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Daily Eastern News: February 21, 2006

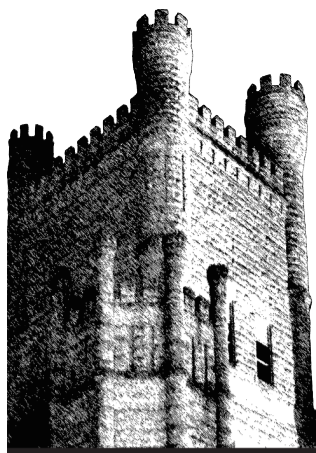
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"Tell the truth and don't be afraid."

SPORTS ♦ Women wonder why season hitting skids: page 12

THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

VOLUME 91, ISSUE 30

TUESDAY
FEBRUARY
21
2006

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90th Anniversary

Eastern Illinois University, Charleston

Gas prices on the rise

Students seek ways to cut costs

By SARA CUADRADO
STAFF REPORTER

Gas bills will likely rise 23 percent this year for the city of Charleston and next year for the university, and adjustments will have to be made on campus to pay for the increased costs.

These bills are rising because the purchase gas adjustment is rising. Since Ameren, the company that supplies power to Charleston and Eastern, does not produce its own gas, it has to purchase it in the open market. When this adjustment rises, it has to raise prices to match. Ameren doesn't actually make more profit, said Leigh Morris, a spokesperson for Ameren Corporation.

Students who live off campus this year have already felt the blow when they noticed the rise in their bills.

"It really cuts into my monthly income," said Jamie Pence, a sophomore psychology major.

Pence, who works two jobs at the honors college and for an accountant, finds it frustrating to split the \$100 or more bill each payment. It personally costs her about \$30 more a week as she also works to pay for her cell phone, car insurance, rent and other utilities.

Just like many college students living on a tight budget, Matt Carlstrom, a senior social science major, knows how hard it is when utilities go up unexpectedly.

"It leaves you hoping you'll have enough money to make it through the semester or hoping for an early spring," Carlstrom said.

Matt said his parents help him with his expenses, but he saw how hard it can be when the costs go up.

Students are trying to lower their bills by keeping the heat down in these cold winter days, closing off

SEE **BILLS** PAGE 7

UNACCEPTED

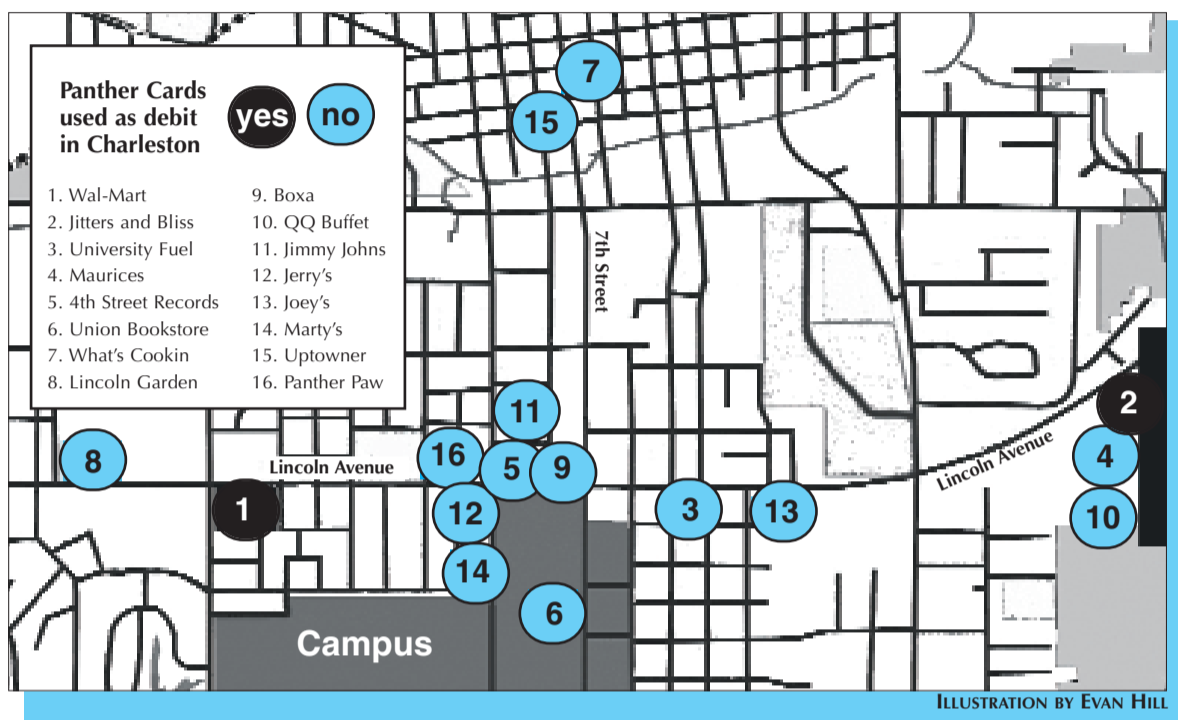


ILLUSTRATION BY EVAN HILL

Debit option not welcome in city

By KRISTEN LARSEN
CITY EDITOR

Students using their Panther Cards' debit option in Charleston may have problems with purchases, because many businesses around the city are not equipped to accept it.

Companies that verify customers using a personal identification number accept the Panther Debit Card, said Michael Smith, assistant manager at Monical's Pizza.

Other debit cards with a Visa, MasterCard or other major company's logo can still be used without a PIN-based system, but the Panther Cards cannot.

"We don't accept it (Panther Card) because our machines only accept the debit cards with a Visa or MasterCard logo," Smith said.

The Panther Card issued to each student at Eastern has multiple functions, enabling students to use dining dollars, Panther Cash, meal swipes and Panther Checking.

Panther Checking allows students to establish a bank account on campus through First Mid-Illinois Bank and Trust, and makes

student identification cards double as debit cards.

Lindsay Kramer, a sophomore elementary education major, said Panther Checking is a convenience because she doesn't have to carry an extra card and always has her Panther Card with her anyway.

With a First Mid account, students can use the on-campus bank located in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union and the four ATMs on campus, said Susan Smith, assistant director, Campus Card.

Wal-Mart, a staple of student shopping, accepts Panther Card debits, although businesses such as JCPenney and QQ Buffet do not.

"I use it all the time back home, like at Target," Kramer said. "But it would be nice if I could use it at more places in Charleston than just at Wal-Mart."

The Marathon Station on Lincoln Avenue also accepts Panther Cards as debit.

Some businesses, such as Marty's, have ATMs close to or inside their buildings to give students access to cash through use of Panther Cards as well as other debit cards.



JOHN BAILEY/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Jon Vish, a senior communication studies major, smokes a cigarette between classes in front of Coleman Hall Monday afternoon. According to the American Cancer Society, cigarette smoking accounts for at least 30 percent of all cancer deaths.

Students raise money for cancer

By JESSICA CANTARELLI
CAMPUS EDITOR

Students who have been directly or indirectly affected by cancer have joined Colleges Against Cancer to raise money for a cure while participating in events like the Relay for Life.

The group was started at Eastern two years ago by a student who wanted the campus to get more involved with cancer charities.

Jennifer Wayer, a senior family and consumer sciences major, is president of Colleges Against Cancer. Her father was diagnosed with skin cancer, and even though she said skin cancer is one of the more mild types of cancers, it still worried her.

"It kind of opened up my eyes and made me realize it's a big deal," Wayer said.

She said the group wants to raise awareness on campus as well as more money for cancer charities.

The group currently has 35 active members and meets biweekly to discuss upcoming events

and fundraisers. Relay for Life is one of the main events the group tries to raise money for, Wayer said.

"(Cancer) is going to affect somebody in everyone's lives," Wayer said. "If people got out there and started doing things about it and continue to do things about it like we've done, then it's a good cause."

Jenna Fracaro, a senior elementary education major, said the group works all year to recruit new members and teams for Relay for Life.

"CAC is designed to get students involved in (the American Cancer Society), and get them educated about what they can do in the community," Fracaro said. "During relay, we give everyone the opportunity to get involved with CAC, and we have a lot of information on upcoming meetings and what our work goes toward."

Fracaro said a lot of the members of the group have had family members with cancer, so it gives them a reason to want to make a difference and find a cure.

"I truly believe that everyone who is involved believes that a cure is near."

JENNA FRACARO, SENIOR ELEMENTARY EDUCATION MAJOR

"I truly believe that everyone who is involved believes that a cure is near and just wants to be a part of that," she said.

Nikki Larney, a sophomore psychology major, looks forward to this year's Relay for Life to honor her grandmother who passed away because of cancer.

This year, Relay for Life will be held from March 31 to April 1 at the Panther Trail. Larney said teams work all year to raise money for the event. Teams may have up to 15 people.

SEE **CAC** PAGE 9



GREG WALKER
SENIOR
JOURNALISM MAJOR

"Chicago has become the place to be for outdoor concert festivals."

"Ah, the summer. Uncomfortable hot weather, bathing suits, manual labor and outdoor concerts! Chicago has become the place to be for outdoor concert festivals."



RYAN TERRELL
SENIOR
JOURNALISM MAJOR

"It was resting on the kitchen countertop, springing up like a sword in stone."

"As most of you know, the White Sox World Series Trophy made a stop at Eastern this past week as part of tour through 45 cities across Illinois and Northwest Indiana."

WTF?

Would-be thief backs down

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HESPERIA, Calif. — Sometimes a simple "no" will deter robbers.

A clerk at Rocky's Mini Mart on Main Street was confronted Feb. 13 by an armed would-be thief who demanded money from the cash register, said Roxanne Walker, a spokeswoman for the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department.

"The clerk explained that she couldn't do that, and that there were other employees inside the store. The suspect then said 'thanks' and left the store on foot without taking any money or items," Walker said.

The same gunman was suspected of robbing the nearby Cigmart a short time later. He again brandished a weapon and demanded money from the clerk, who did as the man asked, Walker said.

Penn State gets its groove on in dance

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. — Their feet may be sore, but Penn State students grooved their way to another record

over the weekend in their annual Dance Marathon.

The Penn State Interfraternity Council/Panhellenic Dance Marathon says the 700 dancers raised more than \$4.2 million in the 48-hour event, an increase over the \$4.1 million raised last year and the \$3.5 million the year before.

The announcement Sunday night set off a celebration by the capacity crowd. Since its inception in the early 1970s, the student-run philanthropy has raised more than \$30 million to help children battling cancer.

Freshman Lauren Kay said she was in pain from standing for two days.

"But when you see the children and what they're going through, the pain in your feet is a lot less than what they are dealing with," Kay said.

Disc jockey Larry Moore, who ended off the marathon with Elton John's "I'm Still Standing" and Bon Jovi's "Livin' On a Prayer," said more than 15,000 people from about 30 countries watched via the Internet this year.

SEEING THE CAMPUS SIGHTS



JOHN BAILEY/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Alyssa Lucas, a senior biological science major, leads a group of prospective students and parents around campus as a part of the Office of Admissions Open House Monday afternoon.

COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY NEWS

Stripping lessons, dating lectures highlight Yale sex education week

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW HAVEN, Conn. — In a lecture hall on Yale's storied Old Campus, not long after an afternoon astronomy class has cleared out, a middle-aged sex toy saleswoman demonstrates her technique and hands out free products to an eager crowd.

"I want you to close your eyes," Patty Brisben playfully instructs a young man as she rubs scented lotion into his forearm and, to raucous laughter, reaches for an electric toy and a glove. "Fantasize about having an all-over body massage."

Welcome to Sex Week at Yale, a biennial celebration that has become one of the most provocative campus events in the country.

Organizers say Sex Week gets students talking about sex in a way that's more relevant than middle-school film strips, more honest than movies and television, and more fun than requisite college health lectures.

"To get people's attention, we do have to do things a little risqué and a little different than other sex education programs," said junior Dain

Lewis, who was inspired to direct Sex Week 2006 after attending the 2004 event.

Yale's event, which ends Saturday, includes lectures from dating specialists, a sex therapist and a discussion of homosexuality with a former Roman Catholic priest. More provocative sessions include a panel of porn stars and stripping lessons from a Playboy Channel hostess.

Critics say Sex Week is just the latest act of debauchery at colleges in recent years: Students started sex columns. Vassar and others created erotica journals. Harvard launched H-Bomb, a magazine featuring suggestive pictures of undergraduates. Washington University in St. Louis offered a sex-themed week with orgasm seminars and condom telegrams.

"I don't see how bringing a Playboy stripper to campus is helping anything," said Travis Kavulla, editor of the Harvard Salient, which joined other conservative newspapers in giving Sex Week the Collegiate Network 2004 Outrage Award. "How are universities try-

ing to educate students in sponsoring activities like this?"

Ray Charles' tour bus donated to Morehouse

ATLANTA — The midnight-blue tour bus that carried music legend Ray Charles around the country has begun a new career at Morehouse College.

The bus, donated to the college by the Ray Charles Foundation, will be on display and may be used for trips by student groups. Emblazoned with Charles' likeness, the vehicle is fully equipped with 35 customized seats, four televisions and a kitchen.

Joe Adams, Charles' longtime manager, said, "This is where Ray would have wanted to be. It served us well and now we want it to serve the wonderful students at Morehouse College."

Charles and Adams each donated \$1 million toward the center and student scholarships. Morehouse College president Walter Massey believes the bus will motivate students who desire to be in the music industry.

5-DAY WEATHER

TODAY

42

30

Mostly sunny

Wednesday

46

26

Mostly sunny

Thursday

49

29

Sunny

Friday

48

32

Partly cloudy

Saturday

38

19

Sunny

CORRECTIONS

Monday's edition of *The DEN* incorrectly reported that Eastern's men's basketball team was on a six-game losing streak. Last Wednesday, Eastern beat Southeast Missouri 60-49. The Panthers have lost five of their last six games. *The DEN* regrets the error.



EARLY HEADLINES

Listen to "Wake Up Live" with Rob and Jenn Monday through Friday for morning headlines on 88.9 or at weihitmix.net.



PODCAST of the WEEK

Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Sentinel
Sergeant Ellis Bowers

www.pounceonline.com

THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

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THE BIGGEST LOSERS

Weight loss slows for group

Members' lives settling in to healthy living

BY KRISTEN LARSEN
CITY EDITOR

Weight loss changes may be less noticeable to the Sassy 6, but team members are settling into their healthier routines as they fight for first during Reshaping Coles' "Biggest Loser" contest.

The team is winning in two categories and chasing the Wannabes in the activities category, behind by only 84 points.

"I've tried to bug people a little about the activity point," Dr. Kimberley Hollender said. "So we're all trying to do an extra 10 activity minutes per day."

The Wannabes and the Sassy 6 are two of the three teams competing in the contest.

They are also close in the food and water categories, with the Sassy 6 winning by only 62 points, and leading in the fruit and vegetable category by 222 points.

The Sassy 6 are one-third of the way finished with the program.

"Everyone seems to have settled into a routine and is doing well getting their fruits and vegetables and water every day," said Hollender. "The folks on my team seem fairly pleased with their progress and lifestyle changes, which is the main thing, not so much the weight loss, which is just a side



ERIC HILTNER/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

The members of the "Sassy 6" are upbeat, getting settled in to the program, and winning two of the three categories for the Reshaping Coles County Biggest Loser contest.

effect of healthier living."

Carol Roberts and Nita Schrader have noticed their eating and exercise habits have become part of their routines as well.

Schrader's exercise has not been as up to par as she would like because of the weather, but she has started walking the stairs more and building her endurance on an old treadmill at home.

"I'm 59 years old," Schrader said. "I am a little leery of walking outside and slipping on ice, so I hope to get my exercise on track in the springtime when the weather is better."

Roberts and Schrader have both noticed a slight plateau the past couple of weeks but are back on track now with a weight loss total of 12 pounds.

Hitting a plateau is a common experience when trying to lose weight, and varies depending on each person, said Jennifer Taber, nutrition education coordinator.

Sometimes the body will stop losing weight because it is at its optimal weight. Another reason might be a chemical or hormonal balance, Taber said.

When people plateau, they need to look at their activity levels and make sure they are burning more energy than they are taking in,

"Everyone seems to have settled into a routine and is doing well getting their fruits and vegetables and water every day."

DR. KIMBERLEY HOLLENDER

she said.

"Sometimes a person is not familiar with healthy weight loss, which is one to two pounds a week," Taber said. "They might think they are hitting a plateau when they really aren't."

Some days are discouraging when weight loss doesn't happen, but Roberts said she keeps on going because it has become routine.

Also, having their teammates at work has helped the Sassy 6 stay motivated and stay with the program.

"I'm enjoying it and want to keep it up even after the program is finished," Roberts said.

Tarble show depicts daily life in Africa

BY ASHLEY WAGNER
STAFF REPORTER

Photographs portraying African women and children that are displayed in the Tarble Arts Center aim to educate gallery visitors about African culture.

Nigerian artist Alfred Olusegun Fayemi will present a lecture about his exhibition "Women and Children in Africa: A Photographic Portrait" by Alfred Olusegun Fayemi today.

"For one thing, in the United States, the image of Africa is always a negative one," said Onaiwu Ogbomo, director of the African-American Studies Program. "(Fayemi's) photos show women and children in everyday life situations such as the workplace, recreation and housing."

Fayemi will explain the context of photographs, and why he decided to get involved in African art.

Ogbomo said he hopes students will be interested in the photos and get involved in the study abroad program, which travels to West Africa.

"The media always portrays Africa as being poor, but there are so many aspects people don't know about it, be it the music, food, art and clothing," said Olu Akintorin, president of the African Student Association. "Our generation does not have much knowledge about other cultures, and it is important to know about other cultures." Akintorin said society is not well informed about African history.

"I don't think we've grown as a campus, and it is time for people to recognize the different diversities, and get it out there so we can understand," he said.

While Akintorin has not viewed Fayemi's work yet, he plans to do so before the lecture tonight.

Fayemi's photographs have been published and exhibited throughout the United States and abroad, and are included in many public and private collections in places such as New York City, Hong Kong and Nigeria.

Today's event at 7 p.m. in the Tarble Arts Center will give students more insight into Black History Month and the significance of African women in African society and how they interact in these types of cases.



CHARITABLE FUNDRAISER

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GAMES START 1:00 pm SHARP

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ID will be checked at the time of registration



OPINION

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

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2006

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COMMENTARY



LAURA GRIFFITH
ASSOCIATE VERGE EDITOR

SI SWIMSUIT ISSUE IS PORN IN DISGUISE

Eight beautiful women adorn the cover, wearing nothing but skimpy swimsuit bottoms. (Bottoms, no tops.) Sand clings to their feet and thighs as my eyes are drawn to their voluptuous backsides.

No, it's not a Playboy. It's the Sports Illustrated 2006 swimsuit edition. I've never been offended by a sports magazine or a pornographic magazine for that matter. In fact, as soon as my friends and I were of age, we beat feet to the local porn store, just because we could. But the combination of the two makes my stomach churn.

Imagine that I'm a 10-year-old boy. I really love sports (My favorite team is the St. Louis Cardinals). I grab the latest issue of a magazine that normally features my favorite players, and I flip through the pages. Instead of articles about Kobe Bryant or Super Bowl XL champions, the Pittsburgh Steelers, I find topless girls with their breasts covered only by their own arms or a lei, a totally nude girl hanging her bottoms from her foot, a girl with a see-through wet top revealing a nipple, girls posed in extremely sexual positions and girls with their clothes painted

on. Literally.

That is, assuming a 10-year-old would be able to purchase the magazine.

Charleston's Walgreens has the issue on the bottom magazine rack, with the first issue turned

"Nearly every page contains material related to sex, nudity and bikinis, or lack thereof."

around to reveal an ad featuring a girl in a bikini. A store associate from the Logan Street store in Mattoon was unable to comment on whether it was corporate policy to sell the magazine to a minor.

Why not? A minor can buy Sports Illustrated any other time. The swimsuit edition is soft-core porn in disguise. And every year, it contains more near-nudity.

Some might argue that the human body is a work of art, and the girls with painted clothes are a form of artistic expression. I agree, but I think that kind of art is acceptable in a different context, when viewed by an audience mature enough for such material.

One could argue that the girls and the magazine are practicing freedom of expression, and one would be right again. But please, take the audience into consideration, and what they expect from a sports-themed magazine.

When I was little, I disliked boys. This dislike stuck around for quite a while. Today, in an age where sexually explicit material comes at children from every direction, they are becoming more interested in sex and more sexually active at a younger age although they still aren't mature enough to handle the consequences. People could just look away, and some probably would, if they knew what they were getting themselves into.

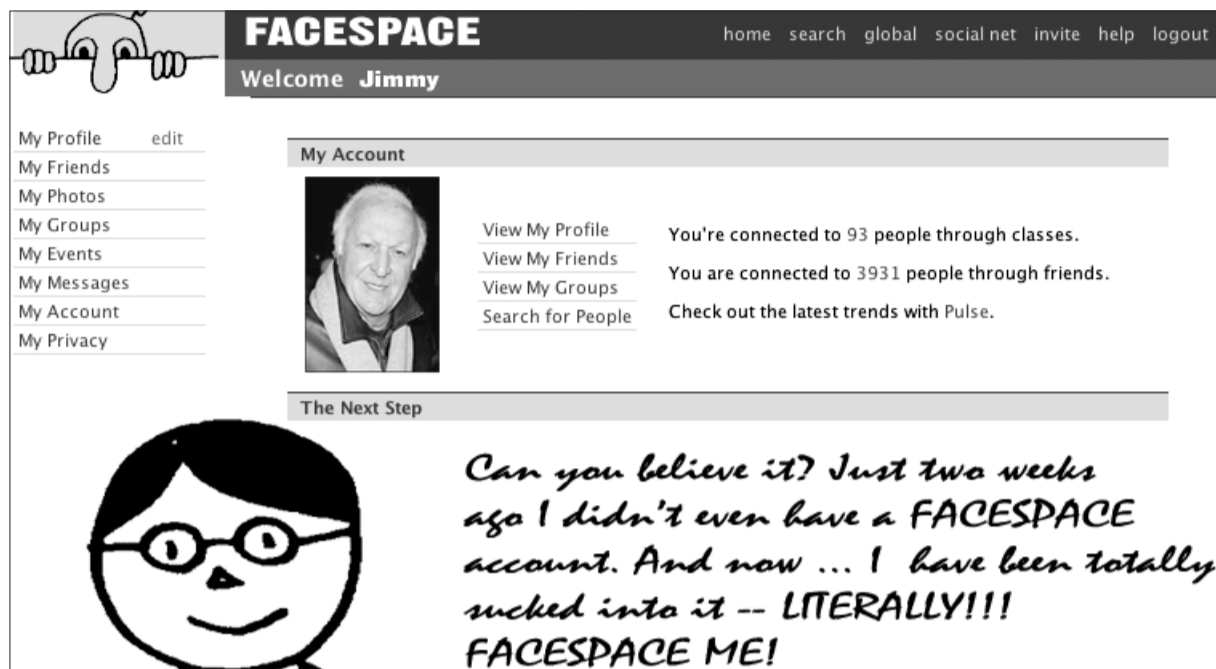
Out of curiosity, I picked up the edition. I was prepared to see half-naked girls, and I had no problem with it. My problem lies in the quantity of nudity, and the genre of the magazine, which has nothing to do with porn. Nearly every page contains material related to sex, nudity and bikinis, or lack thereof. There were NO sports articles. Not one. I even had a coworker double check for me. And only a minority of ads was remotely related to the magazine's general purpose.

I felt betrayed. Maybe YM magazine should start a tradition to run an all-male, all-nearly nude revue once a year. Males aren't the only ones who enjoy explicit material at a younger age these days. They could have Jake Gyllenhaal pose nude for the centerfold, with cowboy boots painted on his feet and black-paint chaps on his derriere.

Just don't let the kiddies get a hold of that particular issue.

Griffith, a senior journalism major, can be reached at DENnewsdesk@gmail.com.

EDITORIAL CARTOON BY ERIC HILTNER



EDITORIAL

Selling debt is not the answer

Election year is here and with it comes political promises that seem too good to be true. Gov. Rod Blagojevich has seemingly promised everyone everything, regardless of funding. Most concerning is his proposal to sell the student loan debt to help fund higher education and his recent College Tuition Tax Credit proposal, which would give students or their parents a \$1,000 tax credit if the student is an underclassman with a "B" average.

This is the first time in four years that the governor proposed an increase in higher education funding, making the gesture an obvious election ploy. However, the promise comes with a condition. He wants the university presidents to support his decision

to sell the student loan debt—a decision that legislators and university administrators have previously opposed—in order to fund his proposal for a 1.4 percent increase in higher education funding.

Eastern President Lou Hencken and other university presidents sent the governor a letter demonstrating their support on the condition that any buyer—most likely a private lender—would be obligated to meet certain terms, such as not altering students' loan contracts and ensure that the profits fund higher education.

Legislators, such as Chapin Rose (R-Mahomet), and university administrators oppose selling the student-loan debt if the state doesn't use the money to support higher education because students didn't agree to fund other programs, with the exception of higher education, when they entered into their loan agreements.

"We've got a long way to go in this process and there's a lot more questions that need to be answered before I'm comfortable with this," Rose said about the governor's proposal.

Rose said he was concerned that the funds generated from selling the student-loan debt—an estimated \$500 million—would not be

At issue

The governor's proposal to fund the college tuition tax credit by selling the student-loan debt.

Our stance

The proposal is not as good as it seems. Too many questions about how the proposal will benefit the students remain unanswered. It sounds like another election-year ploy.

used to fund higher education and the College Tuition Tax Credit, despite the governor's insistence that it would.

Also, if sold, interest generated by the students' debt would no longer fund scholarship-finding programs such as www.collegezone.com, but instead benefit a privately owned company.

Finally, there is always the concern that students will pay more in interest if the sale happens.

"It is a joke to say that the student assets in the Illinois college scholarship fund can be sold off and not do damage to college students," said State Rep. Bob Pritchard (R-Hinckley) in the Feb. 16 edition of the *Charleston Times-Courier*. As Rose represents

Eastern, Pritchard represents Northern Illinois University.

While the governor's proposal to sell the student loan debt to fund higher education and the College Tuition Tax Credit proposal, both students and universities will pay for it in the long run. The governor needs to answer the important questions: how will he continue to fund higher education and the tax credit proposal when the hypothetical funds from selling the student loan debt run dry? To fund the tax credit for one year requires \$90 million. That's only five and half years of funding if the governor succeeds in obtaining \$500 million from a sale for the tuition tax credit, not including higher education funding.

The governor's promise is no good. He would be creating higher interest rates as early as next year, eliminating funding for scholarship-funding programs and possibly making students pay for programs from which they don't benefit.

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

YOUR TURN: LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

HOMOPHOBIA AND RACISM CONSTANT PROBLEMS

Homophobia, let's talk about it. Racism, let's talk about it, too. Hostility toward others because of race or sexual orientation is a problem that harms members of our community. Resolving that problem requires open discussion of the issues involved.

Recently, a gay, African-American EIU

student was assaulted in a local bar. According to the student, his assailant used racial and sexual slurs towards him and a companion. Fortunately, no one was seriously injured, but this incident must be taken seriously. So far, it has not been reported in *The DEN*, although the paper was immediately made aware of it.

The DEN has a responsibility to report on issues of concern to the campus com-

munity. Those raised by this incident are certainly among them. However uncomfortable it may be to discuss them, and however badly they may reflect on the social environment in our community, you must break the silence in order to help resolve them.

CHARLES DELMAN
MATHEMATICS PROFESSOR

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. We reserve the right to edit letters for length. 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 **DENeic@gmail.com**



PHOTO COURTESY OF SCOTT LEMANS

The National Modified Midget National Race is at the Coles County Speedway in Charleston and will be receiving \$250 if the City Council's proposal is passed. The money will be used for advertising and promoting the event, which is scheduled for Aug. 1 through Aug. 5.

City may release funds to promote summer events

By KRISTEN LARSEN
CITY EDITOR

The Charleston City Council will vote to authorize the spending of \$1,100 of tourism funds during tonight's meeting.

If passed, the money will be given to the East Central Illinois Antiques Farm Equipment Club's Antique Farm Tractor and Equipment Show and the National Modified Midget National Race.

The National Modified Midget National Race is at Coles County Speedway in Charleston, and the race will be receiving \$250 if passed. The race brings in a big crowd consisting of

not only fans but also family and crew, said Mayor John Inyart.

"Mainly any money from the Tourism Funds is to promote an event," Inyart said.

Jeff Gaines, a promoter for the National Modified Midget National Race, said the money will be used for advertising and promoting the event, scheduled for Aug. 1 through Aug. 5.

The East Central Illinois Antiques Farm Equipment Club's Antique Farm Tractor and Equipment Show will receive \$850 if the spending is authorized.

The show will display antiques July 15 through July 17 at Coles County Fair Grounds and is expected to bring

in a few thousand people.

Both events will bring in a lot of people that will be staying in hotels in Charleston and Mattoon, Inyart said.

"The money for the Tourism Funds comes from the hotel/motel tax," Inyart said. "It is then distributed to events like this."

The council will also vote to authorize the lease with Special Olympics of Coles County and with Michael Sullivan Consolidated Services.

Four raffle permits will also be considered for:

- Fox Ridge State Park Foundation
- Charleston Middle School
- Charleston Knights of Columbus
- Charleston Elk's Lodge #623.

Faculty forum sets the stage for improvements

By KAYLA CROW
ADMINISTRATION EDITOR

Eastern's Faculty Senate will hold a forum today for university faculty and students featuring a discussion on improvements faculty members and students would like to see.

"The senate would like to start a discussion about the future of EIU with the hope of coming away with ideas that they can then discuss and make recommendations to the administration for improving academics and Eastern's image," said Bud Fischer, associate chair of the biological sciences department and faculty forum chair for the senate.

In past senate meetings, members have been concerned that Eastern is not a first-choice school for most students. With this forum, the members are hoping to find what makes a university a first choice and how Eastern can improve.

Answering questions like this is the main reason for attending the forum.

"The expectation of the people attending is come and share ideas and brainstorm and be a part of shaping Eastern Illinois University," Fischer said.

Other questions the senate will bring up at the forum include finding out the benefits to student involvement in research projects, internship and study abroad programs and how the university can increase participation in those programs.

The senate is also interested in finding ways to improve the university's image on a state and national level. Other topics of discussion include how to foster partnerships with industries and agencies across the state and how the uni-

versity can strengthen partnerships and relationships in the community.

The university has been having faculty forums for more than 10 years and have included discussions on many different topics, Fischer said.

"The topics discussed at these forums have been such things as shared governance, faculty development and student engagement," Fischer said.

Faculty forum has helped to create and expand many programs.

"From these programs we have seen the growth of such programs as international programs, faculty development and the new student run EIU Uncovered Lecture Series," he said.

The forum will be at 2 p.m. today in the Charleston-Mattoon Room of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

Fischer said the forum gives faculty members and students an opportunity to discuss opinions about Eastern.

"These forums offer the opportunity for all constituents to get together and talk about important topics that can help shape the future of Eastern

Faculty Senate Forum:

◆ **Where & When:** 2 p.m. today in the Charleston-Mattoon Room of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union

◆ **Topics to be discussed:**

- What are the characteristics of a top-rate academic program?
- What are the benefits of participating in research projects, internships and study abroad?

Wishing a Star
Miss Black EIU 2006

Miss Black EIU Weekend Events

Friday, February 24th
Family Appreciation Dinner
University Ballroom 7pm

Saturday, February 25th
Family Bowling Night
Lower Level MLK Jr. Union 1-3pm

Saturday, February 25th
Miss Black EIU Pageant
Grand Ballroom 7pm

Sunday, February 26th
Church Service and Sunday Brunch
Immanuel Lutheran 1:30pm (Branch Following Service)

Ticket Prices

\$15 Includes Dinner, Bowling, and Brunch (in advance only)
\$10 Pageant and Dance (in advance)
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FREEDOMLAND (R) 4:00 7:00 9:45
CURIOUS GEORGE (G) 4:15 6:30 8:45
PINK PANTHER (PG) 4:45 7:30 9:50
FINAL DESTINATION 3 (R) 5:30 7:40 10:00
FIREWALL (PG 13) 4:30 7:15 9:40
NANNY MC PHEE (PG) 3:40 6:15 9:00
WHEN A STRANGER CALLS (PG 13) 5:00
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Information & Registration Meetings

<p style="font-weight: bold;">Monday, February 20, 2006</p> <p>7:00 pm Arcola/Tuscola Room 8:00 pm Pemberton Hall 9:00 pm Carman Hall Lobby</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold;">Tuesday, February 21, 2006</p> <p>7:00 pm Stevenson Hall Lobby 8:00 pm Lawson Hall Lobby 9:30 pm McKinney Hall (Hall Council)</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold;">Wednesday, February 22, 2006</p> <p>7:00 pm Thomas Hall Lobby 8:00 pm Taylor Hall Lobby 9:00 pm Andrews Hall Lobby</p>
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STATE NEWS

Blagojevich begins second day of gubernatorial re-election campaign

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CAHOKIA— Gov. Rod Blagojevich pushed his fledgling re-election bid into a second day Monday, touting himself as a defender of working families and fielding questions fueled by Republican opponents about his administration's ethics.

Ethics concerns, specifically as they relate to campaign contributions, have been a hot-button issue in this election because Blagojevich has awarded contracts to campaign donors and given state jobs to political insiders, although he was elected on a promise to clean up state government.

In Peoria, the last stop on a two-day, eight-city swing to announce his re-election bid, the governor said he supports a proposal that would enact campaign contribution limits for Illinois similar to those that guide federal officeholders.

But until a law is passed, he told reporters he won't stop taking money from firms that do business with the state, a move two Republican opponents say they would take if they were governor.

"You've got to pass legislation and you want to make sure that what you do is you have rules that are in force that apply to everybody so that you can completely change the system and make it work more honorably for the people of Illinois," Blagojevich said.

During a stop in the St. Louis suburb of Cahokia, the Democratic incumbent credited himself with increasing the minimum wage, expanding health care, closing corporate tax loopholes and increasing education funding.

"I'm proud of the progress we've made, the people we've helped," he told about 200 supporters at the St. Louis downtown airport.

He accused Republicans of trying to "rewrite history, duck tough issues and offer sound bites instead of ideas."

How we carry our 'cultural baggage' in the workplace

Negative stereotypes continue unabated

By MATT POLI
ACTIVITIES EDITOR

Stereotypes and prejudices can make a workplace uncomfortable for individuals who experience them.

"Unpacking My Cultural Baggage," presented by William T. Lewis, director of diversity for the Indiana University Kelley School of Business Undergraduate Program, will discuss the impact biases and stereotypes can have on individuals in the workplace.

"Unpacking My Cultural Baggage" is a presentation about how to explore our cultural baggage, which is not just based on qualifications but dealing with age, gender and disabilities," Lewis said.

Before the lecture, Lewis said he will visit a classroom and student affairs officials to talk about trends in higher education and how diversity fits in climate to students and teachers.

In addition, Lewis said he will be speaking about the state of African-American Greek organizations and how they can be successful.

"We are living in global marketplace ... and with the expansion of the Internet the world is becoming smaller," Lewis said. "We have to understand this concept of inclusion."

Eric Benson, vice president of

"We are living in a global marketplace.... and with the expansion of the Internet the world is becoming smaller. We have to understand this concept of inclusion."

WILLIAM T. LEWIS, DIRECTOR OF DIVERSITY FOR THE INDIANA UNIVERSITY KELLEY SCHOOL OF BUSINESS UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

human resources at Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center, said they teach employers to show respect for each other and have a zero tolerance policy for inappropriate behavior.

"No matter what people are, they are protected to be who they are," Benson said.

He added their policies focus on corporate values such as integrity and leadership.

Linda Moore, director of career services, said it's hard to take steps to prevent prejudices or stereotypes in the workplace because the civil rights departments focus on that.

"What we do is try to empower individuals who are going to be an employee," Moore said.

She also said people may have biases without even being aware of it.

She gave an example of how a man who wears too much cologne in a workplace could be as much of a target for bias as someone from a different ethnic background.

Moore added that if career serv-

What is "Unpacking my cultural baggage" all about?

◆ **Who:** The presentation is being put on by William T. Lewis, the director of diversity for the Indiana University Kelley School of Business Undergraduate

◆ **What:** The presentation will discuss the impact biases and stereotypes can have on individuals in the workplace, and Lewis will be speaking on African-American Greek organizations and how they can be successful

◆ **When:** 7 p.m. today

◆ **Where:** Martin Luther King Jr. University Union Ballroom

ices finds a company that practices unethical behavior, that they will not invite that company back to Eastern.

"We do screen out employers that do things that are inappropriate (unethical) in terms of recruitment," she said. "It doesn't happen very often, but it does happen."

Lewis said his goal for the lecture is "not to change you, but to challenge you to think about oppression and (ask) are you a part of it."

The lecture is at 7 p.m. today in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union Ballroom and is open to all students.

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NATIONAL
BRIEFS

Governor tasked with warning before storms

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HOUSTON — The next time a monster hurricane threatens Texas, the governor should be in charge of ordering evacuations to ensure that those in most danger have a better chance to get out first, a task force said Monday.

About 60 people died during September's evacuation as Hurricane Rita churned in the Gulf of Mexico, including 23 residents of a Houston-area assisted-living facility whose bus exploded near Dallas.

Some people died from heat exhaustion and heart attacks after dozens of hours in their cars without water or air conditioning, while others were killed in traffic accidents.

Centralized control over evacuations would be an improvement over the system allowing local officials to order them, the task force found.

"The process could have been smoother," Gov. Rick Perry said while announcing the findings of the task force, which held a series of hearings around the state. "This report will improve planning and coordination, which will result in more effective hurricane response when lives hang in the balance and every second counts."

General Motors plant closes, thousands left jobless

OKLAHOMA CITY — Some workers brought cameras to General Motors Corp.'s Oklahoma plant to take photographs of their work stations and co-workers before the last vehicle rolled off the line Monday, photos that will become treasured keepsakes in scrapbooks.

Others just brought their sadness.

"It's a rough day," said GM spokeswoman Nancy Sarpolis in Detroit. "It's hard to see your co-workers go."

After 27 years, the last vehicle produced at the plant, a white Chevrolet Trailblazer EXT, rolled out Monday evening as GM shut down production in the first of 12 facilities the company plans to close by 2008 as it struggles to match production with market demand.

Detroit-based GM plans to cut 30,000 jobs. The Oklahoma City plant employs 2,400, 2,200 hourly and 200 salaried, but economists said as many as 7,500 jobs could be affected including those at GM suppliers and secondary jobs, like hotel and restaurant workers.

"It's obviously a sad day for the state of Oklahoma," said Mike Seney, senior vice president of The State Chamber, a statewide business and industry group.

Gov. Brad Henry said the state will help displaced employees and their families find new jobs through job assistance, retraining and educational opportunities.

Some plant workers are mulling retirement and others will enroll in GM's Jobs Bank, which allows workers to collect full pay and benefits as they attend classes or volunteer at community agencies, Sarpolis said. Some workers will continue

Bush: Nation moving toward energy technology breakthroughs

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MILWAUKEE — Saying the nation is on the verge of technological breakthroughs that would "startle" most Americans, President Bush on Monday outlined his energy proposals to help wean the country off foreign oil.

Less than half the crude oil used by refineries is produced in the United States, while 60 percent comes from foreign nations, Bush said during the first stop on a two-day trip to talk about energy.

Some of these foreign suppliers have "unstable" governments that have fundamental differences with America, he said.

"It creates a national security issue and we're held hostage for energy by foreign nations that may not like us," Bush said.

Bush is focusing on energy at a time when Americans are paying high power bills to heat their homes this winter and have only recently seen a decrease in gasoline prices.

One of Bush's proposals would expand research into smaller, longer-

lasting batteries for electric-gas hybrid cars, including plug-ins. He highlighted that initiative with a visit Monday to the battery center at Milwaukee-based auto-parts supplier Johnson Controls Inc.

During his trip, Bush is also focusing on a proposal to increase investment in development of clean electric power sources, and proposals to speed the development of biofuels such as "cellulosic" ethanol made from wood chips or sawgrass.

Energy conservation groups and environmentalists say they're pleased that the president, a former oil man in Texas, is stressing alternative sources of energy, but they contend his proposals don't go far enough.

During his visit to Johnson Controls' new hybrid battery laboratory, Bush checked out two Ford Escapes—one with a nickel-metal-hybrid battery, the kind that powers most hybrid-electric vehicles, and one with a lithium-ion battery, which Johnson Controls believes are the wave of the future. The lithium-ion battery was about half the size of the older-model battery. In 2004, Johnson

"This technology right here is going to help us change the way we live in our homes."

PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH

Controls received a government contract to develop the lithium-ion batteries.

The lab, with a looming \$28 million budget shortfall, had announced it was cutting its staff by 32 people, including eight researchers. But in advance of Bush's visit, Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman over the weekend directed the transfer of \$5 million to the private contractor that runs the lab, so the jobs can be saved. Later Monday, Bush visited the United Solar Ovonic plant, which makes solar panels, in Auburn Hills, Mich., outside Detroit.

"This technology right here is going to help us change the way we live in our homes," Bush told reporters.

Bush said he was impressed with the growing commercial uses of solar energy.

BILLS:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

some of their vents to keep other places warmer and making sure to turn off extra lamps that are not needed. This only helps with costs if people keep their heat down and vents shut for a long time, Morris said. Morris suggests turning heat down if residents will be away for more than six hours.

The university, on the other hand, has not felt the effect of these rising costs yet because of a contract with Ameren for this year, but Eastern is already thinking of ways to use energy efficiently. Its contract set the cost of electricity

before the rise, which keeps the university safe from higher costs until next year.

Using energy-efficient washing machines and encouraging students and staff to turn off lights when leaving a room are just two of the ways Eastern is preparing for next year's cost increase, said Mark Hudson, director of Housing and Dining.

As for the on-campus students, the Board of Trustees approved an increase of 7.5 percent in room and board. To ease the increase in cost, housing is making adjustments to give students more value for their money. One example that Hudson gave was that the five-meal swipe plan has been changed to seven with no additional cost.

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India searches for bird flu carriers

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NAVAPUR, India — Indian health officials went door-to-door Monday searching for people sickened by the deadly bird flu strain, while hundreds of German troops disposed of dead wild birds in a desperate attempt to contain the fast-moving disease in Europe.

In Brussels, Belgium, European Union agriculture ministers discussed ways to combat bird flu, such as by vaccinating poultry, as the disease spread to half-a-dozen EU nations.

Malaysia announced the deaths of 40 chickens from the lethal H5N1 strain, the first reported cases of the virus in the country in more than a year.

In Hong Kong Tuesday, a dead magpie found near a street flower market was confirmed to have been infected by the H5N1 virus, the government said. It was the latest in a

spate of bird deaths from the strain in recent weeks.

With India conducting a mass slaughter of birds for a second day Monday, plumes of black smoke filled the air as farmers burned dead chickens in the now-deserted poultry farms around Navapur, more than 250 miles northeast of Bombay.

Local officials near the affected area reported that a 27-year-old poultry farm owner died of bird flu-like symptoms, though tests had yet to determine the cause of death. Samples from at least eight other people hospitalized for flu-like symptoms near Navapur also were being tested, and results were expected later this week.

Inspectors visited homes and farms surrounding Navapur, a town of 30,000 people, searching for signs of illness and making sure even chickens being raised at private homes were killed and properly disposed of.

CAC:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Some teams have a set goal of how much money they want to raise, but the American Cancer Society wants every team member to try and raise \$100, she said.

Larney has raised \$360 for her team so far, but her goal is \$500. Letter writing campaigns, door-to-door soliciting and e-mailing companies and individuals are some effective ways to raise money because Relay for Life raises the most money for the American Cancer Society, she said.

"It's a really great way to raise money for this terrible disease that's killing hundreds of thousands of people each year," Larney said. "A lot of people (are) helping this cause because it's one of the best causes out there."

Stacey Wheeler, a junior family and consumer sciences major, is a member of the group and has dealt with a lot of cancer in her family recently. Her mother was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2003, and her

aunt was diagnosed with breast cancer shortly after.

"It was really depressing, and as much as I wanted to go home, I knew it wasn't going to cure her cancer," she said.

Wheeler has a 75 percent chance of getting breast cancer and a 90 percent chance of getting some type of cancer.

"I try not to think about it all the time, but it's always there and it's something to consider before you do anything," she said. "I stopped going to tanning beds for that reason because you never know when it's going to pop up, and I can't stop it from coming."

After a study was conducted, Wheeler found out cancer runs high in her family because of unavoidable environmental issues in her hometown of Kankakee.

Even though Wheeler is passionate about the cause, she does not believe a cure for cancer will be discovered in her lifetime because research has only been conducted since the 1980s.

"I joined CAC to help families like mine and so many people have fami-

lies like mine nowadays that they need to help and should feel obligated to help," she said. "Even if it's not in your family, look at how many people have been affected by cancer."

Camilla Jenkins, a junior psychology and health studies major, was diagnosed with thyroid cancer when she was 17. She has been cancer free since June 9, 2003, and has participated in Relay for Life for many years.

"I don't worry about little things, I look at the big picture," Jenkins said. "Every day is a new day. I'm much happier now and I realize what could have been."

Jenkins enjoys doing the survivor lap in Relay for Life because she said it's inspiring and she likes to see how many people, old and young, have survived cancer.

"I want to say 'thank you' to everyone everywhere who have put their time and effort into raising money for cancer research," she said. "It's really remarkable to see how many people at our little school have worked so hard to make a difference."

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MEN'S TENNIS

Three-match win streak gets snapped

By JOE WALTASTI
STAFF REPORTER

The Eastern men's tennis team could not keep their three-match win streak alive against Northern Illinois. The men lost 6-1 Friday at Rockford Boylan High School to the Huskies, winning only two of the nine matches played. The men are now 3-2 on the season.

"We felt like we had a chance to succeed," coach John Blackburn said. "But we came up short. I was disappointed with our doubles scores but that was just because I feel like that any time we lose. I am not disappointed with one person, just the outcome."

Junior Chuck LeVaque was the lone bright spot for the Panthers. He won his No. 1 singles match 3-6, 7-6, 10-5 and combined with junior Brandon Lenfert to win the No. 1 doubles match 9-7. LeVaque and Lenfert are now 4-1 on the year in doubles play.

"Me and Brandon came in together as freshmen," LeVaque said. "But we never got a chance to play together consistently. It has been working out for us this year and I think we have a chance to do really well."

Junior Ryan Blankenbaker and sophomore Chris Thomas returned with losing efforts in their singles

matches after a week of being limited to doubles action. Both are coming off knee injuries suffered in the season opener at Marquette. Blackburn felt they were strong enough to get back to singles but that might have been premature for Thomas.

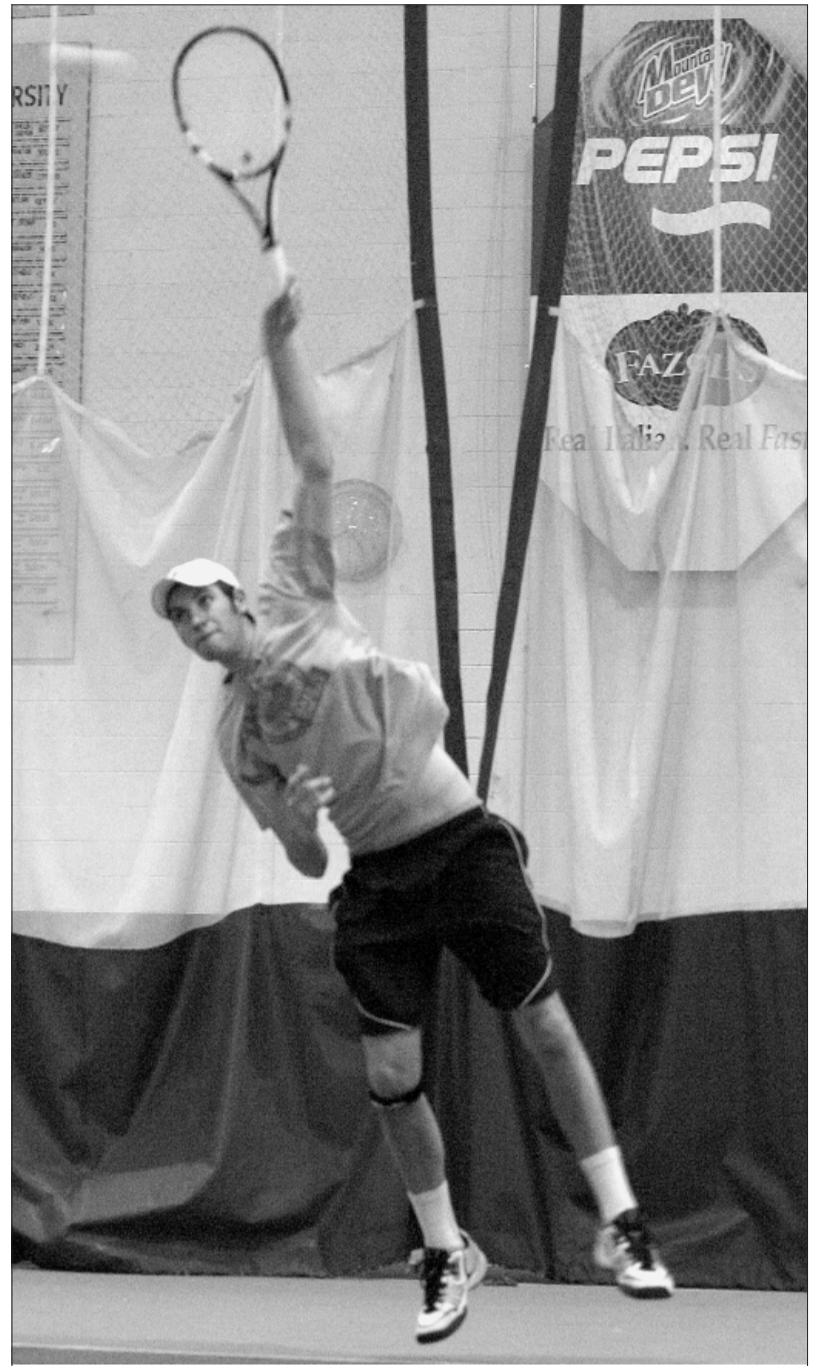
"My knee felt great in doubles," Thomas said. "But at Northern, in singles, it felt really shaky and I thought it might go out again. I think going from practicing in Lantz Fieldhouse to regular hard-courts was the problem."

The women had last weekend off while the men competed but that will be reversed this weekend. The men are now off until March 3 when they head to St. Louis to take on the Billikens.

"There are two ways to look at a long break in play," Blackburn said. "One way to look at it is there is a long gap in matches and there could be some rust."

"The other way to look at it is we get a chance to rest and get a little healthier. I am confident we will be ready to go."

The women have two matches this weekend in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, when they take on South Dakota State and Northern Iowa. The women will join the men at SLU on March 4.



JAY GRABIEC/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Sophomore Chris Thomas stretches to serve during practice last Thursday in Lantz Fieldhouse. Thomas lost his singles and doubles matches this weekend against Northern Illinois University after returning from a knee injury.

TRACK AND FIELD



ERIC HILTNER/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Sophomore hurdler Mike Embry jumps over a hurdle during the 60-meter preliminary heat during the Friday Night Special hosted by Eastern. The event was held in Lantz Fieldhouse on Friday.

Friday Night Special Final Scores

- ◆ Eastern Illinois: 158.5
- ◆ University of Illinois: 152
- ◆ Southern Illinois-Carbondale: 113
- ◆ Illinois State: 77.5
- ◆ Mississippi Valley: 26

Eastern lifted to a win by Strackeljahn's personal best time

Eastern hosted the Friday Night Special last weekend and a strong performance by senior Dan Strackeljahn helped it win the five-team meet. Strackeljahn ran a personal best in the mile with a final time of 4:08.13.

"I feel all of my races up to now have definitely prepared me for conference," he said.

The Ohio Valley Conference championships are set for next weekend at Nashville, Tenn.

Kirk Thornton finished in second place in the 60-meter hurdles and Brenton Emanuel finished second in the 200-meter dash with times of 8.00 and 22.51, respectively.

Sophomore Brenton Pegues is listed to run in five events in the conference championships and is hoping to continue his improvement in the final meet this weekend.

"I trained a lot harder this year than last," he said. "Hopefully, I'll be set up to peak at conference and run my best times."

Brief written by Marco Santana and Derrick Johnson

WALTASTI:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

Pittsnogle is ranked 67th out of 100 because he lacks an inside game. How can you be a power forward without an inside game? A power forward needs to be on the glass getting offensive rebounds, getting tip dunks and setting up his teammates for open looks. What a waste of size.

The basketball size issue has even affected our lowly Panthers.

Saturday afternoon, the Panthers lost a meaningless game to Eastern Michigan.

While the game was hardly the "bracket-buster" it was designed to be, the game was valuable to me because it showed just how dominating a good big man can be. The Eagles starting center, John Bowler, threw his 260-pound frame around the low post and there was absolutely nothing Eastern could do to stop him.

But the question in basketball remains: Where have all the big men gone?

If you or anyone you know have information as to the whereabouts of the big men, e-mail Joe at jwal717@yahoo.com



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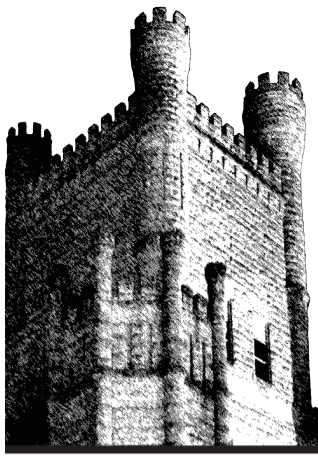
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SPORTS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2006

PANTHER SPORTS CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY	WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS. JACKSONVILLE STATE	5:15 p.m.
	MEN'S BASKETBALL VS. JACKSONVILLE STATE	7:35 p.m.
THURSDAY	TRACK AND FIELD AT OVC CHAMPIONSHIP	All Day
	BASEBALL AT EVANSVILLE TOURNAMENT	Noon
	SOFTBALL AT TULSA TOURNAMENT (VS. CREIGHTON)	3 p.m.
FRIDAY	WOMEN'S TENNIS AT NORTHERN IOWA	TBA

Eastern Illinois University, Charleston



THE EXTRA POINT
JOE WALTASTI
STAFF REPORTER

Where have all the big men gone?

A lot of people say that the NBA is not as good as it used to be. That the quality of play will never be as good as when Jordan still led the Bulls. That it just simply isn't as important or fun to watch as it once was.

David Stern thinks that making players wear collared shirts to games will fix the NBA's image problems.

Others think that too much showboating has pushed away the average fan. I think there is one big problem that most people are overlooking.

Back in the good old days of the NBA in the late '80s and '90s, it seemed that every team seemed to have a marquee big man.

Hakeem Olajuwon, Patrick Ewing, Alonzo Mourning, David Robinson, Bill Laimbeer, Karl Malone, Dikembe Mutumbo, even Eastern's own Kevin Duckworth were dominating in their time and the list does not end there.

Where have all the big men gone?

The All-Star weekend gave me an answer to this question. They are trying to be guards. Dirk Nowitzki, a seven-footer, won the three-point contest. Analyst Steve Kerr kept talking about how much of a mismatch he is on the perimeter. I counter that with how much of a liability it is to have him in the paint. That kind of height should not be wasted at the three-point line. That is what guards are for.

The college game is no exception.

Kevin Pittsnogle is a 6-foot-11-inch, 255-pound monster of a man that lives and dies on the three-point shot. He is the biggest man on his team but his statistics would not indicate that. He has taken 33 more three-point shots than the Mountaineers 6-4 guard, Mike Gansey. Despite having seven inches on his teammate, Pittsnogle only has five more rebounds. I cannot think of any other time in basketball history that someone of such large size has 15 more three-point attempts than he has rebounds.

NBA draft expert Chad Ford has Texas' 6-11 power forward LaMarcus Aldridge ranked as No. 1 pick if the draft were to take place today.

SEE WALTASTI PAGE 11

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

SEARCHING FOR ANSWERS

Season stalls on two-week losing streak

BY MARCO SANTANA
SPORTS EDITOR

Eastern has lost its chance to host a game in the Ohio Valley Conference tournament.

When the Panthers beat Samford on Feb. 4, it was their 10th win of the season and matched their win total from the 2004-05 season.

Four games and more than two weeks later, Eastern is still stuck on 10 wins and has fallen into a fifth-place tie.

Head coach Brady Sallee couldn't pinpoint one reason that the team has stumbled lately, but he had an idea.

"You look a little bit at mental fatigue and physical fatigue," he said. "Nobody on the team has played a meaningful basketball game in February."

The Panthers have lost four straight games including a 20-point blowout to Murray State on Saturday.

Sallee couldn't pinpoint any certain area because different problems have plagued them in the four lost games.

In the loss against Austin Peay, Eastern made it to the free-throw



CARRIE HOLLIS/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Freshman guard Megan Edwards defends senior forward Lauren Sims during shell drills in Lantz Arena on Monday afternoon. The Panthers host Jacksonville State on Thursday evening.

line just 13 times and converted only seven. Free throw shooting was one of their strengths heading into that game.

They followed that loss with a loss to Tennessee-Martin. Their lack of size and strength on the

inside led to Andreika Jackson's 30-point performance in a 70-64 loss that wasn't as close as the final score showed.

When the Panthers put together a good game offensively—they scored 76 points against Southeast

Missouri while allowing 84—their defense can't hold.

"We got our hustle back but it was still not enough to win it," freshman forward Rachel Galligan said.

SEE ANSWERS PAGE 10

SOFTBALL

Eastern starts season cold

Opening trip to Louisiana produces one win and two all-tourney team selections

BY MATT DANIELS
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

With a freshman pitcher, freezing temperatures and teams that have already started their season, the odds would have seemed to be stacked against Eastern.

The Panthers came back from the Mardi Gras Classic in Monroe, La., with a 1-3 record, but first-year head coach Kim Schuette does not see the early record as discouraging.

"Our wins are going to come," she said. "People outside of Eastern may see the negative record and think we didn't do well, but I'm pleased. I was very pleased with the solid defense as we committed zero errors the whole weekend."

In the season opener against the host Lady Indians on Feb. 16, the two teams battled through seven scoreless innings.

The international tiebreaker rule states that the player that made the last out in the seventh inning is placed on second base.

ULM capitalized on this in the bottom of the 8th, as centerfielder Calli Baker doubled to bring home Courtney Tuggle with the winning run.

Freshman Kathleen Jacoby made her collegiate debut in the game and threw seven shutout innings for Eastern, allowing only two hits before Baker's double.

"It was definitely nerve-wracking," Jacoby said of making her first appearance in a college game. "I knew it was going to be a step up from high school but I settled down."

In Eastern's next game against Louisiana Tech, the Panthers trailed 5-0 heading into the bottom of the fifth inning.

Eastern's offense erupted, plating 7 runs to take a 7-5 lead.

After a single by Robyn Mackie brought the Panthers within one, Nicole Eichelberger stepped up to the plate.

"My first two at-bats weren't the greatest and I was just trying to get a base hit," she said.

The senior did more than that, hitting a three-run home run to tie the game at 7. The home run was Eichelberger's first of her career at Eastern.

"The look on Nicole's face as she rounded the bases is why you play the game," Schuette said. "She was like a little kid running the bases."

Eichelberger said it was probably the most memorable moment she has had while at Eastern.

The Panthers would need those two extra runs, as the Bulldogs tied the game by pushing across two runs in the top of the sixth.

Sandyn Short started off the sev-

Softball Stats

- ◆ First game: Louisiana-Monroe 1, Eastern 0 (Eight innings)
- ◆ Second game: Eastern 8, Louisiana Tech 7
- ◆ Third game: Jackson St. 8, Eastern 7
- ◆ Fourth game: Louisiana Tech 6, Eastern 4
- ◆ Junior catcher Sandyn Short and senior 3B Rachel Karos named to all-tournament team.

enth inning with her second hit of the game, setting up the late-inning heroics of junior Katy Steele.

Kelly McMahon pinch-ran for Short and advanced to second on the fourth Louisiana Tech error.

Steele then came through in the clutch, driving in McMahon with a single and giving Schuette her first win as Eastern's head coach.

Two days later, with temperatures at 24 degrees and ice on the field,

SEE COLD PAGE 10