

2-26-2016

Daily Eastern News: February 26, 2016

Eastern Illinois University

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SENIOR SUCCESS

The Eastern men's basketball team beat Murray State, 85-74, Thursday night on Senior Night.

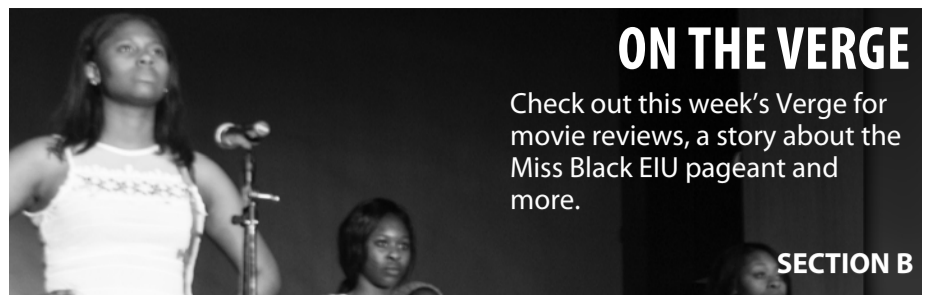
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ON THE VERGE

Check out this week's Verge for movie reviews, a story about the Miss Black EIU pageant and more.

SECTION B



THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Friday, February 26, 2016

"TELL THE TRUTH AND DON'T BE AFRAID"

VOL. 100 | NO. 108

CELEBRATING A CENTURY OF COVERAGE

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Event to raise sexual assault awareness

"The Vagina Monologues" to fundraise for SACIS, HOPE

By Molly Dotson
Assistant Photo Editor | @DEN_News

Actors will portray survivors of vaginal mutilation, rape and more during the production of "The Vagina Monologues" at 7 p.m. Friday and 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. Saturday in the Lecture Hall of the Doudna Fine Arts Center.

The proceeds of this performance will be split between HOPE of East Central Illinois and Sexual Assault Counseling and Information Service, two local organizations that provide victims' advocacy and services, said Women's Studies Coordinator Jeannie Ludlow.

In past years, SACIS's profits from this performance have gone toward direct services to survivors and prevention education efforts. However, Illinois's budget impasse has caused the organization to resort to spending the money on basic necessities such as bills.

"We haven't received any money from the state, so any contributions right now are allowing us to stay open just a little bit longer," Erin Walters, SACIS's executive director, said.

The lack of funding is an injustice said Sydney Rohmann, a junior psychology and pre-medicine major, who will be performing "My Vagina was my Village," which is a portrayal of a rape and vaginal mutilation victim.

Rohmann, who is also a resident assistant, said she works closely with SACIS on a regular basis because sexually assaulted residents often come to her and other RAs for assistance.

The production is part of V-Day, which is a global movement founded by Eve Ensler, the author of "The Vagina Monologues."

V-Day is a catalyst that encourages events to increase awareness, raise money and revive the spirit of existing anti-violence organizations, such as SACIS and HOPE, according to V-Day's official website.

Angie Hunt, housing program director for HOPE, said the movement and play are important to her as a survivor and advocate.

Hunt has participated in the production hosting the Women's Studies Program began hosting it at Eastern in 2002.

This will be Hunt's third time performing "My Angry Vagina," which she said matches her "naturally goofy" personality.

"I do particularly like this (act) because it's funny and it addresses issues that women have to deal with all too often," Hunt said.

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There's Snow Time Like the First



MOLLY DOTSON | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Mary Gillespie, a graduate student in the school of kinesiology and sports studies, sleds down a hill after being pushed by Derek Flaughter, a junior sociology major, on Thursday at Kiwanis Park. This was Gillespie's first time sledding. She is an Alabama native.

Moody's lowers Eastern's credit rating

By Analicia Haynes
Administration Editor | @Haynes1943

Moody's Investors Service downgraded the credit rating for Eastern Wednesday night as the result of the budget impasse, which continues to suffocate public universities and pose new threats including challenges to accreditation.

Eastern's Auxiliary Facilities System Revenue Bonds and Certificates of Participation were downgraded to below investment grade according to a statement from Moody's.

"The downgrade is driven by Eastern's increasing vulnerability to the ongoing state budget impasse giving its thing liquidity, declining enrollment and high reliance on state funding," the statement read.

Teshome Abebe, an economics professor, said the downgrades in Eastern's AFS bonds to Ba1 and COPs to Ba3 is an indication that reserves have all been thinned out.

"It is not surprising that this is the case given that the state had not provided the institution any budget for close to a year," Abebe said.

However Paul McCann, the interim vice president of business affairs, said the downgrade may mean something to an investor but it does not affect Eastern and therefore does not matter.

"The only time it would matter is if we were planning on issuing additional bonds which we're not and that (the downgrade) would increase the interest rate of our bonds," McCann said. "Or if we had variable rate bonds where the interest rate on those bonds was different based upon the Federal Reserve interest rate or some standard created, but we don't have that because our bonds are all fixed."

Abebe said there are a few things to keep in mind when looking at the downgrade.

"It's not surprising that this is the case given that the state had not provided the institution any budget for close to a year."

Teshome Abebe, economics professor

First, rating changes are reactionary to events on the ground, and are not an indication of future trouble or performance.

"Second, rating changes affect the perception of investors, and if people lose faith, the future interest we are likely to pay for future borrowing will likely rise as investors demand higher interest rates," Abebe said. "This causes an increase in the amount of debt-service that the university has to plan for."

Abebe said the downgrade does not affect the universities instructional activities so long as the institution does not pay the higher debt-service by re-allocating monies away from instructional use.

"The university is very meticulous about this both at the policy as well as the operational levels," Abebe said. "Finally, it is ironic that the state wishes to save money, but its own agencies are having to potentially pay higher interest rates in the form of debt-service should they wish to access these funds from the market place."

McCann said in the past the university has issued both revenue bonds and certificates of participation and at the time that they issued those bonds they hired rating companies to review them and tell investors how good the investment is.

"That's what they do so this (the rating)," McCann said. "It's something that goes in at the front end of any bond sale after the bonds are sold. This doesn't really matter because we sold them (bonds) and an investor owns them."

McCann said the university hires the service to continue rating them throughout the time and if

the university desires to take out additional bonds in the future then the service would have to know where the university stands.

McCann said the university does not have any plans for issuing bonds right now.

"We don't have anything to build and we're not contemplating anything," McCann said. "The interest rate on our bonds is all fixed at 4 percent."

For eight months, public universities have been left in the cold and forced to operate without a state budget.

As a result, many are forced to make the necessary decisions, including cutting personnel expenses through means of layoffs and furloughs, to continue to operate.

McCann said the bottom line is that the university needs an appropriation and said he hopes the statement does not turn kids away.

"Our cash flow is dwindling," McCann said. "That's what we've been telling everybody, that's what we've been telling the legislature, we cannot run away from that we need an appropriation."


Now, amid the already crippling budget crisis, the Higher Learning Commission sent out a letter asking universities to submit an emergency plan detailing how they will support students in case the university closes.

The HLC will use that information from the universities to determine if the university will remain accredited.

CREDIT, page 5


Local weather

FRIDAY



Partly Cloudy
High: 37°
Low: 25°

SATURDAY



Sunny
High: 53°
Low: 39°

For more weather visit dailyeasternnews.com



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The Daily Eastern News is produced by the students of Eastern Illinois University. It is published daily Monday through Friday, in Charleston, Ill., during fall and spring semesters and twice weekly during the summer term except during university vacations or examinations. One copy per day is free to students and faculty. Additional copies can be obtained for 50 cents each in the Student Publications Office in Buzzard Hall.

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Printed by Eastern Illinois University on soy ink and recycled paper.

Attention postmaster: Send address changes to:
The Daily Eastern News
1802 Buzzard Hall
Eastern Illinois University
Charleston, IL 61920



Ukulele orchestra to perform at Doudna

By Abbey Whittington
Entertainment Editor | @DEN_News

The Wellington International Ukulele Orchestra will be performing at 7:30 p.m. in Doudna Fine Arts Center's Dvorak Concert Hall on Wednesday.

Wellington Orchestra plays the "ukulelefied" versions of songs from many genres along with music from "South Pacific."

For example, some rock and pop artists whose songs they will be performing include Justin Timberlake, Dolly Parton, and Cyndi Lauper.

To match the quirks of the group's performance, each member of the band wears a bright, animated outfit.

The musical group is also very big on involving the audience in their performances.

According to a press release, the band's No. 1 rule is, "If you know the words, sing along. If you don't know the words, sing along."

The theatrical group is from New Zealand and was founded when member Age Pryer came together with his friend Bret McKenzie of comedy band Flight of the Conchords, and performed in their local café, Deluxe.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Wellington International Ukulele Orchestra from New Zealand will be performing in the Dvorak Concert Hall of the Doudna Fine Arts Center at 7:30 p.m. March 2.

Months after performing in the café, McKenzie and Pryer's musical circle grew into a regular morning ukulele jam session with friends, thus creating the Wellington Ukulele Orchestra.

These sessions in the Deluxe café were filmed and directed by Tim Capper for the group's music video "It's a Heartache."

The complete band is Pryer, McKenzie, Andy Morley-Hall, Bek Coogan, Carmel Russell, Daniel Yeabsley, Francs Salole, Gemma Gracewood, Megan Hosking, Nigel Collins, Sam Auger, and Stephen Jessup.

All of the members have experience with the ukulele, however, Russell, Salole, and Jessup are vocalists and Yeabsley is a bassist.

McKenzie is a drummer, keyboardist, ukulele player, singer, songwriter, scriptwriter, producer, actor, and engineer.

He performs with the group, but his schedule does not always guarantee his attendance at every show.

So far, the orchestra has toured the U.S., China, Japan, United Kingdom, and headlined major arts festivals across New Zealand and Australia.

Members of the group will be teaching a master ukulele class on Tuesday in addition to having their performance the next day.

The master-class will take place in the Mattoon Train Depot's Lone Elm Room with a fee of \$15.

Those who do not have their own ukulele can rent one for an additional \$5 fee.

The seating for the class is limited, but students can register for the class by calling the Mattoon Arts Council at 258-6286.

Tickets for the concert are \$20 and can be purchased online or at the Doudna Fine Arts Center Box Office.

Abbey Whittington can be reached at 581-2812 or anwhittington@eiu.edu.

Blues concert to celebrate evolution

By Abbey Whittington
Entertainment Editor | @DEN_News

A lecture and recital about the blues called "Evolution of the Blues: From Fringe Folk Music to American Popular Music" will take place at 7 p.m. Saturday in the Doudna Fine Arts Center Theatre.

J.B. Faires, who teaches general education music courses, will lead the lecture. Faires is also a freelance bassist who has performed in musical groups in the Charleston and Mattoon area and throughout the rest of the Midwest as well.

Accompanying Faires in the show will be Paul Johnston, a music professor who will be playing piano, Jay

Ferguson on the drums and Bobby Reynolds on guitar.

Faires said the four musicians would be performing more than lecturing, and the event was put together for lovers of music like him and those involved in the lecture.

At the lecture, early blues music will be discussed and how it has changed throughout time.

Faires plans to show this evolution by performing music from blues artists from different times.

Some of these blues artists will be Robert Johnson, Miles Davis, Charley Patton, Duke Ellington, Thelonious Monk and Muddy Waters.

Charley Patton was an American Delta blues musician and slide guitar-

ist who was considered the "Father of the Delta blues." Patton died in 1934.

Robert Johnson was a Delta blues singer and songwriter who was famous for his song "Crossroads Blues." He died in 1938.

Duke Ellington was a composer, pianist, and he led a jazz orchestra until he died in 1974. His career lasted for over 50 years.

Thelonious Monk was a jazz pianist and composer who died in 1982.

Monk's style of jazz stood out because of the way he played the piano, which included dramatic playing and pausing.

Muddy Waters, whose real name was McKinley Morganfield, was considered the "father of Chicago blues"

and died in 1983.

Waters was a singer and a guitarist who became popular in 1946.

Miles Davis was a trumpeter who became famous in the mid-40s and played music up until his death in 1991.

Faires said even the more modern blues artists have similarities to these earlier performers.

"The blues feeling is what ties the music together," Faires said. "It's going to be informative and entertaining, and it's free so I hope people come out and have fun."

Abbey Whittington can be reached at 581-2812 or anwhittington@eiu.edu.

BLOTTER

Damage to property, theft reported

- Criminal damage to property was reported at University Court at 4:48 p.m. Monday to have occurred on Saturday. The incident is under investigation.
- Lianna Switzer, 37, of 5002 Ashton Drive, Fayetteville, North Carolina, was arrested on 14th St. at 12:36 a.m. Wednesday. She was charged with DUI-Alcohol with a blood alcohol content greater than .08 and released at 3:03 a.m. after posting 10 percent of a \$300 bond.
- A theft was reported to have occurred Sunday at the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union at 8:43 a.m. This incident was referred to the Office of Student

February 26th, 2016

What's Happening on Campus?

Dust, Drought & Dreams Gone Dry Exhibit | All Day
Booth Library

One-Act Play Festival | 7:30 PM
Doudna Fine Arts Center - Call 581-3121 for more information.

EIU Wind Symphony & Faculty Showcase | 7:30 PM
Doudna Fine Arts Center - Call 581-3010 for tickets and information.

Check out more upcoming events at www.eiu.edu/eiu360/

Come back tomorrow to get the scoop on what's happening at EIU and in Charleston!

Hip-hop forum celebrates genre's origins

By Sara Jaraczewski
Staff Reporter | @DEN_News

More than 25 people showed up in 7th Street Underground to participate in the forum "When Did You First Fall in Love With Hip-Hop?"

The hip-hop forum, led by the women of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority members, had students sharing opinions and experiences on what the music means in today's society.

During the night, sorority members asked questions relating to the crowd's thoughts on hip-hop.

Delta Sigma Theta defined hip-hop as a name for the four elements of the late '70s New York City renaissance which includes break dancing, emceeing (rapping) graffiti and DJing in a PowerPoint presentation.

In the presentation, rap was also defined as a combination of rhyming and poetry to a musical beat. An audience member said that rap is a genre and hip-hop is a culture.

When the audience was asked what they defined hip-hop as, many yelled out, "It's an art form," "Hip-hop is a way of expression," and "It is a way to express yourself and your struggle."

Ashley Howard, the first vice president for the sorority, said hip-hop is a lifestyle and was ruled a culture in 2001 by the United Nations.

"Culture is something that really brings people together for a common purpose as well as a com-



CASSIE BUCHMAN | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Christian Johnson; a freshman pre-engineering major; Marquita Anderson; a freshman sociology major and Christian Johnson; a freshman pre-engineering major; play a game where they guessed the names of different hip-hop songs and the artists who sang them Thursday night in the 7th Street Underground of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

mon goal. Hip-hop has been misconstrued because it has been commercialized within our own American society. It stands with a positive message and I believe it is a culture," Howard said.

Marquita Anderson, a freshman sociology major, told her definition of the genre of music.

"Hip-hop is emotion, hip-hop is the struggle, hip-hop the up comer, hip-hop is a story," Anderson said.

According to Kathryn McIntosh, the chapter president for the sorority, Delta Sigma Theta chose the topic of hip-hop for the night because of the movie "Brown Sugar" and they felt people are often in-

fluenced by music. They wanted to know people's opinions of hip-hop music.

"It was interesting to me that people felt that hip-hop was a culture," McIntosh said. "Hip-hop is feelings, it makes you want to dance, and rap is just rap it is not amusing to people."

One question asked to the audience was if hip-hop died and when. Howard answered that she thinks it never died; it lost its original meaning in the late '90s and has transitioned into rap.

Howard said that it is obvious that hip-hop influences and changes people.

"I believe an issue occurs when you let those lyrics about shooting drugs, money, objectifying woman, become your self fulfilling prophecy," Howard said. "When you let those types of lyrics actually sync into your being and control your thoughts, the music really can change someone."

Anderson said it is both society's and the music's fault that hip-hop died. She said as an artist, it should be about the music and not about the money.

"We are the ones that listen to the music, you can't fault the music if we listen to it," Anderson said.

At the end of the forum the sorority members asked for three volunteers to play a game. The game was to listen to a clip of a hip-hop song and guess the name and artist. Some of the songs included: "Boyz in Da Hood," "I'm Bad," "I'm Gettin' Money," "Push It," "The Light" and "Suga Suga."

When asked the message she took from the forum, Anderson just said, "Hip-hop is alive."

Sara Jaraczewski can be reached at 581-2812 or sjaraczewski@eiu.edu.

CAA approves changes for courses, majors

By Jeff Coy
Staff Reporter | @DEN_News

The Council on Academic Affairs discussed proposed catalog changes for several courses, majors, minors and options Thursday in Room 4440 of Booth Library.

The first class discussed was PLS 3543, Civil Liberties in America, which asked to revise the language of the course and also allows for it to be taken online.

Karen B. Swenson, a political science professor who teaches the class, said the class is offered once a year and is in high demand.

"There is often a waiting list for PLS 3543 and so it would be nice to be able to offer it over the summer," Swenson said.

The political science department would still be offering the course in person like it has for many years.

PLS 3543 will be offered over the spring and summer and this will provide flexibility for students, especially those who want to take the course over the summer and not stay in the local area.

PLS 3543 online will be taken through the Desire to Learn program where discussion is carried out through either a discussion board or seminar room.

Other than the face-to-face experience, the difference in taking Civil Liberties in America online will be attendance playing a factor in the overall grades.

Swenson will accommodate these points to either "participation" credit or adding more weight to exams.

The revisions for PLS 3543 have been unanimously approved.

The CAA members also voted on the revision to the history major.

This includes history with teacher licensure, history with international studies and history as a minor.

The history department said it felt these revisions would expose students to deep content knowledge in multiple fields of history, further emphasizing student understanding of the nature of historical inquiry.

The history department also said it felt these revisions allow more freedom for students within the major and help recruit more history majors and minors.

Along with the other revisions, the history department proposed to reduce the number of required credit hours in order to allow students to explore other minors.

Another proposal was to revise HIS 4375, the History Capstone Seminar course.

The history department said they

want to focus more on professional skill development throughout the major program.

These revisions will help history majors solidify their training in the historical discipline.

All history majors will apply their skills to a written research project, a set of professional development pieces and a public presentation.

All revisions proposed by the history department were unanimously approved.

Darren Hendrickson, the chair and associate professor of the sociology department introduced a new course, ANT 3612, The Body in Anthropological Perspective as well as revisions to make SOC 2830, Family and Society available online.

Both sociology and anthropology department proposals have been unanimously approved by the CAA.

The CAA approved several proposed changes for the department of music since they could not do so last week because last week's meeting being canceled.

The proposed revisions were for program changes for all performance concentrations, for keyboard, vocal and instrumental concentrations as well as in the composition concentration.

These revisions also include eliminating MUS 3155/3156 from the keyboard concentration, MUS 3156 from the instrumental concentration, and MUS 3155 from the vocal concentration.

All revisions proposed by the music department have been unanimously approved.

Jeff Coy can be reached at 581-2812 or at jrcoy@eiu.edu.

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Sean Hastings

Sean Says: Actually get work done on days off

So lemme tell you this. Having the snow day on Wednesday was awesome, and I am sure all of you will agree with that.

Unless for some reason you were really fired up to go class that day.

But that is not my point.

Yes, we should enjoy the few days where nothing is expected of us because we are expected to do lots of things every day.

But the one problem we can run into having days off is that we get absolutely nothing done.

We see that day as, "Oh I have 24 hours to just chill and relax and do nothing, and I'll get caught up tomorrow."

You see, that's not good.

We should use a few of those hours to get the stuff done, that maybe, just maybe, we forgot to do for a class we were supposed to have Wednesday.

I know some of you did, because I was one of them.

If you're like me, when you saw that classes were canceled, you canceled your alarm and went back to sleep for a few more hours. Nothing wrong with that. Get your sleep.

But this is one day where there is no where we really have to be.

So that is a perfect opportunity to get some work done and get ahead for some of your classes.

I am a huge hypocrite to say all of this, but I need to learn a lesson, too.

I spent the entire day playing NHL 16 and watching Netflix.

I was living the dream.

But then 10 p.m. rolls around and reality hit that I had to go back to class the next day, and still needed to do homework.

I wasted the entire day. But do I regret it? Nope, not really.

But I did have a great chance to get started on next week's projects, or projects that will be due for midterm. But having the whole day to play video games sounded so much better.

Snow days are a blessing and a curse. It's a blessing because we have really no obligations for that day, but it's a curse because we think we're good to not do anything for the days that follow. Then Thursday and Friday come, and it hits you like a bus.

It was awesome because I got to miss four classes, all of which we had stuff planned to do that day, but I have some more time to prepare for it all.

So what I'm trying to say is take advantage of a snow day.

Get some work done and just don't play video games and watch Netflix all day.

With that said, I hope you had a great snow day regardless, and I hope your week-

Sean Hastings is a sophomore journalism major. He can be reached at 581-2812 or smhastings@eiu.edu.

Old Man Winter Still Rockin'



JEHAD ABBED | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Staff Editorial

Don't cram, study in advance instead

Midterm day is officially Thursday here at Eastern, and do you know what that means?

It means that we are already halfway through another great semester here, but do you know what the midterm of the semester also means?

Hopefully the name gave it away, and you guessed midterm exams.

Some of you may have already taken exams this past week or in previous weeks, and some of you will probably take exams in the upcoming weeks.

Midterms are the chance to show how well you've been paying attention the last seven to eight weeks of classes and to see if you've been keeping up with your studies.

While it is fun to have caffeine-fueled all-nighter before an exam cramming as much information into your head as you possibly can, is it really the best option out there for students?

Wouldn't a better solution be to study consistently throughout the semester to retain even more knowledge or even study for an exam a week in advance?

The second option doesn't sound as much fun as the first, but it could result in a better grade on a test.

They say "C's get degrees," and while the saying doesn't lie, it may not be the motto to live by in college.

Why go to college if you're not going to take it seriously?

The entire point of college is to work hard so that you may be prepared to succeed in the future.

Studying in college should be something you do on an almost daily basis.

There isn't a day in college when there isn't any schoolwork to be done. If you do have one of those days, you are probably forgetting something.

University of California-San Diego researched the all-nighter phenomenon and found that last minute preparation actually doesn't benefit students. It actually results in poor long-term retention of the information you studied.

The same study said that a student that devotes more time to studying with an effective strategy will be better prepared for an exam.

Take your midterms seriously and start studying for them now if you haven't. If you haven't taken your classes seriously thus far and

haven't put effort into anything, don't be surprised when the grade reflects the effort.

If you have started studying for your upcoming exam that doesn't take place the day after, then you're well on your way to succeeding.

When faced with a problem or question you cannot answer, be sure to email your professor or visit them during their study hours.

A professor will be more than glad to help you with any question if there is enough time before an exam. A professor wants to help students succeed instead of seeing them do poorly.

If you've already taken all your exams for the time being, then congratulations on getting through the first half of the semester. If you haven't gone through your exams, start preparing now if you haven't already.

Whichever route you take for the exam, studying or cramming, just remember the work reflects the effort. So don't go complaining about a bad grade if you couldn't remember half a semester's worth of lectures and readings eight hours before an exam.

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

Showing respect should be normal, expected

Showing respect for your fellow peers, your elders and, well, anyone ever, is a norm in society. Being respectful shows you're a decent human. Being respectful shows you have empathy. Being respectful means others will be respectful to you.

If you do not respect others and expect people to respect you, you end up being a hypocrite. Being a hypocrite is not helpful for society.

When you look at another person, you do not know what that person is going through.

The person you just scowled at does not know about the rough day you had, just as you do not know if the person may have just gotten fired or were told they are worthless or feel like a complete failure.

The dirty look you just gave someone may have been the confirmation that they are worthless and now feels even worse.

If you had smiled or even waved at that person, that may not get them to smile outwardly, but that nice gesture of humanity may lift their spirits just a little bit.

I know from experience that when you're feeling bad, but still have to go to work, and walk in and right off the bat you get screamed at, you're not going to be in the best mood.

You may not be mad at the person who screamed at you and what they said would have usually not upset you, but just that little push the wrong way can cause someone to break out in tears.



Liz Dowell

That is what unfortunately happened to me. I bawled my eyes out because one day I was feeling downright worthless and it did not help that I got screamed at as soon as I walked into work.

I'm overly happy to a lot of people. I smile, laugh and make a fool of myself because I want other people to laugh, too.

My goal for the day is to make sure that I have made at least one person laugh. There is too much negativity in the world, and I do not want to add to it.

I know how it feels to feel less than whale poo and no one seems to notice or care. I wish there were countless amounts of times when I was growing up that someone asked if I was all right or smiled at me or made me laugh.

But it did not happen, and I felt like the outcast of most social groups. I felt shunned and wondered what was wrong with me. Why was I the one person people seem to avoid or give dirty looks to?

But honestly these people may have had it worse than me. But I did not know that, and they did not know what I was going through either.

We all have our bad days. We all have our good days, too, but do not let that upset us to the point we are all outwardly rude to others.

That person who you just scowled at may have just lost someone close. That person you just snapped at may have just gotten broken up with. That person you just screamed at woke up today from having night terrors all night, felt neglected by the people they love and felt worthless for struggling in classes that should not be as hard as they seem.

We're all allowed to feel crappy and have crazy emotional spurts from time to time, but some of us, a lot of us actually, do not like to express our feelings outright. So we do not know what the next person is going through. Even through my pain, I still smile at people because I want them to be happy.

Step one on how not to be a burden to society: Be nice to one another.

Liz Dowell is a senior journalism major. She can be reached at 581-2812 or lhdowell@eiu.edu.

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Orchestra prepares for 'Stagestruck'

By Lauren Barry
Staff Reporter | @DEN_News

The Eastern Symphony Chamber Orchestra will perform with special guest Jamie Ryan in "Stagestruck" at 4 p.m. in the Doudna Fine Arts Center in Dvorak Concert Hall Sunday.

Eastern's Symphony Orchestra and Ryan will perform "Sugaria, Concerto for Marimba and String Orchestra" by Eric Sammut after Stagestruck's intermission.

Ryan, a percussion professor at Eastern, will accompany the orchestra on the marimba—a 5-octave instrument made of rosewood and played with two to four mallets.

Richard Rossi, director of orchestral and choral activities and conductor of the Concert Choir and Oratorio Society, conducts the orchestra.

"Unlike many concerts one would hear in an orchestral setting, this piece uses grooves and rhythmic sounds one would hear in jazz, Latin, or contemporary music," Ryan said.

Ryan worked on the piece slowly through 2015 after Rossi invited him to collaborate with the symphony orchestra for the first time.

Ryan performs regularly with the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra as well as a member of the Galaxy Percussion Group with Michael Udow, Anthony DiSanza and Roger Braun, according to the program of the event.

He has also played with Bach Dancing and Dynamite Society, the Oakwood Chamber Players, and the Tool and Drum Ensemble.

Ryan will be performing three types of movements at the concert.

"Each of the three movements has its own style, though they share a late 20th-century jazz- and pop-music influence," Ryan said.

The first movement is a lyrical piece that requires Ryan to move

"Each of the three movements has its own style, though they share a late 20th-century jazz- and pop-music influence."

-Jamie Ryan, guest musician

quickly across the marimba.

The second movement is slower when compared to the first and allows the orchestra to trade melody and accompaniment with the solo marimba, Ryan said.

"The final movement sets a theme in a variety of rhythmic styles, including a waltz, a lively skirmish up and down the marimba, and the sound of a salsa rhythm section," Ryan said.

Ryan is not the only faculty member contributing to the Stagestruck performance.

Cameron Craig, professor of geology and geography and conductor, will be performing "Hungarian Dance No. 3" by Johannes Brahms.

Craig said that he was excited to conduct his piece.

"It challenges me to focus on my weaknesses as a conductor," Craig said. "It will increase my understanding of my place in the orchestra as well as the communication process that the orchestra responds to."

Tickets are available now and are \$12 for general admission, \$10 for seniors and employees, and \$5 for students.

Tickets can be purchased online or by calling Doudna's box office.

Lauren Barry can be reached at 581-2812 or lbarry@eiu.edu.



MOLLY DOTSON | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Angie Hunt, housing program director for HOPE, performs "My Angry Vagina" during "The Vagina Monologues" dress rehearsal in the Lecture Hall of the Doudna Fine Arts Center on Thursday. Hunt said she likes this role because it matches her goofy personality.

» MONOLOGUES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Hunt also said thinking about violence against women, the purpose of this play, helps her conjure the anger that is necessary for this part.

Ronman said while she has never personally been a victim, she still finds the reason for the production to be meaningful and worthy of support.

"I don't even care about people

coming to see me, I just want them to support this (cause)," said Ronman.

Ronman said people who would especially benefit from this play are not who many might expect.

"Guys more than anyone can benefit from (the Vagina Monologues) because even if they can't relate to it, they can gain knowl-

edge from the things that are being said."

Tickets for this production can be purchased at the Doudna Box Office for \$12 for general audience, \$7 for seniors and EIU employees and \$5 for students.

Molly Dotson can be reached at 581-2812 or madotson@eiu.edu.

» CREDIT CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Blair Lord, the vice president for academic affairs, said each university president got their own personal letter asking to provide information so they can assure themselves that their financial criterion for the HLC was met.

Lord said Eastern's accreditation was ensured.

Ali Moshtagh, an associate professor and chair of economics, said the downgrade also means there would be a harder time taking out loans and if the university chooses to do so then they will have to pay a higher interest rate.

"You can still borrow but they charge a very high rate," Moshtagh said. "It is telling investors 'if you want to lend us

money be careful because we might not be able to repay you because of the budget impasse."

Mostagh said if the budget impasse goes on then the university will not be able to repay its loans.

"It looks like there is no light at the end of the tunnel but I don't believe the government will let us go down. I don't think Eastern will go under or close," Moshtagh said.

Moshtagh said education is an investment on human capital, and the mind is a terrible thing to waste.

"That's what will happen if you don't fund higher education," Moshtagh said. "Students are assets of the state and it

pays to add to your human capital."

McCann said this downgrade can be a big deal and just adds another log to the fire.

"It's another indication that we need an appropriation," McCann said. "We are going to do everything we need to do to stay in business and give students the kind of education they need in order to succeed in today's world."

Moshtagh said he is amazed at power of students to rally and encourages them to stay at Eastern and fight for their education.

Analicia Haynes can be reached at 581-2812 or achaynes@eiu.edu.

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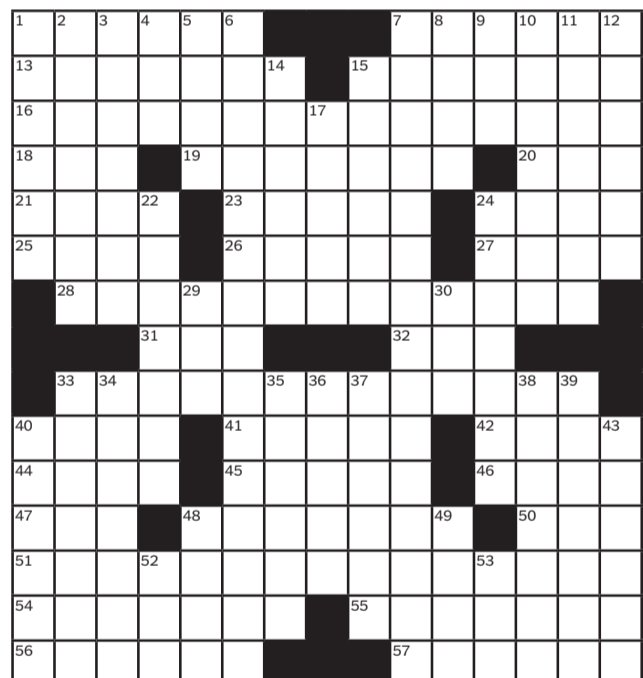
- 1 Viking girl in "How to Train Your Dragon"
- 7 Intimates
- 13 Comics tyke
- 15 Starling of book and film
- 16 Epic number
- 18 So-called "fifth qtrs."
- 19 Postwar German nickname
- 20 Kenan's sitcom partner
- 21 Next
- 23 Irrelevant info
- 24 Trinidad o Tobago
- 25 Shot putters' needs?
- 26 Squash
- 27 Unleashes (on)
- 28 Its main characters go to hell

- 31 ___ Green, 2006 Bond girl
- 32 Chris who sang "The Road to Hell," 1989
- 33 Tools with swiveling blades
- 40 Directed
- 41 Fantasy sports option
- 42 Like some additions and editions
- 44 With 36-Down, bit of clothes mending
- 45 Like drafts
- 46 Emphatic type: Abbr.
- 47 Lance on a bench
- 48 Snowflake or crystal shape
- 50 Outer limit
- 51 Functioning again

- 54 Like Charlie Brown's kite, ultimately
- 55 Large game bass
- 56 Great-aunt in "David Copperfield"
- 57 Saws

DOWN

- 1 Dandy wear
- 2 Enveloped
- 3 Byzantine art bit
- 4 Pensioned: Abbr.
- 5 Light music source?
- 6 Appealing figure?
- 7 Rice elbows, e.g.
- 8 Facility
- 9 Liit bit
- 10 Registers
- 11 Big name in car parts
- 12 Automotive models S and X
- 14 For three, to Frédéric
- 15 Chuck who advised Nixon
- 17 French-speaking land where John James Audubon was born
- 22 Fashion designer



PUZZLE BY PAULA GAMACHE

- 24 Bar-Ilan University student, e.g.
- 29 Power inits. beginning in 1933
- 30 "An ___ held by the tail is not yet caught" (old proverb)
- 33 It's named for its five carbon atoms
- 34 Old sandlot game
- 35 Baroque
- 36 See 44-Across
- 37 Internet hookups?
- 38 Fairly clean, so to speak
- 39 Comic book writer with a National Medal of Arts
- 40 Winter wear resembling overalls
- 43 Graybeards
- 48 Boot
- 49 Add superfluous stuff to
- 52 Some chess pieces: Abbr.
- 53 Period of veinticuatro horas

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2 women's basketball seniors to be honored

By Mark Shanahan
Staff Reporter | @DEN_Sports

The Eastern women's basketball team will honor two seniors on Saturday for the final game of the season against SIUE.

Shakita Cox and Alece Shumpert will play their last game on Saturday. Cox transferred to Eastern from Eastern Arizona College and immediately became a starter for the Panthers.

She started all but one game throughout her two years here.

She has had a successful senior campaign averaging 9.8 points per game this season.

Cox also leads all teammates with 41 steals on the season.

Shumpert is the only Panther on the team that has played all four years here at Eastern as it started with her playing in 18 games her freshman season.

Injuries tarnished her sophomore season, but she bounced back her junior season, averaging 10 points a game over the last six games of the

2014-15 season.

The senior started the first seven games of this season and has seen playing time in 24 games.

She is one of the team's top three-point shooters as she leads the team in attempted three pointers and is tied with fellow senior Cox in made three pointers.

After already being eliminated from postseason play, the women look to end the season on a positive note.

Eastern is 3-24 on the season and 2-13 in the OVC after a big 91-52 loss to conference leading Tennessee-Martin.

SIUE heads into town already owning a spot in the conference tournament after going 16-12 in the regular season with an 11-4 record in conference play.

The Cougars have won just two of their last five games but just recently defeated Southeast Missouri on the road by a score of 89-75.

A win on the road against the Panthers will put them at .500 on the road this season, as they are cur-

rently 7-8 away from home.

Eastern fell to SIUE in late January, 87-75.

The Cougars, at the time, were the leading team in the OVC, and Eastern came as close as four points in the fourth quarter before SIUE was able to pull away and seal the victory.

Freshman Halle Stull had a big game for the Panthers off the bench in that game as she scored a team-high 19 points, while adding 11 rebounds.

SIUE had five players that scored double-digits in the game including Shrona Butts, who had 20 points, seven rebounds and six assists.

Eastern shot 55.2 percent in the second half to keep the game close and even outscored SIUE, 32-17, in bench points, but that was not enough to catch up with the Cougars.

The game will get underway in Lantz Arena Saturday at 1 p.m.

Mark Shanahan can be reached at 581-2812 or mmshanahan@eiu.edu.



JASON HOWELL | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Red-shirt senior Shakita Cox has 264 points in 27 games, averaging 9.8 points per game on the season.

Softball team to travel to Tennessee for Frost Classic

By Sean Hastings
Sports Editor | @DEN_Sports

The Eastern softball team did not get a win last weekend at the Troy Classic but will take on five different teams at the UT Chattanooga Frost Classic in Chattanooga, Tenn.

Freshman Mady Poulter was the Panthers' top hitter going 4-11 at the plate and hitting .354.

Coach Angie Nicholson was confident in what the freshmen were going to bring to the team this season.

The Panthers dropped all five games last weekend to McNeese State,

Ole Miss and Troy, but this weekend will be taking on Northern Kentucky and Tennessee-Chattanooga on Friday, Kentucky and Lipscomb on Saturday, and the Panthers will wrap up the weekend with a game against Miami-Ohio.

Eastern defeated Northern Kentucky last year, 6-5, and Lipscomb dating all the way back to 2002.

The Panthers have never faced Tennessee-Chattanooga.

Eastern lost to Kentucky in their last meeting in 2008 and Miami-Ohio in 2005.

This will be only the second time

in Eastern history they will play Lipscomb and Northern Kentucky.

Through the first 10 games of the season, sophomore Jessica Wireman has been the Panthers' top pitcher despite owning a 3-6 record.

Wireman was Ohio Valley Conference Pitcher of the Week two weeks ago.

Wireman has 41 strikeouts this season, and she has two shutouts under her belt.

Senior April Markowski hit two home runs last weekend at the Troy Classic and is second in the OVC with three total. She is two home runs

away from cracking the top 10 all-time home runs list for Eastern. She drove in five runners last weekend.

Senior first baseman Kylie Bennett is tied for first in the OVC in triples with two on the season.

Tennessee-Chattanooga enters the weekend with an 8-3 record and Kentucky is 9-2.

The two are the only teams with winning records in the playing field this weekend. Eastern is currently 3-7.

Northern Kentucky comes into the weekend with a 1-4 record. Lipscomb is currently 4-5.

The Panthers have an all-time re-

cord of 3-2 with Miami-Ohio.

Sophomore pitchers Wireman and Michelle Rogers can be expected to pitch for the Panthers as they are the only two who have pitched this year. The two also racked up the most innings last year as freshmen.

The Panthers will travel to the Southern Illinois Coach B Classic next weekend to take on Kansas, Southern Illinois Carbondale and Butler. The Panthers will play their first OVC games March 19.

Sean Hastings can be reached at 581-2812 or smhastings@eiu.edu.

» TENNIS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Summers said that having two matches in one weekend is definitely more exhausting than just one, but she said she does not think it really affects her game at all.

During last spring's season, the Panthers took home a 4-3 loss hand-

ed to them by the Purple Aces. Eastern dominated doubles play with wins from the duo of seniors Ali Foster and Hannah Kimbrough as well as the team of juniors Kelly Iden and Kamile Stadalninkaita.

The Panthers won just two of the

six singles matches with Foster taking one of the two victories, 6-4, in both sets.

The Panthers lost last year's meeting with the Hoosiers, 6-1.

Eastern's only win was in singles play with Summers taking a 7-6, 2-1

match victory.

The Panthers had a tough go in doubles walking away without a win.

Summers may have contributed her win to her game day ritual.

"I do like eating mac-and-cheese with chocolate milk for breakfast

on game days if we have a morning match, because it is the breakfast of champions," Summers said.

Kaitlin Cordes can be reached at 581-2812 or krcordes@eiu.edu.



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Men's basketball team wins on Senior Night

By Maher Kawash
Staff Reporter | @DEN_Sports

The Eastern men's basketball team wrapped up the regular season against Murray State, and did it in convincing fashion on Senior Night.

From the opening tip, there was a special atmosphere in the building Thursday night.

The Panthers honored four seniors before the game and played in front of their home crowd for the last time this season.

With the crowd roaring behind them all night long, and special performances from many players, Eastern came away with an 85-74 victory to end the regular season.

"We have a ton of respect for Murray State, because beating them just doesn't happen much," Eastern coach Jay Spoonhour said.

After losing three of their last four games, the Panthers seemed to have a chip on their shoulder against the Racers.

Both teams got off to a quick start, trading leads in the first 10 minutes, and switching momentum.

But one of the most important stretches of the game, was when the Panthers went on a 21-9 run in the first half to push the lead to 32-23.

Eastern never gave up the lead after that run, and it was clear they wanted to finish things from there.

In the final four minutes of the first half, the Panthers made big stops by forcing turnovers and blocking shots to lead to points on the other end.

And it was a man off the bench who sparked even more energy into the team.

Freshman Aboubacar Diallo checked into the game for Eastern and got three crucial blocks, as well as a buzzer beating layup to end the first half, sending Panther fans into a roaring cheer.

It was a solid first half all around for the Panthers, as they went into halftime leading 44-32.

An important key to Eastern's halftime lead was defense.

The Panthers limited Murray State's top three leading scorers to just nine points combined in the first half.

The Racers had just one guy scoring in double-digits at halftime, as Demarcus Croaker had 21 points.

"We were smart defensively tonight, and that was the difference," Spoonhour said.

A large part of Eastern's success on offense came from senior Trae Anderson and junior Demetrius McReynolds.



MACKENZIE FREUND | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Senior wing Trae Anderson looks around a Murray State player to try and pass the ball. Anderson led the team with 22 points in the Panthers' 85-74 win Wednesday against Murray State.

Both players finished the first half with 11 points to lead the team at that point.

On a night where he was honored in his last home game ever as a Panther, Anderson had a career performance.

A strong second half allowed Anderson to finish the game with a team-high 22 points.

"It was a special one, and I just played my heart out," Anderson said. "It makes it even more special because we have never beat Murray State since I got here."

McReynolds continued his successful season by finishing with 16 points for Eastern.

The Panthers opened the 2nd half with more of the same momentum, and maintained their lead.

Sophomore Cornell Johnston proved to be a leader for Eastern once again, as he had 11 points and nine assists.

The Panthers ran into a problem with nine minutes left in the game, as Johnston got into foul trouble.

But it was the Racers who really struggled with foul trouble.

Two of Murray State's starters and leading scorers this season fouled out in the second half.

Freshman Patrick Muldoon also proved to be a factor for the Panthers off the bench, finishing with 13 points in the game.

Although the Panthers already clinched a berth in the Ohio Valley Conference tournament, this still serves as a big win for the team to end the regular season.

With the win, Eastern improved to 9-7 in conference play, and are just a half game behind Murray State for 2nd place in the OVC west.

"It is always a big deal to beat Murray, because it just does not happen much," Spoonhour

said. "It is a testament to this team and our seniors this year."

Right now the Panthers would be placed as the 7th seed in the conference tournament, but can move up with help from Tennessee-Martin.

Murray State goes onto play Tennessee-Martin after this for the last game of the season, and a loss could mean plenty for the Panthers.

If the Racers lose that game, Eastern would be tied with them, and it would come down to a tiebreaker to see who gets the 6th seed in the OVC tournament.

"I am really happy with where we are right now, and I am glad that we finished at 9-7 in this conference," Spoonhour said.

Maher Kawash can be reached at 581-2812 or mwkawash@eiu.edu.

Baseball team searches for 1st win on the road

By Maher Kawash
Staff Reporter | @DEN_Sports

The Eastern baseball team is 0-4 to start the season and continues its road trip this weekend against Central Arkansas.

The Panthers are still in search of that first win, and they will have this four-game series to get one.

While Eastern is winless on the young season, the team has seen some solid competition so far.

The Panthers are coming off a 9-1 loss to the 3rd ranked team in the country, Vanderbilt.

It may come off as a bad loss, but Eastern did hold the former 2014 College World Series champions to just one run through five innings.

Eastern has turned its focus though, as this four-game series will offer a difficult task of turning things around quickly.

It will also be important for the team to learn from last season and put an end to this losing streak.

The Panthers fell quickly to start the last season, and they ended up playing 23 games before earning their first win.

But with all the change the team had this off-season, things are supposed to be different, and that starts with Central Arkansas.

Central Arkansas has also had a slow start to the season, coming into play at 1-3.

The Bears earned their first win of the season last game, defeating Tennessee Tech, 14-6.

Red-shirt senior Matt Wivinis will be the starting pitcher for the Panthers in Game 1 of the series.

Wivinis is coming off a loss in his first start of the season, as he holds an ERA of 9.00.

Eastern's pitching staff has struggled a bit to

start the season, but their offense has had even more problems.

Sophomore Cale Hennemann has been the team's best hitter to start the season, boasting a .417 batting average.

Hennemann is one of three players on the team to have a RBI, with two so far on the year.

The Panthers will rely on him in Game 1 to get the bats going, as well as the rest of the weekend.

Games 2 and 3 will be played Saturday in a double header, starting at noon.

Junior Michael McCormick and senior Jake Johansmeier will be the starters in those games, and both will try to improve their struggling ERAs.

McCormick heads into the game 0-1 on the season, and he holds a 19.29 ERA so far.

Johansmeier has also struggled, posting a

13.50 ERA in 2.2 innings pitched this season.

Senior Brendon Allen will close out the series, as he starts Game 4 of the series for Eastern.

Allen has been one of the best pitchers on the team early on, pitching 5.2 innings against Southern Mississippi, and allowing just two runs in the game.

This will be the last series of the Panthers' road trip to the start to the season.

The last time these two teams faced off in 2011, Central Arkansas came away with a 3-2 victory.

First pitch of Game 1 is tomorrow at 6 p.m., and Eastern will return home after this weekend series for the home opener against Indiana State.

Maher Kawash can be reached at 581-2812 or mwkawash@eiu.edu.

Women's tennis team to travel to Indiana for 2 matches

By Kaitlin Cordes
Staff Reporter | @DEN_Sports

The Eastern women's tennis team will cross the state line to take on the Evansville Purple Aces on Saturday and the Indiana Hoosiers on Sunday.

The Panthers head into the weekend with a 4-3 record after a tough loss to Southern Illinois last Saturday.

To start the weekend play, Eastern will meet

a 2-7 Purple Aces team on either the Wesselman Park courts or in the Tri-State Athletic Club, depending on the weather.

Evansville is coming off a win over the Wright State Raiders and a loss to the Findlay Oilers after a double header last Saturday. The Purple Aces will meet with the Tennessee-Martin Skyhawks hours before facing the Panthers in their first home matches of the season.

Leading in singles for the Purple Aces, junior

Katie Delgado is 3-5 overall, winning almost 38 percent of her matches. She holds the best singles record among the team. On the doubles side, three teams are tied for the Aces' top spot, winning half of each of their matches.

The Hoosiers suffered a huge loss to the Notre Dame Fighting Irish in a 6-1 battle on Saturday. Indiana will see action against the University of Kentucky, DePaul and Marquette University in the days leading up to the match with Eastern.

Freshman Natalie Whalen has the winningest singles record for the Hoosiers, going 5-1 overall. Four doubles teams are 1-0, lending them a top spot in team play.

Indiana is currently 6-2 overall.

Members of the Eastern tennis squad do not seem to be daunted by a full weekend, as demonstrated by sophomore Grace Summers.

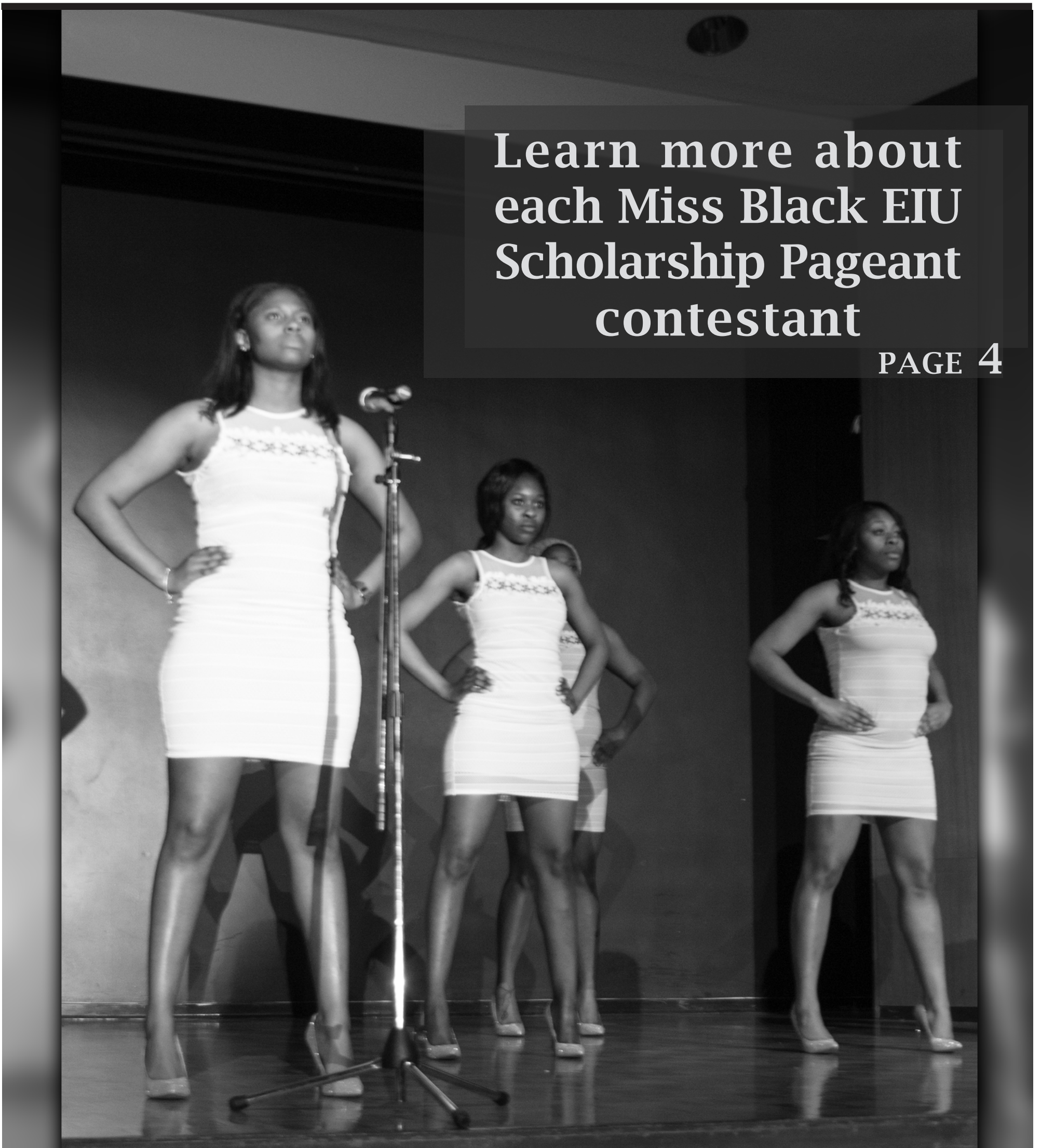
FEB. 26, 2016

W O N T H E VERGE

The Daily Eastern News' weekly arts and entertainment section

Learn more about
each Miss Black EIU
Scholarship Pageant
contestant

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KALYN HAYSLETT | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

The theme for the 45th Miss Black EIU Scholarship Pageant is "Rise of Roses: An Affair of Tribute and Transformation" showcases nine students at 6 p.m. Saturday in the Grand Ballroom of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CC: WIKIPEDIA

Gold medal worthy film: Race

Review by Kalyn Hayslett
Verge Editor | @DEN_Verge



I remember in elementary school learning about Olympic gold medalist Jesse Owens during African-American Heritage Month. I saw the trailer for "Race" bring to life everything I learned, and I knew at that moment "Race" was a must see.

"Race" depicts Owens' life and walks the audience through his outstanding track and field accomplishments while showing his humanity, his fears, his doubts and his personality.

Born with both passion and talent for track, Owens broke records in elementary and in high school, which got the attention of Ohio State University.

Not even Owens' tremendous skills could shield him from discrimination and segregation at Ohio Stat. But Owens decided, out of sheer determination, to be a part of one the best track programs.

Stephan James, who played Owens, did a fantastic job embodying the emotions Owens felt, especially when faced with hatred.

Nothing Owens had was given to him, not even the respect of his Ohio track coach Larry Snyder, played by Jason Sudeikis. But throughout the film, the audience witnesses the dynamic of their relationship transition from awkward to family-like bonds.

These two actors were both so believable, and there were many times when both Owens and coach Snyder doubted themselves but

knew exactly what to say to encourage each other.

Watching how both Owens and coach Snyder defended each other became symbols of hope defeating instances of injustices both on and off the field.

I was compelled to examine all of the areas in my life where I experience privilege: able-bodied, Christian and heterosexual and how I can be that ally for underrepresented people.

The movie was so powerful because it had so many takeaways: celebrating and honoring African-American heritage, to not only help African-American students understand their identity, but to educate society about these unsung heroes.

However, this movie was extremely stressful to watch because the director places the audience right in the middle of the conflict.

When Owens was shell-shocked by seeing the large crowd or anxiously waiting at the starting line, the audience could feel his emotions as if they were in the moment with him.

There was not a time throughout the film that I wasn't on the edge of my seat because it was so well written.

It is easy to look up Jesse Owens and learn that he broke four world

records in four separate divisions in 1935 at the Big Ten championships and that he won four Olympic gold medals in Nazi Germany during 1936.

However, this film showed that his talent was gold-medal worthy as well as his character because he had to perform under mind-blowing pressure.

Owens, coach Snyder, the American Olympic Committee and the National Association of Advancement Colored People all had to make tough decisions.

The Berlin Olympics were no longer just about competing in sporting events, but they were a battle of political ideologies.

Determining whether America should compete in the Olympics, determining to run in the place of Jewish Olympians, determining whether to compete while injured during the Big Ten meet were just a few of the many tough decisions that were made.

Knowing that in the midst of racial segregation in both Germany and America, Owens still performed with outstanding resilience and perseverance which was worth honoring through this film.

I believe the timing of this film was perfect to show the progression with racial justice as well as a reminder of how much more that needs to be done.

"Race" is a must see and I recommend everyone go and watch it.

Kalyn Hayslett can be reached at 581-2812 or kehayslett@eiu.edu.



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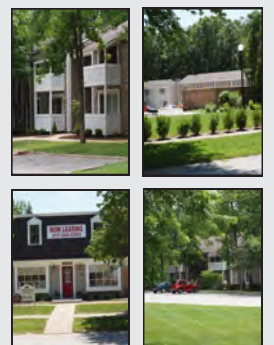
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MERCURY BOWEN | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Students use warm-ups to practice lyric memorization and learn how to harmonize with one another. "White Winter Hymnal" is one of the group's favorite songs because they love how tight the harmonies sound, Kristen Ed said.

Eastern Euphonics: lack of instruments, lots of fun

By Mercury Bowen
Staff Reporter | @DEN_Verge

Eastern Euphonics is a recently established A Cappella group for students who share the same passion for singing and have a genuine love for music.

Performers use their voices and body percussion such as clapping or stomping to imitate instrumental background.

The idea for an A Cappella group at Eastern came about at the end of last semester and was approved in early October. Several students showed an interest and then decided to create a name.

The name Euphonics comes from the Greek word euphonia, which means "well-sounding."

The group then sought out their sponsor, Cameron Craig, a Geography professor who is currently working on his master's in choral conducting. Craig is involved in many aspects of music on and off campus as well as with WEIU.

Craig said that he was very excited when the group contacted him to be

a sponsor, and the students have good vocal quality, energy, and a lot of excitement.

"All of them who participate in Euphonics are very talented," Craig said. "We look forward to bigger things later in the future."

Euphonics were met with overwhelming support and the group members were stunned by the audition turnouts, president Brian Hartman said.

"We were blown away by the talent," Hartman said. "We really wanted to take everyone."

Many of the group members who had to sort through the audition tapes said it was difficult to turn anyone away.

"That just says so much about this campus," treasurer Kaycee Lewis said. "So many people are so talented and they don't know how much talent they have until they audition for something like this."

Hartman said that the group has met around 10 times this semester and has already learned several songs.

One of the major goals of Euphonics is to begin building a set for the

Varsity Vocals International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella.

Dubbed the real-life "Pitch Perfect," the ICCA is a tournament showcasing the art of student A Cappella. It would allow Euphonics to compete with A Cappella groups from other universities for a chance to go to finals in New York City.

"We're just as talented as the other groups," Hartman said. "They're good, and I don't see why we can't be just as good."

Many of Euphonics' members are not music majors, and some do not have much background with A Cappella. Hartman said that he had never been in an A Cappella group before, and he was the one to initiate Euphonics. The group includes athletes, actors, chemists, geographers, marketing majors, family and consumer science majors, and many more.

"We're very diverse in majors," Lewis said.

Haley Altgilbers, music director and vice president, said that students do not have to be music majors or even have experience at all; they just need to enjoy singing and sound

good doing so. The group is currently in need of a vocal percussionist and would like to find one soon.

Music is arranged by the group members to fit the A Cappella format.

Hartman said that one of the reasons for creating Euphonics was to perform more modern music.

"We are singing things that you hear on the radio," Hartman said. "Things that you could listen to in your car and jam out to."

When asked about a favorite song, several group members gave different answers. Kristen Ed, freshman public relations major, said that she enjoys "White Winter Hymnal" because it has a lot of variety.

"I think 'Blank Space' is pretty fun," Lewis said. "This arrangement is really, really fun."

Freshman Caroline Collet said she loves the way the group manages to blend together on the harmonies.

"It never ceases to amaze me how good we can all blend," secretary Cullen Scurlock said. "After the first rehearsal, I was blown away."

There is an overwhelming sense of

camaraderie within Euphonics. The practice included much laughter, breaks for cookies, and an impromptu rap battle.

Several members agreed that it is this cohesive nature and the maintenance of their friendships that creates the success of the group.

"We are an extremely strange family," Hartman said. "You have to love music, but at the same time you have to love the people that you're singing with."

It can also be difficult to sing in front of people, especially in a large group.

"There's a certain vulnerability necessary for singing in a choral group," Altgilbers said. "You kind of have to be willing to go for it and also willing to mesh with the people around you."

Auditions for the group will be held at the beginning of next semester, however, students are welcome to contact an officer or go to the "Eastern Euphonics" page on Facebook.

Mercury Bowen can be reached at 581-2812 or mjbowen@eiu.edu.

Firewatch game serves as pleasant surprise

Review by Mace Mackiewicz
Staff Reporter | @DEN_Verge



"Firewatch" is a video game I came in knowing very little about. I had seen a couple of articles online talking about it and I knew it was loosely related to Wyoming in the '80s and forest fires. I went into the game with no expectations, and surprisingly most of the game was good.

In "Firewatch," you play as a guy named Henry who is trying to escape from issues in his life by taking a job as a firewatch. Henry's only interaction with another person in the game comes through his radio conversations with Delilah, another lookout for the summer.

The following part of the article contains slight spoilers.

At the very beginning of the game you find out Henry's wife has extremely early onset of dementia and was taken back to Australia with her family. Henry, not knowing how to deal with this, sees an ad in the paper and joins the firewatch.

As for game play, this game has been called a "walking simulator." The main focus of the game is the story and there aren't really any puzzles. The game has no combat and most of the solutions are just going from point A to point B.

There's two frustrating parts of the game play. The first is the map system. The game takes place in the early '80s so the main character doesn't have a GPS he can use to get to different places. You have to constantly bring up the map and compass to find your way.

For some people this is probably pretty cool, but I found it tedious, and it added padding to an already extremely short game.

The other issue with game play is how the game blocks pathways. This is one of the best looking games I have seen and at some points I just wanted to wander around the map. The problem is the game blocks off most areas entirely or until the story deems that it's OK for the player to progress through them.

The strong point of the game is definitely the voice actors which pretty much make or break the game.

Since the game is entirely story driven, the story is carried by both of the voice leads and they do an extremely good job.

The story itself is very good for the first two hours.

It was relaxing and a nice change of pace to experience being a firewatch instead of the usual soldier or warrior of most video games.

There's little bits on conflict here and there about people causing trouble in the forest.

The final act of the game; however, takes a turn and makes the player think that maybe the game is going into a more sci-fi direction.

I don't want to spoil anything but the game ends on one of the biggest anti-climaxes of all time.

Overall "Firewatch" is a great relaxing game, the ending will ruin it for some people including me.

But the first two hours of the three-hour game were great.

And I really want to see what else this studio puts out later so I don't think \$20 was a waste.

Overall, I would give the game a seven out of 10.

It was really interesting and had a different beginning but it gets dragged down by the ending, the map and the blocked paths.

Mace Mackiewicz can be reached at 581-2812 or mmmackiewicz@eiu.edu.



Name: Jessica Stallworth
Major: Health Studies - **Year:** Senior

"I want to stand out and be more serious than my naturally happy personality. I just want to take everybody by surprise," Stallworth said.



Name: N'Keyah Taylor
Major: Health Administration - **Year:** Senior

"I wanted to do something different and get involved on campus that would get me in front of people," Taylor said. "I would thank God and the coordinators for all they have done (if I won)."



Name: Salonje Dorsey
Major: FCS- Fashion Merchandising
Year: Senior

"I was confident before this and doing this has made me open up and to speak to large crowds," Dorsey said.



Name: Meka AlTaqi-Brown
Major: Broadcast Journalism - **Year:** Junior

"I did the pageant because I wanted to get out of my comfort zone and finally express how I feel about certain topics," Brown said. "The people that are coming to support me are my mom, aunties, uncles, step mom and church family."



Name: Julianne Adegioridu
Major: Kinesiology - **Year:** Junior

"From emotional to mental well-being, our pageant mom makes sure everything is in order," she said. "Like a mom, there are times she gets on our nerves but that's part of the pageant and part of the fun."



Name: Danielle Crawford
Major: Communication Studies - **Year:** Senior

"My favorite outfit is in my talent portion. It is a black T-shirt with a woman wearing an afro on the front with the saying, 'My hair is my crown' in white, red and green lettering," Crawford said.



Name: Maliya Smith
Major: Psychology - **Year:** Senior

"I would say I'm most nervous about the intro because that's my first impression," Smith said. "The most difficult was focusing my energy to get my parts how I want them."



Name: Martina Austin
Major: Health Studies - **Year:** Senior

"My pageant sisters motivate me to keep going. There was a time I doubted myself and they told me I could do it," Austin said.



Name: Aaliyah Stephen
Major: Communication Studies - **Year:** Junior

"It's an opportunity of a lifetime," Stephen said. "It takes bravery to share information that is so near and dear to our hearts."