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Eastern Illinois University

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UNIVERSITY | BUSINESS AFFAIRS

Weber hired to fill open position

Energy center, future budget to be addressed

By **MATT HOPF**
News Editor

Moving forward on the Renewable Energy Center and the Fiscal Year 2010 budget will be undertaken when William Weber starts as the vice president for business affairs on July 1.

Weber was named vice president for business affairs Monday.

"I'm hoping that we'll know what our plans are with (the Renewable Energy Center) before July 1, but it is also possible that things may still be in the works," he said. "So depending on developments between now and July 1 that will certainly be a point of attention."

Eastern announced last fall its intention to build the center, which would burn non-treated wood chips obtained as byproducts from the lumber industry.

The steam plant burns coal to supply heat and cooling to the campus. With wood chips, the center, which will be located off of 18th Street and Edgar Drive, would reduce overall air emissions.

The university announced in November it would delay the plant amid funding concerns with the economic climate and to allow Charleston residents to give more input in the facility.

Weber said the steam plant has



FILE PHOTO | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS
Vice President for Business Affairs candidate William Weber, left, speaks with Alan Baharlou, the retired chair of the Geology-Geography Department, right, during a campus open session at Booth Library on Wednesday, Feb. 11.

accumulated \$16 million in deferred maintenance, and if it were replaced, it would take a major amount out of the accumulated deferred maintenance.

To decrease the deferred maintenance, the university would need to see additional revenue. Accumulated

deferred maintenance is about \$176.5 million.

"Part of our budget request to the state is additional funds earmarked for deferred maintenance," Weber said.

The budget for Fiscal Year 2010 will also be part of his early responsibilities.

"It's a little too early to know whether those numbers will be available by that point; although we certainly hope that we'll know our appropriation from the state by then," Weber said.

» SEE **WEBER**, PAGE 2

CAMPUS | GREEK

Search for Greek director delayed

Robyn Paige's position extended

By **JESSICA LEGGIN**
Campus Editor

The search for a new Greek director has been delayed, and the appointment of Robyn Paige as interim director of fraternity and sorority programs has been extended through June 30, 2010.

Dan Nadler, vice president for student affairs, said some of the reasons include, but are not limited to, fund issues.

"The primary issue is financial as the budget situation is up in the air," he said. "We are moving forward with increasing sensitivity about the budget situation."

Nadler said a national search for a Greek director is expensive.

"Extending a temporary appointment helps us defer expenses until the budget situation improves," he said.

» SEE **GREEK**, PAGE 2

CAMPUS | DEATHS

Three friends lost together

By **EMILY ZULZ**
Associate News Editor

Shailendra Veerapaneni received a call from his brother in India asking if he had heard anything about a car crash involving his brother's daughter.

Shailendra Veerapaneni, of St. Charles, reassured his brother that it was probably a small crash.

He told his brother that she was likely sent to the hospital for procedure, but that it was probably nothing major.

"I'll go and look into it," Shailendra Veerapaneni said to his brother. "Don't worry."

He contacted the number given to his brother and talked to the doctors involved.

He was driving when he got the word that his niece and three others died in a car crash around 1:45 a.m. Saturday in Des Peres, Mo.

"Oh my God, it was a real shock," Shailendra Veerapaneni said.

He had to pull over into a parking lot.

Shailendra Veerapaneni is the uncle of Anitha Lakshmi Veerapaneni, an Eastern graduate student in the computer technology program. Along with Anitha Lakshmi Veerapaneni, the victims of the crash included Eastern graduate students Anusha Anumolu and Priya Darshini Muppavarapu, and Anitha Lakshmi Veerapaneni's cousin Satya Chinta, of Aurora, Ill.

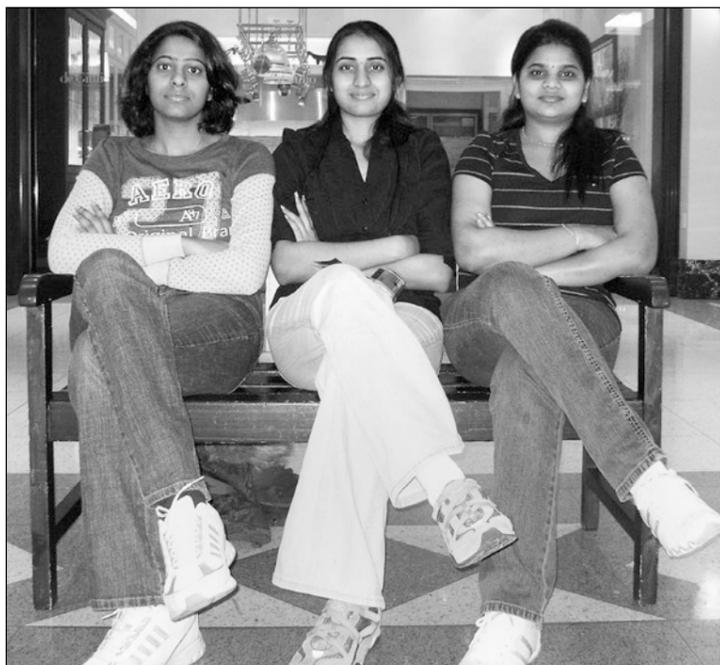


PHOTO COURTESY OF SUE SONGER

Priya Darshini Muppavarapu, left, Anitha Lakshmi Veerapaneni, center, and Anusha Anumola, right, were killed in a car accident early Saturday morning in Des Peres, Mo. The three women were graduate students at Eastern in the technology program.

The four and Anitha Lakshmi Veerapaneni's fiancé, Netish Adusumilli, of Ballwin, Mo., were on a weekend trip to St. Louis. It was Friday night, and the group was returning from a bowling alley after previously eating at a restaurant. Adusumilli was driving.

He made a right turn off Des Peres Road onto Dougherty Ferry Road when an off-duty suburban St. Lou-

is police officer going the wrong way struck the right side of their vehicle, according to a Missouri State Highway Patrol crash report.

According to authorities, Christine L. Miller, 41, of Kirkwood, Mo., may have been drinking, reported The St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

» SEE **ACCIDENT**, PAGE 5

CAMPUS | STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Students for Change runs in first election

By **BOB BAJEK**
Student Government Editor

This last presidential election saw voters wanting change.

This upcoming Student Government election is no different.

The newly formed party, Students for Change, will compete against United Party of Students during the April 6 and 7 elections and challenge the organization's efficiency.

Students for Change has 14 members, with 10 members vying for Student Senate.

Four are running for executive offices. They are Ron Jordan for student body president, Scott Lambert for student vice president for academic affairs, Brad Saribekian for student vice president for business affairs and Paul Reid for student vice president for student affairs.

Reid, who missed the first six weeks this semester because of a leave of absence, said he decided to return to the senate to advance the Student Senate's effectiveness.

Initially, Reid wanted to run for student body president, but he changed his mind before the March 11 deadline. He then helped found Students for Change.

"I decided instead of going independent, I would team up with like-minded members with a party," Reid

said. "If I don't like how it is, I have to change the senate."

Jordan said Students for Change wants the Student Senate members and executives to serve the students first instead of always being concerned with internal affairs.

"We are students advocating for change, especially in the culture of the senate," Jordan said. "We are trying to outline change in the way we deal with students, the way student issues are taken on."

"The culture in the senate needs to change. The attitudes of some senators need to change and the focus of senators and executives."

Jordan said the Student Senate meetings have to alter the current structure.

"The meetings are run efficiently, but I don't think we focus enough on student issues," Jordan said. "We focus on the Student Constitution and the bylaws and not on student projects and student concerns as directly as we should be."

Another goal of Students for Change is to fix the internal and external communication of the Student Senate.

Reid said most of the external problems with the Student Senate involve poor member interaction.

» SEE **ELECTIONS**, PAGE 2

EIU WEATHER

TUESDAY  71° 42° Chance of T-Storms SE 15-20/3D	WEDNESDAY  54° 40°	WEATHER BRIEF Chance of scattered thunderstorms today. Thunderstorms will become more likely this evening with gusty winds near 35 mph at times. Expect partly cloudy skies to return on Thursday.
THURSDAY  62° 45°		

» Elections

FROM PAGE 1

He argues this breakdown in communication internally affects how the group conveys its ideas to the student body.

"You need communication within an organization because without it, you can't have communication outside it," Reid said.

Jordan said he feels the presentation of the Student Senate needs to be

improved in order for a positive image with Eastern's student body to be fostered.

He referred to the meeting attire resolution he proposed that failed to pass the Student Senate in a 7-13 vote during its Jan. 28 meeting.

"That was not just for attire," Jordan said. "That was for handling ourselves in a professional manner. If all the people are working on a professional level, it will reflect with what we get done."

The professionalism refers to tex-

ting, talking and "snarkiness" that occur during meetings, he said.

Connecting with students is vital for Reid, who wants to evoke effective progress for the campus.

He said this means for his party to consider pertinent issues students care about.

"For Student Government to bicker two hours about the dress code seems irrelevant to me," Reid said.

Bob Bajek can be reached at 581-7942 or at rtbajek@eiu.edu.

» Weber

FROM PAGE 1

When the university receives the state appropriations, he knows it will be tight.

The university was asked to place 2.5 percent of the current appropriations - about \$1.26 million - in reserve to possibly get back to the state. The state has yet to inform the university if it will require the funds back.

Weber said he would look at ways to save money within the budget by increasing paperless processes and better utilizing the Banner software.

"The last three years or so we have been making the transition to this enterprise software system called Banner," he said. "We've done an excellent job in making that transition, but we are now at the stage where we need to unlock more of the power of Banner."

This includes activating part of the software, which would allow the processes of hiring new faculty or staff

and personnel changes to become paperless.

Weber joined Eastern's economics faculty in 1988 and became a professor in 1995.

He has served as Eastern's interim budget director since December 2007. He also serves as associate vice president for academic affairs and director of summer sessions.

He was selected from about 40 applicants in a national search that began after Jeff Cooley, who served as vice president for business affairs since 1999, retired on Dec. 31, 2008.

Paul McCann, director of business services/treasurer, has served as interim vice president for business affairs since Cooley's retirement.

Weber was named a finalist in January along with Patrick Kirby, associate vice president for financial affairs at St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas, and Donald Chrusciel, associate director of Facilities Planning and Management at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa.

Robert Augustine, dean of the

Graduate School and chair of the search committee, said Weber brought the most expertise in budgeting and planning to the position.

With the state of the economy, future budgets were a part of the interviewing process.

"Part of the interview process, we talked about the economic conditions of the nation and the state," Augustine said.

The vice president for business affairs reports to the president and serves on the President's Council and as treasurer of the Board of Trustees.

After assuming the post, Weber will be responsible for the supervision, coordination and administration of the Budget Office, Business Services, Information Technology Services, Human Resources, Facilities Planning and Management, Environmental Health and Safety, Records Management and the broad areas of service related to these units.

Matt Hopf can be reached at 581-7942 or at mthopf@eiu.edu.

» Greek

FROM PAGE 1

On May 2, 2008, Paige was offered the position of interim director of fraternity and sorority programs after Bob Dudolski, former director of Greek life, was removed on March 20, 2008.

She came to Eastern in 2004 to receive her master's degree in student affairs and officially began her duties as interim director of fraternity and sorority programs on July 1, 2008.

Some of the duties Paige has to fulfill as an interim director of Greek Life is to maintain a relationship with the various international fraternity and sorority headquarters, oversee stu-

dent recruitment, chapter standards and many of the service programs the chapters on campus organize.

Paige said when it comes to the extension of her position. Hers is not the only one that has been prolonged.

"There are financial things that come along with a search," she said. "The financial perspective can be a tricky cost for the university."

Paige is unsure at this time if she will seek out the position to become the official Greek director in the future.

"I have not decided yet," she said. "There is a possibility but I am not for sure what will happen."

Nadler said the university is undergoing changes especially in the

area of fraternity and sorority residential experience.

"We are looking for more effective ways in which to strengthen the residential component," he said. "This will involve revisiting a former EIU model in which a Greek Court coordinator focuses primarily on the residential component."

Nadler said it is not a good time to look for a permanent Greek life director.

"It would be inappropriate and unfair to hire a permanent director until we have a solid foundation in place," he said.

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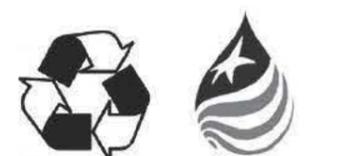
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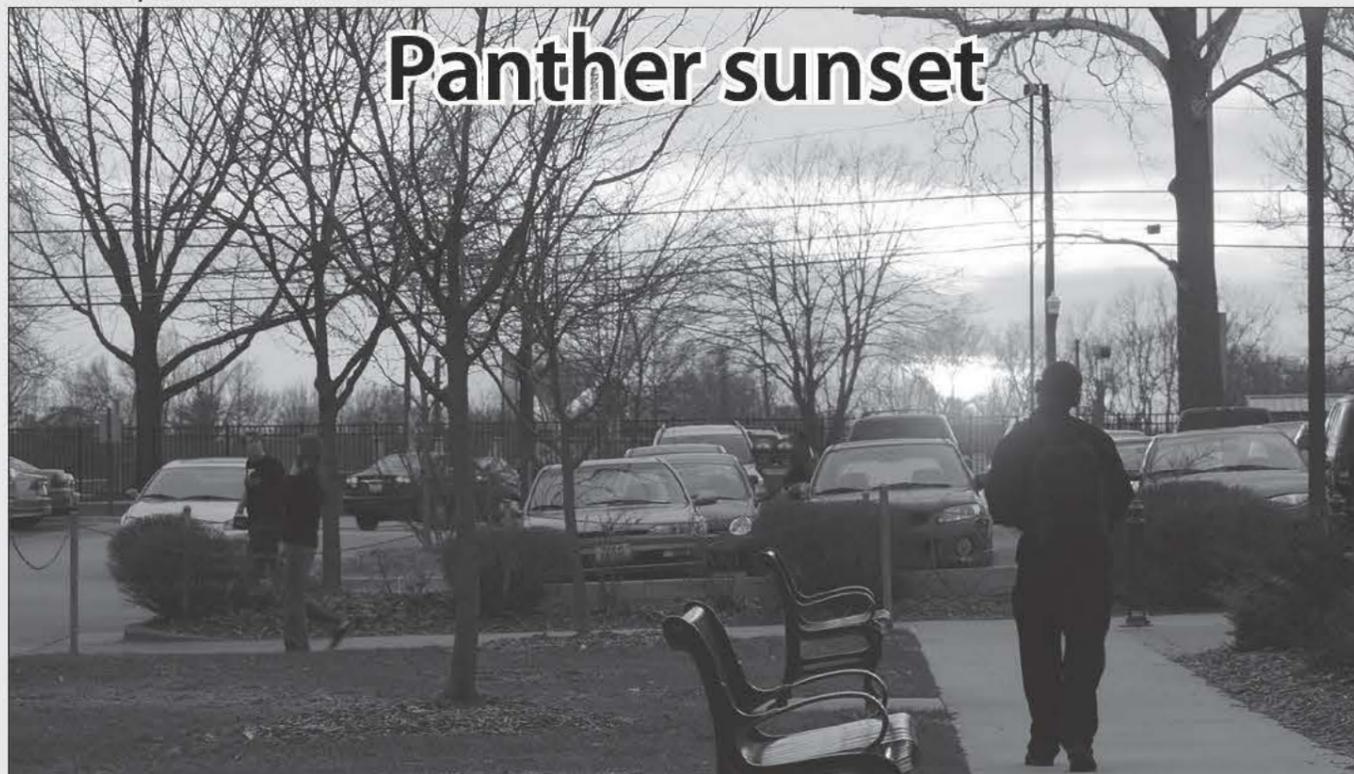
THURSDAY



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CAMPUS | PHOTO OF THE DAY



Panther sunset

Students walk outside of Booth Library as the sun sets Monday evening.

TYLER ANGELO | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

CAMPUS | CONCERT

Lupe Fiasco tickets still available

By HEATHER HOLM
Activities Editor

More than half of the tickets to the Lupe Fiasco concert have been sold, University Board concerts coordinator Sheila Hurley said.

"The floor was sold out within the first two to three weeks," she said.

Ceci Brinker, director of student life, said the ticket count at the moment is a little more than 1,700.

"Obviously, we would like to have tickets sold out before the concert," Brinker said. "We will expect a rush for tickets as soon as we get closer to the actual date."

Brinker said the final ticket count should be around 3,000 to 3,500 tickets.

"We are still trying to finalize

how big the show the stage is going to be," Brinker said. "The bigger the stage, the smaller the amount of tickets."

Brinker said the UB is trying to lock in all the sound and lighting needs at the moment.

"This determines the increase or decrease of tickets sold," she said.

Brinker said there were not many ticket sales over spring break.

Fiasco will perform a 60- to 70-minute set at 8 p.m. on April 4 in Lantz Arena.

Shwayze will be one of the opening acts, along with Ian Winston, a senior art major and winner of the "So You Think You Can Rap?" contest.

Winston performed two songs at the contest, called "Turn It Up" and "She Mambo."

He will be the first act and will

"Obviously, we would like to have tickets sold out before the concert."

— Ceci Brinker, director of student life

perform some of the songs he performed at the contest he won.

Winston goes by the rap name "I2K" and has also performed in Champaign in the past.

He will have a 15-minute set, and Shwayze's set will last about 35 to 40 minutes.

Brinker said the UB usually does not know what songs are performed until the day of the actual show.

A couple of Fiasco's hit songs include "Superstar" and "Kick Push."

Some of Shwayze's songs include

"Buzzin" and "Corona and Lime."

During the concert, ushers will give bracelets to everyone who has floor seats and people need to have their bracelets on to be allowed on the floor.

The other options are balcony or reserved seats. These seats are assigned.

Some seats will also be available for the artist's family, friends and crew, Hurley said.

Heather Holm can be reached at 581-7942 or haholm@eiu.edu.

CAMPUS BRIEFS

City Council candidates to hold forums

The Charleston Area Chamber of Commerce is hosting a forum for City Council and School Board candidates. Both forums are being held today at the Coles County Public Health building, 825 18th St. The City Council forum begins at 6:30 p.m. and the School Board forum begins at 8 p.m.

DENnews.com named Pacemaker finalist

For the second straight year, DENnews.com has been nominated as a finalist for an Associated College Press Online Pacemaker award in the four-year daily newspaper category. In all, 10 Web sites from across the country were chosen as finalists and the winners will be chosen in October at the annual National College Media Convention. DENnews.com was one of five national Pacemaker Award winners in 2008.

Students collecting food, used batteries

The College of Science Student Advisory Board is conducting a used-battery drive and a food drive through Friday to benefit the environment and area residents.

The student group will recycle the batteries to keep them out of landfills, and the food drive will benefit the local food pantry. Collection boxes are set up throughout the campus and in the residence halls.

—Compiled by City Editor Joe Strouski and Online Editor Nicole Weskema

CORRECTION

In Monday's edition of *The Daily Eastern News*, Satish Anumolu was misidentified as Lakshmi Neelesh Nimmagadda's sister. Anumolu is Nimmagadda's best friend.

The DEN regrets this error.

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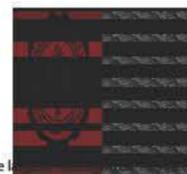
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BOB BAJEK

Connecticut's anti-Catholic woes

What an interesting yet contradictory country America is. It is supposed to be a nation governed strictly by the U.S. Constitution with the Bill of Rights guaranteeing its citizens personal liberties.

It is a nation that has a multitude of people of different races, religions, ethnicities, political beliefs, physical abilities and sexual orientations who are equally respected no matter how different. The good ol' U.S. of A. claims she does all of these things. But when it comes to the beliefs and practices of Catholics, these ideals and beliefs sometimes take a back seat.

The state of Connecticut this month desired to have lay people control some Catholic parishes' finances through committees resembling school boards through Senate Bill 1098. The bill's public hearing was canceled and then tabled on March 10. The bill's main supporter is Dr. Paul Lakeland, a former Jesuit priest, who is the leader of the Voice of the Faithful. The group's ultimate goal is weakening the pastoral authority of priests and bishops. The main argument for controlling the Catholic Church's money from parishioner donations is embezzlement of Connecticut church funds reaching in the millions. However, having the government obtain command of a religious institution's finances is wrong.

This control is a blatant violation of the First Amendment right concerning the separation of church and state with Connecticut controlling bishops through the purse.

"It just seems to fly in the face of the First Amendment," said the Rev. Msgr. John McCarthy of the Cathedral of St. Joseph. "It effectively is dictating how the diocese should run its affairs and eliminates the Archbishop of Hartford and the pastor of every parish from any meaningful say in the operation of the parish. There are some critics and bishops who worry that the bill is a veiled attack to censure the Catholic Church on important moral issues, such as same-sex marriage.

"If this bill were to be enacted, your bishop would have virtually no real relationship with the 87 parishes ... they could go off independently, some of them could break off from the Church if they wished," said Bishop William Lori of Bridgeport.

The three Connecticut bishops are disturbed with the possible law, which they perceive as aimed precisely against the Catholic Church. Notice how there is no mention of fiscal oversight with other Christian churches, synagogues, mosques and temples with their religious spending. Human folly and weakness are not exclusive to Catholic clergy. To state that is a fallacy. Anyone is capable of embezzlement outside of a specific religious affiliation.

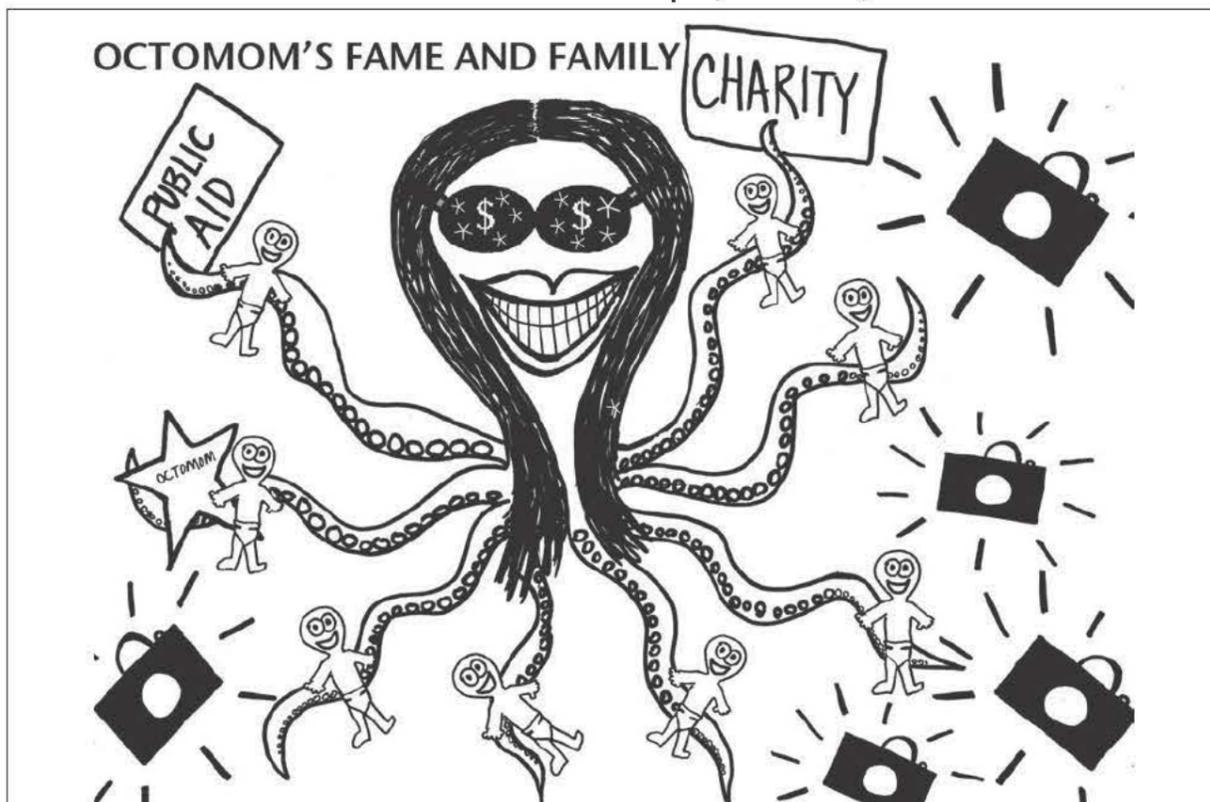
An anti-Catholic prejudice has existed since our country's founding. American Catholics were discriminated by Protestants in Colonial America with jobs and holding office. Groups such as the Know-Nothings and the more sinister Ku Klux Klan terrorized Catholics, among other racial and religious groups.

The public school system was created in response to the parochial school system. Al Smith's 1928 presidential bid was stopped because of his beliefs. Currently, Catholics are called backward with their stances on sexuality.

Religious freedom is not for everyone excluding Catholics. Catholics are part of this democratic deal.

Bob Bajek is a junior journalism major. He can be reached at DENopinions@gmail.com.

Drawn from the News | Alycia Rockey



STAFF EDITORIAL

AIG scandal should be approached rationally

There is one word that best sums up the emotions of the American public and its government following the scandal surrounding the insurance giant American International Group: outrage.

Earlier this month, AIG announced it had used part of its \$170 billion bailout money to fund \$165 million in bonuses for its executives.

To say the nation was angry would be an understatement. Fury, rage, downright hate and all-around ill will toward any member of AIG would be better words to describe the emotions exhibited by public officials.

Here we have a company that is struggling and that begged the government for money — paid for by the American people — so it could keep its head above water.

The company then had the gall to shell out millions of dollars to corporate executives.

And for what? For doing such a great job? For contributing to the greatest economic decline since the Great Depression?

If AIG were smart, it wouldn't have even told anyone about this debacle, which in the business world is known as fraud, but it beats an angry mob demanding the \$165 million be refunded.

Now lawmakers in Washington, D.C., are at an impasse: How do they punish the company without losing billions of taxpayers' dollars?

In an interview on "60 Minutes" Sunday, President Barack Obama expressed discontent regarding the prospect of taxing the executives for 90 percent of the money handed to them,

"However, if the government fines AIG too heavily, the company will not stand and the economy will be plunged further into the depths of depression."

citing constitutional violations prohibiting the government from taxing a select group of individuals.

While the American people are demanding their money back, Obama is right; however, if the government chooses to proceed, it should be based on rational thought, not on emotions.

However, if the government fines AIG too heavily, the company will not stand and the economy will be plunged further into the depths of depression. Even if we win, we lose.

It's a depressing situation with no conceivably positive outcome, one with long-reaching effects that will span across the nation.

One can only hope the elected officials in Washington know how to approach this delicate situation.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The editorial is the majority opinion of *The DEN* editorial board. Reach the opinions editor at: DENopinions@gmail.com.

OTHER VIEWS ON THE NEWS

LIBERTARIANS WORK TO IMPROVE SOCIETY

OKLAHOMA — Libertarians are smart. Historically, when countries enacted the type of extreme free-market economic principles advocated by libertarians, there have been popular uprisings, rapid economic decline, corrupt governments, dictatorships and civil war.

Examples of these negative effects have been seen in Chile under Pinochet, Apartheid South Africa, Indonesia under Suharto, Iran under the Shah, modern Colombia and many others.

Think of these like Russia's attempt at socialism — they were poorly managed attempts at an ideal.

Libertarianism is incredibly similar to anarchism. They don't like government, anarchists want no government to eliminate governmental control; libertarians just want to shrink it until it's impotent and doesn't have the power to influence people's lives.

These are two different attempts at the same conclusion, liberation from state control. Anarchism has, unfortunately, been taken as a joke in popular culture.

Anarchism, when legitimately considered, actually refers to community cooperation, and a strict prohibition of centralized authority.

The individual should decide everything that affects the individual. After all,

why should someone else, especially the government, have control over your life?

The goal of libertarians has been to weaken governmental regulations and authority. When states issue the unpopular legislation advocated by libertarians, it hurts governmental legitimacy. Their effort to shrink the size of government also removes the government's effectiveness.

The anarchist/libertarian ideal is genuinely possible, and instead of dismissing what they say just because it has failed so absolutely in the past does not mean we shouldn't keep trying for the future.

Max Avery
Oklahoma Daily

Letters to the editor can be submitted at any time on any topic to the Opinions Editor to be published in *The Daily Eastern News*. The DEN's policy is to run all letters that are not libelous or potentially harmful. They must be less than 250 words.

Letters to the editor can be brought in with identification to *The DEN* at 1811 Buzzard Hall. Letters may also be submitted electronically from the author's EIU e-mail address to DENopinions@gmail.com.

» Accident

FROM PAGE 1

The Missouri State Highway Patrol said there was no word on whether alcohol was or was not involved. Authorities are still conducting the investigation, and charges could be filed later this week, according to The St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

All four victims were pronounced dead at the scene at 2:15 a.m. Miller and Adusumilli were taken by ambulance to St. John's Mercy Medical Center in Creve Coeur, Mo.

"No one wants to believe this has happened," Shailendra Veerapaneni said.

He said the past three days have been devastating.

"It has become a nightmare for us which is reality," he said.

A Return Home

Shailendra Veerapaneni, who was related to both Chinta and Anitha Lakshmi Veerapaneni, went directly to St. Louis after the news was confirmed. The bodies will stay in St. Louis before being sent to Chicago and then to India.

Shailendra Veerapaneni was on campus Monday to retrieve the Eastern students' passports and documents to facilitate their return.

Eastern has arranged for a bus for friends of the victims to travel to St. Louis to pay their respects. The date and time are still tentative for the memorial trip. Shailendra Veerapaneni said the bodies would be returned to India by this weekend.

Most of the victims' immediate families reside in India, and will remain in India to meet the bodies. Relatives in the U.S. will be at St. Louis to see the bodies on the plane.

The estimated cost to transport four bodies to India is \$60,000. An Indian group in St. Louis, The Talugu Association of North America, is accepting donations to help with the cost.

Online donations may be made at <http://www.tana.org/donate>.

Chinta's mother and Muppavarapu's mother have still not been told of their children's deaths, Shailendra Veerapaneni said.

The latest he heard, he said, is that the doctors are advising not to tell the shocking news at this time.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MILLICENT MICHELLE HUGHES

Emergency vehicles respond to the scene of a crash at the intersection of Des Peres Road and Dougherty Ferry Road in Des Peres, Mo.

"They'll slowly let them know," he said.

Chinta's mother has been told that her child is in the intensive care unit, Shailendra Veerapaneni said.

He said they would probably be told by Tuesday morning in India because the bodies will soon be returning home.

"It's really difficult," he said. "It has to be told."

Shailendra Veerapaneni said the news is so devastating because "they have come from such a far place to study."

"They were doing really good and all of a sudden this," he said. "I think it will take some time to come out of that shock."

Anitha is the only daughter in her family, and the only girl in her extended family.

"She is a darling for everyone, and now she is not there," Shailendra Veerapaneni said.

The last time he saw his niece was March 5, upon her return from India with her recent fiancé. She had plans to be married this May. Muppavarapu had also recently become engaged with plans to marry in May.

The Three Musketeers

Anitha Lakshmi Veerapaneni, Muppavarapu and Anumolu were the best of friends, said Sue Songer, international student adviser.

"We often joked here in the (International Programs) office that they were the three musketeers because everywhere they would go together and they would come in the office and it would be a lot of laughing, friendli-

ness," Songer said.

"Working on a university campus and being a woman myself, it's just a very special relationship of college girlfriends," she said. "It is a very close bond, and they were the epitome of college girlfriends."

As international student adviser, Songer provides support and assistance to international students. Songer knew the three victims since they transferred to Eastern in the fall of 2008 from Oklahoma City University.

"The loss we feel is very great," Songer said. "From the students' classmates to their faculty members to international programs to their work places ... They had such hope and they were excellent students and it is so tragic we lost the three girls."

The victims from Eastern were three in a small tight-knit Indian community on campus. Songer said the university averages 150 international students each semester at Eastern, and of that, there are currently 42 Indian students.

"There's a huge outpouring of sorrow amongst the students, and it's hard to watch them be in so much pain," she said. "It's important that we pull together at a time like this and that's what we're trying to do to support and hold our group together."

A Friend's Memories

The three students were also all employed at Tower Dining where their smiling faces could often be seen.

Mary Brown, a full-time cook at Tower Dining, has known the three

women since the beginning of last school year. While she never worked directly with them, she would stop and chat with them.

"We just got to be really good friends," she said.

In January, Brown went to visit them in January after hours. The three friends introduced Brown to Indian food and their ways and styles of eating and culture.

"We talked for about four or five hours about American culture and their culture and we had a great time," she said.

This past spring break, Brown took them to Walnut Point, north of Oakland.

"After we went to Walnut Point, we came back and they threw me a surprise birthday party with ice cream cake, and they showed me the tradition of cutting the cake and then you feed it to the next person and to the guest of honor," she said.

The three women were like sisters, Brown said.

"When I went to visit them, they treated me the same, just that same closeness," she said.

Brown found out about their deaths when her boss called her Sunday morning.

"I'm going to miss them very much because they made me feel very welcome," she said. "They made me feel a part of their group. I was basically one of them. They extended their friendship to me."

Brown said they always made the kitchen a little brighter.

"They were usually always smiling," she said.

Anitha Lakshmi Veerapaneni, Brown said, was quiet at work, but once she was in private was outgoing and fun.

Brown described Anumolu as cheerful. She said she had a pet name for her laptop which was like a baby to her.

"She loved it," Brown said. "It was very special to her."

Muppavarapu was the tall one of the group, she said.

"She loved cake," Brown said. "I would ask, 'What kind of cake?' and she goes, 'Any kind of cake.'"

Brown said the three women were always smiling, always joking, but they always did their work.

"They will be sorely missed," she

said.

Monday was the first day Tower Dining was open since the crash.

"I just kept looking for them to be here and they weren't," Brown said. "It seems really unreal."

Last Conversations

Sandra Sasidharan, a master of business administration student and an international student, also worked with Anumolu, Muppavarapu and Anitha Lakshmi Veerapaneni at Tower Dining.

"We had a good rapport with each other," she said. "I knew all of them. As the semester went on, it was going into a good friendship."

Sasidharan was one of the last ones to see the three before their deaths. She and the three were playing badminton in the Student Recreation Center Wednesday evening during break.

Sasidharan remembers the last conversations she had with each of the girls.

"(Anumolu) was saying she can't wait to go home to India, and she was saving up her money and everything to go home and visit with family and that's what she wanted to do," she said.

Her last talks with Anitha Lakshmi Veerapaneni and Muppavarapu were on their engagements, their marriage and how exciting things were going to be, Sasidharan said.

She learned of their deaths Saturday afternoon.

"It's unreal still to me," she said. "It's difficult not just for me but to all her friends all the other international students that had known them."

Sasidharan said the strange thing is the three were inseparable.

"They always wanted to work the same shift," she said. "They didn't want to work apart. They lived together. Now all three of them are gone."

Sasidharan said she cannot accept the fact that they are not going to be here.

"I still feel like tomorrow morning when I come to work I'm going to see them, but the reality is not," she said. "That's one of the things that we don't want to talk about, but the truth is they're not coming back."

Emily Zulz can be reached at 581-7942 or at eazulz@eiu.edu.

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Whitchurch

FROM PAGE 8

"It definitely helped playing against teams like Nebraska and Oral Roberts," said senior shortstop Jordan Kreke, who went 2-for-4 with two runs scored against the Sooners. "We pretty much know with Oklahoma that it's just another ball club, they're just like us."

Nommensen said playing Okla-

homa was similar to their game against Nebraska a year ago.

"I think it helps playing a team like Nebraska because we can kind of compare them," he said. "This year we're able to play with those big-time teams that are ranked."

So after a 4-1 Florida trip, and a 7-1 trip overall during spring break, the Panthers enter the brute of their conference schedule.

Having already swept a three-game series against Morehead State, they stand at 13-5 overall

and have high hopes after the late season success of a year ago.

Many forget before the Panthers' run through the Ohio Valley Conference Tournament last season, they were merely a below-.500 team that finished in fourth place.

But, the hot finish to 2008 has carried over to a hot start in 2009 with no signs of cooling down.

The bats are sizzling, led by Nommensen, Derbak and Kreke. Likewise, the three-headed pitch-

ing monster of Recchia, junior southpaw Tyler Kehrer, and sophomore right hander Josh Mueller have been virtually unhittable at times, and have the stuff to carry the Panthers deep into the postseason.

If those consistencies hold true, there is little doubt that a trip to Omaha, Neb., for the College World Series is possible. But they must continue.

Nommensen and senior second baseman Jordan Tokarz must con-

tinue to anchor the batting order, Recchia, Kehrer and Mueller need to stay hot on the mound, and Derbak needs to continue to solidify the back end of the bullpen. Additionally, Schmitz needs to find another arm or two in the bullpen he can rely on in tight games.

But, Omaha is within reach, just as long as things continue the way they are.

Collin Whitchurch can be reached at 581-7944 or cfwhitchurch@eiu.edu.

Switch

FROM PAGE 8

Experts of the close games

The Eastern softball team has become experts of winning close games. They lose few of them.

The Panthers are 10-4 this season in one-run games and post a 5-1 mark in extra innings.

Since Schuette took over the program before the start of the 2006 season, the team has posted a 47-19 record in one-run games. In extra inning games, the team is 18-6.

"We don't like to make them that close," Nelson said. "It comes down to who wants it more, and we definitely want it. Even though it isn't always pretty, we'll take them."

Nelson said the team is focused and has the stamina to go through the innings.

Eastern senior pitcher Kathleen Jacoby said the team wants to win more, and everybody on the team understands that, which is why they are so successful.

The Panthers finished a three-

game sweep of Tennessee Martin with two-extra inning wins. All three games were decided by one run.

"They love the excitement, probably a little too much" Schuette said. "I would like to win more games by more than one run. They believe. That's been our theme all year. That's been the (athletic department's) theme, but that's really been our team theme all year with our wristbands, our little necklaces and believe in blue."

Hitting the road

After posting a 6-3 record at Williams Field, the Panthers are hitting the road again.

They play No. 20 Southern Illinois Carbondale at 4 p.m. Wednesday in Carbondale. The Panthers play a three-game Ohio Valley Conference series at Eastern Kentucky on Saturday and Sunday.

They play Butler at 2 p.m. on April 2 at Williams Field, but will still play their next seven games on the road.

Kevin Murphy can be reached at 581-7944 or at kjmurphy@eiu.edu.

Letdown

FROM PAGE 8

Eastern head coach Jim Schmitz will send senior right-hander Brian Morrell to the hill against the Cougars. Morrell is 1-1 on the season with a 5.62 ERA in eight appearances, including one start.

The Cougars have three hitters batting over .300 on the season, led by senior infielder Patrick Hernandez, who is hitting a team-high .348 and also leads the Cougars with seven doubles on the season.

The Cougars have only four home runs on the season, compared to the Panthers' 22. Senior catcher Matt Haug leads Chicago State with two home runs.

Senior shortstop Jordan Kreke, who was named Ohio Valley Con-

ference Player of the Week Monday after hitting three home runs in the Panthers' weekend sweep of Morehead State, said he is confident the Panthers will not let up against their inferior opponent.

"We're a good enough team and we have the experience to know what we have to do no matter who it's against," he said. "The big thing is not to play down to our opponents' level. We just take it like every other game."

The Panthers opened OVC play last weekend with a three-game sweep of Morehead State. They open the home portion of their schedule at 3 p.m. Wednesday against Illinois State.

Collin Whitchurch can be reached at 581-7944 or cfwhitchurch@eiu.edu.

Obama commits to IOC

The Associated Press

DENVER — The committee hoping to bring the 2016 Olympics to Chicago has an early commitment from President Barack Obama to be in Copenhagen for its final presentation and the International Olympic Committee vote.

Pat Ryan, chairman of the Chicago 2016 bid, said Monday that Obama plans to attend the meeting in October.

Heads of state have been present at meetings more frequently in the past few years.

When London overcame favorite Paris to land the 2012 Games, a strong, in-person push by British Prime Minister Tony Blair was viewed as one of the reasons.

Obama's election has been widely regarded as a boon for the Chicago bid because of his Illinois background and his worldwide popularity.

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PEARLS BEFORE SWINE | BY STEPHAN PASTIS



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The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

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1 God, with "one's"
6 Airport guesses, for short
10 Word after matinee or teen
14 Quick, like a cat
15 "Whip It" rock group
16 Zilch
17 Chewed the fat
18 Shootout shout
19 Cereal "for kids"
20 Umber or chocolate brown
23 Pre-K enrollee
24 Org. for boomers, now
25 Early 10th-century year
28 Military treatise by Sun Tzu
34 Bathroom dispenser refill
36 The Velvet Fog
37 Trademarked citrus
38 Thing in a sling
41 Party with techno music, perhaps
42 Friars Club event
44 Gave a makeover
46 Captain's "Listen up!"
49 Pig's pad
50 Gold medalist Lipinski
51 Profs' helpers
53 Sad, like 20-, 28- and 46-Across?
59 Shoot up
60 Year-end air
61 Built-up
63 Adviser, say
64 A person may have one of invincibility
65 Qaddafi's land
66 Suffer from sunburn
67 Lee of Marvel Comics
68 Big name in printers
DOWN
1 Hot Lips
Houlihan's rank: Abbr.
2 Petri dish stuff
3 Fuzzy fruit
4 Give a seat to
5 Candy that makes your mouth burn
6 Ancient Icelandic work
7 U.S. Virgin Is., e.g.
8 PC user's self-image
9 "Who cares?"
10 Managing perfectly
11 "Rats!"
12 "Garfield" canine
13 Left Coast airport code
21 Body of cultural values
22 It's faster than a walk
25 Antique farm device
26 Myopic Mr. ____
27 Acquired relative
29 Do lunch
30 To the left, at sea
31 Cylindrical sandwiches
32 W.W. II-era G.I., e.g.
33 Like an oboe's sound
35 Drier's need
39 Book before Esth.
40 Madonna title role
43 Flooring wood
45 In most cases
47 Concert locales
48 Were completely depleted
52 "Blondie" or "Cathy"
53 Cheese with a moldy rind
54 Hectored
55 Wife of Zeus
56 Pizazz
57 Falls back
58 "The Banana Boat Song" word
59 Watergate tape problem
62 Tandoor-baked bread

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

PLIE CIGAR BLAM
ROSY OMEGA REPO
IRAE KARAT OXEN
SNAP DECISION
MACAO PONTIFF
TRAPS METER
CRACKLEWARE ILE
ROTH PRIDE OSLO
EMO POPMUSICIAN
DANTE SETAT
ONEARTH MULTI
RICEKRISPIES
QTIP ELIOT LENO
ESAI LINDA ETON
DONT LOGES TORE

15x15 crossword grid with numbers 1-68 indicating starting positions for clues.

PUZZLE BY KRISTIAN HOUSE

- 21 Body of cultural values
22 It's faster than a walk
25 Antique farm device
26 Myopic Mr. ____
27 Acquired relative
29 Do lunch
30 To the left, at sea
31 Cylindrical sandwiches
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FOOTBALL | SUSPENSION UPDATE

Football player reinstated

Victim requests police take no further action

By KEVIN MURPHY
Sports Editor

An Eastern football player was reinstated on Friday, said Eastern head football coach Bob Spoo.

Spoo said freshman linebacker Gordon Kickels told him the process was completed in the Office of Student Standards.

Kickels was suspended indefinitely on Feb. 13 by the team pending fur-

ther investigation from the Office of Student Standards.

"Nothing transpired, and he's been reinstated," Spoo said.

Rich Moser, Eastern's sports information director, said Kickels was suspended from team activities for violation of team rules for an incident on Feb. 13.

According to information obtained on March 12 from the Charleston Police Department through a freedom of information request, the woman involved has requested police take no further action in an incident at 9:19 p.m. on Feb. 13.

According to the document, Kickels allegedly grabbed the victim, punched her in the left eye and threw her to the ground.

The document states Kickels then fled the area.

According to the document, events unfolded like this:

- Kickels was in a fight with another male at the party.
- Kickels and the other males were asked to leave.
- Kickels then came back into the house and started a fight with a different male, and that is when he grabbed the victim.

Heather Webb, director of student standards, said the office does not release information about students.

"I'm not going to share any information with you at all," Webb said.

Kickels played in 11 games this season and notched 11 tackles, including six solo tackles. Three of his tackles were for a loss.

"He's a guy that has good potential," Spoo said. "He's also a long-snapper, and we don't have one of those."

Kevin Murphy can be reached at 581-7944 or at kjmurphy@eiu.edu.

BASEBALL | EASTERN AT CHICAGO STATE

Panthers look to avoid letdown



KAROLINA STRACK | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Junior catcher Evan Zalders throws the ball back to a pitcher during practice on March 11 in Lantz Fieldhouse. The Panthers went 7-1 on their spring break road trip and hit the road again today at 3 p.m. against Chicago State. Their home opener is 3 p.m. Wednesday against Illinois State at Coaches Stadium.

Team faces 2-21 Cougars in non-conference game

By COLLIN WHITCHURCH
Assistant Sports Editor

After finishing their spring break trip with a record of 7-1, the Eastern baseball team concludes its 19-game season-opening road trip at 3 p.m. today as it travels to Chicago State.

The Cougars have struggled to a 2-21 start on the season with losses by scores of 28-2, 16-0 and 31-1.

However, Eastern senior center fielder Brett Nommensen said he tells his teammates before games like this to play like it is the conference tournament championship.

"I would say we have to play our game," said Nommensen, who leads the team with seven home runs out of the leadoff spot. "Don't slump down to their level. We just need to go out and dominate and score as many runs as we can. Don't let down just because they're not as good, because it's baseball and anything can happen."

>> SEE LETDOWN, PAGE 7

SOFTBALL | NOTEBOOK

Coppert, Nelson switch infield positions

Infielders' switching leads to less errors

By KEVIN MURPHY
Sports Editor

Eastern junior Megan Nelson and senior Sarah Coppert were fixtures at shortstop and second base, respectively, all of last season.

Nelson played all 46 games last season at shortstop, and Coppert played 43 games last season at second base.

Through the first 12 games this season, that was working well.

But Nelson had five errors in two games at the Kennesaw State Classic in February, and that is when Coppert and Nelson switched positions.

Nelson started at second base on March 7 against Kansas.

"It's working out really well," Nelson said. "Coppert's getting a lot of range. She covers second on steals real well. It just kind of worked out a little better."

Nelson has never played second base before.

"It really is different," she said. "It took some adjustment, but I've gotten used to it."

Since the end of the Kennesaw State Classic in 15 games, the two have only combined for four errors.

"Sarah, right now, has a little bit better arm and getting to the steals better than Megan," said Eastern head coach Kim Schuette. "Megan likes to cover behind the first baseman. She goes well to her left. They like each other, and it's working better for the team."

>> SEE SWITCH, PAGE 7



ERIN MATHENY | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Junior infielder Megan Nelson bunts during the Eastern softball team's home game against Tennessee State on March 13 at Williams Field.

NATIONAL SPORTS

MEN'S BASKETBALL
NIT Quarterfinals |
6 p.m. on ESPN

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
Second Round games |
6 p.m. on ESPN2

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL
Exh. White Sox vs. Cleveland |
7 p.m. on CSN

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE
Los Angeles at St. Louis |
7:30 p.m. on CSN

MEN'S BASKETBALL
NIT Quarterfinals |
8 p.m. on ESPN

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
Second Round games |
8 p.m. on ESPN2

SCOREBOARD

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
NIT: Kentucky 65, Creighton 63

NBA
Chicago 101, Washington 99
Atlanta 109, Minnesota 97



COLLIN WHITCHURCH

Omaha appears possible

Eastern baseball head coach Jim Schmitz said before spring break he hoped his team could finish their Florida road trip 3-2 or 4-1.

A 4-1 finish was likely, and if anyone had guessed they would have said the one loss would come to No. 15 Oklahoma in the finale of the Bulls Classic in Tampa, Fla.

Not the case.

The Panthers did in fact finish 4-1 during their Florida trip, but Eastern stunned the 15-3 Sooners 8-6 behind the pitching of sophomore right hander Mike Recchia and the hitting of senior center fielder Brett Nommensen and junior designated hitter Richie Derbak.

The win is a sign the Panthers can compete with some of the best teams in the nation, and that mindset can be attributed to their performance in the 2008 postseason.

Last season, Eastern ended their season with losses to No. 13 Nebraska and No. 25 Oral Roberts.

While losses, those games, in front of crowds bigger than the Panthers had seen all season, undoubtedly prepared them for the big games they faced this season.

>> SEE WHITCHURCH, PAGE 7

EASTERN SPORTS SCHEDULE

MEN'S GOLF
Today at Butler Invitational |
All Day - Indianapolis

BASEBALL
Today at Chicago State |
3 p.m. - Chicago

M & W TENNIS
Wednesday at Jacksonville St. |
10 a.m. - Jacksonville, Ala.

BASEBALL
Wednesday vs. Illinois State |
3 p.m. - Coaches Stadium

SOFTBALL
Wednesday at Southern Illinois |
3 p.m. - Carbondale