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THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

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Check out how to throw the perfect Oscar party in this week's Verge
Section B



Loss eliminates Panthers from tourney contention
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LECTURE

Professor tells rise, fall of Illuminati during lecture

Professor speaks at 'The History of the Illuminati'

By Andrew Crivilare
Staff Reporter

Signs of the Illuminati are supposedly everywhere. Jay Z plasters his album covers with their symbols. Dan Brown writes about how they are in conflict with the Catholic Church. But according to an Eastern professor, the Illuminati have not existed in more than two centuries and have no plans on returning.

Gustavo Albear, an assistant professor of secondary education and foundations, was the speaker at the "The History of the Illuminati" lecture, sponsored by University Board, Thursday in the Seventh Street Underground.

Albear said the Illuminati were indeed once an organization with motives toward removing religious influence in European government, but collapsed under political pressure prior to the French Revolution.

"You're not going to be seeing one walking around anymore, they're gone," Albear said. "They're off the face of the



KIMBERLY FOSTER | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Gustavo Albear, assistant professor of secondary education and foundations, explains the origins of the symbol of the Illuminati, a secret society of freemasons that has had its purpose distorted by media and fiction such as Dan Brown's popular novel "The DaVinci Code."

earth."

Albear said that the first people to take the title of Illuminati were those baptized into Christianity, thus becoming "illuminated" with the knowledge of God.

A group during the 18th century adopted the name Illumi-

nati. They schemed to integrate themselves amongst the power brokers of Europe by aligning themselves with the charitable values of Freemasonry without informing people of their treasonous plot or the dangers involved, Albear said.

"Basically they're B.S.ing people into believing that what they're doing is the righteous and good thing to do and that no one is going to get in trouble," he said.

ILLUMINATI, page 5

CAMPUS

Eastern awarded green grant

National Science Foundation gives Eastern three-year grant

Kaylia Eskew
Staff Reporter

Eastern has taken the green movement a step further and received a three-year, \$198,695 grant from the National Science Foundation.

Eastern received the grant for the Center for Clean Energy Research and Education, a project that will position EIU as a strong leader in educating students about renewable energy and biomass research.

On Oct. 7, 2011, Eastern opened its \$55 million Renewable Energy Center.

Peter Ping Liu, of the school of technology, was named director of the center program and said the proposal for the grant was Eastern's way of answering a national

problem.

"The proposal was submitted to the National Science Foundation, in response to the national concern that many American students are losing their creativity and thus the country is losing competitiveness over other countries," Liu said. "Another reason why we were (able) to attract national attention is that we have a strong research team."

Gopal R. Periyannan, an assistant professor of chemistry, said the proposal recognizes Eastern's effort to promote undergraduate education and research on renewable energy.

The grant will be used for a project called "Enhancing Undergraduate Education Through Student-Led Research in Biomass Renewable Energy."

Those involved in the project are from Facilities, Planning and Management, and students and faculty from various departments including biological sciences, business, chemistry, communication studies, economics, geology and geography, physics and technology.

"We are clearly building a momentum in this educational endeavor centered around our new Renewable Energy Center," Periyannan said.

The grant will allow faculty-coached students to design and implement a research plan based in the biomass field. Projects could include identifying materials for biomass sources, testing heat values and moisture content, processing biomass or gasifying biomass along with other options, according to the project description.

"It is a sensible effort to promote renewable energy education and research for long-term growth of our communities and for Eastern's effort to promote undergraduate research on this topic," Periyannan said.

Liu said the growing concern is that American students are particularly not motivated to learn subjects related to science, technology, engineering and mathematics, and the grant will allow the university to empower students and let them decide what they want to learn and focus on.

What the grant will go toward

- Fund project called "Enhancing Undergraduate Education Through Student-Led Research in Biomass Renewable Energy."
- Allow students to design and implement a research plan based in the biomass field.
- Help reach out to middle and high school students through a summer camp titled "Project Renewable."

"The best way to engage and empower students is to give students ownership on what they are learning," Liu said. "Thus, students are driven intrinsically by their own interests, instead of teachers."

The grant will also help reach out to middle and high school students through a outreach summer camp titled "Project Renewable" that will take place in the third year of the grant, Liu said.

GRANT, page 5

TEST

Basic Skills format to change

Computerized test to include more questions, pass rates remain same

By Amy Wywiałowski
Staff Reporter

The last time students can use paper and pencil to take the Test of Academic Proficiency also known as the Basic Skills Test will be April 14.

The test will not be offered at Eastern and students will have to go to a testing center. The nearest testing center is at the Pearson VUE in Terra Haute, Ind.

After the April 14 test date, students will have to make an appointment to take it on a computer at any testing center, Monday-Saturday. The computerized test will have more questions than the older versions.

Stephen Lucas, chair of the department of secondary education and foundations, said the increased number of questions will allow the testing company to give better feedback to students about what they are doing wrong.

"The students can now take it wherever they want, a student from Chicago can take it at a Chicago testing center," said Lucas. "It is going to be a change; it is now the students' responsibility to schedule it, we cannot just remind them when the test date is."

The changes come as statewide pass rates including Eastern's remain at roughly 33 percent even after Eastern's preparation push.

"It has to be very confusing and disheartening for students, they feel like they are a moving target," Lucas said. "We're even seeing a decrease in our enrollment even in the introduction classes, students are hearing it is impossible to become a teacher and don't even join the program."

The new changes will allow students to take the test an additional five times even if they have already taken the paper and pencil test five times.

FORMAT, page 5

BUILDING EVACUATION

Ninth Street Hall reopened after evacuation

Staff Report

Several staff members of Ninth Street Hall remain on leave today after sealant fumes forced a building evacuation on Wednesday, said Karla Sanders, director of center for academic support and assessment.

Shannon Storm, Julie Runyon and Heather Santos are currently on leave "for a couple of days" after being taken to the hospital, Sanders confirmed.

The sealant was being used for construction on the first floor, but Sanders said she was not greatly affected because of the proximity away from the first floor; Sanders' office is on the third floor.

The building, which opened as scheduled at 8 a.m. on Thursday, was closed for about an hour and a half to be inspected.

Results came back negative.

EIU weather

TODAY

SATURDAY



Mostly Cloudy
High: 40°
Low: 29°

Partly Cloudy
High: 38°
Low: 27°

For more weather visit castle.eiu.edu/weather.

ONLINE

Story: Women's voices blast from the past



Eastern students will participate in the Living History program by performing a showcase as famous female historical figures at 2 p.m. on Sunday at the Charleston Carnegie Public Library.

EASTERN NEWS

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

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COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

7 language course proposals approved

By Rachel Rodgers
Administration Editor

The director of the Study Abroad Office proposed Thursday that students should be able to use study abroad experiences to waive the senior seminar requirement.

Wendy Williamson, the director of the Study Abroad Office, presented her proposed idea to the Council on Academic Affairs during its meeting.

"This proposal would dramatically improve the number of students who study abroad without any extra cost to the university," Williamson said. "We could say that a study abroad trip of a certain number of weeks would qualify as a replacement for a student's senior seminar."

Blair Lord, the provost and the vice president for academic affairs, said the average of students who studied abroad in previous years was 350, and the average has decreased to about 300 so they are trying to find more ways to promote study abroad.

Stacey Ruholl, a council member and associate professor of kinesiology and sports studies, said she was concerned about this proposal.

"Senior seminars are meant to be outside of a student's major but waivers are already happening with study abroad opportunities even though it relates to the student's major," Ruholl said.

Rebecca Throneburg, a council member and a professor of communication disorders and sciences, said it would be better if Williamson came up with options for study abroad senior seminars instead of being able to replace any senior seminar with study abroad experiences.

Williamson said she is not aiming to fit study abroad to senior seminars because they are similar but not equal.

"Study abroad is great for students to learn how to think globally and outside of the box," Williamson said. "Researching and learning every day in a different country is more valuable than sitting in a classroom."

Larry White, a council member and an assistant professor of business, said in order for this proposal to work, they would need to make sure all study abroad components would need to support the same objectives as senior seminars.

Williamson said she would think about the council members' feedback and then decide how to proceed.

The council also unanimously approved seven different new language course proposals.

Three of the new course proposals were titled "Advanced Oral Proficiency, 3402", and there were separate proposals for this course in French, German and Spanish.

Stephen Canfield, the chairman of the foreign language department and an associate professor of French, said these courses are aimed at teacher certification students who have to pass the Oral Proficiency Interview.

The interviewer presents the student with a conflicting scenario such as wrecking a friend's car,

and the student is judged on different speaking aspects, Canfield said.

"The interview is set over the phone, and they have modified the test so that you have to pass with an advanced-low score instead of an intermediate-high score," Canfield said.

He said the course was formed for two reasons, which are that faculty members already help students prepare for this during their own time, and students should get credit for the amount of work that they put in.

The other four approved courses were "Beginning Italian I," "Beginning Italian II," "Intermediate Italian I" and "Intermediate Italian II."

"We have been offering some Italian for the past three years, and there has been enough interest that we can finalize it by offering more courses to accommodate students," Canfield said.

Rachel Rodgers can be reached at 581-2812 or rjrodgers@eiu.edu.

MUSIC

Love, relationships told through musical

By Samantha McDaniel
Activities Editor

A play will show the trials, tribulations, tragedies and triumphs of love next week.

"I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change" will be performed five times next week at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday through Friday and at 2 p.m. on Sunday in the Black Box of the Doudna Fine Arts Center.

Jean Wolski, a professor of theatre arts and the director of "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change," said the play is a musical review of relationships.

"It examines relationships starting from first dates, going through love and marriage, divorce, and what happens after the spouse passes away," Wolski said. "It sort of runs the whole spectrum of relationships."

Wolski said the scenes in the play are different and makes the play fun to watch and perform.

"The fun and the challenge for them is the range of characters they have, and there are varying music styles in it," Wolski said. "There is a song that sounds like it is a country western, one that sounds like it's from the 1950s, an

opera; there is a variety of things they've worked on."

The play, written in the 1990s, explores what affects relationships and how relationships play out in life.

"It explores all the things that are out there, or were out there in the 1990s and beyond," Wolski said.

The play was originally scripted for four people, but Wolski said they have expanded the cast to 10.

"It is so flexible that you can add people in, and one of the reasons we looked at it here, is that you can cast additional people," Wolski said.

The cast is made up of five men and five women.

"They play a myriad of roles throughout the evening," Wolski said. "It's a lot of fun, the cast has been great."

Rachael Sapp, a sophomore history major and a theatre arts major, will be playing a nerd, a bridesmaid and other characters during the play.

"There is not one character that shows up throughout the play, there are small vignettes," Sapp said. "I play several different characters."

Wolski said the script is also written in a way that no one character is more important than the other.

"There is not a differentiation in anybody, it is a very balanced acting throughout," Wolski said. "It is more of a company than a starring role and secondary characters."

Wolski said she is excited about the play being brought to the stage.

"We are at the point where we are doing the run-through and seeing the characters emerge, the actors are adding their own touches to things, and the play is starting to blossom," Wolski said.

Sapp said the play is comical. "Sometimes the jokes get stale, get old, but they haven't gotten old, I'm laughing at the same jokes, it is very funny," Sapp said.

Wolski said the play is something that everyone can relate to.

"They are going to see a little bit of their own relationships and their own experiences, it depends on their age of the people in the audience at different times," Wolski said. "If it is a younger artist, they may see some foreshadowing of things that are going to happen

in the future.

Wolski said she thinks audience members will recognize characters.

"I think they are going to see characters that they can all relate to, that they've all met at one time or another, and because of that, there is a connection to the play and to the things that happen in it," Wolski said.

Wolski said this is a play that audience members will enjoy.

"It's not one of the deep things where audiences will go away contemplating life afterwards, but it is a sweet reflection of different stages of our life as we know it," Wolski said.

Tickets are \$5 for students, \$12 for general admission, and \$10 employees and audience members ages 62 and older.

Sapp said it is a reflection of real life people.

"It's kind of a reality of the funny things we do in relationships," Sapp said. "Everyone will see a part of themselves in the scenes, and it lets you laugh at yourself if you had problems in the past."

Samantha McDaniel can be reached at 581-2812 or slmcdaniel@eiu.edu.

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ACADEMIC HONORS

NSCS promotes good GPA, volunteering

Chapter offers new experiences, scholarships

By Robyn Dexter
Campus Editor

Students seeking to improve their Eastern experience through academic excellence and grow as a group may find it through the National Society of Collegiate Scholars.

President Nicole Bartelmay, a sophomore kinesiology and sports studies, said students must have a 3.4 GPA in order to apply to be a member of the group.

She said most branches of NSCS send out invitations to eligible students in the mail, but Eastern did not allow the group to do so, so they sent postcards in the mail to all on-campus students.

The NSCS is an academic honors association on campus that is similar to National Honor Society in high school.

The group includes not only a lifetime membership, but also provides service and volunteer opportunities, social events and fundraisers.

"We do lots of different volun-

teering projects such as Big Brothers/Big Sisters and hosting blood drives," Bartelmay said.

With group membership, students can also wear NSCS cords during graduation from Eastern.

The national chapter of the NSCS gives out \$250,000 in scholarships to members of the organization every year, she said.

Bartelmay said the semesters are based on a point value, and each member is required to earn 80 points per semester.

Working at events such as Spring Pantherpalooza and attending meetings are worth 10 points.

"Last semester at our blood drive, we had over 40 people come to donate blood," she said.

The group, which currently has about 25 members, is hoping to draw in more members after sending out the postcards a few weeks ago, Bartelmay said.

After the cards were sent out, more than 50 people attended the first meeting.

Group members are initiated at a ceremony during the fall semester, but Bartelmay said prospective members of the group can participate in events up until their initiation.

The NSCS meetings are held at 9 p.m. every other Tuesday in the



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The National Society for Collegiate Scholars paired up with Big Brothers/Big Sisters to help the kids involved make turkeys by tracing their hands around Thanksgiving.

Effingham Room of the Martin Luther King University Jr. Union.

"Now that I'm president, I have a lot of activities to put together, so it's helped me be more organized as a person," she said.

The organization looks good on a resumé and it is fairly easy to become a leader on the executive

board of the club, since it is a small group, she said.

"When I first came here freshman year, I was worried about balancing my classes and joining organizations because I didn't want my grades to slip," Bartelmay said.

Bartelmay, who is also a double majoring in health professions,

knew she would be taking a lot of hard classes, but said being a part of NSCS has helped her manage her time better.

Robyn Dexter can be reached at 581-2812 or redexter@eiu.edu.

INTERNSHIP

Eastern interns find careers

Kathryn Richter
City Editor

Eastern students are finding internships within various departments in Charleston, ranging from the Wastewater Treatment Plant to the Charleston Parks and Recreation Department.

Brian Jones, the recreation director for the Charleston Parks and Recreation Department, has been working for the city of Charleston for 15 years and has served as the recreation director for eight years.

Throughout his years as a recreation director, Jones said he has seen about 40 student interns from Eastern.

For example, Jones said the current athletic supervisor for the department, C.J. Applegate, was once a student at Eastern and received the job after an internship with the department.

"We typically have an intern or field study student every semester," Jones said. He said it would be rare for the department to not have an intern for a semester.

Jones said the department is very popular for recreation administra-

tion students who need to accomplish fieldwork. Typically the department has more field-study students than interns.

Jones said the department is branching out and diversifying the different areas interns come from.

He said he currently has an intern that is from Eastern's journalism department and is helping the department proofread and edit a handbook for parents for the children's after school program.

Jones also said he had an intern who was a kinesiology and sports studies major that was heavily involved in the athletic side of the programs the department offers.

"Typically we try to give them the opportunity to work on anything and everything we are doing," Jones said.

Jones said interns typically deal with the same types of tasks that regular employees deal with, including planning and executing programs and activities, soliciting donations and prizes, and evaluating the programs and activities.

"We try to make them one of the staff members," Jones said.

Jones also said activities and

tasks vary depending on the seasons, but Jones said he tries to get the interns outside as much as possible.

Jones said the biggest challenge he has with interns is making sure he keeps them busy.

"It would be nice if we had a nice, steady workload the entire time, but that is just not how it works," Jones said.

David Collard, the superintendent of the Wastewater Treatment Plant for the city of Charleston, said the internship program or the plant has been available for about 20 years.

Collard also said the Wastewater Treatment Plant's oldest employee was once an intern from Eastern's biology department and their most recent hire was an intern.

Collard said the most beneficial aspect of hiring an intern is the fact that "they bring their education to the table."

Kathryn Richter can be reached at 581-2812 or kjrichter@eiu.edu

CONCERT

Gospel choir to share traditional music

By Robyn Dexter
Campus Editor

Students will share traditional gospel music both modern and old in an annual spring performance.

The concert, called "Teach My Children to Praise," will include performances by both the Unity Gospel Choir and In Christ For Christ, praise dancers.

Tykiena Hoover, the president of the group, said the songs will vary from older songs to newer songs traditionally sung in church.

"We're going to be singing a lot of old school songs at the concert," she said.

Hoover said the choir is composed of about 25 members and the praise dancers will be participating as well.

The choir is a nondenominational choir founded at Eastern more than 40 years ago. They have annual concerts in both the fall and spring.

The group's adviser, Brenda Major, said the group is asked to per-

form a concert for African American Heritage month every year.

"This year, in keeping with the theme 'Young, Gifted and Black,' they are doing a musical medley of songs that are from original gospel from past to present," she said.

Major said the performance will be a sort of gospel excursion.

The choir and praise dancers will be performing at 7 p.m. on Sunday in the University Ballroom of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

Hoover said although the concert is held every spring semester, this year will be different.

"This spring, the theme is based on Proverbs 22 and 26," she said. "We just want to bring old school gospel music back to people's hearts."

Robyn Dexter can be reached at 581-2812 or redexter@eiu.edu.

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STAFF EDITORIAL

Eastern's campus safer without guns

Recently, we reported that a student is trying to start a registered student organization called "Panthers for Concealed Carry."

We commend this student for his activism. But, if such an organization seeks to improve student safety, these efforts are misdirected.

Proponents of concealed carry contend that by denying law-abiding citizens the right to carry guns, we disarm everyone but criminals. Whatever validity this holds in the outside world does not apply here. Robberies have happened at gunpoint in Charleston in the past year, but there have not been armed robberies on campus. There is very little violence on campus, and the few fights that break out would not be made safer by adding a gun to the mix. If there are masses of armed criminals who need to be protected against, they have not found their way onto Eastern's campus.

Advocates of concealed carry say it would stop the next school shooting. It is a powerful suggestion that the shooting at Northern Illinois University could have been stopped in its tracks by an armed student.

That hypothetical requires the assumption that a student in the classroom had obtained a license, brought a firearm, knew how to use it and got the shot off in time. The truth is the vast majority of students probably don't have any great desire to carry a gun on them and wouldn't if they were allowed.

But even if concealed carry stopped every school shooting, it wouldn't make college campuses much safer. School shootings, the big ones, are incredibly rare. They are tragic, so they make big news and affect us all. Statistically, though, students are much safer on campus than off and are extremely unlikely to die in a shooting.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, about 20 million Americans are enrolled in college in any given year. In the last 20 years there have been two major shootings at universities, Virginia Tech in 2007 and NIU in 2008, resulting in 38 deaths.

There are minor shootings almost every year on college campuses, though they are much more rare than shootings off campus. These shootings almost always involve a gunman going after individual students or faculty members. Having responsible gun owners scattered about campus won't be much help. Allowing concealed carry would increase the number of shootings that result from major arguments.

Guns would inhibit the spirit of free and open debate necessary to healthy class discussions and keep teachers from keeping students accountable. Imagine the professor who calls a student into his office because he has discovered the student's term paper was plagiarized, only to notice that the student has a gun in his belt.

Eastern students have valid things to worry about, like graduating with loads of debt into a job market that can't find room for us. Students should put their efforts toward these issues.

Arming ourselves on campus is the very least of our concerns. We don't want them and we don't need them.

COLUMN

Chicago should not dictate Illinois gun rights

The enjoyment of firearms is something one might say is very appreciated in the rural areas of Illinois. It may seem like a stereotype to say that people living in an agricultural, tree-dominated area that contains plenty of wildlife love guns, but in my case it's true.

During any hunting season it's perfectly normal to hear multiple pops throughout the weekend, and every once in a while one can hear the sound of someone in the area shooting clay pigeons for target practice.

The one thing that pervades this pro-firearm culture, though, is an evident and necessary respect for proper firearm usage and safety, as well as an understanding of the power one has when they hold a live weapon in their hands.

So when I opened up *The Daily Eastern News* on Wednesday and saw a potential RSO that would support allowing concealed carry permits on college campuses, I took note.

The discussion over gun rights is one that is obviously controversial and often multi-layered, which led me to applaud Mr. Skasick for choosing to focus on a particular part of the gun rights debate. It also led me to think about the broader aspect of the concealed carry issue in relation to Illinois state law.

According to issues website ProCon.org, Illinois is the only state that now prohibits concealed carry permits unless a resident is a current or retired law enforcement officer, leaving us standing alone in the nation alongside Washington, D.C.

Interestingly enough, this issue has not gone



Greg Sainer

unnoticed among Illinois lawmakers. According to multiple Huffington Post reports throughout 2011 and up through earlier this month, Illinois' law has been the subject of bills offered in the state legislature and in Congress, as well as a lawsuit filed with the Supreme Court.

In the Illinois state legislature, a panel made up of "downstate gun-rights backers," according to Pantagraph.com, crafted a repeal in March 2011, that prominently included Democrat Brandon Phelps of Harrisburg as a sponsor.

At the federal level, our very own representative Tim Johnson introduced a bill in December that would allow nonresidents with permits from other states to carry in Illinois.

What is the only problem critics of legislation at both levels come up with as the obstacle for passage? Chicago.

Ah yes, good old Chicago. Our prominent metropolis famous for its gun-control laws, giving us the 2010 Supreme Court ruling that knocked back the city's handgun ban, and that has had its obvious problems with gun crime, which is troubling regardless of the political

context.

However, forgoing any argument related to improving the ability of law-abiding citizens to defend themselves, what is it really that is preventing Illinois lawmakers from crafting legislation that acknowledges the two sides of the Illinois' geographical coin?

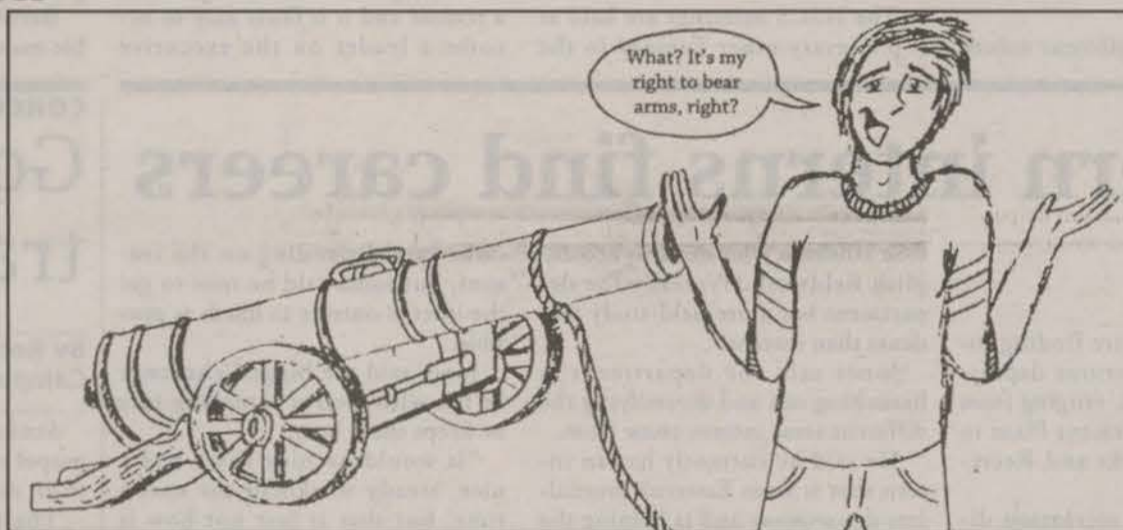
California and New York, arguably two of the most prominent states for gun-control supporters, each have some type of concealed carry law on the books, which gives local officials the ability to choose whether or not to issue a permit. This leaves rural communities with the ability to freely exercise concealed carrying, while the prominent urban areas such as New York City and Los Angeles are far more selective.

Can the same not be done in Illinois? Gun rights are obviously not a clear-cut topic, but when a state stands as geographically divided as Illinois does, a one-size-fits-all solution (or ban) doesn't work as well as some would hope.

While there is the possibility of some increased crime, the means exist to create a system that allows far more good apples to make it through the system than bad ones. And not to mention, it would acknowledge the responsibility many law-abiding rural Illinois citizens practice far, far away from the urban areas of Illinois.

Greg Sainer is a senior communications studies major. He can be reached at 581-7942 or DENopinions@gmail.com.

FROM THE EASEL



SHELLEY HOLMGREN | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

AROUND THE STATE

States go too far in legislating women's wombs

By Beth Clothier
 Western Courier
 Western Illinois University

It has been said for some time now that this country is waging a war on women. From the struggles affecting birth control to the number of bills regarding abortion that have passed into law across the United States, it seems that the government is set on ruling the female body.

Last week, the state of Virginia took this trend to a new level by passing a controversial law that would require an ultrasound procedure for every woman who wishes to have an abortion. The controversy does not lie simply in that alone, as according to *The Washington Post*, seven other states have laws in place requiring ultrasounds prior to having an abortion.

The issue with Virginia's bill is that it allows transvaginal ultrasounds, in which a probe is inserted into the vagina in order to achieve the desired reading. This means that it will be completely legal for doctors to perform an invasive procedure on women, regardless of whether or not they consent to it, because by choosing to have an abortion, consent is automatic.

The procedures are being given the green light in order to help women better understand what the fetus growing within them

looks like, so that they are guilted into keeping a child they don't want for any number of reasons. Forcing women to have these procedures in order for them to better "understand" what they are giving up is an added pressure that none of these women, who are already in a difficult position, deserve, nor is it entirely legal.

Pro-choice advocate Dahlia Litwick was quoted on *Slate.com* as saying, "It's unconstitutional to place an 'undue burden' on a woman's right to terminate her pregnancy, although it's anyone's guess what precisely that means. One would be inclined to suspect, however, that unwanted penetration with a medical device violates either the undue burden test or the right to bodily autonomy. But that's the other catch in this bill. Proponents seem to be of the view that once a woman has allowed a man to penetrate her body once, her right to bodily autonomy has ended."

It's been apparent that women take a back seat in regard to rights once they become pregnant, but now it seems as if their value as people is completely diminished. It's as if their value as humans gets shut off, and all anyone can concentrate on is that they are now an incubator for something that could, quite frankly, be classified as a parasite. This isn't to say that I don't value children or motherhood, but personally I am a firm believer in "I was here first."

And don't try to give me that old guilt trip, "What if your mother hadn't chosen life?" because if she hadn't, I would never have known the difference.

There is a lot I don't understand about this fight to end abortion. The biggest question is why people would fight so hard to make sure an unwanted child is born into a world that will do nothing to support it once it is here. Sure, someone could adopt it, but chances are they won't.

And what of the parents who keep the child who can't afford to support another life? What kind of environment and sustenance will they be able to provide for the child? Will the child be another of the thousands upon thousands who fall through the cracks?

And what of the women who will be forced to return to back-alley clinics? Regardless of whether people think it will, this is going to happen should abortion continue to be challenged. None of these things are considered when politicians are standing before the altar of life and the hordes of rabid voters whose support you need to keep them in office.

This bill is a violation of freedom, plain and simple. There is absolutely no reason that it should exist, other than to serve the demands of an increasingly rabid hypermoral constituency of voters.

To read more go to www.westerncourier.com

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RESIDENT HALL ASSOCIATION



SHEA LAZANSKY | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Andrew Lilek, a sophomore art major, and Jacob Deters, a junior music major, reenact their Role Call routine from the Illinois Residence Hall Association conference with members of RHA. The group won first place for their routine.

RHA members look forward to Kids and Friends Weekend

By Merritt Whitley
Staff Reporter

At this week's Residence Hall Association meeting, the group went over the final details for the Kids and Friends Weekend.

The Muppets movie is the first part of this two-day event and will start at 7 p.m. on Friday.

The second half of this event will continue from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday.

Families will be given detailed tours of the residence halls, and entertainment programs will be provided for children at each of the residence halls.

This event is designed to help encourage families to learn more about Eastern and show them the kinds of activities that the campus has to offer.

Children are given the opportunity to interact with students and learn about the campus through various activities that students have planned.

Kristen Balwierczak, senior communications major, said she thinks the turnout will be successful.

"It's a great way for family and friends to come out, learn about Eastern and tour the campus," she said.

Each individual residence hall has picked a unique theme and has games planned for the children such as making sand art, having tea parties and running races.

"There was also a lot of advertising and advance notice provided for Kids and Friends Weekend," she said. "It should be a fun filled weekend and I'm looking forward to it."

The residence halls have based its themes off Disney movies, and will have many different crafts that revolve around the theme.

"The residence halls Lincoln and Stevenson teamed up and picked a Hercules theme," Balwierczak said. "We will have games like knock down the pillars and fun relay races for the kids."

Jacob Deters, junior music education major, said the RHA already has about

50 people attending.

"It's free and open to the public, and a great way for the community to get involved," he said.

T-shirts will be available for sale and treat bags will be provided for the children before the movie.

Deters said that the majority of the kids participating are between the ages of 4 and 13.

"I'm really looking forward to seeing the energy of the kids and parents, it's very exciting," Deters said.

Christopher Murphy, senior history major, said he thinks Kids and Friends Weekend is a great way to give back and get the community involved here at EIU.

"It's also a cool way to get Eastern's name out there to prospective students by showing them some of the fun things we do here," he said.

Merritt Whitley can be reached at 581-2812 or mewhitley@eiu.edu.

FORMAT, from page 1

Janet Carpenter, the director of the reading center, said the reading center is continuing with the same preparation program they have offered all semester.

"It is probably a good thing most of our preparation resources are online, students are becoming more adapt to technology which could help them taking the test," Carpenter said.

Lucas said he and his department are hoping when the Illinois Board of Higher Education meets in March they will consider lowering what scores count as passing.

"The test is very reliable and the scores confirms our beliefs the passing scores are unreasonable," Lucas said. "We have students here who we think would make fantastic teachers,

but because of this they are shut out."

Carpenter said when students take the time to prepare, she believes they can pass.

"I think for those who take the time to understand where there problems, those are the students who are going to pass," she said.

The reading center offers different workshops each week, times and dates of which are available at their website.

In addition to all the changes, the test will now cost \$170 dollars and for \$79 per subtests if students do not need to take the whole test.

Amy Wywialowski can be reached at 581-2812 or alwywialowski@eiu.edu.

GRANT, from page 1

At the camp, students will gather their own biomass, formulate their own biomass fuel, and have an energy output competition among participating teams, Liu said.

The camp will make an increased effort to recruit women, underrepresented minorities, and low-income

and learning-disabled populations, according to the Student-Led Research project proposal.

Kaylia Eskew can be reached at 581-2812 or kheskew@eiu.edu.

ILLUMINATI, from page 1

Today, the Illuminati are associated with Satanism and Devil worship, in part due to the influence of pop media such as Dan Brown's stories, Albear said.

"I want you to understand the Illuminati are not Satanists," he said. "That's stuff Mr. Brown shoves in for giggles."

Albear said the Freemasons ties to the Illuminati more than 200 years ago continues to color public opinion on who the Masons are and their activities.

"There are secret societies and there are societies with secrets," he said. "By definition, a secret society is not known to the public except to its membership."

Angie Bradley, the lectures coordinator for University Board, said she was pleased with the large turnout for the lecture.

"We had a lot of people show up," Bradley said. "We typically do not see this large of a crowd for the lectures."

Bradley said the audience in partic-

ular seemed to enjoy the professor's address.

"I thought the audience enjoyed it," she said. "They seemed really engaged."

Robert Clark, a freshman kinesiology and sports studies major, said Albear's lecture helped him understand who the Illuminati really were.

"I thought they were kind of mysterious or mythical almost," Clark said. "It was really good to hear what it actually was."

Clark added that Albear was particularly engaging as a speaker and managed to make the topic engaging through his tone.

"He had a lot of facts to back his opinions up," Clark said. "He really was defiant, it made you understand what he was trying to say."

Andrew Crivilare can be reached at 581-2812 or at ajcrivilare@eiu.edu.

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TITLE, from page 8

Red-shirt junior Sean Wiggan is the No. 2 men's 800-meter runner, while red-shirt senior Megan Gingrich is No. 2 in the women's event.

Junior Graham Morris is No. 3 in the mile run, junior Erika Ramos is No. 2 for the women. Morris is also No. 5 in the men's 3,000-meter, with every runner in front of him being from Eastern Kentucky. Senior Caitlin Napoleoni is No. 5 in the women's event. Senior Matt Feldhake is the No. 5 men's 5,000-meter run, while Napoleoni and junior Gaby Duenas are No. 3 and 4 in the women's event.

Senior Tyler Carter is No. 2 in the 60-meter hurdles, while sophomore Jalisa Paramore is No. 2 in the women's event. The men's 4x400-meter relay team ranks first in the OVC, while

the women's team is No. 2. Both the men's and women's distance medley relay teams hold the top teams in the OVC.

In field events, red-shirt sophomore Mick Viken holds the top spot in the men's pole vault, while junior Bryce Hogan is No. 4 in the men's high jump. Senior Donald Romero is No. 1 in the men's weight throw.

The Panthers have won three straight championships on both the men's and women's sides.

The meet is hosted in Nashville, Tenn., with the first event starting at 1 p.m. With the women's long jump. The meet concludes on Feb. 25.

Dominic Renzetti can be reached at 581-7942 or dcrenzetti@eiu.edu.

BASEBALL

Panthers prepare for tough weekend series

Panthers seeking statement win

By Jordan Pottorff
Assistant Sports Editor

Eastern's baseball team will look to build on its strong start to the season when it takes on the Southeastern Louisiana Lions in Hammond, La., on Feb. 24-26.

The Panthers are coming off of a solid showing at the Jackson State Tournament, posting a record of 1-1 with an 11-2 win over Mississippi Valley State and a 2-1 loss to Jackson State. The Panthers did play well, but have yet to see enough live action to determine how this season will unfold.

"The disappointing thing last weekend was two games and not four," Eastern head coach Jim Schmitz said. "We have Southeastern this weekend and Louisville on Tuesday so we just want to get games in to see where we are."

The Panthers will face a tough chal-

lenge this weekend against Southeastern Louisiana. The Lions are currently 4-0 after sweeping the Indiana State Sycamores in the opening series of the season, and followed that up with a 6-5 win over in-state rival Louisiana Lafayette on Wednesday. Southeastern Louisiana has also had success against the Panthers, holding an 8-2 edge in the all-time series, including a three-game sweep in the opening weekend of the season in 2010.

"Southeastern is really going to test us. I would think year-in and year-out they would definitely be in the top tier, top one, two or three teams in our league every year," Schmitz said. "It's a great match-up and they just do a lot of things relative to the new game."

The Lions, like the Panthers, will rely on small ball to manufacture runs this weekend.

"They bunt, they double steal and they just do a lot of action stuff so we have been trying to focus on the defensive side," Schmitz said. "We didn't have many plays in Mississippi at all that we had to make so we have been focusing

on knowing what to anticipate and reacting to the play. That's how they win. They score one or two runs and force you to make the mistake."

The Panthers will once again turn to sophomore lefthander Christian Slazinik to start the opening game of the series, and will then give red-shirt senior Mike Hoekstra the start in the second game of the series.

"It was amazing how well they (Slazinik and Hoekstra) pitched," Schmitz said. "If you can go Slazinik and (Darin) Worman, then Hoekstra and (Keith) Koser they (Southeastern) will be really tested. I keep saying it, but we really have some quality arms." Freshman Andrew Grahn will round out the series by making his first collegiate start of his career in the series finale.

The Panthers will open the Southeastern Louisiana series at 6 p.m. on Friday in Hammond, La.

Jordan Pottorff can be reached at 581-7942 or at jbpottorff@eiu.edu

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DONE, from page 8

The Panthers were led by senior guard Jeremy Granger. The team captain tried to will his team to a victory but came up short, scoring 16 points on 7-of-14 shooting. No other Panthers scored more than seven points in the game.

"We did not do our jobs tonight representing our program the way that it should be," Miller said.

"That's disappointing and that's what we talked about."

With the loss the Panthers fall to 5-10 in the OVC and 12-16 overall, while Morehead improves to 16-14 overall and 9-6 in conference play.

"We didn't do anything to set up a better rhythm and a way to attack it and that's the result," Miller said. "The only way I can describe it is

disappointing."

The Panthers will end their season on Saturday when they go on the road to take on Eastern Kentucky. Tip-off is scheduled for 6 p.m.

Rob Mortell can be reached at 581-7944 or at rdmortell@eiu.edu

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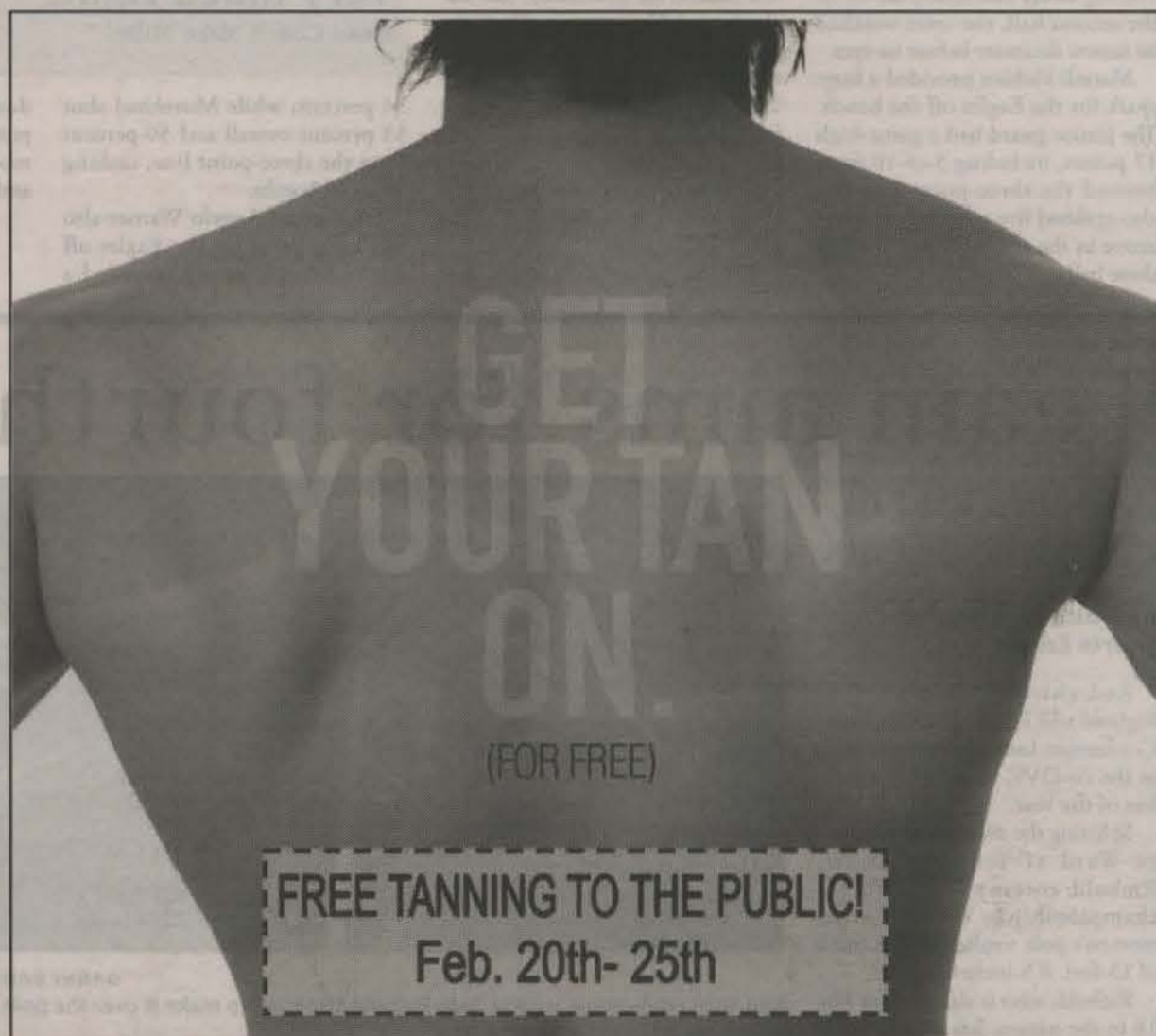
Edgar Calls Eddy "Solid Fiscal Conservative"

Charleston...Governor Jim Edgar recently endorsed State Rep. Roger Eddy in the race for 119th District State Representative. Edgar said, "Roger Eddy is a strong voice for downstate Illinois. He consistently stands up for our shared Republican values. Roger offers a solid, fiscally conservative approach to state finances."

Edgar continued, "Roger Eddy opposed the borrowing and spending spree that put Illinois deep into debt. We need the common sense approach Roger Eddy brings to protecting taxpayers at the State Capitol."

Former Governor Jim Edgar and State Representative Roger Eddy are pictured here during an endorsement session in Springfield. Governor Edgar has endorsed Eddy in the race for 119th District State Representative. Edgar said Eddy "supports job creation plans that will help get Illinois working again."

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

DONE

Loss eliminates Panthers from tourney contention

By Rob Mortell & Dominic Renzetti
Staff Reporter & Sports Editor

Only a little hope remained for Eastern's men's basketball team of making the Ohio Valley Conference tournament when the night started, at night's end, none remained.

With a 75-39 loss to Morehead State the Panthers are virtually eliminated from the conference tournament for the second straight season.

"The only word that hits me right now is disappointing," head coach Mike Miller said.

The Panthers had a promising start to the game, opening with a 4-0 lead; however, Morehead State would go on a 22-2 run and never look back. By halftime, the Panthers found themselves down 37-11.

"We didn't make any of the plays we needed to make," he said. "We didn't do very much right."

The second half was closer, but Eastern never had a realistic shot at coming back, out-scored 38-28 in the second half, the team watched its season decimate before its eyes.

Marsell Holden provided a huge spark for the Eagles off the bench. The junior guard had a game-high 17 points, including 5-of-10 from beyond the three-point line. He also grabbed five rebounds and was active in the passing lanes, stealing three balls.



DANNY DAMIANI | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Junior guard Malcolm Herron reacts after the men's basketball team's 63-67 loss to the University of Illinois-Chicago Saturday in Lantz Arena.

"It was clear early on tonight that we weren't really dialed in or locked in to what we needed to do," Miller said.

Activity on defense led to season baskets for Morehead. The Eagles forced 21 turnovers. Their defense also got showed its activity when getting hands up on shooters. The defense led to 0-of-17 shooting from behind the three-point line for the Panthers.

"The way that those shots came about were certainly not part of the plan," Miller said.

For the game the Panthers shot

"We didn't make any of the plays we needed to make. We didn't do very much right."

Head Coach Mike Miller

34 percent, while Morehead shot 53 percent overall and 50 percent from the three-point line, cashing in on 10 bombs.

Swingman Angelo Warner also had a big game for the Eagles off the bench. He nearly recorded a

double-double. He scored nine points and grabbed a game-high 13 rebounds, while adding five assists and three steals.

DONE, page 7

TRACK

Team aims for fourth title

Panthers lead in numerous events

By Dominic Renzetti
Sports Editor

Red-shirt sophomore Jade Riebold will enter the Ohio Valley Conference Indoor Championship as the co-OVC Female Field Athlete of the Year.

Splitting the award with Daniece Ward of Tennessee State, Riebold enters the conference championship as the OVC's top women's pole vaulter with a mark of 13-feet, 6.5-inches.

Riebold, who is also tied for No. 18 in the nation, has already made a tremendous impact in her first season as a Panther.

After transferring from the University of Georgia, Riebold broke the Eastern record in her first meet, and eventually raised the bar even higher, breaking her own record two more times.

Riebold also earned OVC best of the week honors three times in her first season.

Before the season even began, Riebold already had good feelings



DANNY DAMIANI | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Red-shirt sophomore vaulter Jade Riebold attempts to make it over the pole during the EIU John Craft Invite Jan. 21, 2012 in Lantz Arena.

about the upcoming season, saying she was meshing well with her new team.

"I like them all. They're really nice and I get along with all of them," Riebold said before the team's first meet of the season. "Everyone's really nice here."

Riebold said that she's happy as long as things with the team are going well.

"As long as track is going good,

then I'm happy," she said.

The Panthers enter the OVC Indoor Championship leading the way in numerous events.

Red-shirt senior Zye Boey leads the conference in both the men's 60-meter and 200-meter dash, while senior Emily Quinones is No. 4 and No. 5 in the conference for the women's 60 and 200-meter dash events.

Freshman Stefan Gorol is the

No. 2 men's 400-meter dash runner in the conference, but he is second only to freshman Blaxton Klavins of Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville, who is ineligible for championship competition.

Quinones and senior Bridget Sanchez are No. 6 and 7 in the women's 400-meter dash, with sophomore Sharima Barrett of Jacksonville State leading the way.

TITLE, page 7

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Panthers can't hold on down stretch

By Alex McNamee
Staff Reporter

Kelsey Wyss missed a potential game-winning three pointer with five seconds left Thursday in the Eastern women's basketball team's loss to Morehead State.

The Panthers inbounded the ball to sophomore guard Jordyne Crunk on the play and gave her options. When she couldn't get to the basket, she passed the ball to Wyss.

"It was in and out," Eastern head coach Brady Sallee said. "It was just one of those nights the ball didn't drop."

The Panthers couldn't hold on to a six-point lead with 3:23 to go in the game, losing the lead with 1:03 left on the game as Morehead State ended on a 9-1 run to win, 59-57, in Morehead, Ky.

Leading 56-50 with 3:23 left, Eastern missed its next three shots from the field and committed two turnovers. The Panthers' only point the rest of the game was from the free throw line, where junior forward Sydney Mitchell converted 1-of-2.

Meanwhile, Morehead State made 3-of-5 shots from the field in the final three minutes of the game to come out with a victory.

Sallee said the Panthers' 19 turnovers in the game was the key to letting Morehead State into the game.

"We just gave them reasons to believe they could beat us," Sallee said. "We kept them in the game with being lackadaisical in the first half and too little too late in the second half."

Sallee said he thinks the different between the team's last game, a loss to Southern Illinois-Edwardsville, was that the Panthers shot themselves in the foot.

Morehead State held Eastern star guard Ta'Kenya Nixon in check the whole game. Nixon was held to nine points and seven assists, and fouled out of the game in the last minute.

Sallee said Morehead State was focused on making somebody besides Nixon beat them. He said nobody on the team was able to do that.

The loss is the Panthers' second consecutive loss, which is only the second time this season that has happened. The last time Eastern lost two straight games was Dec. 20 and Dec. 22.

With the Ohio Valley Conference Tournament coming up next weekend, the Panthers have lost three of their four games and will look to end the season with a win Saturday against Eastern Kentucky.

Sallee said it doesn't matter how bad he wants to win Saturday's game. He said the 14 players on the team have to want it too.

"I still believe if they make up their minds they're as good as anybody in this league clearly," Sallee said. "If there's good news, I told them we know what's beating us."

The game will be the last of the regular season for the Panthers and is set to begin at 3 p.m. Saturday in Richmond, Ky.

"We need to go win a game so our head is right going to Nashville," Sallee said.

Alex McNamee can be reached at 581-7942 or admcmnamee@eiu.edu.

ONLINE

Story: Softball to compete in tournament

The Eastern softball team will travel to Birmingham, Ala., this weekend to take on Samford and Mercer at the Samford Tournament.

To see the full story, check out dailyeasternnews.com.

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OSCARS TRIVIA
PAGE 2

What movie do you think will win for Best Picture?
The following films are nominated for Best Picture:
The Artist, The Descendants, Lincoln, Life of Pi, The Iron Lady, The Tree of Life, The Way, Way Back

Paul Lee (The Artist)
Tracy Fisher (The Descendants)
Matthew Page (Lincoln)

OSCARS POLL
PAGE 3



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT
PAGE 4

FEBRUARY 24, 2012

VERGE

The Daily Eastern News' weekly arts and entertainment section

Departments join forces for performance

'I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change' premieres Wednesday

By Kelly Johnson
Verge Reporter

Love, heartbreak and relationships: these three things are the basis of the upcoming musical to be performed at Doudna Fine Arts Center.

Eastern's Department of Theatre Arts and Department of Music will combine forces to perform the musical *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* premiering February 29 running through March 4.

This musical explores aspects of the complicated world of relationships, Jean Wolski, director and theatre professor at Eastern, said.

The musical follows different relationships in short scenes from the first date to the end.

Act I features the journey of dating, waiting for love and marriage. Act II portrays the hardships of relationships.

From the struggles of in-laws to the joy of newborns, this act shows other aspects.

This musical started in 1996, and now Eastern's theatre and music departments are doing their own take on it, Wolski said.

The original cast is only four people, but Eastern has expanded it to 10 people, she said.

This gives more students an opportunity to perform in the production.

The musical might portray highs and lows of dating, but Eastern's production is going well, Wolski said.

"The cast is great. They work really well together," she said. "It has been fun working with them."

Wolski said Eastern's cast has risen to obstacles with which they have been presented. "There are a lot of short scenes and a lot of different styles of music, but the students are rising to the challenge," she said.

Wolski said she is impressed with the students' performing talents and ability to take risks.

"They are great and will try anything," she said. "Musically, they blend well together."

Wolski said the majority of the music in this production is ensemble pieces, so it is important that



GEOFFERY ZUHONE | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

The cast of "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change" prepares for their upcoming premiere performance of the musical at 7:30 p.m. on February 29 at Doudna Fine Arts Center.

they sound good together.

She said she enjoys this combined group effort.

"It is great to work with the music department and the designers," Wolski said. "I know I keep saying it is great, but it is one of those productions that I enjoy. I walk into practice tired from a day of work, and I (still) enjoy practice."

Because she enjoys the production, Wolski said this has musical

been relaxed and easy going.

"This production has been stress-free," she said.

Wolski said audiences can expect a great night of entertainment when attending *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*.

"Anyone that comes to the show will have a nice night, filled with good music and comedy," Wolski said.

Wolski said the Theatre and Mu-

sic departments chose this production because it was a small enough to fit in the Black Box, the theatre they are performing in.

She said they also chose this musical because it provided roles for students of both the Theatre and Music departments.

The musical will be performed at 7:30 p.m. on February 29 and March 1, 2 and 3 at 7:30 and 2 p.m. on March 4.

General tickets are \$12, \$10 for EIU faculty at seniors and \$5 for students. Tickets can be purchased at the box office.

For more information, contact Doudna Fine Arts Center at 217-581-3121.

Kelly Johnson can be reached at 581-2812 or kkjohnson6@eiu.edu.

Keep it classy, yet simple



By Geoffery ZuHone
Verge Reporter

Award season is upon us, and there is one thing even more important than who walks home with the most awards on any given night: it's how you host and celebrate it.

Drinks

As far drink choices go, they need to stay on the more refined side. This is the Oscars; it's time to throw out the beer bottles and clean up those red Solo cups to make room for a little class.

For those of age, wine is an obvious choice, and since it is still winter, red is going to be more appropriate.

There doesn't need to be shots taken during the show, so hard liquor should only be used in various cocktails.

For those that are still not 21, make "mocktails," or just serve soda or flavored water.

Food

The food should be along the same lines as the drinks, but don't put too much work into it. Replace the average chips and salsa crackers and cheese spread. This is still easily store-bought, but looks much less like the Super Bowl.

Do not be afraid to bake either. A simple bruschetta recipe takes about 10 minutes to cook and is easy to prepare.

A simple bowl of olives with toothpicks is about as simple as it gets.

Overall, just keep it basic. Your

food and snacks should look like you put some time into choosing the recipes and ingredients, but it shouldn't look like there was too much effort put into making them.

Final preparation

Now that everything is set for the duration of the Oscars, what is there left to do with the rest of the day?

The only advice I can give is to watch some of the nominations. Best

Picture is always the biggest award, so watch one or two of the nominations before the show. "The Artist" is still being played in Mattoon at the AMC Showplace 10, and "The Help" is readily available on DVD.

Make a day of it, and remember whatever you decide to do, keep it classy.

Geoffery ZuHone can be reached at 581-2812 or gwzuhone@eiu.edu.

THE OSCARS

The most awards for...

11 any film

- *Ben-Hur (1995)
- *Titanic (1997)
- *The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King (2003)

14 Most Nominations

All about Eve (1950)
Titanic (1997)

4 Best actress

Katharine Hepburn

2 Best Actor

Marlon Brando, Gary Cooper, Daniel Day-Lewis, Tom Hanks, Dustin Hoffman, Fredric March, Jack Nicholson and Spencer Tracy

Source: reelclassics.com

The only animated film ever to be nominated as Best Picture:

Beauty and the Beast (1991)

weekend events what's going on around town

Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<p>Old School Movie Night: 'Boomerang' 6:00 p.m. - 8 p.m. Coleman Hall</p>	<p>2012 Miss Black EIU Pageant 6:00 p.m. MLK Jr. Union (Grand Ballroom)</p>	<p>Junior Recital - Matthew Black and Jesse Shelton 4:00 p.m. Doudna Fine Arts Center</p>

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The 2011-2012 edition of the Warbler comes out during finals week.

REVIEW

UFC game strangles its opponents ★★★★★



By Jonathan Posch
Verge Reporter

The unrelenting combat of the Ultimate Fighting Championship returns in "UFC Undisputed 3."

What has always been good about the series is back, along with key improvements and additions.

It is without a doubt the best video game based on the sport out there, but are the new additions worth it?

A wide assortment of modes return to the new game including, Ultimate Fights, Title Defense and Title Mode, along with an improved career mode.

One of the biggest additions is the option to select the PRIDE, a Japanese style of fighting, championships rules, rings and fighters.

While similar to the regular UFC fights in a lot ways, the differing rule set makes for some very interesting changes to the fights.

Much of what is illegal in the UFC is actually legal in PRIDE.

Things like soccer kicking someone who is standing up from the ground or straight up stepping on someone's head as they're laying on the mat are allowed in the game.

PRIDE rules aren't available in every mode, but when fighting your friends or strangers online, it's a nice way to change up the typical UFC bout into something a little more vicious.

That doesn't make any of the UFC modes feel any tamer, though.

In fact, the first time you mount a fighter and immediately start raining down punches into their skull, you'll know what all the fuss is about when it comes to the UFC.

Unfortunately, past games made the "ground game" needlessly confusing to new players.

That has been partially addressed in this year's title with the addition of Amateur Controls.

This changes the past game's method of transitioning from major to minor positions using complex pretzel-like motions on the right stick to simply flicking it up or down.

Thankfully playing with these controls doesn't put you at a significant disadvantage when facing someone using the more traditional Pro Controls, which is great for when newer and more experienced players fight each other.

The effort of making the ground game more approachable is a nicer gesture by developer Yuke's because the rest of the game is as complex as ever.

Clinches, reversals, proper striking technique, submissions, escapes and countless other things are packed into UFC 3's 62 optional tutorial tasks taking you from beginner to expert class.

Assuming you haven't played the past UFC Undisputed games before, checking those out should be on the top of your to-do list upon booting up UFC 3 for the first time.

You and your friends can knock each other out (which is as satisfying as ever) without knowing all the intricacies of the combat system with no problem.

Just don't expect to perform well online, or become the Heavyweight champion of the world in Title mode or your career.

The game has plenty of neat extra features. In particular, "Create a Fighter" is back, and created fighters can now be shared with everyone online.

It's robust enough to create a unique fighter all your own... or even recreate your favorite celebrity. Having Borat fight Mr. T was a worthwhile comical diversion, and that is just the beginning.

The game also can be set up to save your last 50 replays, assuming you have the hard drive space. Being able to back up your most incredible reversals, comebacks and knockouts is a nice touch.

Mixed martial arts is a complex sport, and even with incorporating the Amateur Controls the game is not very new-player friendly.

However, those who decide to take the time to learn all of the ins and outs of the fighting system will be rewarded with the best MMA simulator on the market, which easily justifies its \$60 price tag.

Jonathan Posch can be reached at 581-2812 or jposch@eiu.edu.

Find out what students are planning for

Check out the DEN newspaper for more info!

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

IT MAKES "CENTS" TO ADVERTISE IN THE DEN!

Know your Oscar nominations, diverse line-up

By Jaime Lopez
Verge Reporter

Throughout 2011, viewers watched well-written screenplays unfold on screens all over the country and actors, both well known to newcomers, take on challenging roles.

Four films particularly stood out as the best films of the year: "The Help," "Hugo," "The Tree of Life" and "The Artist."

"The Help"

The Help tells the story of an unlikely friendship between a Eugenia and two black maids (Aibileen and Minny) during the height of the Civil Rights movements.

The story is moving and compelling. During the film's climax, Aibileen digs into her overbearing past, describing the events that led to her son's death.

In the film, Eugenia listens to Aibileen's heart wrenching stories of her life as a maid and develops a friendship that sums up the message of the film: listen to others.

The film proves that listening to others, to their wishes and pleas, can



make just as much of a difference as a war or a movement.

"Hugo"

Like "The Help," "Hugo" looks into the past to entertain audiences.

In the film, the protagonist, Hugo, discovers that his friend was a pioneer filmmaker distraught by his failure to keep up with the changes in the film industry.

"The Tree of Life"

Unlike the other two films, "The Tree of Life" lacks dialogue but makes up for it with sound and images.

Chalked full of impressionistic images, the movie tells the story of architect Jack O'Brien as he tries to find his place in the world through religion and nature.

The movie is filled with images of the Big Bang and dinosaurs, which seem irrelevant, but attempt to answer

how human beings came to be, where emotions came from and where we go when we leave this planet.

"The Artist"

Out of these four films, "The Artist" proves to be the most entertaining and brilliant.

A fresh face, Jean Dujardin, has charmed critics and audiences with his participation in the movie playing George Valentine, a star of the silent film era.

As the films begin to talk, Valentine finds it difficult to adapt, loses his fortunes and winds up living in dingy little room, with only his dog to keep him company.

Of course, these actors would not shine unless they had films to shine in, and this year's films trampled on the previous years.

The picture is silent and in black and white. Some might ask, "Why would I watch that if there is no sound?"

True, the film relies on techniques of the 1920s, but it is just as entertaining as any movie out there, and the film has sound – an amazing score written by Ludovic

NOTEWORTHY OSCAR NOMINATED PERFORMANCES:

Meryl Streep

She took on the challenging role of Margret Thatcher in "The Iron Lady," a biopic that retells the story of the United Kingdom's prime minister.

Michael Fassbender

He received praised from critics for his role in "Shame," a movie where he literally bared all. In the movie, he plays the role of Brandon, a sex addict who finds no comfort in his everyday life.

Glenn Close

She showcased how immense her talent is in "Albert Nobbs." In the film, Albert (Close) plays a woman disguised as a man to survive life in Ireland, but begins to believe she truly is a man and pursues a life as a man. The story is not so much about the conditions that face Albert, but more about a human being trying to find a purpose and form an identity as all people do.

Bource.

Facial expressions help viewers learn about each character's nature, and reveal that even in the real world, silence or an expression can say more than words.

This year the film industry made

weird, different pictures, but in doing so, it has proven that artistry will always triumph over gimmicks and flashy blockbusters.

Jaime Lopez can be reached at 581-2812 or jlopez2@eiu.edu.

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What movie do you think will win for Best Picture?

The following films are nominated for Best Picture:
Hugo, Moneyball, The Artist, The Help, The Descendants, Extremely loud & Incredibly Close, Midnight in Paris, The Tree of Life, War Horse

ACCORDING TO 25 OF OUR FACEBOOK USERS....

- 13 VOTES** The Help
- 4 VOTES** The Artist
- 3 VOTES** The Descendants
- 2 VOTES** War Horse
- 2 VOTES** Moneyball
- 1 VOTES** Midnight in Paris

Matthew Page
Senior art major
Moneyball

Jeni Lee
Junior communication studies major
The Help

Tracy Baker
Sophomore family and consumer science major
The Artist



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT:

Tyson Kroneing: one production at a time

By Sara Hall
Verge Editor

Even at age nine, Tyson Kroneing knew what he wanted to do for the rest of his life.

"I found my parents' camera in their closet," he said. "I kept playing with the camera and am still doing it today."

Kroneing, a senior communications studies major, said he began filming before he even hit the double-digits, and he continued to do so throughout grade school and high school. He started out filming spoofs of movies, starring his friends and his brother.

Fast-forward to today, Kroneing said he is concentrating in electronic media production simply because he excels at it.

"There was never anything else I was really good at or interested in,"

he said. "This was the only thing that jumped out at me."

Kroneing said he attended Southern Illinois University Carbondale for his first semester of college, but decided to transfer to Eastern to get a more hands-on learning experience with film.

"They weren't going to let me touch a camera, so I came to Eastern because they let me jump right in."

Kroneing said while he loves filming, he is not particularly interested in broadcast and is instead taking as many video production courses as he can while here.

"I'm all about the production aspects. Filming, writing, planning, post-production, the whole process is what I'm really into," he said.

Tyson said he uses the skills he has learned in his classes to create different side projects for others, as well as making his own productions. Even then, he said he's not creating for monetary gain.

"I'm not really into commercials, and I've never done anything to

make money," he said. "It's kind of what I do as a hobby."

Even though this semester will be Kroneing's last, he said he's more excited for the next step in his life. Once he graduates in May, Kroneing said he will be moving to Los Angeles to intern with Paramount Pictures.

After making a connection with an employee originally from Mattoon, Kroneing said the company offered him an internship, something he said is going to be key for him in the future.

Kroneing said no matter what tasks are thrown at him, he is more than game to take them on.

"I've got a general idea of the internship things (that I'll be doing), just the kind of things you'd expect to do in an internship," he said. "I don't care what I do, though. I'm just glad to be out there and just be a step closer to doing what I want to do."

He said he is excited to be involved in the same industry as his role model, Stephen Spielberg. He

said he grew up watching his films, such as Jurassic Park, and although it's tough to top his movies, it motivates him to become better.

"I was terrified of (them), and I loved it at the same time. It draws you to it," he said. "It's like movie magic."

Kroneing said he gets inspiration for his works from other sources as well.

He sites an exercise one of his teachers made him do. He was forced to pick a word out of hat, and when he chose the word "vigor," he was forced to create a film based around that word.

Kroneing said he had good results.

"It's probably the best thing I've done," he said.

Still, Kroneing said he finds creativity at the most random times.

"Whatever comes to my head, I'll write it down in my phone," he said.

Kroneing said it wasn't until last semester until he started meeting people that enjoy film, too. He said he has since gotten involved in

a teamwork process with his colleagues, something that's helpful in bettering his works.

"It's a collaboration," he said. "It's tough to do it on your own."

Kroneing said he completes all of his work with an ultimate career goal in mind.

"It's so cliché to say I'll be a director one day," he said. "But there's nothing more fun than grabbing a camera and setting it up and getting people to do what you want to see."

Even if he doesn't become a director, Kroneing said he just wants to be involved in creating films.

"I want to just be in the process, I'd like to be director and producer, hold a camera or hold a wire, I don't care. I just want to be there and be able to do it."

Those interested in viewing Tyson's work can visit his YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/TK-moviemaker.

Sara Hall can be reached at 581-2812 or smhall3@eiu.edu.



Tyson Kroneing (right), a senior communications studies major, will be interning at Paramount in L.A. this summer.

SUBMITTED PHOTO