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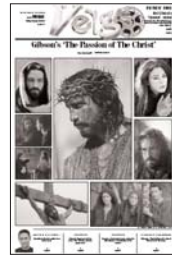
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Need more passion?

Controversial movie hits the
Charleston/Mattoon area.

Page 1B VERGE

Enrollment on the rise once again

By Lacey Everett
STAFF WRITER

A jump in student enrollment this year has resulted in the hiring of more faculty members and a busier campus.

Vicki Woodard, spokeswoman for Eastern, said enrollment was at 10,733 after the 10th day roster this spring.

Full-time students make up 8,611 of that total, and 2,122 are part-time students. This is a 376 student increase from last spring, Woodard said.

Student enrollment last spring totaled at 10,357. Full-time students constituted 8,377 of that total and there were 1,980 students enrolled part-time, Woodard said.

During the Fall 2003 semester, there was a total of 11,522 students enrolled, an increase of 359 students from Fall 2002 when the total was at 11,163.

"We are looking toward another increase next year," Woodard said.

To accommodate the increase in enrollment, academic affairs has hired more faculty members.

"We haven't had any significant increases in class size and work load," said William Weber, associate vice president for academic affairs. "What usually happens when we have an increase (in enrollment) is that we hire annually contracted faculty, which are usually full-time but are only hired on a year-to-year basis."

"Also, part-time non-negotiated faculty are hired to come in and teach one or two courses for us," Weber said. "With a look toward the future, we are running 32 searches for tenure track teachers this year. These take more time and are still ongoing."

Although the number of students has increased in the last few years, Weber said Eastern has handled it well.

"My impression is that we have handled the increase of enrollment very well by increasing faculty, and not increasing class size," Weber said. "If you look at on-campus (class) sections, only 130 out of 2,100 sections have an enrollment of more than 40."

"Last fall, there were 682 teachers employed, 23 more than fall 2002 when there were 659 teachers employed. That was a pretty sizable increase."

An increase in student enrollment means more students are choosing to attend Eastern and affordability is a common reason for that decision.

"I came to Eastern because it's a good school for education majors and it is very affordable," said freshman elementary education major Rowdy Frederiksen. "I haven't noticed a problem in student overpopulation because if you go to places like Textbook Rental and the Recreation Center at the right time, you have no trouble getting in."

Maryann Williams, a sophomore elementary education major, has noticed an increase in population since last year.

"I've seen an increase in people in computer labs and the library. I work in the ITC (Instructional Technology Center) and we see more people coming in regularly this year," she said. "I came to Eastern because they have a good music program and they are well-known for education. This school is also very cheap."

Shanna Wieneke, a junior sociology major, came to Eastern for two reasons.

"Eastern was the least expensive school I could find; it is within my budget. Also, my high school teachers, many of whom attended Eastern, have told me that here I will get the good education I am paying for."

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increasing
faculty, and
not
increasing
class size."*

— William Weber,
associate vice
president for
academic affairs

Tarble almost finished

New construction, renovations nearing completion

By Adam Dremak
STAFF WRITER

The remaining construction and renovations of the Tarble Arts Center are nearing completion.

A large metal fence was taken down earlier this week, representing the end of major construction at Tarble, located at Ninth Street and Cleveland Avenue. The remaining construction represents the "beginning of the end" for the project which began last summer, campus architect Steve Shrake said.

"The fence was there to keep students and faculty away from construction," Shrake said. "Injuries are always a concern so the fence was just a precaution."

Tarble Arts Center Director Michael Watts said the project is currently within budget and any unexpected expenses would be paid for from a contingency fund, as is the case with campus construction projects.

"There were very little unexpected costs; something always will be found, but in this case there was nothing major," Shrake said. "The entire project ran very smoothly."

Since the construction is not completed, Tarble may undergo some closures during the summer, Watts said.

The biggest problem still to finish, he said, was connecting the utilities in the new expansion with the old utilities in the existing structure.

The renovated portion of Tarble includes several new additions and features, which Watts said would help to



DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY COLIN MCAULIFFE

A view inside of the new Tarble Arts Center, which is set to be completed somewhere between late March to late April.

promote the activities Tarble already holds and allow for displays not intended to be presented in galleries to be moved into more appropriate spaces.

"There will be a new gallery for a technology based exhibition as well as a much larger room, which can be used as multipurpose for the building," he said.

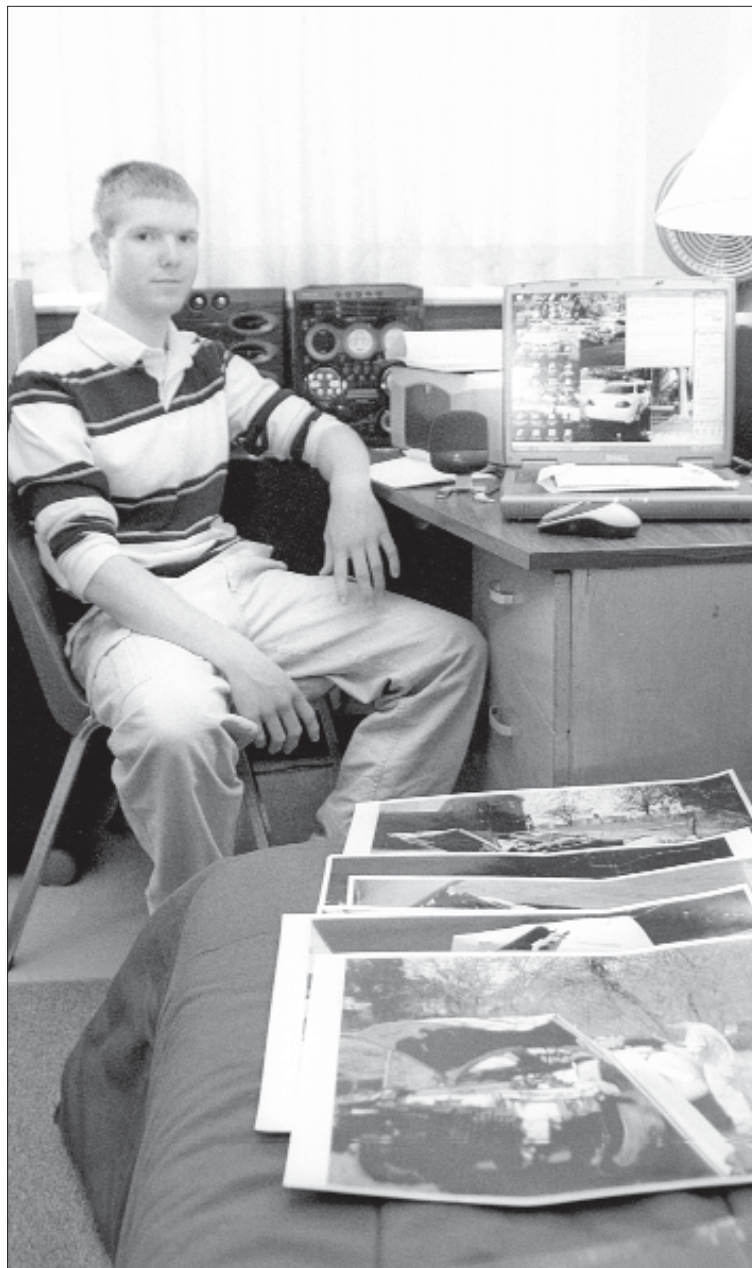
Watts also reminded students to continue using the building's south entrance because the front entrance is not com-

pleted yet.

The completion date is set for mid-to-late March or as late as April, as long as things continue as planned.

Watts said a formal reopening and rededication is planned for Oct. 7, but exhibits are planned for March.

He said "Pulp Fact and Fiction: Dennis Morris, AIE Student Artist" will open March 12, and the 2004 "All-Student Show" will open March 13.



DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY COLIN MCAULIFFE

Michael Achtor, a freshman pre-engineering major, sits at his desk as pictures from the car accident he was in sit on his bed. Achtor now goes to high schools to talk about the dangers of reckless driving.








MAKING LESSONS FROM MISTAKES

♦ *Freshman Michael Achtor takes his own horrific experience to teach young drivers the dangers of reckless driving*

By Blake Boldt
STAFF WRITER

"We were heading back down Fish Lake Road, then we went over a hill and I saw headlights. Then everything goes blank. The next thing I remember seeing are glimpses of being in a helicopter. I was in and out a lot. I remember paramedics, sirens and the helicopter. Finally I woke up in a hospital bed."

SEE LESSON ♦ Page 7A

Today Sunny  53° HIGH 31° LOW	Saturday Mostly sunny  57° HIGH 40° LOW	Sunday Few showers  57° HIGH 43° LOW	Monday Rain  45° HIGH 36° LOW	Tuesday Partly cloudy  47° HIGH 35° LOW	Wednesday Partly cloudy  47° HIGH 33° LOW	Thursday Showers  46° HIGH 39° LOW
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EIU Dancers present annual spring concert

Dancers perform Friday, Saturday and Sunday

By Jenni Faulkner
STAFF WRITER

The Eastern Illinois University Dancers are presenting their annual spring concert, "Power in Grace," at 6 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday in McAfee Gymnasium with free admission.

"The production will have a little bit of something for everyone, including ballet, modern dance, jazz, some tap and a little bit of hip hop with varied musical artists, including work from Norah Jones, Evanescence and many more," co-director Nancy Nordtvedt said.

She also mentioned that this show is earlier than usual this year, which forced the company to work just a little bit harder to meet the deadline.

"It was the only time the gym was available, so we worked and pushed hard to be ready," Nordtvedt explained.

The EIU dancers are a Recognized Student Organization sponsored by the Eastern Department of Physical Education. The spring concert has been sponsored by the department since 1932.

When the program started, it was generally comprised of modern dance only and now consists of dance styles of all sorts.

"Practices throughout the year are on Tuesdays and Thursdays for about two hours. The first hour is devoted to company dances (dances that everyone performs in), and the second hour is for specific dances which individual dancers from the company sign up for," said Angela Bursich, the company's secretary.

Because practice time is short, dancers are only able to sign up for one dance. Bursich predicts the show to be about two hours long.

"We are very excited to finally perform, but it is going to be sad also. Many people will be leaving next year, and we've become so close over the three years of dancing together,"she said.

Out of the 45 students who auditioned for the company this year, 24 were chosen, 20 females and four males.

"The EIU Dancers have auditions the third week in September, and begin preparing for this production immediately following tryouts," said Co-Director Jeanna McFarland.

LunchBox Voodoo hits Underground

Lunch Box Voodoo will perform at 9 p.m. Friday at 7th Street Underground.

Sophomore English major Ben Marcy said 19 people are involved in the show.

He described it as sketch comedy with several separate skits.

"The show includes meeting a psychic, bouncers for a special party and a look back at the Oregon Trail," Marcy said.

Marcy said the material used in the Lunch Box Voodoo comes from a talented group of writers and performers.



DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY STEPHEN HAAS

Amanda Wingfield, played by Jenni Passig (left), interacts with Laura Wingfield, played by Amber Wagner, during dress rehearsal for "The Glass Menagerie" Monday evening at the Village Theatre on 18th Street. The show is playing at 7 p.m. tonight and tomorrow and at 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are available through the box office at 581-3110.

Cast shines in The Glass Menagerie

By Blake Boldt
STAFF WRITER

Thursday night, The Village Theatre in downtown Charleston was the setting for a performance of Tennessee Williams' "The Glass Menagerie."

"The Glass Menagerie" was the first major play composed by Williams, and debuted successfully in 1944.

The play is being directed by Jerry Eisenhour, a theatre arts professor at Eastern.

The plot revolves around a young woman named Laura, whose mother, Amanda, smothers her with the aspirations of an idyllic future for her daughter.

Laura is fraught with insecurities and possesses a fragile personality, much like the glass animals she collects.

Amber Wagner, a theatre arts major, gives the role of Laura a much-needed dose of weakness, deliberately allowing the character to crumble under the weight of her mother's hopes and dreams.

Wagner allows the audience to be filled with sympathy for her character as she wallows in self-pity, yet does not allow Laura to be considered too pitiful as to be undeserving of sympathy.

Amanda's life hangs on the haunting

memory of the husband who left her. Amanda, played by theatre arts major Jenny Passig, demonstrates disappointment through her words and actions when her daughter shows no direction.

Though her intentions are good, Amanda's oppressive behavior nearly terrorizes her daughter.

Passig successfully gives the character a dominant outward expression coupled with a wounded psyche, which often becomes evident.

Realism is the key to the role of Laura's younger brother Tom. He is quick to rebel against his mother's tendency to treat him as a child. Amanda fears that her son is heading down the same wayward path as her absent husband.

Tom escapes from his harsh realities. He stays out late and argues often with his overbearing mother.

In the role of Tom, Timothy Travous, Jr., also a theatre arts major, exposes the character's restlessness and recklessness, all the while lending him a warmth and true compassion for his family, despite his sometimes thoughtless ways.

Tom is the narrator of the production, giving the audience a good understanding of what is occurring. Quite simply, he is the voice of action.

Travous takes this balancing act and works wonders with it, even with his immature actions resulting from his upbringing.

Amanda's wishes seemingly come true with the appearance of Jim, a gentleman caller for Laura.

With a commanding stage presence, Luke Gerdes, a theatre arts major, exhibits the fact that Jim is the eternal optimist with the poise Laura lacks.

Jim is an incredibly determined young man whose life has not measured up to his standards. His main purpose is to persuade Laura to set her own standards and reach them. He goes about instilling confidence in her in a well-meaning way, although the ending leaves a bitter taste on the tongue.

"The Glass Menagerie" is a wonderful piece of work for those who do not expect a traditionally happy ending. Under the able direction of Eisenhour, who portrays the true colors of each character, the production stimulates the imagination. One is left wondering what the end result will be for the family. Eisenhour and his admirable cast make the audience care about it.

"The Glass Menagerie" will be presented on Friday and Saturday evening at 7 p.m. A matinee will be held beginning at 2 p.m. Sunday.

THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

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If you have any suggestions or ideas for articles you would like to see in *The News*, feel free to contact us at 581-2812 or jpchambers@eiu.edu

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

◆ This profile of broadcaster Larry Smith is part of a monthlong look at Eastern's most distinguished black alumni

From Eastern dropout to CNN knockout

By Amee Bohrer
STAFF WRITER

Larry Smith was just a semester short of graduation when he left Eastern in 1990, but that did not stop him from being honored as a Distinguished Alumnus in 2002.

Although his picture is already on the wall in the Alumni Lounge of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union for this award, "Graduation is still important, I should have done it a long time ago," Smith said.

He is currently working to finish up his last few deficient hours.

While such an honor is not a likely scenario for most college dropouts, most of them do not advance to be the leading sports anchor for CNN Headline News either.

Smith attended Eastern as a speech communication major until 1990 but did not graduate and began working since, "I ran out of money. I was a poor college student."

Money is no longer a problem for Smith, as he has been with CNN for 11 years, and head sports anchor for CNN Headline News during the last three.

Smith broadcasts live from 9 p.m. to midnight twice an hour and in taped segments from midnight to 6 a.m.

He has interviewed such athletes as Evander Holyfield, Magic Johnson, Allen Iverson and Rick Pitino, as well as leading CNN's coverage of the Mike Tyson-Lennox Lewis heavyweight title fight, according to the bio provided by the Alumni Association.

The most intimidating interview Smith recalls was with Hank Aaron, while covering the 20th Anniversary of Aaron's his 715 homerun, since he did not even feel worthy to talk to him at the time.

Although there is an EIU alumni news web log bearing his picture and the words, "Featuring Larry Smith," all the information attributed to him reads in third-person, and

he tells that it is not actually endorsed by him.

"I have nothing to do with that whatsoever," he says, "but imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, so that's fine."

The only time he's ever had any direct involvement with the blog was to make a correction to erroneous information about the speech he made as keynote speaker for commencement in spring 2003, Smith said.

As a student, Smith tells that a typical day for him would begin at 7 a.m. and after classes he would make a one-way 45-minute commute to his job in Champaign to report for eight hours only to return by 11:30 p.m. and begin homework.

He would begin his drive in a sweatshirt and jeans, grab a drive-thru burger, and manage to change into a suit and tie by the time he got to work while driving a stick-shift.

"You can actually change your pants, socks and shoes while driving, but I wouldn't recommend it," he said laughing.

He attributes his current status at CNN to the sacrifices he made in college for his career.

"There were a lot of parties I didn't go to and a lot of dates I didn't go on," he said.

Since his departure from Eastern, Smith has returned numerous times over the years to speak to classes and participate in the Speech Communication Day, which gives speech communication majors an opportunity to rub elbows with professionals in their field, said WEIU TV program/coordinations operator

Linda Kingery, who worked with Smith for three years when he was a student announcer at WLBH FM&AM in Mattoon.

He also has hosted a charity fundraiser called The Larry Smith Celebrity Golf Classic for the past five years that has consistently sold out since its first event in 1999 and raised more than \$30,000 in scholarship money for Coles County high school students from Mattoon and Charleston high schools.

Smith cites last year's event as the most successful and the most enjoyable for him, because he was able to get out on the green for the first time and really interact with everyone.

"Larry spent a lot of time and energy to produce a tournament of that magnitude, and he did it all from Atlanta," said Jeff Owens, radio coordinator for WEIU and a friend of Smith since high school.

Although he hopes to resume the golf classic, he confirmed that he will not be able to host the event again this year because his hectic work schedule and his priority of spending time with Rita, his wife of 10 years and his two children. His daughter Jaylen is three and son Elijah is one-year-old.

He actually met his wife on the job.

"We were news reporters for rival TV stations in Knoxville and were covering the kick off Knox County Bicentennial," he said.

Two months later he moved to West Palm Beach, Fla., and six months later they were engaged.

"Rita is the blessing of my life," Smith said.

"Larry was involved in everything," Owens said of their days at Mattoon High School. "You name it, Larry was in it."

He continues that, "from the beginning of his career, he was always in front of a mic ... but off-camera, he's the same."

Smith's television career began in Champaign as general assignment reporter on the early morning and noon newscasts

at WICD-TV while an Eastern student working for WEIU-TV, according to the Alumni Association bio.

From there he migrated up the corporate ladder to television stations WBIR-TV in Knoxville, Tenn., WPTV in Palm Beach, Fla., and finally to CNN in December 1993, where he has worked as an anchor for CNN/SI and now Headline News.

Kingery remembers when Smith worked with her at WLBH. "He was better than your average student, an incredible young person."

IE assistant speech communication department professor Mike Bradd hired Smith at WLBH in 1998 and has remained in constant contact with him ever since.

"I would not be here today without Mike Bradd," said Smith.

Bradd said Smith rose very quickly in his career, landing a job with CNN by age 25. "I was always proud I anchored my first show two weeks after my 25th birthday," Smith tells.

Larry Oathout, operations director of Mattoon Library, worked with Smith and Kingery at WLBH as well, and says Smith still stops by to check his e-mail at the library.

Smith is an official member of the Friends of Mattoon Library and has a lifetime Mattoon Library card, Oathout said.

Oathout recalls a time when Smith was on the computers and a library patron recognized him. The person approached Smith and commented that it must be great to have a job at CNN, and according to Oathout, Smith's reaction to the question was typically modest.

"It's just a job, like any other job," Smith answered.

Smith goes into every sports broadcast with one strategy in mind. "My angle is to tell it in a way that a non-sports fan can watch and get it, or at least have a something funny to laugh about. I can have more fun with sports."

Owens recalls the first time he saw his high school chum on TV.

"You could just tell he's good. It's funny to see a guy you grew up with on TV; to me, it's the same," Owens said. "It's just Larry."

"I'm just a guy from Mattoon who really enjoys what I do," Smith said.



APPORTIONMENT BOARD

Student Activities Center receives \$44,000 for renovations

By Brian O'Malley
STUDENT GOVERNMENT EDITOR

The Apportionment Board Thursday voted 7-4 in favor of giving Student Government more than \$44,000 to renovate the Student Activities Center.

The Student Activities Center, in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union, is home to Student Government, University Board, the Black Student Union the Pan-Hellenic Council, the National Pan-Hellenic Council, the Interfraternity Council and more than 150 Recognized Student Organizations, said Student Body President Caleb Judy.

"We need to create a space for all of them to come to," he said. "Professional organizations need a professional office."

Judy said the original amount of

\$46,898.48 was reduced to \$44,364.92 after Judy took several pieces of furniture out of the amount.

The activities center will be remodeled with new furniture and new fixtures, Judy said. The old furniture will be stored in a surplus in Springfield.

"Our office just looks terrible," he said. "We want to create a more inviting environment."

One of the sections of the activities center that will be renovated is the large, square partition in the center of the room, which students who use the office called the "big yellow monster."

"It's not very safe and we need to get rid of it," Judy said.

The partition is a four-sided wall that stems from the floor to the ceiling, which is not allowed by the current building fire code. The cubicles that will replace the partition will be

eight feet tall, Judy said.

"We can't buy (the partition) that tall anymore because it's against the fire code," he said.

AB member Amy Leonard said she wanted the amount of money to decrease because the office isn't used by enough students.

"For this amount of money I don't feel it's benefiting that many students," Leonard said. "I'm not saying it's a bad idea, I'm just saying that it's a lot of money."

AB member Tony Reyes said the renovations will benefit a lot of students.

"It's going to indirectly benefit the students," Reyes said.

AB also voted 10-0-1 in favor of giving the Student Recreation Center \$42,000 for additional equipment.

After approving the Student Government's renovation costs,

\$42,543.40 was left in the allocation account for this semester. Thursday was the last day for additional allocation requests.

Ken Baker, director of campus recreation, said last year AB approved money for 22 selectorized machines. This year Baker said he was asking for an amount from \$45,000 to \$50,000 to pay for 19 more machines, which will update every selectorize machine in the rec center, but will accept \$42,000 because that's almost all that's left.

"What we'd like to do is get the equipment in so you can use them," Baker said. "Because of the new machines, we've had a great response from the students."

Baker said some of the old machines have caused several injuries in the last year including one student breaking two fingers when she was trying to adjust a seat

on a machine. Leonard asked if lawsuits would affect the rec center's money.

"They can cost the university money," Baker said. "That could get us legal exposure."

The University Board presented their proposed budget for fiscal year 2005, asking for \$251,702, which is about 1,000 fewer than this year's budget.

The "Quakin' the Quad" event, which is held in the beginning of the fall semester, was budgeted for \$12,705.

"It's such a huge event that we have to do every year," said UB chairperson Jenn Kieffer.

Other special events will total \$24,270 including Spring Fling, which is a similar event as "Quakin' the Quad," but held in the spring.

"You're looking at the future of campus activities," Kieffer said.

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EDITORIAL

Senate bylaw change could help diversity

The Student Senate seems unclear about its views on diversity.

The student group should not have voted down a change to its bylaws Wednesday that would have added to its current diversity requirement.

Senate members are currently expected to attend one diverse event each semester, such as showing up for a Pride or Black Student Union meeting or attending another activity a senate committee determines diverse.

Instead of a meeting, many members went to see the movie “Frida” last semester to fulfill their diversity requirement, said Sean Anderson, chair of the senate Diversity Affairs Committee.

The new bylaw sought to add to the requirement by asking members to help organize an event.

“It’s disappointing. I think you all underestimate me and my committee,” Anderson told senate members after the bylaw change failed 19-7-1. He had encouraged it at least be tabled.

It is disappointing because the senate is still left with a diversity requirement that only requires members to show up to an event without taking an obviously active role.

“The old requirement provided a very low standard,” diversity committee member Andrew Berger said this week. “The new one will not only promote diversity on campus, but open ourselves up to diversity.”

Anderson plans to bring a new version of the bylaw change to the Student Senate for future consideration, but until then, it looks like the senate is stuck with a “low standard.”

Several senate members joined a total of 30 students traveling to Atlanta almost two weeks ago to meet with other student leaders at Clark/Atlanta University.

The group spent over \$2,900 in student fees and now plan to present ideas in April to the student body about improving diversity on campus.

The senate has an opportunity now to better diversity without ever traveling outside of Charleston.

“It’s not a punishment,” Kyle Donash, chair of the senate External Relations Committee, said at the senate meeting Wednesday. “It’s about exposing yourself. Last semester, (the requirement) gave me the opportunity to see some amazing things.”

The Student Senate should strongly reconsider changing the requirement if they are given another chance; it’s one more opportunity to do something positive for diversity.

At issue

The Student Senate voted against changing its bylaws to add on to the diversity requirement.

Our stance

The bylaws should change, allowing more opportunities for senate members to help organize diversity.

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

OPINION

Time with people most important

Colin McAuliffe
Photo editor and monthly columnist for *The Daily Eastern News*

McAuliffe also is a senior history major

He can be reached at colinsarcasm@hotmail.com

Last week, a close friend of mine lost a long battle to cancer. Matt was 21.

Many 21 year olds are concerned with cramming for midterms, searching for summer internships and jobs and worrying about how many hours to take next semester to graduate on time; Matt worried about life.

He was concerned with his life and that he got to experience everything he wanted to. Matt eased his pain by killing time, not letting time kill him.

When he found out he had cancer, Matt took time off of school to do some things he wanted to do with his life.

He tried to sneak into the Super Bowl, he went to Mardi Gras, he rebuilt a motorcycle with his father and he toured Europe with friends who were studying abroad. He tried to go back to school so he would be closer to friends.

No matter what Matt did, he always did things with friends; people that were important to him. Matt wrote a letter in September, stating he knew his time was running out and fast. I would like to share some of his letter with you.

“So every day, every minute is vital to me. The most mundane things are breaths of fresh air. The things that most people take for granted but shouldn’t - a kiss, a pudding fight, a good long walk

“Friendships are important, not GPAs; good memories with good people are important. Those are the things you are going to remember in 25 years, not the importance of taking 21 hours to graduate a little early.”

or an intriguing conversation - are now intensely important to me. And I think they should be important to everyone. The fact that I know I won’t be able to experience these things make them achingly more important to me, and they make me desperate to achieve them one more time.”

Life is not measured by the breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away. Too many times we get caught up in things that we think are important; we don’t stop and appreciate the smaller things in life.

Yes, I know that’s a cliché.

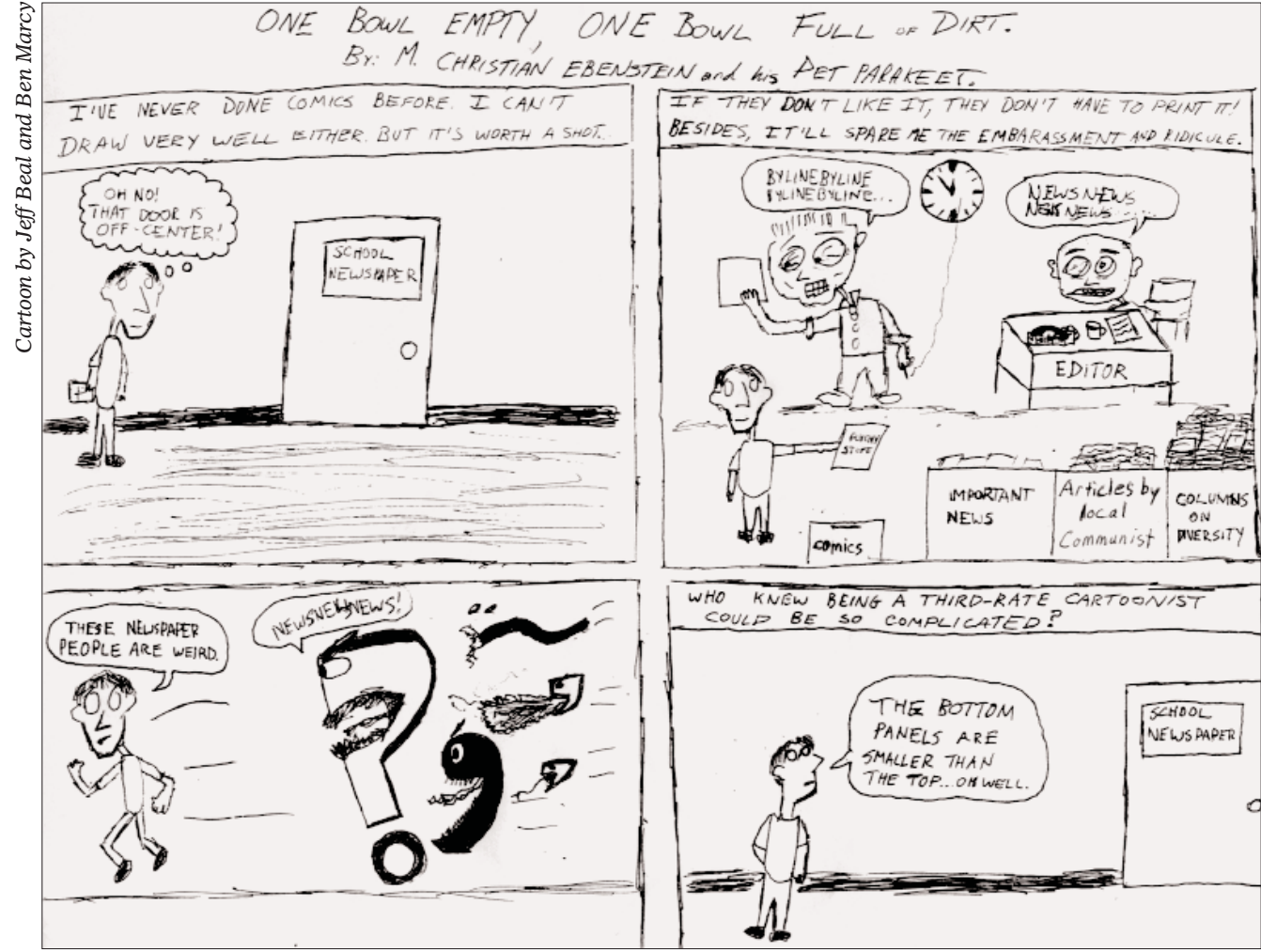
Friendships are important, not GPAs; good memories with good people are important. Those are the things you are going to remember in 25 years, not the importance of taking 21 hours to graduate a little early.

Matt also wrote that “life is a ridiculous, tragic disaster, but it’s the only thing we have. So don’t let it lie by the wayside in pursuit of crap that’s barely important. People are the most important resource and so are the relationships built with them.”

So if you find me in 25 years and you ask me what I remember from college, it will be the happy times I have spent here.

I will remember the random Sunday snowball fight outside of Thomas Hall and across half of campus with John, I will remember going to lunch every Tuesday and most Thursdays with Julie. I will remember the 2 a.m. drives with Ryan through the country to see the countless stars, a sight that is not normal for my Chicago suburban home.

I am not going to remember how much work I have to do in the next two weeks. I am not going to remember deciding what classes to take next semester. Please notice that all my memories have occurred with people that I care about, and are not about the midterm that I have next week.



YOUR TURN: LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Darwin’s theories are not factual

Don’t you love farce?

Two weeks ago, Eastern celebrated Charles Darwin, and several presentations left one with the impression that Darwinian evolution is rock-solid “fact,” with no evidence to the contrary.

We are told there is no conflict between faith and Darwin’s theory and that those who disagree with Darwin’s theology “have resorted to dishonesty.” Nothing could be farther from the truth.

It’s those frustrating facts and the mounds of evidence

that are a stumbling block for Darwin’s theories. In fact, the issue is not the conflict between faith and Darwinian evolution, but between Darwinism and science.

It does actually take a great deal of faith to embrace Darwin’s theories in light of the evidence. There is not enough space in this letter to present the overwhelming information against evolution presented by Darwin, but for those who wish to know more than the biased “facts” that were

celebrated, read “Reasons in the Balance” by Phillip E. Johnson or “The Origin of the Species” by W.R. Bird.

For those who may believe that all scientists are in agreement with the theories of Darwin, check out www.reviewevolution.com.

An honest study of this

issue will reveal that the Darwin emperor honored is wearing no clothes.

Glenn Anderson,
applications analyst,
Information Technology
Services

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 jpchambers@eiu.edu.

Students working for Martin Luther King Jr. tribute

By Brian O'Malley
STUDENT GOVERNMENT EDITOR

In honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Tribute Week, members from different organizations on campus have helped raise money to support a permanent display for his namesake University Union.

Jeff Collier, Student Senate chair for the Academic Affairs Committee, said the tribute week started Monday and will end Friday. More than \$220 has been raised so far.

"This week wasn't meant to collect every single penny," Collier said.

The display has been estimated to cost at least \$7,600 and Collier said he is researching ways to raise money.

"As far as getting this done," he said. "I'm going to take it one day at a time."

The display will be a glass case containing images and quotes of King's, displaying his

accomplishments.

"It will show what he did for this country," Collier said.

Members from the Pan-Hellenic Council, the National Pan-Hellenic Council, Black Student Union and the Student Government contributed to the tribute week.

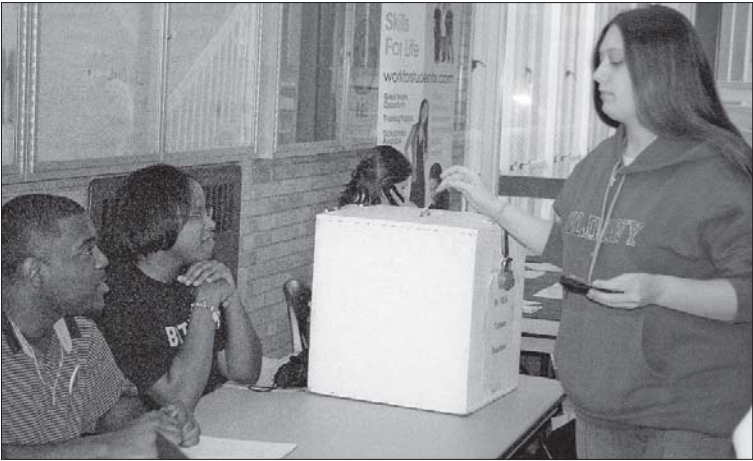
"I want to make people more involved," Collier said.

Matt Kulp, Student Senate chair for the Housing Committee and a member of the Pan-Hellenic Council, worked the donation table outside of the University Union Food Court and said King deserves more than just a picture in the Union.

"I think it'll be cool," Kulp said. "All we have is that weird picture of him and the building is named after him."

Senate and PHC member Sarah Littlejohn worked with Kulp and said she agrees King deserves more than what is featured on campus.

"I think this is a really great



DAILEY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY COLIN MCAULIFFE

Jeff Collier watches as Chrystal Rials, a freshman English with teacher certificate major, donates money to raise money for a display to honor Martin Luther King Jr.

idea," Littlejohn said. "He was a great leader and he deserves more of a tribute."

Collier said Eastern students have been working hard for this display and deserve the credit.

"When the Union was named

after him, I'm sure it was the students who fought for it," Collier said. "All credit goes to the students."

He said he hopes members of the administration are noticing the amount of students that

want the display to become a reality.

"I'm sure they're watching," he said.

One of the purposes of tribute week is creating an understanding of why King deserved a building named after him.

"They know what he looks like from the picture, but we want to show the effect he had on this country," he said. "We want to show why Eastern broke the tradition and named the Union after him."

The table near the Food Court has had students taking donations from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. every day this week.

Collier said many students walking by have said "no" or have ignored him, but he still thinks the week has gone well.

"If you get one person to give, you succeeded," he said. "Obviously, we're shooting for more than one, but we've succeeded. At the end of the day you feel good."

RESIDENCE HALL ASSOCIATION

Housing and dining budgets increase

◆ *Food cost receives 3.5 percent increase, room and board receives 1.5 percent increase*

By Liz Richards
STAFF WRITER

Resident Hall Association met Thursday to discuss issues concerning the budget for residence halls' housing and dining plans.

Mark Hudson, director of University Housing and Dining Services, said there has been a 3.5 percent increase in food cost because of the recent epidemic of mad cow disease in the United States.

Current environmental changes have forced the university to purchase its coal from Iowa coal mines instead of ones in Illinois.

"We had to raise room and board 1.5 percent just because of that," Hudson said.

Because of the \$2.8 million annual fee that will not be paid off until 2023, Hudson is looking for ways to raise money without causing debt.

He predicts the budget for next year's housing and dining for residence halls will be \$2.6 million.

The overall raise for room and board next year will be 7 percent.

In comparison, Southern Illinois University-Carbondale will have a 6 percent increase, Western Illinois University will have a 7.5 percent increase and Northern Illinois University will have an 8 percent increase.

Nachel Glynn, RHA president, announced that at next week's meeting there will be a vote on whether or not next year's fall theme will be campus wide or individual throughout the residence halls.

There have been 24 suggestions made for possible themes. Next week RHA will vote on the top three choices for themes.

Agents' removal of World Trade Center debris causes FBI to make new policy

WASHINGTON (AP) — The FBI has banned its employees from taking any items from crime scenes or evidence sites after Justice Department investigators found that 13 agents took debris from the rubble of the World Trade Center.

The new policy follows a report by Glenn A. Fine, the Justice Department's inspector general, concluding that agents took a Tiffany globe paperweight, chunks of concrete, metal and bolts and a U.S. flag from the rubble collection site at the Fresh Kills landfill in Staten Island, N.Y.

Three of the agents have been

referred to the FBI's Office of Professional Responsibility for further disciplinary action, officials said: one who took the dirt-encrusted globe, one who shipped 80 pounds of debris to his home office and one who may have made misleading statements to investigators.

Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, said in a letter Thursday to FBI Director Robert Mueller that there appears to be a double standard for agents because private citizens have been prosecuted and given prison sentences for taking items from the site.

"The unseemly and ghoulish

graverobbing and filching does cast shame on the FBI as in institution in the eyes of the public, and that warrants a strong response," said Grassley, a senior member of the Senate Judiciary Committee and frequent FBI critic.

In a statement, the FBI said that 400 agents were assigned to the Fresh Kills site and that there was no evidence that any of the 13 implicated by the inspector general took items for personal gain. A senior FBI official, speaking Thursday on condition of anonymity, said the agents apparently viewed the items as harmless mementos.

Greenspan's decisions create political frenzy

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan's latest call for benefit cuts in Social Security and Medicare for future retirees touched off a frenzy among politicians in both parties already hypersensitive about the November elections.

Greenspan told Congress on Wednesday that soaring budget deficits from out-of-control entitlement programs could lead to a "very debilitating" rise in interest rates and threaten the economy in coming years.

It was not a new position for the central bank chairman, who regularly reiterates the recommendations that

are essentially the same ones made by a bipartisan commission on Social Security he headed two decades ago.

But his remarks touched an election-year nerve with members of the House Budget Committee already at odds over President Bush's economic program, particularly large tax cuts that the president wants to make permanent.

Democratic presidential candidates quickly denounced Greenspan's proposals while Bush and other Republicans sought to distance themselves from his latest remarks.

Greenspan told the panel that one possibility would be to switch to an alternative measure of inflation for

annual cost-of-living adjustments that would mean smaller annual increases in benefit payments.

Greenspan, who turns 78 next week, also suggested tying the retirement age for full benefits to longer lifespans with the age continuing to rise. The 65-year age for retiring at full benefits started increasing last year and now stands at 65 years and four months for people retiring this year. It gradually increases to 67 over the next two decades and then stops rising.

He emphasized that he was not talking about any cuts for people already retired or on the verge of retirement.

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Lesson:
Student spreads safe driving message at high schools

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

Michael Achtor, a freshman pre-engineering major at Eastern, was a guest lecturer at Mattoon High School, where he spoke to students in the driver's education classes about the risks of reckless driving and the dangers of hazardous decisions. He knows them all too well.

He described the haunting memories of his past experience, stressing to the students that putting their lives in jeopardy for a cheap thrill can be an expensive mistake.

Achtor openly admitted this could possibly be the reason for his accident and he is utilizing the experience to inform other young people of the risks they take and their possible results.

On April 5, 2002, Achtor and his two best friends, Tony Danca and Andrew Amman, were returning from the bowling alley in their hometown of Ingleside.

The three were students at nearby Grant Community High School.

Achtor met Danca through a mutual friend two years earlier and Amman during a photography class the year before.

According to Achtor, Danca was "the type of guy who walked around with a smile," and was known among his friends for his positive attitude.

Achtor said Amman was always one to make jokes and could always be counted on.

"He was reliable and very trustworthy," he said.

Amman, a senior, had been accepted to college for that fall. He was an athlete and a member of an educational group in conjunction with the local community college.

Danca, a junior, was a respected student who held a part-time job at K-Mart.

Achtor told the students they enjoyed a camaraderie that could not be put into words.

As Achtor noted in his speech, "We were always there for each other no matter what—girl problems, car problems, or even if we just needed to get something off our chests."

There were no problems in sight that early spring evening as the three were headed back to Achtor's house in his '96 Camaro to play pool.

Achtor told the students, "We decided to take a detour that would turn out to be the

"I was in a state of shock and felt like disappearing never to be found again. I did not want to go on with my life knowing what had happened to my friends as a result of my careless judgments. I felt the worst kind of sorrow you can feel."

— Michael Achtor, freshman pre-engineering major

worst decision of our lives."

Achtor and his friends turned down Fish Lake Road, located just five minutes from Achtor's home.

Suddenly, Achtor lost control of the wheel. The next thing he remembers is regaining consciousness in the emergency room of the local hospital.

"I thought I was dreaming and having a nightmare, but my parents were there and I knew it was much too real," Achtor said.

He woke up to hear that he had been thrown out of his seat belt and ended up in the rear hatch of the car. He received two broken ribs, a fractured skull, a bruised lung and a fractured disk in his neck.

Unfortunately, the worst news was yet to come.

Danca had been ejected from the back seat out the back window and lost his right leg from the knee down. He also had sustained a fractured neck, a broken nose and a broken arm.

"Then my parents were quiet. I asked how Andrew was and there was silence. They sat down on the bed with me and told me that Andrew, who was seat-belted in the passenger seat, had passed away on impact with the tree. I don't think I could move or talk for quite a while."

After he heard the news, Achtor began to blame himself and gave in to his guilt.

"I wished I were in the passenger seat and they hadn't been affected," Achtor said.

"I was in a state of shock and felt like disappearing never to be found again. I did not want to go on with my life knowing what had happened to my friends as a result of my careless judgments. I felt the worst kind of sorrow you can feel."

Achtor was released from the hospital after a week.

Danca remained in intensive care for three weeks and would not return to school the rest of the semester.

Achtor attempted to ignore his guilty conscience by working on a project car in his garage and working part-time in retail.

Unfortunately, he became more closed off

and was unable to confide his feelings about the cold reality of the situation.

The brutal truths of the situation continued to mark Achtor's life. The details of the accident were turned into the state's attorney. His case was tied up in the legal system for five months before he received a letter saying he was to appear in court.

The state charged him with two felonies: an aggravated reckless driving felony and a reckless homicide felony.

The reckless homicide felony carried a potential 10-15 year sentence.

After Achtor's first court appearance, he was placed on house arrest.

"My senior year of high school consisted of school and work," Achtor said.

Almost a year after the accident, Achtor was tried in a bench trial.

"My whole future was resting in the hands of one person," he said.

Achtor described an excruciating six-hour trial where he was overwhelmed with fear and panic.

"News reporters were sitting in their designated areas taking notes, while I was sitting in my chair next to my lawyer scared and worried," he said. "The judge went into his chamber to think it over. I don't think I had ever been that scared."

The judge found Achtor guilty on two counts of aggravated reckless driving, but not guilty on the reckless homicide charge.

He was sentenced to 30 months of probation, where he was ordered to pay \$1,680 in fines and complete 250 hours of public speaking.

After an eight month period with a suspended license, Achtor was allowed to apply for a Restricted Driving Privilege. This allowed him to drive on certified roads to and from school and work.

Achtor must carry a high-risk insurance policy and is not permitted to vote. His career choices are also limited due to the felonies on his permanent record.

Danca also has had his struggles, Achtor said. He has battled with his insurance company over payments for bills and therapy.

It also has been a difficult experience finding employment that will accommodate his disability. Danca has been required to change his lifestyle and is unable to participate in many of the normal activities most people take for granted.

Although Achtor escaped the accident unscathed compared to his friends, the emotional wounds have healed slower than the physical damage.

"I wish I could turn the clocks back, but that's not the reality," he said.

His friendship with Danca has only grown stronger because of the tragedy. Danca forgave him long before Achtor forgave himself.

"We were able to help each other through a terrible ordeal."

He added that the support of Danca, along with his friends from home and from Eastern, have been tremendously helpful.

Achtor continues to pursue the engineering field and is currently seeking opportunities to complete his public speaking hours. The new social environment has been a welcome relief to him.

"Over time, I have had help from new friends and I do let things out that I am feeling," Achtor said.

He added that talking to friends who knew him, Amman and Danca has allowed him to see that the wreck did not have to wreck his life.

"I have come to realize that everything happens for a reason and that accidents happen," Achtor said.

He said his main goal was to persuade students to think twice when dancing around the irresistible pull of danger. Achtor urged students to consider safety as the only option.

Students were confounded by Achtor's story and amazed at the repercussions it has had on his life.

"(The speech) was touching and very good," said Amanda Kirk, a student at Mattoon High School.

Her classmate, Tabitha Schlosser, said, "It was a little shocking that he can talk about losing someone like that."

The life of the average college student is filled with difficulties and challenges to rise above. Achtor has had to exhibit considerable courage to overcome extraordinary tests.

"I had trouble sleeping some nights because I had flashbacks of the accident," he said.

To lie down with the truth has not been easy for Achtor, but he continues to press forward in an attempt to triumph after tragedy tried its best to taint his future.

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Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0116

ACROSS

1 Isn't nice to

8 Reception amenity

15 Rumless daiquiri

16 Author of "Miracle Mongers and Their Methods"

17 Cooler

18 Take the blame for

19 It's seen off-shore in France

20 One of the family

22 Kit and caboodle

23 Make one

25 Opposite of sluggish

26 Tennis star Mandlikova

27 Middle ear bone

29Bob and shag

30Photo finish?

31Butcher's hanger

33Shoot

34Lulu in "Lulu," e.g.

36Not one-track

39When to get revenge, proverbially

43Many an e-mailer

44Army E-3

45Proctor-____ (small appliance maker)

46Santa Maria Maggiore locale

47Nesters

49End notes

50Big Ten powerhouse, for short

51Portion of an editor's mail

53London's Old ____

54Like some trials

56"Soup's on!"

58Superhuman

59Learned

60Dropped off

61Charged

DOWN

1Lock-picking tool

2"Attaboy!"

3Song with the lyric "My heart with rapture thrills"

4Wrestler's rippler

5____ Centre, Minn. (Sinclair Lewis's birthplace)

6Mad Ave. profession

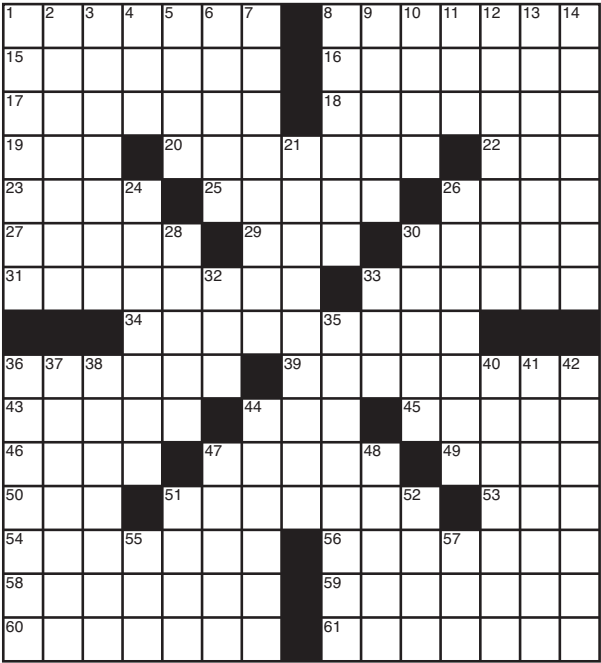
7YM cover subject

8Kayos

9Rodgers & Hammerstein's "All I _____"

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

E	N	O	D	E	S	O	R	A	V	A	K	N	A
S	I	B	I	D	E	T	V	H	E	H	O	T	
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Puzzle by Manny Nosowsky

10Ex-Senator from Georgia

11Internet address ender

12Red Baron's transport

13Willa Cather heroine

14What gets read to rable-rousers

21Reserved

24Hazel, for one

26Doctrine doubter

28Less forward

30Fancy embellishments

32Ear: Prefix

33Henhouse threat

35Opposite of charged

36Some beachwear

37Prematurely

38Madrid daily

40"Wonderful!"

41Help settle

42Took by force

44Victimized, with "upon"

47"A Vindication of Natural Society" writer, 1756

48Tractor handle?

51Memory jogger

52Check mate?

55Best-selling album of 2001

57Military inits.

STATE NEWS BRIEFS

Study: Illinois schools inflate graduation rates

CHICAGO (AP) — Illinois’ largest school districts use a loophole to inflate graduation rates, especially when reporting statistics for minority students, a national study has found.

Only about half of all African-American, Latino and Native American students nationwide graduate from high school with regular diplomas in four years, according to the report, “Losing our Future,” released Wednesday

by the Civil Rights Project at Harvard University and the Urban Institute, a policy research organization.

The study ranks Illinois’ 75 percent graduation rate as the 15th highest in the nation. But researchers also found the racial gaps in graduation were among the nation’s worst. The study used data from Chicago, Waukegan, Carpentersville, Elgin and Rockford schools.

Amish seek photo exemption for firearm owner cards

SPRINGFIELD (AP) — Amish residents of Illinois want to be excused from having photos on their firearm owner cards.

The Senate Judiciary Committee on Thursday approved an exemption for Amish, but committee members said they still want a compromise worked out with Illinois State Police officials.

Infamous foul ball gets explosive send-off in Chicago

CHICAGO (AP) — The baseball blamed by many Chicago Cubs fans for the team’s playoff disaster last year was reduced to a pile of thread on live television Thursday evening by a Hollywood special effects expert.

Fans sang “Take Me Out to the Ball Game” before the ball was obliterated in a flash of light.

Scott Air Force Base cancels its annual air show

BELLEVILLE (AP) — Scott Air Force Base in southern Illinois has canceled its annual air show and open house.

“Our funds are very limited, and our people are heavily tasked in supporting mission requirements — both here and around the world,” Col. Barbara Faulkenberry said in a statement released Wednesday.

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Season begins on lower experience

◆ *Softball first game at Charleston Southern Invite*

By Aaron Seidlitz
SPORTS REPORTER

As the softball team prepares for its initial game action of the Spring season, the lack of experience on the team does not seem to worry their coach Lloydene Searle at this point in time.

With only three seniors on the team, the Panther coaching staff will be doing quite a bit of teaching to its younger players this season. The learning process starts this week as Eastern travels to compete in the Charleston Southern Invite.

Even though Eastern has not had much of an opportunity to play outside thus far, the team is looking forward to the experience players will gain over the next three days in South Carolina.

“Right now I think we have very talented players at a lot of different positions,” Searle said. “I’m hoping that overshadows any inexperience that this team may have going into the season.”

The two positions that are most important to the chemistry of the team, are also the two positions Eastern will have to replace this season.

The battery that identified itself the most last season was starting pitcher Kristen Becker and catcher Kristin Darnell. The two went through their four seasons at Eastern together and had worked up such a rapport that seemed to lift how smoothly the team worked together as a whole.

Now the Panthers will look to pitchers like sophomore Ashley Condon to pick up this season at the same pace or better than they did last year.

“The good thing is that we have a lot of different options for our pitching staff,” Searle said. “We can put a couple on the mound to start, and we can put a few others as the closers. That’s a good problem for a team.”

That will be one purpose for Eastern playing in the tournament in South Carolina; to see exactly who will cement themselves into certain roles on the team.

“Right now we are all working very hard for this team,” Searle said. “I think the hitters are a little ahead of the pitchers at this point, but I think the pitchers are ready to step it up and are ready to get some collegiate experience.”

Lantz:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12A

Alicia Harris is expected to dominate in the 200 and 400 meter runs, but it is the 800 to the 3,000 meter runs wallace is worried about. The Indians are led by senior Kaci Pilcher, who placed second in conference last year in the 800 meter and mile run and juniors Kris Woolf in the 3000.

“There’s a pretty good gap between them (SEMO) and the rest of the field,” Wallace said. “Every event we’re in is crucial if we hope to win.”

All in all, Friday and Saturday’s meet could shape up to be a big day for the Panthers; especially the men, who are looking to win their seventh conference championship in eight years.

“We can struggle though the whole year and it all comes down to conference,” Akers said. “This is the weekend memories are made.”



DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY STEPHEN HAAS

Freshman Brian Long will take the hill in the third game of the tournament against Kansas State Sunday.

Baseball: Eastern has faced Southwest Missouri State 35 times in the past

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12A

The Bears, who return 11 letter winners from last year’s team, opened the 2004 season last weekend at the Texas-Arlington Invitational by defeating Arkansas-Little Rock in game one, but then SMS dropped the next pair of games to the host Texas-Arlington and Oregon State.

Respectively, SMS will throw junior right-hander Derek Drage against the Panthers. This will be Drage’s second start for the Bears since transferring from Parkland Junior College in Champaign. In his previous outing against Arkansas-Little Rock, Drage allowed just two runs and five hits in six innings as the Bears’ bats came alive in a 13-5 win. Eastern will counter with fellow junior college transfer Kyle Widgren as he makes his Panther debut Friday.

Eastern will play game two of the tournament on Saturday when the team will meet Louisiana-Monroe for an evening contest. The Indians have already played in six games this year

and improved their record to 3-3 record by taking two of three from Ohio Valley Conference member Tennessee-Martin.

Junior college transfer Glenn Jackson has started his career at Louisiana-Monroe with a bang, hitting .600 and already scoring 10 runs. The hitting doesn’t end with Jackson as senior catcher Jay Aulds and junior outfielder Andy Jones are both hitting .400. First baseman Ben Jones leads the team with 11 runs batted in. As a team, the Indians are hitting at a .287 clip and on the mound have been solid with a 2.68 ERA.

The probable starter for the Indians is senior Justin Lensch, who has seen action in two games this season. The southpaw’s most impressive outing was against Tennessee-Martin this past Saturday when he shut down the SkyHawks while scattering nine hits. Ted Juske will make his Eastern debut after transferring from McHenry Community College. The 6 foot 5 inch junior has impressed early on and will get the start in game two because injuries on the Panther pitching staff, according to assistant Mitch Rosenthal.

“Ted Juske will get the start in game two. With some injuries on our staff, he has really stepped up and thrown the ball well.”

In the finale of the tournament, Eastern will face Kansas State from the Big 12 Conference. The Wildcats sit at 3-3 on the season after winning two of three from Western Illinois last week-

end.

Infielder Jason Long leads the offense hitting .462 entering the tournament. Long has an on base percentage of .650 (best on the team) and has been successful on all four of his stolen base attempts.

Scheduled to go on the mound for the Wildcats is senior right-hander Nick Ponomarenko (0-1, 29.70) who had control problems in his last start against Rice. Ponomarenko lasted just a third of an inning, surrendering five runs and walking four Owls in a 13-0 loss.

Eastern will counter with true-freshman Brian Long. The Providence Catholic graduate was First Team all-area as a senior and was named to the 2001 state all-tournament team.

Heading into the tournament with a very young team and against three quality opponents, Rosenthal said there is no clear cut favorite in Louisiana.

“I still feel that’s very early in the season and no (team) knows each other,” Rosenthal said. “It’s always an adventure when you’re playing the first few games.”

Rosenthal mentioned the Panthers will be at a disadvantage because they have not taken the field yet. Louisiana-Monroe and Kansas State both started the season two weeks ago while SMS opened up last weekend.

“For some of the northern teams that is a disadvantage,” Rosenthal said. “The hitters don’t get to see live hitting and the pitcher can dominate early on.”

Chiropractic...

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Jason Kucma is a Third-year student from Medford, N.J. He graduated from Ithaca College with a Bachelor's Degree in Exercise Physiology concentrating in Cardiac Rehabilitation.

"The only thing that has ever captured my attention was studying the human body. The more I learned in school, the more I needed to know. The most logical step for me was to become a Doctor of Chiropractic so I could truly help people".

Before making his decision to attend Logan, Jason visited nearly half of the chiropractic colleges in the United States. "Logan is in the perfect location in a safe, residential area. The Admissions staff are very friendly and helpful and the faculty are excellent."

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SPORTS

Panther sports calendar

FRIDAY	Softball at Charleston S. Invite 1:6 p.m.	Charleston, S.C.
	Baseball at La.-Monroe Tourney 2 p.m.	Ruston, LA.
	Track & Field at OVC Indoors 3:30 p.m.	Lantz Fieldhouse
SATURDAY	Track & Field at OVC Indoors 8:30 a.m.	Lantz Fieldhouse
	W BBall at Murray St.	5:15 p.m. Murray, KY
	M BBall at Murray St.	7:15 p.m. Murray, KY



DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY STEPHEN HAAS

Freshman guard Melanie Ploger looks for an opportunity on the court last week. Eastern failed to qualify for post-season play Thursday, losing against Tennessee-Martin 63-66.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

TENNESSEE-MARTIN 66 EASTERN 63

Panthers lose playoff hopes

◆ *Women fail to qualify for Ohio Valley Conference Tournament, similar to 2000-2001*

By Matthew Stevens
SPORTS EDITOR

For the second time in four years the Panthers will be at home watching the Ohio Valley Conference Tournament as they failed to fulfill part one of the weekend task.

The Panthers (8-18, 5-10) fell 63-66 at Tennessee-Martin Thursday in a game they needed to win to qualify for postseason play.

The last time Eastern failed to qualify for the OVC Tournament was the 2000-01 season when the Panthers went 7-20 overall and 3-13 in conference. The loss also clinches the sixth consecutive season without a double-digit win total and the fifth under Panther head coach Linda Wunder.

The Skyhawks (10-15, 7-8) clinched the final tournament spot with the home win over Eastern in a game which had two frighteningly similar halves.

Early in the first half, the Panthers came out with more fire and started the contest with a 20-10 advantage.

Eastern had a balanced attack Thursday night but was led in scoring by senior center Pam O'Connor

and junior guard Lauren Dailey with 11 each.

The Skyhawks utilized the home crowd at Skyhawk Arena to push a 23-11 run to end the first half with a two point lead at 33-31.

The Panthers came out of the locker room and began to make everything attempted jumping out to a 16-4 streak on the Skyhawks and held a 47-37 advantage with 11:50 left in the game.

It was after the 12-minute television timeout that the Skyhawks began to pick away at the double-digit lead.

Skyhawks center Julie Young scored her 14th point and the the Panther lead was suddenly six points but a near tragedy occurred for Tennessee-Martin.

On UTM's next possession, Young went up for a shot and came down awkwardly on her ankle and was forced to hobble off the floor.

In her absence, the Skyhawks outscored Eastern 8-0 and took a two-point lead at 59-57 while Young was getting retaped on the bench.

"(Young) is a tough player and she did a great job for them tonight," Wunder said. "She was able to get the ball down low and either score or go to the foul line."

Freshman point guard Megan Casad went to the basket and got fouled.

SEE PLAYOFF ◆ Page 10A

BASEBALL

Probable starting pitchers

1 Eastern: Kyle Widegren, (junior, RHP), making Eastern debut. **Southwest Missouri State:** Derek Drage, (junior, RHP), 1-0, 3.00 ERA.

2 Eastern: Kirk Miller, (sophomore, LHP), 1-2, 10.72 ERA in 2003. **Louisiana-Monroe:** Justin Lensch, (senior), 1-0, 1.23 ERA.

3 Eastern: Brian Long, (freshman, RHP), making Eastern debut. **Kansas State:** Nick Ponomarenko, (senior, RHP), 0-1, 29.70 ERA.

Eastern starts 100th season

◆ *Panther season kicks off in Louisiana against Southwest Missouri*

By Michael Gilbert
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

The Eastern baseball team will open up its 100th season of play this weekend in Monroe, La., at the Holiday Inn and Suites/Citgo Classic.

The Panthers will be thrown into the fire right away as they take on 2003 College World Series participant and former Mid-Continent Conference rival Southwest Missouri State on Friday. The two schools have met 35 times, with 34 coming when the teams were in the MCC from 1984 to 1990. SMS owns a 24-11 all-time advantage over Eastern, but the schools have not met since the Bears left the MCC in 1990.

Last season, SMS went 40-26 overall and 19-11 to win the Missouri Valley Conference and head to the their first ever CWS appearance.

SEE BASEBALL ◆ Page 11A

Eastern, SEMO lead field at Lantz



DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY STEPHEN HAAS

Eastern's Ronesha Franklin looks for a solid landing during the triple jump finals Saturday at Lantz Fieldhouse. Eastern hosted the Eastern Quadrangular meet.

By Dan Renick
STAFF WRITER

Eastern men and the Southeast Missouri women are favorites for Friday and Saturday's conference indoor track meet.

The Panther men are looking to defend the conference title they won last year while SEMO is hoping for a changing of the guards as they look to overcome last year's women's champions, Tennessee State. The meet starts today at 3:00 at Lantz Arena and will pick up Saturday morning at 10:00.

But that won't be the only competition on each side. SEMO team will be a top competitor on the men's side, head coach Tom Akers said. Eastern Kentucky has strong teams in both the men and the women's competition and the Eastern women will give SEMO a run for their money, head coach Mary Wallace said.

"We're in the top three," Wallace said, "but it's going to take a big effort from anyone to knock them off."

In the men's competition, the Panthers will have trouble with Eastern Kentucky in the sprints all the way up through the mile, Akers said. Eastern Kentucky's Steve Maina, who won OVC Conference Co-Athlete of the year in 2003, has the top time in the 800 meter run this year and will lead the pack Friday, Akers said. In the mile run, the Colonels' Phil Scott has the top time this year, but the Panthers' Dan Stackeljohn and Jake Stout will follow close behind.

In the field events, SEMO is looking to make up for points that they will lose in their weak running events, Akers said. The SEMO throwers are lead by 4-time OVC champion and national qualifier senior Jay Heddell.

Tennessee State is lead by last year's OVC Track Co-Athlete Nick Horton who leads the field in the 400 meter run. The Panthers will also have to look out for their solid long sprinting crew, Akers said.

"We just need to go out and relax and perform," Akers said. "If we worry about performing than we won't."

In the women's competition SEMO is expected to be tough in the middle distances, Wallace said.

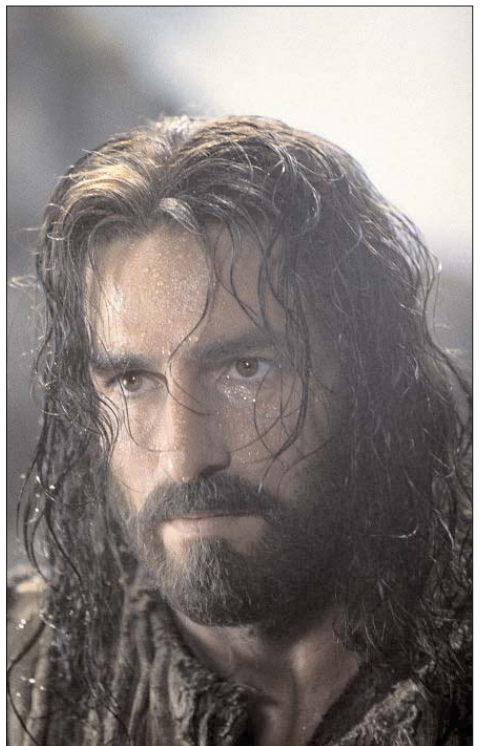
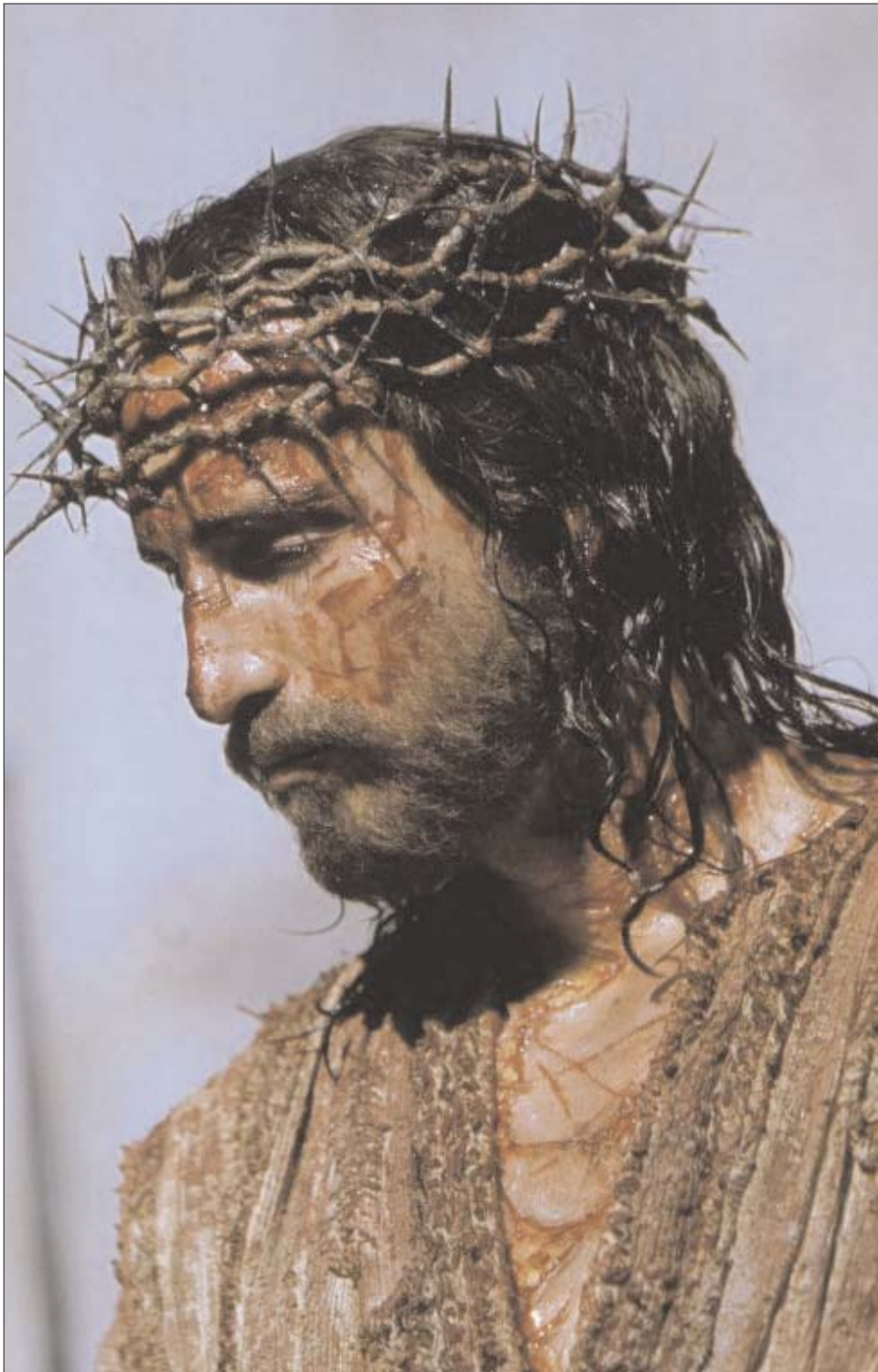
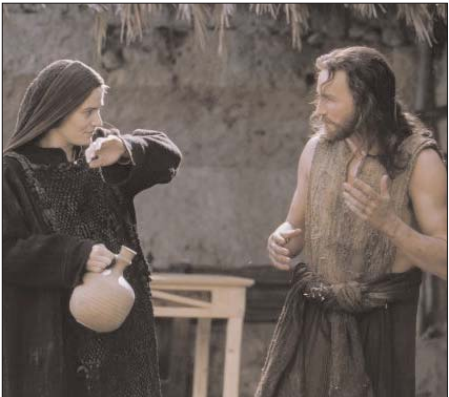
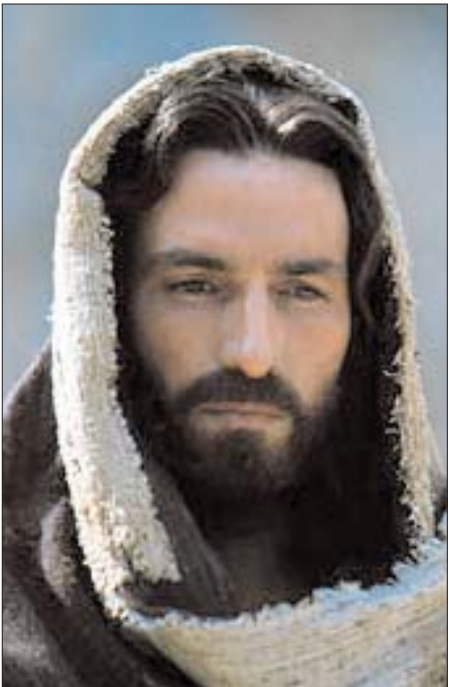
SEE LANTZ ◆ Page 11A

Verge

REVIEW THIS
Mel Gibson's
'Passion' moves
Film about the life of Christ goes
above and beyond all others that
came before it.
Page 5B
Grade: A

Gibson's 'The Passion of The Christ'

See review, Page 5B See Feature, Page 4B



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ADVICE COLUMN...
Sometimes the best action is no
action at all.

◆
Page 2B

FEATURE
Internet blogging is all the
craze. Find out why and how
people do it.

◆
Page 3B

FEATURE
See how a local youth group reacted to
Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the
Christ."

◆
Page 4B

CONCERT CALENDAR
Riptones, Trip Daddys set to play at
Friends & Co. Saturday.

◆
Page 7B

ADVICE COLUMN

Boyfriend or best friend?

Dear Verge,



Dan Valenziano
VERGE EDITOR

I'm trying to stop my current roommate and best friend from making a big mistake. She seems hell-bent on living with her boyfriend next year, but refuses to listen to all of the reasons why that may be the worst idea EVER.

They've been dating for upwards of six years, and this moronic, pusillanimous turdburglar of a man is all she's ever known as far as "love" goes.

He berates her in public, he calls her names and constantly threatens to break up with her - this is where she usually apologizes profusely and plays the role of the dutiful girlfriend for a few more months.

This guy is a giant self-destructive, malicious, douchebag of a security blanket for her.

Despite this, she'll acknowledge his scumbag ways in private. She pretends they're Ozzy and freaking Harriet whenever people are around.

I think part of it also has to do with the fact she doesn't think she can do any better than him. But he's always around, so there's no way of giving them some separation time for her to come to her senses.

So my question is this: How can I get her to throw this guy away like a parking ticket, or at least get it through her head that maybe living apart is what she needs to realize there are far better men in this world and maybe even on this campus? And also, am I overstepping my bounds as a friend by trying to break up her relationship?

- The relationship destroyer

He said:

Usually I try to give a couple options when writing these columns, but not this time. I really think you are going to have to let your friend move in with her boyfriend. It'll probably work out for the better - if you can call it better. It doesn't seem to me that your friend's boyfriend is physically abusive. But if that is the case, you should definitely take action.

If your friend has been dating him for as long as you say, she probably won't "listen to reason" because she's been hearing it for six years and is still with him. There is probably nothing you can say to change her mind.

You're obviously worried about your friend, but sometimes you just have to cut people loose and let them make their own decisions.

Since they have been dating for so long, actually living with him could be the only thing that might steer her away from

spending the rest of her life with him. Spending every waking minute with him may just be the wake-up call she needs. The very idea of spending the rest of her life with someone is a scary idea in itself, but when she finds out that person is an abusive cretin, she might jump out of her skin.

She said:

Your friend, my dear, is just another victim of the human predisposition we know as habit.

Can you blame her for settling in to what is the easiest possible solution? Imagine being in a relationship with someone for, gasp, six years. She probably can't see her life with out the pusillanimous (vocab word for the day: cowardly) boyfriend.

I was in your situation with my old best friend/roommate. Her boyfriend cheated on her and got her pregnant, then left her. Her brother and I constantly encouraged her that she didn't need the jerk, and she could do better. Nothing we said made any difference. Sure enough, she took him back. They've been living together for two years and plan to be married. And to tell you the truth, they honestly seem happy now.

Perhaps your friend and her boyfriend think moving in together will improve their relationship. If it does, you will have to learn to accept the boyfriend to continue your friendship with the roommate. But moving in together may be the straw that will break the camel's back, ultimately causing their separation.

If you can't stand the way he treats her, avoid them. Since your friend thinks she can't do any better than the loser, enlist the help of some guy friends to tell her what a catch she is.

You're not a bad friend for trying to break them up. Your heart is in the right place. But you can't really gauge a couple's relationship unless you are half of it. Suggest couple's counseling to your friend. This might seem like an old married couple remedy, but that is how they're acting.

Also, do you have a roommate for next semester? Could you be a little apprehensive about losing your roommate and best friend's company and attention to her boyfriend? He's always been in the picture, but you are just now seeking outside intervention to break them up.

Remember to fill out your ballots for the Best of Coles County. Forms are due 4 p.m. March 31.

E-mail questions, concerns or Verge advice success stories to Dan and Holly at The Verge at eiuverge@hotmail.com



Holly Henschen
ASSOCIATE VERGE
EDITOR

PREDICTIONS FROM
THE ALL-KNOWING
MAGIC EIGHT-BALL



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY DAN VALENZIANO

Freak Leap Year occurrences

1. A record number of babies will be born, thus dooming them to live to ages of 18 and 23.

Magic 8-Ball says: Yes, definitely. But shouldn't they get quadruple the gifts?

2. Members of the band The Darkness will explain their video for "I Believe in a Thing Called Love" in full detail, including how a squid can breathe in space without oxygen.

Magic 8-Ball says: Outlook Good. So what is that furry, living towel creature at the beginning, hmmm?

3. A black hole will open in the center of Charleston and swallow us all.

Magic 8-Ball says: Outlook Not So Good. Bummer, that means two more weeks of classes until break.

4. February 30 will get jealous and show up to crash the party.

Magic 8-Ball says: Yes. Alright. Two extra days this year.

5. Twenty-four hour marathons of "Pee Wee's Playhouse" will spontaneously air on all cable stations.

Magic 8-Ball says: Don't Count On It. Mecka-lecka hi, meckahiney-no.

6. Christ will return to Earth for one day to view Mel Gibson's "The Passion." Jesus' review: The

book was better.

Magic 8-Ball says: Outlook Not So Good. Meanwhile, we're still waiting for the sequel.

7. The naked babies from the "Love Is..." cartoon strip will wear clothes for once.

Magic 8-Ball says: As I See It, Yes. It's about time!

8. A shocking revelation will occur, leaving Altoids less curious, but still strong.

Magic 8-Ball says: Very Doubtful. At least there's something you can still believe in.

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‘blog-u-menting’ lives online gains popularity

♦ *Web logs have given a generation of young people the chance to place their most private moments on the Internet with mixed results*

By Ben Erwin
STAFF WRITER

For the past five years, Web sites like livejournal.com, open-diary.com and a host of others have given new meaning to the concept of airing one's dirty laundry by offering anyone with a computer the opportunity to write to a theoretical audience of millions of leering viewers. These Web logs, also called blogs, are the online equivalent of a diary containing an owner's most personal thoughts, opinions or commentary on life, in general. Blogs have continually gained popularity with users and garnered a certain level of notoriety, as a generation of young people have found self expression and communication in the most public forums. Blogs have been labeled as simply egocentric and pointless at their worst or a complement to other electronic media, serving to unite people over any distance at best. None of these monikers, however, truly seem to fit either the Web sites responsible for giving writers such freedom or the individuals who keep online journals for a myriad of reasons.

A “revolution” in words

While the purpose and usefulness of blogs is debatable, the growing population of bloggers in the past five years is unquestionable. Although more than a dozen journaling-centered sites offer countless prospective writers the opportunity to raise their proverbial voice, the two largest are unquestionably OpenDiary and LiveJournal, both of whom boast millions of writers. LiveJournal, which touts itself as an “online community” rather than a mere blog site, was created in March 1999 by then computer science major Brad Fitzpatrick. LiveJournal was originally an offshoot of Fitzpatrick's own site designed simply for he and his friends. After less than a year in operation, though, LiveJournal had grown to house more than 100,000 users and claimed nearly 1,000 new members each day during its first two years. The site currently lists almost three million members with almost a million “active” journals. LiveJournal's largest competitor, OpenDiary, launched in October of 1998 with a number of individuals, including current curator Bruce Ableson, contributing to the site's creation and subsequent success. In six years, the site is home to more than 2 million journals with updates being made every four seconds, Ableson said. As he noted, OpenDiary was the first site of its kind to offer the extensive interaction between users that have, in many cases, made blogging so popular.

“By adding the opportunity for diarists to gather together in a community and communicate with each other, we expanded the medium to another level,” Ableson said. “(Sites like these are) nothing short of a revolution in the way people can write and communicate with one another.”



Tapping

a rare demographic

Although a pair of men were largely responsible for creating OpenDiary and LiveJournal respectively, initial blogger demographics consisted largely of females between the ages of 16 and 22. According to Ableson, OpenDiary was typically trafficked by, in his estimation, 90 percent women. As the medium has progressed, however, he said more men are getting involved, as blogging is moving past the concept of keeping a simple diary and is now more often used to communicate with friends, rant about life and keep a record of events. Ableson said OpenDiary is now much closer to an even ratio between men and women, with female users just edging out men.

LiveJournal, likewise, is dominated by woman. Approximately 65 percent of all journalers are female. The other statistic that dominates any discussion on blogging is the overwhelming presence of teenagers and early twentysomethings. Both OpenDiary and LiveJournal are dominated by journalers between 16 and 23, and Ableson chalked up blogging's popularity with the age group as a generational anomaly. “I think that the current generation of teens and twenties grew up with the Internet and are therefore more comfortable living in it,” he said. “They've developed friendships and relationships through IM (Instant Messenger) and e-mail, and online journaling is just another logical step in keeping their lives online.” Andy Greenwald, a frequent contributor to “Spin” and the author of the emo and blogging-centered tome “Nothing Feels Good,” agreed adding that blogging also is an attempt at empowerment for young people. “What kids want at that age is to be taken seriously,” he said via telephone, “and that's what ... these diaries allow.” The appeal is becoming more than merely an American trend, however, as LiveJournal and OpenDiary both host users from Europe, Asia and Australia.

Airing a little dirty laundry

For many bloggers, journaling is a delicate balance of chronicling daily life, keeping in touch with friends or simply letting off a little steam. For Antonia Dauster, a first year graduate student in the historical administration program, a LiveJournal serves all of these purposes. “(My journal) started out as a way to keep in touch with my best friend,” she said. “As I kept using it, I realized how much I liked keeping track of things that had happened to me. It's nice to be able to write something and get feedback on it, be it a rant about school or a question about cooking.” For graduate student James Contratto, it was the ability to keep tabs on far-reaching

friends that made blogging most appealing. Contratto, a Florida native, said his journal provides an easy way to not only share his life with friends dispersed throughout the country, but to easily hear back from them as well. “They can access my journal and can instantly read about my adventures, misadventures and the occasional rant,” he said. This ability to connect on a personal level seems central to many bloggers, especially those away from family and friends. While blogs have been blithely labeled as merely self-indulgent by some, the ability to communicate quickly, efficiently and effectively is one of the medium's greatest appeals. Online journals also stand as a record of events writers can look back on months, or years, later to examine an event or simply a time period in life. This private communication is part of the more personal, solitary aspects of blogging also appealing to many users. “I started (my) journal because it's a way to express what's been going on,” said Nicole Durdon, a freshman elementary education and special needs major. “And it's known that you get the best results from expressing your thoughts in writing.” This element of self-examination also is central to Jessica Lu, a freshman speech communication major, who uses blogging as a way to chronicle events in her life and as a means of self-expression. “It's nice to get stuff out,” she said. “I like going back and reading about stuff I had forgotten about.” Whatever the purpose, the fact is the myriad of blogging sites are gaining popularity each day, as more young people find empowerment in this mutating form of self-expression. “Some do it to work through personal problems they may be having. Some do it to connect with other people. Some do it to get some feedback from peers about their lives. Some are writers looking for an outlet,” Ableson said. “The primary purpose is expression, whether that expression is telling the world about the bad day they just had or publishing a piece of poetry for the world to see.”

Turning a blog into a career

For a select few, an obsession with blogging can turn into a career in writing. In the last three years, a handful of writers have gleaned book deals from obsessive journaling, ranging in subject from elaborate cooking projects to personal nocturnal exploits. Julie Powell, a former secretary from New York, turned her personal boredom and love of blogging into a writing career

after “blog-u-menting” her quest to cook more than 500 Julia Child recipes in a single year. After her journal received an overwhelming response from readers, she was offered a publishing deal from Little, Brown and Company. One blogger, going under the moniker Mimi Smartypants, was offered a deal from Harper

and gains acceptance as a viable form of expression, limitations of the medium are quickly falling away. “(Blogs) compare as an equal to any other form of medium such as paper journals, or art or whatnot,” said junior family services major Lauren Hastings. “The nice thing about online journals is that we are an Internet driven society so we have a better chance of “making the time” to write in an Internet (journal) and express ourselves.”

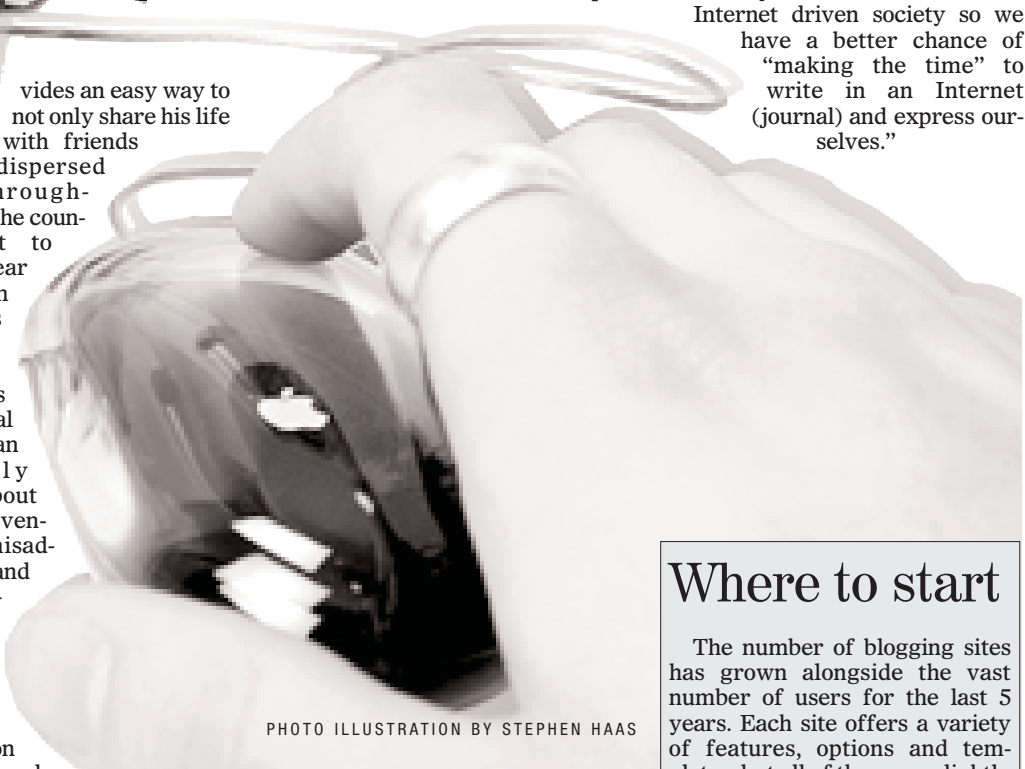


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY STEPHEN HAAS

Collins UK based on writings chronicling her life. “I feel very guilty about this book thing because many incredibly-worthy authors struggle and suffer to get their books published, and many more toil away at brilliant novels in obscurity,” she said via e-mail. “I go blah-blah during my lunch hour on my happy little subdomain, writing something that is not a book, and out of the blue comes a publishing contract.”

The inevitable backlash

Despite millions of users, many have mocked or lampooned online journals and those who keep them. “The Onion,” for instance, has written a pair of pieces mocking “pathetic” users chronicling their trials and tribulations with tears and vile rants. A number of anti-blog and parody sites also have sprung up as the supposed culture of online journaling has become rife for mockery. Even when a “legitimate” news sources like MSNBC created blogs for anchors and interns, the station came under fire from viewers who felt the journals presented journalists in an unflattering light. Representatives from MSNBC, MTV and “The Onion” were unavailable for comment.

The future of the medium

Journaling may be overtly self-involved, but any concern to what this means to the individual writing is irrelevant, as blogging continues to be a growing outlet for many young people despite such criticism. And while no one knows for sure where the personal stories, political activism or professional writing associated with blogging will end, the medium is finally gaining a bit of credibility as old myths are dispelled and new writers arrive daily. “They're not all people locked in their rooms who can only communicate through their keyboard,” Ableson said of the average blogger. “Online diarists are all real people with real lives outside the Internet, and it's reading about those real lives that makes the medium so interesting.” As journaling proliferates itself in a larger demographic

Where to start

The number of blogging sites has grown alongside the vast number of users for the last 5 years. Each site offers a variety of features, options and templates, but all of them are slightly different. While the true number of online journal sites remains uncounted, five sites constitute the vast majority of blogs.

LiveJournal.com:

LiveJournal offers the widest variety of features of any blogging sites. Users can form communities, list personal interests, write a bio of themselves or search for other uses through a variety of means. Users can find one another by interest, e-mail address, user name, location or Instant Messenger screen name. Diaries are free to start, although a pay option is available, which offers access to picture servers and greater design options. LJ also offers the option of making journals private or to ensure access is open only to friends, so random access is impossible.

DeadJournal.com:

DeadJournal is a carbon copy of LiveJournal, with a more macabre style. Created using the software designed by LiveJournal creator Brad Fitzpatrick, DeadJournal offers the same features as LiveJournal with greater access to personal site design changes and smaller communities.

OpenDiary.com:

OpenDiary offers author-finding features and blogging circles, as well as consistently updated community news, weekly themes and diary choices. The site also highlights a series of journals each day and a list of the most recently updated journals. While journals are free, a version appearing sans pop-up ads can be purchased for a few dollars a month. DiaryLand.com: DiaryLand offers many of the features of LiveJournal, but doesn't offer the same access to other members. The cost of creating a journal is free, but layout and search options are limited by the site's design.

Blogger.com:

Blogger.com offers fewer options than the aforementioned sites, but authors have greater access to personalizing their journals. The site is infrequently updated and less user-friendly than other blogging sites, but has a simple, clean layout and simple navigation.



DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY STEPHEN HAAS

A youth group at Immanuel Lutheran Church participates in a bible study and question-and-answer session at the student center of the church on Ninth Street after a group of students went to see the opening of "The Passion of the Christ" Wednesday evening at the Kerasotes Showplace 8 Theatre in Mattoon.

Youth group believes then sees lessons of ‘Passion’

By Tim Martin
SENIOR REPORTER

At 8:54 p.m. on Ash Wednesday, 14 members from the Immanuel Lutheran Church youth group smiled as the flash of a camera lit up the lobby of ShowPlace 8. It was one of those grinning photos you'd see taken in front of a tourist attraction.

To many religious groups, Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ" is more than a movie: it's an experience. Similar to the Statue of Liberty or the Sistine Chapel, people want proof they were there.

Greg Witto, Immanuel Lutheran pastor and youth group leader, believes the movie will end up being "one of the greatest evangelism tools of our day." If seeing is believing, Witto may be correct in his assumption, as many people previously have only encountered Christ's crucifixion from reading the Bible.

The movie, based on Christ's final 12 hours on Earth, was taken from gospel readings. Critics have said recent teachings and media depictions of the crucifixion have been watered down from reality.

"It's one thing to believe a certain historical event occurred," said assistant philosophy professor Grant Sterling. "It's another thing to actually see it."

The movie's first-day ticket sales ranged from \$20 to \$25 million. Some religious groups have made news because they are buying large quantities of tickets. For example, Mike and Matt Southards of First Christian Church in Charleston purchased the entire theater — some 283 tickets — for a March 7 showing of "The Passion."

On Wednesday night, however, one smaller group of 14 from Immanuel Lutheran attended.

With the smell of buttery popcorn in the air, a meandering line of people formed waiting to snatch up the best seats before ShowPlace 8's 9:30 p.m. showing of "The Passion." One group member described it as more an event than a movie.

"I think the movie will offer a real opportunity to get more of the story as they begin the season of Lent," Witto said. "I don't know if I'm feeling excitement, but I'm envisioning more of a spiritual type of experience."

The movie's accuracy to the Bible's text, as well as the anticipated gruesomeness, played on the psyches of some members before the show.

"I'm sure I will be shutting my eyes a few times," said Julie Kleinschmidt, a sophomore accounting major, while standing

in line to see "The Passion" in Theater No. 1.

Minutes before the movie began, a theater employee warned the crowd.

"This movie is very, very powerful," she said. No previews preceded the movie; the opening scene began a few minutes past the scheduled 9:30 p.m. showing.

As the movie unfolded and the gruesomeness increased, group members, along with the audience, became queasy. The smiles present during the group photo had disappeared.

Instead, members covered their mouths like they were coughing during the most graphic of scenes. One woman pulled her shirt collar above her eyes, while others simply looked away.

"The Passion" lasted for two hours and six minutes; but, nobody clapped at the end of this movie — they cried.

The audience watched the names of the credits roll down the screen as tears rolled down their faces. Those most emotionally moved left the theater with red, teary eyes. The lesser affected stared blankly off into space.

An outsider might think the group had just left a funeral, not a movie.

But no, "this wasn't just a movie,

because we were watching someone we knew personally," said Jaime Rascher, a communications disorders and sciences graduate student at Eastern.

Naturally, after the viewing, the group asked one another if "The Passion" was a good film. No one shook his or her head no.

Back at the Immanuel Lutheran Student Center, the smell of Papa John's pizza filled a brightly lit room with two billiard tables in the back and a big-screen television to the side.

Entertainment, however, was not the reason the group gathered here after midnight following movie. Students had put homework aside for another type of lesson: one about Jesus' sacrifice as depicted in the movie.

The group's discussion ranged

from how non-Christians would watch the movie to what they thought the lasting impressions would be.

"I'd like to think Jesus died from a clean cut, holy death," said Libby Murray, a teacher of Immanuel Lutheran's high school class, who came to get perspective from college-aged students. "But after watching this, how cold you not be grateful of Christ's sacrifice?"

The consensus was "The Passion" wasn't a movie, but an experience; watched more like education than entertainment.

"The movie brings it all to life so much more," said Rascher. "It's not just a movie."



PHOTO COURTESY OF NEWMARKET.COM



DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY STEPHEN HAAS

Greg Witto, pastor and youth group leader of Immanuel Lutheran Church, leads a bible study and question-and-answer session after his group went to see "The Passion of the Christ."



PHOTO COURTESY OF NEWMARKET FILMS

‘Passion’ more than a film

By Dan Valenziano
VERGE EDITOR

When I walked out of the theater after seeing Mel Gibson’s “The Passion of the Christ” I couldn’t talk. It was so moving and disturbing at the same time. I think that was the film’s purpose. Anyone who attended a Christian church throughout their youth was told in detail about the trials of Christ – but it is completely different to see such vivid detail displayed on a huge screen in front of one’s face.

The film, as do other “Passion plays,” focuses primarily on the last 12 hours of Jesus’ life. “Passion” opens with Christ praying in the Garden of Gethsemane just before he is captured and continues all the way through until his crucifixion, including a short scene of his resurrection. Other than a few short flashbacks – one to the last supper, the Sermon on the Mount and two to Jesus’ earlier life with his mother Mary, played by Maia Morgenstern.

I found the portrayal of Satan by Rosalinda Celentano to be interesting. Even though Satan does not appear as a physical character in this part of scripture, she (in this case) had previously in the Gospels.

The film also showed Judas Iscariot, played by Luca Lionello, in a different light than most films. The gospels tell that Judas was actually possessed by a or the devil when he betrayed Jesus to the Jewish clergy. The film shows him tormented by demons before he commits suicide.

Although Gibson’s “Passion” has received an enormous amount of criticism from the press, I feel the majority of it is unwarranted. The film itself has been crucified as being overly

“The Passion of the Christ”
Director: Mel Gibson
Grade: A

violent but no one made so much as a whisper when Gibson directed “Braveheart,” in which characters had arms cut off and heads bashed in. The film is very disturbing. But, the point of the film is to disturb and unsettle the viewers – to vividly show the extreme sacrifice of one man to save humanity.

As a film, “Passion” is visually stunning, masterfully edited and ... well ... timelessly written. I have never seen a movie that pulled my emotions in so many directions all at once.

Accuracy

People can debate the *historical* accuracy of the film until they are blue in the face, but the film does hold as true as I have ever seen to the gospels in the Bible. “Passion,” as far as I can tell, is based primarily on the account found in the Gospel of John. Although the film is in Latin and Aramaic, the subtitles follow most modern translations of the scriptures very accurately. The ways in which Jesus was tortured and crucified were also very accurate to the accounts in the bible.

Anti-Semitism

People calling Gibson’s “Passion” anti-Semitic have referenced the film’s treatment of Pontius Pilate, played by Bristo Shopov in contrast to the Jewish high priest Caiaphas, played by Mattia Sbragia. In the Gospel of John, as well as the other gospels, Pilate did not want to have Jesus killed. Nor did King

Herod. Caiaphas was the person in charge of the Jewish clergy – the ones who had Jesus arrested in the first place. It was obviously his intention to have Christ killed. Why? Because he threatened the status quo.

The fact of the matter is that Christians believe all of these occurrences to be preordained by God. That is to say, it is nobody’s “fault” Jesus died, but rather all part of the master plan to save the human race from eternal damnation. Even the film shows Jesus praying to God the Father to carry out *his* will, not man’s.

There is a concern that the release of this film will create anti-Semitic feelings within the Christian community. I don’t believe that to be true. As I said before, Christians believe the death of Christ was preordained by God. Modern Christians blame Jews for the death of Jesus no more than modern Jews blame Egyptians for the enslavement of their race. If some misguided Christians do blame Jews for the death of Christ, they do so while contradicting the very basis of their religion.

Violence

This is, hands down, the most violent film I have ever seen. I saw “Passion” on the opening night and I noticed parents brought children of about 12 years old to view the film. Since almost all of them surely hadn’t had the opportunity to view the movie previously, I was a bit taken aback. Some of the scenes in the film, particularly the whipping and crucifixion of Jesus, were so graphic, they made me physically ill. Parents should definitely see “Passion” before they decide to let their children see it.



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Oscars up for grabs from unsure Academy

By Luke Ryan
GUEST WRITER

One of the better-known quotes about Hollywood comes from William Goldman, screenwriting guru and Oscar winning writer of “Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid” and “All the President’s Men.” The quote is simply this: “Nobody knows anything.” And it’s absolutely true—every year “sure things” turn into unmitigated disasters and inconceivably pleasant surprises abound.

The Oscars are no different. The favorites often differ from the most deserving, and there’s always a dark horse nominee that comes through to take home a trophy. So, as a guy who spends his life “knowing nothing” and attempting to predict the unpredictable, I present to you my “expert” forecast for the 2004 Academy Awards:

BEST PICTURE



Who will win: “The Lord of the Rings: Return of the King.” Had Cold Mountain been nominated, this would have been a much more interesting race, as Miramax has a history of pulling off big upsets at the Oscars, and Cold Mountain was the second best picture of the year in my opinion. This is an award that has been predicted for two years, after “Fellowship” failed to win in 2002.

The buzz has been that the Academy would wait for “Return of the King” and reward the trilogy as a whole. Regardless of the backstory, this is an enormous filmmaking achievement that blows the rest of the competition out of the water.

Who should win: “The Lord of the Rings: Return of the King.”

Possible surprises: If Peter Jackson doesn’t win Best Director, an upset might be in the air. Both Mystic River and Lost in Translation could sneak in, although each would be a major surprise.

BEST DIRECTOR



Who will win: Peter Jackson (“Return of the King”). The trilogy was the most massive directorial undertaking in history, and Jackson pulled it off masterfully and

humbly. He’s won the majority of the pre-Oscar awards, which would indicate that the Academy’s long-standing penchant for snubbing fantasy films and their directors is coming to an end.

Who should win: Peter Jackson (“Return of the King”).

Possible surprises: Sofia Coppola is a darling right now, and “Lost in Translation” proved her to be the real deal as a director—she’s the smart money for an upset if the Academy is feeling “less is more.”

BEST ACTOR, LEADING ROLE



Who will win: Bill Murray (“Lost in Translation”). Expect him to win simply because the Academy is looking forward to his acceptance speech. “Lost in Translation” is the most critically rewarded movie of the year, and it’s hard to imagine anyone besides Murray making it work.

Who should win: Sean Penn (“Mystic River”). Penn delivered one of the most intense performances in recent history, as well as the best of his career, and is by far and away the most deserving in this category.

However, there were moments in “Mystic River” that he was so good, it took you out of the movie, which, when paired with his prickly reputation, probably gives Murray enough room to sneak through in this category.

Possible surprises: Johnny Depp (“Pirates of the Caribbean”) has some momentum going in, but if the Academy decides to choose an “actor’s actor”, odds are they’ll go with the more dramatic

role and side with Penn.

BEST ACTRESS, LEADING ROLE

Who will win: Diane Keaton (“Something’s Gotta Give”). This will be a bit of an upset, but my gut



feeling is the elderly Academy will reward Keaton for her turn in a movie that focuses on being comfortable with aging. Her previous win in this category came in a comedy as well (“Annie Hall”), and it seems Keaton has a “comeback” status of sorts among the voters that will give her the edge.

Who should win: Charlize Theron (“Monster”). Theron delivered the best performance by an actress this year and has won most of the major pre-Oscar awards in this category, but the Academy may not be ready to anoint her just yet. She’s spent most of her career relying on her looks rather than her acting chops, which is a blessing and a curse in this case, especially since she’s not at the level of popularity Julia Roberts was when she won for “Erin Brockovich.” This is the hardest category of the night to call, and Keaton’s long-term career has a good chance of trumping the role of Theron’s career.

Possible surprises: None. This is a two-horse race.

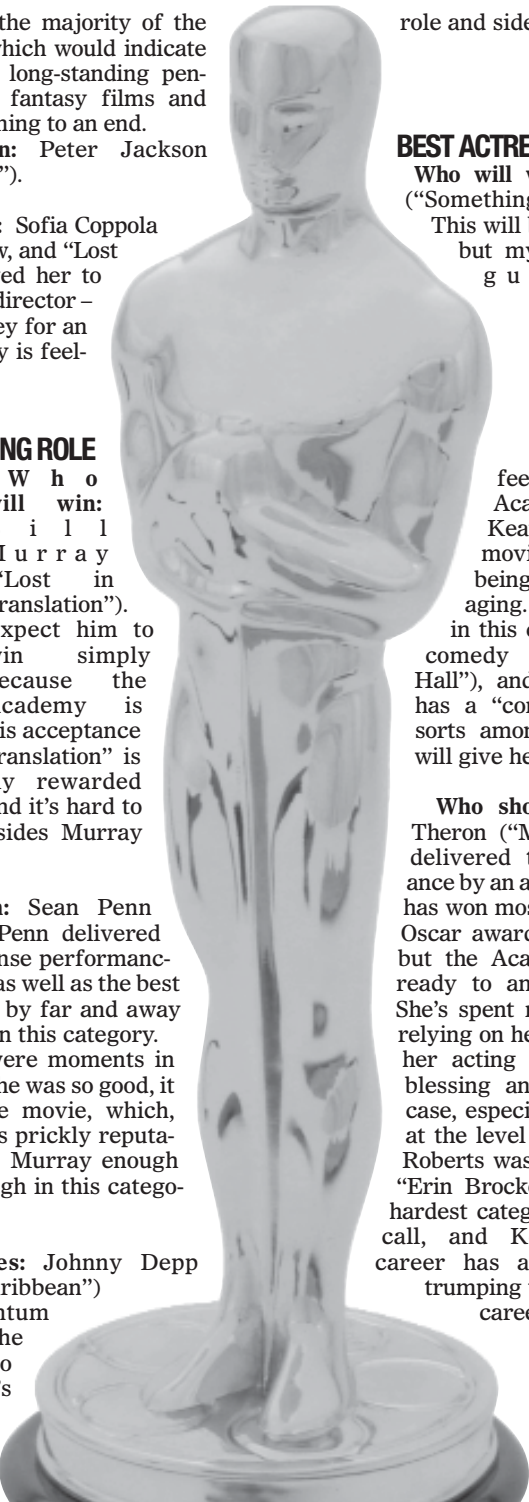


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ACADEMY OF MOTIONS PICTURE ARTS AND SCIENCES

The Oscar, cinema’s most prized award, stands as a tiny gold testament to achievement. But if Marisa Tomei has one how much could it really be worth?

BEST ACTOR, SUPPORTING ROLE

Who will win: Tim Robbins (“Mystic River”). Robbins made a lot out of a tough role, and more than held his own with Sean Penn. This performance didn’t blow anybody away, but it’s the best of the bunch, and Academy voters who want to reward “Mystic River” in some form will most likely cast their votes here.



Who should win: Tim Robbins (“Mystic River”).

Possible surprises: Alec Baldwin has a lot of buzz as a sleeper surprise here, but he wasn’t exceptional in The Cooler, and, frankly, neither was the movie.

BEST ACTRESS, SUPPORTING ROLE

Who will win: Renee Zellweger (“Cold Mountain”). Like Robbins, Zellweger is the most deserving and will also garner a number of votes from people who loved her film and will be casting their support here rather than in other categories.



Beyond that, the Academy tends to reward those they feel have “earned” the award, and two non-wins in the Best Actress category in the past make her a lock here.

Who should win: Renee Zellweger (“Cold Mountain”).

Possible surprises: This category is annually a crapshoot (it’s actually a surprise when you aren’t surprised by the winner), but Zellweger is as close to a sure thing as there is.

The 76th annual Academy Award will air 8 p.m. EST Sunday.

editor’s note: Luke Ryan graduated from Eastern in 2000 and is currently working as an executive at New Line Cinema where he is currently executive producing the forthcoming “Harold and Kumar go to White Castle” and “King’s Ransom.”

Hopeful candidates prep for Miss Black EIU

By Nicole Detoye
STAFF WRITER

One of three contestants will be crowned Saturday at the Black Student Union’s 33rd Annual Miss Black EIU pageant.

The pageant will begin at 7 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union. The three contestants will be competing for the Miss Black EIU title along with scholarships and gift certificates.

The contestants include freshman finance major Tracey Wayne, junior marketing major Ladonna Murphy and junior special education major Samantha Lampton.

“I have rehearsals outside of the pageant from 4-6(p.m.), then pageant rehearsal 6-8,” Wayne said.

Wayne dedicates so much preparation time because the pageant has four categories.

“(The categories are) creative expression, when the contestants talk about current issues or issues that interest them; African Garment, when they do a voice-over describing what their heritage means to them and they model garments; the talent category, when they showcase a talent; and the evening gown and impromptu question category,” said Monique Cook-Bey of the Student Life Office.

Eastern President Lou Hencken, professor of early childhood elementary and middle education Mildred Pearson, director of the Gateway Program Don Dawson, director of office of civil rights and diversities Cynthia Nichols and

journalism professor Annette Samuels will be judges for the competition.

Wayne said she dedicated more than \$250 and much time toward the pageant.

“I’ve gained a new outlook on people who run in pageants as a career,” she said.

“It takes a lot of time and dedication.”

She said the dedication has been worthwhile.

“I have gained so much more respect for people who get involved in pageants,” she said. “You have to want it bad enough to sacrifice things you wouldn’t normally sacrifice.”

Cook-Bey described the pageant as a celebration of African American culture from a woman’s perspective.

“It’s not only for African American women,” she said. “But anyone that can identify with the struggles of African American women.”



Samantha Lampton



Ladonna Murphy



Tracey Wayne



DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY COLIN MCAULIFFE

The winner and second runner-up of last year’s Miss Black EIU competition share a moment onstage.

Riptones, Trip Daddys offer variety Saturday

By Holly Henschen
ASSOCIATE VERGE EDITOR

Saturday night The Riptones will tear into town, joined by the Trip Daddys, at Friends & Co.

The Riptones' sound is "roots/rock/surf/swing/country/blues/rockabilly or any combination thereof," according to Michael Krasovech, the band's vocalist and lead guitarist.

Krasovech is also an Eastern alum. He graduated from Eastern in 1991 with a b.a. in communications. Krasovech has owned a magic and guitar shop in the Chicago suburbs for 5 years.

"It's nostalgic to come back and visit EIU traveling with the Riptones," Krasovech said. "When I was a student, I played many of the local clubs."

The band also includes Jeb Bonansinga on vocals and guitar, Earl Carter on bass and touring drummer Kurt Weisend.

The Riptones' influences include Freddie King, The Fabulous Thunderbirds, ZZ Top and Henry Mancini.

"We've toured England and Scotland and the US from Seattle to Philadelphia to Austin," Krasovech said of his Chicago-based band.

The Riptones have toured with Brian Setzer, Marshall Crenshaw, Los Straitjackets and Robbie Fulks, among others.



The Riptones, based in Chicago, will perform at Friends & Co. Saturday. Eastern alum Michael Krasovech plays lead guitar and sings in the band.

Their sixth and most recent release is the instrumental "Slant Six."

Krasovech welcomes the return to his alma mater. "We enjoy coming down to

Charleston for the respect and admiration of a core group of fans that have hung in there for us

"It's nostalgic to come back and visit EIU traveling with the Riptones. When I was a student, I played many of the local clubs."

-Michael Krasovechis

through the years," Krasovech said. "And because we enjoy drinkin' beer and acting like idiots from time to time. We're hoping the experience will live up to the somewhat hazy memories of our last trips down."

Opening for The Riptones is The Trip Daddys.

The St. Louis band consists of Craig Straubinger on guitar and vocals, Jamey Almond on bass and vocals and Joe Meyeron drums. Their last self-released CD, "The Trip Daddy's v. Dead Celebrities- Live at the Way Out Club," came out in August 2003.

According to the band Web site, The Trip Daddys opened for renowned Los Angeles punkers X at the Chicago House of Blues July 2003.

The Riptones and Trip Daddys show, scheduled to begin at 10 p.m., has a \$4 cover. Friends & Co. is located at 509 Van Buren Ave, near the Square.

Spill(ing) and coffee a good combo Saturday

By Karen Kirr
SENIOR WRITER

Despite the ongoing expansion work at Jackson Avenue Coffee, weekly acoustic music sets will continue with rockers Spill entertaining java drinkers Saturday.

"This is the first time they will be playing (at Jackson Avenue Coffee)," Evan Kubicek, manager of Jackson Avenue Coffee, said of the band. Spill will perform from 8 p.m. until 10 p.m.

Spill, comprised of vocalist Brad Warren, lead guitarist Brandon Rubman, percussionist Derek Bailey and guitarist George Huntington, will perform a stack of original songs before delving into a string of covers.

Bailey, an Eastern student who helped form the band a year and a half ago, said Pearl Jam, Neil Young and Tom Petty songs comprise the glut of the covers Spill performs.

Although the band will deviate from their edgy rock n' roll style to an acoustic jam. Bailey said he and the remainder of the quartet are up to the challenge of trying something new.

"Even (Kubicek) brought it up and we thought it would be fun to try," Bailey said. "It will change our style, but we are ready."

Spill brings some new blood to the Charleston music scene, having played just five gigs in the town thus far. But despite that fact,

Bailey said Spill recorded a demo in St. Louis, and hopes to bring its music to bars such as The Uptowner and Friends in the future.

Besides providing a fun, entertaining atmosphere to java drinkers, Bailey said the band also anticipates increasing the number of people privy to Spill by playing at the venue.

"It will be a fun setting," Bailey said.

With Jackson Avenue Coffee's expansion work in full-force since early February, Kubicek said he already is giddy about the revamped, enlarged version of the shop. The expansion is slated to be unveiled by April.

"It will be awesome," he said. "My hope is to one day do two shows at once. To have two different styles playing at once. It is not something we will be known for, but it is something I would like to try."

Proving to be popular, the acoustic sets have been a mainstay at the coffee shop. Kubicek said he came to the realization that expansion was inevitable for Jackson to accommodate of all of its guests.

"The addition will double our seating," he said. "It was getting so crowded, if we wanted to have music anymore, we had to expand."

A built-in sound system will come with the addition. This will

give shop the luxury of hosting various styles and genres of music.

"We can have a full band when we get the back room," Kubicek said. "It will change our style, but we are ready for that."

Kubicek said the expansion will provide atmosphere that satisfies the exclusively coffee-drinking crowd, as well as customers there for both java and bands.

"Sometimes we have people that will come and they just want to read," he said. "One part of the room will be quiet and the back will be music."

Jackson Avenue Coffee, located at 708 Jackson Ave., does not have a cover charge policy, so entrance is free to the public.

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Nil8 and The Pimps - smack dab in Lincoln Land

By Holly Henschen
ASSOCIATE VERGE EDITOR

Illinois punk veterans Nil8, joined by The Goodyear Pimps, will converge on Charleston Friday night at Friends & Co.

Nil8, from Springfield, currently consists of founders Bruce and Jeff Williams, both on vocals, bass and guitar respectively, Gary Brammer on guitar and Wes Selinger on drums.

Nil8 played its first show nearly 20 years ago, “but we couldn’t get into bars, so the only event we could play was the Rock Against Reagan show,” Jeff Williams said.

The Williams brothers have kept the band alive through four releases, a live album and a slew of drummers and guitarists.

“We have had probably 46 lineup changes because of: death, turning traitor for a piece of tail, moving, girlfriends, monkeys beating the holy heck out of members until they are forced to jump ship,” said guitarist and vocalist Jeff Williams.

Brammer, from fellow Springfield band MAG, has been playing guitar with Nil8 for one and a half years, Jeff Williams said. When Brammer moved to Portland in April, Damon Sopper, also from MAG, will take the guitarist’s slot. Selinger is another band transplant from The Timmys.

Some members of the group, though inanimate, have been around longer than others. The homemade toys sockmonkeys have become mascots for Nil8. They have been part of the band longer than most of the 46 revolving members.



PHOTO BY JOHN HICKS

Nil8 vocalist/guitarist Bruce Williams performs with a sockmonkey-hobbyhorse hybrid. Nil8 will play Friends Friday.

The origin of the band’s connection with the stuffed footwear is simple and slightly disturbing.

“Someone threw a (sock)monkey on stage once,” Jeff Williams said. “But it looked like it had been soaked with dear old grandma’s very urine.”

Cleaner sockmonkeys soon began to accompany the band to

shows. “The monkeys will come out sometime,” he said. “But most are currently not going on the road with us. A few stay on the bus year-round.”

Jeff Williams said the band is putting the finishing touches “May the Force Be With You, Blubberpuss,” set to include at least 18 tracks. It may also feature songs from previous out-of-print

releases. Nil8 is currently undecided on a record label for the new album.

The band has played with Rockford’s The Goodyear Pimps on many occasions.

“We have been friends with The Pimps for longer than any other band I can think of that are still playing shows,” Jeff Williams said. “We love those gardeners,” he

said. “When we get together, we eat rhubarb pie.”

Nil8’s brotherly affection for their gigging buddies is reciprocated by The Goodyear Pimps.

“I’d take a bullet for each one of the guys in that band,” said Tony Crisman, The Pimps bassist. The groups have known each other for 10 years, he said.

Though the Pimps are no strangers to touring, this will be the group’s debut performance in Charleston. The band biography said its members have played more than 150 shows yearly since 2000.

“We’re really excited to get in there (Charleston),” Crisman said. “Plus, we’re playing with our best friends.”

The band has encountered difficulties with the an essential group element— a name. When The Goodyear Pimps applied for a copyright on the title, protest arose from the tire company that owns the blimp by the same name.

Goodyear claimed the group “diluted and tarnished the Goodyear name,” Crisman said.

“We’re kind of like little kids that got in trouble by their parents,” Crisman said. The band has slowly started using the Goodyear name as time progressed and Goodyear was paying less attention, he said.

Both Nil8 and The Pimps are well-known for their performance antics.

“We try to melt that stage away from the audience,” and make them part of the show, Crisman said.

Set to begin at 10 p.m., the show will have a \$3 cover charge. Friends is located at 509 Van Buren Street, near The Square.

Chili Jam benefit to be reheated Sunday at Roc’s

By April McLaren
STAFF WRITER

You can grab the biggest spoon possible, dive into the spicy bowl of warmth your chilled body is craving and put your money to charitable use while doing so.

The first Chili Jam to benefit more affordable health care will take place Sunday at Roc’s Blackfront.

The Jam was originally planned for Jan. 25 before unwanted snow and ice bombarded the Charleston area.

The event’s coordinator, Becky Spoon, said it was not easy spending that snow-filled day running around on the phone. She said she

even wrote a blues song about the cancellation.

Spoon said the goal of the event is to raise money to “try to pass the Advocated Health Care Justice Act in Illinois, which would guarantee affordable, accessible care for everyone in state.”

She explained the act was previously defeated in the state Senate by one vote.

“No one even knows about it,” she said. “We want to get the word out and convince the Senate to pass it.”

“The bill said they will study the problem and implement the solution by 2007,” Spoon said.

If the bill is passed, Spoon said

her real concern is the aftermath.

“The biggest issue is to make sure the new act is followed through correctly,” she said.

Spoon said most people say they cannot afford universal health care, and she wants to switch the system and get something “affordable and accessible” for everyone.

“Everyone is paying too much for too little,” she said.

Spoon explained 20 percent of the people in Coles County are currently uninsured.

“That means one out of five people who have pneumonia won’t go to the hospital for it,” she said.

Spoon said she first became interested in health care when

she spent time searching for efficient and affordable health care for herself.

While researching the health care system, she “found out a lot of incredible things and how broken the system really is.”

The Jam will be featuring local bands Miscellaneous Jubilee Jam Band, Rural Kings, Mother Load, Rumble Shack Orchestra, Rockford Barns, Ryan Groff and Reverend Robert.

“He’s the best acoustic guitar player in the area,” Spoon said about Robert.

Prizes will be given away at the Jam, such as an overnight trip to Eagle Creek State Park in Shelbyville, three \$50 saving

bonds, free catering from “What’s Cookin,” a 4-foot mermaid sculpture and jewelry.

Spoon also will be making vegetarian vegetable soup as a nutritious and meatless alternative for vegetarians in attendance.

For those with a sweet tooth, there will be a bake sale during the event.

The donations from Roc’s owner, Mike Knoop, made the event possible, Spoon said.

Knoop is dedicating his time to make the chili, paying his staff and donated the building for the benefit.

The event will take place 3 p.m. Sunday and admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children.

GUIDE TO BETTER LIVING

Spring break on a broken budget

Spring Break is less than three weeks away. If you haven’t decided on plans for your seven days of freedom, there is no better time than now. One common factor in spring break choice tends to be funding. I present you with these money-saving vacation destinations, in hopes that all Eastern folks, no matter how filthy rich or dirt poor, can enjoy spring break like the head of a government.

♦ Camping

Low on funds? Camping is a cheap alternative to pricey hotel stays. It can be even more thrifty to brave the great outdoors in someone else’s backyard. Most students (and possibly some professors) will be out of town for break. They won’t mind if you inhabit their lawn because they won’t be able to tell you were there until you’re already gone (or hopefully leaving). You can utilize their patio furniture for outdoor comfort (hammocks *rock*). Try to scope out a home with a fire pit for instant party fun and the magic of hot food. Bring your own hose and curtain for simulated showers, or patchouli for that psuedo-hippie feel.

♦ Hitching

Make like Kerouac and give your thumb some exercise “On the Road” style. Hitchhiking is less common and acceptable now than it was in the 1950s, no thanks to psychotic murderers who used the glorious form of transportation to satisfy their bloodlust. This will add a



Holly Henschen
ASSOCIATE VERGE EDITOR

thrilling degree of anxious excitement to your spring break adventure. Don’t forget a crazy Neal Cassidy-like sidekick to share your youthful exploits. Also, bring a can of mase for safety and a peace offering to share with the obliging drivers who you hope will pick you up. But leave the trenchcoat and ski-mask at home.

♦ Take a walk

Here’s a spiritual journey for you, just what every student wants on spring break. Pull on your strongest shoes and pick your favorite direction. Now walk that way for three and a half days. Then turn around, and walk back. On your adventure of epic proportions, you will be free from the stresses of academia, as well as those of comfort and shelter. This leaves ample time to ponder the mysteries of life, like “Why are we here?” and “Why does Charleston water taste like moldy dirt and fish?” To achieve added surrealism, forgo food for the week. Without the responsibility of digestion, your brain will encounter sensations never before imagined. Note: No matter how they insist, do not, repeat, *do not* lick any toads on your 7-day stroll.

♦ Get Rich Quick Scheme

You’re stuck with no cash to fritter away on a week of blissful partying. But your globetrotting friends will be jealous when they return if you are fanning yourself with a wad of bills, while they are exhausted and penniless.

You could sell your soul to the highest bidder on eBay. But that wouldn’t fill the entire week, and I hear Satan only trades in euros these days. You could also sell your plasma for \$25. But you can only do that twice a month.

A clever little moneygrubber will scan the “Lost and found” section of the local classifieds. Take up the responsibility of sleuthing out the items that advertise a reward. When you find that lost puppy or wallet or child, call and inquire about your loot. Should the compensation be less than fitting for your hard work, tell the loser to increase the reward, or it’s curtains for Fluffy. Happily collect your cash, or follow through on the diabolical threat. There. Hopefully, you’ve done a good deed, kept busy during break and made some moolah.

I hope I’ve been a good travel agent to the broke with this handy-dandy guide. I’ll be flying away for break, not hitching or walking, but don’t get any funny ideas about camping in my backyard – my roommate will be home. May God have mercy on your soul if you are stuck in Chuck counting tumbleweeds for a week.

CONCERT CALENDAR

Fri. Feb. 27
♦ Nil8 w/ The Goodyear Pimps
Friends & Co.
10 p.m.

♦ Pennywise
House of Blues
Chicago
6:15 p.m.

♦ Split Lip
Rayfield
Cowboy Monkey,
Champaign
8 p.m.

Sat. Feb. 28
♦ The Riptones
The Tripdaddys
Friends & Co.
10 p.m.

Sun. Feb. 29
♦ Chili Jam
Top of the Roc
3 p.m.

♦ Brent Byrd
All Acoustic
Sunday
The Uptowner
9-11p.m.

♦ C a n n i b a l
Corpse
House of Blues
Chicago
6:15 p.m.

♦ 40 Below
Summer
Pop’s Nightclub,
Saugat
7:30 p.m.

