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Departing tailback J.R. Taylor has prepared for this weekend's NFL Draft



STEPHEN HAAS/ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR

State Sen. Dale Righter, R-Mattoon, addresses members of the Faculty Senate Tuesday afternoon in the conference room of Booth Library. Righter spoke about the financial outlook for state money at the Eastern.

'Don't cap us on both ends'

◆ *State Senator tells Faculty Senate he's looking out for Eastern's interests*

By Tim Martin
ADMINISTRATION EDITOR

Eastern's proposed budget of \$47.6 million is down 16.3 percent from last year's \$54.8 million budget, State Sen. Dale Righter, R-Mattoon told the Faculty Senate Tuesday.

More inside

◆ Not all senate members OK with committee choices

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Gov. Rod Blagojevich's proposed budget is down \$5.4 million, or 10 percent, from the budget the Illinois Board of Higher Education suggested to the state.

A "truth-in-tuition" bill currently is in the legislature that proposes capping tuition for freshmen at an increase of 5 percent, a rate they would pay all four years. Another bill suggesting all tuition increases be capped at 5 percent is also pending.

"I think the reaction is that they can cap us on one end," Righter said in reference to the 5-percent cap the state has put on tuition increases. "But please don't cap us on both ends."

Wilson Ogbomo, associate professor in African-American studies and senate member, said the state is asking for Eastern to "do more with less."

Righter said Eastern's 16.3-percent cut is near the top of the most severe cuts, and added most top agencies are receiving cuts in the low single digits.

Associate psychology professor Steve Scher said

higher education was the last area to receive the benefits of the "90s boom," but that he thinks it will be the first ones to receive cuts.

Eastern planned for the losses this year by cutting summer school classes with lower enrollment and lowering the air conditioning in some academic buildings Friday and on the weekend.

At the beginning of the meeting, Righter told the senate things looked a little different since he last visited the Faculty Senate three years ago.

He was referring to the Conference Room 4440 of Booth Library which finished renovation last spring, but he could have been easily talking about Eastern's budget situation.

"Some say the cuts' purpose is to chew up bloat and that it won't affect student services," Righter said. "Others say the cuts are too deep, they'll cut the bone."

Righter also discussed the state's current budget situation. He said last year was the first year since he's been in the Legislature there has seen a deficit.

He said Blagojevich has \$88 million set aside for new programs, but he thinks the money would be better spent on suppressing the budget deficit.

"If you have a water trough and it is half full, would you try to add on to it before you fill it up?" he said. "We don't have enough water to add on."

The higher education cuts only reflect a statewide budget deficit between \$4 billion and \$5 billion. Righter said Blagojevich will make up the money by implementing recurring taxes — paid yearly — and non-recurring taxes that will only last for one year.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS DAY 1

High turnout breeds optimism

◆ *Estimate: More than 970 vote in elections*

By Niki Jensen
STUDENT GOVERNMENT EDITOR

An estimated 970 students voted during the first day of Student Government elections.

The turnout is about 250 less than both days of last year's spring elections, said Margie Tucker, executive director of the student elections commission.

Election turnout

Taylor	270
Coleman	260
Union	220
Carman	140
Rec. Center	80
Total	970

◆ Margie Tucker, executive director of the student elections commission said the goal for two-day voter turnout is 2,000.

"I am very surprised by (the first day's results), but I'm at the same time happy because it's very likely we can achieve our goal of 2,000 (students voting)," she said.

By 1 p.m., polling stations were running out of ballots and election workers were requesting that more be printed, said Sarah Maubach, a senior special education major.

According to the unofficial results tabulated by members of the elections commission, 270 students voted at Taylor Hall, making it the most popular of the five polling locations.

Meanwhile, 260 students voted at Coleman Hall, and students cast 220 votes cast at the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union, 140 at Carman Hall and 80 at the Student Recreation Center.

In efforts to spark voter participation Tuesday, members of the Campus Change Party roamed the campus in a golf cart bearing promotional fliers while candidates representing the Student Voice Party passed out fliers and utilized a megaphone to attract the attention of students in the South Quad.

Tucker said these campaign tactics go beyond those used in previous Student Government elections. "I've never seen megaphones, I've never seen golf carts (before)," she said. "Never seen such a large amount of candidates handing out fliers."

Though Tucker said candidates were not supposed to campaign within 100 feet of the polling stations, this did not prevent them



DANIEL WILLIAMS/
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sarah Payan, a freshman business management major, casts her vote Tuesday afternoon in the lobby of Coleman Hall during the first day of Student Government elections.

from interacting with passing students in the North and South quads, among other locations.

Jamie Mossman, a sophomore political science major and student senate candidate, said several students asked her where they could go to vote as she distributed fliers for the Student Voice Party in a Coleman Hall stairwell.

"I think the publicity is helping the campaign a lot," she said.

In fact, Jessica Irving, a senior education major, said she decided to vote solely because of a flier she received from a candidate who was standing outside Taylor Hall.

"It's been the biggest turnout for campaigning that I've seen since I've been here," Tucker said.

But despite extensive campaigning and an impressive first day voter turnout, several students said they did not plan to vote in the Student Government elections because of reasons ranging from disinterest to complete unawareness.

"I usually don't even pay attention to stuff like that," said Clint Forsythe, a physical education graduate student. "I guess I should, but I don't. Politics doesn't interest me," he said.

Freshman theater major Rocco Renda said he has been turned off by the overload of promotional fliers posted throughout campus.

"I see so many signs that after a while I just don't care," he said.

Committee votes to raise insurance fee, textbook fee

By Niki Jensen
STUDENT GOVERNMENT EDITOR

The Tuition and Fee Review Committee voted 6-1 in favor of a proposal to increase the Health and Accident Insurance fee by 4 percent.

If passed by the Student Senate at Wednesday's meeting, the fee would raise students' tuition rates \$2.70 per semester for a total of \$69.20.

A 4-percent increase would allow for revisions to the health plan that include several

Tuition and Fee Review Committee actions

- ◆ Voted to raise Health and Accident Insurance fee by 4 percent
- ◆ Passed resolution to base textbook rental fee on credit hours taken

increased coverage and benefits for students, said Jone Zieren, director of the Office of Financial Aid.

Zieren said although the fee currently does not cover medical charges provided by

nurse anesthetists, or CRNAs, the revised plan would pay 80 percent of these charges.

Furthermore, Zieren said the committee requested the fee increase because it relies on the student fee to fund its program.

The Tuition and Fee Review Committee unanimously approved a resolution to remove the textbook rental service cap.

If passed by the senate, it would require students enrolled in 12 or more credit hours to pay more for their textbooks than the current flat rate of \$95.15.

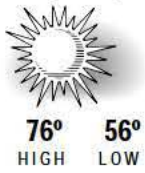
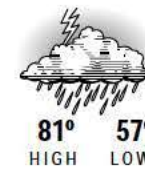
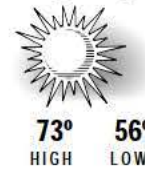
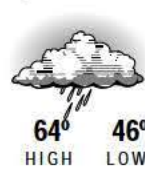
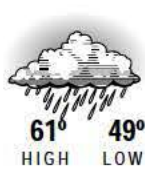
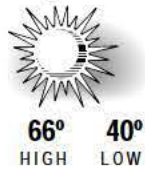
"It makes sense that you should pay for

what you get," said Larry Ward, interim chair of the student Tuition and Fee Review Committee.

The fee increase is proposed at \$8.25 each semester hour.

With the removal of the cap, a student taking 14 semester hours would pay \$111.05 for his or her textbooks compared to \$166.70 for someone taking 21 hours.

The approval of the removal of the cap followed a 5-1 vote that shot down the proposal of an overall 4-percent increase to the textbook rental service fee.



TONIGHT'S BEST BETS

How Chinese events affect life in America

By Dan Valenziano
ACTIVITIES EDITOR

Two Chinese diplomats will discuss issues regarding their countries on Wednesday.

Zhijian Jin, consul of the People's Republic of China in Chicago, and Vice Consul Faqiang Ren will be speaking in the Effingham Room of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

Yung Chen, political science professor, is coordinating the event. He said it will be divided into two sessions.

Chen said at the 4 p.m. session, history professors Scott Levi and David Smith, will talk about China's history and its involvement in terrorism.

Each professor will speak for 15 minutes.

Zhijian and Faqiang will have five minutes each to respond to any issues raised by Smith and Levi.

At the 7 p.m. session, Zhijian will present an address entitled "The Recent Developments in the People's Republic."

State legislators, including Rep. Charles Hartke, D-Effingham; Rep. Chapin Rose, R-Charleston; Rep. Roger Eddy, R-Hutsonville; and Sen. Dale

If you go...

◆ What: The recent developments in the People's Republic of China

◆ When: 4 and 7 p.m.

◆ Where: Effingham Room, Martin Luther King Jr. University Union

Righter, R-Mattoon; have five minutes to respond and ask questions.

Each session will be followed by a question and answer session.

Chen said that even though issues like Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome and China's position on the war in Iraq are not on the agenda for the Chinese speakers, they are prepared to answer questions regarding those issues.

"They speak for China," Chen said. "These guys are China — they can speak authoritatively about it."

Chen said he believes public discussions of this type are valuable to the Eastern community.

"We want to familiarize students and faculty with issues of today," Chen said. "One issue is China's potential status as a world superpower."

Play shows 'Invalid'

By Stephen Haas
STAFF WRITER

Andrew Reaves, a senior theater arts major, is a hypochondriac looking for a doctor for his daughter to fall in love with and marry.

Reaves doesn't really have a daughter, and he's not a hypochondriac, but in the Village Theater's production later this week of "The Imaginary Invalid," he plays one. His character, Argan, is a hypochondriac old man looking for a way to save money on medical bills.

"It was a lot of fun playing this character," Reaves said. "It was hard to learn to react to the other characters like I actually had bad hearing and poor vision."

As Argan's medical bills pile

up, he comes up with the idea of marrying his daughter off to one of his doctors in return for a lifetime of free medical treatments. The idea meets opposition, though, when it becomes clear the young lady's affections lie elsewhere. Soon the entire household is involved in an elaborate plot to save true love.

"The Imaginary Invalid" was written in the 16th century by Moliere, a French comic playwright.

Jerry Eisenhour, professor in the theater arts department and director of the show, explained the writer's personality.

"Moliere had poor faith in doctors," Eisenhour said. "He made fun of doctors, lawyers and other authority figures."



STEPHEN HAAS/ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR

Let's not go fly a kite

Oscar Gruber, son of psychology professor Russell Gruber, tugs to free his kite from the goalpost on the rugby field Tuesday evening. Gruber said there wasn't enough wind to do much of anything, but it was worth a try.

COMING UP

Speaker shows how to keep pace

By James Washburn
STAFF WRITER

This speaker went the distance. Booth Library wraps up its speaker series Wednesday as it welcomes physical education professor Jake Emmett. He has run six marathons, and will discuss the limits of the human body in relation to marathon running and prolonged exercise.

Emmett's speech, "The Physiology of Marathon Running: The Good, The Bad and The Ugly," will explain how the human body changes before and after a marathon runner completes a race.

Emmett ran in the Chicago and Memphis marathons twice, and once in marathons taking place in

If you go...

What: The Physiology of Marathon Running

When: 3 p.m.

Where: Room 4440 Booth Library

Washington D.C. and Utah. These marathons are 26.2 miles long.

Emmett said most runners will experience injuries while conditioning for the marathon, but the people who endure too much exercise can also weaken their immune systems after the marathon is completed.

"There are some studies that show marathon runners are more susceptible to colds and sore throats after marathons due to a

depletion of white blood cells," Emmett said.

The evidence of this type of physiological change can be found within journals and other publications, whose authors have performed experiments on marathon runners before and after they complete the race, Emmett said.

"The stress responses incurred from marathon running can range from positive, protective adaptations to rare but potentially fatal conditions," a press release stated.

Emmett referred to an example that involved how drinking too much water during a marathon can deplete the body's required sodium levels, resulting in serious injury or possibly death.

COMING UP

Student Senate to discuss surveys

By Niki Jensen
STUDENT GOVERNMENT EDITOR

The Student Senate will examine the results of a recently distributed surveys concerning the controversial \$48 network fee at Wednesday's meeting.

Senate members voted last week to postpone the vote on the fee in order to seek further student input.

"The plan is to discuss the (student) feedback that we will have from our surveys," said Student Senate Speaker Bill Davidson.

Davidson said Student Senate members began distributing the network fee surveys to students last Friday at multiple locations throughout campus.

According to the survey, the \$48 per semester network fee, which is a part of the computer technology fee, will fund upgrades to the university's network system and result in a much more efficient and reliable online community.

Davidson said the survey asks students about their ability and willingness to pay the proposed fee.

"We're hoping to get a good, educated sampling of the students' opinions on the network fee (from the survey)," Davidson said.

The Student Senate's decision to either table the issue for further debate or to call for a vote likely will depend on the outcome of its network fee discussion.

In other matters, the Student Senate will discuss the recommendation tabled from its previous meeting that the textbook rental fee be increased by \$3.80 to a total of \$98.95 per semester.

POLICE BLOTTER

Motor vehicle theft

Matthew T. Evans, 21, of 609 C St. was arrested at 5:15 a.m. April 17 at his home, police reports stated. He is being charged with motor vehicle theft.

Criminal damage to property

A Pontiac was damaged while parked in the LSD lot, police reports stated. The incident is under investigation.

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Eastern fraternity brothers reunited on the war front

◆ *Alumni from 1995 brought together in prayer and brotherly love while in Baghdad, Iraq*

By Jennifer Chiariello
CAMPUS EDITOR

Kevin Groppe and John Sacia, 1995 Eastern graduates and charter members of the Illinois Nu chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon, were reunited on Palm Sunday at a prayer service in Baghdad, Iraq.

Charles Eberly, a professor of counseling and student development, said he met Groppe and Sacia when he was the chapter counselor of Sigma Phi Epsilon.

Eberly said Sigma Phi Epsilon won a top service award in 1995 for Groppe's work as a principal mentor to the first autistic graduate of Sigma Phi Epsilon. He also said both men were involved in the ROTC and Sacia has been flying helicopters for eight years.

Eberly said it is amazing "how much I had become aware of things and looking for them."

After hearing Sacia and Groppe met Palm Sunday, Eberly said, "The next day I got all kinds of work done ... as if a weight was lifted off my shoulders."

He said he was happy to hear the two men found each other.

Eberly said, "Kevin is a fantastic role model and a leader — one of the finest young men to go through the chapter — and John is cut from the same cloth. These were not the kids going out partying every night; these were the ones getting the grades."

Jason McGahey, a 1994 Eastern graduate and member of Sigma Phi Epsilon, said he knew both Groppe and Sacia pretty well.

McGahey said he received the picture of the two from Groppe and sent it to Sacia's parents.

McGahey has been in contact with Sacia's family only through

"I think it's pretty cool, whether fraternity brothers or not, two guys from the same college bumping into each other in Iraq."

—Jason McGahey, '94 graduate and Sigma Phi Epsilon

Christmas cards, but Sacia's parents were very happy to receive the photo since they had not communicated with their son since early March.

Jenny Sacia, John's mother, said she was happy to receive the email and photo of Groppe and Sacia.

"It was amazing for us," she said. "We haven't heard from John since March 4. He looks good in the picture and it was good to have some contact."

Jenny said that is as much as John's family knows and they are anxious to hear from him.

"It was good to see two friends met," Jenny said. "It had to be wonderful for them. And you wonder about everything they have gone through, so that had to be a lifting of spirits."

McGahey said Sacia is an Apache pilot and Groppe is an information officer.

He said Groppe was a pledge class president of Sigma Phi Epsilon and held several offices on the fraternity's executive board.

McGahey said he remembers Sacia being a member of Eastern's marching band, active in ROTC and a leader outside the fraternity on a campus level.

McGahey said when he, friends and family heard that Apache pilots were down, it was an emotional time. He was scrambling around for days until he received



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Kevin Groppe and John Sacia, 1995 Eastern graduates, are serving in Iraq with the U.S. Army. Groppe and Sacia are both members of Sigma Phi Epsilon.

Groppe's email.

The fact the two bumped into one another, McGahey said, "Kind of shows you how small the world we live in really is."

"I think it's pretty cool, whether fraternity brothers or not, two guys from the same college bumping into one another in Iraq," McGahey said.

Gail Richards, chair of the communication disorders and sciences department, said Groppe was very instrumental in working with Alex Kusmanoff, a student diagnosed with autism.

Richards said fraternity member Kevin Dwyer got his roommate, Kusmanoff, housing in the fraternity even though he was not

a member and involved the men in the fraternity with inservice to live with and adapt to someone with a disability.

The fraternity made sure Kusmanoff had role models and a support system on campus.

Dwyer graduated a year after starting the program for his roommate, but Groppe and other members of the fraternity kept it going, Richards said.

"I would say that due to Kevin and those men, the young man graduated Eastern with a degree ... because of their support system," Richards said.

Groppe would come to Richards frequently to inform her with updates on Kusmanoff.

"Kevin was really hands-on with adjusting the fraternity house schedule to meet the needs of the student," Richards said. "He took a real interest in trying to integrate Alex into the community."

Richards said, even though Kusmanoff wasn't a member, Groppe would take him along on fraternity projects and activities.

"He tried to help him fit in with the community and campus," she said.

Richards said she nominated the chapter and they received the highest national Sigma Phi Epsilon service award for their chapter for their work with Kusmanoff.

Faculty Senate votes to implement technology fund plan

◆ *Decision unanimous; disagreements arise surrounding the details*

By Tim Martin
ADMINISTRATION EDITOR

The Faculty Senate unanimously voted to create a committee that will allocate Technology Enhancement and Management (TEAM) money Tuesday, but had disputes the money would be divided without faculty input.

TEAM is a source of support for professional development in the use of instructional technology for faculty and staff. It also supports initiatives for the development of technology-enhanced and delivered courses and programs.

The committee will have responsibility for recommending policies and procedures for the distribution of about \$150,000. The structure will con-

"It's time to change the system. Ultimately someone needs to be in charge of those funds set aside for utilization for technology."

—Michael Hoadley, assistant vice president for Information Technology Services

sist of a total of nine voting members and one non-voting member.

On that topic, Faculty Senate agreed, the disagreement is only who the money goes to.

Michael Hoadley, assistant vice president for Information Technology Services, said a change is needed from the current allocation system.

New TEAM Allocation Committee

◆ **Purpose:** Will recommend policies and procedures for the distribution of TEAM funds

◆ **Structure:** Five faculty members, one elected from each academic college and the library

◆ One representative from the Council of Chairs

◆ One representative from the Council of Deans

◆ One representative from the Council for Academic Affairs

◆ One Information Systems and Services member appointed by academic affairs

◆ Associate vice president for instructional technology (ex-officio non-voting)

"It's time to change the system," Hoadley said. "Ultimately someone needs to be in charge of those funds set aside for utilization for technology."

That someone, Hoadley suggests, is the deans of the four colleges.

To that, Faculty Senate Chair Anne Zahlan said she was under the impression the switch would only be in name and not in how

grant funds will be awarded.

Barbara Lawrence, associate professor of chemistry and senate member, said she had concerns the deans would not have enough knowledge on certain courses to make allocation decisions.

"What we're worried about is faculty input," Lawrence said. "For the funds we use, the faculty knows what they need for the

individual courses.

"I have no problem with the deans having the money, but we need to be integrally involved."

Wilson Ogbomo, associate professor of African-American studies and senate member, also expressed concerns with a change in allocation when faculty members apply for TEAM grant money.

"It creates a sense of us against them," he said. "I don't see how we could separate funding faculty."

David Carpenter, English professor and senate member, said how one dean handles the allocation of money will be different from another, which he said will result in one more layer of bureaucracy between the faculty and the university.

Lawrence couldn't put a finger on how this decision will affect students, but said, "The faculty is the most involved with the students. We know the specific needs."

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EDITORIAL

Housing options improved

Last week the Charleston City Council took steps toward building a 120-unit apartment complex and commercial zone east of Wal-Mart. One discussed option has been a series of new apartments.

The new apartments will benefit the city and Eastern students alike.

The developers of the new commercial zone, the Educational Development Commission, have agreed to pay a fee of \$1,000 per apartment unit and up to \$120,000 in whole. The fees will go toward construction of roads connecting the complex with Illinois State Route 16 when necessary. Construction of the new apartment complex will ad revenue to the city beyond the fees already agreed to be paid as well.

More than any benefit to the city, the apartments will affect students because the complex will provide more housing options. By virtue of the existence of more competition, the new apartments will raise standards for off-campus housing. Students currently dissatisfied with the conditions of their apartments can tell their landlords how they feel by taking their business somewhere else.

Students shouldn't be forced to live in apartments with inadequate facilities. The new apartments will prevent them from living in housing conditions that some might consider comparable to slums. With a student body often dissatisfied with campus apartments, any new establishments willing to increase living standards are a very welcome addition.

New apartments will also benefit the university. More available off-campus housing will help alleviate crowded residence halls. With a greater availability of attractive housing, students who would once be relegated to dorm living could find a relatively feasible alternative.

While land deals have yet to be finalized, the eventual rezoning of the area could ultimately mean not only new apartments, but a greater variety of restaurants and other commercial establishments as well. In the end, any positive change could be beneficial for Charleston and especially for students.

One of the biggest issues for students on campus is housing, or a lack thereof. With the possible addition of this complex, living standards in existing apartment buildings is sure to increase as students are drawn to more attractive housing. As with the addition of any living quarters in Charleston, this could only be an improvement and mean greater living opportunity to students.

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

At issue
Possible new apartment complex

Our stance
New housing could raise overall living standards as well as draw in other new amenities to Charleston

OPINION

Student input necessary



Matt Meinheit
 Associate News Editor and semi-monthly columnist for *The Daily Eastern News*

He also is a journalism major.

He can be reached at 581-2087 or loco_lefty@yahoo.com

Judging by last year's numbers, either no one knows today is the second day of Student Government elections or no one cares.

Last year, less than 12 percent of Eastern students voted in the Student Government elections. Only 1,229 students voted, leaving 9,498 students that didn't.

To say Eastern has an apathy problem with its students is like saying the Chicago Cubs have a problem winning a World Series.

Except the Cubs have a cute little curse to blame it on. The Cubs have a terrible season and the team's fans can blame it on an angry, tin can-eating barnyard animal. If Eastern's Student Government elections have a terrible turnout for elections who gets blamed? Perhaps the ghost of a former resident adviser in Pemberton Hall is preventing people from turning up at the polls.

The biggest reason for low turnout is students don't realize what Student Government does. The idea of Student Government conjures up memories of the glorified popularity contests from high school, only instead of planning boring school dances with lame themes, Eastern's Student Government is making legitimate decisions affecting students. Students should care about Student Government because it has influence on how hundreds of thousands of dollars in student fees are spent.

Student fees that Apportionment Board controls,

"To say Eastern has an apathy problem with its students is like saying the Chicago Cubs have a problem winning a World Series."

tuition increases, allocations for new equipment in the Student Recreation Center, Board of Trustees decisions - all are affected by Student Government.

Some students abstain from Student Government elections because they don't realize it affects how their student fees are spent. Others don't bother to vote because choosing between the candidates is like choosing between purple and violet.

The only issue separating the parties is the way they want to accomplish the same goals. The major political parties on Eastern's campus, Students Voice and Campus Change, acknowledge they want to get funding for Recognized Student Organizations. The only difference is the method.

The members of Campus Change know what they want to do, but their method is complicated and adds to bureaucratic hassles. Students Voice, on the other hand, knows it wants to get more

funding for RSOs, but didn't present a plan for doing it.

Why should students want to vote for someone who will bog down the legislation with more red tape, or worse, waste time by not having an idea for fixing a problem they acknowledge exists?

Students might also avoid voting because they don't take the candidate seriously. When a candidate promotes himself by asking voters if they want someone with "Real World" experience, it raises the question of what type of person is being elected. It's bad enough some students receive more news from MTV than they do from CNN, but now MTV has weaseled its way into the political landscape. I know I don't want the same network that has given the world such thought-provoking shows as "Singled Out," "Dismissed" and "Jackass" giving political advice to impressionable idiots.

Some goals candidates have, like lowering the bar entry age, are just not feasible and seem like a desperate attempt for attention.

No matter how desperate promising to lower the bar entry age might seem, with more than half the campus population being underage, it just might work. But what do you expect from students that go to a school where the Student Recreation Center is open for more hours than the library?

It may, however, get students to take part in Student Government and that's better than the current president.



YOUR TURN: LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Both sides needed for fair coverage

After four years as an Eastern student, I have become resigned to the fact *The Daily Eastern News* is not the most professional newspaper in the country.

Since I have been at Eastern, there have been countless unprofessional, unethical or irresponsible stories published by the *Daily Eastern News* that have been one-sided or simply untrue.

Since the alleged incident at LaBamba's on April 12, there have been four stories concerning an altercation between several individuals. However, it appears that only one side of the story has been told.

The "LaBamba's Brawlers" have been given a nickname similar to Jack the Ripper or the Unabomber. The last time I checked, we lived in America where people are innocent until proven guilty in a court of the law.

Also, the amount of coverage this incident has received is somewhat humorous. No matter what side of the story is told, the incident was a fight, pure and simple.

The Daily Eastern News is this story similar coverage to the Mertz murder trial. I know that nothing exciting ever occurs in Charleston, but four stories in less than two weeks is ridiculous. Giving these two men a nickname similar to a serial killer or terrorist unfairly hinders the defense and fair trial these two men deserve.

The Daily Eastern News should not only tell both sides of the story of each incident it reports on, but also should not publicly humiliate and hurt the defense of two persons who have yet to have their day in court.

Tim Jackson
 senior social science major

Campus Change brings just that

This is in response to Paul McAdamis' letter to the editor "Using jeans to support cause bad idea" in the April 18 issue.

Mr. McAdamis, let me be the first to say how deeply sorry I am. I'm sorry you were offended that we used such a common form of clothing to support our "cause." I'm sorry if we offended you by raising awareness about something you are obviously against ("I absolutely do not support homosexuality"). But most of all, I am sorry to have to

correct you on so many misconceptions you have about the purpose of Jeans Day.

We decided to bring back this event not to get a tally on how many people on campus were wearing jeans that particular day, but to bring awareness about GLBT issues on campus. We think wearing jeans is a good idea, not because it's easy to manipulate someone into accidentally wearing them, but because it's an easy way to show support.

You don't have to wear the pink triangle or wave a rainbow flag to support GLBT rights.

Bobby Lincoln
 junior English major

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: The Daily Eastern News accepts letters to the editor addressing local, state, national and international issues. They should be less than 250 words and include the authors' name, telephone number and address. Students should indicate their year in school and major. Faculty, administration and staff should indicate their position and department. Letters whose authors cannot be verified will not be printed. Depending on space constraints, we may edit letters, so keep it concise. Letters can be sent to *The Daily Eastern News* at 1811 Buzzard Hall, Charleston, IL 61920; faxed to 217-581-2923; or e-mailed to majones@eiu.edu

International Forum's finale

By Dan Valenziano
ACTIVITIES EDITOR

Students, faculty and community members took advantage of their last chance to attend an International Forum Tuesday.

Gulnar Mammadova, a freshman management major, informed the audience about her home country of Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan, a country of close to 8 million people, is located between Europe and Asia. It is bordered in the north by Russia and Georgia, in the east by the Caspian Sea, in the south by Iraq and in the west by Armenia.

Mammadova began by giving general facts about Azerbaijan, including population, land mass and climate.

One thing that makes Azerbaijan unique is nine of the 13 climate zones that occur throughout the world can be found within its borders, Mammadova said.

Most of the population speaks Azeri, which is very close to Turkish, Mammadova said.

She described the economy of her home country.

"During the 1930s, Azerbaijan was providing the whole oil supply of the Soviet Union," Mammadova said.

"There are also problems associated with that," she said. "Azerbaijan now is polluted because of exploiting the oil resources from the Caspian Sea."

Mammadova also explained the long-standing conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia.

"There is a cease-fire right now," she said. "There are a lot of refugees, about 1 million just in my city (Baku) as a result of this war."

A lot of corruption occurs in the Azerbaijan government, Mammadova said.

"But there are very beautiful places in Azerbaijan," she said. "People there are very famous for their hospitality."

"There are no strangers in my city, there are just friends I have not yet met," Mammadova said.

The culture of Azerbaijan is a combination of Turkish culture as well as Russian and Western society, she said.

Mammadova said if you ever want to "visit Europe and Asia at the same time," you should come to Azerbaijan.

The family structure is very large, Mammadova said. Both of her parents came from families of seven children.

She explained that parents of a family will live with one of their children.



DANIEL WILLIAMS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

For the love of art

Theresa Rose, a senior studio art major, and Jessica Scott, a senior two-dimensional art major, look at an exhibit Tuesday afternoon in the Burl Ives Studio. The Visual Dialect art exhibition features student work.



STEPHEN HAAS/ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR

Gulnar Mammadova, a freshman management major, speaks Tuesday afternoon in the Charleston/Mattoon Room of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union. Mammadova spoke about her home country of Azerbaijan.



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Former Iraq POW returns

By The Associated Press

LITHIA SPRINGS, Ga. — Former Iraq POW Ronald Young Jr. returned to his hometown Tuesday, getting a police escort to his parents' house on a street bedecked with yellow ribbons and lined with well-wishers.

"It's overwhelming," the 26-year-old Young said. "I've been kind of sheltered, so I didn't know to expect all this. It's ... wow!"

The Army helicopter flown by Young and fellow Chief Warrant Officer David S. Williams, 30, of Orlando, Fla., was forced down during heavy fighting in central Iraq.

After three weeks of captivity, the men were rescued April 13 with five soldiers from the Army's 507th Maintenance Company when Iraqi captors abandoned their posts ahead of advancing American troops.

On Tuesday, Young got to work on one of his top priorities — regaining some of the 20 pounds he lost in captivity. He and his family were treated by a local business to a dinner of T-bone steaks.

"The outpouring from the community is great," he said. "I'm just so happy they've been so nice to my family — giving them a shoulder to lean on."

All seven POWs returned to American soil Saturday night,



landing at Fort Bliss, Texas, to a roaring homecoming with thousands of well-wishers and a sea of

American flags.

Judge orders restricted Harry Potter books back onto shelves

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — A federal judge ordered Harry Potter books back onto an Arkansas school district's library shelves Tuesday, rejecting a school board's claim that tales of wizards and spells could harm school children.

Ruling in favor of a fourth-grader's parents, U.S. District Judge Jimm Larry Hendren ordered the Cedarville School District to put the four books in J.K. Rowling's popular series back in general circulation.

The district's board drew wrath from national free-speech groups for its June decision to require students to obtain parental permission to check out the books. The 3-2 decision, which overruled a unanimous decision by the district's library committee, came after a parent complained about the books.

The Harry Potter books have

been assailed by some Christian groups for their themes of witchcraft. The American Library Association says the books were the most frequently challenged of 2002, but rarely did those challenges lead to restrictions or bans.

Plaintiffs Billy and Mary Nell Counts said they feared their daughter Dakota would be stigmatized if she were identified as someone who read books the district considered "evil."

Free rides coming to end — cash-strapped schools turn to busing fees

BOSTON (AP) — Lawmakers and school officials have a stark message for parents who think their taxes already pay for school bus transportation: No more free rides.

Cash-strapped public schools trying to hang on to their teachers are increasingly turning to busing fees to raise money. The move has angered parents and raised concerns that children may be forced to use more dangerous means — like walking — to get to school.

"It seems like this country can afford a lot of other things, but we can't send our students to school on buses?" asked June Million, spokeswoman for the National Association of Elementary School Principals.

President encourages Edgar to run for Senate

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush urged former Illinois Gov. Jim Edgar to run for the U.S. Senate in a phone call this week, Edgar said Tuesday.

The seat is being vacated by fellow Republican Peter Fitzgerald.

Bush spokesman Scott Stanzel confirmed that the president encouraged Edgar to run on Monday, but he declined to provide more details.

Edgar said the president asked him to consider a run but wasn't pressuring him.

"He was gracious in calling and expressing his hope that I would seriously consider it and offered to help and campaign with me," Edgar told Chicago's WMAQ-TV.

Edgar called the odds of a run "50/50," and said his interest comes partly because the country faces tougher challenges than when he declined to run last time.

"For all practical purposes we are at war," he said. "And so I take that as a serious reason to look long and hard at getting back into the process."

Edgar met Monday in Chicago with the Washington-based staff of the National Republican Senatorial Committee, a group led by Sen. George Allen, R-Va., which



helps recruit candidates for Senate races, committee spokesman Dan Allen said.

Governor: Too many managers in Corrections Department

MOLINE (AP) — Gov. Rod Blagojevich called for a shake-up of the state Department of Corrections on Tuesday, but declined to give details on what he had in mind.

The governor called for more "front-line" workers and fewer bureaucrats, but did not specify whether he meant the system needed more guards or other types of workers.

Blagojevich said the department has 13 layers of bureaucracy, including five levels of middle management that "arguably do little or nothing toward dealing with inmates or keeping our communities safe."

Slightly less than 7 percent of the department's 13,600 workers are management and not covered by union contracts, said spokesman Sergio Molina.




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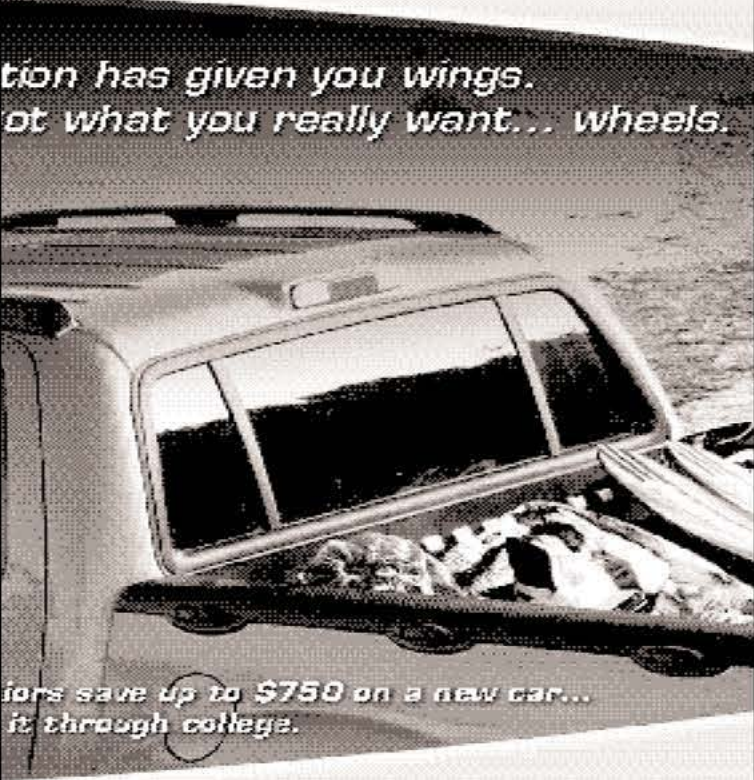
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CONFLICT IN IRAQ

France proposes ending UN sanctions

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Hundreds of thousands of Shiite Muslims crowded two holy cities Tuesday in a fervent pilgrimage that had been banned for decades under Saddam, while at the United Nations, France proposed suspending sanctions targeting Iraqi civilians.



Jay Garner

The surprise move by France's U.N. ambassador, Jean-Marc de La Sabliere, would be an important step toward the U.S. goal of ending trade embargoes that have crippled Iraq's economy.

U.S. soldiers trying to stop looting discovered more than \$600 million in \$100 U.S. bills behind a false wall in Baghdad, Central Command spokesman Brig. Gen. Vincent Brooks confirmed.

More than 800 explosive suicide vests also have been found in various places, he said.

In northern Iraq, Jay Garner, the retired American general overseeing the rebuilding of Iraq, got a warm welcome when he visited the Kurdish region. "You always make me feel at home," Garner told one Kurdish leader.

At the largely peaceful Shiite pilgrimage in the southern city of Karbala, U.S. military officials said police arrested six men who had been planning to blow up two of Karbala's mosques. Five of those arrested were members of Saddam's Baath Party, and one said he belonged to al-Qaida, said Army Capt. Jimmie Cummings.

One of Saddam's most-feared lieutenants — Muhammad Hamza al-Zubaydi — was captured Monday by the Iraqi opposition and turned over to American authorities for trial on war crimes charges. He is the highest-ranking figure — No. 18 — on the U.S. military's most-wanted list to be caught so far.

Al-Zubaydi was known as Saddam's "Shiite Thug" for his role in the bloody suppression of the Shiite uprising of 1991. Tens of thousands of people died in the revolt. Iraqi opposition groups have also accused al-Zubaydi of the 1999 assassination of a top Shiite cleric.

A Shiite himself, al-Zubaydi was once featured in an Iraqi videotape brutalizing Shiite dissidents. "This is very significant — he is one of the most hated men in the former regime," said Haider Ahmad, a spokesman for the Iraqi National Congress, a leading exile group.

Eight of the 55 most-wanted are now in custody. A ninth figure, Ali Hassan al-Majid — known as "Chemical Ali" for his use of poison gas against Kurds — is believed to have been killed in an airstrike.

Shiites streamed toward Najaf — burial shrine of Imam Ali, son-in-law of the Prophet Muhammad — and Karbala, where Hussein, Muhammad's grandson, was martyred in the 7th century.

During Saddam's rule, the Shiites were forbidden to march. This year, they marched openly under black banners of mourning.

"We were prohibited from visiting these shrines for a long time by the Baath Party and their agents," Abed Ali Ghilan said in Karbala. "This year we thank God for ridding us of the dictator Saddam Hussein and for letting us visit these shrines."

Karbala was packed shoulder-to-shoulder with hundreds of thousands of pilgrims, waving black and green flags, chanting and beating their chests. Others carried photos of revered Shiite clerics.

Two groups of 100 men in white robes slashed open their own heads with swords, splattering blood. Waving the bloody blades toward the shrine and screaming with joy, some were taken away in cars for medical attention. Others washed at a traditional Iraqi bathhouse.

The U.S. military has continued to encounter pockets of resistance. Near Mosul, coalition forces took fire from a small, disorganized force and repelled it, Brooks said. "This reminds us that there will still be firefights like this," he said.

Electricity a tough commodity to come by in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Jumping for joy, the 42-year-old mother of three hit the switch and screamed: "Electricity is here!" Up and down the block, neighbors ran outside their houses to cheer and fire weapons in the air.

Baghdad celebrated the beginning of the end Tuesday of a devastating 3-week-old power outage. Still, more than 80 percent of the city remained in darkness — and doctors reported the first suspected cases of cholera and typhoid, with no clean running water yet.

Despite a lack of power, water and phones — in addition to shuttered shops, hours-long lines at gas stations and closed schools — Baghdad's people on Tuesday showed signs of bouncing back from the U.S. military invasion and the mob pillaging and burning that followed the collapse of Saddam Hussein's regime.

In crowded streets, pickups carrying families returning from wartime havens in the countryside scraped up against trucks ferrying oranges to market.

Some drivers reveled in the once-forbidden act of stopping on Baghdad's bridges over the Tigris River — coming out of their vehicles to stare down into the lavish riverside palace compounds of Saddam.

U.S. soldiers stood guard at key installations with carnations stuck in their helmets, courtesy of Iraqi children who tore them out of flower beds.

Chanting Shiite pilgrims worship at holy shrine in Karbala

KARBALA, Iraq (AP) — Swaying and chanting, some bleeding from self-inflicted wounds of ritual mourning, an estimated 1 million Shiite Muslims marched to this city's holy shrine Tuesday, celebrating their freedom from years of repression by Saddam Hussein's regime.

The large turnout for the pilgrimage, which ends Thursday, highlighted the power and potential of Iraq's majority Shiite community. Despite bitter internal differences the Shiites, who represent 60 percent of Iraq's 24 million

people, were able to pull off the event on short notice and thus far without violence.

It showed how once again, upheaval in a Middle East country has brought followers of the Shiite branch of Islam to the forefront. It happened in 1979 when Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini founded a Shiite theocracy in neighboring Iran, and three years later when Israel invaded Lebanon, drove out Yasser Arafat and ended up facing the Shiite fighters of Hezbollah.

Pilgrims, many with heads bleeding and

limping from long journeys in 90-degree heat, pressed up against each other on roads. U.S. troops were largely out of sight, with a few members of the U.S.-backed Iraqi National Congress at checkpoints.

The collapse of Saddam's rule left a political vacuum, "So we moved in a specialized and organized way to face this problem," said a Shiite official, Sheik Sadeq Jaafar al-Tarfi.

"All the religious leaders, Sistani and Sadr, united to make it successful and had it not been for this unity it would have failed," he said,

referring to Grand Ayatollah Ali Hussein al-Sistani, Iraq's top Shiite cleric, and Muqtada al-Sadr, the son of al-Sistani's slain predecessor.

He said the Hawza al-Ilmiya, a center of Shiite learning headed by Sistani in the holy city of Najaf, sent in thousands of volunteers to manage security and traffic. American troops were ready with food and water; it wasn't needed. But Maj. James M. Bozeman, a civil affairs officer attached to the 82nd Airborne Division, said U.S. special forces treated scores of pilgrims for sprains, cramps and heat exhaustion.

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HOLES (PG)
4:00, 6:45, 9:20
MALIBU'S MOST WANTED (PG13)
5:45, 8:00, 10:00
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CAMPUS CLIPS

PRIDE: Weekly meeting on Wednesday, April 23rd at 8pm in the Martinsville Room of the Union. www.eiu.edu/~eiu/pride. Our last meeting of the year! We will be electing officers for next year.

CHRISTIAN CAMPUS HOUSE: Wednesday night Bible Study on April 23rd at 7pm at the Christian Campus House. Come join us for Bible study. Everyone is welcome!

CHI SIGMA IOTA: Dream Interpretation Workshop on April 23rd from 7-8pm in the Kansas room of the union. Everyone is welcome! Presenter: Dr. Mark Kiel

EPSILON SIGMA ALPHA: Business Meeting on Wednesday April 23rd at 5:30pm in the Effingham room of the union.

DELTA SIGMA THETA AIDS Awareness March tonight at 6pm (Assemble at 5:45pm) at the Flagpole in southquad. Come out and be part of the solution!

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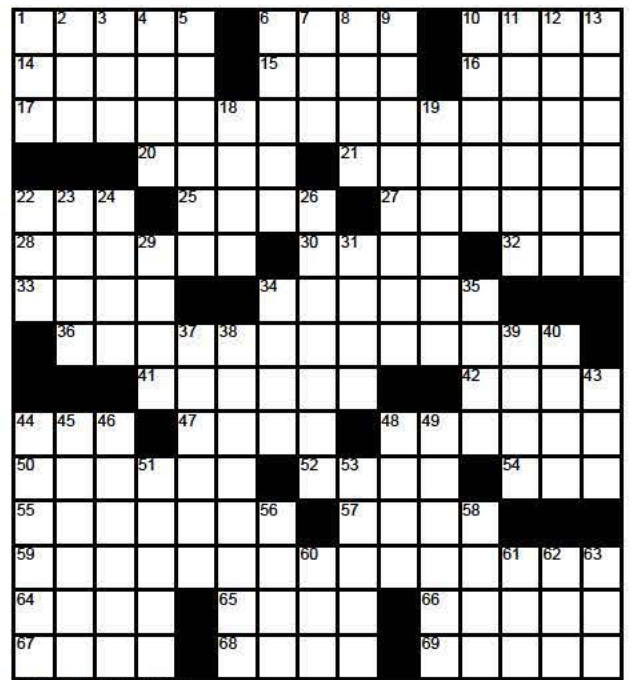
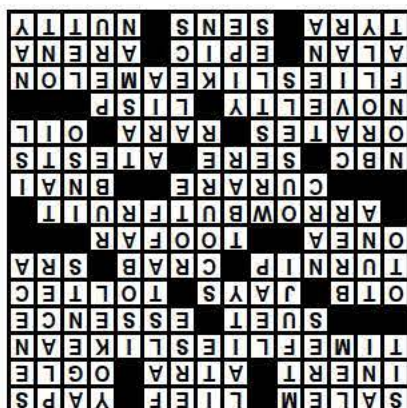
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Edited by Will Shortz

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- ACROSS**
- 1 "The Crucible" setting
 - 6 Willingly
 - 10 Chihuahua cries
 - 14 Not merely sluggish
 - 15 Razor brand
 - 16 Eye rakishly
 - 17 Start of a quip
 - 20 Fatty treat for birds
 - 21 Perfumer's extract
 - 22 Wagering venue, briefly
 - 25 Sox foes
 - 27 Ancient Mexican
 - 28 Rutabaga, e.g.
 - 30 Grouch
 - 32 Malaga Mrs.
 - 33 Fit to serve
 - 34 Where over-reachers go
 - 36 Middle of the quip
 - 41 Arrow poison
 - 42 ___ B'rith
 - 44 "Friends" network
 - 47 Parched
 - 48 Bikini blasts
 - 50 Speaks like Robert Byrd
 - 52 Unique, to Caesar
 - 54 Painter's medium
 - 55 Squirting flower, say
 - 57 Talk like Daffy
 - 59 End of the quip
 - 64 Rock 'n' roll pioneer Freed
 - 65 Big story
 - 66 Where the action is
 - 67 Model Banks
 - 68 D.C. group
 - 69 Off one's trolley
- DOWN**
- 1 Do some modeling
 - 2 "Wheel of Fortune" buy
 - 3 Science fiction writer Stanislaw
 - 4 "___ Tu" (1974 song)
 - 5 Honshu peak, briefly
 - 6 Nonprofessionals
 - 7 Social attachment?
 - 8 European language
 - 9 1893 Verdi opera
 - 10 Sticks figure
 - 11 007 and others
 - 12 Position filler
 - 13 Five Nations tribe
 - 18 Axel, e.g.
 - 19 Weather line
 - 22 Ear: Prefix
 - 23 Popular sandwich filler
 - 24 Uncle Remus honorific
 - 26 Energetic cleaner
 - 29 Buster?
 - 31 Classroom routine
 - 34 Tahoe transport
 - 35 Sticks figure
 - 37 Diving birds: Var.
 - 38 Goes to the mat
 - 39 ___ many words
 - 40 Jacques of "Mon Oncle"
 - 43 Bermuda, e.g.: Abbr.
 - 44 For dieters
 - 45 Rain shield, in London
 - 46 Luxury spread
 - 48 La Scala song
 - 49 Discoverer of New Zealand
 - 51 "Lovergirl" singer Marie ___
 - 53 Guinness et al.
 - 56 "Holy moly!"
 - 58 Machu Picchu site
 - 60 Kith's partner
 - 61 Voided shot
 - 62 Where London is: Abbr.
 - 63 Roll-call call

ANSWER TO TODAY'S PUZZLE



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SOFTBALL

Panthers make trip to face Indians

By Aaron Seiditz
STAFF WRITER

After another disappointing weekend for the Panther softball team, Eastern hits the road again to face a Southeast Missouri State team, which has played its best softball within the Ohio Valley Conference.

SEMO (11-23, 7-6) has struggled for much of the season, especially early on when the Indians only gained four victories outside of conference play. While the Indians may not be having their best year, the Panthers (9-28, 4-9) still understand the importance of this matchup.

Not only is it important for the Panthers to gain a victory within the OVC, but it is also important for the team to start playing its best as the season dies down.

"We have always played games so we can peak at the right time," Eastern softball coach Lloydene Searle said. "There is no doubt in my mind that we will perform well in the conference champi-

onship."

Searle's optimistic attitude is focused around the idea that her team still has a good chance to surprise some people as it heads down the stretch of its regular-season schedule and into post-season play.

Another reason for Searle to be optimistic is that over the weekend both Eastern's pitching and defense played the best it had all season long. No longer did the Panthers pitch and field their way out of any of the games. Instead the team played stingy defense, holding Eastern Kentucky to three runs in three games.

The first game of the three game series at Eastern Kentucky, the Panthers only lost by two runs as they were shutout by the Indians 2-0. In the second game Eastern won by a score of 1-0, which was the same score in the third game; only the Panthers were not on the good end of that result.

Overall, the Panthers played sharper last weekend than they had in a while, which was proven by all three games

being so close. But even though the team did not play as well on the offense as they needed to, the Panthers think the team's offense will come around in time for the conference championship.

"We really had a heart-breaker over the weekend, but the reality is that we easily could have taken two of three from them (Eastern Kentucky)," Searle said. "We put our best foot forward, but it is tough when the game comes down to the last couple of at-bats because of the pressure."

"Of course a game isn't lost in the last couple of at-bats because a team has to look at the entire game. But as a coach I can only hope we will put out those games in the future and win the close contests."

Both Eastern and SEMO struggled early in the season, but while Eastern has struggled to a 4-9 conference record, the Indians have won seven of their 13 conference games.

The Panthers also are look-



ing to get the offense playing well because the team will only have six more regular season games before the conference tournament starts.

"Even when SEMO has down years they will always give you a good fight," Searle said. "Our pitchers have to keep us in the game like they have been, and the we just have to believe that we will score some runs."

"I really believe that in time our offense will come around, but we just need to try to relax and live with the results."

Stevens:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

the NCAA Tournament under Lou Henson but have been in the big dance almost every year since the 90s. Self could've been the closest thing to a human god in Champaign-Urbana but he pushed people away. Why? He didn't get it.

Self had the audacity to sit in his office one week ago and tell *The New Gazette's* Loren Tate that he and his family were happy in Champaign. Along with Tate, I'll be the first to admit that I bought the lie hook, line and sinker. Sure, he loved Illinois about as much as I love going to class. He didn't get it.

Looking back Self did nothing but complain, whine and moan about things that didn't go his way at Illinois. He never let go that Athletic Director Ron Guenther wouldn't approve a new \$100 million Assembly Hall. Hey Bill, in this type of economy, there's nothing wrong with the Hall.

This season, he groaned about playing a home game at the United Center during the IHSA wrestling playoffs (yeah, I hate those free trips to Chicago too). Finally, he whined that the Assembly Hall wasn't loud enough because of the small students' section (hey, ticking off the alumni who sit up front, great idea). He didn't get it.

All right, what didn't he get?

Along the way Bill Self forgot that coaching was never about him. It's about kids he didn't want, and a program that he never appreciated being apart of.

Not once did he consider it a privilege to coach basketball at the University of Illinois and finally proved it by leaving in the middle of the night. This makes me believe he'll take that same attitude to Kansas. Self will not be truly happy with where he's at because he'll always be looking for more.

This is why Illinois should look past Tom Crean but concentrate on Northern Illinois head coach Rub Judson. Judson was a former assistant at Illinois and bleeds orange and blue. Judson's last career job would be the U of I. You see, he gets it. That's all they ask - love where you're at and what you do.

One day, Bill Self will realize he had a small piece of the world by the tail and chose to spit at all the people who built him up. Maybe then, he'll get it.

I guess as the old saying goes - if you don't want to be there, get the hell out. However, don't ever even think about coming back Bill. The scare from the back-stab wound will always be there and they'll remember put it there.

Top Cat:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

Two of the goals O'Brien has set for the remainder of the season are to "keep working and improve." O'Brien stressed the importance of hard work for the Panthers.

"You can't set any records or win titles unless you keep working hard," O'Brien said. "I want to help the team improve."

O'Brien should have little problem helping the Panthers to improve. According to Akers and McInerney, O'Brien is an excellent leader for the younger runners.

"He's an outstanding leader who will be vocal when he has to," Akers said.

McInerney noted O'Brien is a loyal teammate who is a leader on and off the track.

"He is pretty much all business," McInerney said. "He'll do anything for a teammate and he is an old-fashioned ath-

lete."

Perhaps the only problem O'Brien has caused Akers or McInerney during his time at Eastern is how the coaches will replace him. That is a job neither Akers nor McInerney is looking forward to.

"You can't replace him," Akers said. "When you look at our seniors (O'Brien, James Benson, Andy Derks, Jarrod Macklin, Jeff Jonaitis) there are some big shoes to fill. You don't replace him but you bring in solid freshmen. You just hope you can replace the points, but you can't replace him."

McInerney may have said it best. "I don't know how to replace him," McInerney said. "Maybe we can perform some plastic surgery on him and make him go out there as another runner."

Taylor:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

"There are a lot of things outside his control and he can't worry about those things," Wittke said. "All he can worry about is preparing himself the best he can."

Taylor has no idea when or if he will be drafted at all, but has high expectations that he will get selected in the later rounds. Out of the teams that have contacted him thus far, Taylor said he would like to go to St. Louis or Jacksonville.

Wittke said the opportunity alone is enough for Taylor to be happy about.

"It's really hard to see what teams are thinking, but if he does get an opportunity, he could succeed because he has a tremendous work ethic," Wittke said. "Just to have that opportunity is all that any of our guys can ask for."

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TENNIS



Doubles play breakdown

Men's Team	Record
Matt Sadler/Lukasz Pluta	7-0
C.J. Weber/B. Blankenbaker	9-5
Pluta/Colin Priestner	4-1
Jason Giardin/Priestner	2-5
Sadler/Giardin	1-2
Pluta/Giardin	0-2
Matt Sadler/Priestner	0-3
Team totals	24-21
Women's Team	Record
Audra Koerner/Jill Wirtz	6-1
Becky Brunner/Amber Lenfert	4-1
Becky Carlson/Sarah Freeman	4-1
Jana Matouskova/Wirtz	5-3
Carlson/Lenfert	8-4
Brunner/Freeman	6-6
Team totals	33-17



Junior Becky Brunner (left) and her doubles partner, junior Amber Lenfert, practice at Darling Courts. Brunner and Lenfert have proven themselves to be one of the best doubles teams in the Ohio Valley Conference with record of 4-1.

STEPHEN HAAS/ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR

Playing matchmaker on the court is not so easy

◆ *Finding compatible players to team up for doubles action is not as simple as it appears*

By Nate Bloomquist
SENIOR WRITER

Panther tennis standout C.J. Weber has played on some horrendous doubles teams. Those teams he played on couldn't return, volley or serve and it was his fault - at least that's what his partner said.

"There was just so much tension," Weber said of a team he played on in junior tennis. "There was a lot of pressure and for me, that's the last thing I want in a doubles partner."

Little pressure exists between Weber, a senior, and his doubles mate Brandon Blankenbaker. The pair owns the second-best doubles record in the Ohio Valley Conference (9-5) and has beaten some tough competition, including duos from

Marquette and Wright State.

The lead doubles team's play has sparked much of the Panther men's team's success this year. In college play, three doubles matches are played. The team winning at least two of those matches earns a team point. Singles matches are each worth a point and are played after doubles.

"We've been on both sides of that doubles point this year," Panther tennis coach Brian Holzgrafe said. "And when we win it, it really makes a big difference."

Holzgrafe pointed to a men's 5-2 win over league power Morehead State as an example of when the doubles point made the difference.

"You look at the score and that doesn't seem right," Holzgrafe said. "But their play in the doubles matches carried over to the singles."

Picking the right doubles partners ranks among the hardest decisions a tennis coach makes - something that has haunted

Holzgrafe.

He said the fault for bad doubles play lies on him as much as it does the players.

"You try to identify a players' strengths and put him or her together with someone who has different strengths," Holzgrafe said. "But really it's all trial and error. God knows I've screwed up with that a lot of times."

For the women's team, Holzgrafe made near-perfect doubles picks. The Panthers carry a 33-17 record into this weekend's league tourney. Freshman Jill Wirtz, who is 11-4 in doubles play, said a strong doubles team needs a strong morale base.

"If one person gets down, they both get down," Wirtz said. "They just keep on losing. They just feel like they can't work at all together."

Both Wirtz's partners this season come from overseas. Senior Jana Matouskova of Czech Republic and Ivana Milosevic of Yugoslavia both speak fluent tennis.

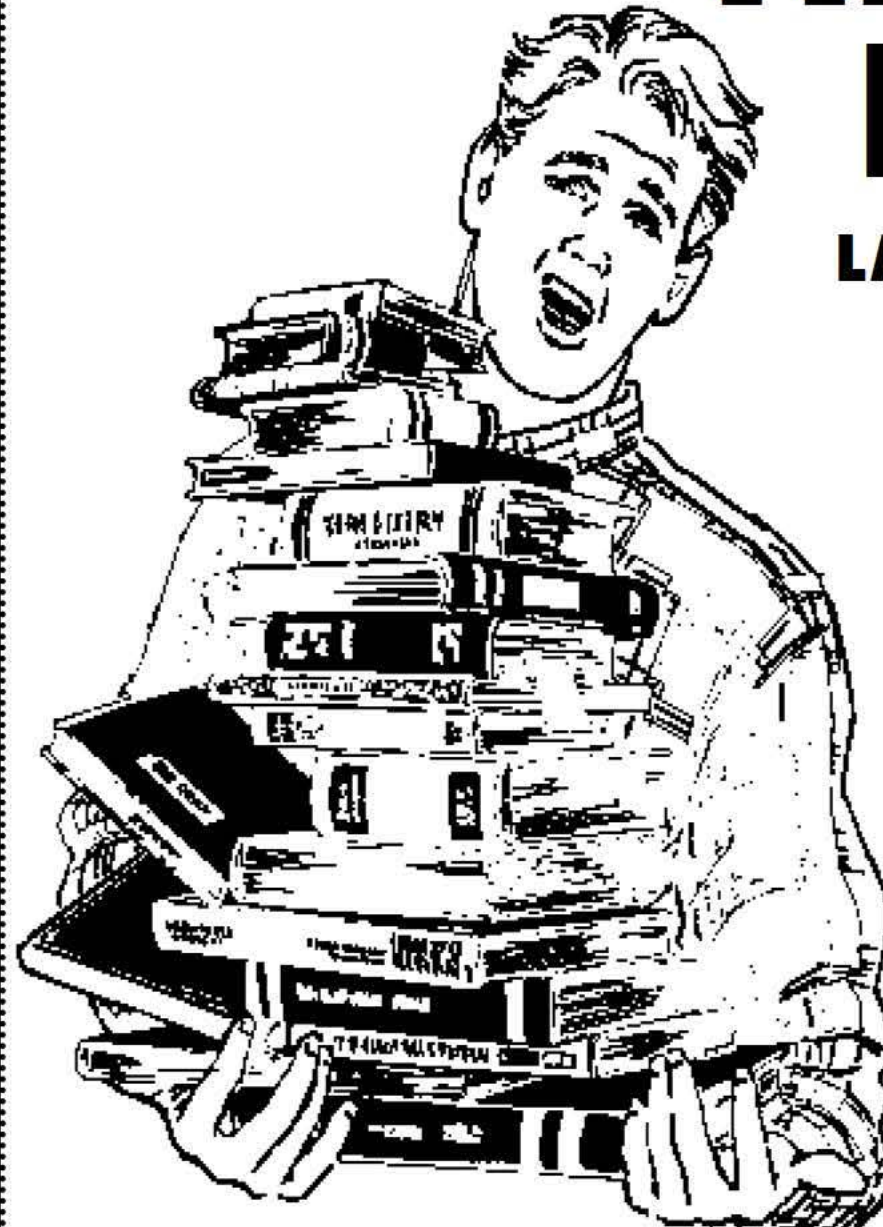
"Our games go well together because we both play to the top of the net," Wirtz said. "We've done well because we've all put forth our best effort."

Freshman Colin Priestner (6-9 in doubles play) has struggled to find the right doubles partner. The Canadian said the language of tennis sometimes includes many subtle non-verbal cues.

"You've got to know where your partner's going to be moving and he's got to know where you are," Priestner said. "That's really hard to figure out from someone you've never played with before."

Weber said the key lies in the mental aspect of the game.

"I think (Blankenbaker and I) have gotten to know each other better over the years," Weber said. "We feel each other's styles out better. We know who's going to take which ball. It's something that just happened naturally."



FINALS EDITION

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Panther sports calendar

WEDNESDAY	Baseball at Bradley (2)	5 p.m.
	Softball at SEMO	3 p.m.
THURSDAY	M/W Tennis at OVC Tourney	
	Men's Soccer exhibition	4:45 p.m.
THURSDAY	M/W Tennis at OVC Tourney	
	M/W Track at Drake Relays	

THROWING HEAT


Matthew Stevens
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

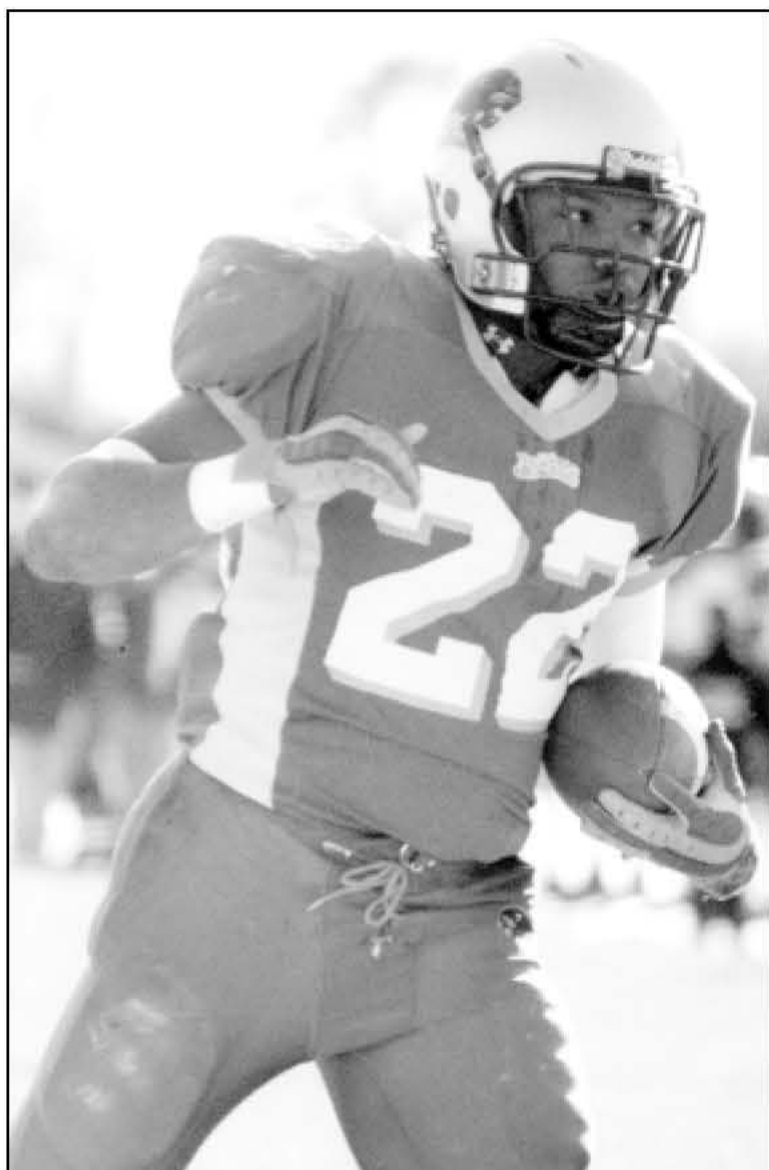
There's no place like home for Self

Bill Self and Dorothy from "The Wizard of Oz" have one thing in common - they were given everything, but wanted to go back home to Kansas.

I can understand the decision made by Self to return to his roots, but don't expect me to respect it. Because when it comes down to it, what he did was selfish in more ways than one. Why? Bill Self simply didn't get it.

The University of Illinois was willing to anoint Self the ruler of the land because those who grow up around central Illinois realize that on the priority list religion is No.1 and basketball is 1-A. Self was building a dynasty at Illinois and a mind-set that's never existed before. A road game at the Assembly Hall meant you went home with a loss as Self lost one home game in three years. The Fighting Illini had never been a constant lock for

SEE STEVENS ♦ Page 10



J.R. Taylor worked on becoming a better receiver during the off-season because NFL teams have expressed interest in him at the receiver position instead of at his natural position at halfback.

NFL DRAFT

Taylor prepared for big weekend

♦ *Departing tailback hopes off-season workout will improve his chances of fulfilling childhood dream*

By Matt Williams
SPORTS EDITOR

Dreams of playing sports professionally go through several young players' minds while growing up. Eastern senior tailback J.R. Taylor was no different.

When asked what he wanted to do when he grew up, Taylor told people he wanted to play in the NFL. This weekend's NFL Draft may be the first step to his dream.

"Growing up, that's all I wanted to do," Taylor said. "I never really wanted to do anything else. I thought maybe I could make it as a free agent, but I never thought I could be in the mix of being drafted."

As many as five teams have contacted Taylor, including Seattle, Chicago, Minnesota, Jacksonville and most recently St. Louis.

Taylor said receiving all these calls and gaining interest from teams has been exciting, but the entire draft preparation has been anything but that.

"People always say it's one of the most exciting times, but it isn't," Taylor said. "You just never know what's going on."

Taylor holds career records in

touchdowns scored (50) and has the Eastern single-game record of 308 yards against Florida Atlantic this past season. He totaled 17 touchdowns and averaged 126 yards on the ground in the fall.

Former Buffalo Bills wideout Don Beebe has been a big help in Taylor's preparation and training. Taylor said that Beebe has helped him increase his speed and has helped with his route running. He has also put on a little extra weight.

Why would a running back need to improve on his route running? If Taylor does get drafted, he may be spending his time catching passes at receiver instead of getting the ball handed to him.

Taylor is big enough at 6-foot-2 inches tall and said he could adjust to a new position if necessary.

"I'd be really comfortable, and wouldn't have any problem doing that," Taylor said. "(Scouts) said that my size and speed and ability to catch the ball would help."

Eastern's former offensive coordinator Roy Wittke said all Taylor can do from here is maintain a positive attitude.

SEE TAYLOR ♦ Page 10

TOP CAT

"He is one of the best to come through Eastern in the last couple of years," - head coach Tom Akers

Making his mark

♦ *Senior distance runner Kyle O'Brien makes his mark as one of Eastern's track and field program's best*

♦ *Editor's note: Top Cat is a weekly series taking an in-depth look at Eastern's top athlete from the previous week. Winners are selected just once. Selections are made by The Daily Eastern News sports staff.*

By Michael Gilbert
SPORTS REPORTER

In just two seasons of eligibility, Kyle O'Brien has already left his mark on the Panther track and field program. Despite spending two years at Danville Area Community College and entering Eastern as a junior, track and field head coach Tom Akers spoke highly about his distance runner.

"He is one of the best to come through Eastern in the last couple of years," Akers said. "Kyle and (former distance runner) Jason Bialka are among the best, but Kyle is more of a pure runner."

O'Brien's awards, accomplishments, and fast times make him one of the best the Eastern program has seen. During his first year at Eastern, O'Brien was named to the All-Ohio Valley Conference First Team and the awards kept coming. Also included in the resume of one of Eastern's most decorated athletes is the 2002 OVC Athlete of the Year, OVC Cross-Country Champion, first place at the OVC Indoor Championship in the 3,000 and 5,000 meters and another All-OVC First Team award in 2002.

The awards certainly seem to fit the bill, since O'Brien has been dominant in the both indoor and outdoor season.

The Danville native has the fifth fastest time in school history in the indoor 5,000 meters (14:18.33), and also holds the 10th best time in the indoor 3,000 meters after he ran the event in 8:24.42 last year. Akers said O'Brien was one of the main reasons the Panthers were able to win the OVC Indoor Championship last month.

"He played a big role on the Indoor Championship," Akers said. "Kyle is an All-Conference athlete, he's the Indoor Athlete of the Year and he is good to count on."

O'Brien has been equally successful when the season went outdoors in March. O'Brien



STEPHEN HAAS/ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR

With a time of 29 minutes and 36.36 seconds in the 10,000-meter run at the Mt. Sac Relays in California, O'Brien owns the second-best time in school history. His time is behind the No. 1 time, held Joe Sheeran (1978), by about three seconds.

red-shirted the 2002 outdoor season, but he showed extreme promise during his first season of Division 1-A athletics in 2001.

O'Brien had one of his best meets at the 2001 OVC Outdoor Championship, held at Murray State. At the conference-ending meet, O'Brien won both the 5,000 and 10,000 meters, giving the Panthers 20 team points. Eastern went on to defeat Southeast Missouri State 269-200 to take home the OVC crown.

The red-shirt year did not hamper O'Brien's outdoor skills in the least. He is having another banner season and recently was a provisional qualifier for the NCAA Outdoor National Championships after finishing sixth out of 42 competitors in the 10,000 meter when

he ran a 29.36.36 at the Mt. Sac Relays in California. If O'Brien's time is among the fastest of the provisional qualifiers, he will get an invitation to the NCAA Outdoor Championships in June.

"So far his senior season is going really well," Eastern assistant coach John McInerney said. "He performed well at the Mt. Sac Relays, and that was a good first step for him."

The talented senior agreed with his assistant coach about the progress of his senior year.

"It has gone pretty well," O'Brien said. "The training with coach (McInerney) has been there and we have set some high goals."

SEE TOP CAT ♦ Page 10

BASEBALL

Game with UIC canceled

♦ *Coaches' Stadium is flooded again, game will not be rescheduled*

By Jamie Hussey
STAFF WRITER

Coaches' Stadium was flooded again forcing Eastern to cancel its game Tuesday against University of Illinois-Chicago.

Eastern (14-18, 2-4) dealt with a flooded field earlier in the season because of suspected vandalism. Eastern did not have to cancel games in that incident, but had to move its doubleheader from Saturday to Sunday.

The game was called Tuesday because of an unplayable field because the sprinkler system was left on. The game will not be rescheduled.

Senior co-captain and catcher Bret Pignatiello said he was one of the first people out on the field.

"Coach (Jim Schmitz) told me it was canceled and I thought he was kidding, but it was wet all around the first-base line," Pignatiello said.

Eastern will travel to Peoria Wednesday to take on Bradley University (18-19) in a doubleheader at 5 p.m. at O'Brien Field.

Bradley is coming off a 6-4 win against Missouri Valley Conference rival Wichita State.

The Panthers will be back in Coaches' Stadium this weekend to play a three-game series against Ohio Valley Conference foe Eastern Kentucky University (16-16, 5-3).

The games will start at 1 p.m. Saturday with a doubleheader and a single game played 1 p.m. Sunday.