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THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

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JANUARY
31
2005

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Eastern Illinois University, Charleston

From lawn ornaments to homemade bongos, evidence rooms hold all

ODD ITEMS

BY KEVIN SAMPIER
SENIOR REPORTER

Items from hundreds of crimes, ranging from the humorous to the tragic, are stored in darkness, waiting to be destroyed or help bring a criminal to justice.

Sitting behind a neatly organized desk listening to Kris Kristofferson songs is the man who oversees the two rooms filled with tools of the criminal trade stored in the Charleston Police Department basement.

"Anything that can be used as a weapon, you name it, it's probably down there," said Lt. Rick Fisher, who has been in charge of the evidence rooms for nearly 10 years.

Down a set of concrete stairs in the middle of a narrow hallway, a stack of more than 30 lockers is where the process begins.

After officers seal, mark and store items recovered on the job into the appropriate lockers, evidence officers like Fisher enter the items into the evidence rooms.

At the opposite end of the hall, a metal door marked "dark room," for its former use as a police photo lab, is a fitting title for a room that now serves a darker purpose; this is where evidence from all homicide cases is stored forever, separately from all other items.

Brown cardboard boxes are stacked on two sets of shelves along both sides of the room, which is about half the size of a residence hall dorm.

The handle of a two-foot knife protrudes from one box, a tower of six beer kegs taken in a burglary line the back of the room.

Each piece of evidence tells a different story but perhaps the most well-known lies in five boxes stacked from floor to ceiling in the far left corner. In them is the evidence from the Anthony Mertz murder case.

Mertz was convicted of killing Eastern student Shannon McNamara in her home on June 12, 2001. During the trial in Charleston, prosecutors



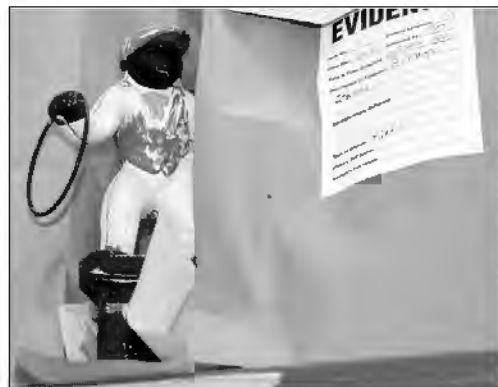
STEPHEN HAAS/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTOS

Above: Detective Rick Fisher holds a martial arts weapon known as a sai in the Charleston Police Department evidence locker Friday afternoon. The weapon is scheduled to be destroyed. Right: Along with weapons, alcohol, fake IDs and drug paraphernalia, the evidence locker at the Charleston Police Department also has ceramic lawn ornaments.

said Mertz broke into McNamara's Fourth Street apartment while she was sleeping, sexually assaulted her and murdered her with a knife.

He was given the death penalty in February 2003.

Police reports, interviews, photos, lab results, video tapes and other physical evidence from the case are stored here forever because law requires the department to permanently keep evidence



from all homicide cases, Fisher said. "It takes up quite a bit of space down there," he said of the Mertz evidence. "There's quite a bit of evidence, I know."

SEE EVIDENCE PAGE 7

Council candidates dwindle

Two drop now, three more will follow suit in February

BY BRIAN GARTLAN
STAFF WRITER

Charleston is preparing for a City Council primary election that will take place on Feb. 22 and will reduce the number of candidates running for positions to eight.

The 13 City Council candidates were narrowed down to 11 after two withdrew their candidacies

before the Jan. 14 deadline, said Betty Coffrin, Coles County Clerk.

Lin Harrison and Debbie Huddleston have since been removed from the ballot, but vacancies will not be filled because this isn't a party situation, she said.

Both women retired early in 2003, using an early-retirement program offered by the city and now are unable to run.

"No early retirees can run for a public office," Huddleston said.

They were hoping a bill would be passed by the Illinois Senate so they wouldn't have to drop out, she said.

Harrison was unavailable for comment, but Steve Harrison, her husband, said she registered knowing if the bill didn't pass, she couldn't run.

"No early retirees can run for a public office."

DEBBIE
HUDDLESTON,
FORMER
CANDIDATE

SEE CANDIDATES PAGE 7

Proposal to reduce meth use

BY ERIN MILLER
CITY REPORTER

In an attempt to reduce the amount of homemade methamphetamine laboratories, local Illinois lawmakers are seeking to pass a bill that will make it essential for pharmacies to put certain medications behind the counter.

The chemical pseudoephedrine is used to produce over-the-counter drugs such as Sudafed and Claritin-D, and it is an essential ingredient in producing methamphetamines, said Sen.

Dale Righter.

Righter, Rep. Roger Eddy and Rep. Chapin Rose are presenting the bill that will not only require these medications be put behind the pharmacy counter, but also the consumer will need a photo identification and will need to sign to purchase the medication, Righter said.

"The only thing they have to have (to produce methamphetamines) is Sudafed, other ingredients can be substituted," said Pat McCallister, professor of family and consumer sciences

and member of the Coles County Meth Coalition.

Oklahoma was the first state to pass a statute requiring retailers to control the selling of Sudafed, Righter said.

"Within two months there was a 50 percent decrease in methamphetamine laboratories, and in 10 months there was an 80 percent decrease," Righter said of Oklahoma after it passed the statute.

The bill only applies to products

SEE METH PAGE 7

Guest speaker to address Drug Court progress

STAFF REPORT

The Coles County Meth Awareness Coalition will be having a guest speaker from Drug Court at its Tuesday meeting.

Steve Kelly, supervisor of the adult division of Coles County Court Services, will speak about the progress the new Drug Court has made.

It will also touch on what the

community can do to help support it.

The public is encouraged to attend and learn about methamphetamine and how the community can help fight its production.

The coalition meets 4 p.m. the first Tuesday of every month at the Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center in Mattoon. This Tuesday it will meet in the Education Center.

FIVE-DAY OUTLOOK

TODAY

37

24

Cloudy

TUESDAY

38

26

Partly cloudy

WEDNESDAY

40

27

Partly cloudy

THURSDAY

40

30

Mostly sunny

FRIDAY

42

32

Mostly sunny

COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY NEWS

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS-AUSTIN Texas bill would end race data collection

By HALIE PRATT

DAILY TEXAN

(U-WIRE) AUSTIN, Texas - The University of Texas will no longer be able to consider race as a factor in student admissions if a new House Bill passes.

House Bill 589, filed Wednesday by State Rep. Fred Brown, R-College Station, would prohibit state agencies from collecting and storing citizens' racial information. The bill specifically addresses the state's university systems.

The University used race as a factor in admission this past semester, but would be prevented from doing so next year if the bill passes.

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH Giant wave hits Semester at Sea ship

By MICHAEL MASTROIANNI

THE PITT NEWS

(U-WIRE) PITTSBURGH - A wave came out of the darkness on Wednesday morning and crashed into the ship hosting Semester at Sea. Hundreds of students are on board, including 80 from the University of Pittsburgh. The U.S. Coast Guard reported two crewmembers were injured, but the wounds are minor and no students were hurt.

The M/V Explorer was en route from Vancouver, Canada to Pusan, South Korea, in the first leg of its journey around the world when it encountered stormy weather in the North Pacific Ocean Tuesday afternoon. At approximately 3 a.m. ship time Wednesday, the 50-foot wave struck the Explorer's bridge, resulting in a brief loss of power and engine control.

UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA Stolen moose parts sent to foresters

By KATHERINE SATHER

MONTANA KAIMIN

(U-WIRE) MISSOULA, Mont. - The saga between lawyers at the University of Montana and loggers took a dramatic turn Thursday when the apparent remains of Bertha the Moose were found in a plastic bag in the Forestry Building.

Bertha -- a moose head that's long been treasured by the School of Forestry -- was stolen last semester by a group of law students known as the Moose Liberation Organization.

On Wednesday night, the group left a piece of moose hide and a piece of Bertha's nose in the school with a note reading: "Due to an unforeseen accident, Bertha has met an untimely end. We are currently searching for a suitable replacement. We hope that Bertha's remains provide closure in this difficult time."

STACK IT UP



KELLY CREMENT/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Emanuea Galateano, a sophomore geology major, and Kari Keller, a sophomore psychology major, make a snowman in the South Quad Saturday night.

WTF?

Man runs cab dating service

NEW YORK (AP) - If you look hard enough, you can find anything in New York. So for the lovelorn who are burned out by the bar scene, fed up with personal ads or tired of scouring the Internet, there's another place to look for that perfect date: the back seat of a taxicab. Specifically, Ahmed Ibrahim's cab.

The 50-year-old Egyptian immigrant sets up blind dates for his single passengers through a free, impromptu matchmaking service he runs out of his yellow cab. He said he finds mates, or at least dates, for about eight people a week.

PEOPLE

Jackson blasts recent media

SANTA MARIA, Calif. (AP) - The child molestation case against Michael Jackson is finally ready for a trial that promises to be like no other. Jury selection begins Monday, with Jackson expected to appear, in a case that has become a symbol of the American obsession with celebrity.

Early Sunday, Jackson issued a court-approved video statement on his Web site, calling recent media leaks in the case "disgusting and false" and predicting he would be acquitted.

ONLINE POLL

What aspect of the Superbowl are you most excited about?

- A) The game.
- B) The commercials.
- C) Another wardrobe malfunction!
- D) An end to all the hype.

VOTE @ THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS.COM

TODAY'S EVENTS

FIND INFORMATION FAST AT BOOTH LIBRARY	2 P.M.	BOOTH LIBRARY E-CLASSROOM
A free tutorial session providing tips on how to use library materials to find information.		
WHAT EMPLOYERS WANT WORKSHOP	6 P.M.	MARTINSVILLE ROOM, UNION
Find out what employers are really looking for in candidates.		
STUDENT PAYROLL	ALL DAY	STUDENT PAYROLL OFFICE
Student pay date for the month of January is Jan. 31, 2005.		

COUNTING DOWN

2

Days until
Groundhog's Day.

WORD DU JOUR

brodie:
1. a suicidal or daredevil leap; wild dive
2. a complete failure; flop

THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

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HAVE A SUGGESTION?

If you have any suggestions or ideas for articles you would like to see in *The Daily Eastern News*, feel free to contact us at 581-2812 or by e-mail mmwilliams1220@aol.com.

FIND A MISTAKE?

Let us know if you find a factual error in *The News* so we can provide the correct information to other readers. Contact the editor at 581-2812 or mmwilliams1220@aol.com.

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Bonus pay for Hencken proves love for Eastern



COURTESY OF EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

University President Lou Hencken and his wife, Mary Kay, are donating his 2.5 percent salary raise to a scholarship in his name and his wife's name and also toward the Presidential Scholars program.

President gives 2.5 percent of salary to school

By JENNIFER PERHAM
ADMINISTRATOR

Although Eastern President Lou Hencken is the lowest paid university president in Illinois, he's still giving back financially.

Eastern's Board of Trustees approved a salary increase for Hencken at the Jan. 24 meeting. The board voted unanimously to increase Hencken's salary by 2.5 percent. Hencken's former salary was \$173,000, but now he will receive \$179,375.

Hencken announced at the meeting that he would give the difference between the two figures back to a scholarship in his and his wife's name

and also toward the Presidential Scholars program.

BOT chair Nate Anderson said he was not surprised that Hencken gave back.

"I am not surprised he gave back to Eastern because he has a great love for this university," Anderson said. "He is the lowest paid president in the state and is still giving back."

Anderson said Hencken has not received a raise since the beginning of his contract.

Hencken was notified early on Monday, Jan. 24, that the board would discuss his pay raise later that day at the meeting and he had discussed with his wife what he would like to do with the raise.

"We have given money before to the university, but I feel before you can ask alums for money for scholarships, the question is if you, as a president, have given," Hencken said.

Hencken and his wife, Mary Kay,

have a scholarship in their name that they will donate the money to as well as a presidential scholarship.

Part of Hencken and his wife's decision dated back to when they were awarded scholarships while they attended college.

"We decided to start the scholarship because we realize we probably would not have been able to attend college if there hadn't been scholarships," Hencken said.

Hencken said there is \$10,000 in the Lou and Mary Kay Hencken scholarship right now that is available to undergraduate education majors who live in Coles and Douglas Counties.

Hencken will also donate some of his salary to the Presidential Scholars Program.

A scholarship was established under this program last year. The scholarship benefits academically talented students with four years of paid tuition and fees.

"Awarding student scholarships is an investment and a way to say we think they will be successful," Hencken said.

The program awarded 20 scholarships last year.

"I know I am the lowest paid president, but it has never bothered me what I made," Hencken said. "I feel like I am well compensated and I enjoy what I am doing."

Hencken said he was pleased with the salary increase and will continue to seek funds for scholarships.

Hencken said some of the things he has been proud of while serving as president are finding dollars for Blair Hall and Doudna Fine Arts Center, managing the budget and retention rates.

"People will see I am excited and care about this university and they, too, will go in the right direction of helping others," Hencken said.

Running for the money

Dash for Cash event awards student \$1,500 toward tuition

By APRIL MCLAREN
CAMPUS EDITOR

When Mark Lieber walked into Lantz Arena Thursday night, he expected only to watch the men's basketball team take the court against Samford University.

In addition to the game, however, Lieber had the opportunity to walk on the court himself and earn some extra money.

Lieber, a freshman pre-engineering major, signed up for Dash for Cash,

which was sponsored by Eastern's athletic department, and ended up leaving Lantz with \$1,500.

"We wanted to increase attendance at the basketball games," said Dave Kidwell, assistant director of athletics.

He said the attendance of Thursday's game was approximately 2,400.

Dash for Cash was an event that involved students shooting free throws then dashing to the opposite end of the court to pick up as many \$1 bills as possible. The contestant with the most bills won \$1,500 toward tuition.

Kidwell said of the students who signed up to participate, nine were chosen. There were three rounds of three students, then each winner of the three rounds advanced to the championship round in the second half of the game.

Lieber became the winner after he

picked up 23 \$1 bills in the championship round.

In the beginning of the contest, Lieber said he was not exactly sure if he had a chance in winning the money, but when he asked his competitors about their past basketball experience, his spirits were lifted a bit.

"Both people said they hadn't played basketball in a long time," Lieber said. "So I figured I had a chance."

Since Lieber only owes 65 cents on his current student bill, he will receive a check for \$1,500. He said he has not made plans for the money yet.

Kidwell said he thought the event worked out great and plans to do other events similar to Dash for Cash to encourage students to show their support at sporting events.

"Students were really excited and really got into it," he said.



STEPHEN HAAS/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Mark Lieber, a freshman pre-engineering major, participates in the Dash for Cash event during the men's basketball game against Samford Thursday evening in Lantz Arena. Lieber won the contest, and received a \$1,500 tuition waiver for his prize.


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OPINION

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

MONDAY, JANUARY 31, 2005

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COLUMN

Iraqi people earn first democratic victory



MICHAEL SCHROEDER

SENIOR, HISTORY
EDUCATION MAJOR

Schroeder is the Opinion Page Editor for The Daily Eastern News.

This weekend the Iraqi people stepped up and showed they are in fact ready for democracy. Despite threats from the insurgents and several attacks throughout the day, which killed 44 people, approximately 60 percent of registered Iraqis voted. A number that was far greater than expected by both doubters and the White House.

A *Chicago Tribune* reporter described the atmosphere to be one of jubilation much like a carnival with droves of people voting and waving their purple democracy dyed fingers in the air, taunting the insurgents. It was a good day in the war on terror.

Credit is due to the millions of Iraqis who braved the threats and voted. Credit is also due for the Iraqi National Guard who, along with help from the Coalition Forces, protected the voters.

While it was a successful day, the war has not been won. This was just a battle; however, it is the best day since Saddam was found crawling in a hole 13 months ago. The turnout in the Sunni regions was very low; which while expected, does not allow too much solace to be taken in the election.

The country could still fall into a civil war, pitting the voting Shiites, Kurds and Christians against the insurgent led Sunnis. The Sunnis, who represent 20 percent of the country, boycotted the election since a majority of Iraq would not vote to keep them in power as they had been for the past several decades through Saddam's Baath Party. The incoming government has the daunting task of returning order without restricting the Iraqi people's freedom.

Reporters in Iraq on all three major cable news networks said they were impressed with the performance of the Iraqi National Guard. A good sign for families of American troops hoping their soldiers will be home soon.

Stateside, the success of the election has had interesting political results. President George W. Bush has declared it a 'resounding victory,' a sentiment that was echoed by Republicans throughout the country.

Democrats, though, sang a different tune. While complimenting the resolve of the Iraqi people, they did not say anything that would be complimentary of the Bush Administration. After doubting throughout the campaign, the ability of Iraq to carry elections, Sen. John Kerry said on "Meet the Press" that the world is still not safer than it was prior to the War on Terror and questioned the legitimacy of the Iraqi elections.

On "Hardball," Chris Matthews brought up a very good question, "Does this mean President Bush was right?"

Half the country will say yes, half will say no.

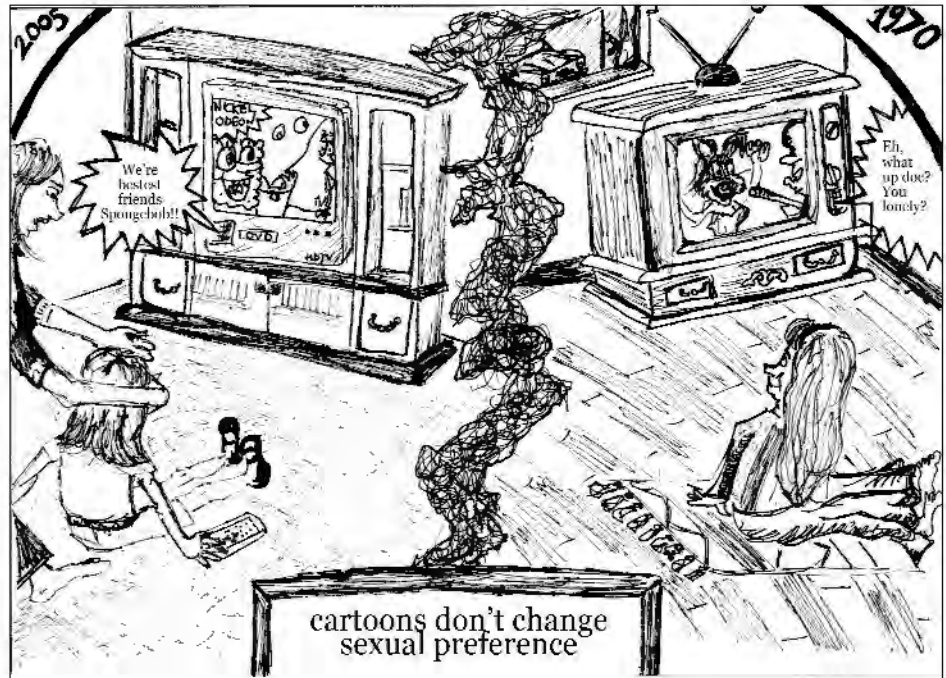
Today's events showed that democracy is possible in the Middle East; the people do want the freedom. There is no denying that the Bush Administration was wrong in some areas, specifically underestimating the insurgency. However, the Iraqis have had their first taste of freedom and from the reports and the video clips, they seemed to have loved it.

From here, the Bush Administration is right if the Iraqi people do step up and continue to work from the momentum gained this weekend. It won't be easy and very well could involve a civil war. There is no denying that as long as President Bush is in office they will have support from American forces and 53 percent of the country.

The Iraqis could relent and fall to the insurgents, but I don't see that happening. Today they showed me they want democracy and are willing to risk their lives for it. The rush of excitement that seemed to overtake the Iraqis that voted won't be easily forgotten by them or others.

As much as it hurts Democrats throughout the country, it appears that Bush was right that democracy is possible in the Middle East. It is far off and nowhere near guaranteed, but it is possible, and one can only hope to soon be a reality.

EDITORIAL CARTOON BY RICH LAKEBERG



EDITORIAL

Ballard built strong program

Last week, Eastern's head women's soccer coach Steve Ballard resigned and left behind a program that, along with men's track, has built itself into one of the most successful programs at the university.

Ballard leaves after spending 10 years at Eastern where he was the only person to ever coach the women's squad. He became the head coach in 1994, taking the reigns of a program that had never before played a game.

In a twist of fate, Ballard will be doing the same thing when he takes over as the new coach at Texas-San Antonio, a school that is now starting a women's soccer program just like Eastern did 10 years ago.

In the process of developing the team after its initial season, Ballard found tremendous success recently when his Panthers won four straight Ohio Valley Conference championships and made appearances in the NCAA College Cup each of those years.

While the Panthers couldn't manage a victory in any of their four matchups in the College Cup, they have established a domination in the OVC that is tough to rival.

Throughout his career at Eastern, the only moment of doubt for Ballard came in 1999 when he was asked to take a paid leave of absence from coaching while the university looked into charges of sexual harassment from members of his team.

While the charges were dropped in the end, and

At issue

The legacy of women's soccer coach Steve Ballard

Our stance

Ballard's success is all the more impressive, considering he built the program from the ground up and overcame considerable controversy.

Ballard came back as the coach of the Panthers, that one situation is a dark cloud hanging over an otherwise bright career.

No matter what happened to the Panthers on the field, that incident is something many players and fans of Eastern's women's soccer will not forget.

However, the way Ballard came back from scandal and remained a solid coach leading Eastern to remarkable success helped rebuild his legacy.

But athletic achievement wasn't all that Ballard stressed as a coach.

Another major emphasis for the departing leader was effort in the classroom. His athletes responded with the highest grade point average

of any athletic team in 2003 when they posted a 3.53 GPA.

Overall, the way that Ballard handled his team while becoming the dominant team in the OVC, and the way his players responded to him, both academically and athletically, solidifies him as one of the great coaches in Eastern's history.

The fact that he built the program from the ground up and was able to persevere through some very difficult accusations only makes his record all the more impressive.

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

YOUR TURN: LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

This space is reserved for the readers to support or criticize in 250 words or less any opinion or news story published in this paper.

Readers can bring in their letters to the newsroom located at 1811 Buzzard Hall or email them to mmwilliams@aol.com. Any reader

wishing to have a cartoon published on Fridays can also come to the newsroom.

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 **mmwilliams1220@aol.com**.

Shepard charms 7th Street

By LAURA GRIFFITH
ASSOCIATE CAMPUS EDITOR

Under dim lighting in the underground venue, audience members could hear Courtney Shepard's acapella voice, singing the Fugees' version of "Killing Me Softly," as she walked on stage to kick off her first headlining show.

Shepard, the winner of the EIU Talent Search held in December, performed at 8 p.m. Thursday in the 7th Street Underground.

The show, under Shepard's direction, was no traditional concert, with opening bands playing their separate sets before the headliner steps up on stage. The performers, including Shepard, singer/songwriters Courtney and Kristen Bosco and three members of Elsinore: singer/songwriter Ryan Groff, pianist Mark Woolwine and percussionist Dave Pride rotated on and off stage in random order to keep the audience on their toes.

"I just decided I didn't want to do just the traditional set," Shepard said. "I didn't want to do what everyone else does. I like to be different."

Shepard enjoyed being in charge of her own show, which was one of her prizes for winning the talent show.

"It was really nice being able to stay on stage," she said, explaining that



LAURA MILEN/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Courtney Shepard performs her original song, 'I'm Sorry' to a crowd at the 7th Street Underground on Thursday night.

open mic night performers are forced to get off stage so the next performers can get ready to play. "It's addicting, being on stage."

Shepard opened the two-and-a-half-hour show with rapper Monty Buckley in a duet, then stepped aside to let Monty perform a short solo set.

Shepard and the other performers did covers by various artists like Incubus, Janet Jackson, Sarah McLachlan, Jewel and Shania Twain. Almost half of the songs performed were original compositions by the artists, including "I'm Sorry," an original composition by Shepard which she performed at the talent show.

Kaitlyn Kingston, a senior English major, was Shepard's roommate over the summer.

"We sang together, and I already knew she had a great voice," Kingston said.

Some audience members were amazed the show was put together so well in a period of only a few short weeks.

"I expected her to be real good, but I didn't expect her to be as good as she was," said Tim Lasswell, a freshman communication studies major. Shepard's show ended with a guest musician, her brother Geoff Shepard, who drove from Springfield, Ill., to accompany her on the guitar while she sang "Crash" by Dave Matthews Band.

"It seemed like (the audience) really enjoyed it," Shepard said. "They were with me."

Student involvement at next faculty forum

By KYLE MAYHUGH
STAFF WRITER

The campus will have a chance to discuss student involvement in their education tomorrow in a faculty and student forum.

The topic of the forum, co-sponsored by the Faculty and Student senates, will be "Student Engagement: Pathways to Success."

"It's a forum run by both faculty and the students on how to improve education at Eastern," said Bud Fischer, chair of the Faculty Forum committee of the Faculty Senate.

The purpose of the forum is to learn how students spend their time at Eastern, and how they can be encouraged to take advantage of opportunities to become involved in their own education.

"I'm looking forward to speaking directly with students and finding out how we make this a better academic environment," said Faculty Senate member John Stimac.

Faculty Senate holds forums once or twice a year, Stimac said, but not with such a widely intended audience.

"This is the first time we have integrated the forum with students and faculty," Stimac said.

Fischer said invitations have been sent to all student organizations and the response has been good.

"We are hoping for a pretty good crowd," Fischer said.

Besides Student Senate, organizations expected to attend include the Panhellenic Council, the Interfraternity Council and University Board.

"I'm looking forward to speaking directly with students and finding out how we make this a better academic environment."

JOHN STIMAC, FACULTY SENATE MEMBER

The forum will cover four topics: "Level of academic challenge," "Active and collaborative experiences," "Student interactions with faculty" and "Enriching the educational experience."

The moderators for each topic include three Faculty Senate members and Dirk Muffler, student vice president for student affairs.

The forum will be during the normal meeting time of the Faculty Senate, which will not meet this week.

The forum is scheduled from 2 to 4 p.m. tomorrow in the University Ballroom of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

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STATE
BRIEFS

Emotions high as Iraqis vote

ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

SOUTHGATE, Mich. (AP) — Iraqi expatriates traveled hundreds of miles to cast ballots Sunday in their country's election, joyously dancing in ethnic garb and expressing relief that family members were able to vote safely despite violence in Iraq.

Zeinab Alkhafaji, 20, a Shiite Muslim from the Detroit suburb of Dearborn, said she was encouraged after hearing from relatives in Iraq Sunday morning that the election was going relatively smoothly in most places.

"I feel like I'm going to cry. This is my first time ever voting," said Alkhafaji, who came to the United States in 1994.

Nearly 26,000 people registered in five U.S. cities Chicago, Detroit, Los Angeles, Nashville, Tenn., and Washington to vote for the 275-member assembly that will draft Iraq's new constitution.

More than 16,000, or 63 percent, of registered Iraqi expatriates in the United States had voted through Saturday, according to the International Organization for Migration.



Marques Sewell, a senior economics major, reads information from the brochure from Tony Kanaan's Indy race car Friday in Lumpkin Hall. Kanaan, the 2004 IndyCar Series Champion, had his car on display in Lumpkin Hall for Kevin Savoree's speech.

DANIEL WILLIAMS/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Eastern alumnus Savoree speaks on 'The Business of Racing' in Lumpkin

BY CHRIS CALVERT
STAFF WRITER

An Eastern alumnus visited his alma mater and brought an Indy car show with him.

Kevin Savoree, co-owner of the Andretti Green racing team, spoke Thursday night in Lumpkin Hall, to students and public alike on "The Business of Racing."

Savoree told the audience about the cost of running the Andretti Green Racing team. Their budget for four complete cars is \$36 million per year. A car, body only, costs around \$310,000, while a completed car costs \$850,000. The team Savoree is

involved with has eight.

The team is also self-insured, as it sets aside between \$1.6 to \$1.8 million for wrecks and repair.

"I was surprised at how much it cost to build just one car," said Andrew Leach, a sophomore marketing major.

Savoree is also responsible for all commercial aspects of the team. He deals with promoting the races as well as successfully maintaining the major sponsors.

He also talked about the personal sides of business, the relationships that one makes and the reflection process.

Savoree said he has had both success and failure in life and that one needs

to "reflect back on those successes and failures in order to see what went wrong or what made it work."

He also talked about the importance of hard work, strength and never giving up.

"Never let your compasses get off," Savoree said.

The relationships that Savoree made throughout life helped him to get where he is today as the co-owner, chief operating officer and president for finance of a very successful Indy racing team.

Savoree was an accountant for Larsson, Woodyard & Henson when a client of his told him that a friend in Chicago, Jerry Forsythe, needed an

accountant to help organize an Indy racing team. That is how Savoree got started in the racing business.

"It is nice to know that you can do something else as an accountant other than sitting at a desk all day," said Tita Vandewalker, a junior accounting major.

The Andretti Green Racing team brought home the 2004 championship with driver Tony Kanaan who has finished every lap since he has been with the team.

Savoree also helped organize and promote the first of three non-oval track Indy races, which will take place April 3, 2005 on the streets of St. Petersburg, Fla.

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EVIDENCE:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

it sits awaiting a court trial where it will be used as evidence, owners to reclaim it or to be destroyed.

Hundreds of confiscated alcohol bottles, fake IDs, bad checks and small amounts of marijuana are all labeled and bagged.

A 7-foot homemade bong made from clear plastic pipe stands propped against a wall next to a rusty double-barreled shotgun and several rifles.

A martial arts sai, a small lawn jockey ornament wearing white pants and a red shirt, and hundreds of boxes containing miscellaneous pieces all call this room home.

A torn shirt from a domestic battery, a stolen jewelry box from a residential burglary, finger prints, a baseball glove, drug needles and razor blades stored in a biohazard container; all these things have a history.

For example, it holds the golf club one man used to bash another man's car after words were exchanged in a heated argument.

"Fortunately, it wasn't somebody else's head," Fisher said.

The room once held \$60,000 that found its way to Charleston after it was taken in a Milwaukee bank robbery eight years ago.



STEPHEN HAAS/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Alcohol has its own shelf in the evidence locker at the Charleston Police Department. Fisher said they get more beer than hard alcohol.

About 25 handguns and long guns are locked away in a special weapons locker and when it's time to destroy the guns, they will be taken to a foundry in Decatur and melted down.

Alcohol and drug evidence like small amounts of marijuana, cocaine and pills are all flushed down the men's locker room toilet, while large

amounts of drugs are sent to the Illinois Drug Task Force or burned, Fisher said.

To ensure the evidence is destroyed properly and not stolen, two officers are always present when the destruction occurs.

"The stuff we handle is all, fortunately, fairly minor and nothing anyone would want to jeopardize their

career over," he said.

Whether they're melted, burned or flushed, the future and fate of each piece of evidence depends largely on the crime it was involved in.

But one thing is certain as the cold, gray metal door closes and locks behind Fisher—the items in the dark room will never again see the light of day.

METH:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

containing the powder form of pseudoephedrine because the gel and liquid forms can't be cooked down to make methamphetamines, Righter said.

"A lot of retailers have moved to this type of program because they are losing a lot of products from theft," Rose said.

If retailers control this problem, it prevents people from buying six boxes of Sudafed without record of their purchase and prevents children from purchasing this drug because they will need photo identification, McCallister said.

The methamphetamine problem is also costly to law enforcement agencies, and it is an increasing problem in rural areas because the drug is inexpensive to produce, Rose said.

"There will be political opposition to this bill, but we can overcome that with support," Righter said. "This will be an uphill battle."

Along with Illinois, other states are working on passing similar legislation so this problem can be controlled, he said.

"This is everybody's problem, and it may be inconvenient to get these medications but weighing that against a child in a meth lab where it could blow up is worth it," Eddy said.

CANDIDATES:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The primary election in February

will eliminate three candidates to reduce the number to eight, and four candidates will be named winners after the April 5 final election.

The 11 candidates still in the race are Brent Byrd, Jim Dunn, Jeffrey Lahr, Jerry Loew, Bob Murphy, Larry Rennels, Lorelei Sims, T.K.

Slaughter, Thomas Watson, John Wilson and John Winnett.

Coffrin said the two candidates who receive the highest number of

votes in April will serve a four-year term and the other two will serve two-year terms to start a staggered pattern.

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The Eastern Illinois University Health Service's Health Education Resource Center is currently accepting applications for the following 2005-2006 graduate assistant positions: Sexual Health Education Coordinator, Substance Abuse Education Coordinator, and Marketing, Promotions and Web Design Coordinator. The 12-month contracts calls for the selected individuals to work 19.5 hours per week preferably beginning May 16, 2005. The selected applicant must be admitted to the EIU Graduate School, meet all Graduate Assistantships, be enrolled and take classes during the summer, fall and spring terms. For position descriptions, additional information or application form and requirements visit www.eiu.edu/~herc/gaintro or the Health Education Resource Center, 5019 Student Services Building, 581-7786.

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STUDENT EDUCATION ASSOCIATION: meeting Mon. Jan 31 at 6 p.m. in Kansas Room (3rd floor of Union) The good, the bad, the ??? Come and hear about registration questions and conference information. All education majors welcome!

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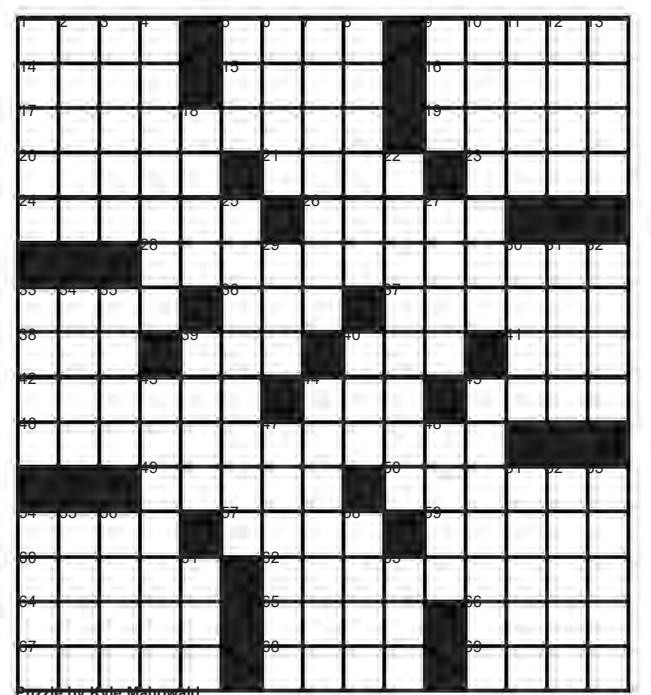
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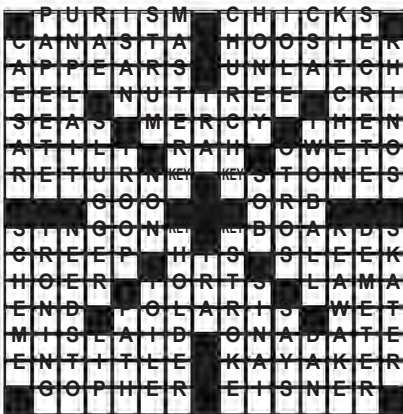
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|--|---|-------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 33 Russian leader of old | 54 Prefix with bytes or bucks |
| 1 God of love | 36 Knock the socks off of | 57 Out of control |
| 5 Diehard | 37 African fly | 59 Spice of life |
| 9 Give the heavens | 38 ___ Lilly & Co. | 60 Spend, as energy |
| 14 Audition goal | 39 Alternative to dial-up Internet: Abbr. | 62 End of 46-Across |
| 15 Pet on "The Flintstones" | 40 "Quiet!" | 64 Ditch digger's tool |
| 16 Bravery | 41 Cheerios ingredient | 65 Plant's start |
| 17 Start of a Yogi Berra quote | 42 The "i" in pi ² | 66 Slightly |
| 19 Online periodical, briefly | 44 When a plane is due to take off: Abbr. | 67 Play (around) |
| 20 "This is only ___" | 45 B & B's | 68 Bookie's quote |
| 21 Ear part | 46 Start of a Yogi Berra quote | 69 Telescope part |
| 23 Off the wall | 47 Mild cigar | |
| 24 Susan who wrote "Illness as Metaphor" | 48 New Haven collegians | |
| 26 Peruvian beast | | |
| 28 End of 17-Across | | |



ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



- | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|---|
| 18 And others: Abbr. | 39 Old-fashioned showdown | 56 Cyclist's choice |
| 22 Environmentalists' celebration | 40 TV classic "The ___ Erwin Show" | 58 Monopoly card |
| 25 Boxer's weak spot | 43 What bouncers check | 59 Harry Potter's messenger bird Hedwig, e.g. |
| 27 Beat to a pulp | 44 Went from apes to humans | 30 Lots and lots |
| 29 Harry Potter's messenger bird Hedwig, e.g. | 45 Prohibited | 31 "No man ___ island ..." |
| 30 Lots and lots | 47 Melodious | 32 New Jersey hoopsters |
| 31 "No man ___ island ..." | 48 Volcano flow | 33 Actress Garr |
| 32 New Jersey hoopsters | 51 Seeing red | 34 Venetian blind part |
| 33 Actress Garr | 52 Big name in bottled water | 35 Gives a hand |
| 34 Venetian blind part | 53 Mails | |
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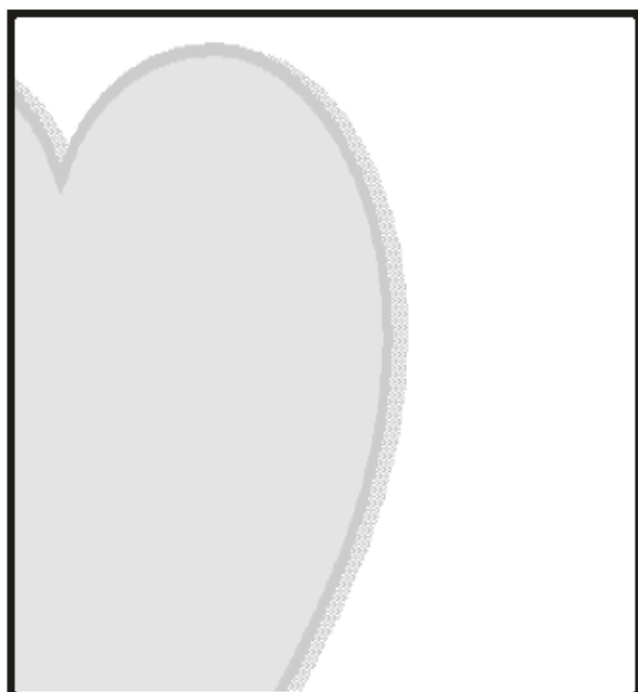
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BOONDOCKS BY AARON MCGRUDER



Panthers' four-guard lineup trumps Gamecocks'

BY DAN WOIKE
SPORTS EDITOR

The Panther men's basketball team found itself with a chance to make an adjustment late in the second half Saturday night at Lantz Arena.

Eastern could either continue to try and guard Jacksonville State's four-guard lineup, or head coach Rick Samuels could counter the Gamecocks' unorthodox lineup with a four-guard set of his own.

Samuels chose the latter, and the Panthers overcame a ten-point half-time deficit to defeat Jacksonville State 66-63.

"They were playing with four guards all night," Samuels said. "We just had trouble matching up."

The Panthers (8-11, 3-5 Ohio Valley Conference) trailed the Gamecocks (4-16, 0-8) by four, 55-51, when freshman guard Bobby Catchings entered the game for freshman forward Austin Hogue. Catchings joined senior forward Andy Gobczynski, senior guard Emanuel Dildy, junior guard Josh Gomes and junior guard Jake Sinclair on the floor.

The five stayed in the game for the final 7 minutes, 11 seconds and matched the Gamecocks' quickness — especially when guarding the OVC's assist leader, junior guard

Walker D. Russell.

The Gamecocks' offense, Samuels said, consisted of Russell dribbling past screens on the perimeter. The offense forced Samuels into subbing Catchings for Hogue.

The change allowed the Panthers to switch on defense, instead of fighting through screeners, Gomes said.

"Austin (Hogue) can't switch off onto Walker D. Russell," Samuels said. "Bobby's long ... slides his feet very well and can be kind of intimidating with his length."

The substitution paid off when Catchings switched onto Russell with just over 3 minutes left and blocked the smaller Russell's three-point attempt.

On the ensuing possession, Dildy found Gomes spotting up beyond the arc, and Gomes delivered by hitting the three-pointer to put Eastern up 62-57.

"Bobby's long, so he's able to give (Russell) a couple of steps and still be able to get out on his jump shot," Dildy said. "It was probably the biggest play of the game."

Dildy covered Russell for much of the game, and it was a defensive assignment that made him work.

"Everything runs through him, and you didn't get any breaks," Dildy said. "Ninety-five percent of the time the ball was in his hands.



STEPHEN HAAS/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Senior forward Andy Gobczynski defends Samford senior forward Jon Mills Thursday evening in Lantz Arena. Gobczynski was the only forward on the floor for the final 7 minutes, 16 seconds in the Panthers' 66-63 win over Jacksonville State Saturday night in Lantz Arena. The Panthers used a four-guard lineup for better perimeter defense.

"So, you have to constantly work to fight through picks."

But, when the Panthers used a four-guard lineup of their own, guarding Russell, who finished with

12 points and nine assists, became a little easier.

"That was the problem in the first half — that we couldn't switch," Dildy said. "Walter Russell is extreme-

ly good at coming off of a ball screen.

"He's extremely quick, so that helped when we were able to put Bobby out there and just switch — that really slowed him down a lot."

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Cubs send Sosa flying to Baltimore Orioles

CHICAGO (AP) — Sammy Sosa was once as popular a fixture at Wrigley Field as the ivy-covered brick walls and the ancient scoreboard hanging over the center field bleachers.

Fans flocked to the neighborhood ball park to watch one of his majestic home runs, while other congregated in the streets to try and retrieve one of them.

Now he's on his way out of Chicago. A trade to the Baltimore Orioles for Jerry Hairston and two prospects is expected to reach Commissioner Bud Selig's desk Monday for approval.

From there, Sosa would need to pass a physical and the deal could be announced Wednesday or Thursday.

The once smiling slugger and the team he played for since 1992 are parting company. And not on happy terms.

"Sammy has been great for baseball and really

great for the city of Chicago, and I'm sorry to see it end this way," Cubs manager Dusty Baker told the Chicago Tribune.

"It's really not what his legacy should be."

Sosa endeared many with his self-styled quirks — a home run hop, blowing kisses in rapid succession after retuning to the dugout, tapping his heart and racing to right field like a sprinter before each game to salute the fans in the bleachers.

Sosa feasted on the adulation from the fans, especially at Wrigley Field. They stayed with him even after he used a corked bat in 2003. But last season, it began to turn as he struggled at the plate and the boos began to ring out from the frustrated home fans.

He batted just .253 — his lowest average since 1997 — and in 126 games finished with 35 homers and 80 RBIs.

Sosa, who often referred to himself as a gladi-

ator, seemed to be surprised that people forgot what he had accomplished: 574 homers, including three separate seasons of at least 60, and — until last year when he had a back injury — nine straight 100-RBI seasons.

Others thought the showmanship got old. And it was no secret that his boom box that often sent out loud music throughout the clubhouse was not always popular with his teammates.

Then came the crowning blow — he skipped out early of the final regular-season game last October after the Cubs had blown a wild card lead over the final week.

Now it seems the Cubs and Sosa can't part company quickly enough. Reports say the Cubs will pay \$12.5 million of the \$25 million Sosa would be owed in salary for this season and for buyout and severance costs in 2006.

"I think this is going to provide everyone with

the fresh start they were hoping for," Cubs outfielder Todd Hollandsworth said. "It's going to be weird and going to be different. I guess you have to liken it to when Barry (Bonds) left Pittsburgh for San Francisco.

"It gives Sammy the ability for a fresh start and the Cubs, we can move forward as a team. We can get back to the onfield stuff."

The Cubs, meanwhile, have lost a lot of pop with the departure of their two aging corner outfielders. Sosa will be gone and his friend Moises Alou was not resigned. That's a combined 74 homers and 186 RBIs from last season that won't be there when the Cubs report for spring training in less than three weeks.

Chicago general manager Jim Hendry is expected to be in California this week to watch a workout by former White Sox star Magglio Ordonez, who is coming back from knee surgery.

GLASS:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

"She's definitely giving us a lift, and I think she's starting to understand the effort level I'm looking for," he said. "We're going to continue to get in the gym and get her better, and she's definitely in the rotation."

Senior center Pam O'Connor scored a game high 16 points for the Panthers on 6-of-7 shooting. Senior guard Sarah Riva (12 points) and junior guard Megan Sparks (11) were the other Panthers in double

figures.

The Gamecocks were led by junior forward Rebecca Haynes' double-double effort of 13 points and 11 rebounds, including seven on the offensive glass.

Also in double figures for the Gamecocks were, junior center Ann-Marie Healy (14), junior guard Cobie Carlisle (12) and senior forward Shanika Freeman (11).

The Panthers will try and rebound by 5:00 p.m. Thursday, as they head on the road to face the Murray State Racers. The Racers are being out-rebounded by a margin 10.2 rebounds a game.

DILDY:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

"Someone should get on those maintenance guys," Dildy said jokingly.

By the second half Dildy was used to the new nets.

He scored all 22 of his points in the second half, making 6-of-10 second-half shots and converting 6-of-8 free throws.

"Gomes scored 11 in the second half and that's a good half," LaPlante said. "But once Dildy got hot, they just kept going to him and he kept making shots."

The Panthers shot the ball 22 times in the second half, and Dildy and Gomes took 16 of those shots. Gomes and Dildy combined to shoot just under 63 percent in the second half while the Panthers as a whole shot just over 63 percent.

"The bottom line is if we held them to 39 points in the second half as opposed to 43, we win," LaPlante said.

Gomes and Dildy combined to score 33 of the Panthers' 43 second half points.

Last year this is the kind of game the Panthers would have a tough time

Eastern 66, Jacksonville State 63

Eastern (8-11, 3-5)

Gomes 5-14 3-4 14, Dildy 6-14 6-8 22, Catchings 2-6 0-1 4, Patterson 2-5 1-1 5, Tandy 2-3 3-4 7, Gobczynski 1-5 0-0 2, Wright 1-1 0-0 3, Duany 1-1 0-0 2, Sinclair 3-4 0-0 7

Percentages: FG 23-53 .434, FT 13-18 .722, 3-FG 7-19 .368 **Rebounds:** 30 (Tandy Gobczynski 8), **Assists:** 15 (Dildy, Gomes 5), **Blocked shots:** 4 (Catchings 3), **Steals:** 3 (3 players, 1), **Turnovers:** 9 (Gomes 3) **Team fouls:** 15 **Fouled Out:** None

Jacksonville State (4-16, 0-8)

Lumpkin 1-5 1-2 4, Wilson 5-10 0-2 13, Russell 5-15 2-2 12, Peters 1-3 3, Davis 7-11 2-6 16, Lewis 5-8 2-3 15

Percentages: FG 24-60 .400, FT 7-15 .467, 3-FG 8-23 .348 **Rebounds:** 41 (Wilson 13), **Assists:** 14 (Russell 9), **Blocked shots:** 2 (Davis 2), **Steals:** 4 (Russell 2), **Turnovers:** 13 (Wilson 5) **Team fouls:** 16 **Technical Fouls:** Wilson **Fouled Out:** None

Halftime: Jacksonville State 33, Eastern 23

Jacksonville State 68, Eastern 59

Eastern (8-11, 1-7)

Sparks 2-11 6-8 11, Riva 4-6 2-2 12, Sellers 1-3 4-6 6, Ploger 1-4 0-0 2, O'Connor 6-7 4-7 16, Bytnar 3-3 2-2 8, Sims 2-7 0-0 4

Percentages: FG 19-42 .452, FT 18-25 .720, 3-FG 3-14 .214, **Rebounds:** 23 (O'Connor 4), **Assists:** 13 (Sparks 4), **Blocked shots:** 1 (Casad 1), **Steals:** 9 (Riva 3), **Turnovers:** 19 (O'Connor 4) **Team Fouls:** 18 **Fouled Out:** Sellers

Jacksonville State (7-10, 4-4)

Fuess 3-6 2-3 9, Haynes 5-8 0-0 13, Healy 4-7 6-10 14, Carlisle 6-10 0-0 14, Embry 0-0 4-4 4, Shepard 1-5 0-0 3, Freeman 3-8 4-5 11, Riley 1-1 0-2 2

Percentages: FG 23-55 .418, FT 16-24 .667, 3-FG 6-23 .261, **Rebounds:** 42 (Haynes 11), **Assists:** 17 (Haynes 6), **Blocked shots:** 1 (Healy 1), **Steals:** 11 (Shepard 3), **Turnovers:** 19 (Healy 5) **Team Fouls:** 23 **Fouled Out:** None

Halftime: Jacksonville State 35, Eastern 24

pulling out, but that was then and this is now, Dildy said.

"Last year was the first year we were all in this system together," Dildy said.

"Everybody's a lot more mature this season," Gomes said. "We showed our toughness at the end."

Four Gamecocks scored in double figures, but it wasn't enough to record their first OVC win.

Jacksonville State freshman forward Brandon Davis led the team with 16 points. Davis also grabbed 12 rebounds.

The Gamecocks controlled the glass, despite mostly using a four-guard line up.

Jacksonville State out-rebounded Eastern 41-30 and grabbed 19 offensive rebounds to the Panthers' 10. Junior guard Anthony Wilson led the team with 13 rebounds in the losing effort.

The Panthers have now won two straight and three of their last four heading into a two-game road trip where they will play Murray State (11-7, 6-2) on Thursday and Tennessee Martin (4-15, 1-7) on Sunday.

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SATURDAY	SWIMMING VS. SAINT LOUIS	12:00 p.m.
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TWO-POINT CONVERSION
DAN RENICK
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

Ballard's replacement has to win

After Wednesday's resignation of Eastern women's soccer head coach Steve Ballard, the Panthers will have their hands full trying to replace the man who started the women's soccer program at Eastern.

In Ballard's 10 years at Eastern, he led the Panther's to two regular season Ohio Valley Conference championships and five OVC tournament championships.

Riding high off his fourth straight NCAA Women's Soccer College Cup berth, Ballard's resignation seemed to come out of nowhere. But with Ballard no longer a part of the program, the Panthers need to look to the future.

And whoever will be the coach of the future for Eastern will have big, Ronald McDonald-sized shoes to fill.

I'm sure Eastern won't have any trouble finding a coach to take over a team that will return 10 starters, including four All-OVC selections and the OVC freshman of the year, Michelle Steinhaus.

But on the other hand, not every candidate for the job may be ready to walk into such a successful program. While it may seem easy to inherit such a talented team, there are certain expectations that go along with it.

Let's compare that to Eastern's last coaching change, women's basketball head coach Brady Sallee replacing Linda Wunder. Sallee took over a program that went 8-19 the year before under Wunder.

With eight games left, Sallee has already matched last year's win total and anything beyond that will be a plus when you consider the program he took over.

But whoever takes the helm for the women's soccer team won't be allowed any "transition years" for the players to adjust to a new coach, like Sallee has.

Not to mention the fact that the coach preceding them won 124 games in 10 years and was 33-4-4 in nine years in the OVC.

Talk about pressure.

To whoever takes over one of the OVC's top programs and replaces the founder of Eastern women's soccer, I'd like to wish you good luck because if you don't keep winning, you may not be here too long.

Dan Renick is a junior journalism major and can be reached at ndwres88@hotmail.com

GOING STREAKING

Panthers win second straight; Jacksonville State loses 14th in a row

BY JOHN HOHENADEL
SPORTS REPORTER

And the losing streak continues.

The Jacksonville State Gamecocks came into Lantz Arena Saturday night on a 14-game losing streak and left on a 15-game losing streak. The Gamecocks (4-16, 0-8 Ohio Valley Conference) are winless since Nov. 23 when they beat Shorter College 112-94.

Jacksonville head coach Mike LaPlante said the Gamecocks could have let Eastern outscore them by nine points in the second half and they would have won. But, the Panthers outscored Jacksonville by 13 in the second half, giving Eastern (8-11, 3-5) the win 66-63.

The Gamecocks were up 33-23 at the half, and the Panthers' two top scorers, junior guard Josh Gomes and senior guard Emanuel Dildy were held to three combined points on just 1-of-12 shooting.

"Our game plan coming into the game was to make someone besides Gomes and Dildy beat us," LaPlante said.

LaPlante said judging by the first half numbers, the Gamecocks successfully executed their game plan. The Panthers shot the ball 31 times in the first half and Dildy and Gomes only took 12 of those shots.

But there are two halves in basketball and the second half was a different story.

After going 0-for-4 in the first half, Dildy came out during halftime warm-ups and regained his shooting touch.

Dildy didn't score until 16:13 in the second half when Jacksonville State junior guard Anthony Wilson was whistled for a technical foul after hanging on the rim following a dunk.

Dildy said he's not one for making excuses but somebody changed the nets before the game, and they made the basket look smaller.

SEE DILDY PAGE 11



STEPHEN HAAS/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Junior guard Josh Gomes shoots over Tennessee Tech junior guard Milone Clark last Saturday in Lantz Arena. Gomes rebounded from a slow first half to score 12 of his 14 points in the second half of the Panthers' 66-63 win over Jacksonville State Saturday night.

Smaller Panthers beaten on boards, at Lantz



STEPHEN HAAS/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Senior center Pam O'Connor puts up a shot against Samford sophomore forward Veronica Pike Thursday evening in Lantz Arena. O'Connor scored a team-high 16 points in Eastern's 68-59 loss to Jacksonville State Saturday afternoon.

BY MARCUS JACKSON
SPORTS REPORTER

The Eastern Illinois women's basketball team lost its third consecutive Ohio Valley Conference game 68-59 to the Jacksonville State Gamecocks Saturday afternoon in Lantz Arena.

The story of the game was rebounding, as the Gamecocks (7-10, 4-4 OVC) out-rebounded the Panthers 42-23, including 22 on the offensive glass.

"There's really nowhere else that we were beat than on the boards," Eastern head coach Brady Sallee said. "You look at their size, then you look at our team make-up, and unless we competed perfectly on the boards, we are going to be at a huge disadvantage."

The Gamecocks' ability to dominate the offensive glass led to 17 second-chance points, compared to just six for the Panthers.

Junior forward Lauren Sims said the Gamecocks were just more aggressive going after rebounds than the Panthers.

"They really just muscled their way in there," she said. "That's why we got beat. Match-ups could have been a problem because they were bigger and stronger."

The Panthers (8-11, 1-7) trailed by as many as 16 in the second half, but fought their way back to within nine, thanks to a spark from freshman guard Kiki Bytnar. Bytnar scored a career-high eight points during a 10-3 Panther run with five minutes to go.

The Panthers, however, could not come up with a stop defensively down the stretch and never got closer than nine.

Sallee was again pleased with the play of Bytnar and said she is getting more comfortable in the system.

SEE GLASS PAGE 11