

4-25-2006

Daily Eastern News: April 25, 2006

Eastern Illinois University

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Recommended Citation

Eastern Illinois University, "Daily Eastern News: April 25, 2006" (2006). *April*. 17.
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THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

TUESDAY
APRIL
25
2006

VOLUME 91, ISSUE 69

dennews.com

90th Anniversary

Eastern Illinois University, Charleston

Tuition, student fee increases approved

By JIM ALLOCCO
EDUCATION REPORTER

The Board of Trustees passed all suggested tuition and fee increases unanimously Monday night.

New students, graduate students and students who initially enrolled before the Fall of 2004 will all see a tuition increase.

Eastern President Lou Hencken said this increase is a response to the lack of funding increases from the state. The university has not seen an increase in funds from Illinois for almost seven years.

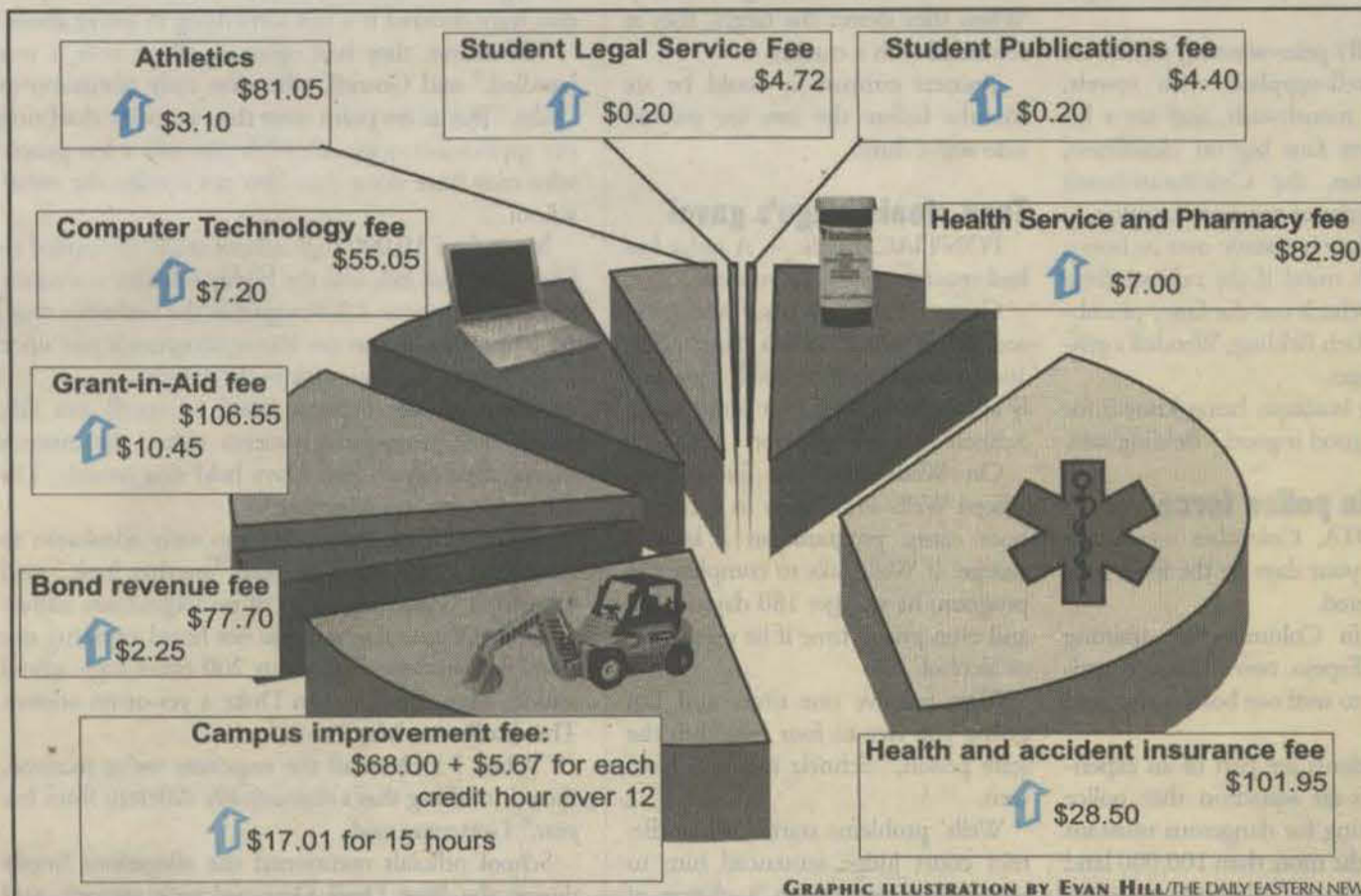
"We are receiving the same amount of money now that we were in the fall semester of 1999," Hencken said.

The president questioned how much inflation has increased the price of products since 1999. He stressed that the price for a gallon of gasoline has increased by at least \$1 in seven years, but state funds to the university have remained the same.

Hencken also stressed that, compared to other public universities in the state, Eastern has the fourth lowest average student tuition and fees.

Tuition will be raised by 7.5 percent for students enrolled before Fall 2004 and 12.5 percent for incoming students and graduate students.

SEE TUITION PAGE 7



GRAPHIC ILLUSTRATION BY EVAN HILL/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

2007 STUDENT FEE INCREASES

FALL 2007 TUITION PER SEMESTER HOUR

Illinois Residents	Out of state students
New students:	New students:
Fall 2006: \$154.30	Fall 2006: \$462.90
Fall 2007: \$173.55	Fall 2007: \$520.65
Increase: \$19.25	Increase: \$57.75
Graduate students:	Graduate students:
Fall 2006: \$150.55	Fall 2006: \$451.65
Fall 2007: \$169.40	Fall 2007: \$508.20
Increase: \$18.85	Increase: \$56.55
Students enrolled before Fall 2004:	Students enrolled before Fall 2004:
Fall 2006: \$137.25	Fall 2006: \$462.90
Fall 2007: \$147.55	Fall 2007: \$520.65
Increase: \$10.30	Increase: \$57.75

Education used to battle illnesses

By JIM ALLOCCO
EDUCATION REPORTER

Dan Nadler, vice president for student affairs, reported that on average 83 percent of college students have health-related problems throughout the year, including colds, fevers, sore throats and depression.

He said staff and faculty at Eastern will attempt to make this percentage of students much smaller by educating students about dangers of alcohol, drug and tobacco use, stress and lack of sleep.

Eastern's administration discussed goals for the fall and said farewell to outgoing members at the last Board of Trustees meeting of the spring semester.

Outgoing Student Government President Ryan Berger expressed confidence in the newly elected Student Government at Monday night's Board of Trustees meeting. "(Sean Anderson) will do a fantastic job," Berger said. "In all honesty, he's a fantastic student leader."

Berger went on to congratulate the newly elected members of the Student United

Party, and said he felt sure they will take care of Eastern students.

Assege HaileMariam, chair of the Faculty Senate, also shared positive words at the last meeting of the year.

"It has been a wonderful year," she said. "The Faculty Senate has worked closely with the Student Government. We believe strongly in working together and problem solving."

SEE GOALS PAGE 7

Alumni, staff reminisce about 'historic icon'

By CATHY BAYER
SENIOR CAMPUS REPORTER

Eastern President Lou Hencken has always been great about passing along messages, said Julie Nimmons, chair of Eastern's Board of Trustees.

That is, until one Wednesday afternoon nearly two years ago, when Nimmons' daughter - not Hencken - was the first to tell her that Blair Hall was on fire. Nimmons' daughter was a senior at Eastern at the time.

It struck a chord in her gut, Nimmons said.

"My first words were, 'Do you know if everyone was all right?'" she said.

No one was injured, but Blair Hall had more than \$11 million in damages.

Nimmons was one of many that gave their memories of Blair Hall at the building's rededication on Monday.

Charleston Mayor John Inyart was working as a volunteer firefighter and was called to the scene that day.

He was there that afternoon and well

into the evening, he said. He called the Blair fire the most uncomfortable fire he had ever worked at.

A new \$800,000 Charleston Fire and Rescue ladder truck served as a flagpole Monday afternoon at the ceremony.

Moving back has caused the faculty in Blair Hall to think of the things that were lost.

The faculty will never fully recover, said Janet Cosbey, who was there on behalf of the faculty in the anthropology and sociology department.

"It is so great to be back home," she said. "The faculty has been displaced, but students have been homeless."

One of Cosbey's graduating students told her that the reopening of Blair was the best graduation gift of all.

Hencken said he likes comments like that because few people know how hard Eastern pressed for Blair's completion.

SEE BLAIR PAGE 7



JAY GRABIEC/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Lou Hencken, president of Eastern, points out some historical pictures and information about Blair Hall to Harold Marker, Eastern graduate of 1934, after the Blair Hall rededication ceremony Monday afternoon. The display includes a picture of Marker's sister Lucille in the seventh grade. Aside from being an Eastern alumni, Harold Marker also attend first through seventh grade in Blair Hall.

McGee pleads not guilty

By DAVID THILL
SENIOR CITY REPORTER

Eastern student Eric McGee pleaded not guilty at his preliminary hearing Monday afternoon. However, probable cause was found, which means there is enough evidence to continue on to a trial by jury in a felony case.

McGee is charged with aggravated battery, which is a Class 3 Felony, in connection with the stabbing of Eastern football player Ben Brown on Feb. 26, outside of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

Officer Kent Martin with the University Police Department was the responding officer on the scene that night. Martin said a statement provided by Brown indicated that Brown had been walking up the stairs to the union when he received a blow to his stomach.

SEE MCGEE PAGE 7

WTF?

Toilets honored at Ohio restaurant

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLUMBUS, Ohio — They're flush with pride at an Ohio restaurant that has won an annual search for America's tidiest toilets.

The sleek and spiffy sports-themed restrooms at Wendell's, in the Columbus suburb of Westerville, were chosen as the nation's finest Thursday in a nonscientific online poll sponsored by a bathroom supply company.

Wendell's prize-winning potties are always well-supplied with towels, soap and mouthwash, and are a hit with sports fans big on cleanliness, said Cintas, the Cincinnati-based manufacturer of restroom supplies.

The eatery is ecstatic over its honor and won't mind if the curious drop by just to check out the fancy plumbing, said Rich Belding, Wendell's general manager.

"In our business, being known for anything good is good," Belding said.

Rats join police force

BOGOTA, Colombia — Watch out Fido, your days on the force may be numbered.

Police in Colombia are training Lola and Espejo, two whiskered, red-eyed rats, to sniff out bombs and land mines.

The rodents are part of an experimental six-rat squadron that police are preparing for dangerous missions to defuse the more than 100,000 land mines that litter Colombia's countryside after four decades of war between

the government and leftist rebels.

Unlike dogs, rats weigh less than half a pound each and "don't trigger any explosions when they walk on a mine," said Col. Javier Cifuentes, director of the Sibate police academy, where basic training is taking place.

To earn their stripes, the rats have spent the past year undergoing a daily training regimen in which they are placed in a maze with C-4 explosives and other bomb-making materials. When they detect the target, they're rewarded with a cracker.

Trainers estimate it could be six months before the rats are pressed into active duty.

Teen steals judge's gavel

PONTIAC, Mich. — A judge has had enough of one 17-year-old.

Cameron D. Wells, who was accused of vandalizing a court office and stealing a judge's gavel, repeatedly angered Circuit Court Judge Gene Schnelz with his behavior.

On Wednesday, the judge sentenced Wells to 56 days in a county boot camp program on a larceny charge. If Wells fails to complete the program, he will get 180 days in jail, and even prison time if he uses drugs or alcohol.

"Test positive one time, and I'm giving you two to four (years) in the state prison," Schnelz told the Novi teen.

Wells' problems started when district court judge sentenced him to community service on a charge of minor in possession of alcohol.

COLLEGE NEWS

Rape allegations in background, high school seniors visit Duke

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DURHAM, N.C. — When Greg Gosnell talks about attending Duke University as a freshman next fall, the kids at his high school outside Washington make jokes about lacrosse. Even his dentist gave him a hard time about the college he chose.

But the 18-year-old from Potomac, Md., said he is not concerned about allegations that members of Duke's lacrosse team raped a stripper at a team party.

Like many of the 200 or so prospective students visiting the campus Monday, he said he and his parents have decided it is not something to worry about.

"Of course, they had opinions about how it was handled," said Gosnell, who won early admission to Duke. "But at no point were they seriously doubting my application to the school. It was only a few people who may have done this. You can't judge the entire school."

More than 19,000 high school students applied to Duke for next fall, and the highly selective university offered only about 3,800 a spot in the freshman class. At 19 percent, it was the lowest acceptance rate since Duke began keeping track in the 1950s.

The university expects 1,665 to enroll this fall. About 900 prospective students visited the campus during four Blue Devil Days held this month. The final such day was Monday.

Of the 470 students who won early admission to Duke, only one asked to take "another look," said Christoph Guttentag, dean of undergraduate admissions. But Guttentag said he has not heard anything else from that student, and about 200 other high school seniors have already given Duke a yes-or-no answer. The deadline is May 1.

"When I look at all the responses we've received, there is nothing that's dramatically different from last year," Guttentag said.

School officials mentioned the allegations briefly during the Blue Devil Days welcome sessions, said Susan Coon, Duke assistant director of admissions.

"Something like this could happen at any campus at any time, in reality. This one just got a lot of press."

JUDY HINGLE,

DIRECTOR OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AT THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR COLLEGE ADMISSION COUNSELING

She said few have asked directly about the issue during the question-and-answer sessions with the university's vice president of student affairs that end the day.

Judy Hingle, director of professional development at the National Association for College Admission Counseling, said prospective students should judge the school primarily on academics.

"Something like this could happen at any campus at any time, in reality," Hingle said. "This one just got a lot of press."

Lincoln Foran, an 18-year-old visiting from New York, said his college choice has come down to Duke and the University of Virginia.

"I've seen the articles about it," Foran said. "My impression is it shows the relationship between Duke and Durham is not the best, but at least the university is taking it seriously and trying to fix it."

FIVE-DAY WEATHER

EARLY HEADLINES

Listen to "Wake Up Live" with Rob and Jenn Monday through Friday for morning headlines on 88.9 or at weihitmix.net



TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
52	61	69	64	68
36 Showers	40 Sunny	48 Sunny	52 Thunderstorms	51 Showers



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The Daily Eastern News is produced by the students of Eastern Illinois University. It is published daily Monday through Friday, in Charleston, Ill., during fall and spring semesters and twice weekly during the summer term except during school vacations or examinations. Subscription price: \$50 per semester, \$30 for summer, \$95 all year. The DEN is a member of The Associated Press, which is entitled to exclusive use of all articles appearing in this paper.

STAFF LIST

EDITOR IN CHIEF KYLE MAYHUGH
581-7942 DENeic@gmail.com
MANAGING EDITOR AMY SIMPSON
581-7942 DENmanaging@gmail.com

NEWS EDITOR SARAH WHITNEY
581-7942 DENnewsdesk@gmail.com
OPINION PAGE EDITOR HOLLY HENSCHEN
581-7942 DENopinions@gmail.com
PHOTO EDITOR JAY GRABEC
581-7945 DENphotodesk@gmail.com
SPORTS EDITOR MATT DANIELS
581-7944 DENsportsdesk@gmail.com
VERGE EDITOR HOLLY MOHR
581-7942 DENverge@gmail.com
ONLINE EDITOR NORA MABERRY
581-7941 DENonlinedesk@gmail.com
ADVERTISING MANAGER DAVID HANLEY
581-2812 DENads@eiu.edu
PROMOTIONS MANAGER BLAKE DONDINGER
NATIONAL ADVERTISING KELLY FINNIGAN

BUSINESS MANAGER BETSY MELLOTT
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EDITORIAL ADVISER JOE GIBSON
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PHONE: 217-581-2812 FAX: 581-2923

E-MAIL: DENEIC@GMAIL.COM

NIGHT PRODUCTION STAFF:
NIGHT CHIEF CINDY TANNEY
COPY CHIEF LAURA GRIFFITH
INSIDE DESIGN RICH LAKEBERG
SPORTS DESIGN DAVID THILL
NIGHT PHOTO EDITOR ERIC HILTNER
COPY EDITORS MEAGAN BRUSNIGIAN
..... EUGENIA JEFFERSON

PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID AT:

Charleston, IL 61920
ISSN 0894-1599
PRINTED BY:
Eastern Illinois University
Charleston, IL 61920
ATTENTION POSTMASTER:
Send address changes to
The Daily Eastern News
Buzzard Hall, Eastern Illinois University
Charleston, IL 61920



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CAMPUS

A quick take on news, scheduled events and announcements.

Sassy 6 close to being winners

With less than one week left in the program, the Sassy 6 hold a dominating lead in the Eastern division of the "Reshaping Coles Biggest Loser Challenge."

Their closest competition, the Wanna Bees, are behind by 1,571 points in the activities category.

The Sassy 6 also lead in the fruits and vegetables category with 3,018 points and the water category with 3,438 points.

For the past 14 weeks, the Sassy 6 have been working out almost two hours every day along with eating five servings of both fruits and five servings of vegetables and drinking water.

Sassy 6 teammate Debby Schultz has found the program to be very helpful, and, although she has not lost a lot of weight, she said she has lowered her cholesterol 20 points.

"Even though I haven't lost a lot of weight, I feel healthier," said Schultz.

New York physicist to give lecture

David Hogg, an assistant professor from New York University, will give a lecture titled "Galaxies, Dark Matter and the Universe" at 7 p.m. today in the University Ballroom in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

Hogg works in his university's Center for Cosmology and Particle Physics. His research studies the formation of galaxies cosmologically.

Teach Me days continue with karate

Teach Me Tuesday will present "Martial Arts" with Mitch Saret from Karate USA.

The demonstration will take place from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. today in Lawson Hall.

Student Pay Day will be Friday

The final student pay date of the Spring semester will be Friday.

Students who have not yet signed up for direct deposit may pick up their checks at Old Main.

TODAY'S EVENTS

Converting Powerpoint for the Web

CATS training session free to faculty, staff and graduate assistants

2 p.m. | McAfee Room 1214

Study Abroad Information Session

Informational meeting for students interested in studying overseas

3:30 p.m. | Blair Hall Room 1207

Asian American Student Panel

The Asian American Heritage Committee is sponsoring a student panel.

5 p.m. | Lumpkin Auditorium

ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY

25 years ago – Eastern's Rugby Club requested \$2,782.32 from the Apportionment Board for uniforms and travel expenses.

10 years ago – A student referendum approved the implementation of a \$1 fee on graduate students to pay for the Graduate Student Advisory Council's semesterly publication.

Five years ago – English professor Bruce Guernsey was announced as the Distinguished Faculty Award recipient.

Gregg Triad seeks techies for this fall

Triad lab workers will be required to have computer talents

BY JIM ALLOCCO
EDUCATION REPORTER

Student workers at the Gregg Triad computer lab can take phone calls, watch the doors and check out cameras. But they typically are not educated on how to help out with major technical problems and computer assistance, said Don Braswell, lab coordinator for the Center for Academic Technology Support.

This will all change in the fall semester.

The lab is implementing a program that coordinators hope will bring in student workers with more hands-on technical training.

Braswell said that Eastern is behind other state universities in providing technical assistance from student workers. Bigger universities such as University of Illinois, University of Wisconsin and Notre Dame already have similar programs in place at their on-campus computer labs.

"Other colleges have already been doing this forever," said Claire Martinkus, student worker at the Gregg Triad and sophomore elementary education major.

If all goes as planned, these trained students will be able to help out at all other computer labs on campus as well.

"We're hoping that we can branch this out and help other labs on campus," said Braswell.

At the Western Illinois University Help Desk, student workers are hired to assist with technical difficulties anywhere on campus, said Dan Miller, technical assistant at Western's Help Desk.

"We've been doing this as long as I can remember," Miller said.

But not all of the workers are required to be computer science majors. Like Western and other universities, the Triad will test students on their knowledge of technical problems, including fixing server, network and disk drive problems.



ERIC HILTNER/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Cristi Cox, a freshman undeclared major, inspects and inventories the contents of a returned camera bag in the Gregg Triad lab Thursday afternoon.

"The old way, the student worker was basically there to check out a camera...and watch the doors," said Braswell. "In our current hiring process, we're looking for students with more of a technical background."

Martinkus said she can answer most disk drive and server questions, but said sometimes there are questions she is unable to answer.

Generally in the afternoon, student workers are the only help available, she said, and admitted that she may not be rehired for the same position next year.

If Martinkus is rehired, she said the job will probably become much more difficult than other jobs on campus that pay the same amount of money.

"When I can work in the dining hall washing dishes for \$6.50 an hour, it's a lot of work," she said.

But whether or not she is rehired for her position, Martinkus expects the new program to benefit Eastern students overall.

EWP is a last-minute student priority

BY LIZA BISHTON
STAFF REPORTER

Many students are completing a last minute requirement as the end of the semester looms over the campus: the Electronic Writing Portfolio.

The EWP replaced the Writing Competency Exam in the fall of 2000. Before that, the Writing Competency Exam had been a graduation requirement for 18 years.

Students were required to take the exam at the end of their senior year. Seniors paid \$20 and came in on a Saturday morning to write two essays to fulfill their requirement.

According to Daiva Markelis, director of the Writing Center, the essays were written about generic topics such as "The biggest problem facing students."

The students who did not pass the exam had to retake it until they passed, paying the \$20 fee each time. According to Fern Kory, assistant director of the Writing Center, certain groups of students were more likely to fail the exam.

Because the test was timed, students who had test anxiety, learning disabilities or spoke English as a second language were at a disadvantage, Kory said.

Other students found some of the topics difficult. Transfer and non-traditional students had difficulties when writing about campus issues. Most students eventually managed to pass, but some students never graduated even though they had completed all of their coursework, Kory said.

At the end of a student's senior year, it is too late to teach that person how to write,

"One of EIU's undergraduate learning goals is that students write effectively."

KARLA SANDERS,
DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER FOR ACADEMIC SUPPORT AND
ACHIEVEMENT

said Kory. Through the EWP, students work to improve their writing from their first year at Eastern.

Markelis said the focus of the EWP is revision. Students in writing intensive courses submit their papers to the teacher two times, which allows them to receive feedback and make revisions to their papers.

According to Kory, another advantage of the EWP is that it allows students to write about topics relevant to their majors.

Carissa Hayden, a senior English major, felt that submitting a paper was a hassle. She dislikes the EWP, but conceded, "at least I can submit a paper I've already written."

Other students, such as Deidre Beausoleil, a sophomore sociology major, and Kara Spizzirri, a sophomore Spanish education major, also expressed a dislike for the EWP and felt that the requirement is not beneficial to students.

Karla Sanders, director of the center for academic support and achievement, disagrees.

"One of EIU's undergraduate learning goals is that students write effectively. The EWP is the assessment measure that tells us whether we are meeting that goal," Sanders said.

Markelis said two common complaints about the EWP is the inconvenience of submission and the limited number of courses that qualify as writing intensive or writing centered.

In the future, Markelis said that students could use the Banner system to submit papers. More classes will qualify as writing intensive so that students will not have to sign up for courses they would not ordinarily take in order to meet the writing intensive requirement.

Students would also be required to submit four documents, one from each year, said Robin Murray, director of composition for Eastern's writing across the curriculum program.

Students are able to submit papers from two different level classes in the same semester, she said. The final paper must be from a senior seminar class.

Students who are ready to submit a paper must print and complete a form found at www.eiu.edu/~assess/. After getting their professors' signatures, they take the form and paper to Ninth Street Hall.

A paper should be submitted during the semester it was written. If students do not submit their paper on time, a hold is placed on their account after a semester leeway.

"Ultimately, the EWP is a graduation requirement," said Sanders. Graduating seniors must submit their final document at least three weeks before the end of the semester in which they intend to graduate.

According to Sanders, after a paper is submitted it is kept electronically until a portfolio is completed. Each year a group of trained faculty read 10 percent of the portfolios, and report on the strengths and weaknesses of student writing.

OPINION

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

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TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 2006

EDITORIAL

Blair Hall is a part of history

Flames thought to be accidentally ignited by construction equipment destroyed large parts of Eastern's third oldest building two years ago this week.

After 24 months and more than \$6 million to reconstruct the site, including an estimated \$300,000 to restore the paperwork and files alone, the Eastern and Charleston communities officially welcomed back Blair Hall Monday.

A mere two years ago, administrators were facing uncertainty and the possibility of tearing down the building if the damage rendered it unsafe for students.

Little did they know at the time that the building would be restored to its historical glory with complementary modern niceties.

Students, faculty and staff members of the Sociology and Anthropology departments, Graduate School, School of Continuing Education, International Programs office and Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, among others displaced by the fire, should be commended for their patience and determination through this trying time.

This campus has seen and experienced firsthand the difficulties of being relocated across campus and the city. Some faculty members have had to carry what's left of their offices in their arms day to day. Grade books, years of research and more than 1,000 grants were lost in paperwork and databases housed in the building.

Thanks to the building contractors and engineers, the city of Charleston and Eastern's administration and community, future students will be able to appreciate Blair Hall's significance for years to come.

Special Olympics brings out the help

The Special Olympics Area 9 Spring Games were held Friday at O'Brien Stadium.

According to Jessica Wendling, volunteer coordinator for the games, 720 Eastern students volunteered their time at the event.

Eastern students should be commended for volunteering their time and making sure the event went off with out any problems.

Kimberly Abell, area director for the Special Olympics, said that the organization relies on volunteers to run their events and the majority of the volunteers at the Spring Games were Eastern students.

Eastern students organized volunteers and handed out lunches, but more importantly they interacted with the athletes. Volunteers walked athletes to and from events and talked with them in the time between events.

Volunteers cheered as athletes crossed the finish line in the 50, 100 and 500 meter races, as they threw shot puts and as they did the long jump. But more importantly, they cheered as athletes struggled to finish events.

When Harley Duniaphan, from the Casey Westwood school district, was the only one left finishing the 10-meter assisted walk volunteers came out in force to cheer her on. She had a bigger crowd around her than the winner of the event and once she crossed the finish line she received thunderous applause.

When Garrett Bacon finished fourth in the 50 meter run he jumped into the arms of a volunteer to celebrate. The volunteers made a difference just by coming to the event and cheering for the athletes.

So often we only hear the bad about college students, about the loud parties, the laziness and the disrespectful behavior, but when Eastern students come out in such large numbers to volunteer their time they should be commended.

EDITORIAL CARTOON BY KYLA NANCE



COMMENTARY

Drudge's sludge still shaky

Matt Drudge is busy doing his part to put the yellow back in journalism.

Drudge was initially made famous for his breaking of the Monica Lewinsky scandal, a story he did not write but rather went public with before Newsweek, which was sitting on the story awaiting confirmation of the information.

Today he runs a Web site, <http://www.drudgereport.com>, claiming millions of visitors daily (11 million on April 7 according to the site) and has a syndicated radio program "heard in all 50 states."

Nearly every story he writes ends in "developing..." which gives him license to provide shaky information with no named sources because it gives the impression Drudge will be more forthcoming with information when he gets the chance.

While I do not rabidly read Drudge, I have yet to see a story ending in "developing..." later added to, clarified or sourced.

Matt Drudge writes few stories that are posted on his web site.

A headline appearing on his site that did not link to any story read only, "Local governments and residents embracing new nuke plants - with enthusiasm... Developing..."



EVAN HILL
STAFF DESIGNER

"Nearly every story he writes ends in 'developing...' which gives him license to provide shaky information with no named sources..."

It gave no information as to where the information came from, who the residents or governments were or even what country these new plants are to be located in.

He failed to answer any of the six basic questions: who, what, when, where, how or why.

Of the 36 "news" stories on his home page, Drudge wrote only one story, a recap of current bird flu news in the United Kingdom, which contained only one named source and four unnamed sources.

It also contained a photograph of a

swan with no credit, outline or attribution.

It did not indicate whether the swan was infected or not, or when and where the photo was taken.

Because there is no credit indicating otherwise, one could only assume Drudge took the photo.

However, there is no byline anywhere on the story. The only clue as to who wrote it is that it resides on the Drudge Report servers.

So if Drudge took the photo and wrote the story he is guilty of poor reporting and a lack of attribution, especially when he is quoting publicly available information where there is no interest in protecting sources identity.

And if he did not take the photo, he is guilty of copyright infringement and plagiarism.

In addition, one of the 36 "news" stories was no more than an add for book written by gun-toting conservative frontwoman Ann Coulter, who according to a media kit for the intermarkets Ad Network, an advertising firm representing both parties.

His claims to the profession and title of journalist are as dubious as his reporting practices.

Evan Hill, a senior journalism major, can be reached at info@ehdesign.com

YOUR TURN: LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

IT COULD BE YOUR TURN, IF YOU DECIDE TO TAKE ONE

The length of this space is the length of one page double-spaced. You know from homework experience how long that takes to come up with.

The Daily Eastern News Letters to the Editor section is here at your disposal. Just like the guidelines that run below this section say, anyone who can type or write has

the possibility of having their opinion published in this spot.

The DEN prefers to subsidized the marketplace of ideas with editorials, which are to the left, and columns, which run above this section.

Our goal is to make the Opinions page a respectful and accurate exchange of opinions that benefit the Eastern community. All views are welcomed, but will be subject to editorial discretion prior to publication.

This spot is your spot, Eastern. Any and every rant, theory, idea and thought

have an equal chance of filling this space on a daily basis. Your input is necessary for the successful function of this page and this newspaper.

Also welcome are your ideas for articles and issues you would like to see in The DEN. While the modern media is often criticized for its bias and refusal to report on certain subjects thoroughly, we aim to dispel this belief with thorough coverage on a plethora from a diverse set of viewpoints.

Q&A

Revealing the source

New Student Body President answers ten questions about his plans for campus safety, RSO funding

Student Body President-elect Sean Anderson will take office July 1.

He sat with *The Daily Eastern News* news editor Sarah Whitney to discuss his plans for next year and how his leadership in the Greek community will help him lead Student Government.

Question 1: What are you most excited about for the upcoming year as the new president?

Answer: I have these ideas that I've always wanted to do and I have this group of people that I ran with, all Student Government, that supports me with these ideas ... but, like, I have the opportunity to follow through with these ideas, not just me doing them, but a bunch of people. Like First Night for next year — I've already started planning for that. I'm really excited to see, like this past year it was really, and I saw it and I was like 'oh it's good' and I'm talking with Ryan.

Q2: If you could only pick one platform to accomplish next year, what would it be?

A: The day after I won, Lou Hencken came into my office. ... He was very congratulatory and was like 'I just want to let you know that I definitely share two of your platforms: security and school spirit.' (That really gave me) some confidence because there's no way students can just alone be like, 'oh we want more security or more safety' but with his help, and then students' help and the police station's, like, that's one thing, no matter what, that I want to get done. That's like the reason why I ran.

Q3: What are some specifics?

A: First, I'll find out what money is available and then push to see what other money is available. And



JAY GRABIEC/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Sean Anderson, recently elected Student Body President, answers questions Monday afternoon in his office about what he plans to do during his term in office next year.

then because I'm not an expert, for example, on types of lighting and security cameras or whatever. So, hopefully with (Hencken's, UPD's) help, that's why it's tough for me to say what specifics because I'm not really an expert on it, but definitely lighting number one and number two security cameras and number three working out the budget with the police department.

Q4: When you mean more funding, where would you find that funding?

A: For starters, just from the university, but long term from the state. You can't lobby in August and expect in December to have funding from the state. It's not how they work. But I think if we can show the state that we made it a priority — the university switched around the percentage of its funds — to go there and say "hey this is a priority

for us, then hopefully (the university will get) something.

Q5: How did you get involved with Greek life?

A: My freshman year I wasn't sure what I wanted to do. So I joined Student Government and did ROTC and forensic science team and I kinda got bored. ... So when I came back I decided I wanted to do something else. Actually the Student President Chris Getty at that time said 'you gotta join a fraternity, it's awesome.'

Q6: How do you think your experience with Greek life will help you in Student Government?

A: I think my experience with leadership positions in Greek Life is going to help. I was Lambda Alpha Delta. ... When you're in a fraternity, I think you learn leadership, how to deal with people, conflict resolu-

tion with people who think the same as you. It's such a wide variety of ideas and people have their own idea on how to run things, and it just taught me how to take ten ideas and put them into one.

Q7: What do you do for fun?

A: I've been dating my girlfriend for a year now, and I usually spend a lot of time going to movies with her and doing different things. I spend a lot of time at Christian Campus House. That's like my stress reliever there. Little bit of pool. I don't drink, so I get to Marty's and get a bunch of free pops on Saturday nights. So that's something unique about me. So I get to go out for free. So I just like hanging out with friends, my girlfriend, relaxing and napping.

Q8: You mentioned that you see a lot of movies with your girlfriend.

So what's your favorite movie?

A: I'm such a movie buff. I have a favorite movie, just as of recently I changed. My favorite movie is odd. Most girls haven't seen it. It's called Bloodsport. It's with Jean Claude Van Damme. It's like the best worst 80s movie ever. ... It's just one of those awesome, horrible movies that you just laugh at the entire time. Over spring break, me and my best friend Dave watched it three times in a row. We drove 20 miles just to get it on VHS.

Q9: Why'd you choose Eastern?

A: I chose EIU for wrestling. My freshman year, I knew wherever I went I knew I was going to wrestle. I really like it, the atmosphere. I became a wrestler my freshman year, and it was just a little too much for me. I was a die-hard, loved it in high school.

Q10: How are you going to pay for Recognized Student Organization funding?

A: My advice given to me was to not comment on it until I have a full complete plan. ...

The plan is that with student government, we propose a budget to apportionment board. At lots of universities, what they do is they ask for RSO funding as part of their budget. The easiest way to start off is to say that any organization that is doing an event that the whole campus can participate in for free. ... We'll fund if you come with a proposal that meets the requirements.

And we haven't, like I said, made the requirements or looked at other schools and how they do it.

... Student Government has a \$41,000 budget, and it's supposed to be for the students, so you'd have some of that money — our budget — for next year be part of RSO funding.

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- THE WILD (G) 4:10 6:20 8:30
- BENCHWARMERS(PG13) 5:30 7:45 10:10
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STATE

Illinois news at a glance.

Defense raises concerns about Ryan trial dismissals

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO — The judge who presided over former Gov. George Ryan's racketeering and fraud trial has set a hearing for Wednesday on a request from his defense attorneys for permission to interview two women who were dismissed from the jury. Evelyn Ezell was replaced with an alternate juror after eight days of deliberations after it was discovered that she failed to indicate on a court-required questionnaire that she had an arrest record. Cynthia McFadden was dropped from the jury before deliberations began.

"If the news accounts are accurate, juror Ezell and juror McFadden possess information that could be highly probative of juror misconduct and a verdict returned in violation of fundamental notions of fairness and due process," Ryan's attorneys said in their motion filed on Friday.

Meningitis kills teacher in West-Central Illinois

GALESBURG — A preschool teacher and cheerleading coach in this west-central Illinois city has died from a virulent form of meningitis, but a quick response from school and medical officials seems to have prevented the disease from spreading, Knox County health officials said Monday.

Sheila Redington, 44, died Sunday at OSF Saint Francis Medical Center in Peoria, where she had been in critical condition since Wednesday, her family said.

Researchers use tech to analyze Mona Lisa painting

CHAMPAIGN — Mona Lisa probably wasn't a man, and it's even more unlikely that the artist who painted the famous painting used himself as the model, according to University of Illinois researchers. UI Professor Thomas Huang has analyzed the painting to determine its subject's likely gender and compared it with a self-portrait of da Vinci.

The analysis, using the facial-recognition software developed by Huang and his students, says there's a 60-40 probability the painting is of a female.

Even if it is a man, it doesn't match up well with Leonardo's sketch of himself.

State receives \$10 million in grants for stem cell research

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO — The state awarded \$10 million in grants to researchers Monday for their work with stem cells to study and ultimately treat a variety of diseases, but the prospects for future money are uncertain.

Gov. Rod Blagojevich wants to spend \$100 million on stem cell research over the next several years, including \$15 million in the next budget year, but lawmakers haven't approved that money.

Blagojevich wouldn't say Monday what he will do if he is rebuffed by the legislature but he defended his action to set aside the original \$10 million in last year's budget without legislative approval.

"I'm not going to wait for a bunch of politicians in Springfield who won't do the right thing to help cure diseases," Blagojevich said after announcing the grants to 10 researchers at a news conference at Schwab Rehabilitation Hospital on the city's West Side.

His Republican opponent in the governor's race, Treasurer Judy Baar Topinka, renewed her support for research using embryonic stem cells but would not take a position on whether the state should approve more research money.

Illinois is among several states that have found money for stem cell research after President Bush severely

"I'm not going to wait for a bunch of politicians in Springfield who won't do the right thing to help cure diseases."

ILLINOIS GOV. ROD BLAGOJEVICH

ly restricted the amount of federal funding that can be used for the work, which is opposed by many conservative Christian groups.

Blagojevich, a Democrat, issued an executive order last year directing the Illinois Department of Public Health to create the grant program.

Scientists say stem cell research could one day lead to cures for diseases such as diabetes and Alzheimer's. Some of the researchers awarded grants work with embryonic stem cells, something some opponents object to because it destroys an embryo, which many consider to be human life.

Republican state Sen. Bill Brady of Bloomington said he doubts the governor will get more funding approved by lawmakers as long as embryonic stem cell research is included.

Brady, who supports research using only adult stem cells, said there is another issue to consider in

a state facing financial woes.

"Do we have any money at all for any of this?" asked Brady, who ran unsuccessfully for the GOP nomination for governor.

Researchers receiving grants Monday are affiliated with Northwestern University, the University of Illinois system, Chicago's Children's Memorial Hospital, Loyola University, the Hines VA Hospital and the University of Chicago.

The 10 grant recipients, who received anywhere from \$250,000 to almost \$2 million, were chosen from 24 applications.

One of the researchers chosen was Mary J.C. Hendrix, president and scientific director at the Children's Memorial Research Center.

She says her research uses human embryonic and adult stem cells and cells from mice to try to reverse the progression of diseases, including cancer, Parkinson's disease and epilepsy.

Topinka would not say whether she wants lawmakers to approve Blagojevich's proposal for more research money, saying the Legislature will have to weigh it against other needs.

"I think it's money well spent, but at the same time we have many other programs that are also very worthy that are probably going to take a hit," Topinka said at a news conference in Springfield.

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TUITION:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Hencken said graduate students are generally more expensive to support because those classes have fewer students and are taught at a higher level.

Student fees will increase by a total of \$58.90. The board also approved the campus improvement fee to raise \$5.67 for every credit hour beyond 12 credit hours.

The most significant increase was for the health and accident insurance fee, which increased by 38.8 percent.

GOALS:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The board also elected new officers at the meeting.

Leo Walsh took the position of board chairman, Roger Kratochvil will be secretary, Robert Webb is the new vice chairperson and William O'Rourke was elected as pro tem of the executive committee.

The board also authorized four multi-year contracts for administrative personnel. Three contracts were extended and one new administrator was appointed.

Richard McDuffie's contract as athletic director was extended through June 30, 2009; Brady Sallee was

approved to remain women's basketball coach through May 9, 2009; and Michael Miller's contract as men's basketball coach was extended one year through April 30, 2009.

The board approved Diane Jackman, associate dean of the college of education at Northern Illinois University as dean of college of education and professional studies at Eastern. Her contract begins July 1 and will continue through June 30, 2009. In his report, Eastern President Lou Hencken said the university is making a lot of progress. He cited the completion of Blair Hall and the progress being made at the Doudna Fine Arts Center.

BLAIR:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The goal was for the graduating seniors to see Blair as a finished product.

Harold Marker, who graduated from Eastern in 1934, was also at the rededication.

He wanted to come to the rededication because he is the "oldest living fossil that went to Blair," he said.

Hencken showed Marker a display about Francis G. Blair.

One of the display's photos showed Marker's sister when she was in seventh grade.

The building should be complete by the middle of the summer, said Stephen Shrake, director of Eastern's physical plant.

After Monday's rededication, the building's front parking lot will be torn up and replaced with grass.

Blair Hall is a historic icon, said Bob Augustine, dean of the Graduate School.

It deserved respect, and it was appropriate to bring it back this way, Augustine said.

It would have been easier to knock down the building and start over from scratch, Shrake said.

Blair Hall is Eastern's third-oldest building, built in 1913.

MCGEE:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Kent said Brown then followed McGee to the bottom of the stairs and proceeded to punch McGee in the side of the head, knocking him down. Brown then felt something like another punch from McGee, which turned out to be a stab, Martin said.

McGee called the incident into the University Police Department later that evening.

However, several witnesses stated that Brown was, in fact, the aggressor, Martin said.

Officer Brian Houston, also with the University Police Department, said there were inconsistencies in McGee's two statements to the police.

According to Houston's testimony, McGee said in his first statement that after being knocked down by the blow from Brown, he found a "shiny, metal object" among the

rocks next to the sidewalk. However, in his second statement, McGee stated that he had actually taken a knife from the union food court and placed it among the rocks in order to conceal it from view, in case of such an incident. Both statements accused Ben Brown of being the aggressor.

Houston testified that in McGee's statement, an altercation had occurred between McGee and Brown earlier that day and that

Brown had threatened McGee.

The incident occurred that night while Brown was on his way to a dance inside the union.

Keith Kohanzo, director of student judicial affairs at Eastern, testified that Robert Nichols testified to the Student Judiciary Board that Brown had come to his residence on the day in question and had explained to Nichols that an altercation had occurred between Brown and McGee that day. Kohanzo said

Nichols stated he and Brown then went to the union in search of McGee.

McGee's attorney stated that he felt McGee's actions were an exercise of "justified force."

"To me, there is a huge difference between a punch and a stab," prosecutor Eric Neumann said.

The trial for McGee has been set for July 18, with the final pre-trial hearing set for July 10. A status hearing is to be held June 16.

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SOFTBALL

DOWN BUT NOT OUT

Eastern faces critical OVC weekend series against Austin Peay

BY MATT DANIELS
SPORTS EDITOR

Eastern head coach Kim Schuette said a week and a half ago that the success her team had been having might be causing some pressure for them.

That pressure to qualify for the Ohio Valley Conference tournament didn't go away after this weekend, with the Panthers dropping three tough games against league-leading Tennessee Tech.

But her team's fear of losing seems to be gone, Schuette said.

"Although we lost to a great team, we made great strides," said Schuette. "I think our intensity and our spark is back. We're trying to be the aggressor again."

Even with the offense shut out by Tech ace Bonnie Bynum during two of the games, the

Panthers showed TTU head coach Tory Acheson they can compete with the Ohio Valley Conference's best team.

"I think they're a scrappy team," he said. "I think they play the game hard. They made a couple key mistakes that helped us... We were fortunate enough to take advantage of those mistakes."

With the three losses, Eastern has dropped to seventh place, a spot away from the critical sixth and final qualifying spot for the OVC tournament.

Which makes next weekend's series against sixth-place Austin Peay all the more important for Schuette and her team.

"It is important for us," Schuette said. "We just have to get some W's. It just so happens that the teams we are playing are right near us."

After this weekend's series against the Lady Governors, the Panthers welcome fifth-place

Eastern Kentucky to Williams Field on May 5 and 6.

But even with a five-game losing streak intact, it doesn't mean the Panthers are panicking.

"Our goal is to get to the conference tournament," said third baseman Rachel Karos. "I'm not worried about it — yet."

"I think our effort's been there, but our confidence and just playing for fun sometimes isn't there. We need to do a better job of not getting stressed out and just playing loose."

Acheson joked that he doesn't want to see any team again once he's faced them, but said Eastern is a team that can cause problems to any OVC team.

"If they get in the tournament, they're a dangerous team," he said.

That is the echo of many other OVC coaches as well.

Samford head coach Beanie Ketcham knows first-hand the potential Eastern has after watching the Panthers sweep her team two weeks ago.

"(Coach Schuette) has really turned this program around," Ketcham said at the time.

Even after sweeping Eastern the first weekend of April, Jacksonville State head coach Jana McGinnis said the three-game sweep her team had was not easy and Eastern made JSU work for everything.

"That's the biggest compliment I think we can get," Schuette said. "I think we've earned a lot of respect and with a couple of games against Jacksonville State and a couple against Southeast Missouri, we've been in every game."

"I think we are a feared team in the conference even though we are middle of the pack right now."

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FOOTBALL

TAKE A CHANCE ON ME

■ Pascal Matla and Kory Lothe are hoping to take their collegiate passions to the next level and land spots on NFL rosters

By MATTHEW STEVENS
SPORTS REPORTER

Two Eastern all-conference players will be waiting by the phone for professional teams to come calling this weekend during the NFL Draft.

Defensive end Kory Lothe and center Pascal Matla are going to attempt to make an NFL roster this fall and have hopes of knowing which camp they will attend.

"We are always hoping our guys get in a camp and have an opportunity to showcase their ability," Eastern defensive coordinator Roc Bellantoni said.

The 6-foot-5, 319-pound Matla has been projected by some scouting services as a potential late-round selection.

"He's in the best shape he's ever been in," offensive coordinator Mark Hutson said. "The NFL scouts have told him to work on his lateral movement."

The native of Holland has excelled in each of his two pro-workouts, including an impressive amount of repetitions on the bench press and what the scouts are calling an extremely high score on the Wunderlic test that examines an athlete's intelligence.

"He went down to Chicago for a six to eight week period to work out for NFL teams and with a professional trainer," Hutson said.

Hutson and the coaching staff have received calls from NFL team's regional scouts on their amazement on Matla's understanding of English and intelligence.

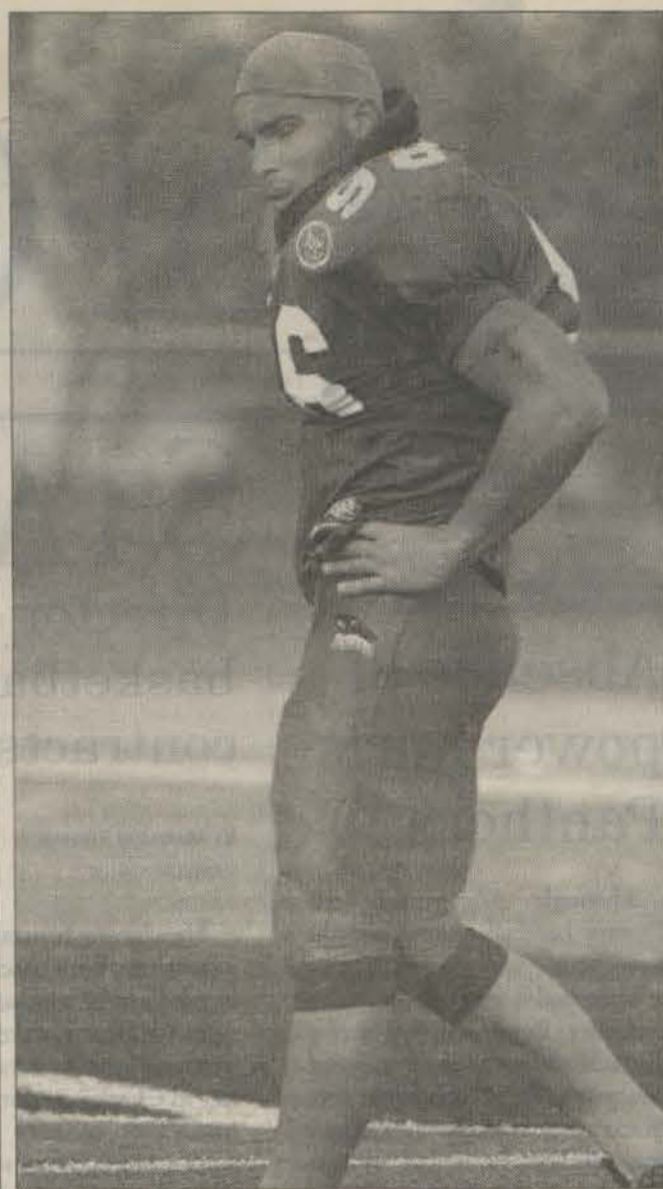
In fact, the foreign aspect may work to his advantage because he maybe able to play in NFL Europe whether or not he makes an NFL roster.

"He's very excited about the possibility of playing for Amsterdam," Hutson said.

Lothe went back to his home state for his pro-workout. Thanks to his agent, the Sun Prairie, Wis., native went to the University of Wisconsin to get evaluated by NFL scouts and



ERIC HILTNER/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS



CARRIE HOLLIS/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

(LEFT) Eastern center Pascal Matla snaps the ball during the Nov. 26, 2005 playoff game against Southern Illinois University. Matla is hoping to turn pro. (RIGHT) Defensive end Kory Lothe takes a breather after the Sept. 24, 2005 game against Samford at O'Brien. Like Matla, Lothe is hoping to turn pro next season.

according to reports, his numbers were more than sufficient.

"He put up some major numbers that day," Bellantoni said. "He's got at least seven to eight NFL teams looking at him."

Lothe, who was named to the all-conference team in his final two seasons, ran the 40-yard dash in 4.68 seconds at 270 pounds and posted a 38 1/2 foot vertical jump, which makes him possibly a versatile player that could work as lineman in a 4-3 scheme or as a roving linebacker in a 3-4 system.

"He has been working with the strength coach at Wisconsin and he has added 15 pounds of muscle," Bellantoni said.

The one physical roadblock on Lothe's path to the NFL is that he is completely blind in one eye.

"There's a bunch of teams that won't touch him because of his eye," Bellantoni said. "It's a major issue for some teams."

Bellantoni has had Eastern players get NFL camp invitations, like former linebackers Fred Miller and Nick Ricks, but also had talented players get passed over.

"In Kory's case, I wouldn't be shocked either way but I'm hoping for him because he deserves the opportunity so much," Bellantoni said.

CONTRACTS:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

climate change," McDuffie said. "To be honest, if the BOT rules would've permitted us to do so, we would've given him a longer deal."

Sallee, who has a career record of 20-34, has led Eastern to consecutive double-digit win totals for the first time in almost a decade.

"The vote of confidence is worth more to me than any extension, raise or anything," Sallee said. "Getting to the top of league is something we can do very quickly."

Neither one of the Panther programs have finished above .500 since

2000-01, but the university wanted to prove they have long-term confidence in both individuals.

"I think this says something greatly positive about how our university treats its coaches compared to the dog eat dog world of college athletics," Eastern President Lou Hencken said.

Everyone involved mentioned how this move would positively affect recruiting now that both coaches have longer security.

"It's something that always comes up and now people can't say 'Well you know Brady's in the last year of his deal' when they recruit against us," Sallee said.

Having all three deals symmetrically finish at the same time are not coincidence but avoids having Sallee and Miller go into a lame-duck season.

"I didn't think it would be a good idea to add that type of additional pressure onto a Division I coach who already has to worry about rebuilding a program," McDuffie said.

Both coaches said this deal gives their families more security in knowing where they will be residing for at least three more years.

"It's definitely a good day for our family," Sallee said. "Hopefully once '09 comes around we can keep this thing rolling."

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SPORTS

TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 2006

PANTHER SPORTS CALENDAR

TODAY	BASEBALL VS. UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS	3 p.m.
WEDNESDAY	SOFTBALL AT UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS	4 p.m.
	BASEBALL AT ILLINOIS STATE	6 p.m.
SATURDAY	TRACK & FIELD AT DRAKE RELAYS/SIU-EDWARDSVILLE	All Day
	SOFTBALL VS. AUSTIN-PEAY	12 p.m.
	BASEBALL VS. SOUTHEAST MISSOURI	1 p.m.

Eastern Illinois University, Charleston



THE SIXTH MAN

MARC CORRENTI
STAFF REPORTER

Absence of power hurts Panthers

Through 37 games, the Eastern baseball team has eight home runs.

How bad is that?

Albert Pujols, Jim Thome, Chris Shelton, Jonny Gomes and Morgan Ensberg each have more home runs in three weeks than the Panthers have had in two months.

The Panthers had 44 home runs in 56 games last year. What is the reason for the sudden power shortage with the Panthers?

It's not that Eastern was a power team last year either, but to fall so short of last year's home run pace with 17 games left leaves many wondering why.

Last year's top three home run leaders (Jason Cobb, Keiji Szalo and Ryan Campbell) are all back for the Panthers.

The trio totaled 26 home runs last season, but combined for only two this season.

Eastern head coach Jim Schmitz has lamented all season that he has nine singles hitters and it seems it was wearing on him in last Wednesday's loss to Southern Illinois.

The current leader in home runs is second-place Eastern Kentucky with 41. Ohio Valley Conference leader Samford ranks third in home runs with 23.

It's amazing that the Panthers have been able to maintain a stranglehold on third place in the conference.

The best possible explanation for their current standing is that they rank second in team batting average and second in team ERA.

Until this weekend's shellacking at Samford, the Eastern pitchers have carried the Panthers for a better part of the season.

Drew Gierich played the role of stopper in Sunday's 6-4 win over the Bulldogs, but it's time the Panthers' "power" hitters produced.

Eastern has arguably the best 1-2 hitters in the conference with Brett Nommensen hitting .339 and Mark Chagnon leading the OVC at .407.

With as good as the table setters are in the Panthers' lineup, Huber, Campbell and Cobb should be geared up for three-run homers.

STAYING POWER

Director of Athletics, basketball coaches' contracts extended

BY MATTHEW STEVENS
SPORTS REPORTER

After having frustrating starts to their Panthers coaching tenures, both coaches were given votes of confidence in the form of contract extensions Monday.

Eastern men's basketball head coach Mike Miller and women's basketball head coach Brady Sallee signed to stay in Charleston until 2009. Director of Athletics Rich McDuffie's contract was also extended another two years, until 2009, as well. All three deals were approved during the Board of Trustees monthly meeting on

Monday.

Financial terms were not disclosed regarding any of the three extensions.

Miller, who just finished his first season with a 6-21 record, had two years remaining on the initial three-year deal the Monmouth native originally signed upon arrival.

"I'm excited about the university being committed to the way we want this program to grow," Miller said. "This is going to take time, but we have brought in players in the hopes of showing improvement next year."

McDuffie said that outside observers should not be surprised by Miller's contract extension, but instead should be patient with its leader.

"This is not going to be a quick fix. When Mike came here, he inherited a program that needed a

SEE CONTRACTS PAGE 11

Contract Extensions:

Rich McDuffie

◆ Contract renewed through June 30, 2009

◆ Athletic director since March 1997

Mike Miller

◆ Added one year onto contract, extended through April 30, 2009

◆ Record at Eastern: 6-21 (5-15 in OVC)

Brady Sallee

◆ Contract renewed through May 9, 2009

◆ Record at Eastern: 20-34 (12-24 in OVC) in two years

BASEBALL

Schmitz keeps slugger's confidence up

Eastern set to square off against University of Illinois this afternoon

TODAY'S GAME	
Eastern Illinois (20-17, 9-7)	University of Illinois (20-17, 17-9)
VS.	
Last game 6-4 win at Samford	Last game 17-3 loss vs. Iowa
Standing 3rd place — 4 back (OVC)	Standing 7th place — 4 back (Big 10 Conference)

BY MARCO SANTANA
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

Eastern missed a big opportunity to gain some ground on the Samford Bulldogs this weekend.

They faltered by dropping two out of three games at Birmingham, Ala.

But there was some good that came out of it.

Catcher Jason Cobb, who entered the weekend hitting just .193, went 5-for-9 in the series after getting in extra work with head coach Jim Schmitz and hitting coach Sean Lyons during the week.

"He's showing people that he's getting there," Schmitz said. "As a head coach, you can say all you want. But if your big boppers aren't hitting, it puts pressure on everybody."

Cobb is hoping to continue his resurgence against the University of Illinois at Coaches Stadium today at 3 p.m.

"It's big to get more at bats (today)," he said. "Schmitz did a good job of keeping me up."

Cobb had been in the biggest slump of his career. He has struck out a team-high 31 times this season.

Last season, he struck out 32 times. That was done in 15 more games than this season.



CARRIE HOLLIS/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Junior third baseman Ryan Campbell beats a pick off against Aurora University, April 18. The Panthers will play the University of Illinois at 3 p.m. today at Coaches Stadium.

But Schmitz has repeatedly said that Cobb was his guy and that he would stick with him through the slump.

His confidence in Cobb paid off this weekend.

He broke out of it with his strong weekend against the Ohio Valley Conference's first-place team.

Drew Gierich was the starter in Sunday's game. The Panthers beat the Bulldogs 6-4 to salvage the final game of the series and avoid the sweep.

"We showed our maturity to come back and win Sunday," Schmitz said. "We have to put together a big winning streak."

Gierich's execution was better than Brandon Murphy and Kenny Firlit's on Saturday, Cobb said.

"Drew did a better job of locating pitches," Cobb said. "He kept the ball down."

Murphy and Firlit, who started the first two games of the series, combined for 10 earned runs in 6 1/3 innings.

Despite the setback, the team is still focused on their preseason goal of 18 wins. That should be enough to get them second place and a bye in the first round of the tournament, Cobb said.

"The bye is huge," he said. "Freshman year, it hurt us not getting the bye because we had a morning game just after a night game."

The Panthers have to go 10-2 in their remaining conference games to finish 18-12.