

1-30-2007

## Daily Eastern News: January 30, 2007

Eastern Illinois University

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# the DAILY EASTERN NEWS

**TUESDAY**  
1.30.07

Eastern Illinois University, Charleston

Volume | 93 Issue | 16

CAMPUS | CONSTRUCTION

## Doudna’s interior takes shape

**Music and art portions of the fine arts center are the current focus**

By Kristina Peters  
Associate Verge Editor

The copper exterior of the Doudna Fine Arts Center is starting to transform into a “dirty penny.”

A contrast of shiny copper and dark, almost dirty-looking copper can be seen on the south portion of Doudna near Booth Library.

The copper has a natural patina finish, which causes the copper’s color to transform.

Rex Hilligoss, architect for Facilities Planning and Management at Eastern, calls this the “dirty penny phase” of the copper.

“It’s already starting to look like one (a penny),” Hilligoss said. “It’s already taken a dramatic turn.”

The natural patina finish was applied to the well-known structure, the State of Liberty.

However, unlike the Statue of Liberty, the copper on Doudna is not expected to turn green.

Air pollution causes copper to turn green but it was said that the air is clean enough that Doudna’s copper will just turn dark, Hilligoss said.

With the exterior taking form, the interior is as well.

The music and art portions of the building, referred to by contractors as A and B, are currently the focus. Other portions of Doudna are C, the arts, and D, theater.

“A’ and ‘B’ are supposed to be the first ones done,” said Lionel Sanders, project coordinator.

Both sections are to be completed midsummer.

Quite a bit of drywall has been put up in the older parts, Sanders said. In the music section is a large music rehearsal space, and inside there are square pads on the floors for the upcoming placement of a 5-inch acoustic concrete floor.

A false ceiling with acoustic sound reflection will also be installed in the room.

“(Sound reflection is used) so you don’t get so much of an echo,” Hilligoss said.

Hilligoss said that a week ago, they had to make adjustments to the pads on the floor because they were not all the same height. The recital hall nearby recently received floor work: floor slab was placed to raise the slanted floor in order to maximize the use of the area.

“Now we have full use of the seating,” Hilligoss said.

The theater, which will eventually be the site of numerous productions, has maximized seating of 350 people.

“It’s the largest venue in the building,” said Paul McCann, the director of business services.

The amount of people it holds does not compare to the actual size of the room. It will top out at about 85 feet high and the stage has a 16-foot opening, Hilligoss said.

A scene shop, where scenery will be built, is directly behind the stage.

The opening of the scene shop is also 16 feet so that large pieces can be easily moved from the scene shop to the stage, Hilligoss said.

On the second level of the theater section of Doudna, there is a long, skinny rectangular opening where a window will be placed.

» SEE DOUDNA, PAGE 2



JAY GRABIEC | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Rex Hilligoss, architect for Facilities Planning and Management, explains to Eastern faculty and employees that the exterior copper skin of Doudna fine arts center will not turn green because of weather but will rather age into an “old penny” color. Hilligoss gave the tour of the developing construction site on Monday afternoon.

CAMPUS | PHILANTHROPY

## Students experience alternative vacation

**Spring breakers have planted trees and worked at homeless shelter, girls’ ranch**

Ashley Mefford  
Staff Reporter

Swim suits.  
Warm weather.  
Relaxation.

Those words are practically synonymous with Spring Break.

But with the disasters of Hurricane Katrina and 9/11, more and more people have been volunteering both their time and money to help those in need.

Natural disasters are not the only events that people volunteer for. Alternative Spring Break, sponsored by the Newman Catholic Center, has many different opportunities that range from working with children to helping protect the environment.

“There are four types of ASB experiences: children’s sites, shelters, environment and housing,” said Doris Nordin of Newman Catholic Center.

ASB was started in 1993. The first year of ASB, 17 students attended. Little by little, ASB has added both sites and students to its program. Today, there are 12 sites and approximately 100 to 120 students who attend.

“We are the largest ASB program in the Midwest,” Nordin said.

The sites of ASB include places throughout the United States.

By being a part of ASB, students are able to get a new perspective on their lives.

Marjory McMahon, senior environmental biology major, has been on two ASBs. She attended St. Francis and Project Lazarus.

During McMahon’s stay at St. Francis, she stayed in a church retreat house.

“We listened to a lot of stories from the people coming and going from the shelter, and it really puts life into perspective,” McMahon said. “As college kids, we are constantly broke, complaining about classes, rent and pretty much anything else that’s a struggle. We forget that most of us have two places to live – one for school and one with our parents. We all work to stay in school ... but we have an opportunity that most people don’t get.”

The Big Oak Girls Ranch in Springfield, Ala., is another alternative spring break site.

» SEE VACATION, PAGE 2

LOCAL | AMTRAK

## Train station overhaul moves slowly



ERIC HILTNER | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Chuck Heinlein Jr., who works midtown maintenance for Mattoon, displays a photo of what the Mattoon Amtrak station looked like in 1918.

**Renovation of 90-year-old building not moving fast enough for local passengers**

By Adam Tedder  
Online News Editor  
and  
Kevin Kenealy  
Online Interactive Editor

The Mattoon train station has been decaying at a rapid rate in recent years, but plans have been set in motion to solve that problem.

A renovation project to save the 90-year-old train station was finally announced after locals voiced their compassion for the salvation of the station.

Though it has been a slow process, the Coles County Project Depot has not been abandoned. Almost all of the funding has been obtained. The project has earned \$2.5 million where a total of \$3.5 million is needed to start the project.

About \$2.5 million is coming from federal sources, and the rest will be gained from the Illinois Department of Transportation biddings and procurement procedures, said Alan Gilmore, Mattoon City Administrator.

He said the bids will take place in March or April and the bid opening procedure will happen during May or June.

Gilmore hopes it will be approved by July. He said they expect the project to take 18 months.

With all these plans, nothing has been done yet. And complaints from locals are rising. They say the station is in bad shape.

Regular Amtrak passenger Larry Hollenberg said the platform is being torn apart, weeds are growing uncontrollably and trash is thrown all over the place. Hollenberg said the current condition of the station is giving off false impressions to non-Mattoon residents.

“When the train pulled in there, and I looked out the window, the station almost looked abandoned,” Hollenberg said. “I just kept sitting there and thinking I couldn’t believe Mattoon, which I know is a progressive town, would allow that station to look that way because everyone sees the station traveling through the town.”

Troubles getting proper financing caused the depot project delay and designing the project has taken a good deal of time, Gilmore said.

Gilmore predicts the project will be completed by January 2009.

» SEE TRAIN, PAGE 2



» **Doudna**

FROM PAGE 1

The window will look down into the scene shop.

"Someone standing up here can see what's going on," Hilligoss said.

The theater portion will be the site of theater necessities like dressing rooms, green rooms and sewing rooms as well as classrooms.

Some of the construction serves the purpose of getting people inside Doudna who would not normally be in the building.

The second east-west entrance hallway that runs from Seventh Street to the Library Quad will be a primary path of students.

It will serve as a shortcut for some, but they will be able to see and experience Doudna, Hilligoss said.

Doudna should be complete at the end of the year.

"We hope to be ready to move

into the building, not necessarily use the building, at the end of the year," Hilligoss said. "The building as a whole is in various stages of completion."

Currently the focus is the art portion, which will be home to a kiln room, wood room and sculpture room.

"It's a very intricate project, and I don't know how they work with that," said Jeff Cooley, vice president for business affairs, as he looked at the drawings for Doudna.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Doris Nordin, Newman Catholic Center employee, plays with children at a 2006 Alternative Spring Break trip.

» **Vacation**

FROM PAGE 1

It is a place for girls 6 to 18 years old who have been abused, abandoned or neglected.

Carissa Hallam, a communication disorders and sciences graduate student, attended the Big Oak Girls Ranch in 2005. She ended up getting an internship there the following summer.

"ASB opened the door to that experience for me. I have learned more than I can possibly explain from my ASB trips and that is why I have volunteered to be a site leader this year," Hallam said.

ASB allows students to get more involved in a cause of their choice. By getting involved in ASB, students can get an understanding of what goes on at the program.

Some alternative spring break sites focus on nature, which is usually does not come to mind when thinking of helping people.

**KATHERINE NIEBRUGGE | FCS STUDENT**

**"We have four spring breaks in college, the least I could do was spend one of those spring breaks giving back"**

However, the Nature Conservancy plants trees and helps to maintain state parks.

Katherine Niebrugge, senior FCS major, worked in the Nature Conservancy last spring break.

She was apart of a group of seven people that helped to remove brush and cut down trees for certain areas.

"We have four spring breaks in college, the least I could do was spend one of those spring breaks giving back," Niebrugge said.

The environmental projects that go on during ASB assist in decreasing pollution, which can help everyone.

Sites that help with homelessness and building homes are crucial to help those in need, but the

environmental projects will begin to concern everyone if these concerns are not properly handled, Nordin said.

"We care about all the destruction around the world and the United States of our forest and rivers by the pollution," Nordin said.

The experiences that students had during ASB will stay with them forever.

"I'm a firm believer in the fact that the world would be a better place if people would give of themselves and laugh a little more," Hallam said. "(This is true) whether you give by working in a kitchen, playing with kids, listening to stories, shoveling rocks, building walls or painting."

» **Train**

FROM PAGE 1

The station will have an updated look with new features including all new interiors, an elevator, retail space and a restaurant among other possibilities.

The timeliness of the project is a relevant issue for many local citizens.

The station still serves as a valuable service to the local community, especially for those without vehicles and students from out of town.

Gilmore said that passenger numbers have been increasing from 1500 a month to 2500, approximately 100 passengers a

day.

The local community has offered the idea of volunteers helping to clean up the old station. Local resident Jeff Ealy agreed volunteer work is a good idea.

"I would volunteer to help out," Ealy said. "It's just trash, it wouldn't take that long."

It's not only the condition of the station that concerns residents but also the safety issues that surround it.

Mattoon resident Lenzi Sewell said she uses Amtrak at least twice a month.

She said though she usually feels secure when riding the train, there is some obvious safety concerns.

"You could carry a gun on

there," she said. "Like I was telling my friends, you could take anything on there. They don't check the station; they never check your bags. I think they could be a little stiffer on that."

Though citizens have been complaining, Gilmore said he has heard positive remarks about the station's current state. Gilmore said he recently hired a custodian, Chuck Heinlein Jr.

He said Heinlein has been keeping up the maintenance of the station as well as ensuring the station will not be vandalized.

Gilmore and Hollenberg agreed the renovated station could bring in more business and help improve the image to those people passing through.

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**About The Daily Eastern News**

The Daily Eastern News is produced by the students of Eastern Illinois University. It is published daily Monday through Friday, in Charleston, Ill., during fall and spring semesters and twice weekly during the summer term except during university vacations or examinations.

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Contact any of the above staff members you believe your information is relevant to at their provided e-mail address.

You may also call 581-7942 or visit the student publications newsroom at 1811 Buzzard Hall.

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The Daily Eastern News is committed to accuracy in its coverage of the news. Any factual error the staff finds, or is made aware of by its readers, will be corrected on this page as promptly as possible.

To aid The Daily Eastern News in its quest for accuracy, please report any factual error you find in any edition of The Daily Eastern News by e-mail, phone, campus mail or in person.

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# Time limit causes problems

By Ashley Rueff  
Senior University Reporter

Eastern employees found to be non-compliant with state ethics training have until Friday to respond to the state before punitive actions are pursued.

Of 2,032 Eastern employees who participated in the online training module required for state employees, less than 75 were non-compliant because they finished the training in less than 10 minutes, said Sandy Bowman, director of Human Resources.

A letter from Illinois' Executive Inspector General James Wright was given to state employees before the training that indicated a need for careful reading but did not include a specific amount of time required for the training.

The letter said: "Please be aware that the time that you spend and your activities in completing this course may be monitored. Failure to carefully read and review all of the program's subject matter may invalidate your Completion Certificate and result in your being subject to disciplinary action and a requirement to complete additional ethics training."

Bowman said those who were non-compliant did not take enough time to comprehensively read the training information.

"James Wright tried, I think, to let them know to take their time and read things carefully," Bowman said.

A letter from President Lou Hencken also asked employees to thoroughly read and understand the information.

Those who finished the training in less than 10 minutes received a packet in the mail at their homes that included information from the state Ethics Act. They were asked to read over the information and return a signed paper stating that they did so.

Anyone who doesn't return the statement before Friday will be liable for legal action from the university or the state, Bowman said.

"We just have a few left that we don't have in yet," she said of the statements. "At this point, as long as they do this, they should be fine."

Charles Delman, president of Eastern's chapter of the University Professionals of Illinois said the faculty union is upset about the 10-minute time requirement.

"We thought it was an outrage," Delman said. "The state agency simply made the assumption that if someone did not take more than 10 minutes they could not have read the material carefully."

Delman, along with seven other UPI chapter presidents and representatives, met Jan. 13 to pass a motion advising UPI members who were found non-compliant with the ethics test.

UPI members received a form letter prepared by UPI that they could both comply with the state's requirements and express their protest of the 10-minute requirement calling it "arbitrary and capricious."

"We wanted to advise them on how to respond to this in a way that was in keeping with their responsibilities but allowed them to express their protest about it if they wished," Delman said.



JAY GRABIEC | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Stephanie Elliott, a junior elementary education major, sorts trays into an automated dish washer Monday evening during the dinner shift at Thomas Hall.

# Choose your venture

Campus dining workers select jobs based on seniority

By Stacy Smith  
Campus Reporter

Michael Habschmidt's job is an easy one.

He works at the salad bar in Taylor Hall and, because of his seniority – he's worked there for more than a year – he chose to take the job that had him dealing with customers less.

Student workers at campus dining get to choose anywhere from six to 23 hours of work a week and select their desired position based upon how long they have been there.

Eastern is the only university in Illinois that offers free meals every time an employee works.

Habschmidt, a senior English major, does enjoy what he is doing.

"I don't have to deal with customers," he said. "The job is simple and easy ... the food isn't

awesome, but I think it's pretty good."

Students who work at campus dining are allowed to move in early during the fall semester.

The students begin work the weekend before classes start by attending sanitation and training sessions.

"Working in the dining hall is fun, responsible and a great place to meet new people," Habschmidt said.

Students can also become a student manager and receive a 15-meal plan, but without dining dollars or bonus meals.

"I live off-campus, so I basically don't have to buy groceries," said Tim Lazzara, junior family and consumer science major and Taylor and Thomas dining student manager.

Student manager's obligations include working 15 hours weekly, filling out surveys and working weekends.

"It's a good opportunity to develop leadership and social skills," Lazzara said.

However, sometimes being a

student manager can be difficult because of the lack of respect given by peers.

Sometimes student workers do not listen to orders given by a student manager because they are usually close in age or don't take their job seriously.

"I respect them, as they should respect me," Lazzara said.

Susan Napolitan, interim assistant director of Thomas dining, enjoys helping students build food service experience.

Students are away from home and some don't know how to do simple things, she said.

"It's fun to see the students learn," Napolitan said. "One time a girl didn't even know how to turn on a faucet."

Although some students don't stay with the food service long, others have stayed almost their entire college career.

"Students stay for a long time because it gets comfortable, they don't have to learn a new job," Napolitan said. "And they become a family and work like a team."

# Art program continues to challenge young students

Junior and senior high school students study Voodoo flags

By Stephen Di Benedetto  
Senior Activities Reporter

The Tarble Arts Center often hosts exhibits and galleries that are for Eastern students to view.

However, a program that dates back more than a decade helps high school students learn different art forms and types of art.

The Junior and Senior High School Student Enrichment Program began in the early 1990s. This year the exhibit is titled "Saints in Sequin: Vodou Flags from Haiti." The exhibit runs from Jan. 3 to Feb. 22.

"The idea of the program is to introduce secondary level students to new and challenging art forms

## KNOW ABOUT TARBLE

» Tarble Arts Center is located on South Ninth Street and Cleveland Avenue.

### » Hours:

Tuesday – Friday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Saturday: 1-4 p.m.

and concepts," said Kit Morice, director of the program. "It gives them a chance to learn from objects in a museum setting, and we do a hands-on project that somehow relates to the content of the exhibition."

The program is open to any secondary level student in an eight-county radius.

"I send out invitations to all of the (high school) art teachers," Morice said. "We have about a 45- to 50-mile radius."

Students then reserve their time and the program is filled on a first-come, first-serve basis, Morice said.

Students stay on the campus for two and half hours, spending a half an hour at the exhibition and then two hours in a classroom that discusses the exhibition.

The focus for this year's program is contemporary art forms and that is also what the "Vodou Flags from Haiti" entails, Morice said.

"(This year's) exhibit is multicultural, but it ranges from regional to international in terms of the types of art we tie into," Morice said. "I design my program around whatever exhibition we are working with."

Essentially, the goal of the entire program is to get secondary students more involved with art and different art forms, Morice said.

The program is offered at no cost and is done in cooperation with the art education section of the art department.

# CAMPUS

TUESDAY  
1.30.07

## campusbriefs

### Tours explore services of

#### Booth Library

» Booth Library is offering free general tours through Feb. 28. The tour is a basic walking tour of the building, which various services and collections are pointed out, said reference librarian David Bell. The tour takes 30 to 40 minutes and it starts in the Marvin Foyer, also know as the north foyer. Tours are on 6 p.m. Mondays, 11 a.m. Tuesdays and 5 p.m. Wednesdays. -Matt Hopf

### Show off your talents in Taylor Hall tonight

» Want five minutes of fame? Taylor Hall is hosting talent show auditions today. Contestants will be chosen by audience members at 9 p.m. in the Taylor Hall lobby. Final contestants will be competing at 9 p.m. on Feb. 6. -Julie Morss

### Women's Resource Center

#### reads about beauty pageants

» The Women's Studies Student Club will host a "Bitch" magazine reading group Wednesday at the Women's Resource Center. The Women's Resource Center is located in the basement of Stevenson Hall. Those interested in the group should pick up a copy of the article "Miss Interpreted: Beauty Pageants Meet Their New Ideal" at the Women's Resource Center between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. -Marco Santana

## policereport

» Institutional Vandalism - on Jan. 24 it was reported that gang-type graffiti was written on an emergency telephone pole on Eastern's campus.

## ourmistakes

» The meeting time was incorrect in the Committee for University Planning and Budget in the Jan. 26 edition of the Daily Eastern News. The meeting is at 3 p.m. Friday, Feb. 2 in the Arcola-Tuscola room of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

» Joe Waltalsti copy edited and designed Monday's edition of the DEN.

» In the staff box on page 2, Amy Simpson was misidentified.

The DEN regrets the errors.

### COMMENTS | CORRECTIONS | EVENTS

To report any errors, local events or general suggestions for future editions please contact our news editor, **Cathy Bayer**, via:  
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# VIEWS

TUESDAY

1.30.07

YOUR TURN | LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## White males are scapegoats

To the Editor,

EIU offered us the Beyond Words Exhibit, a self-described “oppression museum” that the coordinator hopes will “open eyes for people by educating others on the issues of oppression that other people experience.”

How many more eyes, I ask, need to be opened?

Our schools and news media never miss a chance to denigrate Euro-American culture by portraying heterosexual white people (especially white males) as history’s greatest, and often only, oppressors.

This constant wallowing in the past so loved by self-hating white liberals and power hungry minorities serves only two purposes. First, it takes the focus of minorities away from achieving in our society and gives them scapegoats to blame for their failure. Second, it instills self-hatred in heterosexual white people who should be rightfully proud that their ancestors created the most positively productive culture in world history.

Personally, I have read and studied the histories, arts, religions, etc. of other cultures, but I am steeped in Euro-American culture. I have devoted a large portion of my life to experiencing what Matthew Arnold called “the best that has been said and thought.” Today that tradition, what Robert Hutchins called “The Great Conversation,” is being attacked by self-serving minorities and abandoned by guilt-ridden white people.

I say this to the minorities at EIU: Stop following “leaders” and professors who invite you to seek scapegoats in the distant past and who suggest that these scapegoats are still trying to destroy you today. Maybe try becoming a bit more aware that the white students around you might be getting a little tired of being oppressed by oppression museums that blame them for everything wrong in the world.

I say this to the heterosexual white students at EIU: Thousands of you already detest the climate of political correctness that demands your conformity. You know that if you stand up for your culture and your race you will be called a variety of bad names and probably suffer gradewise in your classes. Still, you don’t have to become oppressed victims yourselves. First, start taking the current situation seriously. It isn’t going to resolve itself in a positive way if ignored. Second, educate yourselves properly so that your background is sound, and then resist today’s poisonous climate. How? I suggest you check out the Web site of The National Alliance ([www.natall.com](http://www.natall.com)).

If you don’t take your heritage, culture and race seriously, your enemies abroad and at home will destroy all three, leaving you guilt-ridden, defeated and rootless. Whether that happens or not is largely up to you.

Don G. Smith | Retired Eastern professor

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DRAWN FROM THE NEWS | DAVID PENNELL



ourview

## Eastern’s recreational money budgeted well

**ISSUE** | University considers adding disc golf course near pond and other recreational equipment for the Rec.

Ken Baker, director of Campus Recreation, proposed a disc golf course to the Apportionment Board.

Baker asked for \$10,433 for a nine-hole course.

While some students may find more than \$10,000 excessive for a disc golf course, Baker and the Student Recreation Center are actually very fiscally responsible and should be commended for their transparency when it comes to their budget.

Baker presented the AB with a detailed list of costs associated with the disc golf course, two elliptical machines and beginner weight-lifting machines.

Instead of proposing an 18-hole course, Baker proposed a 9-hole course that will cost \$10,433. This cost includes targets, tee signs, a rules sign, practice target, course design, concrete tees, installation materials and freight.

Baker said the Rec center wants to see if the course will be used. If the course is used, they can expand it to 18 holes.

The course will start near the Campus Pond Pavilion, with the third hole being placed by the campus pond walking path.

“I’m not trying to sell this to the students,” Baker said. “I’m trying to find out if they want it.”

Apparently students do want the disc golf course.

Levi Bulgar, student vice president for business affairs, said that most of the feedback he had received for the disc golf course, the two elliptical machines and the “curves” machines had been positive.

“The Frolf course and the ellipticals received good feedback, and were for the most part not an issue,” Bulgar said.

Baker said the disc golf course proposal was created because of student input and requests.

The new Rec center equipment that Baker proposed to AB was also based on student input.

The two elliptical machines will cost \$10,490.

This is \$1,000 less than the actual cost of the machines. Eastern’s Rec center will trade in two ellipticals without monitors for the two new elliptical machines with monitors.

The older machines date back to before 2000. Rec center equipment is usually replaced every four years, Baker said.

“At 4 p.m. there is a line to use elliptical trainers,” Baker said. “If I ask them if we need more ellipticals, of course they say yes. Then I tell them, we have more than at Western and Illinois State combined.”

The reason Eastern has more elliptical trainers is quite simply due to the fiscal responsibility of Baker and his staff.

The Rec employs four full-time employees. In contrast, Illinois State employs nine. The money that Eastern could use for paying more full time employees is used to buy equipment for the center.

The beginner weight-lifting machines received negative feedback, but Bulgar claims that was due to a misunderstanding.

“That had to do with the name of the machines and a misunderstanding of what the machines were being used for,” Bulgar said.

The Rec is proposing the purchase of 10 beginner weight-lifting machines for the price of \$23,026 – roughly \$2,300 per machine.

“We have 34 Nautilus machines,” Baker said. “Why not have nine or 10 machines for a beginning lifter?”

In 2006, the Rec received \$213,959 from the AB. The Rec also received money from the college work-study budget (\$22,680), the faculty-staff recreation budget (\$55,000), the recreational sports budget (\$162,905) and the SRC budget (\$10,500).

The college work-study money can only be used to pay student employees.

The faculty-staff recreation money is used to pay student salaries, equipment purchases and operating expenses.

The recreational sports budget is used to pay Baker’s salary, two program directors and an office assistant.

Finally, the Rec center budget is used to pay student salaries or building coordinators.

When examining how many services it offers, pieces of equipment it has and students it employs, it is admirable that the Rec is able to do so much with the yearly budget they receive from the AB.

The editorial is the majority opinion of The Daily Eastern News editorial board. Reach the opinions editor at [DENopinions@gmail.com](mailto:DENopinions@gmail.com).

COLUMNIST | MARCO SANTANA

## Democrats have chance to show power

Let the first real battle begin.

A Democratic Congress took over after the November elections and when it was officially in power at the beginning of January, Nancy Pelosi let it be known that Democrats would not wait long to start turning the tide of policy toward the left.

The Speaker of the House said within 100 hours, the Democrats were going to make a difference.

It is besides the point that the 100 hours were delayed for the national championship game.

Nonetheless, they said it was time to take back control.

But George W. Bush wasn’t going to take it lying down.

He took the first shot at his State of the Union address on Tuesday.

He announced that he decided there were not enough troops stationed in Iraq.

So the solution was to send another 21,500 troops to the war zone.

He didn’t recommend a troop increase.

He didn’t tell Congress that it would probably be a good thing to put more troops into the middle of the civil war – which is what the media is allowed to call it now.

He said it was what he was going to do.

This sets Congress and the president, as one news outlet put it, on a “collision course” over whether Congress has the power to stop the president’s decision.

Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., fired the first shot for the opposition.

She proposed a bill that would bring troops home in 180 days.

This is brewing into a fight that will most likely set a bad tone for the final two years of Bush’s regime, I mean, presidency.

This is not a surprise, but it is still something that could push the two parties further apart.

First of all, Boxer said Congress has stopped wars before because it has the power to declare war.

But Republicans are charging that the commander-in-chief has control of the army that Congress put together and he is within his power to do so.

This might be true but it all should come to a head when Bush requests the funding to increase his troop presence in the Middle East.

What Congress does control is the money.

In the coming months, members of Congress are expected to get a request for more than \$700 billion to cover military spending over the next two years. This includes supplemental spending for 2007 and 2008 as well as normal military spending for 2008.

All they have to do is say no.

This is easier said than done.

When you are called out for being unpatriotic and a friend of the enemy whenever you don’t step into line, saying no is difficult.

But saying no should be made much easier now that the Democrats are in control.

Marco  
Santana



Marco Santana is a junior journalism major. He can be reached at [masantana@eiu.edu](mailto:masantana@eiu.edu).

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SHILOH | SCHOOL DEATH

Woman's car crashes into cafeteria

The Associated Press

SHILOH — An 8-year-old boy was killed and two other students injured Monday when a car driven by an 84-year-old woman slammed through the wall of an elementary school cafeteria during lunchtime, police in this St. Louis suburb said.

Ryan Westling, of O'Fallon, died of head and chest injuries at 12:47 p.m. in the emergency room of Memorial Hospital in Belleville about an hour after the accident at Shiloh Elementary School, St. Clair County Coroner Rick Stone said.

Police said two other unidentified students and the car's driver were sent to the Belleville hospital. The students had been released to their parents by late Monday afternoon, authorities said. The driver remained hospitalized, though the extent of her injuries was unclear as was the cause of the crash.

About 70 students had been having lunch shortly before the accident, which occurred around 11:30 a.m., authorities said. Most had gone outside for recess when the car slammed into the cafeteria wall and drove through the room before coming to rest on the opposite wall, according to Police Chief Jim Stover.

Shiloh School Superintendent Jennifer Filyaw said she was in her office, which adjoins the cafeteria, when she heard the crash.

"You couldn't mistake the noise," she said. "I knew instantly something major had happened."

Filyaw refused to speak in detail about the dead student, she said out of respect for the family.

"The student was a joy to have in our school, and will be greatly missed," she said as she offered condolences to the family. "This has to be one of the hardest days of their lives."

The cafeteria is located at the rear of the 320-student school, which has classes for pre-kindergarten through fourth-grade students. The street nearest the cafeteria ends with a turnaround.

Authorities would not identify the driver of the vehicle, although they did say she is a resident of Shiloh.

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS | MASCOT DEBATE



ERIC HILTNER | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Chief Illiniwek performs during halftime at the University of Illinois' season opener against Eastern on Sept. 2, in Memorial Stadium.

No charges to be filed over threat

University may still discipline students

The Associated Press

CHAMPAIGN — Charges will not be filed against University of Illinois students accused of threatening an American Indian student on a Web page devoted to the school's Chief Illiniwek mascot, police and a prosecutor said Monday.

University police investigating the threats made late last year on a Web page dedicated to the mascot on the social-networking Web site Facebook had earlier this month asked the Champaign County State's Attorney's Office to evaluate the case.

"Our opinion is there are no charges to be filed," said State's Attorney Julia Rietz.

One posting on the Chief Illiniwek-related Web page included a posting that read "I say we throw a tomohawk into her face," in reference to the American Indian student.

To merit criminal charges, such a threat would have to have been made directly to the student — via an e-mail message to her, for instance — rather than in a forum

JULIA RIETZ | STATE'S ATTORNEY

"Our opinion is that there are no charges to be filed"

that amounts to conversation, Rietz said.

The students who made the posts still face possible discipline through the university, said Assistant Chief of Police Jeffrey Christensen.

Citing student confidentiality, Dean of Students William Riley would only say that the cases had been referred to a discipline committee made up of faculty and students.

The committee, he said, "would have heard it by now and rendered its findings."

The school has said at least three students are believed to have been involved but hasn't identified them.

In addition to the reference to the American Indian student, at least one other student wrote on the Facebook page that "... i hate redskins and hope all those drunk casino owning bums die."

The page, before it was taken off line, was titled "If They Get Rid of the Chief I'm Becoming a Racist."

Another Facebook page, "The Chief Dance is Racist, Plain and

Simple," contains inflammatory language directed toward Chief Illiniwek. A post written by one student last month mentioned shooting the mascot with a revolver.

No criminal complaints have been filed about that page, Christensen said.

Chief Illiniwek, portrayed by a student, has performed at Illini sports events for 81 years.

Opponents call the chief and other American Indian characters used by sports teams offensive, while supporters defend the mascot's use as a way of honoring American Indians.

The NCAA has barred Illinois from hosting postseason sports since 2005, deeming Illiniwek and his dance a "hostile and abusive" use of American Indian imagery.

University Board of Trustees Chairman Lawrence C. Eppley said last week that the board will decide this year whether to continue using the mascot.

STATE

TUESDAY  
1.30.07

statebriefs

The Associated Press

State workers charged with hiring irregularities

» CHICAGO — Two state personnel officials, Dawn DeFraties and Michael Casey, are appealing the Blagojevich administration's decision to fire them for allegedly giving favorable treatment to some job applicants.

Administration lawyers urged a judge for the Civil Service Commission to focus on alleged misconduct by the two employees — not involvement by the governor.

DeFraties and Casey say they did nothing wrong and merely responded to special requests from Blagojevich's office.

2 get prison terms in \$8 billion Chicago parks fraud scheme

» CHICAGO — A man and woman who admitted to an \$8 million fraud scheme at Chicago's Millennium Park and elsewhere were sentenced to prison Monday by a judge who said such actions could "turn the whole system into a cesspool."

Shirley McMayon, 48, of Wanship, Utah, the Chicago Park District's former natural resources director, was sentenced to 34 months in federal prison for taking cash, vacations and other payoffs in return for steering contracts to a landscaping company.

McDonald's ready to fry french fries in new oil

» CHICAGO — McDonald's Corp. has finally selected a new trans-fat-free oil for cooking its famous french fries after years of testing, the fast-food chain said Monday.

While it has developed a healthier new oil, the company is still not saying when it will be used in all 13,700 U.S. restaurants. It already trails competitors in committing to a zero-trans fat oil.

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MAT 11:00 1:30  
BABEL (R) 5:00 8:15 FRI — SUN MAT 10:30  
1:50  
FREEDOM WRITERS (PG 13) 4:00 6:50 9:50  
FRI — SUN MAT 10:10 1:15  
DEPARTED (R) 5:20 8:30 FRI — SUN MAT  
10:45 2:00  
HITCHER (R) MON, WED, THUR 4:20 6:30  
DAILY 8:45  
QUEEN (PG 13) 4:30 7:00 9:30 FRI — SUN  
MAT 10:20 1:00  
STOMP THE YARD (PG 13) 5:10 8:00 FRI  
— SUN MAT 11:20 2:30  
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG) 4:50 7:30 10:00  
FRI — SUN MAT 11:10 1:40

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## NATION

TUESDAY

1.30.07

**Military becomes responsible for protecting nuclear plants**

» WASHINGTON — Making nuclear power plants crash-proof to an airliner attack by terrorists is impracticable and it's up to the military to avert such an assault, the government said Monday.

**Primary camera on Hubble Space Telescope shuts down**

» BALTIMORE — The primary camera on the Hubble Space Telescope has shut down and is likely to be only marginally restored, NASA said Monday, a collapse one astronomer called "a great loss."

While the aging observatory can still do other scientific work, the unit that failed, the Advanced Camera for Surveys, is the one most scientists depend upon.

**Cancer survivor wins lawsuit for \$1 million from drug maker**

» PHILADELPHIA — A couple who contended that a hormone-replacement drug caused the woman's breast cancer was awarded \$1.5 million Monday in a jury verdict against drug maker Wyeth.

**Brandy could face charges in car crash involving death**

» LOS ANGELES — The California Highway Patrol recommended Monday that actress-singer Brandy be charged with misdemeanor vehicular manslaughter in a freeway crash that killed a woman motorist last month, a city attorney's spokesman told The Associated Press.

WHITE HOUSE | LEAK TRIAL

# CIA case points to Cheney ex-aide

**Fleischer testifies he first heard about CIA officer from Libby**

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Former White House press secretary Ari Fleischer testified Monday he first heard that a prominent war critic's wife worked at the CIA from vice presidential aide I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby. He said he thought the information might help deflect critical questions from reporters.

Fleischer said Libby told him about Valerie Plame's job at the CIA over a lunch in the White House mess on July 7, 2003. But Libby has told investigators he thought he first learned about Plame on July 10 from NBC reporter Tim Russert.

Four other government witnesses also have said they discussed Plame with Libby before July 10, and the discrepancy between those accounts and what Libby told the FBI and a grand jury are a major component of the perjury and obstruction of justice charges against Vice President Dick Cheney's former chief of staff.

Libby now says his memory failed him when he spoke to Russert. Russert said Monday that he did not tell Libby about Plame. "I was not and never have been the recipient of the leak," Russert told an audience in Oklahoma City.

The appearance of Fleischer, President Bush's chief spokesman from 2001 through mid-2003, slightly swelled the crowd of trial onlookers, including veteran reporters eager to see a White House press secretary questioned under oath.

Acknowledging that he fielded lots hostile questions at the White House, Fleischer proved to be a calm and unflappable witness, even under cross-examination by defense attorney William Jeffress. He often turned to speak directly to the jurors, sometimes using hand gestures.

Fleischer testified under an immunity agreement with prosecutors. He said he sought the deal after reading about the investigation and worrying, "Oh my God. Did I somehow play a role in outing a CIA operative?" He insisted he believed throughout that the information was not classified.

Fleischer said his lunch with Libby was their first ever and had been scheduled by Libby in anticipation of Fleischer's imminent departure to start his own company.

After talk of career plans and

the Miami Dolphins, the subject shifted to the controversy raging over criticism by Plame's husband, ex-ambassador Joseph Wilson, of President Bush's State of Union address in January 2003.

Previous testimony showed Cheney's office was working to get word out that Cheney didn't send Wilson to Niger and had never heard of Wilson, his trip or his conclusions until press reports in spring 2003.

Libby said Wilson was sent to Niger by his wife and she worked at the CIA in the counter-proliferation division, Fleischer testified.

"My sense is that Mr. Libby was telling me this was kinda newsy," Fleischer added. He did not think the information was classified, however, because whenever he was told or given classified information "people would always say, 'This is classified. You cannot use it.'"

## Oklahoman wins pageant for second time

**Contest settles into Las Vegas for 2nd year**

The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Lauren Nelson, an aspiring Broadway star, was crowned Miss America on Monday night, the second year in a row that a Miss Oklahoma has won the crown.

Nelson, 20, of Lawton, Okla., is a student at the University of Central Oklahoma and wants to get her master's degree in musical

theater.

Shilah Phillips, the first black Miss Texas, was first runner-up, and Miss Georgia, Amanda Kozak, was second runner-up. Viewers voted Miss Alabama, Melinda Toole, as Miss Congeniality.

Nelson was crowned by last year's winner, Jennifer Berry. Nelson, a blonde who told judges she wishes she was taller, sang "You'll Be In My Heart" in the talent competition and plans to promote protecting children online during her yearlong reign as Miss America.

She gets a \$50,000 scholarship with the crown and stands to make thousands more in appearance fees. The pageant tossed in a few reality-TV twists on the way toward selecting its ideal woman in a new time slot on the Las Vegas Strip.

Mario Lopez, of "Dancing with the Stars" and "Saved by the Bell," hosted the show, its second year at the Aladdin Resort & Casino on the Las Vegas Strip.

The pageant moved from Atlantic City, N.J., last year in an attempt breathe new life into an institution that had fallen far from

the forefront of American pop culture.

Although previous experiments with reality gimmicks fell flat, this year's show included viewer voting and increased participation from the panel of celebrity judges, which included MSNBC talk show host Chris Matthews.

"We embrace Miss America for what is it, but we're taking what's been done before and giving that a turn," executive producer Charlie Haykel, of Mischler Productions, the company also producing next week's Super Bowl halftime show.

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# Hamas resumes attacks

Cease-fire between Israel and Palestine in danger from suicide bombing and response

The Associated Press

EILAT, Israel — A Palestinian suicide bomber killed three Israelis at a bakery Monday in the first such attack inside the country in nine months.

The two radical groups that claimed to have sent him said they were trying to end weeks of Palestinian infighting by taking aim at Israel instead.

Israel's first response came early Tuesday.

The army said its aircraft bombed a tunnel dug by Palestinians near the Gaza-Israel border that it said was intended for use by militants for an attack against Israel.

No casualties were reported.

Israel has observed a truce with the Palestinians in Gaza since late November.

But the airstrike signaled that



DION NISSENBAUM | MCT

A poster hung at a Nablus store warns rival Palestinian factions not to attack members of the prominent Dweikat family.

the Eilat bombing put that cease-fire in danger.

The bombing was praised by the Palestinians' governing Hamas movement as legitimate resistance — a position that was sure to hurt efforts to end a crippling economic boycott imposed by the international community.

"The operation has a clear message to the Palestinian rivals.

It is necessary to end the infighting and point the guns toward the occupation that has hurt the Palestinian people," a posting on the Islamic Jihad Web

site said.

Early Tuesday, officials from the rival Fatah and Hamas movements announced a new cease-fire. Negotiated by the two sides with

Egyptian mediators at a midnight meeting, the agreement was supposed to end bloodshed that has left over 60 Palestinians dead since early December.

But fighting continued in downtown Gaza after the truce was supposed to have taken effect. Several earlier truce agreements have broken down.

The attack was the second suicide

bombing in Israel since Hamas won Palestinian parliamentary elections a year ago.

Labeled a terrorist group in the West for its anti-Israel ideology,

The group came under heavy criticism for making statements in support of a suicide bombing in a Tel Aviv restaurant shortly after it took power. Fawzi Barhoum, a Hamas spokesman in Gaza, called Monday's attack a "natural response" to Israeli military policies in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"So long as there is occupation, resistance is legitimate," he said.

WORLD

TUESDAY

1.30.07

## 3 helicopters lost in Iraq since Jan. 20, one a private chopper

» BAGHDAD, Iraq — Three helicopters have been lost in Iraq in the past 10 days, including one over the weekend. While insurgents and militias have plenty of weapons capable of shooting down helicopters, the U.S. has developed tactics to minimize the risk.

Since May 2003, the U.S. military has lost 54 helicopters in Iraq, about half of them to hostile fire. In addition, an OH-6A helicopter owned by the private security company Blackwater USA crashed last Tuesday in Baghdad in heavy gunfire, killing four civilian contractors.

## Congolese warlord ordered to stand trial for war crimes

» THE HAGUE, Netherlands — The International Criminal Court on Monday ordered an alleged Congolese warlord to be tried on charges he recruited child soldiers and sent them into battle, making him the first suspect to stand trial at the permanent war crimes court.

The children were forced to take part in armed conflicts, the three-judge panel found, issuing its findings from a preliminary hearing in November.

Lubanga faces three charges of recruiting and deploying child soldiers in the bloody conflict in the Ituri region of eastern Congo in 2002-03. If convicted, he faces a maximum life sentence.

## Scientists to finish global warming report this Friday

» PARIS —Some 500 scientists and officials convened in Paris on Monday for a week of word-by-word editing of a long-awaited report on how fast the world is warming, how serious it is — and how much is the fault of humans.

The report, drafted by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, is to be released Friday.

# Afghanistan expects more suicide attacks

Commander expects more attacks in 2007

The Associated Press

FORWARD OPERATING BASE SHARANA, Afghanistan — The incoming commander of U.S. troops in Afghanistan said Monday he expects Taliban militants to launch more suicide attacks this year than in 2006, when militants set off a record 139 such bombings.

### Suicide attacks in Afghanistan

bombs	year
» 139	2006
» 27	2005

Maj. Gen. David M. Rodriguez, commander of the 82nd Airborne Division, said military leaders expect an increase in all kinds of attacks as the weather gets warmer.

"We're expecting an increase

in the suicide bombers and some of the other tactics that they have believed are successful," he said. "So we expect to see that as well as the normal stand off type attacks and harassing kind of attacks on Afghan government officials, Afghan nationals, security forces, as well as coalition forces."

Rodriguez, who takes command from Maj. Gen. Benjamin Freakley on Friday, traveled to the eastern province of Paktika next to the Pakistan border on Monday to be briefed by military leaders and the

provincial governor.

Paktika Gov. Mohammed Akram Akhpelwak told Rodriguez that Taliban militants have bases across the border in Pakistan and that he hopes U.S. forces can help stop the flow of fighters crossing into Paktika.

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## announcements

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NFL | SUPER BOWL XLI

# Coach earns ‘stripes’ his own way

Smith one game from fulfilling promise

The Associated Press

MIAMI — Lovie Smith’s first day as coach of the Chicago Bears brought a big smile to his face and a Texas-sized promise to those who hired him, even to those who didn’t know him.

First, he vowed to beat the arch rival Green Bay Packers. Then he turned his sights on something greater.

“I will do everything possible to bring back the pride, tradition and excellence of the glory days of past great Bear teams,” Smith said on that January day just more than three years ago. “We want to win a world championship. Just like our ’85 Bears, led by a great coach that I deeply admire, Mike Ditka.”

Ditka was as fierce prowling the sidelines as he was catching passes over the middle during his playing days as one of the NFL’s most rugged tight ends. Snarling at times and often showing his emotion openly, he coached the Bears to their only Super Bowl where they overwhelmed New England 46-10.

Now Smith is one victory away from making good on his promise to reclaim the NFL title for the storied franchise.

Smith asked about a contract extension before the season began, he said, but didn’t get one; now in the third of a four-year deal, he’s expected to finally get that extension after the Super Bowl.

Smith’s ability to stay calm, to keep his composure on the sideline, mirrors the personality of his good friend Colts coach Tony Dungy. It was Dungy who gave Smith his first NFL job in 1996, and it is Dungy whom he’ll face in pro football’s biggest game on Sunday.



JIM PRISHING | MCT

Chicago Bears head coach Lovie Smith talks to reporters about his NFC championship victory over the New Orleans Saints and the upcoming Super Bowl against the Indianapolis Colts during a news conference Monday, Jan. 22 at Halas Hall in Lake Forest. This will be Smith’s first Super Bowl appearance with the Bears.

The two have already made history as the first two black head coaches to compete in the Super Bowl in the event’s 41 years of existence.

“I take pride in that,” Smith said. “Me being in this position right here will just open the eyes of a lot of young African-American men

to see what you can accomplish if you have a goal. Really it should be about what you have inside, not the color.”

Tackle John Tait noticed that Smith was more animated than usual when Robbie Gould made a 49-yard field goal in overtime to beat Seattle in the opening round

of the playoffs. He lifted his arms in joy on the sidelines following what was, at that time, his most important win as a coach.

“He showed that emotion you don’t see that very often,” Tait said. “When you have a coach who is really even-keeled and doesn’t get really upset, when he does say

something, it gets your attention. I enjoy his coaching style as an older player who’s been in the league a few years. I think it’s good — a good fit for our team.”

Tait’s been around long enough to be able to compare coaching styles.

“I’ve had a couple other coaches and they’ve kinda been on the opposite end of the spectrum, yelling and kinda carrying on and stuff like that — which is good, in some ways, because I think it is a motivator,” Tait said. “But Lovie’s not that way. He kind of treats his guys like we’re grown men. Shows you a lot of respect, and in return I think we give a lot of respect to Lovie.”

For defensive end Adewale Ogunleye, Smith’s style earned him the team’s respect on several fronts.

“His word is his word and whatever he says goes. But he’s a realist. He doesn’t have bigger expectations for us than we have for ourselves, and I respect that,” Ogunleye said. “He treats Brian Urlacher the same way he might treat a guy who’s on the practice squad.”

Urlacher would be happy to finish out his career working for Smith.

“He’s great to play for, he always lets you know where you stand. If you want to talk to him, you can go talk to him... He’s a great coach and I can’t imagine playing for anyone else, and I don’t want to,” Urlacher said.

In the short time he’s been with the Bears, Smith has been tested.

Defensive back Ricky Manning Jr., defensive tackle Tank Johnson and tight end John Gilmore have had brushes with the law. And last season, there was an off-day fight on an FBI shooting range between center Olin Kreutz and tackle Fred Miller that had to be patched up.

## Martin Luther King, Jr. University Union Superbowl Party!

Sunday, Feb. 4th

4:30 pm

(1 hour prior to kickoff)

In the Cyber Lounge

Free Food and Giveaways!





WOMEN'S INDOOR TRACK AND FIELD | NOTEBOOK

# Panthers break old records

By Brandy Provaznik  
Staff Reporter

With only three meets into the season and close to 10 women making Eastern's top ten all-time list, men's head coach Tom Akers said he isn't sure whether he should be scared or excited.

Akers said once the team starts to do well early, there can be a tendency to become complacent and athletes may not think they need to work as hard.

Women's head coach Mary Wallace said this success is proof of how well-rounded the team is and how they can be competitive in all events.

Sophomore Shawana Smith made the list in the 60-meter dash and has been moving up the 200-meter dash list each meet.

Sophomore Nicole Walcott and freshman Kandace Arnold are on both the shot put and the weight throw lists.

Other women who recently made the list are: senior Nicole Marczewski, sophomores Chandra Golden, Tricia Gaumer and Tarra Grant and freshman Caitlin Finnegan.

Sophomore Angela Stoczynski is only about a foot off in the weight throw and freshman Erin O'Grady is only two seconds off in the mile, Wallace said.

"With all the other girls making the list it makes me feel like I can do it too if I try," O'Grady said. "I was just online the other day, and I was like 'Wow, I am not too far



**Nicole Walcott**  
Sophomore weight thrower and shot putter

off. I can do this."

### Throwing the competition

Eastern throwers saw some tough competition at the University of Northern Iowa Invitational with UNI's Rachel Jansen and Sarah Harms placing first and second in the shot put and the weight throw.

Jansen is also considered the top women's thrower in shot put in the nation, Akers said.

He said it was good to see how Arnold reacted to that caliber of competition for the first time.

"She could come out against it and be a competitor or she can be a spectator and I think she did a good job even though it wasn't her best," Akers said.

Arnold said she had never seen a woman throw that far and it inspired her to get to that point at some time in her career.

Arnold also said it was an adjustment to not be in the top three at the meet.

"It was kind of a reality check because I was first and second in the first two meets, or at least up there," Arnold said. "It showed me if I want to be at the top all the time, I have to keep working hard."

Wallace said that it shows them what it takes to be a Division I athlete and that the throwers may need to step it up if they want to be at that level too.

Wallace said Jansen is a good example of a female thrower who is quick and technically sound and told



JOHN BAILEY | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Junior distance runner Amy Le Jeune runs with the baton during the women's 4 X 800-meter relay when Eastern Illinois hosted the Indoor Mega Meet on Jan. 20 at Lantz Arena. The Panthers took second in the relay with a time of 10:10.01.

Walcott that she has that ability also.

"It was an eye-opener – that she thinks I can do that too," Walcott said. "Seeing it just showed me what Wallace has been telling me I could do all along and it made the goal seem more attainable."

### On the road

With the UNI Invite being the first of three consecutive away meets, Akers said this a good time for the team to bond.

Traveling and staying in hotel rooms forces the athletes to get to know some of their teammates from other events.

When making the room assignments, Wallace tried to mix the runners up, especially the distance runners, because they were together all cross country season.

O'Grady said they are no longer the "cross country girls."

Instead, O'Grady said, they are all the "track girls" and she really enjoys getting to know some of her other teammates besides her cross country teammates.

Senior Nicole Flounders said in previous years they didn't mix in until conference time and is glad they started doing it earlier.

"It just seemed sort of fake to all come together for just that one week and then go back to doing our own things," Flounders said. "It is nice to start off on the right foot and support each other from the beginning."

Senior Jillian Blondell said she thinks it is a good idea because it makes them more unified, which will help at the conference championships.

"I think it is good this year because we have a good chance of doing well and being strong in all areas so it brings us together as a team," Blondell said.

OHIO VALLEY CONFERENCE MEN'S BASKETBALL | NOTEBOOK

# Schedule controversy sticks around

## 20-game season too long, coach says

By Joe Waltasti  
Sports Reporter

With so many teams traveling long distances this week, the long 20-game conference schedule is a hot topic.

Mike Sutton, the head coach at Tennessee Tech, was the most outspoken of the all the Ohio Valley Conference coaches during Monday's teleconference.

"I haven't talked to one coach who likes our schedule," Sutton said. "There are some better alternatives. We need to find the best way to do not just the easy way."

Sutton said he is a proponent of sending every team to the conference tournament at season's end, rather than just the top eight teams in the current format. He also said the OVC is too big and cutting back on some times might

improve the league as a whole.

Sutton may get his wish with Samford officials contemplating a change to the Southern Conference.

Tillette said one of the advantages is there are more private institutions in the Southern Conference. All the schools in the OVC are public universities except Samford.

### Many miles left for Alabama schools

Jacksonville State head coach Mike LaPlante and his players are going to travel 1,100 miles this week when the Gamecocks play three games in five days.

LaPlante's team hosts Tennessee State on Tuesday in Jacksonville, Ala., and then will get on a bus immediately to travel to Charleston to play the Panthers on Thursday night at Lantz Arena.

The Gamecocks then travel back to Alabama to play Murray State on Saturday night.

"I'm still trying to figure out

who at the league office has it in for me," LaPlante joked. "You're playing Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday and have to make the farthest trip possible."

But LaPlante is trying to make the best of the situation. He won't make excuses about his team's situation.

"We're going to bring our pillows and blankets and get some rest through the night," LaPlante said. "We have to accept it and handle it and give ourselves a chance to win."

Samford also has to travel a long distance. The Bulldogs will travel from Birmingham, Ala., to Charleston on Saturday to play the Panthers in a game that will be televised on ESPN2.

The busy week comes at an even worse time for Samford and head coach Jimmy Tillette.

He said this week is Samford's first week back from winter break and the transition is going to be rough on his players, especially

since they only had basketball to worry about the past month.

"I always fear this week because (my players) have been like professional players the last month, just practicing and playing video games all day," Tillette said. "But their world is going to change going back to class."

### Reinforcements for TSU

Tennessee State head coach Cy Alexander may have more depth on his team shortly.

Alexander expects Mississippi State transfer Jerrell Houston to be eligible to play within the next two weeks. The sophomore forward sat out last year but some incomplete assignments in a biology class have kept him off the floor this season.

"He's 6-foot-8 and he can take it inside, he can take it outside," Alexander said. "He is that talented. He is an (Southeastern) athlete, that's for sure."

### Cisse honored by conference

Another Eastern basketball athlete won the OVC Freshman of the Week. Freshman center Ousmane Cisse was named co-freshman of the week by the league's offices on Monday.

It is the fifth time a Panther has been awarded that honor this season. Fellow freshman Romain Martin has won the award four other times.

The OVC gave the Ivory Coast native the award after his 10-point and six rebound performance in the Panthers 65-62 win Saturday at Morehead State. The win ended the Panthers' eight-game losing streak and it was their second road win.

Cisse also finished three of three from the field and was four of five from the free throw line.

Cisse leads the teams in rebounds (5.7 per game) and field goal percentage (53.5 percent) and averages 6.1 points per game.

Wes Channels of Austin Peay was the other co-freshman of the week.

## » Murphy

FROM PAGE 12

In contrast, two McKendree fans in particular showed up with a blow up doll, wearing white T-shirts spelling out the letter "DOM" in honor of McKendree's Dominic Angelo.

McKendree fans showed more interest in its No. 9 ranked NAIA wrestling program than Eastern

fans did.

The lack of people was a disparity from last weekend when Eastern hosted the Tennessee State men's and women's basketball teams on Saturday. Both the men's and women's swimming teams hosted Valparaiso that afternoon and the men's and women's track teams hosted the Mega Meet all day.

Lantz was quiet before the wrestling meet on Saturday. There was no pep band warm-up. There was no Blue Crew.

There were only two home wrestling meets. But it was certainly no football game.

Maybe wrestling does not excite you as much, but they are still your fellow peers.

This wrestling match was certainly not as exciting as the Midlands, a prestigious wrestling tournament at Northwestern where the top wrestling teams in the country competed.

In late December, the Panthers did not fare well at Welsh-Ryan

Arena in Evanston. They did not win any matches in the championship round of the tournament. They won matches in the consolation round in a different venue.

The fans at Welsh-Ryan Arena were more excited about the wrestling than the fans that showed up Saturday at Lantz Arena.

The crowd that buzzed in Evanston watched eight different mats with wrestlers, a crowd with parents, friends and family all across the country. Robertson didn't even

win a match in Evanston.

He won his match on Senior Night in Charleston against Brandon Wyms, 5-0.

Robertson will need to do a lot of wrestling away from Lantz if he's going to qualify for the NCAA for the third time in his career.

Eastern has no more home meets. Fans will be few and far between.

It would have been nice to see more than 200 people in the crowd when two-time NCAA qualifier Robertson was honored.



SPORTS

TUESDAY  
1.30.07

scoreboard

PANTHER SPORTS SCHEDULE

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Thursday vs. Jacksonville State |  
5:15 p.m. Lantz Arena

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Thursday vs. Jacksonville State |  
7:35 p.m. Lantz Arena

SWIMMING

Saturday vs. Saint Louis |  
Noon Lantz Arena

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Saturday vs. Samford |  
2 p.m. Lantz Arena

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Saturday vs. Samford |  
5 p.m. Lantz Arena

KEVIN MURPHY | RUNNING WITH  
THE PACK

Arena  
empty on  
Senior Day

If you thought the men's basketball attendance was low, you should have been at the wrestling meet on Saturday.

Men's basketball's attendance is the lowest in the Ohio Valley Conference, averaging 919 fans per home game. Two wrestlers were honored on Senior Night Saturday night at Lantz Arena and a crowd of only 423 showed.

423 is a farce because while talking to a student who attended the meet, the student estimated there were only 200 people attending. And the 200-plus came to see senior Kenny Robertson, a two-time NCAA qualifier in his career here.

Robertson, a senior previously ranked in the top 20 nationally at 174 pounds this season, won the NCAA Midwest Regional last year. He was the only person to win a match against No. 15 Indiana in Eastern's other home match of the year.

This was the only collegiate athletic event at Eastern this weekend. And yet, except for the handful of students, the majority of the attendees were family of the wrestlers.

It was silent for the most of the individual's matches, with noise coming from the crowd in the final 30 seconds of a seven-minute match, only becoming loud when someone came close to a pin or there was a bad call by an official.

» SEE MURPHY  
PAGE 11



Kevin Murphy is a freshman journalism major. He can be reached at [hogan\\_knight\\_88@yahoo.com](mailto:hogan_knight_88@yahoo.com).

WOMEN'S INDOOR TRACK AND FIELD | PREPARING FOR CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

ElU meets promise tough competition

Two hurdles await Panthers before OVC Championships

By Patrick Vitt  
Staff Reporter

Eastern has had six first-place finishes in three indoor meets this season, including five first-place finishes at its Dec. 9 Early Bird Meet.

Now the real test will begin with the Panthers running a two-week gantlet that includes meets against Big Ten and Big 12 competition. Eastern will travel for back-to-back meets at the Indiana and Iowa State invitationals beginning Saturday.

Coming off of an impressive performance at the Northern Iowa Invitational, Eastern head coach Mary Wallace knows that with the increase in competition comes the less likelihood of a repeat performance at the

Indiana Invitational.

"Both the Indiana and Iowa State (meets) offer equal amounts of competition but in different formats. Indiana has a banked 200-meter track where the field will be loaded more towards sprints and jumps," she said. "Iowa State is traditionally more of a national invite meet because we will see teams from the Big East and Pac-10. It is a very quality meet where a lot of national qualifiers come out."

After the two-week stretch where both invitationals not only come against top-flight competition, but are both away meets.

Eastern has one meet after the next two, its own Early Bird Special Meet, before hosting the Ohio Valley Conference Championship at Lantz Field House the last weekend in February.

Senior middle distance runner Nicole Flounders knows after the Big Ten and Big 12 meets, the OVC Championship will seem like a warm-up.

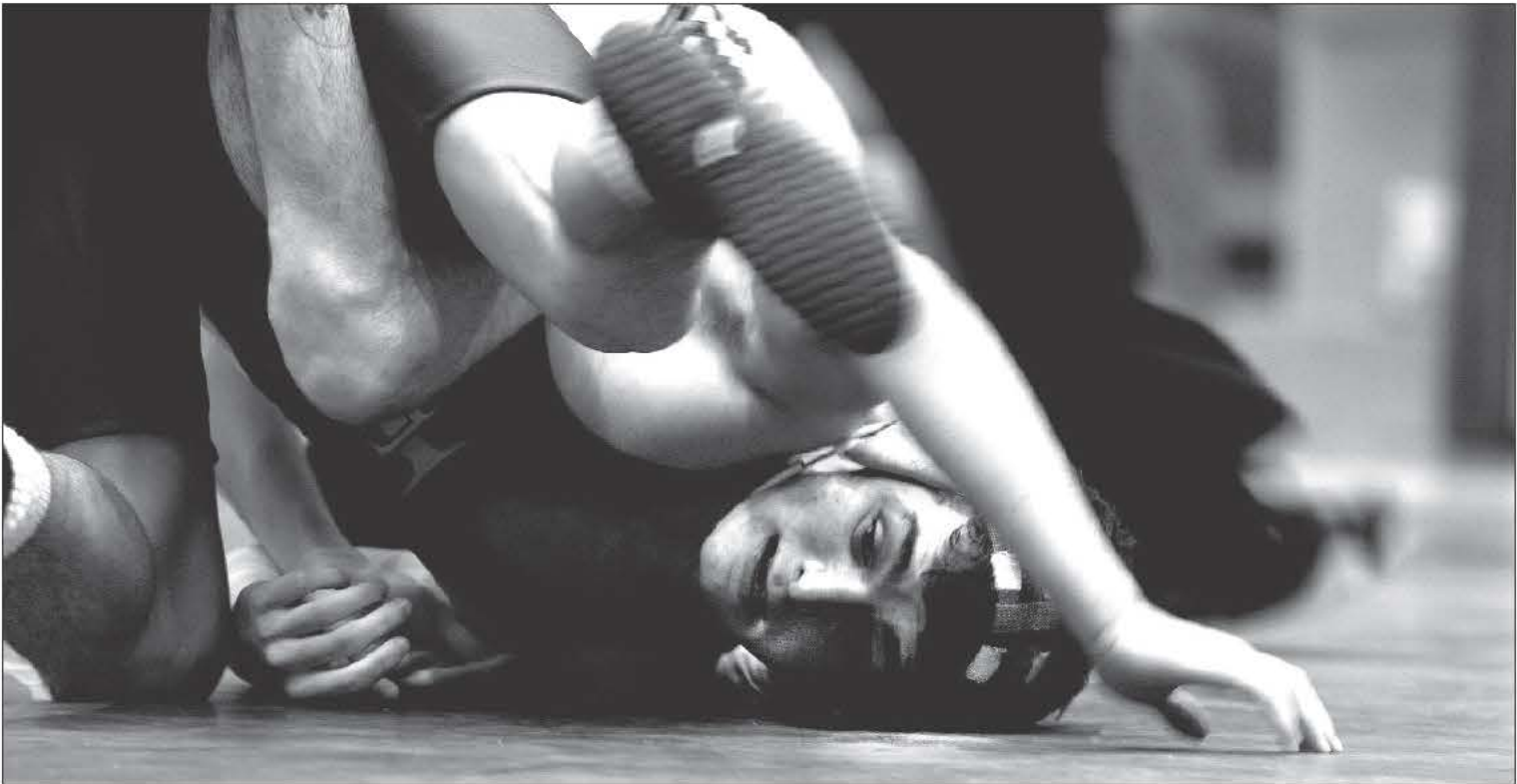
"The OVC Championship is not as competitive as those bigger meets where how you place per event means a lot," she said. "In the OVC, we will try to run as many people per event trying to score as many points as possible, which is an entirely different strategy compared to the other meets."

However, the Panthers need not look ahead to the OVC Championships, but stay focused on their most important two-week stretch of the season.

Wallace has some advice for the team approaching these next two meets.

"We have to view this as a series of stepping stones, beginning with Indiana and then stepping it up again at Iowa State," she said. "My focus is just to get in and have them compete. (We should) not focus on the jersey in the lane next to you, in track and field. We cannot control what the competition does. You just get in the block and compete like any other day."

WRESTLING | FRESHMEN WRESTLERS



NORA MABERRY | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Freshman Lenny Grodoski, who competes in the 133 weight class, is pinned to the mat Saturday night in Eastern's match against McKendree College. Grodoski lost the match by a 6-3 decision while the Panthers lost 23-15. Eastern won in the 157, 174 and 184-pound weight classes.

Starting lineup full of freshmen

Six new faces replace previous year's starting wrestlers

By Anthony Katsivalis  
Staff Reporter

Imagine being 18 years old, new to the freedoms of college and the higher level of athletic competition.

You have been recruited by Eastern and would never expect to start on an athletic team as a freshman.

After the first few practices, you realize you're a college starter fresh out of high school, a task rarely accomplished by a freshman.

This has been the reality for six of the ten starting Panther wrestlers this season.

These freshmen have faced hardships this season, with a 1-8 dual record, but the attitude of the team stays optimistic both for wrestlers and coaches.

"This is a great nucleus of guys. What they need to do is hold together and persevere," said head coach Ralph McCausland. "We see them making great gains, but it's hard to measure because of the quality of the schedule we put them up against."

None of the freshman wrestlers yield a winning record this season, but many of them have had to face nationally ranked opponents often this season.

Tommy Reamer, a freshman wrestling at

FACTS AND STATS OVER NEW WRESTLERS

» Name: A.J. Ciccarelli	» Name: Kile O'Toole
» Weight Class: 125	» Weight Class: 157
» Record: 9-15	» Record: 10-15
» Name: Billy Gallo	» Name: Tommy Reamer
» Weight Class: 165	» Weight Class: 149
» Record: 5-17	» Record: 9-17
» Name: Lenny Grodoski	» Name: Joe Trinka
» Weight Class: 133	» Weight Class: 285
» Record: 7-14	» Record: 11-15

149 pounds, will have wrestled at least 10 of the top wrestlers in the country by the end of this season.

The strength of this team lies in the patience of the young wrestlers, McCausland said.

Freshman 157-pound wrestler Kile O'Toole recognizes this strength.

"We continue to grow and improve from week to week," O'Toole said. "In the long run, it gives us all critical experience."

The Panthers' record could be attributed to the inexperience of the younger athletes on the team, but this is a sacrifice that will lead them

to a stronger program in the years to come.

This is a team that has four years to grow together and has already recognized the advantage that this will give them in the future.

"There's a great bond between these guys, especially since there are so many (freshmen)," McCausland said. "These are just solid kids. Solid (academics) and solid work ethics will bring them far in the years to come."

These wrestlers must adjust to the world of college wrestling which is much different from high school wrestling.

Freshman 133-pound wrestler Lenny Grodoski said better coaching has helped him his first year.

"My high school coaches were nowhere near Ralph and (assistant coach Clayton French)," he said. "Another difference is that the college level is much more physical. Everyone coming in has talent."

The wrestling team still has six matches left this season, not to mention the NCAA's regional qualifying coming up.

McCausland sees the NCAA regional experience for his wrestlers as a chance to grow by attending a tournament few freshmen wrestlers get to compete in.

"For these six freshmen to actually go to the qualifying tournament and partake is huge," McCausland said. "There is not one bad thing I can say about any of these guys."