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Eastern Illinois University

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UB presents “Motown with BSU”

Page 3



Skyhawks upset Panthers to end streak

Page 8

UNIVERSITY

Students misconstrue tenure

Professors weigh in on process, status

By Amanda Smith
Staff Reporter

Students have a hard time understanding tenured professors’ roles in the educational process. Tenure is defined as a status of having a permanent post at an academic institution, but some students think professors are careless when they reach this status. There are approximately 300 tenured professors at Eastern.

“I think they are stricter sometimes and set in their ways,” said Kaitlyn Peters, a junior merchandising major. “They aren’t more willing to help.”

However, a professor who is seeking tenure is not evaluated on only one semester of their teaching, but of their entire employment at the university.

Obtaining tenure is a long and

TROUBLE, page 5



CHELSEA GRADY | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Tenured english professor, Dr. Randall Beebe, is easily found in his office after class Thursday morning. Dr. Beebe is one of two for the faculty led summer study abroad program, English Literary Landscapes, to Harlaxton College in Grantham, England.

SERVICE

SACIS “Shaking it” for a good cause

Proceeds donated to Sexual Assault Counseling and Information Service

By Ashley Holstrom
Staff Reporter

Anyone is welcome to break out their dance moves or learn some new ones at “Shake It for SACIS.”

The event is from 6 to 10 p.m. today in the University Ballroom in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union. Proceeds will go to the Sexual Assault Counseling and Information Service, which provides 24-hour services to those affected by sexual assault, sexual abuse and sexual harassment. The dances being taught include bachata, belly dancing, cha cha, hip-hop, line dancing, salsa, swing, waltz and Zumba.

Previous skills are not necessary, as the lessons will be elementary. A dance partner is not mandatory. Melanie Mills, a communications studies instructor and member of the SACIS planning committee, said this is the second annual “Shake It for SACIS.”

Funding for social services has been cut by the state, so they have been doing frequent fundraising, Mills said.

There are three rooms holding three types of dances, and three sessions throughout the night. “People can float from one room to another; it will be informal,” Mills said.

The EIU Dancers, Jolie, Rhythm and X-tacy, and others will perform between each session. Performers will demonstrate the various types of dances being taught.

“Belly dancing will be popular, as will waltzing,” Mills said.

The lessons will be taught by different teachers—including dance teachers from the community—and also people who want to share their skills.

“One couple took waltz classes and are donating their time for the event,” Mills said.

Catherine Miller, fundraiser and event planner for SACIS, said they have added new fundraising activities they did not do last year.

“There will be a 50/50 raffle, as well as a buy a chance raffle, with donated gift cards from Walmart, Cross County Mall, RP Lumber and a tattoo parlor,” Miller said.

There will also be a “sell your selfless deed” program to raise money.

“People can sign up to be sold to SACIS, to do something silly like wear their shoes on the wrong feet or wear their clothes inside out,” Miller said. “I am bringing some skirts for guys to wear for the evening.”

Robyn Carr, interim director of fraternity and sorority programs, will perform “I’m a Little Tea Pot” if the price is right.

There will also be an opportunity to win door prizes, like baseball hats, t-shirts, purses and more.

Sponsors for the event include RP Lumber, Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative, Pilson Auto Center, Ice House Bar and Grill, Topa Farms, Charleston Jr. Women’s Club, Delta Zeta and Jeannie Spivey. A suggested donation of \$5 will be collected at the door.

Ashley Holstrom can be reached at 581-7942 or alholstrom@eiu.edu.

Panther Nation fan bus is a go

Four proposals approved

By Erica Whelan
Student Government Editor

The Apportionment Board approved all four proposals presented by executive members of the student government at Thursday’s meeting, including one to allocate funds for a Panther Nation fan bus to Nashville, Tenn.

Student Body President Michelle Murphy appealed to the board for an allocation of \$1,870 to transport 47 Panther Nation members and a chaperone via bus to Tennessee for the women’s basketball tournament on March 6 and 7.

“This is as raw of a student activity as it gets,” Murphy said. “This is what this reserve account is set aside for. Eastern always has the highest support at tournaments, more than any other school.”

PANTHER, page 5

CITY

Various classifications of licenses offered to establishments throughout city of Charleston

Businesses must obtain liquor license in order to sell

By Kayleigh Zyskowski
City Editor

A familiar scene can be seen across town on any given weekend.

At 9 p.m. on Friday or Saturday, masses of students begin to shuffle from their houses or residence halls and make their way to the local bars. From Lincoln Avenue to the town square, for live entertainment or simply to socialize, students can be found trying to let loose. However, each of these bars have certain regulations from the city and state they must meet in order to serve the community in a safe and efficient way.

Each business that sells alcohol must obtain a liquor license.

The city of Charleston has approximately 35 liquor licenses, said City Clerk Deborah Muller.

The city has different types of liquor licenses ranging in price from \$11,000 to \$14,000.

“We have various classifications of licenses, and the ordinances create how many of each there are,” said City Attorney Brian Bower said.

Depending on the establishment, a different license might be required. These establishments include bars, packaged liquor stores, restaurant and clubs.

“The most popular type of license is the restaurant license; Charleston has 14 of these Class D licenses,” Muller said.

The difference in the license depends on sales of the alcohol.

“A restaurant license is for an establishment where consumption of alcohol must be secondary or incidental to the consumption of food that is prepared on the premises,” Bower said.

There are two types of bar licenses: one that sells alcohol for consumption on premises—which is the type of establishment many students visit on the weekends, and one that sells alcohol for consumption off the premise or for carry out.

“The club license is for service organizations who do not receive a

profit,” Muller said. “This includes the Elks, the V.F.W. or the Moose Lodge.”

Finally, a packaged liquor license is reserved for an establishment that does not allow consumption on the premises aside from for a very few broad exceptions, Bower said.

“Alcohol can be sold and consumed at the licensed premises 6 a.m. to 1 a.m. on every day but Sunday into Monday,” Bower said.

And, if a business is serving alcohol outside of the designated hours, there can be repercussions for the business and the individuals purchasing the alcohol.

“If police drive by a business selling alcohol past 1 a.m., first of all, the people inside can be charged with public possession of alcohol because there is no registered license at that time on the premise,” Bower said. “And, whoever is facilitating the establishment can be charged with a suspension and or fined.”

Kayleigh Zyskowski can be reached at 581-7942 or kzyskowski@eiu.edu.



WEATHER TODAY



Mostly Cloudy

HIGH
34°

LOW
26°

Clouds return to the area this afternoon, with a high of 34. Snow moves in tonight and will stick around through tomorrow morning. Expect around an inch of accumulation with this snow event. We get a break from the snow Saturday afternoon, but more snow impacts the area Sunday night into early Monday.

WEATHER TOMORROW



Saturday
Mostly Cloudy
High: 35°
Low: 23°



Sunday
Cloudy / Snow Flurries
High: 32°
Low: 24°

For more weather information: www.eiu.edu/~news

EVALUATIONS

Perry to evaluate vps

Staff Report

Two and a half years after his arrival, President Bill Perry is preparing to conduct third-year evaluations of vice presidents Dan Nadler and Blair Lord.

Internal Governing Policy 31 states that administrators with continuing appointments will be evaluated at least once every three years using the administrative performance appraisal instrument, an evaluation form with 15 areas to rank, and asks for the subject's strengths and weaknesses.

In an e-mail, Perry encouraged eligible participants to download the form found at <http://www.eiu.edu/~auditing/AdministrativeFeedback-Inst%20Revised%205-6-09.pdf> and return it to him by Friday, March 5.

Perry will provide a report based on the confidential evaluations by the end of the semester.

The evaluation is an extension of the vice presidents' annual performance review.

"The three year review serves as part of this year's performance reviews and provides a longer term perspective on performance," Perry said in his e-mail.

Respondent groups for Lord, provost and vice president for academic affairs, are faculty, deans, department heads and directors in the academic affairs division, vice presidents and staff members in the academic affairs division.

Respondent groups for Nadler, vice president for student affairs, are department heads and directors in the student affairs division, vice presidents and staff members in the student affairs division.

From behind the curtain



AMIR PRELLBERG|THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Senior computer programming major Mallory McPhail (left) and sophomore political science major Cheri Edwards watch performers on stage during "Motown with BSU" Thursday in the Grand Ballroom.

DENNEWS.COM



It's almost Spring

Find out what's growing and what's not around Eastern's campus in Assistant Online Editor Julia Carlucci's photo blog at dennews.com.

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Diversity conference today

EIUnity is sponsoring a diversity conference, "It's Not All Black and White," at 10 a.m. today throughout the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union. The conference is designed to enhance participants' cultural competence and help them effectively interact with people across cultures.

UB presents 'New Moon'

The University Board will show 'The Twilight Saga: New Moon' at 7 p.m. today and Saturday in the Buzzard Auditorium. The movie is free to watch.

Deadline This Friday!

Are you a writer or artist with "the drive" to be published?

Try The Vehicle

EIU's premiere student journal, The Vehicle, is looking for submissions for creative writers and artists for the spring 2010 issue.

All creative writing and any art that can be photographed is eligible for submission!

Submission Deadline:
This Friday, February 19, 2010
No extensions, No exceptions!

Check out our new website for guidelines and to submit online
www.eiu.edu/~vehicle

A Sigma Tau Delta Publication

THE DAILY
EASTERN NEWS

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CAMPUS

“Shout” out to Motown legends

By **Sam Bohne**
Staff Editor

Motown music filled the air Thursday as students performed tributes to their favorite artists from the 1960s popular genre.

All that could be heard from the University Ballroom of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union was the sound of Motown and cheering as performers lip-synced to music by Diana Ross, Stevie Wonder and other Motown artists.

Otis Seawood, a senior family and consumer sciences major, emceed the show, entertaining the audience with contests and comedy between acts.

After a performance of the Isley Brothers song “Shout” brought audience members to their feet, a few students were brought up to the front of the room to participate in a “Shout”

contest. Participants were surprised when they were instructed to dance instead of “Shout.”

Kenuu White, a freshman business management major, liked the “Shout” performance the most.

“I think it was fun and it’s nice that they tried to do an event that was from back in the day,” White said.

Partway through the event, audience members became spooked when one of the large speakers fell from the stage.

“I guess the Motown ghosts got a little upset,” Seawood said.

Other performances included songs from The Marvelettes, Dream Girls and Michael Jackson.

Michael Jackson impersonator Mike Leon, who participated in this year’s Yell Like Hell, was a crowd favorite as members of the crowd yelled “I love you Michael” from their

seats.

Andre Allen, a junior marketing major, was a fan of the Michael Jackson performance.

“I always liked Motown music,” Allen said. “I grew up listening to it.”

At the end of the night, after most audience members had gone, the ballroom was cleaned up while Motown music played in the background.

Davina Batts, a senior sociology major, still wore her cheetah-patterned Tina Turner costume she performed in during the show while she helped clean up. Batts helped organize the event, along with Jasmine Hughes, a junior family and consumer sciences major.

“All we can say is dedication and hard work pays off,” Batts said.

Sam Bohne can be reached at 581-7942 or shbohne@eiu.edu.



AMIR PRELLBERG|THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Freshman theatre arts major Anthony Boyd dances to the Isley Brothers song “Shout” Thursday evening in the Grand Ballroom.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Lack of funding stalls LGBT center

By **Erica Whelan**
Student Government Editor

While conversations about the construction of a resource center for gay students on campus continue, frozen funds and financial struggles have halted progress for the time being.

Nahder Houshmand, chair of the student relations committee, has con-

sidered short-term solutions to the absence of a resource center.

“This semester, funding has kind of put it on the backburner slightly, but I’m not fully satisfied with where we are,” Houshmand said. “We’re not willing to give up at this point.”

Houshmand said more economical alternatives include the possibility of addressing LGBT needs in an existing office.

“Instead of maybe going on this big, separate endeavor, maybe we can incorporate them into the offices that we already have,” Houshmand said.

As for next semester, Houshmand said that the administration is looking into reinstating the Safe Zone Project in the fall. This project would enable interested faculty members to display stickers in or near their offices that indicate an awareness and acceptance to the LGBT cause and lifestyle.

Houshmand supports the initiative as an inexpensive, temporary substitute that can be accomplished within a short period of time.

Last semester, Houshmand headed an effort along with Mark Olendzki, student government vice president

for student affairs, to reach out to the LGBT community.

Aside from co-hosting an informational forum, they approached the Apportionment Board in the effort to allocate funds for a fact-finding trip to the University of Southern Illinois-Carbondale, which houses a physical center. Budget concerns stalled this attempt.

As part of Olendzki’s campaign promise, he told the student senate he intended to visit a series of schools, but this year’s constricted budget inhibited him from doing so.


Instead, he said his focus for the

remainder of his term will revolve around working with the student relations committee to plan and research with the resources at his disposal.


“While a center is something that I passionately believe would benefit our student body and university as a whole, in our current budgetary and economic situation we all have to be realistic,” Olendzki said.

For the full story see online at dennews.com

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VIEWS



Sam Sottosanto

Dreaming in real life

Every day, we wake up in the morning. Sometimes, we remember them. Sometimes, they're so vivid we feel like they're real—but they're not, they're just dreams, figments of our subconscious. But they are still a part of us.

For years, I have been fascinated with dreams; looking up what my dreams mean online as well as in dream dictionaries. I have read up on how to self-analyze dreams, and at one point I even kept a dream diary.

For those of you who say dreams are not important, I disagree with you. Dreams are very important.

They give you insight to what you are truly feeling and if you understand them correctly, you will have a better understanding of your true self. They can help you realize issues you have in your daily life. They can even be the key to the future.

I will give an example. I have always had recurring dreams about my teeth. They either are all falling out, the dentist is pulling them out or they feel loose in my mouth.

After looking up the meaning to this dream a few years ago, I found out that these teeth dreams mean I am a little self-conscious about my appearance, and I tend to worry about what others think of me.

I will admit it—I do sometimes worry about my appearance and what others think about me. It is only natural. I have been doing it for as long as I remember.

But everyone's dreams mean something different to them.

I will give another example.

For smokers who have recently quit, or are trying to quit smoking, when they dream about going back to smoking cigarettes, this simply means the obvious—that they miss the cigarettes.

But for me, a non-smoker, the smoking dream means something incredibly different.

I began to grow a little paranoid because I've never smoked a cigarette in my life, and have no intentions to start. But after having continuous dreams about lighting up a cigarette, enjoying the cigarette, smoking with friends, sometimes strangers, smoking more than one cigarette—I decided to do a little investigating to see what it really meant.

For non-smokers like me, the smoking dream means that I need a break.

And I definitely know I do, having two jobs, being co-president of a registered student organization, five classes, doing homework... it all adds up.

Dreams can even serve as premonitions into the future. They may not be major premonitions, but it's possible.

Heres my last example.

When I was in high school, we had an important project due for class. I had a dream a few nights before the project was due. The dream was vivid; I was walking down the hallways, passing people I knew, and when I finally got to the class and opened my backpack to get the project, I realized that I had forgotten it at home.

And sure enough, the same exact thing happened in real life. I passed the same people in the hallways. And the same feeling of horror crossed my mind when I realized I had left the project at home.

The most important thing to remember about your dreams is this: The more you pay attention to them, the more you will understand what they are trying to tell you.

Sam Sottosanto is a junior journalism major and can be reached at DENopinions@gmail.com or at 581-7942.

THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

"Tell the truth and don't be afraid"

DAILY EDITORIAL

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

Olympics top 'Idol' in ratings, give Americans reason to watch

Curling is not the most thrilling Olympic event to watch.

Related to shuffleboard, the object of the game is to slide a stone across a sheet of carefully prepared ice toward a target area.

Like the majority of the Winter Olympic games, curling only captures our attention every four years.

Yet, when the Olympic season is upon us, we become glued to a number of relatively obscure events. We become compelled to watch because these events are being played on at the highest level, on the grandest stage, and national pride is at stake.

At *The DEN*, we have been tuning into the Winter Olympics in Vancouver 24/7 since the torch was lit on Feb. 12.

While the winter weather has made us miserable, we have witnessed, along with a large international audience, the triumphs and failures of some of the world's greatest athletes.

Spurred by the performance of two of America's favorite Olympians, Wednesday's audience was the largest yet.

On Wednesday, 30.1 million people chose to watch the Olympics in Vancouver, compared to 18.4 million for "American Idol," according to the Nielsen Company, the group responsible for tracking television ratings.

The Olympics are the first show to beat out "American Idol" in the 7 p.m. time slot in more than a half decade.

On Wednesday, we saw snowboarding sensation Shaun White capture his second Olympic gold medal while simultaneously revolutionizing his sport.

After assuring the gold for himself in his first run with a score of 46.8 out of 50, White hit the pipe for a victory run in which he displayed his newest, greatest and signature move: the Double McTwist 1260—a two-flip, three-and-a-half spin acrobatic feat. And we were glued to the TV set, jaws agape.

"For winter athletes, the opportunity to achieve the status of Olympic medalist only comes around a few times in their careers."

We also saw Lindsey Vonn, the first American female skier to win back-to-back World Cup overall championships, become the first American woman to win gold in the downhill with a time of 1 minute 44.19 seconds.

And we watched Shani Davis, a Chicago native, win his second straight gold medal in the men's 1,000-meter speed skating competition.

Despite the excitement of watching our best winter athletes succeed, we know that the winter games will return to another four years of obscurity.

Let's face it, America is not speed skating crazy like the Netherlands, or skiing obsessed like Switzerland. Unfortunately, when Olympic mania has subsided in America, "American Idol" will probably be back on top, and with March Madness approaching, American sports fans will turn their attention back to the Big Three—baseball, basketball and football.

For now though, we should revel in the Winter Games, we should keep in mind that these fine men and women, in most cases, have chosen to strive for best in their particular sport, not for the fame, or the money, but purely for pride and personal satisfaction.

For winter athletes, the opportunity to achieve the status of Olympic medalist only comes around a few times in their careers.

Therefore, we should give them some attention; they are trying to do something truly special even though the incentives are few. And for this reason, it's important that people can watch the Olympics. There is a level of humility to the games that seems to be lacking at the highest levels of the world's most popular sports.

Not only are the Olympics refreshing, they remind us what sports are all about: Having fun and being the best you can be.

FROM THE EASEL

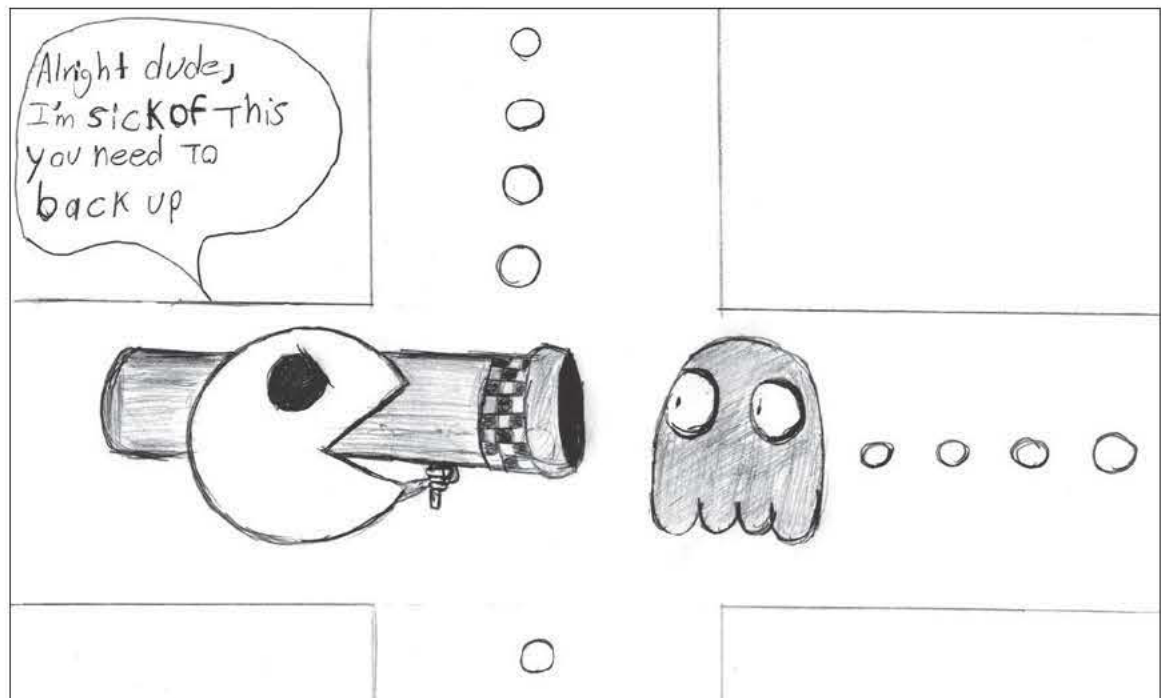


ILLUSTRATION BY IAN WINSTON | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

FROM AROUND THE STATE

School's out with Utah's proposal

By the *Daily Vidette* Editorial Board
Illinois State University

With the vast majority of high school students in America generally having an apathetic attitude toward school, many will go to far lengths like calling in sick to get a day off of school.

These carefree students' prayers may be answered in Utah. Because of a dire budget situation in the state, one state senator is proposing to eliminate the twelfth grade in order to help the state reduce its deficit.

Chris Butters, the Republican state senator, is calling for the state to get rid of the fourth year of high school, saying that nothing goes on dur-

ing students' senior year of high school besides "playing around."

"Almost all the industrial world uses only 11 grades. Why do we use 12? The kids either got one foot in AP classes in college, or they're just running around taking P.E.," Butters said in a story from ABC News.

According to Butters, this elimination would save Utah \$102 million each year, which would give the state some much needed financial flexibility.

This radical proposal is just another example of states looking for ways to save money by cutting back on school funding. A school district in Michigan has reduced the school week to four

days per week, cutting on gas and energy costs. Butters said that idea would save Utah another \$15 million annually.

Even though this proposal would help ease the financial crisis Utah is in, the idea of scrapping Utah students' senior year of high school is ludicrous at best.

There should be hundreds, if not thousands of other items that should be cut before the senior year of high school. It would be much easier to reduce spending for various government programs across the state than it would be to completely alter Utah's education system.

To read more, visit www.DailyVidette.com.

TENURE, from page 1

carefully considered process.

First, a department personnel committee made up of the department's faculty members evaluates the professor.

The professor is then evaluated by their department chairperson, and that evaluation is followed by an evaluation done by the dean of the college.

Ultimately, the decision to give tenure to a professor is determined by the Board of Trustees as well as Blair Lord, the provost and vice president for academic affairs.

Professors are also required to hand in a portfolio and are evaluated on three key criteria: teaching, research and creativity activities and service in the community.

Dana Ringuette, chair of the English department, said a professor must have a wide range of interests, a specialty and be a promising scholar and contributor to the college, as well as the community.

There are currently 33 tenured professors in the English department. Professors in English can apply for tenure after a six-year proba-

tionary period, and are evaluated every year.

Cheryl Noll, chair of the business department, said the tenure process is clearly laid out and all of the regulations are clearly identified.

"The time frame of the six-year probationary period gives professors time to be superior instructors," Noll said.

There are currently 19 tenured professors in the business department; 14 professors are not tenured.

"Unfortunately, a small percentage of professors service drops off a bit

once they are tenured," Noll said.

Randall Beebe, an English professor, has been tenured for about nine years.

The difference between a tenured professors teaching style and a non-tenured professors teaching style cannot easily be seen, Beebe said.

"I don't get to observe," Beebe said.

However, the success and the graduation rate of English students through the department must have something to do with the professors teaching, Beebe said.

Kathleen O'Rourke, an associate professor in the school of family and consumer sciences, also did not see a difference between tenured professors and non-tenured professors.

"The faculty is committed to engaging learning in an academic environment, and critical thought is maximized," O'Rourke said. "All faculty members, with tenure or without tenure embrace the same commitment."

Amanda Smith can be reached at 581-7942 or amsmith3@eiu.edu

PANTHER, from page 1

Murphy's original proposal of \$2,500 for transportation was decreased to \$1,870 after she received a lower bid from a bus company in Effingham.

Murphy also intends to implement a fee of \$30 per passenger to assist in ticket expenses and a hotel room for two days and one night.

Last year, Eastern's former student cheering group, Blue Crew—which disbanded upon the formation of Panther Nation—traveled to Tennessee to support the women's basketball team for approximately \$5,000, Murphy said.

Murphy said she believes that the travel opportunity provides an engaging activity that interests sports fans and hopes to continue the tradition of transporting Panther Nation to at least one away game annually.

Prior to Murphy's presentation, Mark Olendzki, vice president of student affairs, voiced his opposition to the request during audience participation.

"I believe that out of the \$10,000 that Panther Nation garnered up until now, not one cent was set aside for this," Olendzki said. "I find it very irresponsible that this money is being asked for from the Apportionment Board."

Murphy said that as a new organization, expenditures for items like merchandise and a card scanner to admit members at games have been expectedly high. She said that some items, like the scanner purchased for this year, would not be a cost to consider in the future.

Despite Olendzki's address to the board, the proposal passed unanimously and will be presented for a final vote

to the student senate next Wednesday, where Murphy expects it to be met with support.

"It helps students and it's a fun activity," Murphy said. "I hope student government recognizes that. It's important to look at this with an open mind, because to not approve it would be a big mistake for student government."

The board also approved two separate proposals for line-item transfers presented by Eric Wilber, executive vice president. The first was to allocate \$1,300 from a scholarship line item to enable the Student Action Team to lobby in Springfield for the timely dispersal of state-appropriated funds to the university.

Wilber said the money will be used for bus transportation and food provided by Panther Catering.

ed by Panther Catering.

The Student Action Team plans to travel to Springfield on April 21 and is looking into taking another trip sometime during the prior week. Both lobbying dates will be covered under the funds approved by the board, Wilber said.

The proposal passed by a vote of 10-0-1, with one abstention from Pat Lindstrom, the apportionment board adviser.

Wilber also asked for a line item transfer to move funds for non-employee travel to the Illinois Board of Higher Education conference held in Chicago in order to comply with the newly revised Eastern guidelines. The board unanimously approved the transfer.

The last item on the agenda was a

proposed by Scott Lambert, vice president for academic affairs, for an allocation of \$100 for March and April to pay a student to maintain the student government Web site.

He showed members of the board that the current Web site displays the same information from last year that has not been updated since spring 2009.

"Student government had a pretty nice Web site last year," Lambert said. "That's just not happening this year."

His request was unanimously approved, and Lambert intends to advertise the open position of Webmaster, which will require an interview and portfolio.

Erica Whelan can be reached at 581-7942 or elwhelan@eiu.edu

Tuesdays 7pm
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UPSET, from page 8

as they added 12 points apiece.

Eastern struggled mightily from beyond the arc going 3-of-18 for three, with one coming early on in the first half by senior guard Ashley Thomas.

The two others came in desperation time as Nixon drained them late in the game.

The Panthers will look to rebound Saturday against Murray State (11-14, 6-8) at 1:30 p.m. in Murray, Ky. where they have not won since the 2001-2002 season.

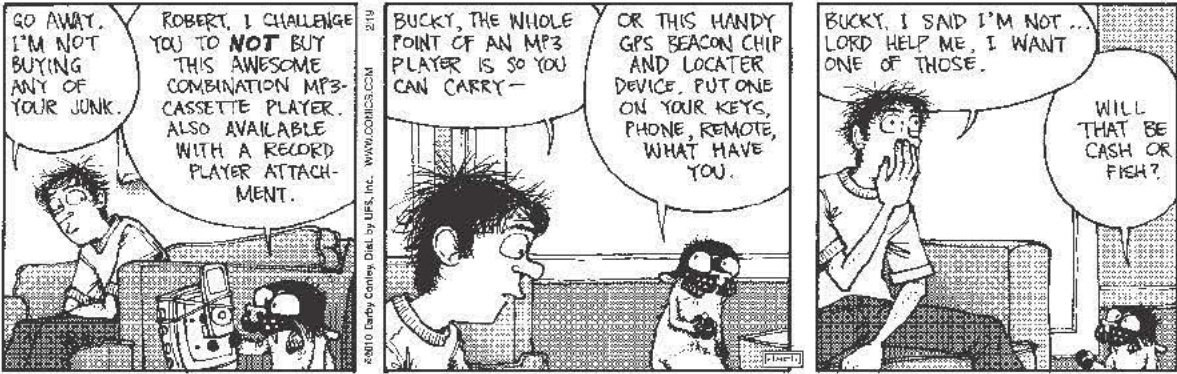
Alex McNamee can be reached at 581-7944 or admcnamee@eiu.edu

COMICS

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE BY STEPHAN PASTIS



GET FUZZY BY DARBY CONLEY



CHELSEA GRADY | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS
Senior guard Jay Smith guards Eastern Kentucky sophomore guard Joshua Jones Saturday evening in Lantz Arena.

WIN, from page 8

Marion is confident his team will continue to play with a hunger to succeed.

"I feel we haven't played our best yet and beating the two and the three teams (in the OVC) is a real good thing right now for confidence," Marion said. "We want to get a home game for the OVC tournament if we win out these games."

This year's game will mark the first time the Panthers have played Northern since 2004. The two in-state rivals have played 85 times with the Hus-

kies holding a 43-42 advantage.

Since Northern is coming to Lantz Arena Saturday, Eastern will have to make a trip to DeKalb during the 2011-12 season.

Austin Peay (15-12, 9-6 OVC) will return the Panthers to conference play as the two rivals battle for fourth place in the league at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in Lantz Arena.

Bob Bajek can be reached at 581-7944 or rtbajek@eiu.edu

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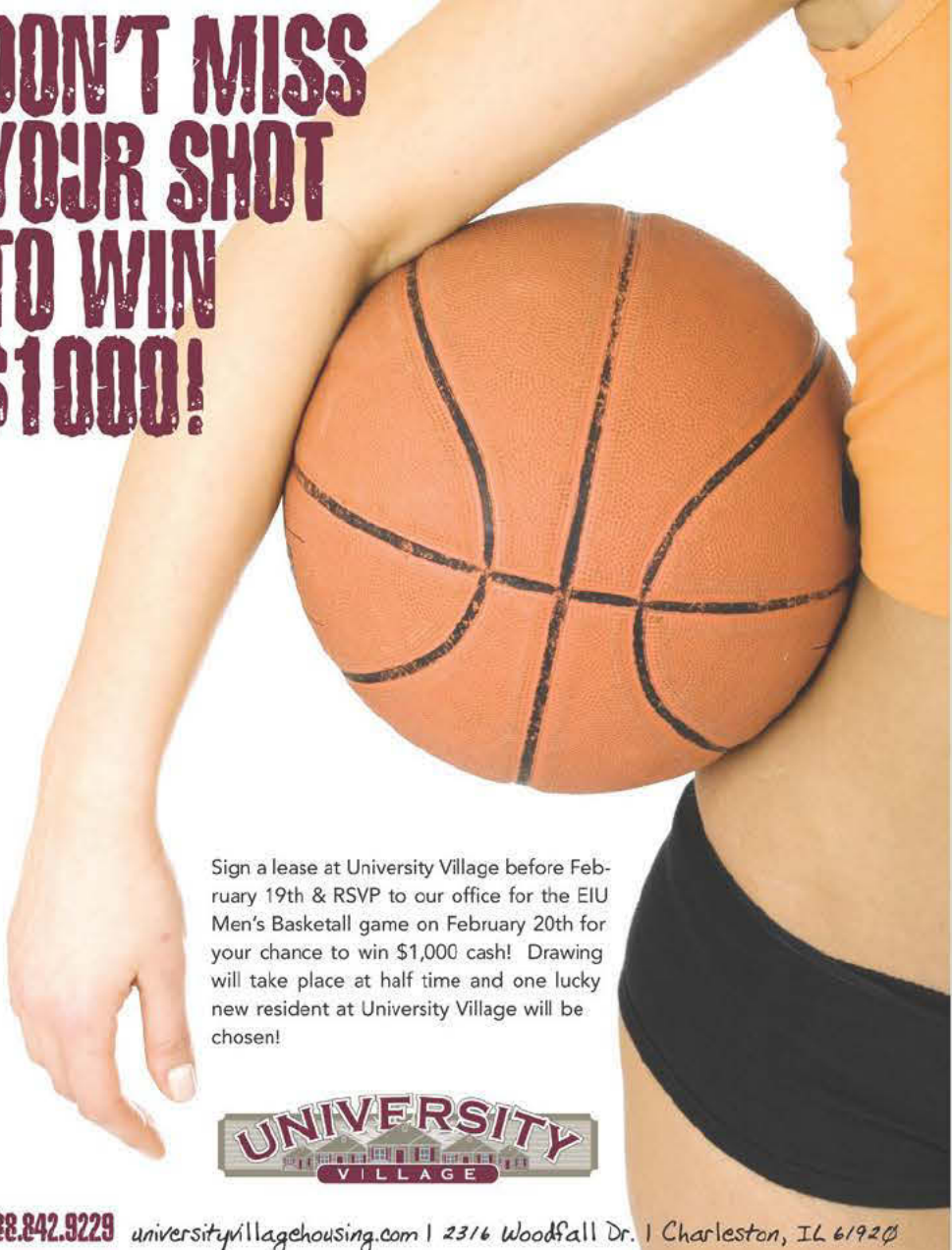
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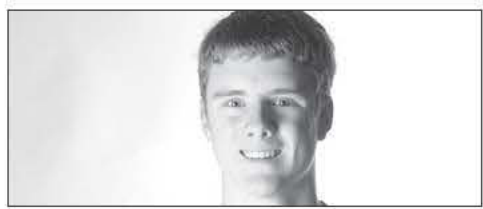


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VIEWS



Alex McNamee

Don't fall in the trap

If there is one game in which the women's basketball team will slip on during its 13-game win streak, it will be Saturday's game.

The Panthers will travel to Murray, Ky. to play Murray State, whom they beat on Jan. 21 64-57 for the first time since the 2005-2006 season.

The victory snapped a five-game winless streak against the Racers. While that win snapped a losing streak against Murray State, all signs would point that Eastern would break its other remaining losing streak against the Racers this weekend.

The Panthers' history in Murray is not a good one. Since defeating the Racers in the 2001-2002 season, Eastern has not had a successful trip down to Murray. Not to mention, the Panthers only beat the Racers by two points in that game.

In fact, the Panthers have only beaten the Racers in the Regional Special Events Center three times during Eastern's Ohio Valley Conference era.

Eastern head coach Brady Sallee has never walked out of Murray's arena with a smile on his face since becoming head coach. With all this being considered, it seems that Saturday's game is a possible slip-up game for the Panthers.

However, one must consider the way Eastern is playing right now.

The Panthers are playing the way they want to play. Not many teams have been able to slow down their transition offense this season or their beast in the paint – senior forward Maggie Kloak.

For Eastern, it is as simple as tossing the ball over a defender's head, into the arms of Kloak and letting her do her thing. In Eastern's last game, Kloak scored 11 points and grabbed seven rebounds as the team's second leading scorer.

Also with 11 points was the team's other biggie, sophomore forward Chantelle Pressley. Pressley added eight rebounds to her stat line.

Seriously, if you cannot stop the Panther bigs then you cannot stop the Panthers. Period.

That is how it has been all season long and it certainly has not changed, except for the fact Eastern has a few other key players who are hot right now. Senior guards Ashley Thomas and Dominique Sims are rolling at the same time.

Thomas is hitting everything that moves as she has is draining three pointers from anywhere she wants, while Sims has been able to defend anyone and everyone. When I say everyone, I mean it. Sims held the OVC's leading scorer, Chynna Bozeman to 15 points last Thursday.

I know what you are saying, 15 points is a decent amount; but Bozeman was shutdown to only three points in the second half.

Everyone is playing big right now and that has been benefiting the Panthers immensely.

Saturday might be considered a trap game given last decade's history, and that is scary.

Even scarier, Eastern is looking more and more like a championship team.

My message for Murray State: "Look out!"

Alex McNamee can be reached at 581-7944 or admcmnamee@eiu.edu.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL | TENNESSEE-MARTIN 71, EASTERN 64

Big upset in Tennessee

Team's win streak ends

By Alex McNamee
Assistant Sports Editor

Martin, Tenn. was upset central Thursday night as Tennessee Martin handed Eastern its first lost of the New Year.

The Skyhawks (8-17, 6-9 in the Ohio Valley Conference) rode a stellar shooting night to a seven-point win, 71-64, as they shot 59 percent from the field and 80 percent from the free throw line.

Once the Panthers (18-9, 13-2 OVC) fell behind in the second half, they could not get the lead back for an extended period of time as they played from behind for well most of the second half.

"Some of the things we were doing on defense were borderline ridiculous," head coach Brady Sallee said.

"We weren't making the simple plays we always make. I mean there was no help at all on defense. We had some silly reach-ins that got us in foul trouble. You just had to look at it and chuckle sometimes because that's nothing we've been doing for a long time now."

Eastern led 29-26 at halftime, but the Skyhawks came out of the locker room firing on all cylinders as they began the second half with an 11-6 run.

After taking a 37-35 lead, the Panthers regained the lead once at the 12-minute mark but played catch-up the rest of the way.

"We were kind of out of our element in playing catch up," freshman guard Ta'Kenya Nixon said.

"Our defense was a big problem and it's hard to win when you're scoring, but so are they. We weren't

"We weren't defending how we were supposed to be all night long; and when we needed a miracle at the end, we just weren't going to get it."

Brady Sallee, head coach

defending at all."

The Skyhawks opened up a 12-point led with 2:42 remaining in the game putting Eastern out of contention.

"We weren't defending how we were supposed to be all night long; and when we needed a miracle at the end, we just weren't going to get it," Sallee said.

"I give (the Skyhawks) a lot of credit because they just flat out whipped us tonight."

Five out of six players that scored for Tennessee Martin reached double-figures including junior forward Darnisha Lyles, who led her team with 19 points while adding seven rebounds.

Tennessee Martin connected on 9-of-18 three pointers in the game, including six in the first half.

The threes kept the Skyhawks in a tight game with the Panthers.

"They were all open looks because we were getting caught up in screens and we really shouldn't have



AMIR PRELLBERG | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS
Freshmen forward Sydney Mitchell attempts a shot against Eastern Kentucky Saturday evening in Lantz Arena. The Panthers faced Tennessee -Martin tonight, losing 71-64.

been," Nixon said.

Nixon had 21 points, though her efforts alone were not enough to vault the Panthers to what could have been their 14th consecutive victory.

"We hadn't been in that position in a while and maybe our streak weighed on us, but in the end you have to defend," Sallee said.

Senior forward Maggie Kloak and freshman forward Sydney Mitchell were the two other Panthers to notch double-figures

UPSET, page 7

MEN'S BASKETBALL | NORTHERN ILLINOIS VS EASTERN

Win or bust for Panthers Saturday

Bracketbuster game a big one

By Bob Bajek
Sports Editor

The Panther men's basketball team will take a break from its Ohio Valley Conference schedule to take on Northern Illinois at 6 p.m. on Saturday in Lantz Arena.

Both teams were picked to play each other earlier this month as a part of the ESPN Bracketbuster series, where mid-majors play opponents that are not in their conference. The game will be aired on

ESPN.

Northern (8-17, 4-9 Mid-American Conference) has lost eight contests in a row. However, Eastern head coach Mike Miller said that the Huskies had a 7-1 stretch from December through January and will be a tough test before the OVC Tournament.

Meanwhile, Eastern (15-11, 9-7 OVC) has been on a season high four-game winning streak and is looking to extend it against the Huskies.

"Coach (Miller) really has been talking to us on how our best basketball needs to come out in February," red-shirt freshman forward

James Hollowell said. "I think this whole season has been building up to this point where we need to carry through and keep building (to) stay hot."

Hollowell has been one of the key pieces in the streak, averaging 15.5 points per game and 5.5 rebounds per game. He also picked up his second OVC Freshman of the Week award after burning Morehead State and Eastern Kentucky.

Senior guard T.J. Marion has also played well of late, averaging 7 ppg, 4.75 rpg and 4.25 assists per night the last four games.

He has sparked the Panthers of-

fense with stellar passing and good energy.

Marion is playing effectively despite a lingering right wrist injury.

"Before the season, I had broken my wrist," Marion said. "It's been bothering me ever since, but I have been playing through it. It's good enough."

The Huskies have a formidable scorer in junior guard Xavier Silas, who leads Northern with 19.5 points per game. Eastern will have to contain him to slow down the Huskies' offense, which is scoring 67.5 ppg.

WIN, page 7

EASTERN SPORTS SCHEDULE					
Baseball Friday at Southeastern Louisiana 6 p.m. – Hammond, La.	Women's basketball Saturday at Murray State 1:30 p.m. – Murray, Ky.	Men's basketball Saturday vs. Northern Illinois 6 p.m. – Lantz Arena	Softball Sunday vs. Temple 9 a.m. – Atlanta, Ga.	Men's Tennis Wednesday at Ball State 2 p.m. – Muncie, Ind.	For more please see eiuupanthers.com
NATIONAL SPORTS					
NBA Mavericks at Magic 7 p.m. on ESPN	NBA Celtics at Trail Blazers 9:30 p.m. on ESPN	NBA 76ers at Bulls Saturday, 7 p.m. on WGN	College Basketball UCLA at Washington Saturday, 8 p.m. on ESPN	NBA Hawks at Warriors Sunday, 7 p.m. on ESPN2	

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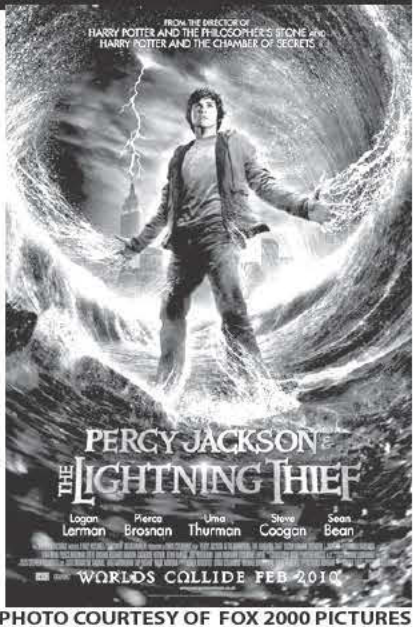


PHOTO COURTESY OF FOX 2000 PICTURES

THAI RESTAURANT MANAGER MAKES COMMUNITY HER NEW FAMILY

By Colleen Kitka
Assistant Verge Editor

Att Maymoundok rushes in and out of the busy dining room. Smells of spicy curries and exotic seasonings wharf from the kitchen.

The small, yet cozy, dining room lined with simple wooden booth seating and basic tables fill the space to seat 50. A friendly, rustic “mom and pop diner” feeling is given off from the authentic Asian décor, and cheerful Buddha statue near the cash register. About 30 people dine within the room on a blistery Tuesday night, and customers choose from an extensive menu of curries, Thai noodle dishes of shrimp, chicken, or beef, soups and appetizers.

Maymoundok or the one other server takes down orders. Maymoundok, learning how to manage her brother's Charleston Thai Restaurant, is separated from her three children and husband who are still in Arkansas.

On Jan. 4, Thont Phetchereun of Champaign bought Bangkok Thai restaurant from friend Tommy Chanthaluxay, who opened it in 2007. Since then the establishment at 1140 Lincoln Ave., was renamed to the T. Garden Thai Restaurant after the owner's first name and to let locals know it is under new ownership.

Chanthaluxay stayed with Maymoundok for one week to help her learn the ropes. Since then she has been on her own with the help of only three other workers; a server and two cooks, one cook being Maymoundok's sister-in-law Bounmy Phetchereun. Thont, who also owns PK Jewelry repair in Champaign, comes down on the weekends to help.

“The first time (running the restaurant alone) I was a little scared,” Maymoundok said, “But when (I) first saw (that the) customer ate all (the) food and liked it, I gained confidence.”

The food industry can be grinding; the employees work seven days a week, 12 hours a day. Maymoundok and Bounmy, live in Champaign and have a one hour commute each way. They don't come in early or stay late to do prep work because of the long days, so they hustle during slow times to get ready for the next rush. No dishwasher is on the payroll, so everyone helps to do the dishes when they have a free minute.

“When you do small business (you) need to have multi-functional person(al).” Maymoundok said. “When it gets busy (we) don't walk, we run!”

Even with Bangkok Thai's short history, it developed a solid



COLLEEN KITKA | ON THE VERGE

Att Maymoundok is the new manager of the T. Garden Thai Restaurant in Charleston. Her brother bought the establishment a month ago, and since then she has been learning the ropes with dreams of opening more branches in the future.

local customer base. The manager said about 50 percent of the customers are locals while the other 50 percent is spread evenly between Eastern workers and students. Many of the same customers keep coming back under the new ownership; some come as far as Paris or Effingham.

Separation from her three children, ages 8, 11 and 14, makes it tough on Maymoundok. She misses seeing them everyday.

Maymoundok said, “The costumers are kinda worried and say ‘How are you doing today? How is business?’”

The locals' concerns and kindness puts smiles on her face and relieves stress. Maymoundok said friendly customers make her days go by faster and help her forget how much she misses her children. She loves the small town feel, and the closeness that comes from it.

The manager has been in the food industry since she was a teenager. Her family moved from Laos to Arkansas in 1985. At 16, she began to work after school in her aunt's restaurant. There she learned to cook and prepare Thai dishes from scratch. When Maymoundok grew older, she became part owner and a cook of another Oriental restaurant. Being comfortable in the kitchen, she was apprehensive at first about serving food.

“When I go out to eat (I) always wondered, ‘Oh my how can (a) waitress carry four glasses of water with no problem?’” Maymoundok said.

Now she swiftly and gracefully serves numerous customers a day. Maymoundok quickly takes orders, offers sugges-

tions to first-time dinners and politely answers calls for carry out orders. She does this all while continuing to learn how to manage the dining room and all the other aspects of running a restaurant.

Even though the owner and manager are from Laos, Maymoundok said the culture, language, ingredients and food are very similar to Thai culture and food because the two countries are neighbors in Southeast Asia.

Little has changed since the restaurant was bought. Maymoundok keeps the menu the same in order to provide customers with a sense of familiarity. She does not want to make any changes too quickly for fear of losing customers, but she plans to add more dishes as she becomes more established.

Janice Coons who works in Eastern's biological sciences department, brings guest Botany Club speakers every other week to the restaurant.

“It offers some ethnic foods in Charleston and it is one of the few places that do,” Coons said.

The T. Garden restaurant is the only Thai food establishment in Coles County.

The establishment is like Maymoundok's child. She plans to bring her family to the area this summer, where they will be closer to their larger extended family in Champaign. In the mean time, the local customers act as her temporary family and keep a smile on this busy women's face.

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COLLEEN KITKA | ON THE VERGE

Bounmey Phetchereun, a cook at T. Garden Thai Restaurant, prepares the Pho Special, a meatball soup with Thai noodles. The restaurant has nine different soups year-round on their menu, including a duck noodle soup and Po Taek soup made with shrimp, squids, mussels and fresh mushrooms.

The path to gold is provided by music

The wind rips at your face as you shred down a mountain. You shift your weight as your snowboard leaves S-shaped carves on the snow covered canvas. Chaos swarms through your ears with only the sound of snow scraping across the bottom side of your board. Your heart pounds and your lungs gasp for breaths within the thin air.

If you are anything like me, you probably want something to either pump you up for the pre-summit or possibly something to clam the nerves as you cruise at mock speeds.

Many professional snowboarders and skiers turn to music for their outlets of sanity to put them in the zone or to keep them from over-thinking the stakes at hand.

Olympic athletes have a tendency of performing well under pressure.

It is my belief that music has much to do with this.

Think of any winter Olympic athlete like Shaun White, Hannah Teter or Daniel Kass, just before they drop in on the half-pipe.

We watch on TV as they are lifted or a snowmobile takes them to the top of the course before a run. They are shown sitting in a tent alone with faces covered and bindings strapped. Two wires dangle from their ears, or possibly a helmet with built in headphones, as they juggle between



Brad York

choices of rock, rap, electronica, etc. Their bodies sit motionless as they envision the perfect run. All their practice, determination and luck boil down to this.

Focus is the only word crossing their minds as they flip through tracks trying to find the song.

According to a *USA Today* article, Kelly Clark was listening to Blink-182's "I Guess This is Growing Up" when she won a gold-medal in women's half-pipe snowboarding at the 2002 Salt Lake City Olympics.

"(The music has) got to be something I'm excited about," Olympic gold-medalist Shaun White said in a video interview on *The New York Times* Web site.

"It's kinda gotta mean something to me. Yeah, some songs fire you up in a certain way. It could be slow song. It could be a fast song. It doesn't have to be a certain thing. For a while there you would play that 'Back in Black'

song, and it would just trigger my instinct to go do my run."

One 2010 Olympic competitor is Louie Vito for the United States. In his video interview with *The New York Times* he said he rarely ever rides without listening to music.

"I like all music, but I listen to rap pretty much every time I ride," Vito said. "It's just nice you know. You kinda have something to cruise to. You have something to get you relaxed, especially for contests. You have everyone lined up on the side of the pipe or you have the announcer talking. You put your music on and you do not hear anything; when you're riding the pipe you don't hear everyone yelling at you in the air. You're just kid of chilling. It blocks everything out."

For more Olympic snowboarders thoughts on music, riding styles, training and more visit *The New York Times* Web site.

Snowboarding is a sport unlike many other Olympic events, but with music it is amazing the accomplishments we have seen from these athletes in just a short period of time.

It makes me think, what else can music help people do?

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PERCY, from page 4B

The film features appearances by Pierce Brosnan, Uma Thurman, Joe Pantoliano and Catherine Keener, but none of these experienced actors come close to stealing the spotlight from rising star Logan Lerman who plays Percy.

Lerman's casualness lends itself to the role as an average high school student into a powers wheeling demi-god.

Percy is helped through his transformation by other demi-god friends such as Annabeth- the daughter of Athena-goddess of wisdom; and Grover- a satyr (half-human and half-goat creature). These characters are played by a superb young cast featuring Alexandra Daddario and Brandon T. Jackson.

Columbus shows the audience that he is comfortable with going big. The sounds are large filled with seat trembling bass. The special effects are shown but not exaggerated. The cinematography is above par as shown in scenes which show giant gods or enourmous monsters with small frail teenagers in the scope of things.

"Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief" is unlike many trend-following movies. Whether it is an all-around family movie the viewer is looking for or an action movie to leave the viewer in "ohhs and ahhs," this film stands tall in a shadow of doubts.

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EDUCATION, from page 4B

Of course, that is what David's character is all about.

Sarsgaard plays David wonderfully, displaying the type of bravado that is so hard to display on screen and making the viewer believe his self-confidence just as Jenny, her father and so many others do.

"An Education" is not perfect. The film tends to drag at times, and eventually one gets sick of seeing instance after instance where David is wooing Jenny at yet another extravagant location.

But it still works within the film. The relationship, as unlikely as it might be, continues to grow as David makes Jenny more and more confident in him.

The film has drawn much praise and many major award nominations, and rightfully so.

"An Education" shows how a young woman can get an education through more than studying her schoolwork dutifully. She acquires a life education that can be achieved through no other way than through her relationship with David.

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JAS

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Ensemble brings spring early

By Michael Cortez
Verge Reporter

The music department invites the community to enjoy an orchestra ensemble that will bring classical music to Charleston and help expand the campus's musical taste.

Audience members will have a chance to listen to works such as "Water Music (suite in F major)" and "Appalachian Spring" at Dvorak Concert Hall in the Doudna Fine Arts Center.

The orchestra is made up of volunteers with musical experience from Eastern and the Charleston community. Richard Rossi, director of orchestra and choral activities, will be the conductor.

Orchestra and staff members describe Rossi as a musical mastermind and great to work with.

"He has high quality musicianship and spends a lot of hours rehearsing throughout the year," said Doudna arrangements supervisor Dan Crews. "He works with all musicians, young and old, and has a really diverse group. It's kind of neat for him to bring all those people together for one common goal."

While the orchestra consists of students and community members in a wide range of ages, young members from the Symphonic Honors Initiative Program (SHIP) will also be playing.

SHIP is an outreach program designed to provide orchestral experience for the talented high school and middle school string players in Coles County.

Rossi said he has a wonderful group to work with and that the concert will be a great experience for them. Members of the orchestra are equally as enthralled to work with Rossi.

Katie Ozark, a freshman elementary and special education major, can only describe Rossi as "a musical genius." Ozark has been playing the viola since fourth grade and was part of the orchestra from the beginning of the fall semester. She says she enjoys playing in the orchestra much more than high school and that the viola section is a one of a kind.

Derek Maninfor, a sophomore piano performance major, has been playing with the orchestra for two years serving as the rehearsal pianist. When a pianist is unable to make it to a rehearsal or if one is needed, Maninfor fills in. He is also fluent in various keyboard parts and will be playing at the concert. Maninfor is another member who recognizes Rossi's conducting talents.

"He has experience in so many areas which makes him so musical," said Maninfor. "As a pianist, it's so easy to work with him. I have it lucky because Rossi's a pianist as well."

He says anybody should come see the concert because it will be a baroque experience.

"Even if it's not your favorite, it's good to come and experience different types of music," said Maninfor. "When people aren't as familiar, they will come and say, 'Wow, that's really good.'"



MICHAEL CORTEZ | OHT THE VERGE

The wind ensemble practices during rehearsal last Wednesday with conductor Richard Rossi, director of orchestra and choral activities. The Eastern Symphony Chamber Orchestra and Collegium Musicum will put on a perform at the Dvorak Concert Hall in the Doudna Fine Arts Center on 4 p.m.

Maninfor plans on playing with the orchestra until he graduates. He said the orchestra is unbelievable and talented.

Evan Fowler, a sophomore musical education major, will be playing the piccolo trumpet. Fowler has been playing since the fourth grade and is looking forward to the concert. He says he enjoys having Rossi as an instructor.

Rossi said he tends to stay away from taking too much credit for the performances because he wants the orchestra members to use the concerts to publicly demonstrate the members' talent.

Rossi said the members all work hard during the rehearsals held in Doudna every Wednesday night.

The orchestra received some help from members of the community. Herbert and Jane Lasky donated a harpsichord made in Canada and some brass trumpets. Herbert never played a musical instrument and is just a fan who believes in what Rossi is doing for his members.

"I think this is a wonderful thing for these young people," said Herbert. "It's good for them to know that they have an audience out there that will listen to them. When Rossi took over, he brought a new vitality to the group."

Herbert said it is OK if someone is not a big fan of classical music, but one should try it.

Jane also believes the program is good for members to get their names out and that they are being led by a good instructor.

"Rossi demands a lot of excellence from these kids," Jane said. "But he is always encouraging. He pays their efforts with respect."

Janet McCumber, a graduate student in conducting, attends the orchestra's rehearsals in order to learn from Rossi. She plans on being a high school choral conductor after graduate school. McCumber has sung under Rossi twice.

"He knows more about conducting than anyone I know," said McCumber. "Working with him has been real beneficial. It is also beneficial for the members to be working with him."

McCumber has worked with the orchestra before and said they are a blast and very easy to work with.

"They play on a professional level," said McCumber. "I expect the concert to be no less wonderful as the rest of them."

The performance is on Sunday at 4 p.m. The cost is \$12 for general admission, \$10 for Eastern employees and seniors and \$5 for students

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Microsoft offers Zune based phone

The Associated Press

BARCELONA, Spain— Apple Inc. rocked the wireless business by combining the functions of a phone and an iPod. Now, more than two years later, Microsoft Corp. has its comeback: phone software that works a lot like its own Zune media player.

The software, which was unveiled Monday at the Mobile World Congress, is a dramatic change from previous generations of the software that used to be called Windows Mobile. But Microsoft is, for now, sticking to its model of making the software and selling it to phone manufacturers, rather than making its own phones.

Microsoft's mobile system powered 13.1 percent of smart phones sold in the U.S. last year, according to research firm In-Stat.

That made it No. 3 after Research In Motion Ltd.'s BlackBerry and the iPhone. But Microsoft has been losing market share while Apple and Google Inc.'s Android gained.

All the while, the market is becoming increasingly important. People are spending more and more time on their phones, and the devices steer people to potentially lucrative Web services and ads.

Phones with the new software will be on the market by

the holidays, Microsoft said. All four major U.S. carriers will offer phones, just as they sell current Windows phones.

The new ones won't be called "Zune phones," as had been speculated. The software will be called "Windows Phone 7 series."

Forrester Research analyst Charles Golvin said the new software looked promising, but that it was also Microsoft's "final chance to get it right."

He notes that those who have current Windows phones don't seem excited about the brand - many of them believe their phones are made by Apple or Nokia Corp., according to his firm's research.

Andy Lees, senior vice president of Microsoft's mobile communications business, said Windows Mobile suffered from the company's chaotic approach to the market. The software maker gave phone hardware makers and wireless carriers so much freedom to alter the system and install it on so many different devices that none worked the same way.

As a result, while other phone vendors such as Apple linked their hardware and software tightly to ensure a better experience, Windows Mobile might not have looked like it quite fit on a certain handset.

Microsoft is imposing a set of required features for Win-

dows phones. Manufacturers must include permanent buttons on the phone for "home," "search" and "back"; a high-resolution screen with the same touch-sensing technology as the iPhone; and a camera with at least 5 megapixels of resolution and a flash. Hardware QWERTY keyboards will be optional.

A test device from Asus, which Microsoft used to demonstrate the new phone software for The Associated Press in Redmond, Wash., also had a front camera and a speaker.

Most of the built-in applications complement or connect with existing Microsoft programs or services, such as the Bing search engine.

The games "hub" connects to an Xbox Live account and lets players pick up where they left off with multiplayer games. They will even be able to play games against PC users. Microsoft also turns to the Zune programming for the phones' entertainment hub, much in the way the iPhone's music library is called iPod. And when users plug the phone into a PC, the Zune software pops up to manage music, movies and podcasts.

About 18 months ago, Microsoft stopped most improvements to its existing smart-phone operating software and started from scratch on Windows Phone 7 Series.

‘Percy’ strikes surprise in more ways than 1

Rating: B

By Brad York
Verge Editor

At first glance “Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief” looks as though it is just an attempt at duplicating the success of the Harry Potter series. Although this is obviously Fox 2000 Pictures’ intention, the film surpasses expectations in more ways than one.

Craig Titley, Eastern alumni, adapted the screenplay for the movie from the book of the same title by Rick Riordan. Titley and director, Chris Columbus, director of the first two Harry Potter films, had to make some changes to the book’s storyline when transferring it to Hollywood. One simple example of this is when Percy Jackson is 12 in the novel and is a high school student in the movie.

Percy is the son of a human mother and the god of the sea, Poseidon. Percy is known as a demigod, half-human and half-god. The film hints at this throughout the first quarter of the film, but Percy is not told who his father is until he visits the demi-god training camp for the first time. Percy is accused by Poseidon’s brothers, Zeus and Hades, for stealing the most powerful weapon in the universe, Zeus’ thunderbolt. Percy is then forced to prove his innocence the extent of the film.

The movie’s script is strong and well rounded. Each character shows an even balance of wit and comedic timing, which makes

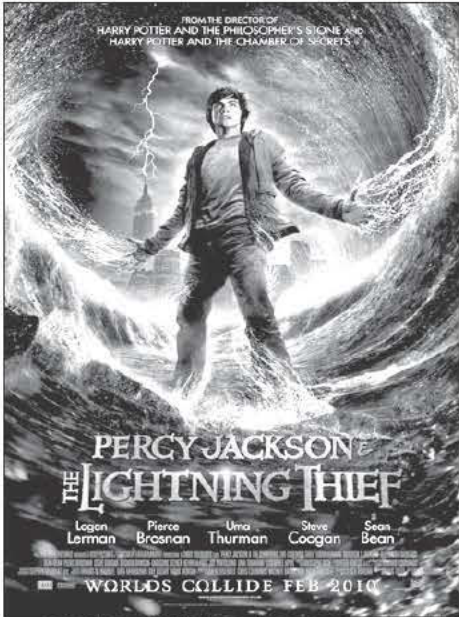


PHOTO COURTESY OF FOX 2000 PICTURES

the movie flow well even through tough times, like when Percy loses his mother while fleeing to the world of the gods.

The movie graces over parts of the storyline without showing much emotion from any of the actors. Being as this is a children’s themed movie, it is understandable leaving out a heart-felt crying scene of Percy’s emotions. The movie lacks emotion altogether though.

This may sound dry and uninteresting, but the action sequences coupled with the visually compelling mystical worlds and creatures make the viewer forget the flaws quickly.

Percy , page 2B

Mulligan’s ‘Education’ earns the film a passing grade

Rating: B

By Collin Whitchurch
Managing Editor

On the surface, “An Education” does not seem like a unique story.

The film is a coming-of-age story about a 16-year-old girl named Jenny (Carey Mulligan) in 1960s London who has overbearing parents with dreams of their daughter going off to Oxford and becoming a proper, young lady.

Of course, those dreams are derailed when Jenny meets David (Peter Sarsgaard), an older man in his 20s who shows her what a lavish life she can live by taking her to concerts, plays and to Paris.

Sounds pretty cliché, right?

Wrong.

The story does what simpler films fail to do. It brings the viewer in as we see the dangers Jenny begins to find herself in. We see foreshadowing throughout the story, constantly worrying that David is too good to be true for Jenny and waiting for her to get her heart broken.

The star of the film is Mulligan. She carries herself with the uncertainty a teenage girl would have when the world turns awry. In multiple scenes, she reminds you of a young Audrey Hepburn in “Breakfast at Tiffany’s” when David’s older, female friend gives her a makeover.

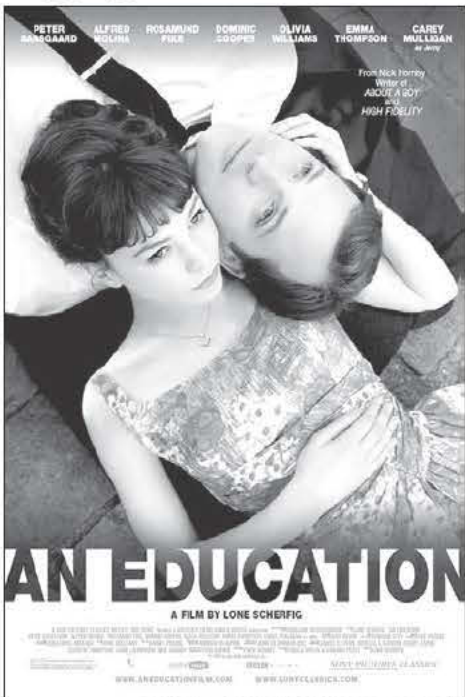


PHOTO COURTESY OF BBC FILMS

The only thing unfortunate about Mulligan’s performance is that it overshadows that of Alfred Molina. Molina plays Mulligan’s overbearing father who soon befriends the smooth-talking, easily likable David. His powerful force in controlling his daughter takes over scenes early in the film, and it is surprising to see how quickly and easily he takes to an older man trying to woo his adolescent daughter.

Education, page 2B

Sequel keeps same format and following

DEVELOPERS SHOW GROWTH IN NEW STORYLINE WHILE BUILDING OFF THE BASICS

Rating: A

By Jonathan Posch
Staff Reporter

Mass Effect 2 starts with a bang (quite literally) and never holds back throughout its more than 25 hour quest. While it isn’t perfect, its shortcomings are few, and it is not a game to miss.

At its core, Mass Effect 2 is a squad based shooting game with role-playing elements in the form of gaining new abilities and stronger attacks. There are numerous classes to pick. Some focus on using psychic abilities (called biotic attacks), others with guns and anywhere in between.

Depending on what class the player chooses, the way Shepard plays could be wildly different. The arsenal of biotic attacks in combination with guns is varied and most importantly, fun.

Commander Shepard is once again the main character, and the captain of the spacecraft called the Normandy in the far off future of 2185. He is tasked with recruiting a squad of the galaxy’s most deadly individuals to help take on a race of aliens known as the Collectors, who are abducting entire human colonies for their own insidious agenda.

The story is pretty straightforward; it’s obvious the Collectors are bad guys and Shepard needs to take them out. It is the characters Shepard meets along the way that add much needed weight to the story, and that is the real reason Mass Effect 2’s story feels so fantastic.

In between the missions, expect to have indepth conversations with each character on the Normandy. Learning of their past and what their feelings are in addition to where their true loyalties are becomes just as engrossing as the shooting sections.

The player begins to feel for each of the characters and really cares about them. This is only amplified by the consequences if the mission does not go exactly according to plan. Any (and all) of Shepard’s squad mates can die permanently in the final mission. It’s shocking how much the player cares when one of their favorite characters, that they have gotten to know for hours, gets taken out.

This being a sequel to the original Mass Effect, the story pretty much assumes the player is up to speed on what’s going on in the universe.

Even more important however, is how the decisions the player has made in the first game directly impact the sequel. The game scans the players Xbox 360’s hard drive for information on what they did or did not do. Characters that the player let live (or die) could come back to help or hinder them, and entirely different storylines could play out based on even the smallest choice. Couple these decisions from the first game with the choices made throughout the second and expect

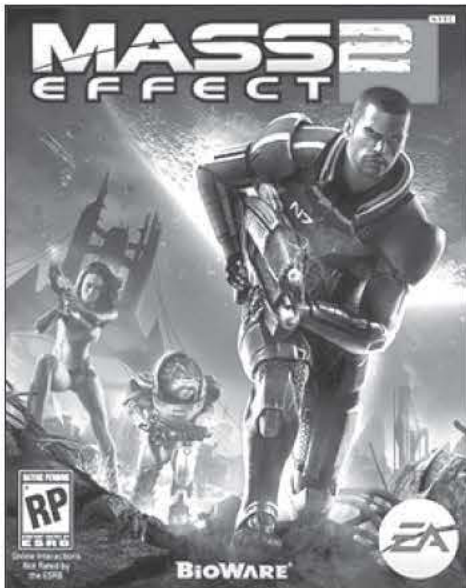


PHOTO COURTESY OF BIOWARE

to have a significantly different game play experience.

Shepard will travel to dozens of planets where the player can engage in story missions or side missions. The story missions are required to continue the game, while the side missions are there for those who want to earn a little extra money and experience to level up their squad.

Do not be fooled though, many of the side missions are some of the most interesting parts of the Mass Effect universe and helps make the plot just that much deeper.

This is accompanied by a rousing orchestral score worthy of any other space opera, the music is always appropriate as it kicks in and dies down at the right times. The weapons sound very satisfying, and their sound specifically is what helps give them that extra “kick.” The cast of characters is voiced extremely well by a wide array of voice actors.

The one gripe I have against Mass Effect 2 is a series of minor technical issues. Expect to see a graphic abnormality ev-

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ery couple of hours like the camera in a cut-scene being aimed the wrong way, or a character walking through someone else. These blemishes are noticeable but only because the rest of the game looks so good.

The world of Mass Effect 2 is believable, the gunplay is fun and satisfying and the characters the player meets seem almost hauntingly human, even if they’re aliens (go figure.)

It improves upon the original game in every way, but is also strong enough to stand on its own merits if the player has never experienced the first.

When Mass Effect 2’s climactic conclusion plays out and the credits roll, expect to be compelled to do it all over again. Seeing how things can change by making different choices and how that affects the overall outcome, demands a second play.

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