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February

2003

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## Daily Eastern News: February 21, 2003

Eastern Illinois University

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# THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

February 21, 2003 ♦ **FRIDAY**



## Senior superlatives

Eastern's five seniors get a win in last regular season home.

Page 8 SECTION A

## Faculty speak on contract

♦ *Votes to ratify tentative agreement must be in by Monday*

By John Chambers  
ADMINISTRATION EDITOR

The faculty union negotiating team approved a tentative agreement this month, and the faculty reaction, in part, shows the agreement is the best offer they can get during the present status of the state's budget.

The proposed contract came after 11 months of negotiations, and the faculty now has until Monday to ratify the agreement by mail-in ballot.

"It seems like people can't play well at this institution," said sociology professor Reed Benedict.

Benedict said he will vote in support of the contract.

"I'm certainly willing to sign it because I think it's the best contract we can have now," he said. "When I read it, I had a lot of questions."

Benedict said the contract's "educational outreach" or distance education policy, was not as positive, but the faculty compensation was reasonable in light of the availability of funds in the state budget.

No salary increases were offered this year, but a one-time bonus equal to 1.5 percent will be offered if there is no state rescission by mid-May. The bonus will be equal to 1 percent if the rescission is less than \$500,000.

However, in the second, third and fourth years of the contract, a salary raise will be granted depending on state appropriations, according to the tentative agreement.

The administration also maintained the right to assign distance education courses and workload to qualified faculty.

SEE FACULTY ♦ Page 5A



Protestors stand outside the Coles County Courthouse on Thursday morning to show their opinion on the death penalty. Officers of the Coles County Sheriff's Department were standing by for security while the jurors arrived at the courthouse.

## Mertz had troubled homelife

♦ *McNamara's mother presented emotional victim impact statement*

By Michelle Jones  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Anthony B. Mertz's mother and father were not active parts of Mertz's life as he was growing up, Mertz's grandmother testified Thursday in Coles County Circuit Court.

"To him, I'm his mom," said Dorothy French, 80, of Rossville. "I don't think he'd know his mother if she walked in here."

Four of Mertz's relatives — his father, grandmother, a sister and an uncle — all testified during the fourth day of the capital murder trial's sentencing phase as part of the defense's plan to convince jurors Mertz should not receive the death penalty.

Last week, Mertz, 26, was found guilty of first-degree murder, aggravated criminal sexual assault and home invasion in the death of Eastern student Shannon McNamara on June 12, 2001.

Moments after Alan Mertz, Anthony's father, took the witness stand,

Mertz was slightly crying. He continued to cry during moments of testimony throughout the day.

SEE MERTZ ♦ Page 6A

## If sentenced, Mertz could be on death row for 12 years

By Carly Mullady  
CITY EDITOR

Anthony B. Mertz, 26, who was convicted last week of first-degree murder, aggravated criminal sexual assault and home invasion, will begin his fifth day of the trial's sentencing portion today.

Mertz has been considered eligible for the death penalty, and the jury is now hearing testimony from the prosecution's witnesses.

Following testimony, the jurors will deliberate and assign Mertz a death sentence or life in prison without parole.

In any criminal case, the defendant may appeal a guilty verdict, but the prosecution cannot appeal a not-guilty verdict.

SEE DEATH ROW ♦ Page 5A

## Students bowled over by renovated bowling alley



Mike Colman, a junior recreation major, waits for his ball during bowling class on Thursday afternoon in the Martin Luther King, Jr. University Union bowling alley.

By Tim Martin  
CAMPUS EDITOR

More than just bowling pins fell to the ground when the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union bowling lanes re-opened the first day of the 2002 spring semester.

"The first time the pins were set and we let the kids go out, four kids fell on their butts within 30 seconds," said Robert Doyle, bowling instructor for six of the seven bowling classes. "It was a combination of the new shoes and the slick floors, everything was so slippery."

"And that, was the funniest thing I have ever seen (in my teaching career)," said Doyle, who has been teaching bowling classes on and off for 20 years.

Because of the renovations, the bowling alley hosts influxes of bowlers two and a half times more than before it re-opened in January of 2002.

But the lanes were not always so jam packed nor the facilities so nice.

### AN OUTDATED FACILITY

The on-campus bowling alley, built in 1967, did not receive a major renovation

until fall 2001 when the new University Food Court was under construction.

Ted Hart, assistant director at the union, said the bowling alley was in real need of renovation.

"During the construction process for the food court, water leaks damaged the bowling lanes," he said. "At that time, we knew we had to repair the lanes and it provided an excellent opportunity to upgrade other things like the pin setter and computer scoring."

Tim Taflinger, manager at the bowling alley for the last 20 years, said business was declining in the years preceding its semester close.

"Business was definitely on a decline before renovation," he said. "I don't know if it was because of a loss of interest in bowling, but we did have a lot of original stuff (from 1967) in here."

Among the other renovations were glow carpet, upgraded lighting, new balls and shoes and a new ceiling.

"I like how much more efficient every thing is and, as a result, we can get so much

SEE BOWLING ♦ Page 5A



Comedian part of African-American Heritage Celebration

By Ryan Fearday  
STAFF WRITER

Comedian Jay Phillips will be making his first appearance at Eastern, said assistant director of student life Monique Cook-Bey.

"He is a mixture of Richard Pryor, Jamie Foxx and Dave Chapelle," Cook-Bey said.

Phillips was booked as part of the African-American Heritage Celebration, which will include comedy, slam poetry, hip-hop and dancing.

Cook-Bey said she expects about 300 people to attend.

"We try to bring in comedians that are different from each other," University Board Chair Caleb Judy said. "We saw his show and thought that he would work out very well."

Phillips' act is set up primarily to appeal to African-Americans, he said, but will appeal to everyone.

Phillips grew up in Baltimore

analyzing his neighborhood. Moving to Washington as a child, his humor is a by-product of America's policy, a press release says.

His unique approach is a very modern look at America's social culture. His act is very energized and definitely hip-hop. However, he delivers his act with a nonchalant style.

Phillips fine-tuned his act at Washington's IMPROV club, a press release said. He currently hosts his own radio show in Philadelphia.

Phillips has also appeared on BET's "Comic View" three times, been named Baltimore's comedian of the year and was the runner-up at the Bud Light Comedy Competition, a press release said. He has also appeared in a number of independent films.

Phillips will be performing at 9 p.m. tonight in the University Ballroom of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union .



STEPHEN HAAS/ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR

Ivy league

Gordon Tucker, professor in the biology department, shows students an example of English ivy on Thursday afternoon near Booth Library. Tucker's dendrology class was outside finding different kinds of plants on campus for a class project.

Chance for 30 seconds of fame

By Laura Kenny  
STAFF WRITER

In honor of Miss Black EIU Week, the Black Student Union is sponsoring a Lip Service Free-Style contest 7 pm. Friday at 7th Street Underground of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

"Grab your microphone and your fire extinguisher because Eastern is going to be 'on fire Friday,'" said Monique Cook-Bey, assistant director of student life.

There will be a cover charge for the event, but the exact price is not certain.

During the lip synch contest each contestant will be given 30 seconds to entertain the crowd.

"There are going to be a variety of acts with costumes and choreographed dances," Cook-Bey said. "A student-played Michael Jackson and some other surprise celebrities will host the event. Students are going to be performing some old tunes and new tunes."

Senior English major LaTacia Land is going to be performing Tina Turner's "Proud Mary."

"It's a song with a lot of energy, people will get into it," Land said. "I like performing in front of people, and we've been practicing."

Her performance will be complete with background dancers.

"This contest will give both males and females the chance to show their skills," Land said.

Prizes will be awarded to the winners of the contest and include a ticket to the Miss Black EIU Pageant held Saturday, Cook-Bey said.

After the Lip Service Free-Style Contest, students can go up to the University Ballroom where the "Soul Case Café" will be held.

Pictures and Build-A-Bears will be sold for \$5, she said.

There will be giveaways and a number of special guests, including comedian Jay Phillips, Slam Poets Nastics and Binks, a special rapper and various record labels and club owners.

Cook-Bey said the cost for students with a Panther ID is \$4 and \$6 for the general public.

She said anyone who comes to the "Soul Case Café" may stay for the after party for free.

Students interested in participating in the Lip Service Free-Style contest can contact LaTacia Land at 581-8033.

Three compete for title of Miss Black EIU

◆ BSU sponsors 29th annual pageant

By Jennifer Stoops  
STAFF WRITER

The Miss Black EIU weekend, sponsored by the Black Student Union, begins Friday in the University Ballroom of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

During these activities, the contestants for the Miss EIU pageant will be introduced. The title of the 29th annual pageant is "Do You Remember Me? The Black Woman," said Monique Cook-Bey, assistant director of student life.

This year three students are competing for the title.

The contestants are Ashayla Scott, a sophomore business management major, Angela Beard, a freshman communication disorders major, and Kaylin Gordon, a freshman productions and speech communications major.

Cook-Bey said Friday's events will familiarize the contestants with the public. Prizes will be given to attendees and include a gift bag from Roc-a-fella Music, Def Jam and J music.

Contestants will perform competitions displaying individual talent, creative expression and African garment portions, as well as the evening gown competition, Cook-Bey said.

The contestants have to design and model an African garment and give a speech about what their heritage means to them.

"The pageant gives women the opportunity to express what their heritage means to them as women," Cook-Bey said.

Miss Black EIU also accepts contestants who are not of African descent. For those women, the pageant allows a chance to pay tribute to the African culture.

LaTacia Land, who helped coordinate the pageant, participated in the Miss EIU 2001 competition and received first runner-up.

Land, who now oversees the audio controls during the pageant, helps contestants prepare by giving advice on how to act toward judges, what actions suggest stress and how to walk correctly on stage.

"Listening to the speeches provokes a sense of pride," she said.

Nicole Hodges, who also helps coordinate, works back stage and said she enjoys the prizes participants receive.

"The winner gets a color TV and a DVD and the runner-up gets a 'PalmPilot,'" Hodges said.

Hodges said the pageant brings contestants out of their shells and is a good way to meet people.

The pageant begins 7 p.m. Saturday in the Grand Ballroom of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

Tickets are available at the ticket box office for \$10 and covers admission to the pageant, appetizers and the after-party in the University Ballroom.

Can I kiss you?

◆ Dating lecture will be held Friday night

An interactive dating lecture titled, "Can I Kiss You?," will be given by Mike Domitriz from 8 to 9 p.m. Friday in the Grand Ballroom of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union. Admission to the lecture will be free.

Domitriz has given the lecture at many other schools, said Monica Stewart, the University Board special events coordinator.

Following the lecture, comedian Jay Phillips and the Soulcase Cafe will be in the University Ballroom of the Union, she said.

Students can also make their own Build-A-Bear and take a Big Chair photo from 9 p.m. to midnight tonight in the walk-way of the Union.

"We have never done Build-A-Bear or the Big Chair photo

before. We thought it would be different and would bring in more people," she said.

Students can choose from eight different bears to build, Stewart said.

Only the first 360 people will get to build a bear and only one bear per person can be made. The cost of Build-A-Bear is \$5 for Eastern students with a Panther ID and \$17.50 for the general public.

With the bear, students will get to pick a T-shirt that reads "Making Memories at EIU."

Students can get a photo taken on the Big Chair for free. The chair can seat six to eight people; 10 to 12 if people really squeeze, Stewart said.

All of the evening's events are sponsored by the University Board and Team Outlaw.

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Buzzard Hall, Eastern Illinois University  
Charleston, IL 61920

PHONE: 217-581-2812 (fax 581-2923)

EMAIL: majones@eiu.edu

NIGHT STAFF:

Night editor ..... Matt Meinheit  
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# CAA discusses likely membership changes

By Jennifer Farone  
STAFF WRITER

Voting membership on the Council on Academic Affairs was discussed and two classes were added Thursday.

The first bylaw dealt with changing the number of faculty membership votes from 9 to 8 – two faculty votes from each academic department.

The revision drew much concern from faculty who feared the interest of the university might be jeopardized, and the interest of individual departments would be placed in front of Eastern as a whole.

"The council truly reflects and acts consciously for what is best for Eastern, not what is best for your department," said professor of sociology, Ronald Wohlstein. "The CAA has functioned quite well for years."

Health studies professor Julie Dietz said, "(CAA) works as a body for the entire university, representing the students and the faculty."

If the bylaw revision is approved, the quorum, which would consist of the revised eight faculty members and the three non-faculty voting members, would also have to be amended.

The quorum would change the present required voters of eight out of 12 voting members to six out of 11.

Council members were hesitant about the possible quorum change because they believe the number is not large enough to vote on an issue.

Another bylaw revision dealt with CAA officers and how they would obtain a chair position.

Conflicts arose over the proposed bylaw's definition, which the board agreed to do

more amending before conducting a vote.

The CAA voted unanimously to approve two course changes – the revision of Course 3770, Health Services Administration, to 4770, and the addition of 4126G, Body, Health and Society.

"There would be some change in content, but fundamentally the approach to the course has not changed," said Dietz about the revised Health Services Administration class that was designed to be accessible to students and graduate students.

The CAA will continue to conduct revisions and discussions on bylaws next week.

The council meets at 2 p.m. Thursdays in the Arcola-Tuscola Room of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

## UB presents fiscal budget

By Avian Carrasquillo  
STUDENT GOVERNMENT EDITOR

The University Board presented its fiscal 2004 budget proposal to the Apportionment Board Thursday night, asking for total \$252,767.

The total request is a significant increase from past allocations.

In 2001, the UB received \$190,000, in 2002 the UB received \$185,000 and for the current fiscal year the UB received over \$186,000 from the AB.

The current budget request will still have to go through a few revisions before it can be approved. The AB will hear budget revisions March 27.

UB Chair Caleb Judy said an increase in the budget is needed to accommodate inflation and to give the UB the flexibility to go after larger acts.

The UB estimates lectures like actor Bruce Campbell drew crowds of over 750, and Simpson's writer Mike Reiss had crowds of over 500.

Judy said those events, along with movies, provided

students with alternatives to the bars.

"Students continuously complain that there is nothing to do at Eastern," he said. "An increase in funding would allow us to bring more different kinds of events for the students."

The AB also voted in favor of allocating an additional amount of about \$6,100 to the Student Government for Unity Week, a week-long celebration of diversity.

The AB will present their own budget request next week.

## Churches organize feasting for Habitat for Humanity event

By Jason M. Oljace  
STAFF WRITER

"Habifeast" will raise funds to build the 13th Habitat for Humanity home in Coles County.

More than 600 people are expected at the event Friday, which will include dinner, gospel music and education, said Holly Walters, co-chair for the Building on Faith campaign.

"We are hoping to raise \$5,000 between ticket sales for the dinner and an ad book we will hand out at the dinner," she said.

The "Habifeast" will be the first one at St. Charles since

1999, Walters said.

"We quit it because we started doing a Fourth of July run, but that excludes a lot of our community who don't walk or run," Walters said.

Seventeen different churches in Charleston will be involved, Walters said.

"It is an opportunity for people of different faith backgrounds to come together to support one project," Walters said.

Walters said the event is a positive activity for college students.

"College students can come out and show their support for Habitat for Humanity and enjoy an evening out. It also gives

them a chance to mingle with Charleston residents," she said.

Two gospel groups "Touched by Grace" and "His Harmony" will perform, and the dinner will feature Salisbury steak and baked potatoes, Walters said. An MC will talk about housing issues during breaks in songs.

"Habifeast" will be from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Friday at St. Charles Church in Charleston, located at the intersection of 10th St. and Madison Ave.

Tickets should be purchased in advance and cost \$7 for adults and \$3 for children.

Students interested can contact Walters at 345-3195.



STEPHEN HAAS/ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR

Mark Weisbrot, of the Center for Economic Policy Research, talks in the Phipps Lecture Hall of the Physical Sciences Building Thursday evening as the keynote speaker for the globalization symposium held at Eastern.

## Lecture presents another side of Venezuela media

By Jennifer Farone  
STAFF WRITER

Venezuela's economic strike was put in a different perspective Thursday in a lecture from Mark Weisbrot, co-director of the Center for Economic Policy Research in Washington.

"People have a false impression as to what is going on in Venezuela. There are two false impressions held by the general public," Weisbrot said. "One is that Venezuela is a dictatorship, and the second is that it is a repression government."

Venezuela is one of the least repressive governments in all of South America and even more lenient than U.S. strike policies. The strike in Venezuela, which lasted 63 days, would have never occurred in the United States, Weisbrot said.

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez chose not to take military action against the opposing forces, even though the strike crippled the economy. No one was arrested and little action was taken, Weisbrot said.

Not only were there general misconceptions by Americans about the struc-

ture of the Venezuelan government, but also about the nature of the strike as well, Weisbrot said.

"The press reported the strike as a general strike; an oil strike and business lockout is what is going on here," Weisbrot said.

"It was a coalition of labor and business leaders protesting. Roughly 30,000 oil managers and workers strike, even though Venezuela's economy is 80 percent dependent upon oil," Weisbrot said.

"The strike shut down the industry and cut traffic on highways," Weisbrot said.

Questions following the speech ranged from the concern of the Venezuelan government to the current situations in Brazil and Argentina.

"It was good to hear about this here. This isn't the sort of thing you hear about in American media," freshman English major Jeff Beal said.

"This is not something that is covered on your local CBS or Fox news. It was an in-depth look at all the sides of the situation," freshman undeclared major Ben Marcy said. "It was nice to get some background information."

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## EDITORIAL

# Campaign requires local focus

As Lincoln Avenue businesses pack up, shutter up their buildings and leave forever, Charleston starts to look like a ghost town. Long John Silver's, Hardee's and others bade this place farewell and left students and long-time residents with fewer restaurants to pick from.

Student Senate, picking up on student interest in bringing in more restaurants, has begun letter and phone campaigns.

While the senate's goal is a noble one, the businesses they target won't do anything to revitalize the town even if they do come. The senate listed chains like Chipotle Mexican Grill, Big Apple Bagels and Panera Bread — trendy eateries that thrive in the Chicago suburbs but are unlikely to occupy a former Hardee's in a town of 20,000.

These are chains that thrive on the concept of familiarity — a Panera Bread is the same whether it's in Schaumburg, Moline or Bloomington. To maintain that, the businesses need to build their own buildings in the fashion of the recent KFC/A&W that went up, where else, next to Wal-Mart on the edge of town.

If the senate truly wants to take steps to improve dining options in Charleston, it should observe what's already working.

Joey's, a locally-owned restaurant, is successful enough to buy the vacated Angie's building. Jimmy John's, which began in Charleston, blossomed into a huge franchise. Locally-owned Russ and Lynda's wasn't scared by the introduction of KFC where they once dominated the fried-chicken market.

Magic Wok, Pagliai's and El Rancherito, a small regional chain, all flourished while big guys like Long John Silver's and Hardee's tanked.

A college town graduates a fair number of people who want to start their own business — and aren't beholden to a specific building design.

Student Senate shouldn't try to grow a miniature suburb in Coles County, it should look from within to make Charleston a fun, well-rounded town in its own right.

Local food joints not only do great business in Charleston, they also introduce students from all over the state, but primarily suburban Chicago, to something new.

That is part of what college itself is all about.

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

**At issue**  
 Student Senate's campaign to lure more businesses on Lincoln Avenue

**Our stance**  
 Keep the focus local. Don't target franchises that would want to move into new buildings.

## OPINION

# Relish life, have no regrets



**Shauna Gustafson**  
 Senior writer and monthly columnist for *The Daily Eastern News*

Gustafson also is a senior journalism major.

She can be reached at 581-2812 or slgustafson@eiu.edu

Sometimes you just need a good laugh. A belly laugh. The kind that makes tears come to your eyes and your voice to sound like it's coming from another person altogether.

It seems lately there hasn't been a whole lot to laugh like that about. Locally we have been faced with a potential faculty strike, a capital murder trial, continued budget cuts and some of the worst winter weather this area of the state has seen in years.

Statewide, 21 people were killed in a stampede at a nightclub, a train derailed in Southern Illinois and the state's budget doesn't look any brighter than Eastern's.

The nation was put on an orange alert two weekends ago, is moving toward a war against Iraq without the support of the rest of the world and gas prices have skyrocketed — again.

And, as far as the rest of the world, one word can sum it up. Unrest. Palestinians and Israelis are still killing each other, North Korea remains an immediate threat to the United States and arson in a crowded train in South Korea has left 120 dead.

*"I have to make time to laugh, to relax, to enjoy what time I have left here."*

Everyone sufficiently depressed? Try not to be.

I have found myself under a lot of stress lately, worrying about life, classes, work and my future, as I'm sure many other students do. It's easy to get caught up in the troubles of the world, of your own little private world, in the daily grind.

I read *The Onion* online the other day, and I laughed. That big scary laugh described above. The kind of laugh that makes people around you turn around and ask what's so funny.

It felt great.

For a few minutes of the day, I forgot everything I was working on, thinking about, worrying about.

Life never seems to calm down, especially when nothing would be

better than a weekend to be concerned with nothing.

But what I'm beginning to finally realize, after seven semesters here at Eastern, is I have to make time to laugh, to relax, to enjoy what time I have left here.

Regardless of plans for the fall, for the summer, for the future, it seems necessary at this time to take a minute, or 10, to relish the life I have right now.

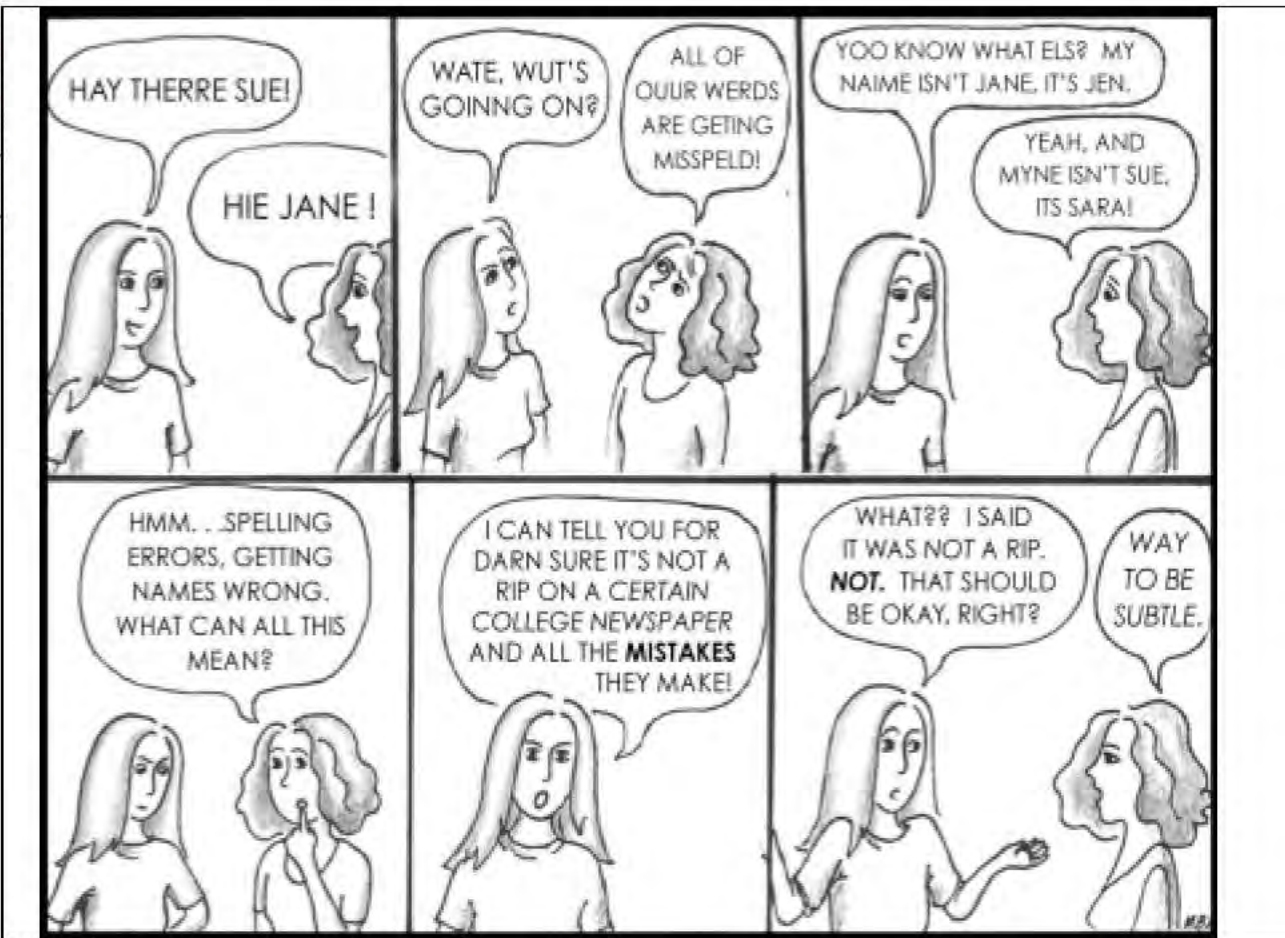
Money is just that, little pieces of paper we say is worth something. Possessions are just things we buy with that money that isn't important. Together they won't make you happy, just surrounded by stuff.

For me, the next few months are going to be filled with friends, late night talks, road trips and making new memories. Memories filled with laughter.

At least that's what I hope. If I've learned anything during the past few weeks, it's to enjoy my life while I have it, to live with no regrets. Not everyone gets the chance to be young, free and as silly as they want to be. We do.

I'm taking that opportunity while I can.

Cartoon by Mary Beth Marsia



## YOUR TURN: LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

# War is to be condemned, not soldiers

People, especially soldiers, have written the "troops" want our support.

Indeed they need our support, as they face the tribulation that awaits them. I wholeheartedly agree the troops do not deserve to be chastised for doing their job, especially when they return from the carnage of war. We must remember they are sent there because they are sent.

It also is "patriotic" and "American" to challenge the necessity for war. It is essential we all challenge the necessity for war because nothing good has ever emerged from it. War only leads to more oppression by setting the stage for the next war. Freedom doesn't come from war; freedom is there for us only as much as we choose to exercise it. We are oppressed only as much as we allow it to happen. We let ourselves be morally violated. I pray all soldiers could be agents of

freedom, as would be the ideal. But I also know the reality: soldiers become agents of redemptive violence (which is about the same as vengeance).

Lt. Bergstrom's letter stated, "Do not condemn this war because you are telling (troops) ... they are wrong." I agree and disagree. I agree the troops are "doing their duty" and in that they may not be wrong. They are not to be condemned. However, I disagree, war is to be condemned. There is a big difference between the two points made. Besides, what if "they" gave a war, and no one showed up for it? What if "we" did not allow ourselves to accept "their" gain, in the name of "their" ethnicity, nation, religion, or "ocracy"? War is the result of violence. What if we curbed our need for vengeance and settled disagreements "like real men, not children?"

**Bryan Miller**  
 Associate professor for

## Gullibility of half a nation disgusting

I'm responding to the patriotic outcry in the "letters to the editor" section in Monday's edition of *The Daily Eastern News*. I am disgusted by the gullibility of half of a nation. The reason we have free speech is to intervene when we the people believe the government is out of line. It is our check check on their power, part of the democracy Sgt. McNary and Lt. Bergstrom's letters raved about. I wouldn't blindly trust the government; it has been known to lie before. Nor would I blindly follow an order given by someone

I don't know (the president) to kill one or several people I also do not know. The letters spoke of unquestioned murder.

I personally would like to see the tax dollars that would go to the potential war going to something like education, so people would learn not to make such hasty decisions.

I once read somewhere, "It will be a great day when children are educated for free and the Air Force has to hold a bake sale to build a new bomber." Question everything!

**David Helmeid**  
 Sophomore secondary education major

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: The Daily Eastern News accepts letters to the editor addressing local, state, national and international issues. They should be less than 250 words and include the authors' name, telephone number and address. Students should indicate their year in school and major. Faculty, administration and staff should indicate their position and department. Letters whose authors cannot be verified will not be printed. Depending on space constraints, we may edit letters, so keep it concise. Letters can be sent to *The Daily Eastern News* at 1811 Buzzard Hall, Charleston IL 61920; faxed to 217-581-2923; or e-mailed to majones@eiu.edu



# Council to discuss lobbying, state budget

By John Chambers  
ADMINISTRATION EDITOR

Eastern's Legislative Action Team tells legislators the, "Eastern story," interim president Lou Hencken said; one issue to be discussed at the Council on University Planning and Budget meeting Friday.

The council, an advisory group to the president and vice presidents, will likely hear a report from the Action Team. Hencken said he will also deliver a report on the legislative actions impact on university budgets.

The Legislative Action Team and the Student Action Team, composed of student representatives mostly in the Student Government, lobbied in Springfield Wednesday, he said. Yesterday's visit was the first for the Legislative Action Team, created as a CUPB subcommittee last December.

"I just want the whole campus to know what a great job they did," Hencken said. "There's an awful lot of uncertainty going on in Springfield right now because

there's an awful lot of new (legislators)."

Eastern is watching for the progression of state congressional bills, in particular, on income funds, line-item budgeting and two relating to tuition, he said.

The lobbying trip was a time to inform legislators about the positive aspects of Eastern, not just request money from the state budget, said Linda Coffey in the accounting department. She is a member of the Legislative Action Team.

"(The Action Team) tells legislators this is what we like about the school...it wasn't that we were going in and saying don't cut us and give us money," she said.

Hencken said an action plan to assist the president will also be discussed.

The plan will be to develop ways for the university to respond quickly, especially in responding to requests from legislators.

The CUPB meets at 3 p.m. Friday in the Arcola-Tuscola Room of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

# 'Vagina Monologues' addresses sexual violence issues, fears

By Mike Zakaras  
STAFF WRITER

SACIS, sexual assault counseling center, is planning a production of Eve Ensler's "The Vagina Monologues" on next month's "V-Day" to raise funds to stop violence toward women and girls.

The event will be sponsored by Atterbury & Marshall Heating & Air and Towne Square Jewelers.

SACIS is asking for volunteers to help with the production, which will take place at 7 p.m. March 22 in the Grand Ballroom of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

The monologue be preceded by a reception and silent auction at 5:30 p.m.

V-Day is a worldwide movement to stop violence toward women and girls, and aspires to revitalize the spirit of existing anti-violence organizations.

In keeping with the theme "V-Day to V-World: Envisioning a world without violence" Eastern and LakeLand college students and area community members are

invited to join in creating two new monologues.

"In 1998, the V-Day performances generated \$150,000 for charities around the world, and this year they expect over \$10 million," said Bonnie Buckley, executive director for the SACIS. "Actresses and actors, writers, set designers, lighting sound assistance or anyone interested in helping with the production of the play are still needed."

To raise money toward ending abuse, the SACIS will put on two monologues.

The first monologue will be written and performed by men, and the second by women. Two separate workshops will be offered to educate men and women on how to write a monologue 10:30 a.m. Saturday in their office in the basement of Lawson Hall.

The event is run by SACIS members Jeanie Stenson and Kathy Davis.

Students interested in more information can contact them at (217) 348-5033.

## Faculty:

Bob Wayland, director of employee and labor relations, has said that is a management right.

The contract is more a sign of both sides willing to come to an agreement, instead of an abrupt agreement brought on by the threat of a strike, Benedict said.

"I think that both sides came to the table and said we have to get this done," he said. "I know the UPI busted their a\*\* on this and I appreciate what they did."

Political science instructor David Carwell is collecting the mail-in ballots.

He said while he is not familiar with contract specifics, over 200 ballots had been submitted as of Wednesday. The union has said before that membership is comprised of about 75 percent of the 576 faculty.

"I'm certainly relieved negotiations are over," Carwell said. "I was not encouraged by the process and I hope this does not (foreshadow) the next time."

Besides compensation, the tentative agreement also gives language to property rights, merit awards, sabbatical information and benefits among other issues.

"I'm glad this contract has been reached," said English professor Anne Zahlan, chair of the Faculty Senate. "Obviously, financially it could be better."

She pointed at the evaluation process as a positive component of the agreement.

Talks during negotiations

suggested tenured faculty be evaluated by academic department chairs every three years in addition to the suggested annual reviews faculty submit now for review.

Three-year evaluation was also restored for tenure-track faculty.

"I'll be surprised if the contract is not approved," said English professor John Allison.

Allison was the acting chief negotiator for a month during negotiations.

The agreement language on academic freedom and privacy was especially positive, as well as the workload credit unit limit for non-tenured faculty, Allison said.

"The contract, I suppose, looks fine. There's not a lot of money, but there's not a lot of money available," a source said.

The source wished to remain unnamed. He said the anger he expresses would not be helpful in the university's "healing process" following the 11 months of negotiations.

He said talks continued too long, comparable to past institutions he has taught at.

"(Administration) could have given us 10 percent (raises) and I would still feel harmed in some way."

An informational UPI meeting last week brought applause over some contract topics.

Wayland said the contract is a sign of both sides finally deciding to come to a peaceful agreement.

## Bowling:

more done," Doyle said. "The machines don't break down as much as they used to. We go into class not worrying if we can get stuff done."

Students and customers have also noticed, Taflinger said.

"Instead of bowling one game like in the past, people come and bowl three games," he said.

The up-to-date look and equipment, as well as the addition of cosmic bowling and extended hours, has increased business 260 percent over the past year, Hart said.

Doyle said the improved facilities and location are the main reason for the jump in business.

"It's easy for kids to get to because it is in the center of campus," he said. "And it has a nice and clean environment that other bowling alleys don't have."

For those reasons, finding a bowling alley over the weekend at night during the cosmic bowling hours of 9 p.m. to midnight is difficult.

"Hands down, this has been the busiest we have ever been," Taflinger said

# RHA discusses Unity Week

Yvette Cozad  
STAFF WRITER

Unity week and opening themes were the two prominent topics at the RHA meeting held at Pemberton Hall Thursday night.

"Unity Week is a week devoted to celebrating diversity on campus," said Lisa Flam, student vice president for student affairs.

The first two days of the week will raise awareness of unity, she said. The following three days will be filled with various activities such as open mic night and a game of student "Street Smarts," where close to \$500 of prizes could be won, Flam said.

Students are welcome to attend Unity Week, March 24-25.

The RHA also discussed opening themes for the 2003 fall semester. When speaking of the purpose behind opening themes RHA President Stina Heldmann said, "It's a fun type of thing that will integrate all the halls."

Last semester's theme was "Toon Into EIU." The three most popular themes for the upcoming fall semester include "around the world," "successories," and "cereal."

The RHA will meet at 5 p.m. next Thursday at a residence hall to be announced.

## Death row:

Either side in a criminal case may appeal the sentence following a guilty verdict.

Ted Gottfried, spokesperson for the Illinois Appellate Defense Department, said if a death sentence is given the case is automatically appealed to the Illinois Supreme Court.

A person can also file a post-conviction petition if there were flaws at trial. This is to be filed at the trial court level, Gottfried said.

If the petition is denied, then the accused can appeal to the state supreme court.

Trial court level records are mostly heard by circuit courts. There were 4.1 million cases filed to the 22 Illinois Circuit Courts, which represent all 102 counties, in 2001.

In the same year, 9,226 cases were filed to the appellate court, and 3,145 went to the state supreme court.

Supreme courts handle circuit level appeals and death penalty cases.

Appeals are sent to the clerk's office where they are assigned filing schedules. Cases are then monitored and reviewed as they progress through record preparation, motions, briefing and oral arguments.

"Any decisions on a constitutional matter made by a state can be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court," Gottfried said.

The U.S. Supreme Court does not take many cases, Gottfried said; however, if presented with a particularly important case, the U.S. Supreme Court will judge beyond a state supreme court judgment.

"It is very unusual," he said. "But they have reversed an Illinois Supreme Court case before," he said.

A definite death sentence is made after all possible appeals fails.

"People that are convicted receive a death sentence after they have exhausted all state appeals and federal appeals," Gottfried said.

The time between conviction and execution of criminals, Gottfried said, is usually around 12 years, though some cases can take longer.

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Mertz:  
Emotional day in sentencing trial

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

Also, on the day the prosecution rested its case and the defense gave its opening statements, the court heard testimony from the assistant fire chief, an expert in criminal investigations and Cindy McNamara, Shannon's mother.

Alan Mertz testified he discovered he had a son when Anthony was a couple of months old. He and his wife were still married, but they were not living together.

French, Mertz's grandmother, said she received custody of Mertz when he was just over a year old after the children were taken from their mother and put into their father's care. Alan then passed along custody to his mother.

French said Alan was only minimal financial help while she raised his son and three daughters.

"He just gave me so much money a month for the kids to buy groceries and that was it," she testified.

Alan would shop with French, but he would complain if she spent too much money, so she said she tried to keep expenses about \$100.

Even after he moved in with his dad in third or fourth grade, French said his father was not active in his life.

French was a "room mom" when Mertz was in grade school; she attended all of Mertz's high school football games; and she took Mertz to Sunday school, but his father did not go to any of Mertz's activities, French testified.

Alan said work kept him away from home from about 2:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. every day. For a while, he worked two jobs. He testified he went to church with Anthony when he was able to go. He also said he attended one or two football games; not as many as he would have liked

to have attended.

However, Alan testified he thought he had a "fantastic" relationship with his son. He recalled family events such as fishing and said his fondest memory of Anthony was watching him walk down the aisle at graduation.

While Mertz was under French's care, French said Mertz did not have any contact with his mother.

"She sent birthday cards to the girls," French said.

Williams asked if she sent cards to Mertz.

"I don't remember," French said. "I think he got one or two birthday cards from her."

Alan testified he did not know the date of his son's birthday, but after his wife told him of Anthony's 18th birthday, Alan bought his son a present "he couldn't get rid of" — a tattoo — because that's what Anthony wanted.

The same year Mertz moved in with his father and sisters, Alan remarried and introduced Anthony and his sisters to a stepmother, a stepsister and a stepbrother.

Mertz's sister, Brandi Mertz, 29, said she did not get along with her stepmother.

"She was mean to us. She abused us," said Brandi, who believes her stepmother hit her head against a wall when she was younger, causing her to have memory problems today.

Brandi testified their stepmother treated her own children "like they could never do any wrong," yet her step children did do wrong.

Brandi testified her stepsister Rose sexually abused her. She began to cry and could not elaborate on the incident. She said she did not tell her father about the incident.

"I knew he wouldn't believe me," she said. "He never believed most of what we said because he was never home to see things."

Brandi testified her stepbrother, Bruce, tried to sexually abuse her too, but she was able to push him

away. The first time she told anyone about these incidents was when she heard Anthony and their sister Christine talking about how their step siblings had sexually abused them too.

Brandi also testified to an injury she sustained when she was in third grade. No follow-up was ever done after the pharmacist's wife took her to the hospital. The defense questioned Brandi about the incident to show a pattern of non-interest to the children, Williams said.

Brandi testified she would have rather lived with her grandmother over her father because her grandmother loved them, evidence she saw in her grandmother's words and actions.

During cross examination, State's Attorney Steve Ferguson asked Brandi if she had any criminal history.

Brandi said she has never been arrested, nor has she committed any violent crimes against anyone else.

Brandi called out to her brother as she passed the defense table on her way out of the courtroom. When Anthony left the courtroom for a recess, his eyes were red from crying.

Family members also painted a picture of Mertz showing him to be just like any other typical boy.

French said Mertz was "just like any boy, out playing, digging in the dirt, riding bicycles."

She said Mertz was the same person before and after his time in the Marines.

Michael Mahorney, Mertz's uncle and Alan's half brother, said Mertz was a "typical boy."

Several pictures of Mertz growing up were admitted to evidence over prosecution's objection.

Mahorney was questioned extensively on the topic of alcohol consumption. Mahorney said when he was a heavy drinker, he would drink to the point of not being able to remember the events of the night the next day. He also testified to

seeing Alan drink often. He said he only saw him drunk once, but Alan holds his liquor "real well." Mahorney said he also has seen Anthony drunk.

"His speech got a little bit louder and his motions were quicker, but still steady."

In his opening statements, defense attorney David Williams said evidence presented is not an excuse for Mertz's behavior; rather, Williams said the defense hopes it will explain why an average young man could commit such acts.

"There's no happy ending for Shannon McNamara's family. It's tragic," Williams said.

"There are things about Anthony which would cause you to believe the death penalty is not appropriate."

Mertz had an uphill battle from birth, Williams said.

"This battle started with his family life and ended with his arrest (for McNamara's murder)," Williams said.

Williams said the defense will not ignore the fact that other people have overcome similar adversities, but will show Mertz was one who could not overcome them.

The prosecution finished its case late Thursday morning with Cindy McNamara reading a victim impact statement, an account of how Shannon's murder has affected the family.

Bob McNamara stood behind his wife, hands on her shoulders for support, while Cindy spoke through tears.

"This is very hard for me to do, but then everything is hard since we lost our Shannon," she said.

She said "this coward" destroyed their family. "When Shannon died, we died," she said.

She said the family feels empty and doesn't know how they'll be happy again.

"It's like we're living in a fog," she said. "I can still picture her when she would come home from school, her arms outstretched, laun-

dry bag on one side, book bag on the other; never bothering to drop her load before she gave and received that long hard hug that I long to feel again.

"At times, the thought of life without her is more than I feel I can bear. At times, it even hurts to breathe," McNamara said.

She said holidays have become a time they just have to force themselves to get through.

"I wish I could just wipe November and December off the calendar," she said. "This was Shannon's favorite time of the year."

McNamara said Mertz has "robbed" the family of their daughter and sister and of a part of their humanity.

"Anthony Mertz has caused me to think things about another human being which I didn't believe I was capable of thinking," she said. "He has caused me to wish things for him that I didn't think were possible of me."

James Wright, an expert in criminal investigations, said the murder of McNamara was a preplanned, organized crime that turned disorganized when McNamara struggled with her killer, something the killer had not anticipated.

Wright said the murder of 23-year-old Amy Warner also was preplanned, but it was more organized. Although defensive wounds on her hands show signs of resistance, Wright said resistance was still minimal.

He also gave similarities between the two murders, the second of which the prosecution is attempting to link Mertz to as well, including the throat as the point of attack and the victim's arms extended over her head.

Phipps identified photos of a February 2000 fire at Fourth Street and Buchanan Ave. admitted into evidence over objection. Prosecution witnesses also have linked Mertz to the fire.

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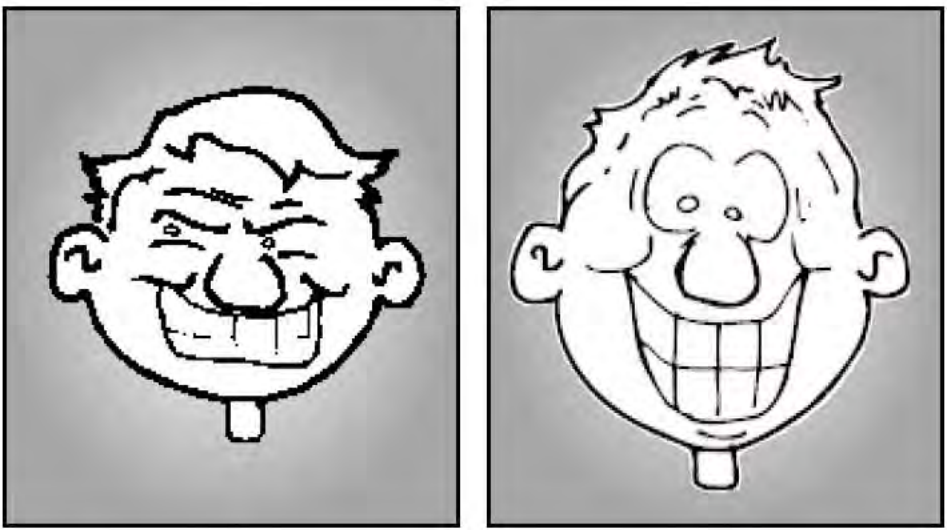
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MEN'S BASKETBALL

# Seniors come up big

◆ Five seniors play tough on Senior Recognition Night

By Jamie Hussey  
STAFF WRITER

Thursday's Senior Night game against Murray State will go down in Eastern men's basketball history.

Eastern's five seniors played their last regular season game at Lantz Arena.

The Eastern men's basketball community said goodbye to four guards, Henry Domercant, J.R. Reynolds, Ramon Taylor, Craig Lewis and one center, Jan Thompson.

The five seniors all played a huge role in a nail biting 80-76 win against Austin Peay.

Thompson said Samuels tried to motivate the seniors and the rest of the team at practice Wednesday by summing up the total of their games.

"Coach told us we had 240 minutes left of basketball to play, so let's go and play as hard as we can for those last 240 minutes," Thompson said.

And the team played 40 hard minutes in front of 5,020 screaming fans.

Domercant finished with a game-high 24 points and 10 rebounds. His 11-12 performance from the free throw line helped finish off the Governors.

"I didn't want coach to take me out, so if they scored two I was going to score three," Domercant said.

Taylor, a player more well-known for his defensive skill, only had seven points, but had three assists and two steals to help push Eastern ahead.

"Taylor did more than just change the game with defense, he made good offensive plays tonight too," Samuels said.

Thompson agreed with Samuels on Taylor's offensive performance.

"Taylor did more than just change the game with defense, he made good offensive plays tonight too."

—Rick Samuels

"They didn't know what to do with 'Mone,'" he said. "He is so fast he is such a spark plug."

Thompson ended his five-year career scoring four points, grabbing three rebounds and collecting a blocked shot and a steal. Domercant reflected on his fellow senior's contributions.

"Jan has been getting me open for so many years," Domercant said. "Jan and my other teammates always keep confidence in me, even if I am 0-12."

Reynolds could not be stopped on his last night at Lantz, scoring 16 points, three assists and six rebounds.

"J.R. had a huge game tonight; he made one huge three and then he would make another huge three," Domercant said.

Although Lewis played well throughout the whole game, he saved his best for last.

"Craig makes big plays to end the game. I don't think we have any other kids who make big plays at the end like Craig," Samuels said.

The lead switched back and forth from Austin Peay to Eastern, but Lewis kept making big points at the end of the game.

Lewis had 10 points, four rebounds and three assists.

## Eastern: Panthers' home tournament hopes still alive

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8A

"I didn't want coach to take me out, and when I wasn't playing well, he gave me that look," Domercant said.

Eastern never lost the lead after the ten

minute mark and the Panthers iced the victory by making 13 of 14 free throws in the last eight minutes of the game.

Because of Murray State and Tennessee - Martin losses Thursday night, it's possible that Eastern may play one more game at Lantz Arena this season.

"Coach (Samuels) told us in practice that we have to win our last three to get that four seed in the tournament," Domercant said.

TRACK AND FIELD

# Eastern track hosts Friday Night Special

◆ Panthers have final meet before OVC Indoor Championships

By Michael Gilbert  
STAFF WRITER

Both Eastern teams will be back in action this Friday as they host the 'Friday Night Special' at the Lantz Fieldhouse.

On the women's side, Illinois State, Bradley University and Jackson State will all make the trip to Charleston in what head coach Mary Wallace believes will be an exciting meet.

"It's going to be a competitive meet," Wallace said. "This is the last week before conference so everyone is peaking."

Wallace expects local rival ISU to be at their best. The Redbirds have a solid squad and Jene Klostermann, a middle-distance runner, was named the Missouri Valley Conference Track Athlete of the Week after she set a personal best in the 800-meters.

"Illinois State is bringing in a good squad," Wallace said. "(The Friday Night Special) is going to come down to how teams place their athletes in certain events."

Wallace said the Panthers will try to do a little fine tuning with its lineup during the 'Friday Night Special' to prepare for the Ohio Valley Conference Indoor Championship next week also to be held in Lantz.

"We're just going to try to size up athletes for the OVC Championship," Wallace said. "This will be more of a tuneup for next week."

One runner who does not need a tune-up is sophomore sprinter Alicia Harris. The Wheaton native has broken two records during the last two meets at Butler and Indiana.

Harris now holds the top time in the 200-meter dash (25.33), and her time of 56.32 in the 400-meter shattered the old record of 56.74.

"Alicia is on a big roll," Wallace said. "She works extremely hard and does more than just practice. She goes on morning runs and it is starting to pay off."

She is dedicated to running fast."

Another Panther to look out for is Angie Simone who took home first place in the 5,000-meter run last weekend at Southern Illinois.

Simone's time of 18:04.38 was more than 20 seconds ahead of her closest competitor.

"Angie had a nice win last week," Wallace said. "She will run the mile this weekend, which is not her best event, but her times (in the mile) have been dropping."

The men look to build off a strong showing at the USA Track and Field Open, which was held last weekend at SIU.

The event was not team scored, but several Panthers had an impressive meet.

In the 35-pound weight throw, sophomore Aaron Grobengeiser had a personal best of 51 feet 8 one-fourth inches which improved his season best by four feet. Grobengeiser's launch was good enough for a fifth-place finish on the day.

Always in the mix for the Panthers is last year's 'OVC Athlete of the Year' Kyle O'Brien. The talented senior from Danville ran last weekend at the Canon IV Classic and finished eighth-place in the 5,000-meter run.

Men's head coach Tom Akers was pleased with O'Brien's performance and noted the senior never gives up and proudly wears the Eastern blue and gray.

Besides the positive momentum the Panthers have heading into the 'Friday Night Special', a big plus for the men and women is the proximity of the event. Wallace believes hosting the event will benefit the Panthers.

"I think any time you can have an event at home it is a bonus," Wallace said. "The athletes know the course like the back of their hand, and they are always ready to go at home."

The 'Friday Night Special' will begin at 2:30 p.m. with the 35-pound weight throw and conclude at 7:30 p.m. with the men's and women's 800-meter run.

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## SPORTS

## Panther sports calendar

FRIDAY M/W track at Friday Night Special Lantz Fieldhouse  
SATURDAY Wrestling at Purdue 1 p.m.

## MEN'S BASKETBALL

## Eastern holds on in nailbiter



COLIN MCAULIFFE/PHOTO EDITOR

Senior guard Henry Domercant put in a team-high 24 points and 10 rebounds as the Panthers sneak by Austin Peay 80-76 in a much needed Ohio Valley Conference victory Thursday at Lantz Arena.

♦ Eastern hands Austin Peay first loss in 10 games

By Matthew Stevens  
SPORTS REPORTER

On a night where senior guard Henry Domercant picked up Panther head coach Rick Samuels during Senior Night celebrations, his fellow teammates carried the nation's third-leading scorer.

Domercant ended the night with 24 points, but 18 came in the final 20 minutes and only hit 6-of-15 field goals.

"A lot of people stepped up and people like (senior guard J.R. Reynolds) had a huge game," Domercant said.

This was the Panthers 10th game against Austin Peay that came down to a margin of seven points or less.

"I don't know how many more EIU-Austin Peay games I can take," Samuels said. "This had a post-season tournament atmosphere in the second half."

This rivalry game was a nailbiter for the entire 40 minutes with the largest lead held by the Governors at eight points early in the second half.

"I personally play off emotion and the crowd was excited tonight," senior center Jan Thompson said.

Thompson's two layups while being fouled in the second half allowed the

5,020 fans in attendance to make some noise.

"It's fun to have moments that are appreciated like that after five years here," Thompson said.

Senior guard Ramon Taylor provided seven points, three assists, two steals and most importantly, no turnovers in 12 minutes of action, while fellow senior guard Craig Lewis battled with foul trouble the entire evening.

"They didn't know what to do with Ramon the entire night because he's so fast," Thompson said.

Eastern (13-13, 8-6) went into the locker room down 41-36, but came out rejuvenated after being told of Murray State's upset loss to Eastern Kentucky.

"Jesse knew about it because he came out and told everyone to get going," Domercant said.

Within five minutes of action, Eastern erased the Governors' (17-7, 10-3) eight-point lead and suddenly the Panthers were up 50-47.

With 11:50 left in the game, Eastern rode the momentum from junior Jesse Mackinson's dunk, Domercant's three pointer and a Craig Lewis layup to take a 62-59 lead into a media timeout.

SEE EASTERN ♦ Page 7A

## SO THERE!

A no-punches-pulled look at Eastern and national sports

## Oh, cry me a river Rick

So There learned this week Rick Samuels and Justin Timberlake of boy-band fame have something in common.

Besides their uncanny ability to attract midriff-baring girls in droves, both recently showed their softer side.

Samuels said Tuesday about Henry Domercant's last game in Lantz Arena: "I'm going to shed a tear, I'll promise you that."

Stop the presses, call Rural King, order up a six pack of shooting cream and wait a second. Samuels typically focuses on team accomplishments. Like most coaches he's all about the 'W.'

So if the last Panther home game is Thursday, meaning the team wouldn't draw a top-four seed in the Ohio Valley Conference Tournament, how much will Samuels cry?

He'll cry me a river.

♦ Wanted: coach, team leader, former blue-chip player, alumni, athletic director or warm body to lead Eastern women's basketball team. Recruiting skills needed to save team from becoming a makeshift excuse for a Division I team. Amassed more than 10 wins in a Division I season, a big plus. Wealth of knowledge about torn anterior cruciate ligaments also a big plus. Redshirts need not apply.

Strong headline name a must.

♦ Riddle or ridicule me this. How does the Panther women's basketball team, which has shown some signs of brilliance, err, mediocrity, lose to the worst team in the league — Murray State — which had only one league win before playing Eastern?

What's worse, the Panthers carried a 26-13 lead through the game's start. Eastern lost 79-73, but it gets hairier.

Panther head coach Linda Wunder said her team never gave up during the loss.

Was Wunder watching a different game? Where did the fiery coach go? Wunder ignites many times on the sidelines when her young team

Nate Bloomquist  
STAFF EDITOR

doesn't follow fundamentals.

Maybe Wunder has seen so much disappointment this season she's been chilled by cold play and her team's yellow attitudes toward tough teams. Not even inspiring play from freshman Megan Sparks can light the fire.

For her to go as far to say her team didn't give up shows the madness behind her ill-thought methods.

Junior high coaches aren't that loyal to the cause.

♦ Linda Wunder, your plane is ready — factor in the budget cuts — so your bus is ready — wait, strike that, get your hitch-hiking thumb ready.

♦ Chicago Cubs slugger Sammy Sosa's plane is ready for Mesa, Ariz. Sosa said he'll be on time for the start of spring training next week. It'll be the first time in many years he proves promptness as a skill.

But why jinx something Sosa said was for luck? A team so star crossed needs all the good luck charms it can get. Actual talent on this year's squad is all but non-existent so bring on more luck and let's Dusty off some wins, baby.

♦ Bring on spring training, it's just too bad the Panther baseball team doesn't have such a thing. Watching Eastern, which is always a force to be reckoned with in the OVC, get smacked around by big baseball programs in the South is tough to watch. Here's hoping spring training, Eastern style, moves quickly without snow and bunches of losses.

Because once the real season begins — the OVC season — the ringing kah-tink of the aluminum bats never sounded sweeter at Coaches' Stadium.

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

## Governors' press too hot to handle

♦ Austin Peay applies second half full-court press to help knock off Eastern

By Aaron Seidlitz  
STAFF WRITER

On Senior Night at Lantz Arena, Eastern was able to stay close to the conference leading Austin Peay Governors, but in the end could not hold on in a 68-56 loss. After holding Austin Peay against the ropes for most of the first 20 minutes, the Governors overall athleticism took over in the second half.

The Panthers went into halftime holding a two-point lead after playing solidly against the Governors for most of the first half. Strong performances were put in by freshman guard Megan Sparks and sophomore center Allison Collins. Sparks put in six of her 10 points and chipped in with 3 rebounds, while Collins scored six of her eight points and added two rebounds.

The second half was a different story as soon as the two teams came out of the locker rooms. The Governors put on the full-court press that they use as a tool when the team is struggling.

Up to that point, the Panthers had been doing a good job of executing their offense against the Governors. But the press was put on and the Governors' size and athleticism started a run for them that put the Panthers on their heels.

The full-court trap turned the game into an up-tempo match that Eastern could not handle.

"I was proud of our team's effort tonight," head coach Linda Wunder said. "You take away a couple of stretches and we come out on top in this game."

But the Governors sensed the momentum switch and were able to separate themselves from the Panthers by seven points with only five minutes remaining. The faster Austin Peay played, the better they seemed to get.

Compared to the second half, the Governors were able to put up 42 points to only the 26 they put up in the first half. Austin Peay also put up 20 more shots than the Panthers, and while they did not shoot as well as the Panthers, the sheer number of shots they put up compensated for that.

"We knew the press was coming and we simulated against it in practice," said senior center Brooke Gossett. "But you can't simulate for that. Their size and athleticism really changed the momentum."

Eastern kept trying to get the ball inside to slow the game down and were somewhat successful. Gossett led the team in points with 12 and had eight of those in the final 20 minutes.



COLIN MCAULIFFE/PHOTO EDITOR

Sophomore forward Rachel Karos drives past an Austin Peay defender in Eastern's 68-56 loss Thursday at Lantz Arena.

But on this Senior Night, the result was disappointing for the departing seniors.

"I wish we could've pulled this one off," Gossett said. "It was an emotional game and an emotional night."



ON THE VERGE OF THE WEEKEND

THE DAILY  
EASTERN NEWS  
Friday, February 21, 2003  
Section B

# Verge

REVIEW THIS

Daredevil

The latest film based on a Marvel comic book character is surprisingly entertaining.

★★★

Page 5B



## The 29th annual Miss Black EIU pageant

By Tim Edwards  
STAFF WRITER

This weekend will be full of laughter, dancing and celebration as African American Heritage Month comes to a close with the 29th annual Miss Black EIU pageant Saturday night.

Three ladies will be competing for the crown of Miss Black EIU in the University Grand Ballroom. This event is a tradition at Eastern. The three women competing in

the event include Ashayla Scott, a sophomore business management major; Angela Christine Beard, a freshman Spanish and psychology major; and Kaylin Gordon, a freshman speech communication major.

"The night will be a big evening for them and everyone else," Kia Gowder, the coordinator of the event and Miss Black EIU 2002, said.

Each contestant will be judged in four separate categories: creative expression, African garment,

talent and impromptu questions.

"The ladies have been working extremely hard on each category, especially with creative expression," Latacia Land, personal coordinator said.

"The creative expression portion of the show gives the contestant an opportunity to creatively address an issue that is of importance to them," Monique Cook-Bey, the pageant's advisor, said. "We have contestants hitting on issues ranging from drunk driving

to safe sex."

"I think it's important for us to deliver a message that leaves a lasting impression," Scott said.

The pageant's theme is "Do You Remember Me, the Black Woman?" Chosen by pageant coordinator Kia Gowder, the objective in choosing the theme was to promote remembrance of past Miss Black EIU contestants.

The winner's duties will vary from running for Homecoming Queen, organizing community

service programs and crowning the winner of the 2004 pageant.

"This will be a wonderful event, full of entertainment, variety and culture," Gowder said. "The ladies are ready to showcase the skills they have been practicing."

The weekend will commence with the Black Student Union hosting a Lip Service and freestyle competition Friday at 7 p.m. in the 7th Street Underground.

SEE PAGEANT ♦ Page 5B



### THE FAVORITE FIVE

Staff writers Jeremy Pelzer and Max Voelker offer their choices for most influential albums.

♦  
Page 2B

### A DOLL'S HOUSE

The Theater Department's first production of second semester opens Wednesday.

♦  
Page 3B

### THE TOSSERS

Chicago's favorite Irish-punk outfit returns to Friends & Co. Friday.

♦  
Page 4B

### CONCERT CALENDAR

Coles County will be bombarded with live music over the next six days. Who are you going to see?

♦  
Page 8B



THE FAVORITE FIVE...

# Most influential albums of the past two decades



Jeremy Pelzer  
staff writer

He is also a junior social science major.

Contact him at  
colesgreens@hotmail.com



Max Voelker  
Staff writer

He is also a junior biology and philosophy major.

Contact him at  
and\_i\_fall@hotmail.com

## 5. Green Day - Dookie

Simply put, Green Day brought back punk. While punk was never actually dead, it was as far as mainstream radio and MTV were concerned. Even though many of the Seattle bands of the early '90s were punk bands, to market them better mainstream media decided to call them grunge. Sure, you can argue all the songs on "Dookie" sound alike, but the album sold 10 million copies, and returned the genre to a popularity not seen since the late '70s. "Dookie" also changed the way punk was played, making it faster and giving it a fuller sound than anything The Ramones or Sex Pistols did. Green Day influenced and opened the door for bands such as Blink-182, Jimmy Eat World, and The Offspring, and is a big reason ESPN's X-Games don't have a soundtrack full of John Mayer songs.

## 4. Britney Spears - Hit Me Baby One More Time

People often confuse "influential" with "good." And while Britney can't play an instrument, can't sing well, and has the acting skills of a tranquilized donkey, there's no doubt she was a main reason pop reigned supreme in the late '90s. Britney certainly wasn't the first female music icon, nor was her music influential. Instead, Britney makes this list for just the opposite reason: she showed that female pop icons can be created almost at will, as long as there is a good PR, fashion and songwriting team behind them (see: Lopez, Jennifer). While the Monkees took a similar path 35 years ago, the success of "Hit Me Baby One More Time" has been more influential in changing how music stars are created. More and more, many pop singers are signed to big record deals not because of any particular musical talent they have, but because of their sex appeal and ability to be molded and publicized into a textbook music star. All thanks to Britney, with a little help from a plaid schoolgirl outfit.

## 3. Nirvana - Nevermind

In a Nirvana-less world, Stone Temple Pilots would be off washing cars somewhere. Seattle would be known mainly for its coffee, while 2/3 of America's thrift stores, not to mention the Converse shoe company, would be out of business. But as it was, "Nevermind" blew away the synthesized pop of the '80s and returned guitar-based bands to the forefront of popular music. The defining album of the '90s, "Nevermind" not only influenced countless bands, but helped to create an entire "grunge" movement. Not bad for an album with a naked drowning baby on the cover.

## 2. Run-DMC. - R.A.H. debut

There had, of course, been rap music before Run-DMC. released its self-titled album in 1984. With this record, the Hollis, Queens trio revolutionized rap's sound, audience, and image, molding the rap industry into how it looks today. The album's spare melody and hard rhythm made a right angle from previous, more melodic rap music. Run-DMC. was also the first rap group to break through to a mass white audience. In addition, Run-DMC. pioneered the idea of a rap image - despite growing up in middle-class homes, they dressed and acted like they were fresh off the street. Finally, Run-DMC. was also the first rap group to closely associate their image with a clothing brand, releasing the hit "My Adidas" a full 16 years before anyone thought to pluralize the phrase "Air Force One."

## 1. Pixies - Surfer Rosa

While the above four albums influenced the listening tastes of millions of listeners, this Boston-based band headed by Frank Black and Kim Deal influenced the musicians themselves in ways that no other band

has. Just look at the testimonials: "The Pixies were probably the most influential band in the last 20 years," Everclear frontman Art Alexakis has said. Blur's Damon Albarn said that "When we started we wanted to sound like the Pixies." And when asked about "Smells Like Teen Spirit," Kurt Cobain modestly admitted "I was basically trying to rip off The Pixies." With its booming guitars, odd lyrics, and catchy hooks (try the song "Where Is My Mind"), "Surfer Rosa" is the forefather of grunge music, indie rock, and indeed alternative rock as a genre.

## Voelker's picks

### 5. N.W.A. - Straight Outta Compton

Yes, Run-DMC brought rap to the forefront, but N.W.A. gave it the attitude we would all come to know and love as Gangsta Rap. This album made a big step toward making words like "bitch" and "ho" usable during dinner table conversation. Oh yeah, and they revolutionized a budding genre, not to mention they introduced Dr. Dre, Ice Cube, and Eazy-E to the world. Every rapper to cut an album after N.W.A. has been influenced by them, whether directly (because Dre produces a fair bit, it turns out) or indirectly, just because they've got such panache.

### 4. Korn - Follow The Leader

The Family Values tour alone is really enough of a reason for Korn to make the top five, but since these are albums and not tours, it's got to be "Follow The Leader." This is the album heralding in rock in its current incarnation. Limp Bizkit, Kid Rock, and others were soon to follow, but the band who caught everyone's eye was Korn, and then we all knew rap-metal was here to stay.

### 3. Nirvana - Nevermind

"Smells Like Teen Spirit" alone makes the number one spot on every list in every music magazine and every music channel ever. It shifted the focus to garage and grunge, and the world hasn't been the same since. When you add in "Lithium," "Come As You Are" and the other songs on the album, you come up with a record to rival The Beatles. And really, that's what Nirvana was: our generation's Beatles.

### 2. Michael Jackson - Thriller

This one is a no-brainer. Without this album, pop as we know it wouldn't exist today. Every boy/girl pop star out there owes their success at least in part to this album showing up and letting us all know exactly what pop music was supposed to sound like. Pre-freak-Michael Jackson was indeed the King of Pop, and this album showcases that very point flawlessly.

### 1. Moby - Play

All you have to do is go see a movie or, say, watch television to know what an impact this album has had. "Porcelain" alone has to have been used 1,000 times already, and there's 17 other songs on the album. If a commercial doesn't have a Moby song backing it, then it has a song that sounds a lot like a Moby song. When you add in the number of other artists "Play" has influenced, from the electronic scene to some hip-hop acts, you come up with quite an influential album. Influenced: Dirty Vegas, Outkast, every car company's marketing team.

Next week's topic: Comic book characters. Voice your opinion, E-mail your favorite five to eluerverge@hotmail.com or drop off your picks at the newsroom, 1811 Buzzard. We welcome lists from students, faculty and staff. Deadline for submissions is noon on Wednesday. Do you feel strongly about your picks and want to write a column? Do you have a topic in mind that would make a good favorite five? Let us know via E-mail at eluerverge@hotmail.com.

New on Eastern's online magazine, Where it's @Magazine. Log onto to www.atmag.com

- ◆ Origins of Black History month
- ◆ Contributions of African-Americans
- ◆ Truth about smoking
- ◆ Former member of IRA
- ◆ Christian parody band
- ◆ A brief history of early hip-hop and the staff's favorite albums
- ◆ Dave Matthews Band photos
- ◆ Three opinion pieces
- ◆ Digital art, poetry and photos
- ◆ "Daredevil" review
- ◆ February horoscopes
- ◆ Weird links and commentary

New Music on WEIU FM 88.9 Rock (5-9 p.m. daily)

- ◆ Aerogramme - Sleep & Release
- ◆ Mountain Goats - Tallahassee
- ◆ Eamonn Vitti - Deserted Music
- ◆ Race for Titles-S/T
- ◆ The Postal Service - Give Up
- ◆ Standstill - Memories Collector Jazz (afternoons until 5 p.m.)
- ◆ George C. Wolfe's Harlem Song
- ◆ Spiros Exara world jazz enesmb-le - Phrygianlincs
- ◆ World (Mondays 9-midnight)
- ◆ Pulse: A STOMP Odyssey comp
- ◆ Vartina - Iki
- ◆ Dennis Brown - Promised Land
- ◆ Dub Station - Forward Ever ...

Top 10 albums in sales at Positively Fourth Street Records for the week of Feb. 11 - Feb. 17

1. 50 Cent - Get Rich or Die Tryin'
2. Bonnaroo - Live double album
3. Zwan - Mary Star of the Sea
4. Eminem - The Eminem Show
5. Kid Rock - Cocky
6. Jack Johnson - Brushfire Fairytales
7. Aaliyah - I Care 4 U
8. Audioslave - S/T
9. Phish DVD - Live in Vegas
10. Missy Elliot - Under Construction

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# 'A Doll's House' offers unique setting, complex character issues

By Ben Turner  
VERGE EDITOR

The Theater Department's production of Henrik Ibsen's classic "A Doll's House" opens Wednesday at the Village Theater. Faculty member Clarence Blanchett is directing the performance, which will enjoy a five-night run, closing with a matinee performance on March 2. This production is a unique experience for Blanchett as he allowed senior theater arts major Patrick Hamm design the setting and props. Hamm entered Eastern interested in acting, but after roles in productions like "12th Night" and "Summer and Smoke," he realized set design was the aspect of theater he was interested in the most. Although he has five student-directed one-acts and last year's "The Importance of Being Earnest" to his set design credit, Hamm said this is his biggest project to date. "I've enjoyed doing this project because I've had a chance to work with a big budget. Typically students don't get to design the main-stage shows; it's all faculty designed," Hamm said. "When [Blanchett] told me I could design the show I felt honored because it's a bigger show in that it's a period show." Many of the elements of designing the set were challenging

because of the time period of the play— it's set in late 19th century Scandinavia. Hamm mentioned the biggest undertaking was a piano he constructed. "Everytime you do something new, you're faced with a new challenge and problem. Our biggest challenge on this [production] was a piano Miranda Stone and I built that looks authentic," he said. Hamm said he plans to attend grad school following this semester and that "Hamlet" is a production he has wanted to design because creating a set appealing to a modern audience would be a challenge. Blanchett cast junior theater and psychology major Jessica Siegel in the lead role of Nora Helmer. The role of Helmer has been one of the most sought after roles in theater during the last century. Siegel's character undergoes a metamorphosis during the three acts. Women's liberation is a significant element of the plot, but Blanchett said he didn't necessarily approach the production simply focusing on women's rights. He focuses on human rights. "Women of the time weren't allowed to borrow money or do things without their husband's permission," Siegel said. "In the play I save my husband's life by borrowing money, but I forge a name to do it. I get myself in trouble and in the end I stand up to my

husband." "I think in this society Nora does break away, and in a sense she's a victim— a word we love so much today," Blanchett said. "She's a victim, but so is her husband; they're both part of a tradition in which they grew up." Blanchett said this type of theater, realism, is his favorite although he has jumped around and experimented with absurdism in the past. "It's about human beings knowing who they are, I didn't approach [this production] favoring one sex or the other," Blanchett said. "I would never approach this play as if it was some propagandous type of thing. It's not human enough for me." Siegel and fellow castmate senior theater arts major, Theresa Lipinski, pulls double duty for "A Doll's House." Lipinski called her character, Kristen Linde, the antithesis of Nora. Both women also work in the costume shop assisting senior Kristen Joern, who was in charge of designing the costumes. Eastern students Tim Travous, Kyle Sanders, Luke Gerdes, Jenni Passig, Natalie and Noelle Parkerson and Nathaniel and Rebeckah Tharp round out the cast. Hamm, Seigel, Lipinski and Blanchett all agreed the amount of energy the audience brings to



COLIN MCAULIFFE/PHOTO EDITOR  
Patrick Ham, a senior theater arts major, stains a prop piano for the upcoming play "A Doll's House" which opens Feb. 26.

the theater greatly influences the performance. "It's always a new feeling when the audience takes their seats and that's the best feeling because you know your time hasn't been wasted," Lipinski said. "The audience will make or break your show, they definitely carry the performance with the energy they bring," Seigel said. "A Doll's House" opens Wednesday at The Village Theater (960 18th Street) and runs until March 2. All shows begin at 7 p.m. except the final performance, which is at 2 p.m. For ticket information call 581-3110.

# Medicated Goo sticks in town to play The Uptowner

By Ben Turner  
VERGE EDITOR

Local quintet Medicated Goo will provide The Uptowner crowd with a funk-rock sound Saturday night. Formed about a year ago from the ashes of Dr. Woo, Medicated Goo takes its name from a Traffic tune the group covers. Eastern graduate student, bassist J.B. Fairies made it clear, however, the group is far from a Traffic tribute band. Currently, Medicated Goo is working on bolstering its original material but until then the quintet performs covers from artists like Steely Dan, Stevie Wonder, Bob Marley and The Wailers, Marvin

Gaye and The Atlanta Rhythm Section. Fairies said the band has a couple originals it plays live and another half dozen in the works. "The original stuff is funky and owes a lot to our roots in classic rock," Fairies said. "Eventually we'd like to play venues where we could play an hour or longer of all originals." According to Fairies, Dr. Woo was a rhythm and blues band with horns that played together for about 10 years. Fairies said he was a fan of the band for some time before he was invited to join the group circa March of 2002. Current members of Medicated Goo, George Ozier (frontman, guitar and mandolin), Chris

Taylor (guitar) and Dean Klinker (drums) were all members of Dr. Woo with Fairies. The new addition to the group is Eastern student and keyboardist Travis Wesley. Fairies, Klinker and Wesley also make up the Travis Wesley trio, who played jazz every Friday at Friends & Co. last semester. Fairies is a multi-talented bassist who plays electric bass with Medicated Goo, but in the trio and with his local bluegrass quartet, The Butcher's Legs, plays a stand-up bass. Fairies said jazz is more of a challenge and he feels more at ease with The Butcher's Legs because it's relaxed, good time music. Although Fairies keeps himself

busy, he was ecstatic when Ozier asked him to join his group. "I was a fan of Dr. Woo, I loved their style of music and George's abilities as a frontman," he said. "I didn't have to think twice when George started talking about forming his next project." The band has currently recorded a four-song demo of covers and plan on recording another demo of originals at the end of the semester. The group plans on using the demo to book more gigs outside the Charleston area. Medicated Goo also plans on changing their name to eliminate the Traffic tribute band confusion. Fairies said Ozier is greatly influenced by many progressive

bands of the '70s as well as Led Zeppelin and Rush. The band's future sound greatly depends on what direction the group collectively decides to pursue. "We know our sound can go in any direction because of the jazz connection and how well-versed George and Chris are as musicians," Fairies said. The band enjoys playing together and the camaraderie of being in a band. "We get along great. It's funny, at rehearsals we play and then eat a meal together like a family," Fairies said. "This time gives us a chance to talk and really get to know each other." Doors at 10 p.m. with a \$2 cover.




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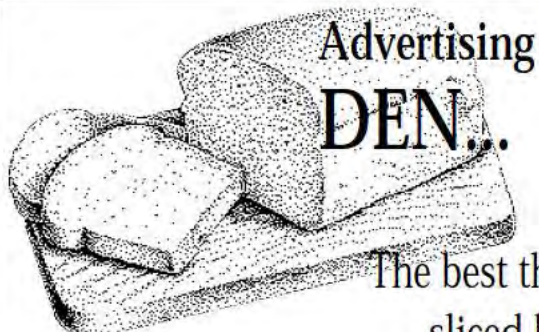


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# Irish punk-rock makes its rowdy return to Friends & Co.

By Kelly McCabe  
ASSOCIATE VERGE EDITOR

Before heading out on tour with The Mighty Mighty Bosstones and Flogging Molly, Thick Records' The Tossers will make a stop in Charleston. Known for their high energy Irish punk-rock, the Chicago-based band will appear at Friends & Co. tonight.

The band's Irish influence comes from its origins in the Southside of Chicago and its Irish heritage, banjo player Clayton Hansen said.

"Growing up, our parents and grandparents introduced us to (Irish music), and it's something we all had in common," he said.

The Tossers achieve its raucous Irish punk rock-sound with unique instruments like the banjo, mandolin, tin whistle and fiddle. When mixing those instruments with the standard guitar, bass and drums, the end result is a sound the members of The Tossers call their own.

Although the band does covers, including Dubliners' "Dicey Reilly" and giving its rock twist to other traditional Irish folk songs, Hansen said, "we play 75 percent of our own material." Sex Pistols, The Pogues, Hank Williams and

even Motley Crüe have all been influences for the band members.

The Tossers have been busy lately, having just completed their album "Purgatory" for its March 24 release date. The new album is longer than the group's previous work, with a total of 16 tracks. "Purgatory" also features a song written by Hansen, which is only the second song not written by frontman and mandolin player Tony Duggins. Duggins' brother Aaron on tin whistle and vocals, Dan Shaw on bass, Mike Pawula on guitar, Rebecca on fiddle and Bones on drums rounds out the seven-piece.

"The album has some of the best songwriting we've ever performed," Pawula said.

The Tossers are looking forward to March when the group heads out on tour with ska-punk veterans The Mighty Mighty Bosstones and fellow Irish punkers Flogging Molly. When asked how the group landed the gig, Hansen simply said, "[The Bosstones] just called and asked us to do it." The tour will take the band to Pittsburgh, Cleveland and Detroit before wrapping up in Philadelphia on St. Patrick's Day.

As for rehearsing, the band

members' different locales makes it difficult.

"Rehearsal is a pain in the ass," joked Pawula.

When they do get the opportunity to practice (about once a week or so), the band opts to venture from Chicago or the near suburbs out to DeKalb, where Hansen resides.

The band got its start playing shows at Off the Alley, the Southside's former equivalent to Chicago's premier punk-rock venue the Fireside Bowl. The band then released two albums independently. The albums' titles "Pint of No Return" and "We'll Never Be Sober Again," perhaps, indicate The Tossers' nature to have a good time.

Thick Records signed the band and in 2000, rereleased the majority of their first two efforts as a 21-track album "Communication and Conviction." "Long Dim Road" and their latest EP, "First League Out from Land," have also been successful Thick releases, creating high expectations for "Purgatory."

Recorded by Chicago-based producer Matt Allison, "Purgatory" will reportedly contain close to 70 minutes of new music and artwork by John Langford of the Chicago-based outfit, Mekons.



BEN TURNER/VERGE EDITOR

Aaron Duggins and Clay Hansen during their Oct. 25 performance at Friends

This is The Tossers' second show at Friends this school year; the group's last appearance was with label-mates The Arrivals and local product Saltwater Vampires in October.

That show drew arguably the

best crowd of any first semester show, at any venue, thanks to each act attracting their own unique crowd. Look for this show to also feature a festive atmosphere.

Doors open at 10 p.m. with a \$6 cover.

# Friends & Co. will host special Sunday rock show

By Ben Turner  
VERGE EDITOR

After a year of providing live music on Friday and Saturday nights, Friends & Co.'s first Sunday show will feature another loud and rowdy four-band lineup.

During the course of its decade-long recording career, The Candy Snatchers have released seven-inches, EPs, splits and full-lengths on literally hundreds of different labels, but the group's next album is slated to be with producer Dean Risper back on Go Kart Records. Risper, who is also the vice-president of Go Kart, had high praise for the band he calls the greatest rock 'n' roll band out there.

"Even when they are totally wasted and play a pathetic 15-minute show, it's still better than 99 percent of the crap out there trying to pass for rock 'n' roll

these days," Risper said via e-mail.

The Candy Snatchers are currently on a U.S. tour taking them from Columbia, S.C. to San Francisco. Population wise, Charleston is the smallest stop on the tour.

Hailing from Norfolk, Va., The Candy Snatchers will be making its second trip to Charleston in the last six months. Tearing into town before many students returned from summer break in mid-August, The Candy Snatchers' stage show and sound is not for the faint of heart.

The two remaining original members of the band, frontman Larry May and guitarist Matthew Odietus, recently had to replace original bassist Willie Johns with a musician known simply as Goose. Risper said he would be suprised if May and Odietus knew Goose's last name.

Goose may have some big

shoes to fill, as far as the band's stage show goes, because Johns was known for lighting his bass on fire. Risper said May and Odietus are also known for cutting themselves with broken bottles during sets. The Snatchers' current drummer is known as Sarge or Sgt. Stash.

Lo Freq hails from St. Louis and last played Friends in mid-December when the band opened for The Last Vegas. In July, the band recorded a full-length in Chicago with Gaza Strippers frontman Rick Sims. Tentatively titled "If that's the best you got ... we want our souls back," it's the trio's third release to go along with a demo and split with fellow St. Louis effort The Electric.

Frontman and guitarist Gary Copeland grew up in Sullivan and formed Lo Freq with bassist Mark Eberhardt and drummer Ted Magos upon relocating to St. Louis.

Eddie and The Losers played Friends in September. Although they weren't on the advertised bill, the band was able to book a last-minute spot between Loki and Hit Gone Bad. The Decatur-based quintet's sound should fit in well with the other acts appearing Sunday.

Drunko is an Indianapolis-based quartet. It has created a buzz around the central Indiana area with intense shows at The Melody Inn's Punk Rock Night. The band's name supposedly doesn't translate into their style of music although it may reflect the band's weekend lifestyles.

Frontman and bassist Jim Jennings, guitarists Fat Sammy and Jason Cavan and drummer Steve Pratt just recorded a ten-song effort with Jim Kuczowski of The Slurs at a Indianapolis studio. The band's sound is reportedly unique to the area.

This will be the Swampass'

first show with new drummer Mark Allen. The Mattoon native is best known for his work with Gaza Strippers. He replaced former drummer Jake Pope sometime over Christmas break.

Although Pope added a unique element to the three piece, which also features Tommy Rue on guitar and vocals and Jason Kottwitz on bass, with his trademark baseball batting gloves and 30-inch kick drum, Swampass shouldn't miss a beat with the accomplished Allen.

Kottwitz said Allen was able to learn Swampass's material quickly and the band will most likely draw from their "No Means Go" album in compiling their set list.

Friends will also be giving away lots of Pabst Blue Ribbon promotional gear including backpacks, hats, shirts and hooded sweatshirts. Doors open at 5 p.m. with no cover.

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# 'Daredevil' a pleasant surprise for a February release

By Ryan Rinchuso  
STAFF WRITER

"Daredevil" was much better than should be expected for a movie debuting in February from a director few people have heard of about a comic book hero only die-hard fans are familiar with. Yet, "Daredevil" keeps the streak of successful Marvel superhero transitions to the screen going with great success.

After a childhood accident, Matt Murdock (Ben Affleck), permanently lost his sight. At the same time, his other senses became more attuned, giving Murdock a type of radar sense. This makes him a perfect candidate for a superhero because with this "radar sense," Murdock can dodge bullets, do kung-fu and jump off buildings knowing where and how to land without killing himself. The only thing missing on his ascent to heroism is a haunting past, which he receives after the murder of his boxer father. Murdock then becomes a blind lawyer during the day and the vigilante fighter Daredevil at night.

Daredevil is not one of the most popular Marvel characters, so the story for the film had to bring people who have never heard of this comic up to speed, and the movie does this perfectly

"Daredevil"  
Mark Steven Johnson, director

☆☆☆

In the first scenes of the film. Then the movie takes off, with Murdock falling in love with Elektra Natchios (Jennifer Garner) during the day and fighting Bullseye (Colin Farrell) and the numerous thugs of Kingpin (Michael Clarke Duncan) during the night.

All four leads were a treat to watch, and melded into their respective roles flawlessly. Ben Affleck plays the haunted Murdock, who is driven by his rage to clean up his home of Hell's Kitchen. The fact Murdock has to keep reminding himself he is the good guy adds depth to the character, and Affleck shows this internal struggle well.

Jennifer Garner brings the radiance and charm she has on the fantastic show "Alias" to her role as Elektra, a rich woman with a lot to hide. Garner is one of the most beautiful women working in Hollywood today and she has the acting skill to back it up. She will become a huge star and this movie is just the beginning. I only wish she would have had a bigger role with more to do to show off her talent.

Colin Farrell turns the very odd Bullseye into one of the most interesting comic villains grace the screen in recent years. Bullseye is nothing but insane energy and Farrell tip-toes the line between a very fun and interesting character and one that is just a parody really well. Whenever Farrell was on screen, the movie jumped up a notch in energy.

Michael Clarke Duncan plays Kingpin, possibly the best known character in the movie thanks to the character showing up in other comic books such as Spiderman. Duncan made the perfect Kingpin. From the intro he is given to the end where he has the opportunity to confront Daredevil, the man is the perfect complement to the fictional character. Although Duncan might not have been the first choice for many comic book fans for this part, it is safe to say after viewing the movie no one can dispute the fact he aptly becomes the king of crime.

The tone of the film also was different than I was expecting. The movie is much darker than most films of this type, relying less on action and more on the inner turmoil some of the characters are going through. People die at the hands of both the good and



PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.ZAP2IT.COM

Ben Affleck as Matt Murdock's alter-ego, Daredevil.

bad guys and the distinction between good and evil is not a clear line. The tone of "Daredevil" is closest to the tone of the first "Batman" film and was perfectly used in this film.

The colors and sets in the film were also very striking and again felt like it came out of the pages of a comic book. The costume for Daredevil was striking and just different enough from other superheroes to stand out. The

effects were for the most part okay, except for the horrible CG in the church battle between Daredevil and Bullseye.

Whether you are a comic book nut or have never opened one in your life, there is enough to like about "Daredevil" for everyone to enjoy. Go see this film, enjoy yourself and marvel at the fact "Daredevil" is just as enjoyable as films like "Spider-man" and "X-Men," if not more.

## Pageant:

## Lip Service and Soul-Case Café among Friday night events

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B

Performers include various impersonators, plus celebrity judges and a surprise group of Chicago rappers.

"We have been preparing for

this event for a long time," Latacia Land, one of the Lip Service performers, said. "We have costumes and wigs and we have created a performance in tribute of Ike and Tina Turner. I'm sure the audience will get a lot of laughs."

The next event of the weekend is the Soul-Case Café, which will take the elements of comedy and night clubs and bring them to life on campus. The Soul Case Café will begin at 10 p.m. in the University Ballroom.

The showcase will feature BET

"Comic View" comedian Jay Phillips, Chicago's slam poets Nastics and Binks as well as other surprise performances. Phillips said he is looking forward to entertaining the Eastern crowd.

Nastics and Binks aren't new to Eastern—they have frequented campus before hosting last spring's Stepping 4 Unity in the community as well as various open-mics.

"Our style is innovative and electric," Nastics said. "We plan on bringing a unique blend of poetry,

rapping and singing to the show."

"Not only are they cute, but their poetry is unique," Nicole Hodges of the Black Student Union said. "I especially love how they pay tribute to the black woman. I think a lot of ladies are looking forward to seeing them perform."

For the fellas, one of the highlights of the evening should be the new Outlaw dancers. This group of young ladies will be performing throughout the showcase and will be passing out gift bags that were

donated by the likes of record labels J, Roc-A-Fella and Def Jam.

"I'm excited to be performing and I know the girls are excited and happy about being part of the show," Outlaw dancer Sheila Johnson said. The idea for the Outlaw dancers was taken from the BET "Comic View" dancers who perform throughout the show.

Tickets for the pageant are \$10 in advance, and \$12 at the door. Admission for the Soul Case Café is \$4. For ticket information call 581-3829.

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15 Sign-off from there

17 Camper's supply

18 Elegant

19 Twit

20 Full-size

21 \_\_\_ monde

22 Olympian Katarina et al.

23 Info

24 Schubert's "The King" \_\_\_

25 "Misery" Oscar winner Bates

26 Order with udon, maybe

27 Fixed beam?

29 Trinity part

30 Harbor vessel

32 Lays to rest

35 Setting for Robert Frost's "A Masque of Mercy"

39 Not used to

40 Eastern Hemisphere island visited by Magellan, 1521

41 Samuel Gompers org.

42 Sack

43 Train

44 Loaded
- DOWN

1 Rustles

2 Some plates

3 Delta team work

4 "The Altarpiece," a painting by ...

5 ... Jan van

6 Rubbish

7 Translation aid at an opera

8 Number two

9 Former Israeli minister Moshe

10 Sore spot

11 Hart Trophy awardee: Abbr.

12 Grouper, for one

45 Ashcroft and Reno: Abbr.

46 Acknowledge

47 Acknowledge

48 "Time to go"

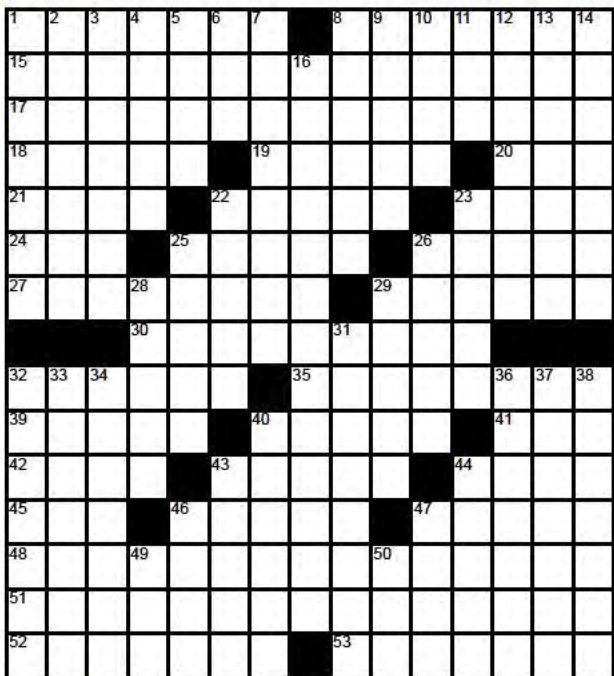
51 Phone line?

52 Grumbler

53 Captain por-trayer in 1960's TV

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E R E H E R E M N O A H S I M  
N O S N M V O S R E G V I S



Puzzle by Manny Nosowsky

- 13 Bird: Prefix

14 Profit

16 Like ocean-front houses, often

22 Doesn't take off

23 1993 Sinatra CD

25 S. S. Kresge, today

26 Throw off

28 Real effort

29 Bridge support

31 Refuses to deal with

32 Giving birth

33 Part of the Cenozoic era

34 Ballroom dance

36 Like some voodoo

37 Insult or injury

38 One showing promise?

40 Daybook

43 Grammy's Best Male Jazz Vocalist of 1982-83

44 Pin

46 It may say "DINER"

47 Float's base, maybe

49 1979 nuclear accident site: Abbr.

50 Speedometer letters



# First full-length for Since by Man continues strong run of post-hardcore sound

By Colin McAuliffe  
PHOTO EDITOR

Although known for its '80s hard-core-style music, Revelation Records recently put out Since by Man's debut full-length, "We Sing the Body Electric." The Milwaukee quintet joined forces with producer Kurt Ballou, of Converge fame, to create this 11-song masterpiece. Started in 1999 by Sam Macon (vocals), Bryan Jerabek (bass), Kevin Herwig (guitar), Justin Kay (guitar) and Jon Kraft (drums), this release captures the bands' awe-inspiring sound.

"Push the Panic" starts this

album off with a frantic, spastic pass that does not let up until the final note has stopped ringing.

In "Light Fuse Get Away," Macon sings about the surreal vision of household appliances and how we don't need them. All the unnecessary materialistic objects that mankind has created should be done away with.

"Welcome to Our Hideout, electrified. Twist and shouts. This is the sin that will do us in. Welcome to decadence," sings Macon on "Death of Decadence." Macon's voice pierces through earth-splitting guitar riffs as he sings about young people and feeling young.

"In Threes" is a slow, quiet, half-way song on the album that ends with the screams that has become the staple for Since by Man.

"It's Just That Kinda Night" is a song about how one feels when his or her back is against the wall, perhaps similar to feeling like it's the end of the world.

With "What's Your Damage," the listener sees into Macon's world about issues concerning art and media. He sings about the media's relationship to social control. "Your battle cry is bought and sold. Your battle cry is bought and sold. Turning up the stereo."

The final song is "Parole en

Liberta," a song that deals with standing up for what you believe. "Take a picture cause we're taking this place down and remember it is us or them if you wanna do this forever. Don't you know that this is freedom."

"We Sing the Body Electric" shows how Since by Man has grown from previous releases. They have taken great strides in developing their lyrics and guitars riffs from other seven-inches and splits.

Catch Since By Man at the Fireside Bowl in Chicago on March 8 with Kungfu Rick. Keep an eye out for their discography on Revelation Records as well.



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IT'S NOT WHAT YOU KNOW. IT'S WHO YOU KNOW...



# Jersey Girls' is a quality catch-all for Rye Coalition leftovers

By Ben Turner  
VERGE EDITOR

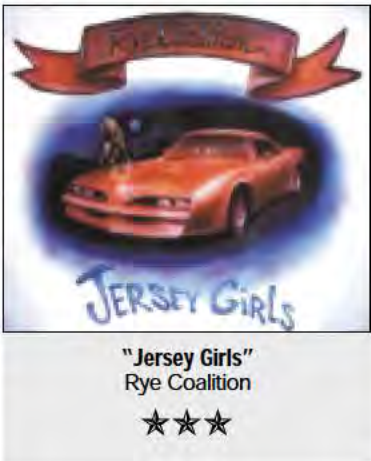
On first listen, you might mistakenly identify Rye Coalition's sound as another east-coast garage-rock rehash. Yet, listening and even reading a little deeper will take you to the core of the band's sound, which is a combination of gritty post-punk clashing with metal-esque lyrics.

Formed in New York in 1994, Rye Coalition somehow managed to create a big-city buzz for themselves when the group was only teenagers on the strength of their demo. As many bands have experienced, things didn't come as easy in the following years. Losing members to college, it wasn't until their 2001 effort "On Top" that the original five members were back in the lineup.

After a couple successful seven-inches and splits in the mid '90s, Rye Coalition released its debut

full-length "Hee Saw Dhuh Kaet" on New Jersey's own Gern Blandsten Records. By the time the original quintet was back together, Rye Coalition hopped back to the Big Apple for "On Top." Recorded at Electrical Audio in Chicago by Steve Albini, "On Top" was released by Tiger Style Records and was the band's declaration Rye Coalition would no longer be a source of recreation for its members. Perhaps it was playing in a lineup with the likes of Shellac, Seam and Don Caballero in 2000 that rejuvenated the band's creative juices.

Rye Coalition's latest effort, "Jersey Girls," maintains the band's momentum from "On Top" and thus the flow of the album also benefits. A combination of new recordings from a second visit to Electrical Audio last February and leftovers from their first visit in July of 2001, the pace and transitions of "Jersey Girls" doesn't present the album as a best-of-the-rest patchwork.



One of the band's strengths is naming their songs. Paraphrasing some classic titles (see: "Stairway to the Free Bird on the Way to the Smokey Water") and creating some unique titles for others (see: "Switchblade Sister: One Tough Nun," both from "On Top") It's evident the band puts a lot of thought

into their song's monikers.

This tradition continues on "Jersey Girls" with the lead track "Communication Breakdance." Each member lists Led Zeppelin as an influence on their web site and it shows here with the variation of the title from Zep's potent debut album. Swirling dual guitars and frontman Ralph Cuseglio's wide ranging vocals highlight this track.

"Speed Metal Tap Dancer" was recorded during the "On Top" sessions but didn't make the cut. The title accurately describes the track as the guitarists seemingly dance around Cuseglio's screams and gruff vocals. Another creative title, "Paradise by the Marlboro Light," contains a very catchy refrain "Hey Sally Ride Can I Be Your Space Guy" to go with more crunchy guitars and drummer David Leto exerting his presence.

"22 Topless" and "Snow Job" were both released by Tiger Style as a single prior to "On Top," though

the former was originally titled "ZZ Topless," which leads me to believe the Texas-trio requested the name be changed.

The final track, "Break Wind and Fire," is another new recording and Rye Coalition chose to save their best for last. Blending all the quality elements of the previous tracks, bassist Justin Morey finally gets to step into the spotlight during the chorus. At just under six minutes, "Break Wind and Fire" starts fast and roars through four minutes before capping the album with mellow, bass-driven fade out—a much needed cool down period after seven intense tracks.

Although Fugazi and Shellac influences are still entrenched in the band's sound, Cuseglio's vocals allow Rye Coalition to have a quicker tempo while still being all-over-the-place. Their sound offers a welcomed non-predictability rarely scene in many of today's rock outfits.

## Loose Fur contains elements of member's previous work

By Matt Rennels  
STAFF WRITER

Believe it or not, Jim O'Rourke hates jamming.

Two years ago, Jeff Tweedy (the man behind Wilco) discussed with O'Rourke (master producer who dabbles in depression and songcraft) putting together a live show to play just for kicks. O'Rourke brought in Glenn Kotche (passionate percussionist) to top off the project.

So, the super-group-in-the-making met to write some music and gel together. (We won't call it jam, O'Rourke would be irate.)

The outcome overwhelmed them and the trio decided to lay its work down in the studio. The sessions both predated and were simultaneous to Wilco's "Yankee Hotel Foxtrot," which O'Rourke produced. Because of his hands-on approach to album's music making process, some would say that O'Rourke was Wico's version of the fifth Beatle.

The sessions collected dust for close to two years as "YHF" was being tossed around until a contract was inked, and the project was finally on its way.

Loose Fur was the project's name. When spoken fast we're talkin' the devil. If we're tossing the word around our heads – male pattern balding. If thought about too much we're blaming hair clogging up our shower drains on the devil.

The self-titled release from this balding super group wasn't too much of a stretch from anything I would have imagined.

Jeff Tweedy, the magician we all know him as, let his alt-country sound fade more and more as his Telecaster's feedback swelled with each Wilco album until "YHF" when the former king of alt-rock watched it vanish into thin air. Loose Fur is about as country as the Dixie Chicks. Aside from the banjo on the elongated outro on the O'Rourke fronted "Elegant Transaction," there's nothing resembling country.

Released by Drag City Records, O'Rourke's musical presence is much like his previous solo work; a main course of lounge and seconds on classic rock.

His production presence is made obvious on "So Long," a song reaching an epic length but not without plenty of guitar noodling and some banging on pots and pans– the usual. Although the ride to the end of the song may be tedious at times, the climax and heart of the song hits hard.

A song that adds to Loose Fur's obvious parallelism to "YHF" and also the best song on the record is "You Were Wrong," a tight pop song that Tweedy drones through on top of out-of-tune guitars and raucous drums, yet somehow a tight pop song.

When Tweedy came to O'Rourke's house to lay some tunes down, the two of them couldn't stop writing music. Finally, Kotche joined the duo and Tweedy half jokingly, half seriously suggested to jam. O'Rourke then put his foot down and said he doesn't jam.

According to O'Rourke, although there are a lot of meas-



ures that seem very improvisational, they're not. None of the Loose Fur music was off the cuff, it was precisely written out.

Whereas some of Tweedy and O'Rourke's styles mesh well, a lot of the time they end up neither here nor there. Although a lot of the songs have several good elements, they also end up with several bland verses, choruses and precisely written out jams.

If you are looking for a Wilco record, you will only get pieces, if you are looking for a Jim O'Rourke record, that's right – pieces, as for the totality of this album, it's neither here nor there.

Often the obstacle of the super group is getting used to each other's style and being able to make that musical bond. They are already talking about a second album so this is more than possible.

## Further Seems Forever lacking 'Fire'

By Ben Erwin  
ONLINE EDITOR

Balancing the snide and the sniveling with an emotive, heart-on-the-sleeve aesthetic, Further Seems Forever crafts forgettable emo whinings on the tepid "How to Start a Fire."

After the departure of vocalist and chief songsmith Chris Carrabba (currently of Dashboard Confessional), Further Seems Forever suffered an extensive lapse between releases and a label change. While many herald Carrabba simply as a whiny misanthrope, his influence in the popularity of what is commonly referred to as emo is undeniable. Although bands like Drive Like Jehu, Cap 'N Jazz, and Rites of Spring crafted emotional tunes in the same vein as Carrabba, it was always his impassioned delivery driving FSF, and without it the band consistently falls flat.

With "How to Start a Fire," the band eschews typical broken-hearted ballads, for which they have become known, in favor of pseudo-poetic diatribes and liberal doses of bitter sweet melody. Tracks like "Pride War" meld overdriven guitars underneath on-key screams to minimal success. Despite the gut-wrenching delivery, much of the material on "Fire" falls flat and feels forced.

Softer numbers like "I Am," "On Legendary" and "Instrumental" serve more as a showcase for guitarist Derick Cordoba as lyrical content is buried beneath sentimental delivery. Despite the poetic lyrics, the tone of the music is muddled and uninteresting.

Even mid-tempo songs like "The Sound" and "Against My



Better Judgment" fail to shine on an album desperate for a saving grace. One of emo's worst trap-pings has always been its tendrill-thin stance between the worlds of hardcore and pure sentiment, and this is no more apparent than when Further Seems Forever is stuck between rock and vocalist Jason Gleason's musings.

Although not a truly wretched album, "How to Start a Fire" carries no redeeming value whatsoever. Slickly overproduced, sickeningly sentimental and often simply cringe-inducing in its lyrical use of metaphor, "How to Start a Fire" is not an accurate representation of the individuals behind it.

Those looking for great lyrical depth may be sorely disappointed as Gleason's words never quite match the intensity or ethereal quality of the music. Trapped somewhere between rocking and sulking, Further Seems Forever never quite fire on all cylinders here.

# Oscar winners regularly lackluster

What do the Oscars actually mean? Does anyone but the foolish believe that winning an Academy Award actually makes the picture, performance or achievement the best of that year?

I do not believe that "Driving Miss Daisy," "The English Patient," "Gladiator" or "Shakespeare in Love" was the best film of their respective year. They won, and in most cases they weren't even close. These movies beat out much more deserving films such as "Glory," "Fargo," "Jerry Maguire," "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" and "Saving Private Ryan."

Unlike sports, the Oscar winner does not have to beat anyone to be crowned the winner. The way to become victorious at the Oscars is to kiss up and spend the most money. Another popular way is to spend the most money and instead of kissing up, bad mouth the other films/actors. All this has done is tarnish what the Academy Awards are supposed to be. Instead of having stories about the movies and people nominated, all the stories lately have been revolving around which company spent how much and who said what about whom.

Another thing that is giving the whole process a black eye is who is voting and how they are voting. It is well known that



Ryan Rinchiuso  
STAFF WRITER

the voters are quite old. Those who cast votes are in Hollywood and are also suckers for specific types of films. An epic always win the Best Picture Oscar and that is why such movies as "Dances With Wolves," "Braveheart" and "Gladiator" have won in the last few years. The voters also do not seem to champion different, new types of films and that is why "Forrest Gump" beat "Pulp Fiction," "The English Patient" beat "Fargo," "A Beautiful Mind" beat "Moulin Rouge" and movies like "Memento" aren't even nominated.

The Oscars have also been known for honoring people too late and on the wrong project. Al Pacino never won for "The Godfather" films, but did win for his over-the-top performance in "Scent of a Woman." Martin Scorsese has never won

an Oscar even though he has directed such classic films as "Taxi Driver," "Raging Bull" and "Goodfellas." Now, there is talk that he will win for "Gangs of New York" not because he deserves it for that film (although I believe he does), but because "he is due."

While the Academy Awards have always angered people, the level has been drastically dropping the last decade. The level is almost to an absurd level that the Oscars are becoming a joke and it is not taboo to mention the Oscars in the same breath as the Golden Globes. While some changes are being made, they aren't enough or drastic enough. What the Oscars need to do is go back to the '70s, when such worthwhile movies like "The Godfather" (parts I and II) and "The French Connection" won for best picture and actors like Gene Hackman and Robert De Niro won best actor.

Is there any hope that Oscar will ever gleam with gold again in its life, or will it always be in this free fall? One thing that is for sure is no matter the quality, people will still watch, complain about the results and talk about the fashions. We are sick people, maybe even sicker than the show itself.

## CONCERT CALENDAR

<b>Friday</b> ♦ The Tossers Friends & Co. 10 p.m. \$6  ♦ Nastics & Binks, Jay Phillips University Ballroom 10 p.m. \$4  ♦ Nature's Gravy Gunner Bucs 9 p.m. \$3  <b>Saturday</b> ♦ Medicated Goo The Uptowner 10 p.m. \$2  ♦ Lumus Friends & Co. 9 p.m. no cover  ♦ Touche Friends & Co. 11 p.m. \$2  ♦ My Friend's Band Taylor Hall 9 p.m. no cover	  ♦ Encounter, Bastian The Warehouse 102 North Sixth Street 7 p.m. all ages  ♦ 29th Annual Miss Black EIU Grand Ballroom 8 p.m. \$12  ♦ The Mighty Roadkings, Five O'Clock Shadow Gunner Bucs 8 p.m. \$5  <b>Sunday</b> ♦ "Songs of Love" featuring professors Richard Robert Rossi and Patricia Poulter Wesley United Methodist 4 p.m.  ♦ Ryan Groff Acoustic night at the Uptowner 8 p.m. no cover	  ♦ The Candy Snatchers, Lo Freq, Eddie and The Losers, Drunkard and Swampass Friends & Co. 5 p.m. \$2  <b>Monday</b> ♦ Plain White Tees, Don't Look Down, The Matches, The Cartwrights, Time Theatre Mattoon 5 p.m. all ages  <b>Wednesday</b> ♦ Michael Blair and Shanta Klare 7th Street Underground 8 p.m. no cover  ♦ Step Afrika Grand Ballroom 8 p.m. \$2  ♦ A Doll's House opening night Village Theater, 960 18th Street
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