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Daily Eastern News: March 29, 1999

Eastern Illinois University

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56°
40°

Chance
of rain



Inside The budding of spring

Dalias Price, a local weather observer, says temperatures will warm up and it will rain.

Story on Page 3

The Daily Eastern News

www.den.eiu.edu

Eastern Illinois University
Charleston, Ill. 61920
Vol. 84, No. 124
12 pages

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

Monday
March 29, 1999

Sports Evil Demons

DePaul softball team sweeps Panthers in doubleheader at home on Sunday.
Story on Page 12



Surles will not reopen tuition refund request

President says administration handled request appropriately

By Meghan McMahon
Administration editor

Eastern President Carol Surles issued a response March 16, saying she would not reopen the complaint filed by an Eastern student who requested a tuition refund.

Eastern graduate student April Hixson, of Mahomet, filed a request for a tuition refund after completing a nonwestern music course taught by fine arts professor Doug DiBianco in the fall. Hixson said much of the material presented in class did not relate to nonwestern music.

Surles said she decided not to reopen the complaint because proper action had already been taken before she arrived at Eastern.

"I didn't review it a second time because it had already been resolved," Surles said. "(Former Eastern President David Jorns) had already made a decision by the time I arrived in Illinois."

The refund request was originally denied by Teshome Abebe, vice president for academic affairs, who cited that it was inappropriate to refund tuition for a course that has been successfully completed.

After Abebe's denial of the request, Hixson appealed to Jorns, who also denied the request for a tuition refund. Jorns said he denied the request because Hixson's attempt to contact the College of Arts and Humanities was made after the deadline to request a refund listed in the course catalog.

“

I didn't review it a second time because it had already been resolved.

Carol Surles,
Eastern President

”

Jorns also said in his response to Hixson that she did not attempt to discuss the matter with an administrator until after she had completed the course and received an 'A.'

April Hixson's husband Dean Hixson said in an e-mail that Surles did acknowledge April Hixson's request to discuss the matter but offers no explanation as to why the request has been denied by Eastern administrators.

"Surles' letter makes no explanation as to how EIU can claim that April was not forced to enroll in MUS3562C, in spite of the document that proves otherwise, and in spite of April's accounts of interactions with her academic advisor," Dean Hixson stated in an e-mail.

Dean Hixson said the response from Surles is very similar to the other denials she has received regarding the request.

"Dr. Surles letter, consistent with previous EIU letters, not only refuses to answer April's inquiries, it refuses to acknowledge that she's made other inquiries," Dean Hixson said.

A shining report



Deanna McIntyre / Photo editor

Charlie McKinney, an eight-year building service worker and Neoga resident cleans a mirror in Taylor Hall's fourth floor south bathroom. McKinney cleans the windows, mirrors, showers and vacuums the third through fifth floors of the south tower of Taylor Hall every morning beginning around 4:30 a.m.

BSW and students form respectful, close relationship

By Justin Kmitch
News editor

Monday profile

Students living on the third, fourth and fifth floors of the south tower of Taylor Hall know they can always count on seeing a smiling face and hearing a friendly "Good morning. How are you today?" when they wake up.

Building Service Worker Charlie McKinney, 53, of Neoga, said his day of cleaning and maintaining the Taylor Hall floors begins between 4:30 and 5 a.m.; long before many Taylor residents have opened their eyes.

McKinney's job duties include cleaning windows, mir-

rors and showers. He also vacuums the floor and empties the trash containers on the floor.

"When I get here in the morning, I clean the rest rooms and the hallways," he said. "I know how students appreciate a clean restroom."

The university's BSWs are also responsible for moving anything that would need to be moved during the summer months.

"During the summer, we move furniture and anything else

that happens to come in," he said.

McKinney has been an Eastern BSW for eight years and previously worked for 15 years at Norfolk and Western Railway Company and more than five years for Quantam Chemical in Tuscola.

"Quantam Chemical was a very dangerous job," he said. "But the pay was quite good."

In 1991, two-thirds of the chemical plant closed and McKinney's said he was afraid he was going to lose his job so a friend told him of a job opening at Eastern.

See SHINING Page 2

CUPB hears a report on capital projects

By Meghan McMahon
Administration editor

Council on University Planning and Budget members Friday were asked to prioritize five major capital projects and three capital renewal projects for the fiscal year 2001.

Ted Weidner, director of facilities planning and management, gave the report and said the major capital projects include movable equipment for Booth Library, a south campus chilled water loop, construction of the Fine Arts Center, an upgrade on the campus electrical distribution and the planned construction of a new science building.

The estimated budget for the Booth Library equipment is \$4 million; \$2.5 million is estimated for the south campus chilled

water loop; \$34 million for construction of the Fine Arts Center; \$3.5 million for the upgrade of the campus electrical distribution and \$2.5 million for the planned construction of the new science building.

The capital renewal projects include rehabilitation of the masonry of the Physical Science Building, rehabilitation of the interior of McAfee Gymnasium and the rehabilitation of the chiller in Klehm Hall.

The estimated cost for masonry rehabilitation in the Physical Science Building is \$750,000, \$750,000 for the rehabilitation of the interior of McAfee and \$350,000 for the chiller rehabilitation in Klehm Hall.

Some of the estimated costs for the recommended projects come from engineering estimates, Weidner said.

He said because the funding for the projects will come from the capital development board, the work will be bid out to outside contractors.

"State employees may not be paid with money funneled through the capital development board," Weidner said.

He also said the cost of the projects will not exceed the money made available by the state.

Weidner asked CUPB members to prioritize the major capital projects using a scale of one through five and the capital renewal projects one through three. Members were asked to return their prioritized lists to the budget office and the lists will be tabulated before it is presented to Eastern's Board of Trustees at the July meeting.

Weidner said he submitted the list to the CUPB in the order that facilities planning and management recommends and said the movable equipment for Booth Library was at the top of the list because the equipment will be needed when library construction is complete.

"It is appropriate to request the equipment for the building quickly after the construction," Weidner said.

The second recommended major capital project for the south campus chilled water loop will expand the current water loop to add seven buildings, Weidner said.

"It will practically double the existing chilled water loop," he said.

See CUPB Page 2

The Daily Eastern News

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Daily Eastern News staff

Editor in chiefDeana Poole*
Managing editorHeather Cygan*
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Associate news editorTammie Sloup*
Editorial page editorAmy Thon*
Activities editorDan Ochwat
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.....Laura Irvine
News night editorsJustin Kmitch
.....Tammie Sloup

To reach us

By foot: The Daily Eastern News is located in the south end of Buzzard Hall, which is at Seventh Street and Garfield Avenue next to the Tarble Arts Center and across the street from the Life Science Building.

By phone: (217) 581-2812

By fax: (217) 581-2923

By mail:

The Daily Eastern News
Buzzard Hall
Eastern Illinois University
Charleston, IL 61920

By e-mail:

Editor in chief Deana Poole
cudmp2@pen.eiu.edu
Managing editor Heather Cygan
cuhlc2@pen.eiu.edu
News editor Justin Kmitch
cujk8@pen.eiu.edu
Associate news editor Tammie Sloup
cutes4@pen.eiu.edu
Editorial page editor Amy Thon
cuatl2@pen.eiu.edu
Sports editor Chad Merda
cuccm1@pen.eiu.edu
Verge editor Jessica Sedgwick
cujas19@pen.eiu.edu
Photo editor Deanna McIntyre
cudsm2@pen.eiu.edu

Man dies of bullet wound six years after shooting

JOLIET, Ill. (AP) — More than six years ago, a bullet struck Eric Johnson in the head, forever changing his life. Now, it has finally killed him, turning a shooting investigation into an unsolved homicide.

Johnson's decomposed

body was found Feb. 23 in his apartment several days after he suffered a fatal seizure in his bed. Autopsy results last week indicated a bullet fragment embedded in his forehead was to blame, said Will County Coroner Patrick O'Neil.

Johnson's ordeal began Dec. 16, 1992, when he was 27 years old. He was a passenger in a car driven by a friend when a maroon van pulled beside them, according to police. Two men inside the van flashed gang signs and then sped away. A short

time later, the men returned, and one of them fired two shots into the car. A bullet pierced Johnson's neck and entered his forehead.

Paralyzed on his left side, Johnson spent the next nine months in a coma. After he awoke, his memory was

spotty: He didn't remember the shooting. He had also lost the ability to count and reason, and his senses of taste and smell were gone.

He underwent several months of intensive therapy, learning how to feed himself and walk again.

CUPB

from Page 1

Weidner said the Illinois Board of Higher Education has already recommended \$2 million in planning funds to rehabilitate and expand the Fine Arts Center, which is currently number three on the list, and the Illinois Legislature is currently considering it.

He said a preliminary study has been done of the campus electrical distribution system, the fourth ranked project, and the study has identified approximately \$4 million in work.

"(An upgrade in campus electrical distribution) would ensure we are able to power all our buildings in the future," Weidner said.

The construction of a new science building is currently ranked last on the list.

In other business Carol Surles, Eastern president and CUPB chair, reported to the council about her recent trips to the Illinois Legislature.

She said that it is apparent that



Lacey Buidosik / Assoc. photo editor

Eastern President Carol Surles, speaks about her experience talking to the Illinois Legislature Friday afternoon, at the CUPB's March meeting. The CUPB also discussed major capital projects and capital renewal projects.

the quality of academics is one of the main concerns of the Legislature.

"Everything revolves around the academic process ... so we must have faculty input," Surles said.

She also said it is important for her to have the university's support

so Eastern can get the best possible funding.

"What I want is your support to make sure we stay within the principles to maximize funding," Surles said. "It is important that we have a physical facility that is well-funded."

Shining

from Page 1

"I came in, took a test, got an interview and was eventually offered a Building Service Worker's job in December of 1991," he said.

McKinney said his favorite part of his job is the daily interaction and association he has with the students on the floors on which he works.

"I have a good repore with my students but I don't know how to explain it, he said. "In my eight years here, I have not once had a problem with a student. We respect each other on a serious level."

John Gura, resident assistant of Four South and a senior social science major, said the guys on his floor respect McKinney and the work he does.

"Charlie is the number one reason there is no vandalism on the floor because everyone likes and has so much respect for him," Gura said. "It's nice to have a BSW on the floor that everyone can't wait to see in the morning."

Jason Gbur, a junior marketing major and resident of Four South, said he appreciates McKinney's personality.

"Where else can you find a friendly face in

the bathroom at 7:30 a.m.?" he asked. "He's always good for a decent dirty joke too. He's just an all around good guy."

McKinney also is quite fond of the women living on Three and Five South and they say they're pretty fond of him too.

Katie Vlaming, resident assistant for Three South and a junior special education and elementary education major said she sees McKinney as more of a friend.

"Everybody loves Charlie. My experience, and that of many residents is that Charlie goes out his way to get to know the students on the floor," she said. "And he always has a smile on his face and an ear to listen."

Barbara Alde, resident assistant on Five South and a sophomore psychology major, said she appreciates McKinney's helpfulness.

"This is my first semester as an R.A. and Charlie has been very helpful to me," she said. "He welcomed me to the floor."

"And he gets to know every girl's name. We couldn't ask for a better BSW."

Vlaming said for Christmas, the women on Three South all raised money to get him gift and thank him for his hard work.

McKinney said the least favorite part of his job is having to clean up vomit after a busy weekend.

"I haven't had one in quite some time, but that is definitely my least favorite part," he said.

Lost wedding photos online

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP) — Mark and Kelly Mucha returned from a Jamaican vacation to some strange news: Her picture was on television, and the state's top legal officer was looking for them.

The picture turned out to be a wedding photo that had ended up in the possession of Attorney General Jim Ryan. His office was just trying to find the rightful owner.

Their wedding photos were one of about 150 sets recovered after Ryan's office sued Cianci Studios in Tinley Park for fraud.

Correction

An article in Friday's paper incorrectly identified the manager of the shuttle bus service. The manager is Ray Epperson.


Also in Friday's edition, Matthew Delaney's name was misspelled.

The News regrets the errors.

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Spring weather is here to stay



Lacey Buidosik / Assoc. photo editor

Doug McGaghie, a sophomore history major, plays catch in the South Quad Sunday afternoon. Spring finally comes to Central Illinois and Charleston this week with temperatures reaching into the 70s by Wednesday.

Each day will get better, Price says

By Christy Kilgore
City editor

Spring is finally here to stay as Central Illinois enters the final week of March and the first week of April.

"Each day will get better," said Dalias Price, local weather observer. "We should have temperatures in the 70s by Wednesday."

True spring will be coming in full force this week, Price said, along with spring temperatures and some rain expected on Thursday.

"The last time it rained a measurable amount was March 9," Price said. "We need to have some rain."

Observers will begin to see signs of spring every day, Price said, including buds on the trees and flowers like crocuses, daffodils and tulips beginning to sprout.

"The trees are getting their cloaks of leaves instead of just bare bones," Price said.

Although Price did not know any specific history on the phenomenon of spring fever, he did have a theory.

"It always gives us a boost to see us pull out of gloomy winter weather," Price said. "I suppose when it does get quite warm we're just not used to that; we have a reaction to being lazy. And there were times in the past when spring rites included blood letting, among other things."

Price said it is possible to have some lapses of cooler weather before extremely warm temperatures are here.

"We will have some little retreats into colder weather," he said. "But we can forget zero (temperature) weather."

According to the National Weather Service web site at <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/ilx/forecast.htm> today will be mostly sunny with highs in the lower 60s and tonight's lows in the middle 30s.

Tuesday will be mostly sunny with highs in the upper 60s to lower 70s and Wednesday will be even warmer with highs in the middle 70s, according to the site.

Thursday there is a chance of showers and temperatures in the upper 60s to mid-70s, according to the site.

Faculty Senate to announce election results

By Meghan McMahon
Administration editor

The Faculty Senate Tuesday will announce the results of the faculty elections held last week.

The meeting will be at 2 p.m. in the BOG Room of Booth Library.

Faculty Senate Chair James Tidwell said the senate will announce the winners in each race along with the vote totals for each candidate.

Terms for candidates in the elections will begin next semester, Tidwell said.

"(The terms) will start in August at the beginning of the academic year," he said.

Tidwell said the senate also will hear a report from Friday's Council on University Planning and Budget meeting.

The Senate also will finalize plans for the Distinguished Faculty Award, Tidwell said.

Eastern education groups sponsor town book drive

By Christy Kilgore
City editor

The Student Education Association is hoping to give back to the area through a community-wide book drive, the association's faculty sponsor said.

In honor of Read Across America, an event sponsored by the national Education Association, Eastern's chapter, a group open to all education majors, is collecting books through Friday to be donated to Charleston and Mattoon schools. "The community gives the university so much," said Elizabeth Wilkins-Canter, faculty sponsor for the association and associate professor of secondary education and foundations. "It's nice for us to be able to give some back."

Wilkins-Canter said community response from the book drive, which started with a kick-off party in honor of Dr. Seuss on March 4, has been good.

"It's been very positive and people have been very generous," Wilkins-Canter said.

Eastern's Textbook Rental

Service, the Charleston and Mattoon Rotary Clubs and local businesses and churches are among the groups that have donated books.

"We have one more week and we hope the book drive continues to be as strong as it has been and we have a lot of books to give to the schools," she said.

Eastern is doing its part in the fight against illiteracy gathering both new and used books for donation.

"Illiteracy is an ongoing problem in society and I think it's good that the National Education Association is encouraging more reading," Wilkins-Canter said.

Wilkins-Canter said when the books are given to the school she hopes to have a "more formal" presentation.

Drop-off sites for the book drive are: the Super Wal-Mart in Mattoon; the Charleston Wal-Mart at 510 Lincoln Ave., the Wilb Walker's Super Market at 1460 E St., Walker's East Side Market at 9601 Eighth St., the Charleston Post Office at 320 Sixth St., and the Secondary Education Department office in Buzzard Building.

Chinese ambassador to visit Eastern has not hosted an ambassador in 11 years

By Laura Irvine
Campus editor

An ambassador for China Wednesday will be on campus to accept an honorary membership into a campus group and to speak about China in the 21st century.

This is the first time in 11 years Eastern has hosted an ambassador on its campus.

Zhaoxing Li, a Chinese ambassador to the United States since 1998, will give a presentation titled "China: Friend or Foe to America in the 21st century" at 7 p.m. in the Buzzard Hall Auditorium.

Li also will accept an honorary membership into the honorary political science society, which invited Li to Eastern.

Li is in Illinois because he is preparing for Chinese Prime Minister Zhu Ronji's trip to Chicago on April 11.

Jodi Gaspard, a senior political science major and president of the honorary political science society,



Zhaoxing Li
Chinese ambassador to the U.S.

said the society contacted Li to be an honorary member because of his distinguished public service record.

Li's wife and an aide will accompany him to Eastern to give his speech.

Gaspard said Eastern President Carol Surlis, five members of the state Legislature, the Illinois sec-

retary of agriculture, Lida Wall, dean of the college of sciences and Rich Wandling, chair of the political science department, will also attend the speech.

Gaspard said following the speech, there will be a question and answer period where people in the audience will have the opportunity to ask Li questions.

Gaspard said she thinks the speech will be informative to everyone.

"We've never had a Chinese foreign ambassador at Eastern," she said. "The relations between the U.S. and China are interesting and this is a great opportunity to hear about it from someone of this caliber."

Gaspard said people who want to attend Li's speech should get there early because they are expecting a large crowd of people.

There is no cost to attend Li's speech and induction, and everyone is welcome.

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Opinion page

Monday, March 29, 1999

Page 4

Pemberton decision

University officials have announced that for the time being, Pemberton Hall will remain an all-female residence hall.

Last semester plans were under way to transform the more than 90-year-old building into a co-ed residence hall.

Bill Schnackel, director of university housing and dining services, said the decision not to make Pemberton Hall co-ed stems from strong opposition voiced by students in the fall.

Schnackel said the issue could come up in the future, but as of now, there are not enough reasons to change the residence hall from all-female.

It's about time the opinions of student and alumni were listened to; Pemberton Hall should remain all-female for its entire existence.

Officials argued Pemberton Hall needed to be changed to a co-ed honors facility because McKinney Hall could not accommodate the ever-increasing number of honors students.

The existing space within Pemberton would be used to house honors students, including room for office space, classrooms and meeting spaces.

The decision was all but finalized – letters were sent to honors students informing them they would be able to move into Pemberton Hall effective fall of 1999.

Residents living in Pemberton Hall and alumni voiced opposition to the change, saying the change to the state and national landmark was made without student input.

About 40 students attended meetings held last semester to give students an opportunity to voice them to the housing department.

Schnackel said the change “probably wasn’t worth pursuing” because of the number of people who voiced opposition.

The students who made their opposition heard should be commended for taking a stand, and letting it be heard. Ultimately these students and alumni are the reason why Eastern will remain home to a state and national historical landmark.

■ The editorial is the opinion of the editorial board of *The Daily Eastern News*.

“Today’s quote

Every heart that has beat strong and cheerfully has left a hopeful impulse behind it in the world, and bettered the tradition of mankind.

Laura Elizabeth Richards,
American writer 1850-1943

Italian court decision a threat to all

A pair of jeans. Unbelievably, this was the deciding factor in a recent rape case in Italy. Although clothes have often been a controversial topic in rape cases, I never thought the verdicts would get this ridiculous.

In February, Italy’s Supreme Court of Appeal in Rome overturned a rape conviction because the plaintiff was wearing jeans on the day of her alleged rape. The opinion of the judges was that jeans cannot be removed “without the active help of the person wearing it.” Therefore the plaintiff must have lied when she claimed that she had been raped.

The incident involved an 18-year-old student who accused her 45-year-old driving instructor of raping her. A lower court had sentenced the instructor to 34 months in jail, which the Feb. 10 Supreme Court ruling reversed.

Women in Italy and around the world have shown their shock and anger at the decision and have been encouraging women to wear jeans and write letters until the decision is reversed.

The president of a hotline that helps victims of violent crimes reported the hotline has received numerous phone calls from women who fear the impact the ruling could have.

The ruling sets a dangerous precedent not only for women in Italy, but around the world. It will make it even more difficult for women to come forward and prosecute their attackers.

Feminist actor Franca Rame, also a survivor of gang-rape pointed out that: “There are so many ways of undressing a woman, by holding her down, threatening her, knock-



Amy Thon
Editorial page editor

“The ruling sets a dangerous precedent not only for women in Italy, but around the world.”

ing her out with a punch.”

On March 12, a “Jeans for Justice” protest was held worldwide against the Italian ruling. Participants were encouraged to wear jeans and a black shirt on that day to symbolize their opinion. Protesters were also asked to sign a pair of jeans and send them to the Italian Ambassador of the United States in Washington D.C.

On Friday, Eastern’s group, People Organized for Women Equal Rights sponsored a “Jeans for Justice” protest to show their outrage at the ruling. Students could also sign a petition or pair of jeans at the POWER table in Coleman Hall.

The worldwide attention on this case should raise some issues and hopefully shed light on the decision-making process in rape cases. How can a little thing, like what a woman is wearing, decide whether she is lying.

While I realize that there are incidents when a woman lies about her attack, the decision of guilt or innocence should not be based solely on one aspect of the incident.

Groups like POWER are spreading the word on this decision and will hopefully encourage the Italian Supreme Court to reverse their decision. Because if the ruling remains, they have made a statement against the rights of women not only in Italy, but all over the world.

(More information can be obtained on the Feminist Majority Foundation website available at www.feminist.org)

■ Amy Thon is a sophomore journalism major and a biweekly columnist for *The Daily Eastern News*. Her e-mail address is cuait2@pen.eiu.edu. Columns are the opinion of the author.



Columnist threatens constitutional rights

This letter is not an attempt to justify the disturbing actions of Marilyn Lemak. She is truly a sick individual who should be punished for her crimes. The only person who I found more frightening in all of this is Deana Poole. Lemack was only a threat to her children while people like Poole are a threat to us all.

When was it possible for certain people to “not be protected by the Eighth Amendment?” The Constitution is one of the few things in this nation that still has a chance of protecting all people from injustice. When people like Poole are willing to throw all of this away, we are all in jeopardy of losing our most basic freedom. I am sure Poole has not thought about how this would impact the DEN and her freedom of speech because she is satisfied with simple solutions for complex problems.

Your turn Letters to the editor

Why does the idea of “do onto others” suddenly seem more like an even older saying, “an eye for an eye” in her column? A person who does not believe in protecting the rights of others would probably find it comforting to fall back on these ancient illogical ways.

Grant Murphy
senior English major

Student has rewarding Alternative Spring Break

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my thanks to the Student Volunteer Center at Eastern. This Spring Break as I returned from my third Alternative Spring Break trip, I reflected upon all the wonderful people and places I have visited through

the ASB program. If it were not for ASB, I probably would not have met some of the most phenomenal and truly caring people I have been fortunate enough to know. Each time I have prepared to go on a trip, I have done so with hesitation, but each time I return with renewed enthusiasm as I see the faces and hear the stories at the welcome back dinner. I feel I am being helped more than the people that I have gone to assist. My group this year especially experienced the charity of others as we were given a place to stay at a church in Oklahoma when we were stranded in a snowstorm, given a ride in New Mexico when our van broke down and given an unbelievable experience with the Navajo culture at our site in Arizona. None of these experiences would have been possible without the Student Volunteer Center; so for all of this and more I say thank you.

Kristal Klein
junior elementary education major



Chris Sievers/ Staff photographer

Torched

The Charleston Fire Department responded to a brush fire that started Friday at about 2:30 p.m. near the Eastern Illinois Railroad. Marvin Abernathy, employee of the railroad, was welding near the railroad when sparks from his torch blew into a nearby field. No one was injured in the fire, which took about 20 minutes to extinguish.

Women's Advocacy Council to honor community members

Women of Achievement Awards to be presented

By Dan Ochwat
Activities editor

The Women's Advocacy Council will honor one Eastern professor and two Charleston residents with the Women of Achievement Award during a reception tonight.

The ceremony is part of the Women's History and Awareness Month and will begin at 7 p.m. in the Tarble Arts Center. The reception also will honor the winners of the 13th annual feminist writing award contest and the first annual logo contest.

Anne Zahlan, professor of English and member of the Faculty Senate, was a recipient of the award and strives to include feminist issues into her classroom discussions relating to both males and females for response, a press release said.

Charleston resident Therese Supple Kincade earned the Women of Achievement Award for her work in business and the arts. Kincade is the co-owner of the restaurant 'What's Cookin' and acts in and directs local stage

productions, sings, directs school theater productions and sits on the Tarble Arts Center Board, said Marilyn Coles, professor of music and member of the Women's Advocacy Council.

Charleston resident Judy Moll received the award for her involvement in many organizations and community service, including the Coles County Council on Aging, Citizens against Child Abuse, Coles County Habitat for Humanity and Head Start, Coles said.

The winner of the writing contest also will be honored at the reception. Eastern student Anita Beaman won the award for her essay "Patchwork Tales: Quilters and Quilting in Children's Picture Books." An honorable mention was awarded to Eastern students Amanda Payne and Megan Quick for their essay "A Model Image," and Eastern student Annie White for her essay, "Issues Affecting Women in Prison."

The Women's Advocacy Council logo contest winner also will be honored. Eastern student Jen Polkow will reveal the design

at the reception. The logo will be placed on bookmarks and given to members of the audience.

The reception will introduce the four students who portrayed women in history and went to different schools acting in character and promoting women's history, Coles said.

The students were Ellen Eardley, who portrayed Kitty O'Neil; Molly Stewardson as Myra Bradwell; Megan Spicer played Joni Mitchell and Amanda Barron played Anne Frank.

The four students will be in character for the reception, and the reception also will feature music by the Eastern's Women's Ensemble, choral and flute ensembles, and a music selection by Sigma Alpha Iota music fraternity.

Coles said the Women of Achievement Award winners are selected from letters of nominations from around the community.

The reception is open to the public and will include refreshments.

Governor focuses on the prevention of substance abuse

Gov. George Ryan opting to spend \$11 million on prevention programs

By Laura Irvine
Campus editor

Gov. George Ryan recently issued a resolution that will focus on alcohol and substance abuse and strengthen programs to prevent it.

"We're going to make every effort to promote and support services and programs to attack and prevent alcoholism and substance abuse," Ryan said in a press release.

The resolution includes an \$11 million recommendation from Ryan to fund community-based substance abuse programs, primarily for people under age 18.

The resolution came from the Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse, which is a department within the Department of Human Services. During Ryan's campaign for governor, he focused on substance abuse and ways to prevent it.

Nick Palazzolo, spokesperson for Gov. Ryan, said the executive order will boost the profile of the OASA. He said Ryan is asking members of various offices affiliated with the Department of Human Services to come together to provide services for alcohol and substance abuse.

"The governor is dedicated to making every effort possible to support the prevention of substance abuse," Palazzolo said.

Governor spokesperson Tom Green said the OASA funds a few hundred community-based pro-

grams that provide treatment and offer comprehensive treatment programs for individuals with alcohol and substance abuse problems.

Green said the office deals with about 20,000 adolescent clients each year.

He also said the OASA will continue to do the same things it has done in the past, but Ryan's resolution will change the structure of the way things get reported within the office.

"This office will be responsible for coordinating the efforts of state programs dealing with the critical problems of substance abuse and maximizing the effectiveness of new and existing resources to expand and increase the availability and effectiveness of community-based treatment and prevention programs," Ryan said in a press release.

Green said he thinks Ryan's resolution is positive and will help people with alcohol and substance abuse problems.

"Alcohol and substance abuse is a major contributor to so many other problems," he said. "This will enable the Department of Human Services to focus on substance abuse treatment."

Green also said the majority of people in jail have substance abuse problems and many people on welfare have substance abuse problems, and the resolution will help increase efficiency in departments that deal with these problems.



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Haiti Connection focuses on world hunger situation

By Dan Ochwat
Activities editor

About 28,000 people die of starvation every day during a 24-hour period and 1,200 people die of starvation every hour, said Roy Lanham, adviser of the Haiti Connection.

For one hour, students and community members can get a sense of how the world is divided and experience the reality of world hunger at the Haiti Connection and Andrews Hall Council Hunger Banquet Tuesday.

The banquet will begin at 5 p.m. and will be held in the Andrews Hall basement.

The Hunger Banquet is an "interactive banquet," Lanham said. The dinner is a way to help raise awareness of hunger on a world and local level.

The banquet is an example of the overused phrase "think global and act local," Lanham said.

The banquet is being held so people can understand how the world functions and get a sense of how the world deals with hunger, he said.

Lanham said about 4 percent of the population in the United States consumes 30 percent of the natural resources in the world.

"As Americans, we should look at consumption patterns," he said.

Lanham said Eastern students should especially look at the consumption patterns of America and First World effects because Eastern students are the future leaders of the country.

He said world hunger is an issue Eastern students may face as future leaders.

The banquet also will offer time for audience members to discuss issues of world hunger, and student participants in the Haiti summer trip will present a slide show and share their experiences.

Lanham said he encourages participants to bring non-perishable canned goods like canned soups and fruits for a food drive. The banquet is free of charge and open to the public.

The U.S. is selective before it intervenes

WASHINGTON (AP) – This decade – never mind this century – has been awash in blood, but the world's great power has been selective in using force to stanch the flow.

Multiply the loss of life in Kosovo by a magnitude of 100, and still it does not equal the toll in 90 days of Rwandan slaughter. Mass starvation in North Korea brings food shipments but no force from the United States to break a repressive regime's relief bottleneck.

Sudan's civil war has left almost 2 million dead, and counting. How the United States picks its enemies can bear little relation to the scale of suffering it wishes to ease, even when intervention is conducted on largely humanitarian grounds.

"Any justification you can use for getting involved in Kosovo applies even more so to other conflicts," says Gideon Rose, a national security official in the first Clinton administration.

"There is not a coherent intellectual rationale for doing just Kosovo but not a whole variety of other interventions."

The naysayers – and there are many – will fall quiet if the NATO attacks on Yugoslavia somehow result in a stabler, safer life for Kosovars without major casualties among the allies.

Textbooks for rent



Lacey Buidosik / Assoc. photo editor

Kris Rodgers, a part-time textbook rental worker, stamps new books with the Eastern logo. Students are now able to rent textbooks that are related to their classes.

Access to class-related books available in Textbook Rental

By Chris Sievers
Student government editor

Eastern students will now have access to class related books from the Textbook Rental Services.

Student Senate members Wednesday passed a motion that will allow students to check out books that are related to their classes.

This new system will be on a trial period for one year, said Victoria Markley, student vice president for student affairs.

This new system will be available

to students who are in good standing with the university after the third week of class.

The books will be available for the remainder of the semester and must be checked back in with the original books students received for their classes.

Markley said this will be beneficial to students who want to do more research for their classes and for those students who tutor other students.

"This is a great opportunity (for us) to resource textbooks," Markley said. "I hope students go out and use

the new service."

Markley said at the end of the one year trial period, Textbook Rental Services will research the effectiveness of the system and decide whether to continue the service.

Markley said she approached the Dan Klingenberg, director of Textbook Rental Services, to see if students would be able to use the books.

"Currently, during the semester there are many books unused by students stored at textbook rental," Markley said.

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Lacey Buidosik / Assoc. photo editor

Campus Pond stocked with trout

Four ponds and lakes, including Eastern's Campus Pond, were stocked with rainbow trout Friday as part of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources catchable trout stocking program. The lakes, which included Wyman Lake in Sullivan, Forest Park Lagoon in Shelbyville, Rock Springs Pond in Decatur and the Campus Pond, were all stocked with rainbow trout, a press release said. About 600 rainbow trout were released into the Campus Pond. According to a press release, the trout fishing season will start at 5 a.m. Saturday. Individuals who want to fish in these four locations must have a 1999 fishing license and an inland trout stamp.

Colleges deal harshly with academic fraud

CHICAGO (AP) – Whether it's smuggling test answers in a baseball cap or taking canned term papers off the Internet, cheating is still a serious item on college campuses.

And when cheaters are caught, they often learn campus justice may not involve due process. One stupid mistake can end a student's college career.

At the University of Illinois at Chicago, 112 of nearly 160 disciplinary cases a year involve academic cheating, said Michael Kelly, assistant dean of student judicial affairs at UIC.

"The number of cheating cases here is pretty much constant, year to year," Kelly said.

Cheating "was booming in the 1980s," said Donald McCabe, associate provost at Rutgers University in New Jersey. But in the 1990s, he says, the growth rate has been slowing.

McCabe, the founding president of the Center for Academic Integrity, said he has interviewed 13,000 college students in three surveys (1990, '93 and '95).

Despite the rise of Internet sites such as Cheater.com and Term Paper Warehouse, he has found only "modest increases" in cheating during the '90s.

At Northwestern University in Evanston, "plagiarism is our most prevalent form of academic dishonesty," said Stephen Fisher, associate provost for undergraduate education. "Students rely on unsigned sources on the Internet," Fisher said. "It's a risk to use Internet sources."

Cases of academic misconduct at Northwestern range from 30 to 50 a

year university-wide, Fisher said.

"Our system protects the faculty members by referring cases to the dean's office. We insulate the faculty member from the process."

Defendants are not represented by a student advocate. But trained student volunteers prepare the accused for a hearing.

Academic justice can be stern. Richard Justice, associate dean of students at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, recalled a case involving a graduate student who copied a social sciences paper from another university. The professor recognized the obscure paper. The grad student was found guilty of plagiarism and was expelled.

"Low achievers are more likely to cheat," Kelly said. "The students we tend to see (in cheating cases) are average or below average. Only 10 to 20 percent of the cheaters we see are high achievers."

When a UIC student is accused, he or she will have at least one peer on the jury that hears the case, asking questions and reviewing evidence. Three or more faculty members work on each case.

Kathleen Simons, dean of student affairs at Elmhurst College recalled a cheating case involving one senior. The student was using a pencil for a fill-in-the-blanks test. She swiped a paper completed by a classmate, erased her classmate's name and signed her own on the stolen exam. Her punishment delayed her graduation by six months.

Attacks on Moscow U.S. Embassy

MOSCOW (AP) – Gunmen with rocket launchers and an assault rifle opened fire Sunday on the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, the site of three days of protests against NATO airstrikes on Yugoslavia.

Police firing pistols drove the attackers away from the embassy, which was hit by several bullets but suffered minimal damage. No one was hurt.

Protesters in other world capitals demonstrated Sunday against the ongoing NATO operation, directing most of their anger at the United States.

No one claimed responsibility for the Moscow attack. Russia fiercely opposes the NATO bombings, and rallies have been held at the U.S. Embassy since Thursday.

Russian news agencies cited police sources as saying three people had been arrested in the attack, but police officials would not confirm any arrests.

A white jeep pulled up in front of the embassy and two of the occupants aimed rocket launchers at the building, as shown in footage filmed by a passerby that was aired on

Russia's NTV television network.

One gunman in a ski mask and camouflage fatigues, who had climbed out of the jeep to aim a launcher, jumped back in the vehicle when police opened fire. One attacker then opened fire from inside the jeep with a semi-automatic rifle, sending police and bystanders diving for cover.

The two rocket launchers were left on the road as the jeep sped away from the 10-story, mustard-colored building on a major Moscow street.

Stealth fighter downed pilot rescued

WASHINGTON (AP) – The pilot of an American F-117A stealth fighter was rescued hours after his plane went down in Yugoslavia on Saturday, the Pentagon said. The downing and dramatic rescue marked the most harrowing moment so far in the four-day military action against Serbian forces.

"(The pilot) and the combat rescue team that picked him up are all safe," spokesman Kenneth Bacon said at a hastily called news conference.

A defense official, speaking anonymously, said the pilot was in good condition.

Bacon said he could not provide details of the rescue and could not say whether the plane was shot down or malfunctioned.

Serb officials claimed they shot down the jet.

In a statement, President Clinton said he was "tremendously proud of the skills of the pilot and the courageous individuals who participated in the recovery." He added that the NATO operation would "go forward as planned."

First word that the plane was down came from Serb television, which showed vivid footage of a burning fighter. A few hours later, a senior officer at Holloman Air Force Base in New Mexico, where

the stealth fighters are permanently based, confirmed a plane from his squadron was down.

The Air Force has 54 F-117s, which cost \$45 million each. The stealth fighter had never been shot down in combat, although it flew almost 1,300 sorties during the Gulf War and was the only allied aircraft to strike targets in downtown Baghdad.

The downing of the U.S. plane came several hours after President Clinton and allied leaders agreed to step up air strikes near Belgrade.

"Serb troops have continued attacks on unarmed men, women and children – that is all the more reason for us to stay the course," Clinton said in his weekly radio broadcast earlier Saturday.

"We must and we will continue until Serbia's leader, Slobodan Milosevic, accepts peace or we have seriously damaged his capacity to make war."

Even before the air strikes were launched earlier in the week, Clinton and senior defense officials had raised the possibility that planes could be shot down and pilots could be lost.

"As I have repeatedly said to the American people, this action is not risk-free," Clinton said Wednesday, when the operation began. "It carries risks."

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SEMO

from Page 12

For the series, Kinsolving went 5-for-10 and drove in three runs.

Eastern had 11 hits on the day, but could only come away with those two runs. Four Panthers had multi-hit games, with senior first baseman Mark Tomse and junior third baseman Matt Marzec both going 2-for-3 and driving in one run.

Taking the loss for the Panthers was sophomore Mike Ziroli, who went four innings and gave up three runs on six hits while striking out four. The loss dropped Ziroli's record to 0-4 on the season.

It was a tale of two separate stories for the Panther offense in the Saturday doubleheader. Eastern only had three hits in a 7-2 loss in the opening game, but turned around and had 16 hits in a 7-0 win in the second game.

The Panther offense jumped on Indian starting pitcher Larson Debrock early in the second game, scoring four runs in the first two innings. Debrock only lasted 1 2/3



Eastern pitcher Joe Giarrante fires one home during a doubleheader against IUPUI-Indianapolis on Wednesday. The Panthers traveled to SEMO over the weekend, where it lost 2-of-3 games and fell to 3-3 in the Ohio Valley Conference.

innings and gave up four runs on seven hits while walking two.

Indian middle reliever Chad Bogenpohl did not fare much better than Debrock against the Panther bats, as he too only lasted 1 2/3 innings and gave up two runs on five hits.

The leader of the Panther offen-

sive onslaught was 1998 OVC Player of the Year Marzec. He went 2-for-4 and drove in three runs in Eastern's third conference win of the season.

One of Marzec's two hits on the day was his second double of the season.

Marzec was one of five Panthers to have a multi-hit game.

One downfall to the win was

wasted opportunities for the Panthers. Eastern had a chance to put up more than seven runs, but left 13 runners on base in the win.

Junior pitcher John Larson, who made his first start since injuring his shoulder last weekend at Middle Tennessee, held the Southeast offense in check. Larson went the

distance for Eastern and surrendered only four hits and struck out six batters.

The first game of the doubleheader also had a strong pitching performance, but this time it came from one of the top conference pitchers this season, Indian Ryan Spile. He improved his record to a perfect 6-0 by giving up three hits while striking out six Panthers in the 7-2 win.

Eastern went into the bottom of the sixth inning only down 3-2, but Southeast had four runs in the sixth inning to run away with the five-run win. Three batters into the sixth inning, Schmitz decided to pull Panther starter junior Matt Gage and bring in reliever freshman Andy Hoffman.

Southeast used the long ball to come away with the win in the opening game. Three different Indians, Warren, Kinsolving and Jeff Bourbon, each had homers in the win.

Bourbon and Warren combined for five of the seven RBI for the Indians. Bourbon went 2-for-3 on the day and drove in three runs, while Warren went 2-for-3 and drove in two Indians.

Evil

from Page 12

The seventh inning moved quickly as the Panthers recorded three quick outs, but it was too late.

In the bottom of the seventh, Eastern pitcher Stacy Siebert had the first out with a pop up to the pitcher followed by a strikeout from Amy Barr. Leah Jones kept the game alive with a base hit to left and Nicole Kistou helped Jones advance to second with a base hit.

With two outs and two Panthers on base, Carissa Friedewald stepped up to the plate, only to receive the third out with a line drive to shortstop and end the game.

"Everyone was dedicated to the team and playing their role," Searle said. "Everyone stuck with it and did a tremendous job."

Despite the strong play by Eastern in the

second game, Searle said the first game got away from them, with their lone run scored by pinch runner Natalie Pavone after stealing second base and crossing the plate on a basehit from teammate Lindsay Klockenga.

"We had a lack of hitting," Searle said. "If we were on top and scored first, it would have made a difference."

For the remainder of the game, DePaul managed to hold off Eastern's scoring as they added another run in the fourth inning followed by two more in the fifth. A double by Blue Demon Liza Brown brought Dana Jakusz across home once again for a 3-1 lead and advanced Healy to third, who later scored on a ground out.

The game didn't start out very optimistic for the Panthers as the first Blue Demon hitter in Jakusz hit a home run off of the first pitch by Siebert, who gave up five runs on nine hits and two strikeouts.

"The pitchers did an excellent job of dealing

with DePaul's hitting," Searle said.

Despite the two losses to DePaul, Searle points to the high level of competition that Eastern has faced thus far and prides her team on their ability to stick with each game.

"If you could compare our schedule with all the teams we've played, we would be the top of the strength schedule," Searle said. "We just need to keep our heads up."

Tough competition from Bradley and Illinois State last week continued into the weekend with the tournament at Carbondale. Eastern started out with a 5-3 loss against Northern Iowa, but Searle said the team could have done better.

Later that afternoon Eastern went up against Ohio Valley Conference rival Southeast Missouri in what was scheduled as a non-conference game, and lost 2-0.

"We hit the ball better than Southeast Missouri and played good defense," Searle said.

Saturday brought the Panthers face to face again with Southern with intent to redeem themselves from the 7-0 and 7-1 losses just weeks earlier. Although Searle said the Panthers played much better against the Salukis after gaining a 4-0 lead, they once again fell, this time 10-4.

The only Eastern victory for the weekend came in the final game against St. Louis on Saturday. Pitching for the Panthers, DeLaere held St. Louis to one hit and no runs with three strikeouts.

"Sara was able to go right at the batters and we had the ability to hit the ball well," Searle said.

Today will be the first practice for the Panthers in a week and hitting will be the main priority in preparation for Tuesday's home doubleheader against Southern.

"It'll be nice to have a practice without pressure of a game," Searle said. "Just having practice is a nice change."

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Tennis teams get mixed results

Women fall to Western, 6-3

By Gabe Rosen
Staff writer

It was a tough day Sunday for the women's tennis team as it dropped a home match to Western Illinois by the score of 6-3, but there were some positives for Eastern.

On an afternoon when both the men's and women's teams were forced inside early because of rain only to return to the outdoors later on, the women fell prey to costly mental errors.

"It's tough to come from outside to inside," Eastern head coach Marla Reid said. "But we had a lot of unforced errors. Overall, we played inconsistent tennis, but conditions were tough."

One Panther who did not play inconsistent was senior Adeline Khaw.

She helped bring Eastern's No. 1 doubles team its lone doubles victory, along with teammate Linda Stakic.

The doubles team consisting of Khaw and Stakic won its match 8-4, while Western took two out of three doubles matches from the Panthers, both by scores of 8-3.

"We played aggressively," Khaw said.

"We tried to attack the net as much as possible," Stakic said.

Khaw had similar success in singles play at the No. 2 spot with a 6-2, 6-2 victory over Erika Offendahl.

"I'm very happy with my play," Khaw said.

"I just wanted to keep the ball in play and that is always my focus."

Coming off of a painful ankle injury, Stakic fell 6-3, 6-4 in No. 1 singles play.

Stakic was still hampered by the injury, according to Reid.

"She said it was sore, but not like it was," Reid said. "She will always play good players which will make her better. She's got some weapons and she's definitely a natural athlete out on the court."

With the loss, the Panthers are now 5-5 on the year.



Lacey Buidosik / Associate photo editor

Eastern freshman Yovita Widyadharma waits for the ball Sunday against Western Illinois. The women lost 6-3 while the men beat the Leathernecks 4-3.

Men's team goes 2-1 during busy weekend

By Gabe Rosen
Staff writer

The men's tennis team started out the weekend with a loss to Northern Iowa at home on Friday but quickly got back on the winning track with a home victory over the University of Illinois-Chicago and Western Illinois on Saturday and Sunday.

With the victory the team's record to 6-10 on the season.

Before Saturday's match head coach Marla Reid held a meeting with the team to make sure it didn't lose focus in the wake of Friday's loss to Northern Iowa and to re-emphasize that it needed to be ready to play.

"We were not prepared on Friday to play tough competition," Reid said. "We can't go out not physically and mentally prepared and expect to get the job done. In Division I tennis there will never be any walkover matches."

Apparently the team got the message as they pulled it together and finished off the weekend in impressive fashion.

The Panthers defeated UIC 4-3 on Saturday and Eastern can point to strong doubles play as one reason for the turnaround.

The Panthers won two out of three doubles matches and that was the margin of victory as singles play was deadlocked 3-3 when the match was finished.

Eastern's No. 1 doubles team of Brad Cook and Andy Baker took care of business early against UIC with an 8-5 victory. While the Panther's No. 3 doubles team, comprised of Ryan Van Donselaar and Luke Taylor was victorious as well by the score of 8-4.

"We had some good play at No. 1 and No. 3 doubles," Reid said. "I think these guys are starting to realize that winning the doubles point is key for carrying the momentum into singles."

In singles play Brad Cook defeated UIC's Alex Muresan 6-3, 6-2 and Sergey Mirnov beat Greg Kusnierz 6-2, 6-3, while Jason Braun also domi-

nated the action for the Panthers, winning by a score of 6-0, 6-0.

Sargy Letuchy made amends for Saturday's singles loss with a victory in singles play on Sunday during Eastern's 4-3 defeat of Western Illinois.

The senior defeated Western's Jesse Rose 6-1, 3-6, 6-1.

In other singles play on Sunday Brad Cook won again at the number one spot, defeating Western's Brad Anderson 6-3, 6-1, Sergey Mirnov beat Leatherneck Shaun Romishur 6-1, 6-4 and Jason Braun put together another strong performance defeating Western's Jason Hutchison 6-1, 6-2.

On Sunday it was the Panther singles play that decided the outcome as Eastern took four out of six singles matches while being victorious in only one doubles match.

Brad Cook and Andy Baker once again tallied a doubles victory on Sunday with an 8-2 win.

"Sergey (Mirnov) played very good. He played very decisively and focused," Reid said.

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Cruel Intentions R [2:45] 5:10 7:50 10:05
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The King & I G [2:15] 4:40 6:50 9:00

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Panthers lose key series at SEMO

Baseball team drops to 3-3 in OVC play

By Matt Wilson
Staff writer

Going into the weekend series against Southeast Missouri, the goal for the Panther baseball team was to take two-of-three games from the Indians.

After splitting a doubleheader on Saturday, Eastern fell to Southeast 5-2 on Sunday to fall short of the goal against the defending Ohio Valley Conference Tournament champions.

Southeast (11-12, 4-2) jumped out to an early 3-0 lead Sunday and Eastern was unable to battle back. Eastern (7-15, 3-3) did get as close as 3-2 after scoring a run in both the top of the fourth and the fifth, but an RBI triple by Indian third baseman Darin Kinsolving led to a two-run eighth inning to put the game away.

In the Panther fifth inning, junior third baseman Matt Marzec singled to right field to score senior center fielder Sean Lyons, who slipped by the tag of Indian catcher Dan Berry.

Southeast head coach Mark Hogan thought Berry made the tag, and was eventually kicked out of the game after inadvertently bumping the umpire while disputing the call.

After Indian starting pitcher Dan Huesgen was taken out in the sixth inning, Eastern could only manage one hit in the final three innings. Southeast relievers Daniel Rodriguez and Jerry Wosley combined to give up only one hit and two walks in the seventh, eighth and ninth innings.

Of the five Indian runs, two of them came from right fielder Phil Warren. He went 2-for-4 on the day and knocked out his second home run of the series on Sunday.

Also coming up big for the Southeast offense was Kinsolving, who went 3-for-4 and drove in one run.

See SEMO Page 9

Blue Demons prove to be evil



Busy weekend yields 1-4 record for Panthers

By Kristin Rojek
Staff writer

The Panther softball team dropped both its games Sunday at home to nationally-ranked DePaul, 5-1 and 5-0. Eastern's record stands at 4-12.

The Panthers managed to hold off DePaul for the first five innings in the second game, but unfortunately the sixth inning proved to be the fatal turning point.

Eastern pitcher Amanda Perjenski allowed three base hits to start the inning where DePaul would put the game away.

"DePaul hit well off of our pitchers," head coach Lloydene Searle said. "It's hard to go out there and pitch against a hitting team."

A double by Blue Demon Karen Stewart scored Yvette Healy and gave DePaul a 2-0 lead. DePaul pitcher Nicole Terpstra continued the team's momentum as her double down the center field line cleared the bases, for a comfortable 5-0 lead.

"DePaul has the ability to go right to the wire and make their own breaks while keeping their hitting up," Searle said.

See EVIL Page 9



(top) Eastern senior catcher Amy Kukman takes a pitch in the first game of a doubleheader Sunday at Williams Field.

(left) Senior pitcher Stacy Siebert fires one home Sunday against DePaul. The Panthers dropped both games after beating St. Louis 6-0 on the road Saturday.

Lacey Buidosik /
Assoc. photo editor

They'll win the World Series – when I get a date

This curse doesn't have the same power as the Billy Goat's, but the effects can sometimes be just as harmful.

We'll call it the 'P' curse – which stands for pitching, not for what Kerry Wood did in public. Wood's incident does not stem from a curse; simply a bladder control problem.

Sure, it's easy to pick on the Cubs, a team that has a winning season about as often as I get a date.

While criticizing the team, one should look at why it's unable to break out of the slump more than one year every decade.

Yes, upper management trades away young talent and signs washed-up Howard Johnson-types. Rarely is a major signing made to improve the team. And up until the Jim Riggleman era, the managerial spot lacked any type of stability.

There's one other power at work; the aforementioned 'P' curse.

It goes something like this.

Cubs draft young pitching prodigy.

He shines in the minors.

The prodigy is given a spot on the major league roster to save the day.

Within the first two years of being called up, injury sidelines the young pitcher.

Wood isn't the only one.

Lance Dickson also comes to mind. A 1991 first-round draft pick by Chicago, the hard throwing right hander averaged well over a strikeout per inning in the minors. The Cubs called him up, but Dickson fell victim to the 'P' curse. He quickly blew out his shoulder and nobody's heard from him since.



Chad Merda

Sports editor
email: cuccm1@pen.eiu.edu

The question remains if Wood will fall victim to a similar fate.

But in all of this 'P' curse talk, Jeremi Gonzalez cannot be left out. He's doing everything he can to overcome the curse in what will be his third year in the majors. And if he can recover, Wood's injury may be an afterthought.

Gonzalez's right elbow gave out last July and was told he'd be sidelined as long as a year after having surgery in August.

He threw batting practice on Friday, and is now on track to return in mid-May. Whenever Gonzalez returns, it won't be soon enough. With Wood gone, the Cubs' starting rotation can use lots of help.

Gonzalez's career stats are not spectacular – an 18-16 record with a 4.71 ERA – but for a young pitcher with some room to grow, it's not too bad at all.

There are promising things about the young pitcher, and it's not just his quick recovery or Gonzalez's spurts of pitching

brilliance over his first two seasons.

His attitude may be the most encouraging thing.

In past years, his weight was an issue – which he ignored. Gonzalez might have been overweight, but as long as he was winning, being chunky in the rump was just fine.

Now, he's gone from 218 pounds to 204. He's also developed a changeup.

Pitching coach Marty DeMerritt has called it a minor miracle.

However, it isn't. Gonzalez simply is a pitcher recognizing what needs to be done in order to overcome injury and improve his game.

Don't be surprised if Gonzalez becomes as popular as Wood did last summer.

The talent may not be there, but the work ethic apparently is.

While the first part of the previous statement may hold true for most of the Cubs, they'd be a lot better off if the part about work ethic did as well.