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Eastern Illinois University

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NATION | SCHOOL SHOOTING

Massacre in Virginia

33 killed, 15 injured
in Virginia Tech attack

The Associated Press

BLACKSBURG, Va. — A gunman killed 32 people at Virginia Tech in the deadliest shooting rampage in modern U.S. history Monday, cutting down his victims in two attacks two hours apart before the university could grasp what was happening and warn students.

The bloodbath ended with the gunman committing suicide, bringing the death toll to 33 and stamping the campus in the picturesque Blue Ridge Mountains with unspeakable tragedy, perhaps forever.

Investigators gave no motive for the attack. The gunman’s name was not immediately released, and it was not known if he was a student.

“Today the university was struck with a tragedy that we consider of monumental proportions,” Virginia Tech President Charles Steger said. “The university is shocked and indeed horrified.”

But he was also faced with difficult questions about the university’s handling of the emergency and whether it did enough to warn students and protect them after the first burst of gunfire. Some students bitterly complained they got no warning from the university until an e-mail that arrived more than two hours after the first shots rang out.

Wielding two handguns and carrying multiple clips of ammunition, the killer opened fire about 7:15 a.m. on the fourth floor of West Ambler Johnston, a high-rise coed dormitory, then stormed Norris Hall, a classroom building a half-mile away on the other side



JASON ARTHURS | MCT

A police officer stands guard near Norris Hall on the campus of Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia, where 32 people were killed and more were injured on Monday, April 16, 2007.



The shooting took place in Blacksburg, Va.

of the 2,600-acre campus. Some of the doors at Norris Hall were found

chained from the inside, apparently by the gunman.

Two people died in a dorm room, and 31 others were killed in Norris Hall, including the gunman, who put a bullet in his head. At least 15 people were hurt, some seriously.

At an evening news conference, Police Chief Wendell Flinchum refused to dismiss the possibility that a co-conspirator or second shooter was involved. He said police had interviewed a male who was a “person of interest” in the dorm shooting who knew one of the victims, but he declined to give details.

“I’m not saying there’s a gunman on the loose,” Flinchum said. Ballistics tests will help explain what happened, he said.

Sheree Mixell, a spokeswoman for the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, said the evidence was being moved to the agency’s national lab in Annandale. At least one firearm was turned over, she said.

Mixell would not comment on what types of weapons were used or whether the gunman was a student.

» SEE **MASSACRE**, PAGE 6

Shooting shocks campus

Hencken says there isn’t a no-fail plan to avoid such a tragedy

By **Marco Santana**
Campus Editor

Kim Marach was working out at the Student Recreation Center when she heard the news.

A gunman killed 32 people at Virginia Tech University and then killed himself in the biggest campus shooting in U.S. history.

The footage from a cell phone was playing on CNN in the SRC.

“It’s really sad that people would do this,” Marach said. “It’s horrible that someone would open fire on a school of innocent kids.”

At about 7:15 a.m. on Monday, the gunman, whose identity had not been released by authorities at press time, entered West Ambler Johnston, a coed dormitory that has 895 residents.

Two hours later, he opened fire in Norris Hall, about a half-mile away on the other side of campus.

Marach said the incident was frightening and Eastern should be ready, just in case something like this happens here.

“I think every school should be prepared,” she said. “This can happen anywhere.”

Virginia Tech’s enrollment is more than twice as much as Eastern’s. It is at about 26,000 while Eastern’s has just more than 12,000 students.

Adam McMahon, a junior political science major, said being at a smaller school like Eastern doesn’t make it any less likely to have a shooting.

“You always tend to feel safer,” he said. “(But) even though they’re huge, you have to worry about the same thing.”

This was not the first time a shooting close Virginia Tech.

On the opening day of classes in August, an escaped jail inmate allegedly killed a hospital guard in the area of Virginia Tech.

Eastern President Lou Hencken said even the best laid plans can change when something like this happens.

“No plan that you find that you have is completely effective and working in every emergency case,” he said. “No one envisions something like this.”

He said he didn’t know how to prepare for a shooting.

“Other than putting an 8-foot fence around this campus, I don’t know,” Hencken said.

Psychology professor Keith Wilson said the whole country might feel the effects of the shooting in Blacksburg, Va.

» SEE **CAMPUS**, PAGE 6

GREEK WEEK | ACTIVITIES

Tugs off to a gripping start



NORA MABERRY | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

The men of Sigma Pi compete in the Big Men’s tugs at the Campus Pond on Monday. Sigma Pi won their heat and will compete Wednesday.

Competition to
continue Wednesday

By **Ashley Mefford**
Activities Reporter

Delta Zeta and Sigma Pi won the first round of tugs, on Monday.

Delta Zeta competed against Sigma Kappa for women’s tugs and Sigma Pi competed against Sigma Nu for big men’s tugs.

Each team consisted of 10 members. The first team to get three of its members in the pond loses.

Megan Frawley, a physical education major, was one of the tuggers for Delta Zeta. According to her, the best part of being involved with tugs is the preparation.

“We haven’t won since I was in Delta Zeta, we wanted to show the campus we could win,” she said.

Wednesday, Delta Zeta will face Alpha Phi, the defending tugs champions.

Sigma Kappa member Christy DeVito was hopeful about Sigma Kappa’s performance on Monday.

“I think we did great on our snap, but hopefully we will redeem ourselves next year,” DeVito said.

Sigma Pi member Ryan Smith, a sophomore finance major, liked the fact that tugs allowed closeness.

“Coming together as a house, more than friends, is the best part of being involved with tugs,” Smith said.

» SEE **TUGS**, PAGE 6

CITY | ELECTIONS

City council candidates focus on public utilities

Four candidates vie for two open seats

By Stephen Di Benedetto
Senior City Reporter

City Council candidate T.K. Slaughter said city employees need more leadership.

Slaughter grew up in Mattoon and moved to Charleston in 1992 and, if elected, he plans to improve the condition of Charleston's sidewalks and roads and wants to bury all public work utilities underground.

"I don't need the job, the money or the health insurance, and I think there are a lot of people on that council just for those reasons," Slaughter said.

Slaughter, Larry Rennels, Jeff Lahr and Tim Newell are all competing for two seats on the council. Elections start today at 6 a.m. and polls close at 7 p.m.

Slaughter ran for election two years ago, but was defeated in the primaries. Rennels has acted as a council member since 1997 and realizes Slaughter wants to improve the city's sidewalks and bury the utilities underground, but he sees problems with both of Slaughter's ideas.

"There is only one way to get the telephone company and the cable company to bury (the utilities)," Rennels said. "And that is the city would have to pay for it."

Rennels said the resurfacing and renovating of Fourth Street over the next few years would cost a few million dollars more if the utilities were buried underground.

He said utilities are now required to be buried underground if a subdivision is being built and, if the council had to build the subdivisions all over again, the utilities would be buried underground.

He said the council has done more work on repairing sidewalks over the last six or seven years than in prior years before that time. He noted that Slaughter talked about hiring outside contractors to repair the sidewalks.

"If you have an outside contractor do sidewalk replacement, it costs \$30 per linear foot," Rennels said. "To have it done by our city employees, it costs less than \$10 per linear foot."

Rennels is a lifelong resident of Charleston and has owned Rennels TV & Appliance on Lincoln Avenue since 1987 after his father owned and started the company in 1951.

He says he has the experience, knowledge, skill and the energy to see through the plans the council has been developing to improve Charleston for the future.

Slaughter has co-owned Gano Welding Supplies since 1997 and disagrees with Rennels on another issue.

"One thing that Larry Rennels and I disagree with completely is I think city employees should live within the city limits," he said.

Slaughter said Rennels was one of the council members who voted to have city employees live anywhere they want.

"(The employees) don't have to drink the same water that tastes like crap, they don't drive through the same potholes that I drive through every day," Slaughter said. "I think we would have a much more dedicated staff if the city employees lived within the city limits."

Incumbent Jeff Lahr is serving his first term as council member and moved to Charleston in 1991.

Lahr could not be reached for comment, but at the election forum last Thursday he spoke out about parking on the square, the city's sidewalks and the lake island tract around Lake Charleston.

"I don't know how, as a city representative, you can begin to claim your right to park (around the square) versus someone else's right to park there," Lahr said at the forum.

Citizens have complained about the lack of parking around the square and claim that county employees move their cars every two hours to avoid getting a ticket.

Lahr said the only way to improve the problem is to be fair and objective when dealing with

everyone who parks around the square. Parking spots are available to anyone. He said he does not want the lake island tract to be an unused resource and wants it available to the public.

"We're moving in the right direction with economic development," Lahr said. "Charleston is moving in the right direction and I would like to continue to help that along."

Challenger Tim Newell, 58, has lived in Charleston all his life and teaches math at Charleston High School. He worked as a banker until 2002.

Newell was out of town during the forum, but wants to continue improving the appearance of Charleston and its streets and sidewalks.

"I guess at my age you start to think, 'What can I do to contribute and help my community and give back to my community?'" Newell said.

Newell said, being a banker, he would be conscious of spending the taxpayer's money wisely and believes improving the water and sewer lines in the community would breathe life back into older areas of the city.

"I think the city needs to be vigilant in enforcing city ordinances intended to protect property values to cultivate pride in our community and bolster additional business investments," Newell said.

He believes the current city council has done a good job of improving the community and working in the best interest of the people, but is interested in city government and wants to be a part of it.

"I just think I am a person that many people know and would feel confident that I would do a good job," Newell said.

There are eight polling locations in Charleston. People who are registered to vote in Coles County can check the back of their voter identification cards to know where to go to vote. Election results can be viewed online at www.charlestonillinois.org after the polls close.

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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.

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CITY | ORDINANCES

Council to vote on keg permits

Kegs to still go through liquor stores, employees held accountable

By Stephen Di Benedetto
Senior City Reporter

The City Council has made up its minds on keg permits and the revised keg ordinance will be voted on at tonight's meeting.

The council initially wanted the police department in full control of issuing keg permits and then decided to negotiate with Charleston's liquor storeowners to reach a medium.

The council thought having the police in charge might provide the best accuracy.

After the March 20 City Council meeting, the council talked with the liquor store owners and decided to revise the permits thinking people would go out of town to get keg permits if the police were in full

control of issuing them.

"We have made it a little clearer as to what we expect in the form of information," said Mayor John Inyart.

"It's a more thorough permitting process and the retailer, and the employee of the retailer, can be held accountable."

Scott Wolff, co-owner of Gateway Liquors and East Side Package, said Chief of police Paul Welch showed him permits that had Never Never Land and 123 Timbuktu Ave. as the addresses.

Wolff said the council and the owners were both willing to compromise and they wanted to reach a happy medium.

"To my understanding, there was no punishment available if someone made no effort to get accurate information," Inyart said.

Under the revised keg ordinance, the clerk in control of the permit and the person filling out the permit

will be fined a minimum of \$350 if false information is provided.

Inyart said liquor store owners have been understanding about the issue.

"I think they understand the importance of it and they understand that we need to have the right information," Inyart said.

The council will also discuss an ordinance that will change the number of liquor licenses in Charleston.

Inyart said the city has a vacant club license after the Eagle's Club closed several years ago.

The only person allowed to use the license is a person who wants to operate a club.

"I've had several requests over the last year or two for restaurant licenses, and we are going to convert that license to a restaurant license," Inyart said.

The council will vote on that ordinance tonight.

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Sunny



Student elections continue

The Student Government elections are running smoothly despite a small setback.

The polling place, Coleman Hall, was originally not open Monday morning.

Chad Quinones, graduate assistant in charge of the elections, said that tables cannot be placed in Coleman, but the problem was worked out.

Unlike last semester, the polling place in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union is in the Bridge Lounge.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

» **When to vote:** 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. today

» **Where to vote:** Polling places are located in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union (in the Bridge Lounge), the Student Recreation Center and in Carman Hall.

The tables in front of the food court in the union were already scheduled, Quinones said.

There has only been one worker who has not shown up to their table, but Quinones said he was called and the problem was fixed.

At 5 p.m. Tuesday, any candidates wishing to contest the elections can pick up the form in the Student Activities Center in the second floor of the union.

The form would have to be turned in to Ken Baker, Student Supreme Court adviser, by 5 p.m. Friday in the Student Recreation Center.

The Student Supreme Court will meet on Sunday to decide whether to hear any cases or not.

Students can vote today from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Polling places are also located in the Student Recreation Center and Carman Hall.

Results will be announced at Wednesday's Student Senate meeting.

— Matt Hopf,
student government reporter

CAMPUS | RELATIONSHIPS



JAY GRABIEC | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Krishna Thomas, a history graduate student, listens to other panel members discuss their experiences with being involved in an interracial relationship. The discussion was held by the Asian-American Association at the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union on Monday. Thomas was joined on the panel by her husband Antoine. The two joked with the audience about the first time they met each other's parents and their different eating habits.

'It's so much harder'

Students reflect on interracial dating and stereotypes

By Hiral Patel
Staff Reporter

Before coming to college, Krishna Thomas only dated her own race: Filipino. But after coming to Eastern, she became more experimental. Now she is married to Antoine Thomas, an African-American Eastern graduate.

During Monday night's panel on interracial dating, hosted by the Asian-American Association, Krishna Thomas explained that it was not until just recently that she realized the little differences between her and her husband.

"We have rough patches here and there," she said.

However, she said they work through these because they are in a relationship and have to compromise for each other.

The panel consisted of Meagan Morgan, Steve Kilty, Jeff Sas, and

Krishna and Antoine Thomas, all of who are in interracial relationships.

Among other issues, the panel discussed the cultural barriers and criticisms that come with interracial relationships.

The panel began with introductions and brief backgrounds explaining the panelists' personal relationships, and finished with a question-and-answer segment with the audience.

While the panelists were open to interracial relationships, they explained it was their parents who worried about the relationships.

"When parents don't approve, it's so much harder," said Antoine Thomas. "Also, the relationship can get unhealthy and very draining because all you have is each other."

Steve Kilty, a junior mathematics major, described a situation in high school when he was dating a girl of another race.

"My mom was fine with me dating the girl, but she asked me 'If you get married, you know you'll have a mixed baby, right?'" Kilty

said.

Even when the family approves of a relationship, the panelists agreed stereotypes played a big role in the assumptions their peers made about them.

Krishna and Antoine Thomas recalled how her grandmother reacted when they told her they were getting married. Even though she had met Antoine before on numerous occasions, she asked if he was in a gang because of the stereotypes associated with being of African-American descent.

Other stereotypes include those of racial preference.

"When you date an Asian and you're white, people assume you only like Asians," Kilty said. "That's not true."

Overall, all of the panelists agreed that being open-minded and exposed to different experiences was the most important thing.

Micko Fujiura, president of AAA, said it is important to associate with open-minded people.

"(We should) make sure we surround ourselves with accepting people," she said.

CAMPUS

TUESDAY
4.17.07

campusbriefs

Booth celebrates Library Week with 'Grapes of Wrath'

» This week is National Library Week. As part of the celebration at Booth Library, English professor Michael Loudon will lead a discussion on the John Steinbeck novel, "The Grapes of Wrath."

English grad student Eun-Young Lim will also lead the discussion.

Lim's master's thesis is titled, "The Philosophical Quest of Tom Joad in 'The Grapes of Wrath.'"

The event is Wednesday at 4 p.m. in the Booth Library Conference Room 4440.

Semi-annual sidewalk textbook sale to be held this week

» Textbook Rental is hosting its Spring 2007 sidewalk sale. The semi-annual sale is from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

If students show a student ID, they can purchase books at a rate of \$5 per box on Friday, part of the Friday special.

Discarded textbooks will be sold through Friday.

For more information, visit www.eiu.edu/~textbks, or call 581-7484.

— Cathy Bayer, news editor

BSU executive board members for 2007-2008 elected

» The Black Student Union voted for the 2007-2008 executive board at Monday night's meeting.

Charrelle Barksdale, a sophomore pre-med major and new BSU president, said her position will entail conducting BSU meetings and she is grateful to have received the position.

Keith Wise, a sophomore history major, will fill in for the president if needed as new vice president. He said he is excited to help bring changes to BSU and eventually to the entire campus.

James Griffin, a freshman accounting major, said although he had no competition for the treasurer position, he is still happy to have won.

As new parliamentarian, Markiana Jackson, a sophomore biology major, said her position will entail conducting BSU meetings and she is grateful to have received the position.

A member of the executive board will fill the position of administrative assistant next semester.

Thomas Battle, 2006-07 BSU president, said he has worked closely with all members of the new board and thinks they will do a good job.

He said he will be highly involved with BSU next year.

— Beth Hackett,
senior activities reporter

ourmistakes

» Pi Kappa Alpha was misspelled on Page 5 of Monday's edition of the Daily Eastern News.

The DEN regrets the error.

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**,
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Office visit | **1811 Buzzard Hall**.

CAMPUS | ELECTRONIC WRITING PORTFOLIO

EWP surveys main topic for Faculty Senate

CASL and CAA members to assess surveys, discuss results

By Jess Kinsella
Faculty Senate Reporter

Academic evaluations and assessments are a top-priority at the year's end. Successes and challenges will be addressed at today's Faculty Senate meeting.

Members from both the Council

on Academic Affairs and the Committee for the Assessment of Student Learning will speak at the meeting.

Rebecca Throneburg, council chair, Christie Roszkowski, committee chair, and Kathleen O'Rourke, chair of the Council on Graduate Studies, will discuss the status of academics at Eastern at the meeting.

CASL deals with students' learning in writing, speaking, critical thinking and global citizenship, said senate chair Assege

HaileMariam.

Since CASL deals with assessing student writing, it mainly involves the Electronic Writing Portfolio, Throneburg said.

"The EWP seems to be the main issue (for discussion)," Throneburg said. CASL recently produced electronic surveys to student and faculty.

Anyone who received the announcement about the survey, which asked basic questions like "what have been your experiences with EWP?" could have participated.

Throneburg, O'Rourke and Roszkowski will also discuss the results of that survey since they also served on CASL when they deal with graduate studies.

HaileMariam said it is critical that both the CAA and CASL come together at the end of the year to discuss the successes, challenges and future directions of each group regarding the education provided to students.

The senate meets at 2 p.m. today in Booth Library Conference Room 4440.

VIEWS

TUESDAY

4.17.07

COLUMNIST | MICHAEL KLEEN

Americans are made of glass

In a recent political cartoon for the *Detroit Free Press* entitled "Traveling Across America," artist Mike Thompson juxtaposed two women: a pioneer from 1857 and a businesswoman from 2007. The pioneer declares, "The trip is grueling and filled with hardship." The businesswoman replies, "I hear ya! My flight was packed and 20 minutes late!"

In 1905, Art Young was far more critical of his contemporaries when he illustrated a cartoon for *Life* magazine entitled "World of Creepers." It depicts a sea of men in sport coats crawling along the ground under a dark cloud. The word "fear" hovers just above the horizon.

These two political cartoons express concern that we are (or were) becoming a culture of complainers, snivelers, and grovelers; mere shadows of our immigrant and frontier ancestors who attempted to prosper despite enduring constant hardships.

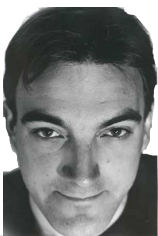
Regardless of the individual veracity of comparisons between our contemporaries and the pioneers, cemeteries and mortuary records bear witness to the austerity of frontier life. Death at the hands of disease, accident and homicide were very real and ever-present, if a settler even lived past the age of 5. The fact that these individuals and families often prospered without helmets, Paxil or inversion therapy probably seems unbelievable to hypersensitive people who run to their lawyers whenever someone calls them a bad name.

Hara Estroff Marano, in his essay "A Nation of Wimps" printed by *Psychology Today* (Nov/Dec 2004), argues that not only are we becoming increasingly incapable of coping with even the simplest traumas, such as scoring lower than a 'B' on a test, but that the pampering of our children is the main culprit behind that trend. "Parents themselves have created many of the stresses and anxieties children are suffering from," he argues, "without giving them tools to manage them." By preventing exposure to danger or challenge and then demanding more and more out of them, we are raising children who are anxious, depressed and unable to deal with life.

The answer to our low tolerance for pain and misfortune is simple. Any long distance runner will tell you that you cannot run eight miles without first being accustomed to six. You cannot run six miles without first being accustomed to four, and so on. Likewise, we simply cannot handle the harshest challenges of life, either mentally or physically, if we are coddled and prevented from becoming accustomed to the small challenges.

In a harsh world we can either become tolerant by not shying away from pain and disappointment, or we can shelter ourselves and be unable to cope when those challenges rear their ugly heads. Friedrich Nietzsche recognized which was the genuine hazard: "For us life is more dangerous," he lamented. "We are made of glass – woe unto us if we merely bump ourselves! And all is lost if we fall!"

Michael Kleen



Michael Kleen is a history graduate student. He can be reached at makleen@ciu.edu.

ourview

Competition starts with coffee

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Survival of the fittest has always been the rule of the land.

The fiercest animal earns the top spot in the kingdom.

The best athletic team wins the championship.

The smaller business has to adapt to beat the bigger one.

The last one is the situation local Charleston businesses may find themselves in.

With a major coffee chain coming to Charleston, people wonder the fate of local coffee shops like Jackson Avenue Coffee and Jitters and Bliss.

Capitalism is a part of the American culture and society. Capitalism is survival of the fittest in the business world.

If these smaller businesses adapt themselves and their business practices, they may be able to compete with this national brand retailer.

If not, these businesses will meet their end.

The owners of the local coffee shops have already begun planning ways to compete, such as expanding their product lines to include sandwiches and other products.

This new competition may, in reality, improve the local business offerings because these businesses will be offering new products and possibly lower prices.

While the fate of local coffee shops is unknown at this point, we at *The Daily Eastern News* think that other types of businesses could better serve the Charleston area.

Coffee is not an unmet desire for students

in the area. Most students are pleased with our coffee offerings. However, there are other products and stores that are not available in the area.

The following are a few suggestions on businesses and industries that Charleston could use:

Electronics Stores: Positively Fourth Street Records sells CDs and rents movies, but a mass electronics retailer is nowhere to be found in the area.

With the closing of Sam Goody in the Cross County Mall, there is no place to purchase video games, non-censored music and other electronic goods in the Coles County area.

An electronics store, such as a Best Buy or Circuit City, would help meet a market demand not currently tackled in the area.

Discount Retail Stores: Wal-Mart. Charleston's one-stop shop for anything from clothes to food to electronics. Talk about capitalism at its peak.

Finding a business that could stand up to the capitalist giant that is Wal-Mart would be a benefit to the people of Charleston and

the city's economy.

If a store like Target or K-Mart were to open in Coles County, students would have an additional outlet for shopping. This new business would generate new business and create competition for Wal-Mart.

A new discount retail store would be a tremendous addition to the Charleston economy.

Clothing Stores: Outside of Wal-Mart, Maurice's and the stores in the Mattoon mall, there are not many clothing stores in the area.

While the Tanger Outlet Mall in Tuscola offers several clothing stores, a closer alternative would be beneficial for students who lack transportation to get to Tuscola.

There are many possibilities for a clothing store in the area. The store could be something like American Eagle or Abercrombie and Fitch or something different like a Gadzooks or a Pacific Sunwear.

While it would be a great thing economically for one of these stores to come to Charleston, the new coffee shop may be a starting point for business to expand in Charleston.

No matter what the new coffee chain is, hopefully it will inspire change in the current area businesses and make more options available to the Eastern and Charleston communities.

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 | DAVID PENNELL



OTHER VIEWS | NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Remember when you were little and even muttering the word "sex" seemed wrong before marriage? Well, a recent study shows that abstinence-only education in America is a failure. We would have been happy to tell them that for free.

Abstinence-only education isn't a waste; it's just slightly old-fashioned. It's not effective to educate a group of young people who are eager to rebel against what teachers say. It's best to educate teens on all their options, give them the confidence to make educated choices for themselves, and at the same time, keep them safe from a life without a full, honest education.

Education is the ultimate contraceptive. Don't let America's youth leave home without it.

FEATURED BLOGGER

"As a citizen of the world, I am outraged at the senseless violence becoming so common in our society. As a human being, I feel for the friends and families of the people killed. As a college student, I wonder if the same thing could happen here."

SCOTT RICHEY



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.

CAMPUS | SGA

What’s up with SUP?

Student United Party to continue control of Student Government

By Matt Hopf
Student Government Reporter

For the second consecutive year, the Student United Party will dominate Student Government. According to Student Body President Sean Anderson, the party represents all aspects of the students with the slogan “giving students what they want.” Before SUP joined people from

campus groups, there was a Greek party, a Black Student Union party and an orientation party, he said. “The only way I feel to represent a diverse body is to have a diverse party,” Anderson said. Anderson said he believes that the there could be three or four parties running in next year’s election as it seems to go in waves. In the Spring 2002 Student Government election, Alison Mormino was elected as student body president with no competition. The next year, there was competition as Caleb Judy was elected the new student body



Cole Rogers
Current student vice president for student affairs is running unopposed for student body president

president over Amy Leonard. The competition continued until this year. Cole Rogers, student vice president for student affairs, is running unopposed for student body president. Rogers said that it might look bad to an outsider if one party has control, but he doesn’t think it’s necessarily a bad thing. “I think we’ve done a great job representing the students,” he said. Levi Bulgar, student vice president for business affairs and candidate for student executive vice president, said the parties are needed. He said it is easier to get students to support a party than try and run separately. Student Senate member Kent Ohms, an independent candidate for student executive vice president, said parties are necessary to help other candidates, but he is not a big fan of voting for a party.

“I always split the ticket,” he said. Student political parties should really be around for one election, Ohms said. “There is a bit more satisfaction in forming a new party with new ideas, instead of the same stuff year to year,” he said. Anderson said he is really happy that SUP has continued on this year. “I am really proud of SUP and where it has gone,” he said. He hopes that even if SUP loses in the future, that it continues with the philosophy of representing everyone.

CAMPUS | GREEK WEEK

Celebrate brains over brawn

Greek Week Collegiate Bowl revamped to be like Jeopardy

By Beth Hackett
Senior Activities Reporter

Jonathan Collier said it’s important for people to get a different impression of Greeks. This different impression is that Greeks are as academically talented as they are athletically talented. One event of Greek Week that promotes academics opposed to athletics and physical skill is Collegiate Bowl. Bob Dudolski, director of greek life, said Collegiate Bowl is a friendly competition between Greek organizations, which has chapters compete against each other by using “brains rather than brawn.” “This event proves that we can

BOB DUDOLSKI | DIRECTOR OF GREEK LIFE

“Collegiate Bowl is designed to highlight the learning aspect of being in a fraternity or sorority just as Greek Sing and Airband highlight an appreciation of culture and the arts.”

do more than [Tugs] and pull a rope, it shows us in a different light,” Collier said. Collier, member of Lambda Chi Alpha and Collegiate Bowl co-chair, said the Collegiate Bowl has been boring the past few years, so he decided to coordinate and revamp the event this year. “No one really wanted to come before,” he said. “But this year it’s going to be like a game show and more exciting for people to watch.” Jessica Perillo, member of Delta Zeta and Collegiate Bowl co-chair, said in past years, the event involved just reading off questions, but this year the Jeopardy-style power point will be more entertaining for the people watching and more enjoyable for the participants. The Jeopardy-style competition will have the top three houses

placing, and the winning house will receive first place points. Those points are then put into the total for the overall points for the entire Greek Week. Dudolski said, “questions from all areas of life such as history, literature, science, mathematics and popular culture,” will be asked. “In turn [these categories] provide an interesting and enjoyable experience,” he explained. Perillo said, “We added more pop culture and current events questions, so it should be more interesting for college-age students.” Dudolski said this facet of Greek Week requires intelligence, accuracy, quickness and a vast amount of trivia knowledge in order to be victorious. He added that the overall purpose of Greek Week is to highlight

COLLEGIATE BOWL

» **When:** April 17 at 5 p.m.

» **Where:** Grand Ballroom of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union

» **What:** Will feature questions from history, literature, science, mathematics and pop culture.

The format of collegiate bowl will be more like a game show.

the entire fraternity and sorority experience that includes learning, knowledge and good scholarship. “Collegiate Bowl is designed to highlight the learning aspect of being in a fraternity or sorority just as Greek Sing and Airband highlight an appreciation of culture and the arts,” he said. Perillo said these events are not only for the Greeks to attend and that the Greek Week committees encourage everyone to attend. “The student committees have been working hard not only for the Greek community, but for the entire campus,” she said. The event will take place at 5 p.m. April 17 in the Grand Ballroom of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union. The bowl will last until all of the matches are complete.

Tech students react to tragedy

U-WIRE

BLACKSBURG,Va. — Erin Sheehan was one of four people able to walk out of her 9:05 German class in room 207 Norris Hall. “It’s a small class, about 25 people,” she said. “And I would say no more than 2 people didn’t show up, were absent. And of those of us that were in there today, only four of us walked out of that room, but two of us had been injured during the shooting,” Sheehan said. “It seemed so strange,” Sheehan said. “Because he peaked in twice, earlier in the lesson, like he was looking for someone, somebody, before he started shooting. But then we all heard something like drilling in the walls, and someone thought they sounded like bullets. That’s when we blockaded the door to stop anyone from coming in.” “He was just a normal looking kid, Asian, but he had on a Boy Scout type outfit.” “I saw bullets hit people’s body,” Sheehan said. “There was blood everywhere. People in the class were passed out, I don’t know maybe from shock from the pain. But I was one of only four that made it out of that classroom. The rest were dead or injured.”

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MEET THE ROBINSONS (G) 4:00 6:30 9:00
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WILD HOGS (PG 13) 5:20 7:40 10:00
300 (R) 4:50 7:30 10:10

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» Massacre

FROM PAGE 1

Students jumped from windows in panic. Young people and faculty members carried out some of the wounded themselves, without waiting for ambulances to arrive. Many found themselves trapped behind chained and padlocked doors. SWAT team members with helmets, flak jackets and assault rifles swarmed over the campus. A student used his cell-phone camera to record the sound of bullets echoing through a stone building.

Alec Calhoun, a 20-year-old junior, said he was in a 9:05 a.m. mechanics class when he and classmates heard a thunderous sound from the classroom next door – “what sounded like an enormous hammer.”

Screams followed an instant later, and the banging continued. When students realized the sounds were gunshots, Calhoun said, he started flipping over desks for hiding places. Others dashed to the windows of the second-floor classroom, kicking out the screens and jumping from the ledge of Room 204, he said.

“I must’ve been the eighth or ninth person who jumped, and I think I was the last,” said Calhoun, of Waynesboro, Va. He landed in a bush and ran.

Calhoun said that the two students behind him were shot, but that he believed they survived.

Just before he climbed out the window, Calhoun said, he turned to look at the professor, who had stayed behind, perhaps to block the door.

The instructor was killed, he said.

Trey Perkins, who was sitting in a German class in Norris Hall, told The Washington Post that the gunman barged into the room at about 9:50 a.m. and opened fire for



JASON ARTHURS | MCT

Police officers patrol the front steps of Virginia Tech's Burruss Hall, the building located next to Norris Hall, where 32 people were killed and more were injured on Monday.

about a minute and a half, squeezing off about 30 shots.

The gunman first shot the professor in the head and then fired on the students, Perkins said. The gunman was about 19 years old and had a “very serious but very calm look on his face,” he said.

“Everyone hit the floor at that moment,” said Perkins, 20, of Yorktown, Va., a sophomore studying mechanical engineering. “And the shots seemed like it lasted forever.”

Students said that there were no public-address announcements after the first shots. Many said they learned of the first shooting in an e-mail that arrived shortly before the gunman struck again.

“I think the university has blood on their hands because of their lack of action after the first incident,” said Billy Bason, 18, who lives on the seventh floor of the dorm.

Steger defended the university's conduct, saying authorities believed that the shooting at the dorm was a domestic dispute and mistakenly thought the gunman had fled the campus.

“We had no reason to suspect any other incident was going to occur,” he said.

Steger emphasized that the university closed off the dorm after the first attack and decided to rely on e-mail and other electronic means to spread the word, but said that with 11,000 people driving onto campus first thing in the morning, it was difficult to get the word out.

He said that before the e-mail went out, the university began telephoning resident advisers in the dorms and sent people to knock on doors.

Students were warned to stay inside and away from the windows.

“We can only make decisions based on the information you had at the time. You don't have hours to reflect on it,” Steger said.

Some students and Laura Wedin, a student programs manager at Virginia Tech, said their first notification came in an e-mail at 9:26 a.m., more than two hours after the first shooting.

The e-mail had few details. It read: “A shooting incident occurred

at West Amber Johnston earlier this morning. Police are on the scene and are investigating.” The message warned students to be cautious and contact police about anything suspicious.

Everett Good, junior, said of the lack of warning: “Someone's head is definitely going to roll over that.”

Edmund Henneke, associate dean of engineering, said that he was in the classroom building and that he and colleagues had just read the e-mail advisory and were discussing it when he heard gunfire. He said that moments later SWAT team members rushed them downstairs, but that the doors were chained and padlocked from the inside. They left the building through an unlocked construction area.

Until Monday, the deadliest shooting in modern U.S. history was in Killeen, Texas, in 1991, when George Hennard plowed his pickup truck into a Luby's Cafeteria and shot 23 people to death, then himself.

The massacre Monday took place almost eight years to the day after the Columbine High bloodbath near Littleton, Colo. On April 20, 1999, two teenagers killed 12 fellow students and a teacher before taking their own lives.

Previously, the deadliest campus shooting in U.S. history was a rampage that took place in 1966 at the University of Texas at Austin, where Charles Whitman climbed the clock tower and opened fire with a rifle from the 28th-floor observation deck. He killed 16 people before he was shot to death by police.

Founded in 1872, Virginia Tech is nestled in southwestern Virginia, about 160 miles west of Richmond. With more than 25,000 full-time students, it has the state's largest full-time student population. The school is best known for its engineering school and its powerhouse Hokies football team.

» Campus

FROM PAGE 1

But he said people should be careful and avoid overreacting.

“There's going to be people at campuses everywhere who are going to feel more unsafe now,” he said. “We hear about these rare events, and then we think, and then we overestimate the likelihood it'll happen to us. It's very tragic. But from what I know, a very rare event.”

Gary Pearson, a freshman political science major, said he wasn't surprised at the shooting and wouldn't be surprised if it had happened at Eastern.

“The same thing that probably happened at (Virginia Tech) definitely happens here,” he said. “Just walking around campus, you can see who sits with who and we mentally separate ourselves.”

Wilson said school shootings do more than just affect a campus. They affect a community.

“We're talking about a lot of students and a lot of parents who lost their kids,” he said. “You don't lose just your kid. You lose your future – all your hopes and dreams for that child.”

– Sarah Whitney and the Associated Press contributed to this report

» Tugs

FROM PAGE 1

On Wednesday, Sigma Pi will compete against Lambda Chi.

“The best part of preparing for tugs is the actual tug day.” said Matt Hamilton, junior marketing major and Sigma Nu member.

Tugs begin at 4 p.m. Wednesday with little men, followed by women. Big men will follow afterward.

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Chicago celebrates Olympic chance

The Associated Press

CHICAGO – A pumped-up Mayor Richard Daley told thousands of people at a downtown rally Monday that he needs them – and everybody else – to talk up Chicago if the city is to win the 2016 Summer Olympics.

“Everyone of us are going to be ambassadors,” Daley said to the cheering crowd that turned out for a noontime party to celebrate Chicago being chosen as the U.S. Olympic Committee’s bid city.

Olympic organizers want to build on the excitement the Games are generating here. That enthusiasm, the organizers say, will help lift Chicago above the other cities in contention.

The International Olympic Committee won’t award the Games until 2009, and other bidders are expected to include Madrid, Prague, Rome, Rio de Janeiro and Tokyo.

The Mayor’s Office of Special Events said about 5,000 people attended the outdoor rally.

The party capped off a whirlwind three days for the city’s Olympic organizers that started Saturday in Washington when USOC chairman Peter Ueberroth announced that Chicago had been chosen over Los Angeles as its American bid city.



JAY GRABIEC | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Jessie Lukanich, a sophomore elementary education major, and Brittany Glolota, a sophomore elementary education major, walk by the R2-D2 mailbox outside of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union on Monday. “I think it’s kind of stupid; it’s just kind of funny,” Lukanich said about the mailbox.

Post office sends R2-D2

Pop culture icon sits outside union as part of ‘Star Wars’ 30th anniversary

By Sean Hopkins
Staff Reporter

“Star Wars” staple R2-D2 has found a temporary home right outside the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union thanks to the U.S. Postal Service.

In celebration of the upcoming “Star Wars” 30th anniversary, the post office has temporarily replaced a limited number of their standard blue mailboxes with those encased in R2-D2 skin.

The postal service is celebrating the anniversary as part of their

current marketing campaign.

A total of 400 mailboxes located across the United States and Puerto Rico have been chosen to display the theme, an average of about eight mailboxes in each state.

Butch Hackett, Charleston superintendent of mail, noted the interest in selecting a place like Eastern to display the temporary theme.

“Our headquarters targeted the areas that had visibility to people who might be interested in ‘Star Wars,’” Hackett said. “College campuses are also good high-traffic areas.”

Other selected locations include the University of Illinois’ campuses in both Urbana-Champaign and Springfield as well as downtown areas in major cities like Boston and New York City.

The U.S. Postal Service

anticipates releasing a “Star Wars”-themed stamp upon conclusion of the display of the “Star Wars” character.

Cathy Engelkes, deputy director of the union, said Eastern was a good choice because the campus has more than one generation.

“I was pleased they chose our union,” Engelkes said. “‘Star Wars’ is something that students as well as some of my colleagues enjoy.”

Freshman Nicole Hilliard said that while she has never used the mailbox outside the union, the new theme certainly got her attention.

“It’s not going to make me want to start using that mailbox, but it is nice to look at anyway,” she said.

The U.S. Postal Service will keep the themed mailboxes on display until sometime in mid-April when the new postage stamp will be released.

STATE
TUESDAY
4.17.07

statebriefs

The Associated Press

Parolee charged in arson

» QUINCY, Ill. — A parolee was charged Monday and jailed without bond in the deaths of five children killed in a weekend house fire that authorities say the suspect intentionally set over a dispute that apparently began at a nightclub.

Adams County State’s Attorney Jon Barnard charged Zachary Q. Meeks, 27, with 15 murder counts — three for each of the five dead children, who ranged in age from 10 years to five months. Meeks also is accused of arson and aggravated arson, the latter charge alleging Meeks knew or should have known people were inside the home when the fire began.

Judge drops federal lawsuit

» EAST ST. LOUIS, Ill. — Former Illinois Supreme Court candidate Gordon Maag quietly dropped a \$110 million federal defamation lawsuit over a 2004 campaign flier, ending legal wrangling over a race that broke national spending records.

The suit, dropped by a federal judge last Friday at Maag’s request, had been on hold pending the outcome of a similar state lawsuit filed by Maag. Last month, the Illinois Supreme Court refused to hear Maag’s appeal of a lower appellate court’s dismissal in December of his state lawsuit.

The high court’s refusal to intervene made the federal suit moot; federal law — unlike Illinois statute — does not define defamation.

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NATION | ROUNDUP

Record storm pummels east coast

CROTON - ON HUDSON, N.Y. — A menacing spring storm punished the Northeast for a second straight day Monday.

The storm moved through the Northeast, dumping more than 8 inches of rain on Central Park.

The storm sent refrigerators and pickup trucks floating down rivers in one of the region's worst storms in recent memory.

"This one is really a horror show," Gov. Eliot Spitzer said after touring hard-hit areas north of New York City.

The nor'easter left a huge swath of devastation, from the beaches of South Carolina to the mountains of Maine.

It knocked out power to hundreds of thousands of

people and was blamed for at least 11 deaths nationwide, including a New Jersey man who drowned inside a car.

BUSH, DEMOCRATS IN STALEMATE OVER IRAQ

WASHINGTON — resident Bush surrounded himself with military families on Monday to push anew for a war-funding bill that isn't tied to pulling U.S. troops out of Iraq.

The Senate's Democratic leader, Harry Reid of Nevada, responded that Bush must choose between holding to "discredited policies" in Iraq or working with lawmakers on a new course.

Bush, who will meet with lawmakers on Wednesday,

said: "We should not legislate defeat in this vital war."

GONZALES DELAYED IN EFFORT TO CLEAR UP CONTRADICTIONS

WASHINGTON — Senators postponed testimony by Attorney General Alberto Gonzales in the aftermath of Monday's deadly Virginia Tech shootings, delaying his chance to defend

contradictions about fired federal prosecutors that have taxed his credibility.

Senate Judiciary Chairman Patrick Leahy said the proceedings, initially set for Tuesday, would be inappropriate after the shootings at Virginia Tech University in southwestern Virginia.

Gonzales has struggled for more than a month to clarify what he described as only a limited involvement in the

purge that Democrats believe was politically motivated.

SALLIE MAE AGREES TO SELL FOR \$25 BILLION

WASHINGTON — A group of investors announced plans Monday to buy Sallie Mae, taking the nation's largest student lender private in a \$25 billion deal.

Sallie Mae is by far the largest school lender, originating \$23.4 billion in

student loans last year. Many of the loans are federally subsidized such as widely used Stafford loans.

Sallie Mae spokesman Tom Joyce said Monday that even though the company will be private, it will still be subject to federal and state lending laws, and it will continue to make filings to the Securities and Exchange Commission because it operates in the public debt market.

the daily eastern news

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campus clips

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Sudoku By The Mopham Group

.....	6
5 1	8	2 9
4 7	3	8
8	6	5
4 2	9	7 6
1	6	3

Level 1 2 3 4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk.

Solution to Monday's puzzle

6	2	7	5	4	8	9	3	1
8	5	1	3	9	7	6	2	4
4	9	3	6	2	1	8	5	7
9	4	2	7	1	5	3	6	8
3	6	5	9	8	4	7	1	2
1	7	8	2	3	6	4	9	5
2	8	9	1	7	3	5	4	6
7	3	6	4	5	2	1	8	9
5	1	4	8	6	9	2	7	3

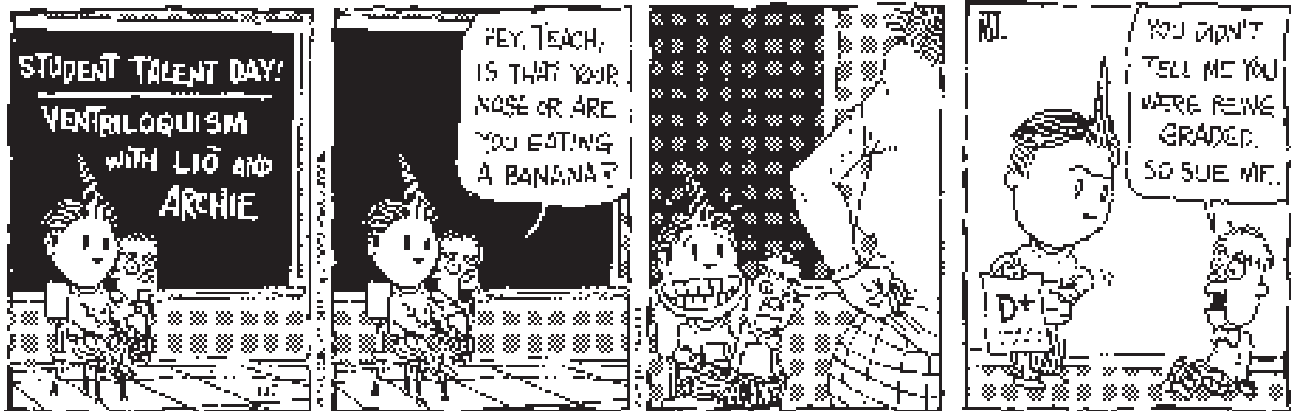
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4/17/07

NON SEQUITUR | WILEY MILLER



LIO | MARK TATULLI



The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0306

ACROSS

1 Out-of-focus image, say
5 'We ___ and help me'
10 Jails that boom
14 Cosmologist Gargun
15 Bamboo lover
18 Karate blow
17 Cassini of fashion
18 Following closely behind
18 Motor maid of song
20 "Lousy advice
22 Martial gambles
24 Pinhole eyes, for short
25 ___ Pontic War
28 Point the finger at
28 "Model behavior on the field
28 Elevator pedicure
34 From head ___

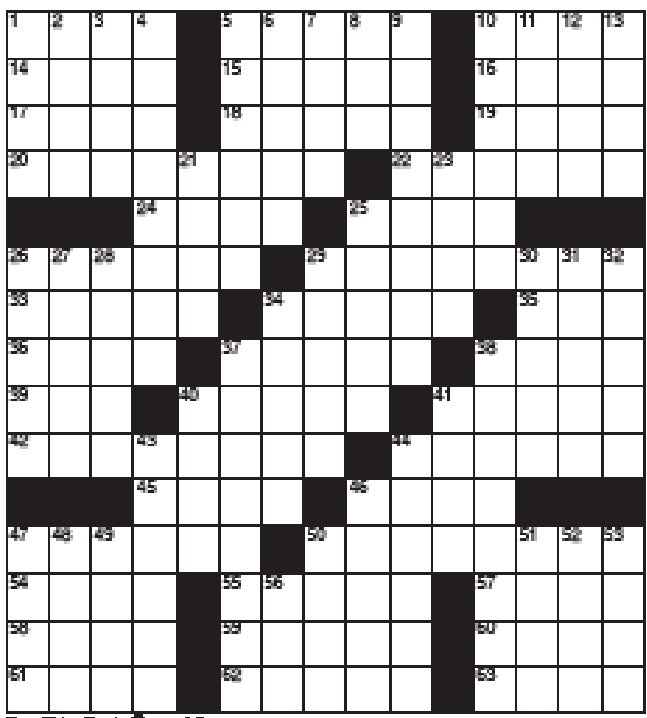
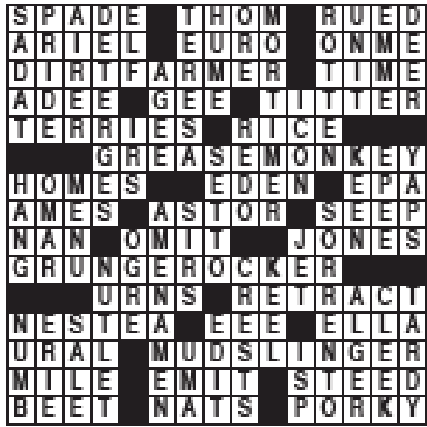
DOWN

35 Announcement at Penn Sta.
36 Sport of horses racing, with "the"
37 Subject of the 2004 biopic "Beyond the Sea"
38 Tail of "Young Frankenstein"
39 Social limiter?
40 "All for one and one for all," e.g.
41 English on the pitcher's mound
42 "What the nouveau riche have
44 Contractions
45 Descriptive pitcher
46 Quasi material
47 "Finally!"
50 "You're on" ... said a hint to answering the game show clues

DOWN

54 Boast
55 Laughs
57 First name in mystery writing
58 Spoken word's setting
59 Cockney's locale, maybe
60 Self-coining
61 Warm up in the ring
62 Home on the range
63 T'oppers

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



30 Tether

31 Places in the heart

32 Tail takes

34 Squid

37 "Words after 'Eaten these'"

38 "Consultant's act

40 Tends to the lawn

41 Gospelist Barrett

43 Scarily

44 Pole in the behind

46 Like a day-old baguette

47 Padiments

48 Police slang, e.g.

49 Struck off payroll

50 Chain restaurant with a blue roof

51 As a result

52 Boasts

53 Minus

54 "Thanks, but I already ___"

For answers, call 1-800-255-0000, \$1.29 a minute, or, with a credit card, 1-800-814-0004. Annual subscriptions are available for the best of Sunday crosswords from the last 50 years: 1-800-7-A-CROSS. Online subscriptions: Today's puzzle and more than 2,000 past puzzles, nytimes.com/crosswords (\$24.95 a year). Show tips: nytimes.com/puzzledom. Crosswords for young solvers: nytimes.com/learningcrosswords.

Rutherford loses against hometown

By Kevin Murphy
Associate Sports Editor

Freshman Jeff Rutherford played against a school from his hometown on Friday.

The Richmond, Ky., native lost in three sets, 7-5, 3-6, 10-7 to Eastern Kentucky's Fred Goncalves at No. 5 singles.

EKU is located in Richmond, Ky., and Rutherford said he thought he would be recruited by the Colonels but wasn't.

Jeff's dad, Jack, is the acting chair of the exercise and sport science department at EKU.

Jeff is 2-1 against OVC schools from Kentucky this year.

He defeated Yuri Pompeu 6-4, 6-2 on Sunday in a match where Eastern clinched a berth in the OVC Tournament.

Jeff also defeated another competitor from a Kentucky school earlier this year.

He defeated Morehead State's Doug Song in straight sets 7-5, 6-1 on March 10.

Panthers return home

The Panthers don't visit Darling Courts often.

The women's tennis team was scheduled to host six matches of 20 this season.

The first home match, March 10 against Morehead State, was limited to three courts because of the courts' surfaces.

The match against Western Illinois was canceled because of weather conditions.

Friday's and Sunday's matches against Eastern Kentucky and Murray State were the first time the Panthers had played two OVC foes at home all season.

"We got a little crowd going," said freshman Carrie Larson. "I love our courts. I like to play at home."



JOHN BAILEY | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Senior tennis player Brandon Lenfert backhands a shot during his match against Eastern Kentuck University's Mel Segota last Friday at Darling Courts. Lenfert lost the match 6-4, 6-4 and is currently 9-10 on the season.

Homburg maintains streak

Freshman Hayley Homburg has won seven singles matches in row.

"She's a tough player," Larson said.

"She goes out there and get the job done every time. She has a lot of style. She has aim. She can set up points and close it out. She knows how to structure the points."

The Monona Grove, Wisc., native won Friday in straight sets 6-1, 6-4.

"Hopefully, she'll keep (the winning streak) going through the rest of the season," Larson said. "She thinks about where her ball is going or where her opponent will be. She

knows where to hit the next ball and then it will open up the court for her for an easy winner."

Wins sprout best Tourny seeds

The women's squad will be the No. 3 seed for the OVC Tournament. It is the best finish in the OVC for the women's team (12-8, 7-3) and the most wins since 2003 but the most conference wins since Eastern was in the Mid-Continent Conference and finished second two years in a row from 1994-1995.

"Our goal was make it to the conference," said junior Sandra Sasidharan.

"When you have one goal, it's important you make it."

The men's squad will be the No. 5 seed for the OVC Tournament.

It is the best finish in the OVC for the women's team (13-5, 5-4) and the most number of wins since 2001 and the most conference wins since 2003.

Opponents for both teams will be announced later this week.

Sasidharan drops second match

Sasidharan lost on Sunday to the OVC No. 1 undefeated singles player, Anna Lusk.

Sasidharan, (18-2, 8-2) has

dropped two of the past three matches after opening up the year with 17 straight wins at No. 1 singles.

Sophomore Natalie Martin is also 18-2 on the year at No. 2 singles.

Pair knocks off undefeated team

On Sunday, sophomore Natalie Martin and Homburg picked up a win at No. 1 doubles knocking off Murray State's previously undefeated No. 1 team of Anna and Michelle Lusk.

Martin and Homburg won 8-6. The duo has a 16-3 doubles record this season.

» Softball

FROM PAGE 12

Panthers hit their first home run at home this year

Steele's home run against UTM on Sunday was the first by a Panther player at Williams Field this season.

The two-run home run over the left center field fence in the sixth inning cut UTM's lead to 4-3.

The home run chased Skyhawk starter Pajj Lintz from the game.

"She had kind of been mixing up the rise ball inside all day so I kind of had a good guess on it," Steele said. "Once it came, I was ready for it and just hit it."

The Panthers have 18 home runs on the year.

Home runs have been hard to come by this year in 11 games at Williams Field so far. Steele has the Panthers' only one, while opponents have only hit two home runs.

Quote of the weekend

—Schuette on team's recent losing ways:

"When you lose a few games, you've got to keep plugging away. You can't just mope and you can't wear your emotions on your face. We've always said, 'if you're not happy, fake it.' I'm not sure we were very excited (Sunday)."

» Murphy

FROM PAGE 12

Two young players on Blackburn's roster have produced solid results for the women's squad this season.

Freshman Hayley Homburg is 9-1 in OVC singles action and 15-5 overall.

Sophomore Natalie Martin, who didn't play last year, has only lost two matches this season and only one in the OVC.

She and Homburg are an excellent doubles duo.

They knocked off Murray State's Anna and Rachel Lusk, who were undefeated before Sunday's match at No. 1 doubles.

Homburg is able to hit the shots that barely fall. She makes opponents scream at themselves and stare in awe about why they didn't get that shot.

Martin uses her height to her advantage, like Lindsay Davenport, to cover a wide range and hit the ball safely over the net.

These two players, plus the power of junior Sandra Sasidharan and senior Madina Mambetova, make Eastern a good team.

On the men's side, Blackburn picked a good recruit in freshman Jeff Rutherford.

Blackburn recognized the speed that Rutherford displays on the court.

Rutherford, a Richmond, Ky., native was not recruited by his hometown school Eastern Kentucky, a fellow OVC member.

Rutherford, before Friday's loss against EKU, had a seven match winning streak. Rutherford is 15-4 overall and 6-3 in the OVC.

This has helped the men's squad post its best finish in the conference since 2004.

This year's men's squad can also finish the regular season with the most wins since 1983 if it defeats Southern Illinois on Tuesday.

The current squad is 13-6 and 5-4 in the OVC.

Blackburn has made both teams believe, but he said it has been the quality of players, not himself, that has helped him turn the program around.

That's true to a point, but they needed someone to get them there and that person was and is Blackburn.

Blackburn has turned these players' careers around.

Four current men's tennis players were here when Blackburn arrived, and Sasidharan and Mambetova are the only women holdovers from Holzgrafe's tenure.

But now, instead of just winning points in a game and not qualifying for the conference tournaments, both programs are now winning matches and qualifying for conference tournaments.

» Jacksonville

FROM PAGE 12

"To be competitive (in the Atlantic Sun, JSU's old conference), we had to recruit hard for good players; international players," Hobbs said. "We had to be good to compete."

The trend of recruiting international players continues at Jacksonville State. Only one member of the six women team is from the United States.

Jacksonville State's top golfer this year is Tarazona.

She leads the OVC in stroke average and competed internationally in the 2004 Women's World Amateur Team Championships for her home country, Argentina.

Tennessee Tech head coach Bobby Nichols said his team's

preparation for the OVC Championships was to play more rounds during practice and focus on the short game – chipping, pitching and putting.

"The putter will forgive a multitude of sins on a golf course," Nichols said.

Hobbs said the course will not separate the field, and it should be a competitive tournament.

Hobbs said Drake Creek does not play too long, and his team can attack the par 5's and shorter par 4's for birdies.

Nichols said Drake Creek would be challenging because it has huge, fast greens.

"It's an ideal golf course for women's golf," Hobbs said. "If you're striking the ball well and playing well, you can shoot low, make some birdies."

OVC FIRST ROUND RESULTS

Top 10

1 Katelyn Stanier	Samford +3
T2 Kellie O'Connell	Samford +6
T2 Manuela Tarazona	Jacksonville St. +6
T4 Carrie Riordan	E. Illinois +7
T4 Bethany Yates	Murray State +7
T6 Andrea Downer	Murray State +8
T6 Mercedes Huarte	Jacksonville St. +8
T8 Christi Baron	Murray State +9
T8 Beth Ann Burns	Austin Peay +9
T8 Rachel Montgomery	E. Kentucky +9

SEASON SCORING AVERAGES

School	Golfer—Average
Austin Peay	Staci Lynch—75.9
E. Illinois	Chelsea Back—78.5
E. Kentucky	Melissa Rosloniec—80.6
Jacksonville St.	Manuela Tarazona—75.1
Murray St.	Andrea Downer—78.2
Samford	Katelyn Stanier—77.7
Tenn. St.	LaToya Moppins—92.9
Tenn. Tech	Madison Denman—79.9

BASEBALL | VERSUS MILLIKIN

Huber looks to be out 'til late April

Senior first baseman's hamstring slow to heal

By Brandy Provaznik
Staff Reporter

The Panthers are expecting their game against Millikin 3 pm today at Coaches Stadium to go on as scheduled with great weather in the forecast.

But with the anticipated good weather comes unexpected bad news that senior first baseman Erik Huber may be out until the last weekend in April.

Huber, Eastern's leading hitter and the Ohio Valley Conference's leading hitter (.468), injured his right hamstring in the April 1 doubleheader at Tennessee-Martin.

He did not play in the Panthers' next two games against Murray State, but played the first four innings of last Thursday's game against Olivet Nazarene.

Huber, who also leads the Panthers with seven home runs and 25 RBIs, did not play at all in the three-game series this weekend at Jacksonville State.

Head coach Jim Schmitz said Huber's trainer thinks the injury will last for about four weeks and they are hoping Huber is back by the time Eastern plays Southeast Missouri.

The Panthers play at SEMO on April 28 and 29.



JOHN BAILEY | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Senior shortstop Adam Varrassi tries to turn a double play against Olivet Nazarene University during the Panthers baseball game at Coaches Stadium Thursday afternoon. The Panthers won 12-3.

Right-fielder Casey Spears said although Huber is a huge loss and he is tough to replace, there are a number of guys stepping up and getting hits.

"Seeing everybody going around with swings gets me anxious out on the bench to get back out there and maybe add a few more runs," Huber said.

Schmitz said he hopes when Huber does come back, it gives the lineup more confidence in that "we aren't just depending on him."

The Panthers dealt with two canceled games last week alone, with the third game of the Murray Series on Sunday and the Indiana State game on Wednesday both being canceled.

Senior third baseman Ryan Campbell said canceling the mid-week games makes it hard for the Panthers to get into a rhythm.

Campbell said even though there were some delays, they were happy to get all the games in this weekend at Jacksonville State.

"Rain delays are not a big deal, pushing a game to Sunday is not

really a big deal, but missing a game really affects us," Schmitz said.

On Saturday the Panthers had to sit in the dugout for a three-hour rain delay between game one and two at Jacksonville State.

"It makes for a long day," Schmitz said. "But it is better to get the game in – that was definitely the right choice."

Schmitz said when he watched the video of the games this weekend, he could see how the cancellations affected freshman closer Richie Derback.

"He hasn't thrown like that at all in his last three or four outings," Schmitz said.

"But the last time he pitched was Tennessee-Martin and that is like two weeks ago. But this weekend he just wasn't sharp and nothing came out right."

Schmitz said that the inability to get live at-bats may have made the pitchers not as sharp as they were before.

Schmitz said senior Brandon Murphy will be the starter against Millikin and he will also put in some other freshman pitchers.

Murphy was in the top weekend rotation until about three weeks ago and by putting Murphy in, Schmitz is hoping it will boost his confidence.

Schmitz said that the mid-week role is not as much pressure and may help get Murphy ready to start the third game this weekend against Samford.

VOLLEYBALL | RECRUITS

Volleyball signs three players

Junior's younger sister among three signed by the Panthers

By Kevin Murphy
Associate Sports Editor

Volleyball head coach Lori Bennett signed three players to National Letters of Intent on Monday

Natalie Barton, Jorie Dieter and Alex Zwettler are the latest signers with the Panthers.

Alex is the younger sister of current Eastern junior outside hitter Eliza Zwettler.

Alex is a Madison, Wisc., native and competed at Edgewood High School, where she helped the team win three straight regional titles (2004-06).

Alex is an outside hitter and is third in the line of Zwettler volleyball players.

Alex and Eliza's older sister, Callie, played at Minnesota-Duluth and was a Division II All-American.

Alex's mother ran track, played volleyball and basketball at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville and her father played basketball and golf at UW-Platteville as well.

"(Alex and Eliza) are both serious and competitive in athletics," Bennett said.

Bennett said they did not look at Alex initially until after the first signing period.

The Wisconsin Journal and the

BACKGROUND OVER THE THREE NEW RECRUITS

Natalie Barton

» **School:** Barrington High School

» **Position:** Outside hitter

» **Other information:** Led the Fillies to a fourth-place finish during her senior year

Was named a prepvolleyball.com All-State performer

Jorie Dieter

» **School:** Joliet West High School

» **Position:** Middle hitter

» **Other information:** Gatorade Rookie of the Year in 2004

Alex Zwettler

» **School:** Edgewood High School

» **Position:** Outside hitter

» **Other information:** Younger sister of junior outside hitter Eliza Zwettler

Named Player of the Year by The Wisconsin Journal and Capital Times

Capital Times named Alex their player of the year.

Bennett said Alex has the most complete game and is able to hit the ball hard, spike, block and set up points.

Eliza, a transfer from Troy, was the 2006 Ohio Valley Conference newcomer of the year.

Dieter is a middle hitter from

Joliet West High School.

Bennett said she is a hard worker and someone who is good at closing the block.

Barton, an outside hitter from Barrington High School, was a prepvolleyball.com All-State performer.

Bennett said Barton is comfortable in tight games.

Barton led the Fillies to a fourth place finish this past fall and had five kills in their Elite Eight game.

Bennett also said Barton has good ball control.

Eastern already signed Kelsey Orr of Forrest, Ind., and Erin Hake of Marion, Iowa in November.

Bennett said Alex has the best chance of a starting position but it expects it to be a 'dogfight' for positions in the fall.

Last season the Panthers (8-19, 3-13) finished ninth in the OVC and did not qualify for the conference tournament.

Bennett lost two seniors from last year's roster and five other players who still had at least a year of athletic eligibility aren't coming back next year.

Juniors Kera Griffin and Lindsay Walsh, sophomores Kari Hauswirth and Caitlin Balsam and freshman Sarah Collins won't play for Eastern next year, an Eastern athletic department official said.

All five left on their own terms, the official said.

Eastern opens up the 2007 season Aug. 24 at the Southern Methodist Tournament in Dallas.

MEN'S BASKETBALL | RECRUIT

Panthers add high-scoring Michigan guard

Laser averaged 30 points per game in his senior year at Hillsdale High School

Staff Report

Eastern men's basketball added a player noted for his offensive play to its roster for the 2007-08 season.

Tyler Laser, a 6-foot-1 guard from Hillsdale, Mich., officially signed a letter of intent with the Panthers, Eastern head coach Mike Miller said Monday.

Laser averaged 29.6 points per game last year for Hillsdale High School and helped lead his team to a 19-3 record. He scored a school record 53 points in a game last year, he also had two games of 40 or more points and nine games of 30 or more points.

Hillsdale High School, with an enrollment of 554, plays in the Class B classification of Michigan high school basketball.

It is one of four classes for high school basketball in Michigan.

Ohio, Cleveland State, Siena,



Tyler Laser

Incoming guard from Hillsdale, Mich. Laser averaged 29.6 points per game in his senior year.

year Romain Martin.

With the addition of Laser, Eastern will now have nine guards on its roster for next season. Laser joins Matt Dorlack, a 6-foot-11 center from New Berlin, Wis., as recruits Miller has added for next season.

Dorlack signed in November and averaged 13.1 points his senior season, while shooting 58 percent from the field. He also averaged 12 rebounds and blocked 81 shots while leading Eisenhower High School to a 19-3 record.

Bowling Green State and Buffalo were also recruiting Laser.

Laser joins an experienced guard corps. The Panthers are led at the guard spot led by 2006 Ohio Valley Conference freshman of the year Mike Robinson and 2007 OVC freshman of the

SPORTS

TUESDAY
4.17.07

sportsschedule

PANTHER SPORTS SCHEDULE

WOMEN'S GOLF

TODAY at Ohio Valley Conference Championships |
All Day. Ledbetter, Ky.

MEN'S TENNIS

TODAY at Southern Illinois |
2 p.m. Carbondale.

BASEBALL

TODAY vs. Millikin |
3 p.m. Coaches Stadium

WOMEN'S GOLF

Wednesday at Ohio Valley Conference Championships |
All Day. Paduchah, Ky.

BASEBALL

Wednesday at Saint Louis |
3 p.m. Saint Louis

WOMEN'S GOLF

Thursday at Ohio Valley Conference Championships |
All Day. Paduchah, Ky.

TRACK AND FIELD

Thursday at Kansas Relays |
All Day. Louisville, Ky.

SOFTBALL

Thursday at Bradley |
2 p.m. Peoria.

kevinmurphy

RUNNING WITH THE PACK

Coach turns tables on tennis

Eastern's head tennis coach John Blackburn has brought both the men's and women's tennis teams back to an elite status in the Ohio Valley Conference.

In 2005, the final year of former head coach Brian Holzgrafe, the men's and women's squads finished 10th and 8th in the conference respectively.

Blackburn, in two years, has brought pack power to the tennis programs.

The women's squad finished the 2007 regular season 12-8, 7-3 in the Ohio Valley Conference.

This is the highest conference finish ever for the women's squad in the OVC.

It is also most conference wins for the team in eleven years of competing in the OVC.

The last time the women placed this high in a conference was when they were in the Mid-Continent Conference in 1995.

» SEE MURPHY, PAGE 10



Kevin Murphy is a freshman journalism major. He can be reached at kjmurphy@eiu.edu.

WOMEN'S GOLF | OHIO VALLEY CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP

Jacksonville State holds lead

Eastern golfers in seventh place in OVC Women's Championship after long break

By Scott Richey
Online News Editor

Eastern women's golf team last played a competitive round of golf on March 26.

After the 22-day break from competition, the team was back in action Monday at the first round of the Ohio Valley Conference Women's Golf Championship Monday at Drake Creek Golf Course in Ledbetter, Ky.

The lack of competitive play may have contributed to Eastern's current seventh place standing at the OVC Championships.

Head coach Mike Moncel said senior Chelsea Bach has been No. 1 on the team all

season and must continue playing well for Eastern to have a shot at the title. But Bach shot an 18-over par for a first round score of 90.

The low round for Eastern was sophomore Carrie Riordan's seven-over 79 which puts Riordan in a tie for fourth place.

Jacksonville State, seeking its third consecutive OVC Championship, finished the first round at 321, good for 33 over par as a team.

It has a two-stroke lead ahead of Murray State and Samford.

Samford's freshman Katelyn Stanier's took the lead on day one with



Carrie Riordan
Riordan shot a seven-over 79 in the first round of the Championship, putting her in a tie for fourth place with Murray State's Bethany Yates.

a three-over 75.

Jacksonville State freshman Manuela Tarazona and Samford sophomore Kellie O'Connell are tied for second place at six over, which is three strokes back of Stanier.

Rounding out Eastern's scores are Katie Imburgia (88, +16), Jaymie Voorhees (88, +16) and Amy Simons (96, +24).

Eastern's team score of 345 is 24 strokes behind Jacksonville State.

Moncel said Jacksonville State would be a tough opponent because its season stroke averages are low as a team and they have played in many southern tournaments in warmer weather.

Jacksonville State head coach James Hobbs said his team's competitiveness stems from its transition from the Atlantic Sun Conference to the OVC four years ago.

» SEE JACKSONVILLE, PAGE 10

SOFTBALL | NOTEBOOK



JAY GRABIEC | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Sophomore outfielder Chelsy Iapala eyes up a pitch for a bunt as sophomore second baseman Sarah Coopert warms up in the on-deck circle during Eastern's 5-0 loss against Tennessee-Martin on Sunday afternoon at Williams Field. Iapala popped out on her only at-bat of the day.

Jacoby doesn't make weekend appearance

By Matt Daniels
Sports Editor

Last year, Kathleen Jacoby not only had one of the best seasons by a freshman pitcher, but by a pitcher in Eastern's history.

Her sophomore season hasn't been as kind. Eastern's No. 1 starting pitcher last year has struggled this year, unable to capture the dominance she had last season.

Jacoby went 21-12 in an Eastern single-season record 45 appearances, with a 2.36 ERA and 140 strikeouts on her way to second team all-Ohio Valley Conference honors last year.

This year, Jacoby has a 6-10 record in 22 appearances, a 3.93 ERA and 73 strikeouts.

She did not pitch in either of Eastern's two losses this weekend against Tennessee-Martin.

Junior Karyn Mackie started the first game of Sunday's doubleheader, while junior Ashley Robinson started the second game.

Junior Maegan Golloway pitched in relief in both games.

The left-hander threw 9 and 1/3 innings of relief in the two games, allowing 12 hits and three runs.

She has appeared in 20 games this year and seven of the last eight.

The junior transfer from Kankakee

Community College recorded her first win at Eastern in the Panthers' 11-7 win last Wednesday against SEMO.

"She throws strikes and gets ahead of the hitters, and she's just been doing a real good job lately," said senior shortstop Chelsea Adams.

Jacoby's last appearance came in the Panthers' 11-7 win against SEMO.

Jacoby pitched two-third innings of relief, gave up a run and walked four batters. Her last win came April against Ball State.

She pitched two-third innings of relief in the Panthers' April 3 win against Ball State.

Jacoby hasn't won a start since March 25 when she hurled a four-hit shutout at Samford.

"Kathleen's having trouble and until she gets her confidence, we're trying anything that can work," said Eastern head coach Kim Schuette. "A couple pitchers have done well in practice and we went with them (Sunday)."

Conference standings picture clears

Eastern has 10 conference games left to determine whether it will play in the OVC Tournament or not.

The Panthers (17-22, 5-10 OVC) are currently alone in eighth place in the 10-team standings. Only the top six teams make the

tournament.

"Well, nothing matters unless we win," Schuette said.

"To a certain extent, you can't tell your kids that you have to win because then they play all uptight instead of playing loose."

Austin Peay (18-21, 7-10) is currently in sixth place, two full games ahead of Eastern.

The two teams will meet for a 3-game series the final weekend in April in Clarksville, Tenn.

Eastern has a 3-game series against Morehead State this weekend at Williams Field.

The Eagles (15-24, 4-12) are currently in last place.

The only OVC school Eastern plays the rest of the season with a winning conference record is Jacksonville State (25-17, 11-7).

The two schools meet May 5 and 6 at Williams Field.

"Conference play is what it's all about, so our record doesn't look so good in conference right now as far as numbers," said senior designated player Katy Steele. "But the big part of the season is the conference tournament. That's when the real fun starts. It's like our big dance."

» SEE SOFTBALL, PAGE 10