

11-18-2005

## Daily Eastern News: November 18, 2005

Eastern Illinois University

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

SPORTS ♦ Undefeated Panthers face Tennessee to determine OVC fate: page 12

# THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

VOLUME 90, ISSUE 63

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90th Anniversary

Eastern Illinois University, Charleston

FRIDAY  
NOVEMBER  
**18**  
2005

## Mertz sentence appeal rejected

### Charleston man still on death row for rape and murder of Eastern student

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SPRINGFIELD—The Illinois Supreme Court on Thursday strongly upheld the death sentence of a Charleston man convicted in the 2001 rape and murder of an Eastern student.

The court called the case against Anthony Mertz "overwhelming" and rejected all the arguments he made for why receiving the death penalty was unconstitutionally unfair.

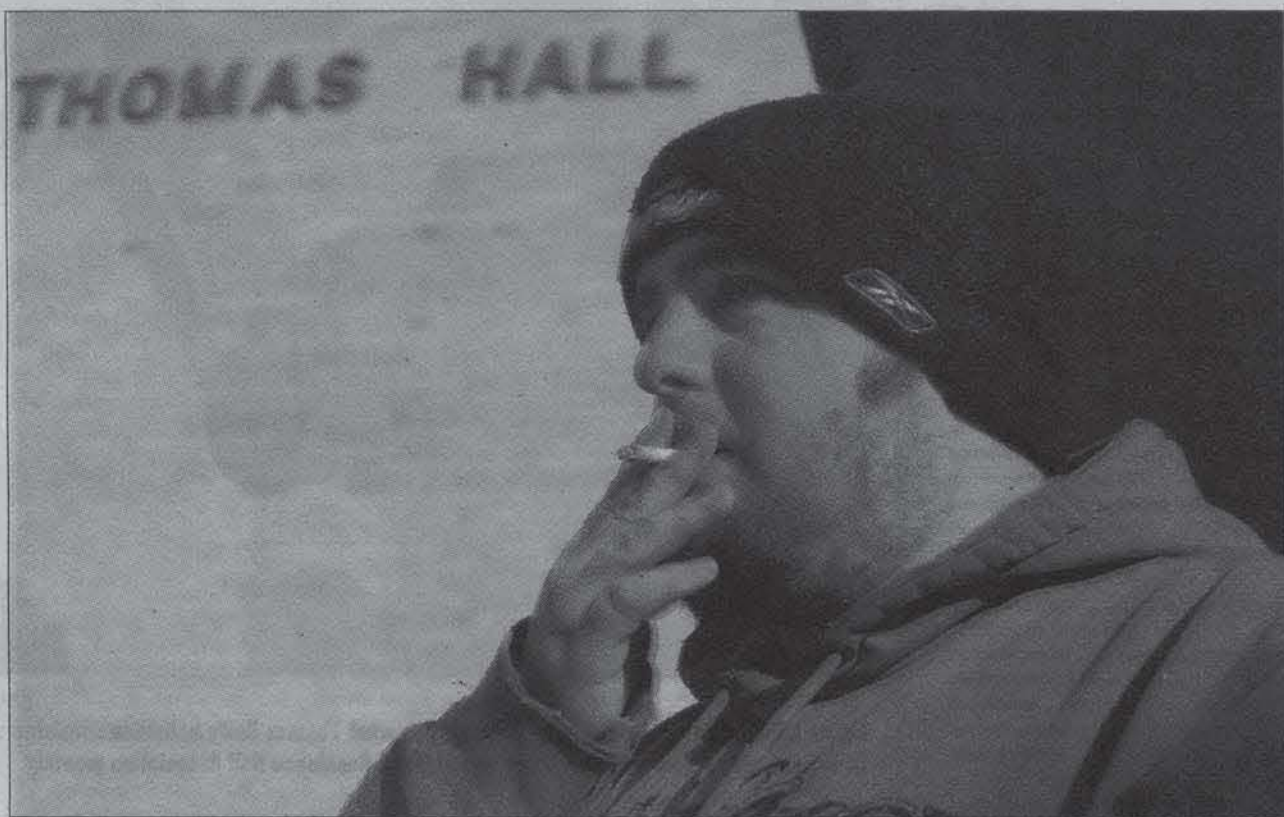
Mertz was sentenced to die in February 2003 for killing Shannon McNamara, whose mutilated body was found at her off-campus apartment across the street from where Mertz lived.

His death sentence came one month after former Gov. George Ryan commuted the death sentences of all 167 inmates on Illinois' death row to life in prison and pardoned four others, declaring the state's capital justice system "haunted by the demon of error." In 2000, Ryan halted all executions in Illinois over fears that a flawed system had led to the wrongful convictions of 13 death row inmates.

Mertz was the first person sent to Illinois' death row since Ryan implemented the execution moratorium, and his appeal is the first to reach the state Supreme Court of those sentenced to death under the moratorium.

**"We find that defendant's death sentence was not excessive or in any sense 'fundamentally unfair.'"**

JUSTICE LLOYD KARMEIER



DANIEL WILLIAMS/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Rob Hurley, junior history major, smokes a cigarette outside Thomas Hall Thursday. The Eastern Residence Hall Association looks to make more dorms smoke-free by 2007. Smoking is allowed on two floors each in Weller, Thomas and Andrew halls.

## Smoke and HALLS

### Dormitory floors undergo smoking policy changes

BY SUSAN ATWELL  
STAFF REPORTER

Following in the footsteps of many other universities, Eastern will be making all of its dorms smoke-free by fall of 2007.

Four years ago, there were 28 smoking floors on Eastern's campus, said Mark Hudson, director of housing and dining services. Residence Hall Association later decided to see how many smokers actually filled the halls; it found that the smokers did not come close to filling all of the smoking rooms, so it decreased the smoking floors to six, Hudson said.

There are now two smoking floors each in Weller, Thomas and Andrews, but that will soon be changing, Hudson said.

Since there are now not enough smokers to fill up even one floor in a residence hall, Weller will be smoke free, while Andrews and Thomas will have only one smoking floor each by fall of 2006, Hudson said.

By fall of 2007, all of the dorms will be smoke free, he also said.

There are mixed emotions among students about the decision, though.

Some believe the decision is a good one, while others are not as eager for the change.

"It is nice to be able to smoke inside in the winter, and a lot of people don't even care if they are on a smoking floor," said Jesse Funk, a senior English major who lives on one of the smoking floors in Weller Hall. "With as many people that smoke on campus, there should be at least one smoking floor in one dorm."

While this may be true, considering Hudson said there have been no complaints about the smoking floors by any of the students, some students may agree with the switch.

"It is a good idea for others who don't want to share other people's smoke," said Bill Cozzens, a sophomore sociology major.

Steps are being taken to ensure nonsmokers who move in to formerly smoking rooms are not affected by the inside smoke.

"Some students who smoked in their rooms will be unhappy, but that is why we are slowly phasing it out," Hudson said.

## Governor looks to sell student loan money to pay off deficit

### State legislators want sale to benefit higher education

BY SARAH WHITNEY  
ADMINISTRATION EDITOR

The governor now wants to use money from past and present Illinois students by selling student loan debt, in addition to rising tuition costs because of a lack of state funding.

"First of all, the lack of support for higher education is raising your tuition," said State Representative Chapin Rose. "It's acting as a hidden tax on the middle class, but at the same time that you and I are having to pay more to go to school, (the governor) is actually proposing that we steal from you and force you to subsidize the state of Illinois and basically give us \$300 million."

Rose is referring to a proposal to sell student loan debt that resurfaced this week in Springfield.

Last May, Gov. Rod Blagojevich proposed a plan, which would sell the state's student loan debt to a private bidder in an effort to pay back its debts. Legislators blocked Blagojevich's efforts.

The sale would generate between \$300 and \$500 million. Under last May's proposal, two-thirds of the sale would go to pay off the state's debts, and one-third would fund student scholarships.

"That plan would have taken money out of supporting students," said Jill Nilsen, Eastern's vice president for external relations. "The dollars that potentially could be redirected to Eastern would enable us to continue to provide quality academic experience for our students."

Rose represents Coles County and Eastern. He does not agree with the governor's proposal.

Where will the money go?

What legislators want

- ♦ 2/3 of sale would fund student scholarships
- ♦ 1/3 of sale would go directly to state institutions
- ♦ \$120 million to four-year universities (\$7.2 million to Eastern)
- ♦ \$30 million to community colleges
- ♦ \$17 million for a one time tax credit to alumni paying student loans (\$100 per person)

What the governor wants

- ♦ 2/3 of sale would go to general fund to pay state debt
- ♦ 1/3 of sale would fund student scholarships



SEE LOANS PAGE 5



TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
<b>44</b> 29 Mostly sunny	<b>50</b> 35 Mostly sunny	<b>49</b> 29 Rain/ snow	<b>53</b> 31 Mostly sunny	<b>39</b> 34 Few snow showers

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2005

## Eastern News

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## RESIDENCE HALL ASSOCIATION



ERIC HILTNER/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Lance Ellington, a senior history major, explains what Thomas Hall's activities consisted of this past week in the basement of Andrews Hall Thursday night during a Residence Hall Association meeting.

# Meeting addresses segregation

BY MIKE UKLEJA  
STAFF REPORTER

Residence Hall Association meetings usually stress topics that affect the residence halls. Thursday night's meeting, however, focused on segregation.

Students had assigned seating based not on which hall they were representing, but on their hair colors and races.

Leah Pietraszewski, programming and diversity coordinator for RHA, said she thought of the segregation idea for the meeting.

"I wanted to make people aware of the world around them and appreciate things more," Pietraszewski said.

Segregation is a difficult concept to address, especially at an RHA meeting, she said.

"At business meetings, we try to keep business really business," Pietraszewski

said. "However, I hope it really had an impact, but we will only be able to tell through people's reactions."

The segregated seating seemed to have an impact on students.

Before the meeting started, many students were complaining about the seating arrangements and wondered why they had to abide by them.

"Why are all the blondes sitting in the back?" one RHA member asked.

The main attraction coming to residence halls during finals week is "Food for Thought," said Mark Hudson, director of housing and dining services.

"Food for Thought" will take place from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m. in Stevenson Hall and from 9 p.m. until 11 p.m. in Taylor Hall on Dec. 11.

The program allows a student with meal plans to come and get a freebie meal during finals week, Hudson said.

The meals in Stevenson Hall will

be steak and eggs, and Taylor Hall will serve hot dogs and chili with banana splits for dessert, Hudson said.

"I just want to give students who have these plans a free and fun meal during finals to help them relax," he said.

Hudson added that this is the first year in a while the school is doing this, and he hopes it is a success.

RHA Vice President Vicky Salmons also thanked members for the "great success" of the blood drive.

This year the blood drive had 133 people with 107 productive units, which was a great success.

The Student Senate informed all females that at 6 p.m. Nov. 29, it would be hosting a "light walk," in which females can walk through campus pointing out where they feel lights should be placed to make campus feel safer during the night.

### TODAY'S EVENTS

#### Toys for Tots drive

All day | Donations go to underprivileged children in Coles County and surrounding areas. New, unwrapped toys will be accepted at more than 40 locations on campus.

#### Flu shots

8 a.m. | Free flu shots available to students.  
Health Services Medical Clinic

#### FARS

9 a.m. | Eastern travel representatives present tips and procedures.  
Booth Library Conference Room

#### Study Abroad

1 p.m. | Informational session  
Lawson Hall basement

### ONLINE POLL

This week we ask our readers "What is your favorite part about Thanksgiving?"

- A) The yummy food.
- B) The football games.
- C) Spending time with the family.
- D) The turkey-induced nap.

VOTE @ WWW.THEDAILY EASTERNNEWS.COM



### EARLY HEADLINES

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### WTF?

# Reportedly dead son gives mother a call

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

OAKLAND, Calif.—Anthony Sheppard shocked his mother this week with a telephone call, a day after he was reported dead. "When he called me I thought I was talking to a ghost," said Verna McCowan.

Oakland police on Tuesday bungled the identification of a man shot to death after finding Sheppard's identification card on the victim. Authorities alerted his mother of the shooting, and released the details to reporters.

Sheppard, 23, said he was shocked when he walked up to a group of friends on Wednesday who were crying while reading a newspaper account of his death.

The dead man was later determined to be Mark Martin, 26, of Oakland, who was identified by fingerprints.

No suspects were arrested. Sheppard told authorities he had lost his identification card several years ago.

Alameda County Sheriff's spokesman Lt. Jim Knudsen said Thursday that police provided coroner's officials with the man's identification. No fingerprints were initially taken, and Sheppard's family was alerted.

"A day or two later, the mother calls and says, 'I just talked to my son,'" Knudsen said. "We're human and we feel sorry for what happened."

# Developer vows to use pig farm as revenge

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RATHDRUM, Idaho—A developer has threatened to make a big stink after the Kootenai County Commission denied his request to rezone property he owns at the edge of town for a professional building.

Specifically, Steve Nagel plans to park a pig farm on the site, with hundreds of squealing porkers greeting visitors to the northern Idaho town.

"Now maybe when I go to negotiate with these people I'll get a little better response," Nagel told *The Spokesman-Review* newspaper.

But county and city officials doubt that Nagel will follow through, noting that threats to go into the hog business have become planning dispute cliches.

"That's the first thing they say: 'I'm going to put a pig farm on it,'" Rathdrum Mayor Brian Steele said. "I think it's a common statement."

Nagel, an insurance agent, wants to build a professional building on his county land for his insurance company and a few other businesses. The County Commission denied the request Nov. 3 because Rathdrum officials opposed the zoning change and would prefer to annex the land into the city so it could have sewer and water service.



# Lawmakers take on pension-cutting laws

BY SARAH WHITNEY  
ADMINISTRATION EDITOR

Pension-cutting legislation could be amended by next summer.

Two bills, House Bill 4166 and Senate Bill 2151, if passed in the upcoming spring session, would alleviate concerns expressed by Eastern's university officials. The two bills would amend the State Universities Article of the Illinois Pension Code.

"The way the original legislation was written would have a significant financial impact for the University," said Jill Nilsen, vice president for external relations. "Passage of this proposed bill would help the University with long-term financial planning."

The pension legislation says that state institutions must assume the responsibility for funding their employees' pension in excess of 6 percent.

"The issue has been historically people, specifically in the teachers' retirement system, would received salary increases in their final year of retirement," said Jeff Cooley, vice president for business affairs. "What that does is pumps up your final rates of earnings, and that is used to calculate the pension benefit you would earn the rest of your life."

The State University Retirement System calculates employees' "final rates of earnings" from their last four years of employment.

If a faculty member received an increase in excess of 6 percent in those final four years, then the university is "on the hook" for the increase, Cooley said.

University officials disagree with the current bill's definition of what causes faculty members' salaries to increase.

The 6 percent increase includes compensation from teaching summer

school, receiving promotions and working over time, according to the legislation's language.

"Those are not considered 'basic compensation,'" Cooley said. Therefore, the university should not be responsible for the pension obligation.

Cooley gave an example of faculty members on nine-month contracts. They are not required by contract to teach summer school, but if the university needs additional summer staff and asks them to teach, then the institution must pay additional money to those faculty members.

"The state looks at that and says, well, that's an excess of 6 percent salary increase in their last four years; the university would have to pay for that," Cooley said. "And we're saying, 'No, that's not basic compensation; that's additional duties. That is not part of their normal employment.'"

There is a difference between a pay raise and a promotion, but the legislation's wording does not distinguish between the two. Cooley listed promoting a faculty member to department chair, which would result in a higher salary.

"We're not giving them a salary increase for that job; this is a new job," Cooley said.

State Representative Chapin Rose did not vote for the current legislation. He said it was passed over Memorial Day weekend in less than 36 hours, with no information released to the public.

He said the bill needs to be addressed as a whole, rather than piecemeal.

"There's more than just a couple little problems that's happening in this one bill," he said. "We need to sit down and have a talk about the lack of thought that was put into this by Gov. Blagojevich."

# Eastern takes a break

BY TABITHA MILLER  
STAFF REPORTER

Relaxation is a common theme on Eastern's campus when planning for Thanksgiving break.

"(My favorite part about Thanksgiving) is the food and the nap afterwards," said Amanda Poffinbarger, a faculty member of the biological sciences department. "It's a day you don't feel guilty for laying around."

Poffinbarger teaches a class at Lake Land Community College in Mattoon, she said, so she won't be doing much differently.

"But over the weekend my boyfriend and I will be going to Alabama. He has a goal to see all 50 states before he turns 30," Poffinbarger said.

She will be eating Thanksgiving dinner with her family in Mattoon.

"I'll be making the whole nine-mile trip home for the traditional Thanksgiving meal."

Jackie Madon, a sophomore psychology major, said she plans on having a very lazy Thanksgiving.

"(I am) just going home and relaxing," she said.

Some students, on the other hand, are taking the break to catch up on schoolwork.

"Homework, homework and more homework," said Jessie Gotschewski, a senior special education major. "(It's) not even really a break at all, (it's) just a lot of homework."

Sherri Smith, a sophomore family consumer sciences major, is planning on taking advantage of Facebook.com by meeting face to face with a new friend that had gone to her high school.

"Other than that, (I'm) eating turkey, getting fat and sleeping. I think I have forgotten what sleep is," Smith said.

Phillip Foreman, a sophomore finance major, plans on going home, working, eating with family and going to the bars the night before Thanksgiving.

Dan Nadler, vice president for student affairs, has family coming in from Reno, Nev., and Concord, Calif.

"(We plan to) get out and explore the area a little bit, have a great time with each other, eat lots of good food, watch some good football games and, of course, have plenty of rest and relaxation time," Nadler said. "We're looking forward to family coming and seeing our new home."

Nadler just moved into his new home in Charleston last July.

Nadler said he hopes it snows for his kids who, until this year, haven't lived in an area that gets snow.



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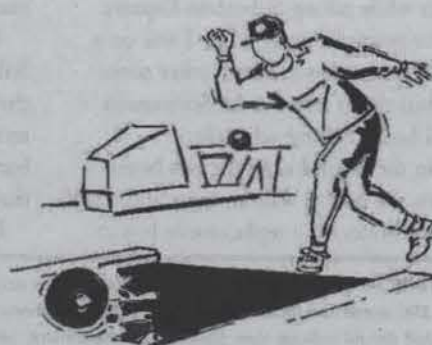
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Eastern Illinois University



# OPINION

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

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2005

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### COMMENTARY



**DAVID THILL**  
STUDENT GOVERNMENT EDITOR

## THE PROBLEM WITH PATIENCE ... IT TAKES AWHILE

I was out of breath from running home by the time I got to my car. I had walked to class earlier in the day and realized I had a ridiculous amount of things to do and about 45 minutes in which to do them in.

I got in my car, turned the key and heard the engine struggle to start as it always does when the temperature drops below the "I can't feel my face" line. I gritted my teeth in frustration, backed out and was on my way. I ran to work and got my paycheck, then to the bank to deposit about 14 checks. I made my way to Wal-Mart to do some grocery shopping, and then I had to make my way to my landlord's house to pay rent. I drove as fast as possible while staying within the legal limits, if not the limits of good conduct as a driver.

Ironically, as I grew ever closer to blowing my proverbial top, I popped the Guns 'n Roses Greatest Hits CD into my player of the same name and began listening to "Patience," and the words of Axl Rose rang truer than ever.

The problem that lies within myself, I have noticed, lies within just about every member of the human race of this day and age.

We want our news now, we want our double cheese-burger now, and we want our music now. We want EVERYTHING now.

**"The populous of today fees on quick and timely everything. We can never wait for anything."**

The populous of today feeds on quick and timely everything. We can never wait for anything. And I am as guilty as all of you for doing so.

But as Snake and Axl ground on through the song toward the inevitable five-minute-long whistling solo, I realized why everyone demands instant gratification on every front: failure to plan and prepare for life.

Perhaps if everyone took the time to look ahead a bit and prepare for the things they need to do, life wouldn't exist in such a fretted and frenzied pace.

Perhaps students wouldn't feel the need to stay up until 5 a.m. for a test they have at 8 a.m. if they had worried about it sooner. There's a chance that those whom you see running from class to class in a dead sprint may not have had to do so had they practiced time and work management. And maybe, just maybe, I would have been able to write a column on a truly important matter that really affects people as opposed to just a rant about patience. And maybe I could have gotten it done in the four hours I spent just sitting around beforehand.

But the fact of the matter remains the same and stands just as true: people need to slow down, plan and exercise a little patience.

The world doesn't twirl as quickly as people seem to think it does.

It is impossible to avoid the increase in demand that comes with the surge in ultra-speedy technology, but that does not mean our lives as a whole must speed up along with the technology.

Perhaps if I had taken the time to heed my own words, I would have been able to get my errands done sooner or maybe even done more efficiently. It just takes a bit of planning and owning up to the responsibility.

Thill, a junior journalism major, can be reached at DENstudentsgov@gmail.com.

### EDITORIAL CARTOON BY DAVID THILL



### EDITORIAL

## Handling a tough situation

Last Friday, *The Daily Eastern News* printed a pair of stories regarding domestic abuse in Charleston. Members of the police force who interviewed for the main story (titled "Even in sleepy Charleston") stated how the numbers for domestic abuse cases in Charleston are really no different than what other communities deal with.

Research shows that this is indeed true. In fact, in comparison with Eastern's nearest college neighbor to the north, University of Illinois, the numbers are better for Charleston.

This is encouraging to see because the numbers prove that the Charleston and Eastern communities are not really any different than most communities in the area, just as Lt. Pauls said in the article.

The fact that domestic abuse is not worse than in other communities is reflective of the police department's treatment of the issue and its ability to dissolve would-be conflict and the ability of organizations like HOPE in dealing with this issue.

In Charleston Lt. Hank Pauls of the police department stated that eight to 10 reports of domestic abuse occur in Charleston each week. Two years ago, the Champaign Police Department dealt with 754 cases of domestic abuse, as well as an additional 43 cases of aggravated battery. Combining both of those statistics, that averages out to about 15 cases of domestic abuse in Champaign each week.

#### At issue

Domestic abuse in the Charleston area, and comparing the number of reported incidents in Charleston to other communities.

#### Our stance

The Charleston Police Department said that numbers of this case do not differ much from other communities, and this was the case when the numbers were compared with Champaign. This proves that the situation is being handled properly.

The lower number of domestic abuse cases called in and dealt with by Charleston's Police Department compared to Champaign's has a few factors that influence that outcome.

First of all, the population difference between the larger size of Champaign and the University of Illinois compared to Charleston and Eastern plays a major role in the amount of cases dealt with.

Supervisor of the crime analysis department, Gary Spear of the Champaign Police Department, said the numbers for domestic abuse do not differ very much from year to year. He said this was because of the way the police department handles the situations and, even more importantly, how social workers deal with the problem.

"This is more of a social problem," Spear said. "We can do the best we can with the situation and make sure the situation is dissolved. The likelihood is high that we will arrest somebody during a domestic abuse call just so we can separate those involved to defuse the situation."

Apparently, Eastern and Charleston's police departments also have become aware of the domestic abuse situation and know how best to deal with it.

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

## YOUR TURN: LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### CUSTOMER DISSATISFACTION WITH SUBURBAN EXPRESS

I am calling on the students of Eastern to boycott Suburban Express.

Suburban Express is a bus service offered on weekends from Eastern to the Suburbs. I have had many bad experiences while taking Suburban Express.

For example, twice while I was on a bus it broke down. Many other times the bus didn't arrive at its destination until hours behind schedule.

On the second time the bus broke down, we had to wait an hour and a half to two hours for a replacement bus to

come. The bus driver informed the students taking Suburban Express that we would receive a reimbursement of some kind because it took so long for the replacement bus to arrive. He also told us we would receive an email on the following Tuesday about our reimbursement.

This email never came, so I called Suburban Express three weeks later and the man I talked to, said that we would receive information about our reimbursement the following week. I waited three weeks and still there was nothing.

I decided to call once more about it

and I talked to the same man as I had the first time I called. He told me they decided not to give any reimbursement. When I asked him why he told me that, he said "the time of Eastern students is not worth anything."

I was stunned, upset and disappointed after hearing this statement. I am asking the students of Eastern to realize that this business could care less about us, and if we boycott maybe they will realize they shouldn't alienate their customers.

DANIELLE MOSS  
JUNIOR, ELEMENTARY EDUCATION MAJOR

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**MERTZ:**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Mertz had argued his sentence was unjustified for several reasons.

He contended prosecutors unfairly portrayed him as a tattooed racist with terrorist sympathies and a penchant for pornography, details he called irrelevant to his conviction. He also complained jurors weren't able to fully consider factors that could spare his life, including his military service, rough childhood and drug and alcohol abuse.

The Supreme Court ruled prosecutors' case against Mertz was too strong for the sentence to be overturned.

"We find that defendant's death sentence was not excessive or in any sense 'fundamentally unfair,'" Justice Lloyd Karmeier wrote for the court. "As we have stated, the aggravating evidence against defendant was overwhelming; the mitigating evidence was, in our opinion, meager by comparison."

**LOANS:**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"I am very much hoping that we don't have to deal with this," he said.

Legislators oppose the idea, but the governor's recent successful efforts to reseat the Illinois Student Assistant Commission, which administers the student loan and scholarships, may tilt the vote in his favor should the commission address the proposal at its meeting today.

This would enable the commission to move ahead on the sale of student loan assets without legislative interference.

The Bloomington *Pantagraph* reported yesterday that Blagojevich aides said the changes in commission members is not related, but they said the proposal could resurface during budget talks next spring.

In response, Rose and fellow Republican

legislators: Rep. Rich Brauer, Rep. Mike Bost, Rep. Raymond Poe, Rep. Robert W. Pritchard and Rep. Richard P. Myers drew a line in the sand.

They drafted a bill, which would require that money earned from ISAC's sale would go directly back to higher education.

"We want to be part of the process," Rose said. "We want to work with the governor, the people across the aisle and we want to come up with something that will work for the people of Illinois."

Rose said they haven't introduced the bill yet because they want to have a "more credible number" from the proposed sale, and they want to hear more details about "the other side of the story."

The legislators also suggested an alternative use for the money if the sale goes through.

"We don't like the idea of selling the assets in the first place, but if you're going to do it

then every last penny better be spend on higher ed," Chapin said.

They proposed a flip-flop. Two-thirds of the sale money should go toward student scholarship and reinstating the merit scholarships. One-third should go to the state public institutions.

Out of that one-third, \$120 million would go directly to public four-year universities. It would be calculated on a per student basis. Rose said that based on that equation, Eastern would receive \$7.2 million.

Community Colleges would receive \$30 million, and \$17 million would go toward a one-time tax credit to alumni who are still paying student loans. Rose said the tax credit would average \$100 per person.

"There's something distasteful about stealing from kids," Rose said. "I like to think that our efforts today will help them to rethink themselves."

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Girl Tonite (feat. Trey Songz) - Twista	141008
Don't Cha - Pussycat Dolls	141009
Play - David Banner	141010
I'm a King (feat. T.I. and Lil' Scrappy) - P\$C	141011
Reggaeton Latino - Don Omar	141012
Sugar, We're Going Down - Fall Out Boy	141013
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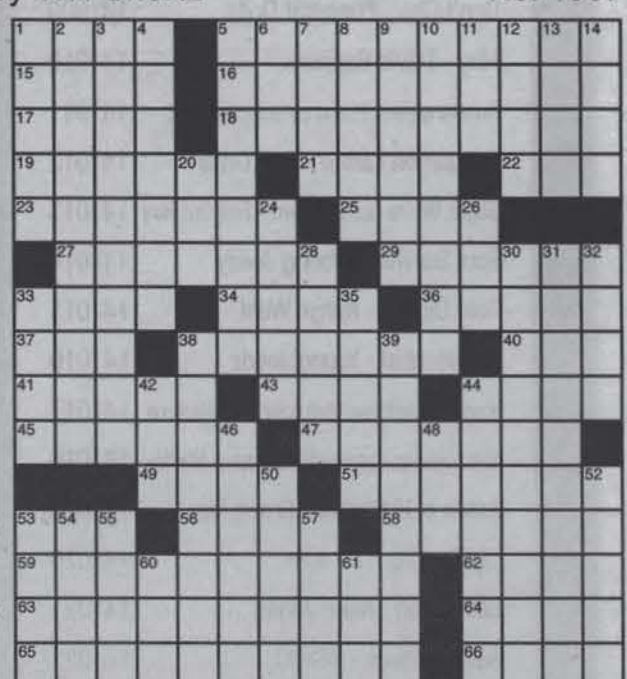
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## The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 1007

- ACROSS**
- 1 Refuse transportation?
  - 5 Dust remover
  - 15 One of a skeletal pair
  - 16 Must
  - 17 Spin
  - 18 Uffizi collection
  - 19 Engineering ring
  - 21 Falling out
  - 22 Derisive interjection
  - 23 Put down
  - 25 Hereditary ruler?
  - 27 Inquisition target
  - 29 Parlor pieces
  - 33 Takes the wrong way?
  - 34 "\_\_\_ do you good"
  - 36 Pillow padding
  - 37 March word
  - 38 Fraudulent acts
  - 40 Greek letter spelled out at the start of a Beatles title?
  - 41 Val d'\_\_\_, France, 1992 Olympics skiing site
  - 43 Astronomical effect
  - 44 Faux pas
  - 45 Propels, in a way
  - 47 Insulting one
  - 49 Way in or out
  - 51 Folds
  - 53 Swear words?
  - 56 Air-freight, e.g.
  - 58 Where Jehu ruled
  - 59 Citrus-y drink
  - 62 Oompah-paher
  - 63 Emptied
  - 64 Subj. with graphs
  - 65 Alarmist
  - 66 Chapter 11 issue
- DOWN**
- 1 Coastal resident's hurricane worry
  - 2 Completely replace the staff
  - 3 Danced the milonga
  - 4 Ones refusing transportation?
  - 5 Formal requirement
  - 6 Sou'wester, e.g.
  - 7 Swedish monopolist Kreuger
  - 8 Vincent's successor as baseball commissioner
  - 9 Cut in a fight, maybe
  - 10 Nonconformists
  - 11 Nickelodeon Chihuahua
  - 12 Jazz singer Anita
  - 13 Not esa or esta
  - 14 Armyworm, eventually
  - 20 "Maid of Athens, We Part" (Byron poem)
  - 24 Make an emergency landing
  - 26 Spacewalk, for NASA
  - 28 Traction enhancer
  - 30 Bunk
  - 31 Emphatic negative
  - 32 LP problem
  - 33 Antique damage
  - 35 Amethyst shade
  - 38 Misleading
  - 39 Like resorts, typically
  - 42 Awesome
  - 44 Under way
  - 46 Lug
  - 48 Old Mario Bros. console
  - 50 It's wavy in São Paulo
  - 52 Partial approach?
  - 53 Target for nails
  - 54 Charity
  - 55 Something wordless to read
  - 57 Short-lived particle
  - 60 Preserve
  - 61 Parochial schoolteacher



Puzzle by Manny Nosowsky

### ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

MALIBU ADDA FAT  
 IROBOT NOUN ABO  
 STANZA GIST TOO  
 OHWUTTIHWUT  
 TEAMS NINE OATH  
 ULNA ABSORBS  
 TOO HATAHW APRIL  
 UPSIDE ARIANA  
 SEEME TUOTITIAW  
 ANGINAL ASIN  
 ETCH ANTS SLEDS  
 AWOIAWMUTTO  
 SIN LAIN ANOINT  
 END TINE MIRROR  
 LEO ONED SCREWY



**TOURNAMENT:**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

On the other end of the spectrum is Tennessee State. They changed from being the perennial doormat of the league to the No. 2 seed in the conference with a 14-2 regular season record.

This is their first appearance in the OVC tournament in eight years.

Roulhac attributes the turnaround to good recruiting and having more support from the university.

That drought doesn't change TSU's approach to the tournament, even though no players on the team have any postseason experience.

"Everybody doesn't know what it feels like," she said. "But we feel we should be there."

Eastern Kentucky will join TSU with a first round bye, as it rebounded from an early-season loss to Eastern to repeat as conference co-champions. But revenge is not on the Colonels' minds.

"Everyone thinks we want to get revenge on EIU," senior middle hitter Liz

Guard said. "But we just want a chance to play the way we play."

Guard was one of three first-team all-OVC selections for the Colonels. They were the only team with more than one player on the first team.

The first-round bye gives both the Tigers and Colonels a chance to see the teams they will have to play in the second round. Having a team that has no postseason experience, Roulhac understands the importance of the first-round bye.

"We get to see the competitive vibe (in the first round)," she said. "I prefer to be watching and getting the girls hyped."

This season brought about a change in the way the tournament host was determined. ESPNU will televise Sunday's championship match. The conference decided to determine the host after the Oct. 22 matches. The Panthers won a coin flip against Tennessee State and earned the right to host.

"I don't like the fact that (the tournament) is at Eastern," Roulhac said, talking about the fact that a No. 4 seed is hosting. "(But) we're coming to win it."

**'Challenging environment' starts year**

BY MATTHEW STEVENS  
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

There's little doubt that men's basketball head coach Mike Miller picked one of the most intimidating venues for his Eastern regular season debut.

The Panthers will open their campaign on the road Saturday as they prepare to take on Xavier in the Cintas Center.

"We know we're starting the season Saturday in a challenging environment, so we want to reach that level of intensity," Miller said.

Saturday will begin what Miller has called the toughest opening 10-game stretch in Eastern basketball history, with seven of those games on the road.

To counter the 10,250-seat area in Cincinnati, Miller has cranked up the Lantz Arena speakers to full volume during scrimmages in practice to sim-

ulate a raucous environment.

"The preparation has been good because we've had 27 practices now, and we're getting better everyday," Miller said. "Here's the key: if we go in there and play good basketball I know we are going to be okay. That's it."

Xavier has all five starters back from a 17-12 team that was snubbed from postseason play in the Musketeers' first season under head coach Sean Miller.

"They have four players that start that are interchangeable parts," Mike Miller said. "The versatility of their game is very hard to counter."

The Musketeers are led by preseason first team all-Atlantic 10 Conference selection Stanley Burrell, who averaged 12 points per game last season as one of four Xavier players to average double figures.

"We are a better team than we were at the beginning of the year," Sean

Miller said. "Our goal is to continue to improve and to be a better team on Saturday."

Eastern will try to counter with Ohio Valley Conference-leading returning scorer senior Josh Gomes. Gomes was selected preseason first team all-OVC and averaged 22.0 points in the two exhibition wins over Illinois-Springfield and Olivet Nazarene, making 48.4 percent from the field.

"We can't put it all on Josh," Mike Miller said. "That's not fair to him or our team. We need to bring a solid inside-outside game to compete."

Playing with poise is something Mike Miller has talked about throughout the preseason for freshman point guard Mike Robinson.

"This game is the first step in that developmental process," Mike Miller said. "He has to mature in a hurry."

Tip-off is set for 6 p.m. Saturday.

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# SPORTS

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2005

## PANTHER SPORTS CALENDAR

TODAY	OVC TOURNAMENT: VOLLEYBALL VS. SEMO	4 p.m.
SATURDAY	Football at Jacksonville State	1 p.m.
	M-Basketball at Xavier	6 p.m.
	OVC TOURNAMENT: VOLLEYBALL (SEMI-FINAL)	4 p.m.
SUNDAY	W-BASKETBALL VS. USC (WABRI BEACH MARSHOT CLASSIC)	9 p.m.
	OVC TOURNEY: VOLLEYBALL (CHAMPIONSHIP)	noon
	Wrestling at Missouri Open	All Day

Eastern Illinois University, Charleston

## FOOTBALL

# NEARING PERFECTION

### Eastern enters final game as only undefeated team in OVC, focuses on 'what we are supposed to be doing'

BY MATTHEW STEVENS  
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

As Eastern approaches what is the biggest game of the season, its mental approach may be flipped.

The Panthers are the only undefeated team in the Ohio Valley Conference, the only ranked team in the league and the group that, with a win at Jacksonville State Saturday, would clinch conference for the first time since 2002. However, they are the underdogs.

"It sure seems that way," Eastern defensive coordinator Roc Bellantoni said. "We definitely have something to prove."

With everything that is on the line for Eastern, Jacksonville State and Eastern Kentucky, one would think motivation wouldn't be an issue, but the Gamecocks, who have won both meetings with the Panthers, have been giving out bulletin board material in bunches this week.

It started with Jacksonville State head coach Jack Crowe saying he thought Samford safety Cortland Finnegan deserved the OVC Defensive Player of the Year award instead of Eastern's duo of linebacker Clint Sellers and safety Tristan Burge. "(Finnegan) is certainly a good player, but I wouldn't trade any of my guys for him," Bellantoni said.

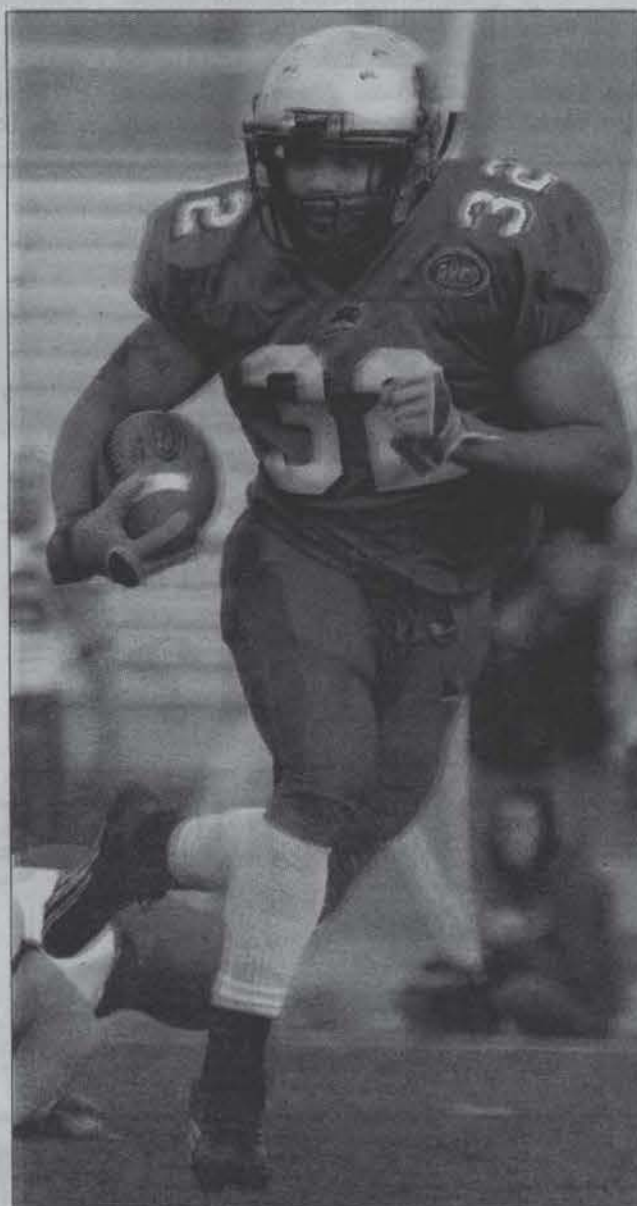
Then, the Gamecocks sports information department misspelled the names of Sellers (Sullers) and offensive coordinator Mark Hutson (Hudson) in Crowe's mid-week press conference transcript.

"We've seen and heard all of those things, but we need to focus on what we are supposed to be doing, or we will get beat," Bellantoni said.

Eastern head coach Bob Spoo even mentioned how Crowe said on OVC media day that he believed his team was the best, and, after looking at film, Spoo agreed.

"But our team is playing with great determination, so it should be a great showdown Saturday," Spoo said.

Jacksonville State does not know what it feels like to not get the OVC automatic berth as the Gamecocks have won both titles since joining two years ago.



DANIEL WILLIAMS/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

**Junior strong safety Tristan Burge cuts up field during Eastern's game vs. Tennessee Tech Saturday at O'Brien Stadium.**

"What all these seniors are representing and what this coming game represents to this season. These guys won a conference championship as sophomores to begin the run here," Crowe said.

Crowe said he wouldn't want the championship decided any-

**"This is going to be what you're supposed to have at the end of the season: two good football teams playing for the same thing."**

JACK CROWE, JACKSONVILLE STATE HEAD COACH

where but on the field Saturday.

"This is going to be what you're supposed to have at the end of the season: two good football teams playing for the same thing," Crowe said. "It's like having two dogs with mouthfuls of teeth and only one bone."

The game plan for both teams will obviously not change from what has been successful for both programs this season. Jacksonville State likes to run the football out of a dual-threat option attack behind quarterback Maurice Mullins and star tailback Clay Green.

Mullins is a quarterback that can hurt a team more with his feet than his arm, and that may bode well for Eastern as the Panthers have knocked scrambling quarterbacks out of the game on the last two occasions.

"We'd liked to get them in third and long situations because that offensive line isn't as good at pass blocking," Bellantoni said. "That's when we can get some pressure and possibly some good hits on him."

Mullins failed to finish last year's 31-21 JSU win in Charleston after Eastern's defense knocked him out of the game.

Green is an OVC Offensive Player of the Year candidate after averaging more than 183 all-purpose yards per game (third in I-AA). Bellantoni said a key with the Panthers defense is being able to play loose and getting off to a fast start.

"Whether it be a three and out or a turnover, we need to get them off the field as soon as possible," Bellantoni said.

Eastern got a lift in its passing game in last week's 31-20 win over Tennessee Tech. Panthers quarterback Mike Donato threw for 327 yards and two touchdowns.

"Mike has really done a great job leading the offense during the two minute situations and finding guys open who aren't his primary or even secondary options," Hutson said.

With a win, the Panthers would wait until Monday to see where and whom they would play their first-round game. With a Eastern loss and an Eastern Kentucky victory over Tennessee State, a three-way blind draw will be conducted on the Jacksonville State campus to determine to winner of the automatic bid.

## VOLLEYBALL

# Tournament time to enter Lantz Arena

BY MARCO SANTANA  
STAFF REPORTER

The Ohio Valley Conference is coming to Lantz Arena.

The six best teams in the OVC will arrive Friday morning for the weekend, and Eastern will host the tournament for the first time since 1998.

"It's a great plus," Panthers middle hitter Megan Kennedy, who was the Panthers' lone representative on the OVC's all-conference first team, said. "We like playing here, and we're comfortable here."

The Panthers get the tournament started on Friday with a 1:30 p.m. start against Southeast Missouri.

The two teams split their regular season match ups with both teams taking care of their home court.

"We match up pretty well with SEMO," Panthers head coach Lori Bennett said. "We don't have quite the size they do top-to-bottom. But we are fast."

The field is deep, and all are playing well. The top six all finished their regular seasons with a win.

"When you look at the field, top-to-bottom, it's the most competitive that it has been in some time," Austin Peay head coach Cory Carlin said.

Although Eastern Kentucky has a first-round bye, head coach Lori Duncan knows the deep field doesn't guarantee anything.

"Everyone has something going their way coming into the tournament," she said. "Our team recognizes that anyone can win this tourney."

Jacksonville State and Eastern Kentucky have seven-game winning streaks. JSU will be Austin Peay's first round opponent following the Eastern/SEMO match.

"Jacksonville State didn't graduate anybody," Carlin said. "(JSU head coach) Rick (Nold) has done a great job of building that program."

The Gamecocks beat Eastern in five games last Friday and have the conference's player of the year in sophomore middle hitter Abbey Breit.

That win snapped Eastern's nine-game home winning streak and gave the rest of the teams in the conference a reason to believe that Eastern is

beatable at Lantz Arena.

"I thought Eastern would be tough to beat at home, but JSU did it," said TSU head coach Kathy Roulhac. "It's bad for them because they're now vulnerable to someone coming in at home and beating them."

The Lady Gows have an uphill battle as the No. 6 seed. But they have been here before.

"Anytime you are in the postseason, it's a clean slate," Carlin said. "You have nothing to lose as a sixth seed."

This season is the 20th straight season that Austin Peay has been in the conference tournament, the longest current streak in the OVC.