

2-27-2006

## Daily Eastern News: February 27, 2006

Eastern Illinois University

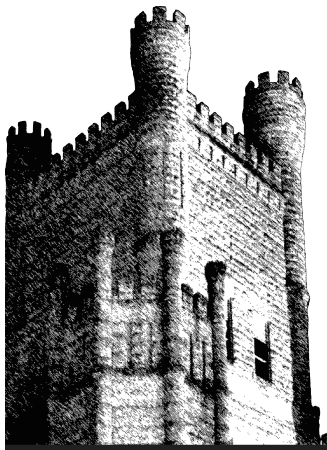
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*“Tell the truth and don’t be afraid.”*

SPORTS ♦ Men’s track wins sixth straight OVC title: page 12

# THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

VOLUME 91, ISSUE 34

DENnews.com

90th Anniversary

Eastern Illinois University, Charleston

MONDAY  
FEBRUARY  
**27**  
2006



ERIC HILTNER/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

**A house located at 1519 12th St. caught on fire around 7 p.m. Friday. No one was injured, but there was \$25,000 worth of damage to the structure.**

## Fire wrecks student home

*Flames, water cause \$25,000 in damages*

By MATT POLI  
ACTIVITIES EDITOR

A fire caused \$25,000 worth of damage to the structure of a duplex rented by three students at 1519 B 12th Street on Friday evening.

The cause of the fire is under investigation, said Fire Capt. Dan Ensign.

Justin Cummings, a tenant of the house, said he and his roommate Craig Feigenbaum were at class at the time of the incident.

“I don’t know how it started,” Cummings said. “My roommate was home at the time and said he was watching TV when he smelled smoke.”

Cummings’ roommate, who wished to remain anonymous,

called 911 and got the dog and himself out of the house.

Ensign said the 911 call was placed at 6:50 p.m., and firefighters did not return to the station until 9:30 p.m.

The owner of the property, Daisy Lamb of DJ Properties, came to the scene after a neighbor called her. “The cost is definitely going to be expensive,” Lamb said.

In addition to the damage from the smoke and water, a water main in the house broke, Cummings said.

“There’s about three inches of water everywhere,” Cummings said.

Sgt. Brad Oyer of the Charleston Police Department said he had police officers evacuate residents from the Atrium Apartments.

“We wanted to get them out in case it (Atrium) caught fire,” Oyer said.

SEE FIRE PAGE 7

### JACKSON TRIAL

## Bond money granted for testing

*Judge grants \$2,000 for DNA analysis, mental evaluation*

By KRISTEN LARSEN  
CITY EDITOR

Patrick Jackson was granted \$2,000 from his bond for psychiatric evaluation and DNA analysis in court Friday.

Jackson, who is being charged with counts related to the September 2005 assault of a female Eastern student, testified about his income. Jackson has received checks for \$3,000 since he has been on leave from the U.S. Army starting in September. However, the Army has frozen the checks since mid-November. Jackson also received a notice that he owes the Army \$8,000 because of back payment.

Because Jackson has no income and cannot afford a psychiatric evaluation, Jackson’s lawyer, Scott Lerner of Lerner Law Offices in Champaign, made a motion to have funds provided for an evaluation and DNA analysis.

“I want to explore every avenue,” Lerner said.

A psychiatric evaluation can show whether Jackson was suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder that could explain why he does not remember the crime, if he committed the crime at all, Lerner said.

The court also denied a motion to suppress photographic lineup identification in the case after testimonies from Sgt. John Bennett and Det. James Blagg of the Charleston Police Department.

Lerner asked for the photographic lineup to be suppressed because he said Jackson’s pic-

### MISS BLACK EIU



ERIC HILTNER/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

**Jennifer Ether, a junior journalism major and former Miss Black EIU, crowns the pageant’s 35th winner Ebone Ashford, a sophomore pre-med major, Saturday night in the Grand Ballroom of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.**

## A queen is crowned

*Ebone Ashford wins 2006 title*

By BRANDY HEADLEY  
STAFF REPORTER

Spectators stood against the walls, in front of the doorways and sat in the aisles. Not one of the nearly 300 chairs were empty for the 2006 Miss Black EIU Pageant in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union Grand Ballroom.

Ebone Ashford said she couldn’t help but wonder, “Is that right? Did they just say my name?” when she was crowned the 35th Miss Black EIU Queen.

Ashford said she is enthused and excited to hold the title.

“I plan to encourage more females to join the pageant next year,” she said.

Ashford had competed in one pageant prior to being crowned and said this pageant gave her a chance to try something different and step outside of her box.

Andrea Davis finished in second place and Marjani Lewis came in third place.

The four-hour event presented creative expression, African garments, dance performances, talent, evening gowns and impromptu questions from five different contestants.

Freshman Kara Taylor was the first contestant to begin the creative expression category with her presentation on the effects of alcoholism.

Taylor reflected on her own experiences of her grandfather’s alcoholism and how it created such pain and conflict for her family.

SEE QUEEN PAGE 7

SEE TRIAL PAGE 7





NORA MABERRY  
ENGLISH GRADUATE  
ASSISTANT

“Heaven forbid we educate our standards or we let them use a public forum ...”

A high school student in Indiana wrote an article about the danger of oral sex. This article was not printed because the Superintendent, Dr. Lynn Lehman, said the piece was not appropriate for publication, which is her right ...



JOHN BOLIN  
SENIOR  
ENGLISH MAJOR

“And yet, immigrants still come here expecting us to cater to their ... needs — and we do it!”

Recently, I was at a filling station, getting gas for my car. I was in a hurry, so I decided that I'd pay for my gas at the pump to save time. As I prepared to swipe my debit card though, I noticed something funny on the little transaction screen ...

WTF?

# Poll looks for best-kept bathrooms

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. - Call it the Toilet Bowl. A bathroom supply company sponsoring an online poll aimed at finding America's best bathroom has narrowed the field to five sparkling-clean, sweet-smelling potties.

A Michigan bistro, a Rhode Island seafood house, a New Jersey casino, an Illinois airport and an Ohio restaurant are the finalists in the contest, which will name a winner in April based on the number each receives in admittedly nonscientific online voting.

"It's a big compliment, surprisingly," said contest organizer Jessica Bensten. "People get really excited."

Sponsored by Cincinnati-based Cintas Corp. (CTAS), manufacturer of Sanis restroom supplies, the America's Best Restroom contest was started in 2001 to spotlight businesses that maintain "exceptional hygiene, with style" in their potties.

Nominations can be made by anyone, and about 30 are received annually, she said.

Organizers do research about the businesses but don't actually try out the chosen throne rooms before selecting five for the online poll. "We have nominations from all over the place. It would be too hard," said Bensten.

The nominees, in turn, put their best foot forward - assuming it doesn't have toilet paper stuck on the bottom - by submitting photos of their restrooms and information about the business, which are then posted on the contest's Web site along with photographs so people can vote.

To vote, go to <http://www.bestrestroom.com>

The winner, which will be announced in April, gets a plaque for the business and a place in the "America's Best Restroom Hall of Fame."

There's no award for Number Two.



## EARLY HEADLINES

Listen to "Wake Up Live" with Rob and Jenn Monday through Friday for morning headlines on 88.9 or at [weiihitmix.net](http://weiihitmix.net)

## THE SOUND OF MUSIC



JOHN BAILEY/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

**Richard Rossi, conductor and director of orchestral and choral activities at Eastern leads the orchestra in McAfee Auditorium Sunday evening. This was part of the Eastern Symphony Orchestra performance of "Stagestruck II: An American in Paris."**

## FIVE-DAY WEATHER

TODAY	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>54</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>38</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>34</b>
Partly cloudy	Partly cloudy	Few showers	Partly cloudy	Mostly sunny



**PODCAST of the WEEK**

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## COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY NEWS

# Eastern's Greeks learn hazing risks

Hazing, a dangerous ritual often associated with sorority and fraternity recruitment, can hurt or even kill those involved and make a campus environment unsafe. Students can learn more about the dangers and consequences associated with the practice at "Hazing: When Will It End," a presentation sponsored by Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity and the Interfraternity and Panhellenic Councils at Eastern. The presentation will take place at 7 p.m. today in the Grand Ballroom of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

## New Orleans celebrates Mardi Gras despite recent devastation to city

BY KATY MATLOCK

THE LARIAT (BAYLOR U.)

WACO, Texas - "Mardi Gras around here is sort of like Christmas," said Jennifer Richardson, who works for the captain of the Krewe of Orpheus in New Orleans.

Even if it was just four men with a radio flyer wagon, Mardi Gras celebrations would take place in New Orleans this year, she said.

Krewes are organizations that organize Mardi Gras parades and events. What has surprised Richardson is the extent to which the Mardi Gras krewes will be celebrating.

The Big Easy was devastated in August by Hurricane Katrina when the levees broke, flooding the city of more than 1 million people.

Richardson said she expected the event to be "pared down" this year, but instead, it is "just as big and grand as ever."

"It's showing that we're OK," she said.

Lafayette, Texas, freshman Margaret Nezat said she believes Mardi Gras is important to the culture of southern Louisiana. The parades in New Orleans will be good for the city, Nezat said.

## Students brace for the switch to new electronic MCAT format

BY VERONICA LOUIE

DAILY CALIFORNIAN (UC-BERKELEY)

BERKELEY, Calif. - With the MCAT changing in format and length for test takers in January 2007, test-prep companies and pre-med students are bracing themselves for the adjustment.

Traditional testing materials will be replaced as the eight-hour exam transitions from paper-and-pencil to a computer-based format, said Ellen Julian, associate vice president of the Association of American Medical Colleges, which administers the exam.

The test's length will also be reduced by 30 percent for each of its four sections on the test, she said.

While this change is not scheduled to be put into effect until next January, association officials have been working on the transition for nearly a decade.

Julian said the association has been pushing for the computer format because of the benefits it will bring to students, including more chances to take the test and faster test score results.

**EASTERN NEWS**

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# AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES DIRECTOR STUDIES COLES COUNTY BLACK POPULATION

By KRISTEN LARSEN  
CITY EDITOR

Onaiwu Ogbomo wanted to find information about the history of black people in Coles County upon accepting the position of director of the African-American Studies at Eastern in 2000.

"I couldn't find any documentation of a history of blacks in Coles County," Ogbomo said.

By collecting photos from different families in Coles, Ogbomo was able to put together the book Photographic Images and the History of African Americans in Coles County, Illinois, which describes the history of blacks in Coles County and important blacks from the county.

From 1840 to 2000, census numbers Ogbomo compiled for his book show the percentage of blacks in Coles County has risen only 2 percent. In 1840, 33 (or 0.3 percent) of 9,616 Coles County residents were black. In 2000, 1,215 (or 2.3 percent) of the 53,196 Coles County residents were black.

The first blacks to settle in Coles County came from Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee. Some were already freed slaves, but many came to Illinois as slaves and were freed by their owners. Coles County is named after one such owner, the second governor of Illinois, Edward Coles, who came to



COURTESY OF  
ONAIWU W. OGBOMO  
**Dr. Carol Surles,  
President of  
Eastern, Mar. 1,  
1999 to July 31,  
2001.**

Illinois in 1819. Once he became a citizen of the state, he freed his slaves and gave the head of each family 160 acres of land, which was the law at the time.

When Eastern was established in 1895, it is not clear when the first blacks were admitted. However, records show the first black graduate was in 1910. Even though the population of blacks in Coles County has been a minority, some local black students and citizens have become part of history in not only the Coles County and Eastern communities but also across the United States.

## Patricia Roberts Harris

Harris was born in Mattoon and raised in both Mattoon and Chicago. After graduating from George Washington University Law School, she was admitted to the District of Columbia bar. She was also dean of the law school at Howard University, where she received her bachelor's degree. In 1965, President Lyndon Johnson named Harris U.S. ambassador to Luxembourg, which made her the first black woman to hold a U.S. ambassadorial position. Harris was also the first



COURTESY OF  
ONAIWU W. OGBOMO  
**Picture of Patricia Roberts  
Harris of Mattoon on a United  
Service Black Heritage Stamp  
Series. The stamp was issued  
in 2000.**

black woman to serve in a presidential cabinet post when President Jimmy Carter appointed her secretary of housing and urban development in 1977. Harris died of cancer in Washington, D.C., on March 23, 1985. In 2000, a United States Postal Service Black Heritage Stamp was issued in her honor.

## Zella Powell

Powell, according to records, might have been one of the first

black graduates from Eastern Illinois State Normal School in 1910. Powell went on to become a private school teacher in Mattoon. After continuing her education from 1914 to 1916 at Chicago Normal School, she was hired as a full-time elementary school teacher in Chicago.

## Dr. Carol Surles

Surles was the first black and first female president at Eastern.

## Larry Smith

Smith, a native of Mattoon, is currently covering the Winter Olympics in Torino, Italy, for CNN.

Smith left Eastern in 1990, a semester short of graduation, to work for CNN.

Having worked with CNN for 13 years, Smith is now a prime time sports correspondent for CNN Headline News. Along with the Olympics, he has covered such events as NCAA Final Fours, NBA Playoffs, PGA Championships, baseball's postseason, NFL and college football and regular season games. In 2002, Smith was honored as a Distinguished Alumnus. He has also hosted a charity fundraiser since 1999 called The Larry Smith Celebrity Golf Classic. The money raised from the event goes toward scholarship money for Coles County high school students.

## John M. Craft



COURTESY OF  
ONAIWU W. OGBOMO

**John M. Craft, being welcomed back officially after competing in the 1972 Munich Olympics. L-R Tom Katsimpalis, EIU Athletics Director; Gilbert Fite, University President; John Craft; and "Pat" O'Brien, EIU Track.**

Craft placed fifth in the triple jump in the 1972 Olympics in Munich, Germany.

Craft was also a track athlete at Eastern and became the first Eastern student to compete in the Olympics.

He graduated from Eastern in 1969 with a bachelor's degree and in '74 with a master's degree.

In 1970, Craft joined the Eastern faculty and became an associate professor of physical education.

He retired in the spring of 2002.

# House bill aims to protect interest rates of current student loans

By TIFFANY KOCHANISKI  
STAFF REPORTER

Gov. Rod Blagojevich is planning to sell student loans to make money to decrease the state's deficit.

The Illinois House of Representatives passed HB 4221, which aims to keep interest rates on student loans the same for current students and alumni who currently have the loans.

Blagojevich plans to sell the student loans to an outside agency. Many members of the state government are worried the company that buys the loans could raise interest rates for current loans and have created the bill to try to keep that

from happening.

"Even if it (the bill) doesn't pass the senate, it would be a breach of contract to change the terms," said State Rep. Chapin Rose (R-Mahomet). "If this debt is sold, whoever buys it can't change it, period."

Rose said he does not think selling the loans is a permanent solution, but thinks the only reason they should be sold at all is if the money goes back into paying for education, not government expenses.

"The only way this should be considered is if every last penny should go back to high education," Rose said.

Currently, selling the loans would give the state a one-time payment of \$90 million. Rose said this money

could possibly be used to finance the governor's proposed \$1,000 tax credit for college freshmen and sophomores he announced in his budget address.

Since the money would only come one time, Rose said he is wondering, "How do you pay for it (the tax credit) next year?"

Eastern President Lou Hencken said the sale of student loans and the resulting bill would not affect many Eastern students.

Ninety-eight percent of students do not have Illinois Student Assistance Commission loans. The loans they do have are the result of a "direct loaning plan with federal government," he said.

By not going through ISAC and going directly through the government,

## About HB 4221

- ◆ **What it could do:** Keep interest rates on student loans fixed if Gov. Rod Blagojevich sells the student loan debt.
- ◆ **How it will affect Eastern:** President Hencken said it won't affect many because 98 percent of student loans are directly from the government and not through the Illinois Student Assistance Commission.
- ◆ **The next step:** The bill will go before the Illinois State Senate to be voted on, then the governor if passed for final approval.

the students get the money a lot faster.

"We will download from the government, \$13 million or \$14 million (per semester)," Hencken said. "We get it that quickly."

ISAC is developing contracts with its financial advisors to improve services, increase revenue, expand and continue to provide services, retain staff and to continue to pay for its expenses, said Larry Matejka, executive producer of ISAC.

"This is an extremely complicated issue," Matejka said. "The student loan industry is a very hot item right now."

It is an issue that is being talked about in many states beside Illinois, and Matejka said he thinks this topic will be one that will continue into the future.

The bill, which was passed by the House on Tuesday, will now go before the senate to be voted on. It will then go before the governor for approval.



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## University Board Week's Events

SPECIAL EVENTS	COMEDY	MOVIES
 <b>Madden Tournament</b> Thursday, March 2nd University Ballroom 7pm	 <b>Michael Dean Ester</b> Friday, March 3rd University Ballroom 9pm	 <b>Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire</b> Saturday, March 4th Buzzard Auditorium 5pm & 8pm

**Check out University Board on Facebook**



# OPINION

“Tell the truth and don’t be afraid.”

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2006

## EDITORIAL BOARD

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### COMMENTARY



**HOLLY MOHR**  
ASSOCIATE VERGE EDITOR

## REMEMBERING THE LIFE-CHANGING TIMES

You never know where you’re going to be when your life may suddenly change. It can all change in an instant, at home or away, in a school or on a plane, without any warning.

Here are three perspectives from three generations sitting around the table realizing how one event can change everything.

On Sept. 7, 1940, the London Blitz began. World War II had begun for England two years earlier than it had for the United States. Germany had begun bombing London in hopes for complete destruction. My nana was only 6 years old playing outside on the street in front of her cousin’s house in Richmond, Surrey, England when she saw the German planes flying over the neighborhood on their way to bomb London. She soon evacuated the area with her sister and many other children because of the every-night bombing. My nana had to leave her parents, home and identity for nine months to survive the London Blitz. She returned changed, insecure and claustrophobic.

On April 19, 1995, a massive explosion crumbled the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, Okla. The event, better known as the Oklahoma City bombing, changed my mom. She was staying in the Marriott in the Adams Morgan area of Washington D.C. for a Head Start Childcare Conference. At the conference that day, her colleagues were watching dead children being pulled out of the rubble that used to be the childcare center of the federal building on big screens instead of celebrating the advancements of childcare. My mom was traumatized from seeing children, who she worked with, murdered. She returned changed, disturbed and scared.

On April 20, 1999, the

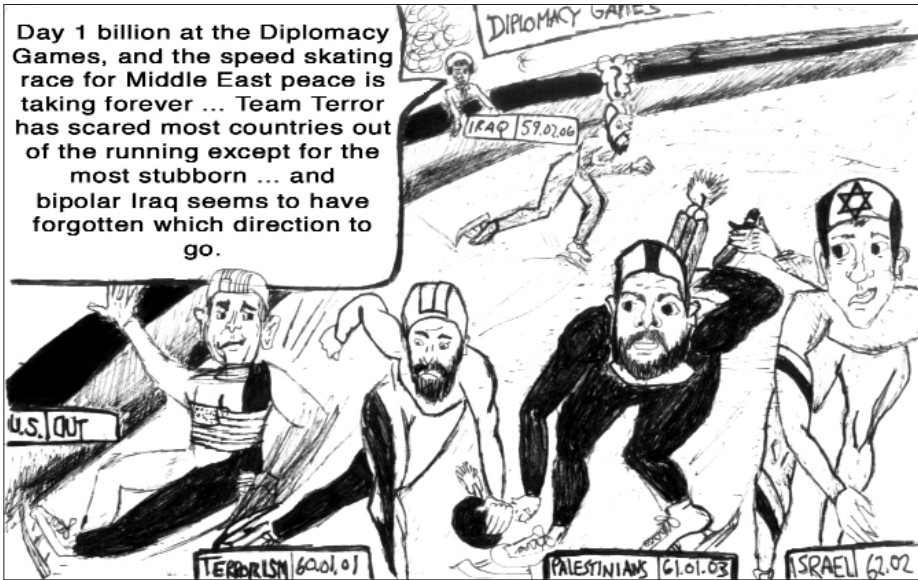
Columbine High School massacre occurred. I was having after-school tea with my nana and mom when I started watching the horror on TV. I saw students running out of the school and dangling or falling out of windows. As the truth of the story unraveled, my heart seemed to drop. How could teens my age have the rage and the savageness to kill others they went to school with? If it could happen in up-scale Colorado, then it could definitely happen in Central Illinois, I thought. The massacre wounded me so deeply that I, only 16-years-old, spent the next three months sleeping on my mom’s floor. I also planned escape routes out of every classroom I had just in case of a similar situation. Days after the shooting, my school locked down after receiving bomb threats from a student. I, of course, was stuck in the library when the lock down occurred. The library had been the most deadly room to be in at Columbine. I returned changed, broken and terrified.

On Sept. 11, 2001, terrorists flew American planes into the two World Trade Centers and the Pentagon. My nana was at home, my mom at work and I was at school. We all remember being shocked, scared and shattered. It brought our memories of the London Blitz, Oklahoma City bombing and the Columbine massacre along with our vulnerability and fear. But with our terror came something else. We were changed (as a nation); we had a new pride in our country, and everyone seemed to have a stronger family togetherness.

But now in 2006, that national pride and family togetherness has dwindled right before our eyes. Do we really need another tragedy to bring that back? In a moment, everything can change. People forget, and we need to remember. We must never forget.

*Mohr, a senior journalism major, can be reached at DENverge@gmail.com.*

### EDITORIAL CARTOON BY RICH LAKEBERG



### EDITORIAL

## Questions still surround Hosty case

On Feb. 21, the U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear an appeal from former student journalists at Governors State University in University Park, IL. The lower court ruling that allows college administrators to censor student publications will stand for now.

In most cases, the administration probably doesn’t bother with a student newspaper because there’s an unwritten understanding between the two.

Student journalists know they have the right to their opinions about the administration, but since most collegiate newspapers are owned under their respective universities, the administration could have the last call, if it chose to.

The attempted appeal became the Hosty v. Carter case. This situation included three students from Governors State who sued in January of 2001 when a dean stopped an issue of the school’s newspaper, *The Innovator*, from being printed. Prior issues contained several stories criticizing university administrators. Patricia Carter, dean of student affairs at Governors State, halted the printing of the issue so she could review it before approving it, according to court documents.

It’s probably good in the long run that the Supreme Court didn’t chose to hear the appeal. If the appeal was approved, it could become the benchmark of university newspapers and certain concerns surrounding *The Innovator*’s case.

Because of “unconstitutional uncertainties” Carter wasn’t expected to know what was legally permissible, which is why her stoppage of the printing of an issue was not seen to be illegal.

#### At issue

The decision by the U.S. Supreme Court to not hear the Hosty v. Carter case regarding collegiate press freedom.

#### Our stance

Now is not the best time to hear this case in the U.S. Supreme Court for a couple of reasons. First, the laws regarding this issue are still a little confusing about what papers can and cannot do. Secondly, there are concerns surrounding Governor State’s case.

While total college press freedom may not be beneficial, writing clear and concise laws would be. Carter got away with something that students thought was illegal, but because the law lacked specifics, Carter could not be held liable for her decision.

The Supreme Court’s 1988 Hazelwood ruling, which censored high school newspapers, was ruled applicable for colleges and universities as well.

It would be wise for someone to differentiate between high schools and colleges in the censorship laws. A high school newspaper and a university newspaper can not be compared, so the two should not have the same laws regarding each medium. Another hazy part of the law is when the court officials decide to extend one decision rather than create a new one.

Lawyers defending college newspaper freedom spoke to justices at several universities including Northwestern University, Pennsylvania State University and others.

“An uncensored college newspaper is vitally important to attracting college students to journalism and providing them with a real-world training ground that prepares them to become professional journalists,” lawyers said, according to a Feb. 21 article in the *Chicago Tribune*.

It seems clear that state and national laws should be clarified and split up if necessary in order to eliminate confusion and solve these cases in a more quick and logical fashion.

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

## YOUR TURN: LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### OUTRAGE OVER CARTOONS NOT FITTING FOR FREE PRESS

The Muslim madness over the prophet Muhammad is crazy.

The Islam religion isn’t the religion of peace but of war. The physical ways of Islam is the global jihad that is the truth.

In the United States, the press mocks Jesus all of the time. But, you don’t see Christians threatening the newspapers, killing people and burning down build-

ings.

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The Christian walk is of love not war! The people that bash Jesus, we pray for. I love Muslims, not hate them.

When the Antichrist rules, the Muslims will fight on his side against the

Christians. This will be the 21st century battle of all times.

In the future the spiritual battle will manifest more. Today we see a physical battle and tomorrow the spiritual battle will intensify.

Extra! Extra! Read all about it: no religion can stop the freedom of the press.

**GEORGE CULLEY**  
PINCKNEYVILLE, IL

**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. We reserve the right to edit letters for length. 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 **DENeic@gmail.com**

HOUSING AND DINING

# SURVEYING FOR A CHANGE



JOHN BAILEY/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Alicia Durante, a freshman nursing major, swipes in Amy Buoy, a junior psychology major, Sunday evening at the Carman Dining Center, one of four dining halls on Eastern’s campus. Surveys conducted show students growing satisfaction with housing and dining services. “We’re now finishing Thomas this summer with moveable furniture,” said Mark Hudson, director of Housing and Dining Services.

## Students’ satisfaction with housing and dining services constantly increase

By TABITHA MILLER  
STAFF REPORTER

Surveys conducted by University Housing and Dining Services reveal students’ satisfaction with their housing has progressed since 2002.

The dining program alone has an 11 percent higher score than the national average, according to National Benchmarking surveys, conducted every two years.

“We have grown every year in virtually every category,” said Mark Hudson, director of Housing and Dining Services.

Student satisfaction has risen from 84 percent in 2002 to 90 percent in 2004, Hudson said.

Hudson said the process of improving

residents’ living conditions is a constant process done through the Residence Hall Association, presidential satisfaction surveys and National Benchmarking surveys. Eastern has participated in the National Benchmarking surveys since 1998.

The surveys compare Eastern students’ satisfaction level with that of students from other schools.

Hudson said students live on campus for an average of two and a half years.

During that time especially, he wants students to have many options while they are eating in the residence hall dining centers, he said.

“We used to serve food at very limited times at the dining centers, but now, a student can get food virtually anytime they want,” he said.

Hudson said the changes that have been made in the past few years include dining center alterations and improvements and the complete renovation of residence hall furnishings.

“We’re now finishing Thomas this summer with moveable furniture,” Hudson said. “We’re redoing walls, carpeting the

## “We have grown every year in virtually every category.”

MARK HUDSON,  
DIRECTOR OF HOUSING AND DINING SERVICES

rooms and installing the new furniture that can be arranged in 24 different ways.”

Jill Huhn, a junior family and consumer sciences major, has lived in Andrews Hall for the past three years and said she has seen improvements throughout her stay at Eastern, including small changes like new ways to rent movies.

Hudson said students should feel free to make comments, and they can do this by participating in the RHA, filling out comment cards, which are located in the dining centers, or by going online and sending an e-mail to the director of University Dining Jody Horn.

Terrah Graves, staff reporter, contributed to this article.

## Two more swipes added to smallest meal plan

By TERRAH GRAVES  
STAFF REPORTER

Student feedback received in 2004 through surveys conducted by the University Housing and Dining Services have helped bring about changes for the fall 2006 semester.

The smallest meal option will be seven meal swipes a week, two more than the old plan.

Five bonus meals will also be added onto all plans, and will be available for use anytime throughout the semester and can even be used to purchase meals for guests.

“Say you are especially hungry one week and use up all of your meal swipes, that’s where these meals come in,” said Mark Hudson, director of University Housing and Dining Services. “(They) will also be free of charge.”

Students will also have the option of being able to use their Panther Cards for meal swipes every two hours instead of once during each meal zone.

“If you eat at 8 a.m., you no longer have to wait until the brunch or lunch meal zones,” Hudson said. “Instead, you will be able to eat at 10 a.m.”

“The dining halls have started to cater to many different tastes,” said Jill Huhn, a junior family and consumer sciences major and resident of Andrews Hall.

Changes are made based on surveys done every other year to ensure student satisfaction throughout campus. The survey is 125 questions and inquires about areas such as physical environment in the dorms, relationship with residence hall staff members and general satisfaction.

Although these changes are greatly anticipated by most students, the surveys are said to only represent about one-third of the student population and have a return rate of about 45 percent due to the length of the questionnaire.

“Students are afraid of the survey because they think it will take them a long time,” said Jessica Leathers, a sophomore biological sciences major. “But in the end, it’s worth it because you have a say in the improvement of your school.”

The Housing and Dining Services Web site has also made improvements, including a nutritional calculator, menus for the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union Food Court and comment cards.

“These new changes are a huge accomplishment and an awesome improvement,” said Elizabeth Gergits, Resident Hall Association president.

Surveys are available in each dining center and on the Web site, <http://www.eiu.edu/~housing/>.

Tabitha Miller, staff reporter, contributed to this article.

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# Battle of the Bands helps Best Buddies

*Musicians come together to raise money for RSO*

By TERRAH GRAVES  
STAFF REPORTER

Two forces came together in a battle of talent that shook Thomas Hall Dining Center Saturday night.

The Battle of the Bands event was put together by "Hit Mix" WEIU 88.9 and the University Board to raise money for the Best Buddies organization.

**"It was cool to be able to do a fundraiser that was different than the ones we would normally put on."**

JEN SMITH,  
FUND-RAISING  
COORDINATOR FOR BEST  
BUDDIES

first benefit show.

"We like to do anything we can to play our music in front of people, and when we heard about a chance to play for a good cause we thought, 'why not, let's give it a shot,'" said Jaime Aguirre, lead guitarist and vocalist for Flying Just Below Radar.

Another Chicago-based band, ...for all I care, came out to perform and gave half of its merchandise profits to the fundraiser.

"It was cool to be able to do a fund-raiser-

"I know how hardworking Best Buddies is, and we are always trying to put together shows, so it just seemed to work out," said Robyn Drozd, mainstage coordinator for the UB.

Although a small group of people showed up, the performance went off without a hitch.

It was Chicago-based band Flying Just Below Radar's



ERIC HILTNER/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS  
**Melissa, of the band ... for all i care, performs in the Thomas Hall Dining Center Saturday night during a battle of the bands organized by University Board.**

er that was different than the ones we would normally put on," said Jen Smith, fund-raising coordinator for Best Buddies. "I think that everyone had a lot of fun."

The event raised about \$130 overall. Some students said they attended for the sounds of the bands and others for the charitable cause.

## COMMUNICATION DAY

# Speaker discusses Great Depression

By LAURA FARMER  
STAFF REPORTER

Communication Day was held Wednesday on the third floor of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

The event hosted five panel discussions on the topic of representations of hardship and privilege in the media.

The main objective was to expose audiences to different topics based on poverty through various forms of media.

Communication Day is a way to intellectually stimulate thought-provoking discussions among the panels and audience, said Brian Sowa, who helped organize the event.

The keynote speaker was Cara Finnegan from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

Her speech was on the correlation between the Great Depression of the 1930s and the recent disaster of Hurricane Katrina.

Using photographs and excerpts from her book "Picturing Poverty: Print Culture and FSA Photographs," Finnegan presented her speech to an estimated 200 students and faculty.

Other discussion panels were held throughout the day as well.

Some of the professors of the Communication Studies Department were involved, including Shane Miller, Angela Aguayo, Tim Coombs and Mehdi Semati.

Topics ranged from crisis communication to representations of class in American media. All forums were tied together by the theme of poverty.

"Using a theme to link the panels helped put a spotlight on a variety of issues associated with poverty in the U.S.," said Carrie Wilson Brown, instructor in the Communication Department.

Sowa said he has been running Communication Day events for several years.


Past Communication Day themes have included rhetoric of war, professional development and career-oriented discussions.

Sowa said next year he hopes to continue exposing students and faculty to the relevant themes of life.

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CARRIE HOLLIS/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Comedian Kareem Green calls out to an audience member Friday night during his skit in the 7th Street Underground. Green arrived 15 minutes late for his performance, but the crowd didn't seem to let it disrupt its fun.

# Comedian great, but late

*Kareem Green keeps crowd laughing after tardy arrival*

By Chelsey Hansen  
Staff Reporter

Kareem Green took center stage to entertain students with his comedy act after arriving 15 minutes late at 7th Street Underground Friday night. Despite his tardiness, Green kept the crowd laughing. “Kareem was hilarious and exceeded all expectations I had coming into the evening,” said Elmer Monaco, a sophomore corporate communications major.

The crowd was responsive to his attitude and his sense of style. Colby Esenther, a sophomore industrial technology major, said Green’s jokes were well-fitted to the college-aged audience members. “He really did remind me a lot like Dave Chappelle, but his jokes were definitely his own,” Esenther said. “Even though it was the same kind of humor, he did keep his jokes original.” Green’s act was based around his personal life growing up. He grew up in a foster home in New York City and joked about how he was pressured into acting badly, such as selling drugs, as he got older. He laughed about it and said it wasn’t a job for him – he was always too paranoid. Green became a comedian after he

“He really did remind me a lot of Dave Chappelle, but his jokes were definitely his own.”

Colby Esenther, sophomore industrial technology major

got out of jail. He told the crowd how he wanted to get away from all the bad decisions in his life. Green turned to comedy and is a successful comedian who has performed at the Apollo Theater in New York City. Green involved the audience in his interactive act by asking questions to crowd members. “I like how he got close with the audience; it felt like we were all just friends sitting around laughing and having a good time,” said Waldo Sobotka, a senior physical education major. “He was hilarious. I couldn’t stop laughing.” Green performs his act in colleges across the country.

## QUEEN:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

### Four-hour event highlights five contestants

In between each contestant’s performance, the live band “War Cry” played impromptu numbers to keep the audience at ease. Ebone Ashford, a sophomore pre-med biology major, was the second contestant to perform a skit on “Bulimia: The Hidden Secrets.” Andrey Davis, the third contestant and a freshman English secondary education major, expressed her views on body dysmorphic disorder. Jennifer Cooper, a junior family consumer sciences major, showed the dangers of drug abuse and Marjani Lewis, a sophomore journalism major, presented a self-made movie on the presence of sexual assault on college campuses. The African garment competi-

tion displayed each contestant’s creative artistry in design since each garment was handmade by the individual contestant. Each contestant also expressed her views on what it means to be a black woman in today’s society and how her ancestry has shaped her lives today in a pre-recorded voiceover during their garment presentations. Jennifer Ether, who was Miss Black EIU 2005, said even though she’s going to miss the crown, she is happy for Ashford. “I’m happy to know that I can give someone the same opportunities and experiences I had as queen. “I hope Ashford can successfully go about accomplishing all of her duties, have a strong mind and know what she wants for next year’s pageant,” she said. Ashford won a first-place trophy and awards in the Miss Black EIU 2006 garment and talent competitions as well as a \$500 scholarship to be used toward her next year’s tuition.

## TRIAL:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

### Court denies motion to suppress photo lineup ID

ture stands out from the others. In the six-picture lineup, the background on Jackson’s picture appears lighter than the other five. “It’s like on Sesame Street, which picture is not like the other,” Lerner said. “My client’s picture is the different one.” Both Blagg and Bennett

explained the process of choosing the pictures for the lineup during their testimonies. After police take a photo of the suspect, a description is placed into a database called Vision RMS along with the photo. This program selects other criminals with the same description. The police then pick five photos and place them in a lineup for victims and/or witnesses to look at. In the lineup with Jackson, two witnesses and the victim immediately identified Jackson, Blagg said. The next tentative court date is scheduled for April 19 at 3 p.m.

## FIRE:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

### Eastern will help students recover from damage

Neighbors in the duplex at 1519 A 12th Street evacuated their home as well. “I opened up the back door. It’s a duplex, so there’s a middle room, and the whole back room was filled up with smoke,” said Frankie

Sanders, tenant of 1519 A 12th Street. Dan Nadler, vice president for Student Affairs, and Mark Hudson, director of Housing and Dining Services, were also present at the time of the fire to make sure the students were all right. “We’d help them out in any way possible,” Hudson said. The university will assist the students displaced by the fire by helping them find a temporary residence, replacing their books and providing them with money and food if needed.



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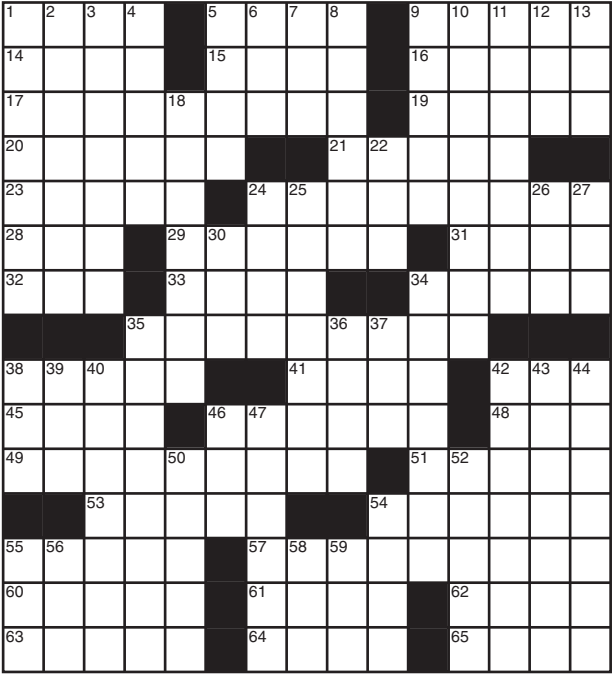
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- |  |   |                                |
|--|---|--------------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>                                | <b>24</b> Bottom line, businesswise         | <b>48</b> Opposite WSW         |
| <b>1</b> Persistent annoyer                  | <b>28</b> Dobbin's doc                      | <b>49</b> "Slow down!"         |
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| <b>9</b> Monastery head                      | <b>31</b> "___ number one!" (stadium chant) | <b>53</b> African language     |
| <b>14</b> Author Wiesel                      | <b>32</b> Suffix with Brooklyn              | <b>54</b> "Relax, soldier!"    |
| <b>15</b> Geometry calculation               | <b>33</b> Meat that's often served piccata  | <b>55</b> Makes, as a salary   |
| <b>16</b> Does a prelaundry chore            | <b>34</b> Tête topper                       | <b>57</b> Mueslix alternative  |
| <b>17</b> Leader of an 1831 slave rebellion  | <b>35</b> Faultfinder extraordinaire        | <b>60</b> "The final frontier" |
| <b>19</b> "___ or treat?"                    | <b>38</b> 1988 Summer Olympics city         | <b>61</b> Meadowlands pace     |
| <b>20</b> Rejects, as a lover                | <b>41</b> It may be kicked in anger         | <b>62</b> ___ fixe (obsession) |
| <b>21</b> "That's ___" (Dean Martin classic) | <b>42</b> Alt. spelling                     | <b>63</b> Belief               |
| <b>23</b> 1960's-70's singer Hayes           | <b>45</b> Jai ___                           | <b>64</b> Trig function        |
|  | <b>46</b> Duds                              | <b>65</b> Boys                 |

## ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

D	A	T	E	A	M	B	I	A	H	E	M	S
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Puzzle by Sarah Keller

- |                                       |                                      |                                       |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>10</b> Person using a library card | <b>34</b> Under                      | <b>47</b> Teases                      |
| <b>11</b> Less wordy                  | <b>35</b> Pain in the neck           | <b>50</b> Beginning                   |
| <b>12</b> Stock page heading: Abbr.   | <b>36</b> IOU                        | <b>52</b> Lubricate again             |
| <b>13</b> "For shame!"                | <b>37</b> White wine cocktail        | <b>54</b> Pot starter                 |
| <b>18</b> Rude                        | <b>38</b> ___ Juan, P.R.             | <b>55</b> N.Y.C. winter clock setting |
| <b>22</b> Brit. legislators           | <b>39</b> "Roll Over Beethoven" grp. | <b>56</b> King Kong, e.g.             |
| <b>24</b> Semimonthly tide            | <b>40</b> Healthful cereal grain     | <b>58</b> Spoonbender Geller          |
| <b>25</b> Joins up                    | <b>42</b> Front porch                | <b>59</b> Coal unit                   |
| <b>26</b> Rage                        | <b>43</b> Liqueur flavoring          |                                       |
| <b>27</b> Lunar New Year              | <b>44</b> Overnight flights          |                                       |
| <b>30</b> Tennis court call           | <b>46</b> Back, at sea               |                                       |



PANTHER BRIEFS

# Eastern women head to Tennessee Tech for first-round play

By MARCO SANTANA  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Panthers lost their sixth-straight game Saturday night. The loss dropped them to the No. 8 seed in the Ohio Valley Conference women's basketball tournament that begins Tuesday night.

Eastern will play against Tennessee Tech, who didn't play this weekend but clinched the regular season title for the first time since the 2000-01 season.

They finished the season in a tie with Southeast Missouri, who are the No. 2 seed and play Murray State. SEMO and TTU split the season series, but the Golden Eaglettes split against Samford, who finished in third place in the conference and swept the Redhawks.

They will play Jacksonville State Tuesday night at Samford.

After head-to-head play, the conference's tiebreaker goes to the teams' record against the next highest finisher.

Morehead State travels to Austin Peay to play in the No. 4/No. 5 game in the first round.

## Schmitz picks up win No. 300

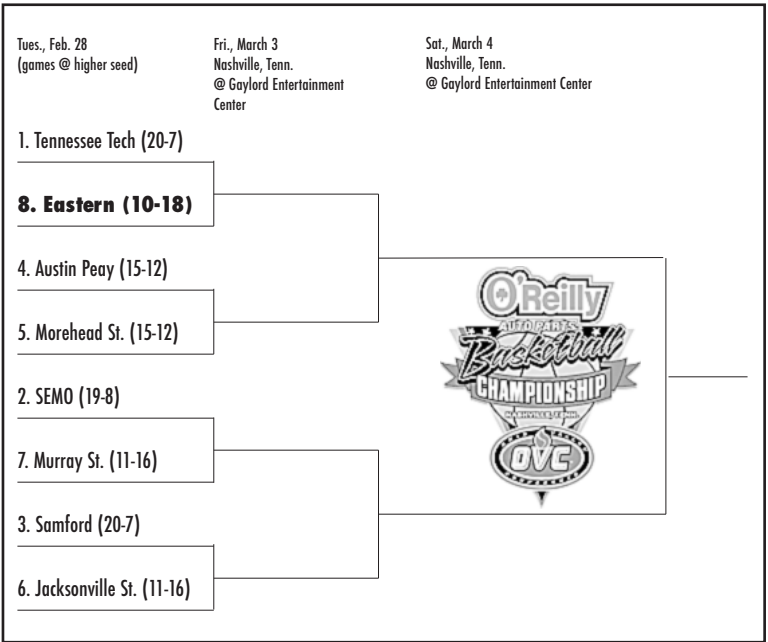
Eastern Illinois' baseball team picked up its first win of the season Saturday against Wisconsin-Milwaukee, beating the UWM Panthers 3-2. The victory gave head coach Jim Schmitz his 300th career win and moved him to the top of the school's all-time list. Schmitz had been tied with Tom McDevitt. Shortstop Adam Varrassi had two hits and executed a squeeze bunt in the eight inning that drove in the game-winning run when Ryan Campbell crossed the plate. Campbell extended his hitting streak to 16 games.

Freshman second baseman Bryan Blaskovitz drove in the other two runs for the Panthers.

## Akers wins OVC Men's Coach of the Year

The men's track and field team won its sixth straight Ohio Valley Conference title Saturday and head coach Tom Akers extended his streak to six straight Men's coach of the year awards. It was also his ninth awards in the last 10 years.

Eastern scored 208.5 points and beat second place Southeast Missouri by 66.5 points.



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M-BASKETBALL: SAMFORD 52, EASTERN 41

Panthers can't get win in finale

By MATT DANIELS  
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

Catching J. Robert Merritt on a bad shooting night usually spells defeat for Samford.

Not so on Saturday at Lantz Arena. Merritt, fourth in the nation in 3-point shooting entering Saturday's game at 49.3 percent, was held to 2-of-13 shooting and made only 1-of-8 3-pointers. Regardless, that did not stop other Bulldog players from stepping up and handing Eastern a 52-41 loss in the season finale for the Panthers.

"He had his worst game of the year, by far," Samford head coach Jimmy Tillette said. "He had a bad game but everybody else was able to pick him up."

Guard Jerry Smith, held scoreless against Eastern on Feb. 4 at Samford, delivered this time, scoring 14 points on a multitude of shots including layups, offensive rebound putbacks and running jump shots. Samford came into the game shooting 48.8 percent as a team, but only hit 20-of-49 shots (40.8 percent).

"A lot of teams think that if we're

shooting well, we're unbeatable, if not then we can't beat anybody," Smith said. "Games like this show other teams that it's not just about shooting from the outside."

Fellow guard Randall Gulina also contributed 12 points to go along with 4 steals.

Eastern head coach Mike Miller said Smith was able to get open looks because of the Princeton-style offense Samford employs. The Bulldogs showed aggression the whole game, gathering 13 offensive rebounds and making 12 steals.

"If you get behind them, they'll dictate the game," Miller said. "You give second shots against them or you give them turnover points, which make them difficult to deal with because you know they're going hit some shots. Somewhere they're going to hit a spurt where they hit those shots and they did."

The 14 turnovers caused by the Bulldogs was hard for senior guard Josh Gomes to understand

"They don't even guard you and we have something like nine turnovers at the half, so that was frustrating," he

said.

"The turnovers kind of really surprised us because they're not a team that really pressures."

After cutting Samford's lead to 34-27 with 11:06 left, the Bulldogs did hit their shots, going on a 15-4 run in the next five and a half minutes to seal the game. Included in that run were three 3-pointers by the Bulldogs.

"I think in the second half we made some timely threes," Tillette said.

On a day that honored senior guards Jake Sinclair and Josh Gomes, Gomes delivered in his final collegiate game, scoring a game-high 16 points. He finished his career with 1,350 points, good for 14th all-time at Eastern.

"I think he's going to be remembered. Certainly he's scored a lot of points," Miller said. "I've told Josh that when we look at this and we continue to build, his contributions are going to be there every day. And we appreciate those contributions."

After a layup by sophomore center George Tandy to cut the lead down to 14-11 with 10 minutes, 17 seconds to play, Samford rattled off a 9-0 run that held the Panthers scoreless for five min-



ERIC HILTNER/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Senior guard Josh Gomes leaves the floor after the Panthers' 52-41 loss to Samford Saturday at Lantz Arena. The game was Gomes' and senior guard Jake Sinclair's last.

utes. Despite the scoring drought, the Panthers were able to hold the Bulldogs to 36 percent shooting in the first half and trailed 25-17 heading into half-time.

With the 6-21 record, this Eastern

team matched the 2003-2004 squad's same record.

"We're going to have a stronger foundation because of what we've gone through and we don't want to do this again," Miller said.

POSTSEASON:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

Panthers find positives in sixth-straight loss

SAMFORD 76, EASTERN 74

		fg	ft	reb			
SAMFORD	min	m-a	m-a	o-t	a	pf	pts
Munday	23	3-4	2-2	0-3	0	5	9
Towns	35	3-8	5-6	1-5	5	0	11
Smith, C.	29	5-8	0-0	0-3	2	2	12
Pilkerton	27	2-3	6-6	3-5	1	3	11
Insell	30	4-10	3-4	2-4	0	3	13
Ward	15	2-3	0-0	0-1	0	1	4
Wilderotter	13	0-2	0-0	0-0	2	1	0
Pike	10	2-3	3-4	0-2	1	5	7
Smith, K.	18	3-5	2-3	0-2	1	1	9
TOTALS	200	24-46	21-25	8-28	12	21	76

Percentages: FG .522 3-point goals: 7-16 (Smith, C. 2-2, Insell 2-6, Munday 1-1, Pilkerton 1-1, Smith, K. 1-3, Wilderotter 0-1, Towns 0-2) Blocked shots: 1 (Towns) Steals: 6 (Ward 2, Insell, Munday, Pilkerton, Wilderotter) Turnovers: 14

		fg	ft	reb			
EASTERN	min	m-a	m-a	o-t	a	pf	pts
Sims	24	4-5	0-0	2-6	3	4	8
Galligan	29	2-6	9-10	0-4	1	3	13
Edwards	34	8-10	0-0	0-0	2	2	22
Sparks	35	5-10	5-6	0-0	2	4	17
Canale	32	3-7	5-6	0-2	2	1	11
Kramer	8	0-1	2-2	0-0	0	2	2
Eck	10	0-1	0-0	0-1	0	1	0
Maxedon	2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Scaggs	9	0-1	1-2	1-2	1	2	1
Kluempers	15	0-2	0-0	1-3	2	0	0
Lipperd	2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
TOTALS	200	22-43	22-26	4-20	13	19	74

Percentages: FG .512 3-point goals: 8-14 (Edwards 6-8, Sparks 2-4, Canale 0-1, Eck 0-1) Blocked shots: 1 (Galligan) Steals: 7 (Sparks 5, Canale, Kluempers) Turnovers: 13

"This is the best we've played in the last six games," senior guard Megan Sparks said. "We have a lot of momentum. I feel like our energy and defense is back."

The energy the Panthers had was widespread as freshman guard Megan Edwards busted out of her slump, scoring 22 points and knocking down six 3-pointers.

Sparks' scored 17 points in her last game at Lantz Arena while freshmen Rachel Galligan and Ellen Canale scored 13 and 11, respectively.

"I've been in a huge slump, and it's been kind of hard on me," Edwards said. "It felt good to play well and help the team."

Sallee said he used all the clichés after the loss and told the Panthers about putting this losing streak behind them as they prepare for the conference tournament.

"I think we played with a lot of heart tonight," Sallee said. "If it's gotta be (Tennessee) Tech, it's gotta be Tech. I know we'll be ready to play."

Another positive the Panthers can

take with them to Cookeville, Tenn., is only 13 turnovers they committed against the Bulldogs.

"If we can cut (the turnovers) down, then I think we can compete with anybody," Sallee said.

Whether the energy from Saturday night was from the Panthers' emotions of playing on senior night or because they've taken a step toward getting on the winning track remains to be seen.

"I think our team's spirit is back," Edwards said.

The Panthers can also look to the fact that they were the aggressors rather than Samford, as they fouled out two of the Bulldogs' post players.

"We wanted to be aggressive from the start," Sparks said. "We did a good job of getting them into foul trouble."

It's hard to differentiate what kind of team the Panthers are. Are they the team that jumped out to a 9-5 conference record, or are they the team that has lost six straight?

The question will be answered Tuesday night.

MOMENTUM:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

Edwards breaks out of slump, but her 22 points aren't enough

"Our three big players made the shots early in the second half," Morris said.

The game was close throughout the second half with Eastern shooting like they did early in the conference season.

With the Bulldogs extending their lead to six points with 5 minutes, 13 seconds remaining, freshman guard Megan Edwards hit her career-high sixth 3-pointer to cut the lead to three points. Edwards led the team with 22 points.

It was only the second time Edwards scored in double digits since her eight-game, double-digit streak came to an end at Wisconsin on Jan. 23.

"I've felt that I've let the team down (during the streak)," Edwards said. "I knew I had to step it up soon and play really hard."

Play hard she did, and the freshman earned praise from Sallee.

"I'm proud of the way she came out and played tonight," he said. "That was the Midge of January, November and December."

The Panthers seemed to have claimed momentum at the end of the first half.

"I've felt that I've let the team down (during the streak). I knew I had to step it up and play really hard."

MEGAN EDWARDS, FRESHMAN GUARD

They trailed 25-18 when Sparks scored six straight points including a 4-point play to pull within a point.

She connected on a 3-pointer from the right baseline and converted a free throw after getting fouled by Cora Beth Smith.

The sequence sent the Panthers to a 38-32 lead at halftime, but the Bulldogs got back into the game early in the second half.

Sallee knows that it will only get tougher from here on out.

"The easy games are over," he said. "Send us wherever we gotta go and we'll lace 'em up and go play."

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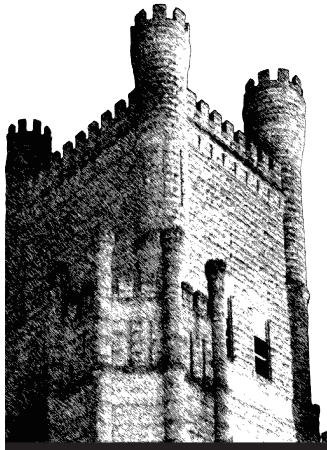


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# SPORTS

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2006

Eastern Illinois University, Charleston

## M-TRACK & FIELD

### Eastern captures indoor title

BY DERRICK JOHNSON II  
STAFF REPORTER

The Panthers came, saw and conquered the competition this past weekend at the Ohio Valley Conference championship.

Eastern claimed the OVC Indoor Track and Field for the sixth straight year.

The team finished with 208.5 points, while Southeast Missouri finished in distant second with 142 points. The meet was held at Tennessee State University in Nashville, Tenn.

Eastern won seven individual event titles this weekend including: the 55 meter hurdles, the distance medley relay, the high jump, the triple jump, the pole vault, the shot put and the weight throw.

Along with winning the OVC title, head coach Tom Akers was awarded the OVC Men's Coach of the Year.

Even though the Panthers put their best effort forward, not every performance could be a first place finish. Eastern's OVC rivals, Eastern Kentucky, raised the level of intensity for the Panthers in the distance competition.

This didn't bother sophomore Chris Wesson, who finished second in the 800 meter run with a time of 1 minute, 56.34 seconds, and sophomore Brad Butler who finished second in the 5,000 meter run with a time of 15:17.03.

"The guy who won it (800m) was a senior and a pretty good runner," Wesson said. "Just being able to come in second was a good feeling, and I'm pretty happy about it."

Butler's words reflect that of his teammate's when commenting on the 5k.

"My goal was to get second because I know the kid that won was pretty

SEE **CHAMPS** PAGE 10

## W-BASKETBALL: SAMFORD 76, EASTERN 74



ERIC HILTNER/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Freshman guard Megan Edwards defends Samford freshman guard Megan Wilderotter. Edwards had 22 points in Eastern's 76-74 loss at Lantz Arena Saturday.

### Panthers skid into postseason

BY MARCO SANTANA  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Panthers' first trip to the postseason since the 2002-03 season will be on the heels of a six-game losing streak.

Samford had four players in double digits and sent the Panthers stumbling into the postseason with a 76-74 win at Lantz Arena.

Despite the losing streak, head coach Brady Sallee was encouraged.

"I thought we turned these (last two) games into battles," he said. "After our performance, we're ready to go to Tennessee Tech in a big game."

The Panthers learned after the game that they would be playing the top-seeded Golden Eaglettes in the first round of the Ohio Valley Conference tournament Tuesday night.

Eastern has lost twice to Tennessee Tech this season, most recently in a 78-67 loss on Jan. 19. The Panthers think that is an advantage.

"It's hard to beat a team three times," senior guard Megan Sparks said. "I want another shot at Tech."

Sparks scored 17 points in the final home game of her career. She broke the team's single-season

free throw record with her fifth of the night late in the second half.

The Panthers shot 63 percent from the field and 83 percent from the 3-point line in the first half en route to building a 6-point lead. But the Bulldogs responded with an 11-2 run to begin the second half.

"We didn't play well in the first half, but Eastern had a lot to do with that," Samford head coach Mike Morris said. "I thought we had to be more aggressive. We drove the lane some more and made some threes."

During the run, the Bulldogs hit three 3-pointers.

Sophomore Alex Munday, who leads the team with 14.6 points per game, began the run with a 3-pointer from the top right of the key and finished it with a short jumper.

"They did a nice job of collapsing our D and kicking it out," Sparks said.

Between those baskets were 3-pointers by senior Cora Beth Smith and junior Chelsee Insell, who are the team's second- and third-leading scorers.

SEE **MOMENTUM** PAGE 11

### Panthers' spirit returns in loss

BY MARC CORRENTI  
STAFF REPORTER

The words Eastern's women's basketball team tossed around after Saturday night's home game against Samford were momentum, energy and heart.

Those three words are not normally associated with a team that lost 76-74, especially considering it was its sixth loss in a row. But this is a different Panthers' team — a team that believes it can win in the postseason.

"After our performance tonight, I think our heads are right," Eastern head coach Brady Sallee said.

The Panthers' players and coaches have questioned the mental fatigue that has been surrounding the team lately.

For a team that has six freshmen on the roster, with three who start, the losing seemed to be wearing on the players.

Even though the Panthers suffered a tough defeat at home, there was more bounce in their step as they came out with renewed energy.

SEE **POSTSEASON** PAGE 11

## MEN'S BASKETBALL



FROM LEFT  
FIELD

DAN WOIKE  
SPORTS REPORTER

Well, it's over.

The misery that was the Panther men's basketball season had to end some time, and it did Saturday afternoon at Lantz Arena.

Like the Panthers did 20 other times this season, they lost. This

### Season-ending loss gives closure to a tough year

time 52-41 to Samford.

In head coach Mike Miller's first season, Eastern equaled its worst record since obtaining NCAA Division I status.

Senior guard Josh Gomes knows this because he was there for that season too.

One of the tragedies related to this year, is that a player of Gomes' caliber didn't get a chance to hang up

his jersey as a winner.

"I'll lie around and get up and say, 'Hey, I've got nothing to do,' and then it will sink in," Gomes said after the loss.

Hopefully, it won't take long for him to realize the impressiveness of his accomplishments as a Panther.

After scoring 16 points in his final game, Gomes tallied 1,350 points — the 14th highest total in

Eastern's history.

But, a lot like the teams he played for, in the end, he came up just short — one point short of moving into a tie for 13th on the Panthers' career scoring list.

The numbers aren't what Gomes is about, though.

Minutes after playing his final game, he sat and answered questions about his past, but his words had

more to do with the future. But, they weren't about his future; his words were advice for next season.

"Don't let it happen again," Gomes said. "Be ready to work next year."

To avoid another losing season, the Panthers will have to work — hard.

SEE **WOIKE** PAGE 10