said Jackson is “chomping at the bit” to get back in. But, Eastern needs to make sure he is ready, because playing in a game and practicing are two different worlds.

“He’s been out for a month and a half,” Spoonhour said. “You don’t just show up (and start producing). I know he wants to do that, but the game doesn’t play that way.”

Jackson had 28 assists in 12

games played, including one in the two minutes of the Austin Peay game when he got hurt.

Eastern’s roller coaster-cursed season has been tough for Jackson, who is in his first year at Eastern, as he has had to watch from the bench for the last 12 games.

“It was not a good feeling,” Jackson said. “We’ve had an up and down year, and we’ve had the injuries at the guard, and it was terrible for our team, but we’re fighting through it.”

With the return of Jackson potentially right around the corner, Eastern may be without junior Aboubacar Diallo, who hurt his big toe in practice the other day.

Spoonhour said they will have to also wait until Thursday to decide if Diallo will be ready to go.

The Panthers struggled to guard the Redhawks in an 86-74 loss on Jan. 20.

“We tried to guard them and we couldn’t and they’re a good offensive team,” Spoonhour said. “Numbers-wise they shoot it as good as Belmont and numbers don’t lie. We have to do a better job defending them and just saying that you’re going to is easy to do, but it is hard to defend these guys.”

Eastern is one of three teams fighting for two spots to get into the OVC Tournament Feb. 28. Eastern has one of those two spots right now, but Southern Illinois–



BRYAN BUND | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Junior D’Angelo Jackson tosses up a layup in Eastern’s exhibition loss to Southern Indiana Nov. 6. Jackson has been out since Dec. 30 and is hoping that he is able to play Thursday at Southeast Missouri.

Edwardsville and Tennessee-Martin, two teams Eastern plays in next two weeks, are waiting for any chance to jump ahead of the Panthers.

Spoonhour said the motivation for the Panthers is to just play well and not to get caught up on holding

ground in the standings.

“(The close standings) is motivation for the other two teams for sure, because they know they can come in here and if they can knock us off, they get themselves in (the tournament).”

Eastern and Southeast Missouri tip off at 6:30 p.m. Thursday in Cape Girardeau, Mo.

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Softball team ready for Runnin' Bulldog Classic

By Sean Hastings
Sports Editor | @DEN_Sports

Eastern softball coach Kim Schuette called last weekends' games against Louisiana fun to watch for players, coaches, announcers and fans.

The Panthers ended up losing both games to the Ragin’ Cajuns 2-1 and 14-10 in nine innings. The second game was filled with lead changes and comebacks.

Eastern started the game with a lead and lost it in the fourth inning. Louisiana held the lead until Eastern tied it in the seventh, and eventually Louisiana scored four in the ninth to

win.

Schuette sees the Panthers ending up on the winning side of games like that in the future.

“I think this 2018 Eastern team, I think we have the ability to win some of those no matter our opponent,” she said. “So, are we excited that we didn’t win those two and came back with three losses? No, but we put on a good showing.”

She said the comment after the game was “where is Eastern Illinois and who is this team?”

“That’s a nice compliment, and that’s what this team is out to do, so that is exciting,” Schuette said.

The Panthers have five games lined up this weekend at the Runnin’ Bulldog Tournament in Boiling Springs, NC.

Eastern squares off against Creighton and Western Illinois on Friday, Gardner-Webb and Western Carolina on Saturday and Western Illinois again on Sunday.

Eastern was pegged to finish fourth in the OVC this season after a fourth-place finish in 2017. The Panthers received three first place votes, which was the second-most among OVC teams as Jacksonville State ran away with 15.

OVC play does not start till March

24 for the Panthers, but Schuette said that just as the Panthers are paying attention to other teams, the rest of the OVC is doing the same.

“The more that we make (other teams) have nightmares, the better I feel,” Schuette said. “It was a nice compliment to get some first place votes. Whenever teams are talking about you, that’s a good thing.”

Schuette was able to rely on more than just seniors Jessica Wireman and Michelle Rogers to pitch last weekend.

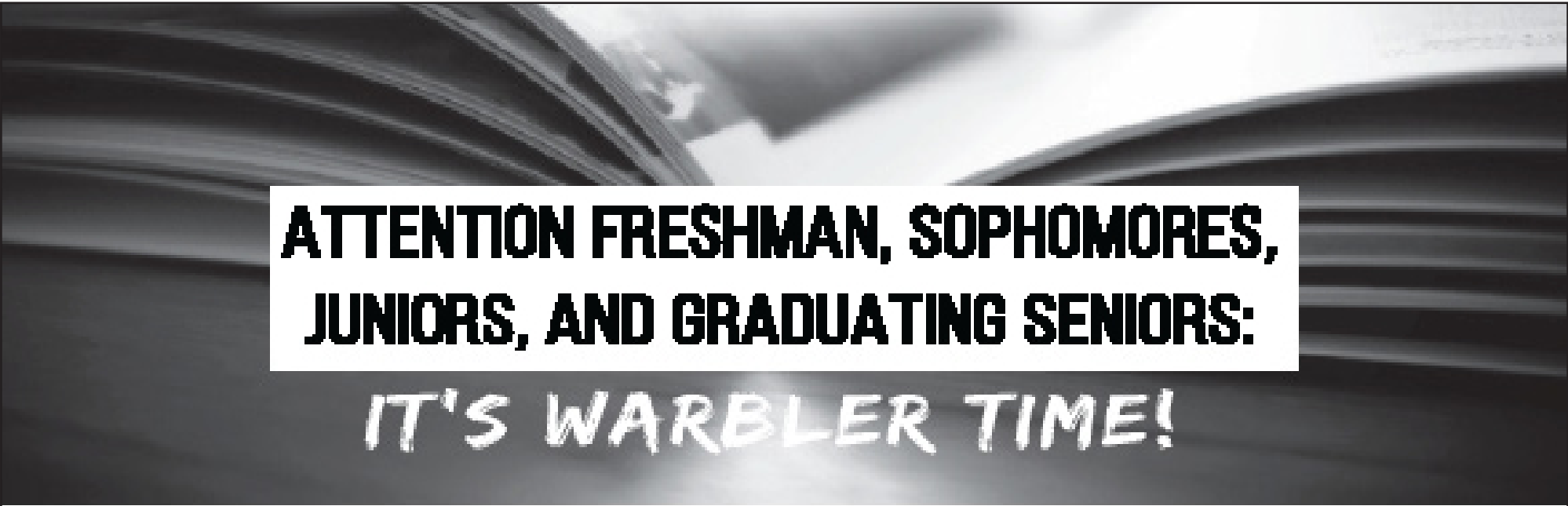
Senior Tori Johnson saw some action in the circle, freshman Valerie Thompson pitched for the first time

in her Eastern career and sophomore McKenna Coffman pitched as well.

Having three other pitchers capable of putting some innings together gives Wireman and Rogers rest when they need it, since they have pitched a bulk of the innings over the last three years.

“The beginning of the season, the first half especially, is opportunity for us to make sure our pitching staff is healthy and has some innings,” Schuette said. “...I think McKenna, Tori and Valerie can contribute to our success.”

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SEAN HASTINGS | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Freshman Sarah Lohman swims the women's 200-yard freestyle, where she took second place against Valparaiso Jan. 20 at the Padovan Pool. Eastern's swim team wrapped up the first day of the Summit League Championships Wednesday.

Panthers in 6th place of championships

By Adam Shay

Swim Reporter | @DEN_Sports

After the first day at the Summit League Championship, the Eastern women's swim team finished sixth and the men's swim team is tied for fourth.

At sixth place, the women's team finished with 52 points and at fourth place, and the men's team scored 58 points, tying them with Western Illinois. The first day consisted of two events each: the 200-medley relay and the 800-free-style.

The first event of the day was the 200-medley relay, which included senior Dani DiMatteo, juniors Lauren Oostman and Martee Grainger, and sophomore Rachel Mandersheid, finishing sixth with a time of 1:48.01, scoring them 26 points.

The other women's team that com-

peted in the event included seniors Emily Stroud and Renae Johnson, and sophomores Jaelyn Williams and Julia Martin as they finished with a time of 1:53.06.

As for the men's team, seniors Steve Fishman and Matt Jacobs, junior Nick Harkins and freshman Ivan Escott finished fourth in the 200-medley relay with a time of 1:32.16, putting them at 30 points.

Despite finishing fourth, the 200-medley men's squad broke the Eastern record with their time. When the swimmers finished the race, the four swimmers were unsure if they had broken the record.

"When we went over to (head coach) Jacqueline (Michalski) and found (out), we were all very excited," Harkins said. "I think it'll set the tone for the meet and get other people ready to go up and swim fast."

Also swimming in the men's 200-medley was seniors Ben Pitlock, Patrick Wood and Brandon Robbins and junior Tyler Parrish as they finished with a 1:37.40 time.

The men's team breaking the school record not only influenced their own confidence, but their success is spreading confidence through the entire team.

"Our relay may have gotten sixth," Oostman said. "But watching our boys break the record right after definitely gave me motivation to stay positive for my other individual events."

Individually, Oostman has set goals for herself in Thursday's events, specifically, aiming for a record in her individual medley. Also, Oostman said she would like to make finals as she is seated 16th and only 16 swimmers make finals.

The third event of the day was the

800-free-style where the women's team finished sixth (8:00.07) and scoring them 26 points. The women swimmers were sophomores Karleen Gernady and Gloria Gonzales, junior Caro Lamarque, and freshman Sarah Lohman.

Even though the women's team is in sixth place, the Panther swimmers have a positive mentality and will look back at those relays and study what they need to work on.

"It was a good first race of the meet for us to work out some details, such as our turns," Lamarque said. "The energy on deck was really strong and makes us excited to start individual races tomorrow."

For the final event of the day, the men's team finish fifth in the 800-free-style with a time of 6:50.52, giving them 28 points. Those swimmers were freshman Scott House, Fishman, Escott, and Harkins.

The other quartet that competed in the 800-free-style included seniors Brandon Robbins and Bryan McPherson, sophomore Ethan Wallace and freshman Chris Dixon with a time of 7:04.55.

Going into tomorrow's events and coming off a school record, Harkins has set two goals for himself and is confident that both will be achievable.

"First one is to make it back in the 50-free; I think that'll be relatively easy to obtain," Harkins said. "Second is to break 21 seconds for the 50. (I) should get two chances at it, so I'm ready to go."

Atop the men and women's team leaderboard is Denver as it finished first in both events, totaling their score to 80 points. For Thursday, the individual preliminary events will start at 10 a.m.

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Last second shot lifts Redhawks over Panthers 51-48

By JJ Bullock

Assistant Sports Editor | @DEN_Sports

Southeast Missouri guard Ashton Luttrull made a game-winning three-point shot at the buzzer to play in the fourth quarter, handing the Eastern women's basketball team a 10th straight loss Wednesday.

Luttrull received an inbound pass after a timeout, turned and made the game-icing jumper. For her team, the shot snapped a three-game losing streak and padded their position in the conference playoff race.

For the Panthers, it's another tough loss in a season that has been filled with tough breaks for first year head coach Matt Bollant and his young team. Despite that, Bollant feels his team played their hearts out in a game where he says "it just didn't happen."

Eastern guard Karle Pace missed a shot with about one second to play, and the Redhawks' Deja Jones came down with the rebound and retained possession of the ball. Jones called a time out for South-



SEAN HASTINGS | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Freshman Taylor Steele makes a move just past half court to slip by an Austin Peay defender in Eastern's 75-66 loss Jan. 20 in Lantz Arena.

east Missouri, advancing the ball to half court.

It was then that Luttrull received an inbound pass, turned and made the game-winning shot.

On that final shot, Southeast Missouri screened the Panthers and

Bollant said his team just did not do a great job of switching off it.

"We were supposed to be switching everything and we didn't really see it," Bollant said.

The two teams swapped the lead twice in the final 30 seconds of the

game. Eastern junior guard Carmen Tellez made a layup with 31 seconds to play to give the Panthers a 48-47 lead.

Then, a foul by Eastern's Grace McCrae with 23 seconds to play, sent Jones to the line for two shots. She made just one of the free throws and tied the score at 48.

On the final possession for the Panthers, the goal was to get the ball to Pace and run a ball screen for her and get a post player on her, which the Panthers did; however, there was some contact when Pace came off the screen, but she made it past the first player only to find a helping Redhawk defender in her path.

When Pace took a five-foot pull up shot and missed it, Jones came down with the rebound.

"(Pace) did a good job of being patient, she took it with two seconds on the clock, it was the right time to take it, it was the right shot and she led us in scoring. It was the right kid to take the shot," Bollant said.

Bollant said the team was down in the locker room but told them

to keep their chins up because "life is not fair always."

Pace had a game-high 16 points, as she continues to be the Panthers' top scoring threat and for Southeast Missouri, guard Tesia Thompson had a team-high 13 points.

Bollant was happy to see a 12-point performance from junior Carmen Tellez in the game. Tellez has had an up and down season offensively, so the good performance from her was a welcome sign.

"We needed her offensively. Scoring doesn't come easy for us, so she is someone that can score the basketball," Bollant said.

The loss drops Eastern to 1-14 in the OVC and gives the Redhawks a much-needed win as they move to 7-8 in the conference.

Eastern's next game is Saturday at 4 p.m. on the road against Tennessee-Martin.

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