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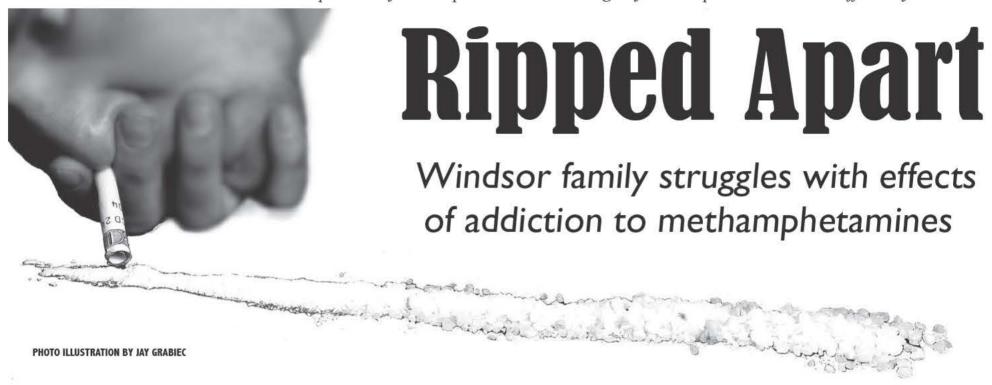
LY EASTERN NEWS

WEDNESDAY 1.24.07

Eastern Illinois University, Charleston

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Editor's note: This is part one of a three-part series on the danger of methamphetamines and its affect on families.



By Meagan Morgan Features Reporter

Upon entering her ranch-style Windsor home on a bright Saturday afternoon, Linda Gannaway, 62, explains apologetically that she overslept and has not finished cleaning, but her home is neat and

The walls are covered with the photographs of people she loves and cares about. She sits at the kitchen counter, her back to the refrigerator decorated with the pictures of grandchildren, nieces and nephews watching over her shoulder. Her eyes squint a little as she smiles, big and toothy, and sips on a cup of coffee.

Tanned skin dotted with freckles completely contrasts, yet complements, her white cotton shorts and oversized shirt.

Linda's comfortable and cheery demeanor slowly fades as she describes how crystal meth crept into her happy family and slowly ripped it apart. Little by little she carefully puts the pieces back together, copes and takes control.

THE DECEPTION

Linda's eldest daughter loved to sing when she was young and wanted to become the lead singer of a band.

Pam Williamson became a full-time bank teller, had

METHAMPHETAMINE LAB SEIZURES IN ILLINOIS – 2005

- 1. VERMILLION COUNTY 168
- 2. WILLIAMSON COUNTY 108
- 3. MADISON COUNTY 86
- 4. JACKSON COUNTY 71
- 5. WHITE COUNTY 54

6. COLES COUNTY - 41

Source: Illinois Attorney General's Web site

two sons and a man who loved

Pam, rebellious and a "real risktaker," was "always a little beast," Linda says, with a nervous laugh in an attempt to soften the tense mood.

As Pam grew older, she and Linda did not keep in touch. She never suspected her daughter's involvement with meth. Things changed and people began to talk.

The entire town of Windsor could have known, but Linda still had no idea that her daughter was making and using meth.

THE FACTS ABOUT METH

Meth, currently the No. 1 plague of rural areas of America, is quickly becoming one of the most abused drugs in the nation.

According to the Illinois attorney general's Web site, state and local police seized nearly 1,200 meth labs in Illinois in 2005.

Coles County had 41 of those. Coles County is ranked sixth of 103 counties in Illinois for the most lab seizures as of 2005, according to the Illinois attorney general's Web

This highly addictive stimulant can be smoked, snorted, ingested or injected and can create an addict after as little as one or two uses.

Meth is similar to caffeine but more powerful, addictive and dangerous by creating a euphoric rush that eventually leads to deep depression, a decline in physical and mental health, and paranoia.

>> SEE METH, PAGE 5

NATIONAL | STATE OF THE UNION

Bush defends Iraq plan

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - A politically weakened President Bush implored a skeptical Congress Tuesday night to embrace his unpopular plan to send more U.S. troops to Iraq, saying it represents the best hope in a war America must not lose. "Give it a chance to work," he said.

Facing a political showdown with Democrats and Republicans alike, Bush was unyielding on Iraq in his annual State of the Union address. He also sought to revive his troubled presidency with proposals to expand health insurance coverage and to slash gasoline consumption by 20 percent in a decade.

Democrats - and even some Republicans - scoffed at his Iraq policy. Unmoved by Bush's appeal, Democrats said the House and Senate would vote on resolutions of disapproval of the troop buildup.

We need a new direction," said freshman Sen. Jim Webb, picked by the Democrats to deliver their TV response. "The majority of the nation no longer supports the way this war is being fought; nor does the majority of our military," said Webb, a Vietnam veteran opposed to Bush's invasion of Iraq.

Republican Sen. Norm Coleman of Minnesota, also took issue with



GEORGE BRIDGES/ MCT

President George W. Bush shakes hands with Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., as he arrives for his speech Tuesday night.

Bush. "I can't tell you what the path to success is, but it's not what the president has put on the table," he

It was a night of political theater as Bush went before the first Democratic-controlled Congress in a dozen years with his lowest approval ratings in polls.

Democratic Speaker Nancy Pelosi of California, the first woman to lead the House, sat over Bush's shoulder, next to Vice President Dick Cheney. Reaching out to the Democrats, Bush opened with a tribute to Pelosi

and paused to shake her hand.

The speech audience included up to a dozen House and Senate members who have announced they are running for president or are considered possible contenders.

Bush divided his 49-minute address between domestic and foreign issues, but the war was topic

Pelosi sat silently and did not applaud as Bush warned of high stakes in Iraq and said American forces must not step back before Baghdad is secure.

CITY | BUSINESS

Comics store brings local family together

By Rob Siebert Senior City Reporter

With his cape flapping in the wind, Superman watches over Lincoln Ave.

Unless traveling south, in which case it's Captain America, his shield is glistening in the sunlight.

These portraits, conspicuous by their bright red and blue tones, mark the entrance to a modest, one-story white building, leased by two businesses.

Walk in the front door and another painting of Captain America lunges forth.

Dotting the otherwise bare white walls around him are a number of ads for upcoming comic books and soon-to-bereleased action figures.

Enter the doorway to the right and a library of comic books and graphic novels await anxious fingertips.

A turn of the head reveals a plethora of statues, busts and action figures.

And sitting at a desk flanked >> SEE COMICS, PAGE 5

by a shelf of action figures, including Superman, Wolverine to Darth Vader, is a small, 64year-old woman whose kind eyes look up behind broad rimmed glasses.

This is where Charleston's comic book fans come for their fix. This is the product of a family's labor.

This is Midgard Comics.

The seeds for Midgard Comics, whose name means "what Thor would call Earth," were planted more than 30 years ago in the mind of a little boy who loved comic books.

Mark Waters, 40, fell in love with Marvel Comics' "The Avengers" when he was 7 years old. He also had a love for comics featuring Tarzan.

By the time he reached his teens, Mark Waters knew he wanted to open a comic book store.

"It's just been part of my life since I was a kid," Waters said. "It was just something I knew I had

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Chill out in the South Quad

Klehm Hall will receive new equipment to keep buildings cool

By Rachel Gasperin

Staff reporter

Temperatures in Klehm Hall are about to change.

A new chiller, a crucial part in the air conditioning system, is going to be installed to replace the

"It is the main part of the building's air conditioning system that makes cold water used for space cooling," said Gary Reed, director of physical plant facilities planning and management. "The present chiller is original to the 1965 building and is obsolete, unreliable and inefficient." Reed

The total project construction cost is about \$375,000.

This chiller has needed repairing

CHILLING OUT ON THE QUAD

» Where: Klehm Hall

» What: Chillers are being replaced in the air conditioning unit because EIU is still using the original cooler

» Why: Room temperatures averaged in the 80s and 90s in the summer

» Cost: \$375.000

for some time, he said. During summer school, room temperatures have reached high temperatures in the 80s and 90s.

Samuel Guccione, associate professor for the School of Technology, has dealt with the unbearable heat in the classrooms.

"I set up an electronic thermometer in class during the fall semester and it was in the high 80s. It was hot and miserable for both me and the students," he said.

Klehm Hall has both a heating and cooling problem, said Jayne Ozier, director of child care resource

"Some rooms it is hot and other

rooms are cold in the same day," she said

Students and faculty might be able to notice the change because the chiller will provide cooling in the late spring and early fall when it normally would not. The installation of a new chiller will provide and improve reliability of air conditioning for all the buildings in the South Quad, both academic centers and residence halls.

The project will begin as soon as contractors receive their notice to proceed, and should be completed by August.

"We are pleased to be able to replace aged and obsolete infrastructure like this chiller in order to maintain as reliable and efficient campus operation as possible for the students, faculty and staff," Reed said.

Many chillers have been replaced around campus over the years. McAfee Gym is slated for a chiller replacement as soon as the State releases the funds for the project, Reed said.

Man charged for serial killings

If convicted, he will be the worst killer in Canadian history

The Associated Press

NEW WESTMINSTER, British Columbia — A Canadian pig farmer, whom prosecutors said confessed to killing 49 women, told police in a videotaped interview shown to jurors Tuesday that the allegations against him were "hogwash," yet concedes he's "a bad dude."

Robert Pickton, 56, is charged with killing 26 women, mostly prostitutes and drug addicts who vanished from a drug-ridden Vancouver neighborhood in the 1990s. He has pleaded not guilty to the first six counts. A separate trial will be held for the other 20 murder charges. If convicted, Pickton faces life in prison. Canada abolished the death penalty in 1976.

The jurors in the most sensational murder trial Canada has ever faced began watching 11 hours of videotaped interviews Tuesday. A day earlier, prosecutors said the interviews would go on to show Pickton telling an undercover police officer that he had killed 49

ROBERT PICKTON | DEFENDENT

"I'm just a working guy, a plain working guy is all I am. I'm just a pig man."

women and intended to make it "an even 50" before he got sloppy and was caught.

In the interview with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police detachment in Surrey, British Columbia, on Feb. 23, 2002, a disheveled Pickton laughs when Staff Sgt. Bill Fordy tells him he's being investigated for "upwards of 50 other disappearances and or

"In your own words, Rob, can you explain to me what that means to you?" Fordy asks Pickton.

What it means to me. Hogwash," Pickton answered. "I'm just a working guy, a plain working guy is all I am," he says. "I'm just a pig man."

He then goes on to blurt out, "I'm a bad dude."

The prosecution on Monday laid out some of the gruesome evidence against Pickton, including finding skulls, teeth and DNA of the six women in the freezer, slaughterhouse and troughs at Pickton's 17-acre pig farm outside of Vancouver. Defense lawyer Peter Ritchie countered that Pickton did not kill or participate in the slayings of the six women. He asked them to pay close attention to Pickton's demeanor when they watch the videotapes, in particular his level of sophistication and intellect.

Investigators said Pickton and his brother David threw drunken raves with prostitutes and drugs on the family's pig farm. '

After Robert Pickton's arrest in February 2002, health officials issued a tainted meat advisory to neighbors who may have bought pork from his farm, concerned that it may have contained human remains.

Hundreds arested in immigration sweeps

The Associated Press

SANTA ANA, Calif. — A sleepy-eyed man with a hooded sweat shirt and a plastic lunch pail scurried back into his apartment complex at the sight of a dozen immigration agents outside.

He had no reason to worry: They were after his neighbor.

Three officers crept toward the building, and one banged on the door of Apt. A.

After a tense minute in the darkness before dawn, the door cracked open and they had their first arrest a 29-year-old immigrant with a driving-under-the-influence conviction.

It was a scene repeated across Southern California over the past week in what officials said was one of the biggest sweeps in U.S. history

JULIE L. MYERS | ICE CHIEF

"Foriegn nationals who flout our laws and committ crimes should be on notice that there are consequences."

of illegal immigrants who have criminal records or have ignored deportation orders.

By Tuesday, when federal officials announced the results of the sweep, 761 illegal immigrants have been taken into custody: 338 at their homes in five Los Angeles-area counties, and 423 at county jails, said Virginia Kice, spokeswoman for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

"Foreign nationals who flout our

laws and commit crimes against our citizens should be on notice that there are consequences," said ICE chief Iulie L. Myers.

"ICE will use all of the tools at its disposal to find you and send you home."

Jim Hayes, director of the Los Angeles field office of ICE, decided to book them all.

"We're going to make sure they're not wanted for any more serious crimes," he said.

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Survey results to be released

By Jess Kinsella

FACULTY SENTATE REPORTER

For 10 minutes, four days a week, for four weeks, student callers gathered information for the on-campus climate survey at Eastern. The project began in 2000 after Cynthia Nichols, director of the Office of Civil Rights and Diversity, received a request from the Illinois Board of Higher Education to initiate a campuswide survey.

Faculty Senate invited Nichols and Caridad Brito, assistant professor of psychology to report the results of the survey at their meeting Tuesday. Nichols asked Brito, who had an interest in diverse issues, to help her conduct the survey.

The calls began in the fall of 2001 and continued every other year, Nichols added. The survey's purpose is to describe the racial and ethnic campus climate and compare various groups of students across campus by their race, gender, class, standings and perceived or not perceived disability, Nichols

"We will use the reports for policy design and implementation," Nichols explained.

Nichols used a stratified, disproportionate, random sampling in order to choose the students who were interviewed.

Brito stated the survey consisted of 54 items including 42 content area and 12 demographic questions.

The idea was not to ask about facts but about perceptions, Brito explained. Although the survey contained different demographics, Nichols and Brito focused on racial and ethnic data to the senate.

African American, Asian. Hispanic/Latino and students were asked questions like: "Are you receiving an excellent education?" or, "Would you choose to come to EIU again?"

Students responded with whether they strongly agree, agree, are neutral, disagree or strongly disagree, Nichols explained.

According to Nichols, out of the men and women who responded to having an excellent education, 92 percent of men and 74 percent of women strongly agreed or agreed.

When asked if they would choose EIU again, 71 percent of men and 73 percent of women said they strongly agreed or agreed, she added.

The majority of all students from each ethnic group agreed they were treated fairly in the classroom in the fall of 2005, Nichols said.

African American students responded with 86 percent strongly agree/agree, 60 percent of Asian students, 65 percent of Hispanic/ Latino and 50 percent of White students saying they strongly agree/agree.

She added that another survey would take place in the fall of 2007 after some questions are added or taken out.

Nichols also plans on collecting more data from those students who stated they would not choose EIU again. The recruitment of minority faculty, staff and students will also actively continue, she said.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT | ELECTION

Senators offered open seats

Student Senate still working out election flaws

By Matt Hopf

STUDENT GOVERNMENT REPORTER

Changes in the election process on-campus for Student Government elections are in the future.

After receiving official complaints alleging fraud from independent candidates Tori Frazier and Chris Kromphardt, Ceci Brinker, director of Student Life, considered the complaints and drafted recommendations. She then reviewed them with Ashlei Birch, student executive director of elections, and Chad Quinones, graduate assistant in charge of elections.

According to Brinker, the complaints were valid when it came to staffing the polls.

"There were times the polls were not properly staffed consistently," Brinker said. "There were times when the polls did not have anyone working.'

Brinker made three recommendations in response to the complaints either involving having another election or seating the candidates with complaints.

The first was to invalidate the fall elections and form a new election. The second was to have a runoff of the candidates within the 10-vote difference. A runoff election is another election that usually takes place after there is a tie in the vote count.

We've already seated senators, so we'd have to go back and officially 'unseat' them," Brinker said. "There is really nothing in the election commission guidelines,

constitution or bylaws that would cover something like

Having another election with the same problematic system would not be a smart idea, she said.

The last option was to offer Frazier and Kromphardt an open seat on Student Senate.

This was the option chosen by Brinker, Birch, Sean Anderson, Jeff Lange and Quinones.

Neither Frazier nor Kromphardt will be taking an opening on Student Senate.

"I felt it was unfair to be offered a guaranteed seat on the Student Senate simply because I'd taken the time to run in the election," Kromphardt said.

He also said that it was absurd to be offered a seat after contesting the election and that it betrayed his campaign. Since the election, Frazier has become involved with other organizations.

The Election Reform, a Student Government proposal passed in 2006 which dictates how an election should be run, states that Judicial Affairs should investigate the elections if there is a problem concerning student conduct codes.

This document, however, is inaccurate.

Judicial Affairs is not supposed to play a role in student elections, said Keith Kohanzo, former director of Judicial Affairs. He reviewed the Student Body Constitution, the Student Senate Bylaws and the Election Commission to come to that decision.

Student Senate Speaker Jeff Lange has said he will be appointing people to review and rewrite the Election

0022168 IME: 108:15 0055088 <u>Vall abibli jalik 1919 ildir ildir ildil bilabil bilaki 188 ilik 1184 ildi bali 188</u>1 RUDY JOHN BAILEY | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

If you tune into channel 17 on campus, it's like your own personal movie channel. Every month, WEIU-TV recieves a shipment of movies that the students picked to watch. This month's movies include favorites such as "Rudy", "Talladega Nights" and "How To Eat Fried Worms".

More movies for the \$\$\$

Campus movie channel considers getting DVR player and HBO

By Tearria Ruffin

Campus Reporter

Because of limited transportation or overdue fines at the video store, turning to Channel 17 has become a convenient way for on-campus students to see movies.

Since 2001, the Campus Movie Channel has been provided on campus through Residence Life Cinema.

Residence Life Cinema is company based in St. Louis and provides campus entertainment, student development and communication tools, according to the company's web site. Housing pays \$35,000 a year to show 12 movies a month, said Mark Hudson, director of housing and dining. All on-campus residents pay for the total cost for the movie channel in room and board rates. On average, students pay \$7.75 per person, or 77 cents per month to have the movie channel, Hudson

"Our shot in getting the movies is the first shot after release from theaters," Hudson said. "Students like the

The Bond Revenue Committee recommends all the movies after the complete housing budget is analyzed.

Matt Boyer, the conference coordinator, corresponds with Residence Life Cinema to see what movies are available. Students do not have access to some movies because Residence Life Cinema does not have rights to

movies produced by particular companies, Boyer said.

"Residence Life doesn't have contracts with some companies like Pixar or Disney," Boyer said.

The movie channel has faced some problems in the past including tracking, sound quality because of overheated VCRs and even human errors.

"Working with VCRs, we're never going to have a flawless program," Boyer said. "If we switch to digital programming, we'll improve greatly."

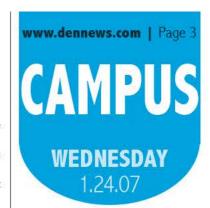
Hudson said it would cost housing \$2,000 a year to lease a DVR player. "The digital image would be sharper and more reliable than the current system," Hudson said.

Besides possibly switching to digital programming, housing has dealt with some of these glitches by purchasing two fairly new VCRs, playing only movies that run on one tape, and adding a logbook at Thomas Hall's front desk where students can voice any complaints or suggestions, Boyer said.

Based on a student survey, housing will install more movie channels including the current movie channel and a movie channel like HBO for the 2007-2008

Hudson said he is confidant students will receive HBO next year but is unsure of what channels may be included in the movie packages.

"This week we will meet with Jeff Cooley, the Vice President for Business Affairs, to discuss the cost of each movie package proposed by the Bond Revenue Committee," he said.



campusbriefs

Senate to approve members

>> The Student Senate has seven new members subject to approval by the senate at tonight's meeting.

The appointments are from recent resignations from the end of last semester and the beginning of this

The Senate is introducing a bylaw change that would require the External Relations committee to research and prepare information for the Eastern delegates to the Illinois Board of Higher Education Student Advisory Committee.

"This will help the delegates be more prepared with information requested from IBHE-SAC, as well as ensure that our delegates' votes are representing the student body here at EIU as a whole..." said Alison Kostelich, Student Senate member and a IBHE-SAC delegate.

Student Senate meets at 7 p.m. every Wednesday in the Arcola-Tuscola Room in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

Blane comes for coffeehouse

>> If the eyes are the window to the soul, with a song titled "Fan of Your Eyes," Tim Blane could be considered a shameless peeping tom.

But this Boston singer/songwriter hopes to reach listeners in a simple way. "Basically, I hope they respond to the honesty of the writing," he said.

With a formal musical education behind him, Tim Blane has only the road ahead as a full-time touring musician. Eastern is one stop on his current

Blane's performance is part of the Coffeehouse Acoustic Series presented by the University Board.

The series is funded by student activity fees and allocated through Student Government Business Affairs.

Blane will perform tonight at the 7th Street Underground. The show is free to Eastern students.

Asian Heritage Month to plan

>> The Asian Heritage Month Planning Committee will meet Wednesday from 3:30-4:30 in the Martinsville Room of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union. Students should come with event ideas for the month of April.

Briefs compiled by Matt Hopf and Rachel

ourmistakes

Mark Bonnstetter's trial date was stated on page 1 of Monday's edition of the Daily Eastern News. But the trial date has not been set. Feb. 26 is the hearing to review the status of the

The DEN regrets the errors.

COMMENTS | CORRECTIONS |

To report any errors, local events or general suggestions for future editions please contact our news editor, Cathy Bayer, via:

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China's missile milestone

By Lee Feder University of Illinois

(U-WIRE) CHAMPAIGN, Ill. - On January 11, China successfully tested a missile that shoots down satellites. The Bush Administration subsequently wet itself in trepidation.

Not to harp on the stupidity of the Iraq War, but were we not currently sinking in the rice paddies in the Middle East, perhaps the Administration could formulate a cogent response. Currently our most powerful, and therefore important, foreign policy minds are trying to solve an impossible problem and so they are not available to work on other issues.

In 2005, China was the fourth largest importer of American goods (4.6 percent) and the second largest supplier of imported goods (15 percent.) They have a population of 1.2 billion people, of which 550 million are "fit" for military service, nearly double the entire population of the U.S. During the Korean War, the Chinese intervened in support of the North Koreans and essentially threw enough bodies at American guns to force our troops back to the 38th parallel. The test sends a signal that the Chinese possess a capability we do not and is intended as a declaration of superpower status and could use that power to harm us economically.

Alternatively, the missile test is benign because China needs the United States too much for us to take the test as a threat. China sells 21.4 percent of their goods to us while 7.4 percent of their imports are American.

The United States is the most innovative, scientifically advanced and politically stable country in the history of the world and it can draw from 300 million resourceful, hard-working and proud citizens for defense. Our greatest advantage is our intellectual capital while our only significant disadvantage is our financial and military commitment in Mess-o-Potamia.

More important than any statistic, though, is the nature of the shrinking planet. While we students see its positive effects on a daily basis, globalization really is global. China and the U.S. cannot and will not ever fight a conventional war not only because of economic interdependency but because there is no such thing as a conventional war anymore.

Inarguably, the Chinese missile test is an issue. The problem though, is not the Chinese message to the American military but rather their declaration that despite being inferior to the United States in many ways, China already is a superpower in several respects. China is not a direct threat like the Soviet Union but nevertheless this situation poses the next great American challenge: to maintain the principle economic position in the world and survive as its dominant power.

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DRAWN FROM THE NEWS | NATE BEELER



ourview

Temporary help is only a temporary solution

"The 300-some

students involved

with the EIU4 program

need an adviser that is

solely for them."

While the EIU4 program is a good idea, in theory, we at *the Daily Eastern News* feel that the program still has to work out some flaws.

The EIU4 Web site says that only one in four students will graduate in four years.

If a student in the EIU4 program doesn't complete their undergraduate degree in four years, Eastern will pay for that student's extra courses.

The EIU4 coordinator's job, according to the past and present coordinator, is partly to encourage students to take an extra

course each semester or consider summer classes to ensure a timely graduation. This extra coursework acts as a cushion for the university to ensure students graduate in four years.

Extra work shouldn't be necessary unless it's advertised in the program's

description.

The EIU4 program isn't for everyone.

The program shouldn't be called EIU4 if it's not for every Eastern student.

Transfer students aren't eligible for the program. Neither are students after their freshman year or students with a double major EIU4 shouldn't be a university-wide program if it can't be offered to everyone in the university.

It's also not an option for education, athletic training, environmental biology, clinical laboratory sciences, engineering and nursing majors. They are not eligible.

Students who choose or need internships for their major cannot be members of EIU4.

The regulations should be made clearer, and the program should only be advertised to students who meet the proper requirements.

The program can focus more on individual programs and departments instead. This would alleviate some of the work for the EIU4 coordinator.

Right now, Chad Cross is responsible for approximately 300 students.

The EIU4 program has had at least four advisers in its five-year program.

The first adviser held the position for a year and a half.

The second adviser was a graduate student and only held the position for one semester. Mary Herrington-Perry advised EIU4 students for the past two year.

Herrington-Perry, assistant vice president for academic affairs, said she stopped advising EIU4 students because of time constraints. She is in charge of major assessment profiles and undergraduate student surveys. She also serves on several

Now Eastern has hired Chad Cross, a graduate student, for the position.

She said Cross was hired because the position requires someone who could put

more time and effort into the position.

In addition to coordinating EIU4, Cross is a graduate student, working toward his master's in technology. Being a student should be his top priority.

The 300-some students involved with the EIU4 program need an adviser that is solely for them. The adviser is supposed to meet with each student every semester about his or her academic progress.

The adviser's time commitment is a necessity, and so is the tenure of the adviser.

However, Cross is only signed to a ninemonth contract.

He said the position may turn into full time, but if it's not, will the university hire another short-term adviser?

Academic advisers should have a relationship with their students.

Students should feel comfortable with their advisers and be able to discuss academic problems as well as successes.

With advisers leaving every few semesters, students won't have the opportunity to form that necessary relationship.

We feel that for people to have an impact on a student, that person must get to know their advisees. The university should stop hiring temporary employees when those employees aren't the best choice for the program.

The editorial is the majority opinion of The Daily Eastern News editorial board. Reach the opinions editor at **DENopinions@gmail.com**.

COLUMNIST | MAURICE TRACY

O'Reilly owes an apology

Bill O'Reilly is the contemporary political right's champion and modern version of Sen. McCarthy. Therefore, usually, everything he says is gospel — pun intended — and those on the right who watch his show are whipped into a religious-like fervor and swear that he is the second coming. Billy boy is here to save America from the big bad blue(s) and baptize (brainwash) everyone red. But hopefully after his comments this past week even his followers will find fault in his words.

The Shawn Hornbeck kidnapping saga has became the latest story to captivate the morbid fantasies of the American public. And why not? The story has everything the media thrives on: public fear for children's safety, scandal, intrigue, possible sexual abuse/pedophilia, etc. And Bill O'Reilly has managed to find a way to blame the victim. Now, skepticism is understandable in a case as admittedly unusual as this, but to claim, as Billy boy did on the O'Reilly Factor, that the victim probably simply did not like school, that Shawn gained something by staying away from home, to further claim that the situation was fun for Shawn is disgusting, and to support all of this speculation by denouncing a medical condition, Stockholm Syndrome, because it is inconvenient in his analysis of the situation is simply pathetic, weak, reprehensible and Billy boy to the core.

It is bad enough that everyone is so concerned, no, obsessed — to the point of not allowing this child to breathe and begin to cope — with whether or not Shawn, and let's not forget the other young victim, was sexually abused. But one does not lay the blame at the feet of the victim - I know, I know it's a dirty word, but sometimes, frequently, it is appropriate. I wrote that the circumstances of this case were "unusual" but that does not mean they are unique. There have been many cases of victims behaving irrationally when kidnapped. Elizabeth Smart anyone? And we must remember that this was a child of 11 when he was kidnapped.

I am sorry that Shawn did not behave in a manner that was not pleasing to Billy boy, but I am sorrier that Shawn had to ever be in this situation. I am sorrier still that his plight has become the entree du jour for the public's appetite for horrifying sensationalist crimes. I am even sorrier that Billy boy O'Reilly has decided to further victimize this child by making irresponsible comments about this situation and then brushing it off by telling Greta Van Susteren that if he was wrong she could just replay the tape for him; I am assuming he would apologize, as if that would matter much.

Maybe Billy boy should just shutup about Shawn altogether and focus
on the real criminal who is not a boy,
who was 11 a long time ago, who
kidnapped and traumatized not one but
two children, a person who is a man
in an orange jumpsuit sitting in a cell;
perhaps Billy boy and others could focus
on Mike Devlin and make sure that he,
and others like him, go to prison for life
without the possibility of parole for even
one count sexual violation/abuse of a
child, man or woman. I mean, that is at
least one, probably the only, conservative
stance that I can get behind.

Maurice Tracy



Maurice Tracy is an English graduate student. He can be reached at mauricetracy@gmail.com.

news 5

just wants to fit in and tells his brother to stop making waves.

From foster home to foster home, Brian is slowly adjusting and things are getting

The boys stay with their grandmother every other weekend, and she lets them know how special they are to her and how proud she is of them. She wants them to feel loved.

"All in all, they're good kids," Linda said. She takes the boys to see their mother and father once a month, which is a difficult task, as Pam is in Lincoln, north of Springfield, and Willie is in Vandalia, nearly a four-hour separation.

It does not bother the boys as much now to see their mother, and to some extent they understand why she is in there.

In four years, when Pam is released from the Lincoln Correctional Center, Brian will be 20 and Derrick will be 16.

'ALMOST A RELIEF'

"All the family gatherings and holidays," Linda quietly said. "That's time that can never be replaced. All these years are gone."

"It's not a good thing, but good's come of it," Linda said. "At times it was almost a relief."

She no longer has to worry that a passing fire engine or ambulance is making its way to Pam's home.

For the first time in a long time the two can visit and carry on conversations. Now Pam, 44, thanks her mother for every visit, her love and constant support.

Pam calls Linda on a regular basis – Collect, of course – from the correctional facility. Even though it is expensive, Linda does not seem to mind.

Linda does not blame herself. It is not her fault that her daughter is in prison for using and manufacturing meth, she reasons.

"I could've done better, but she always knew that I was here for her," Linda says, just above a whisper. "It definitely wasn't the future that I had planned for her."

PAM WILLIAMSON | MOTHER

)) Meth

FROM PAGE 1

"Well, I would hear things from different people that would make me wonder," Linda said

About three years ago, when Pam did not show up for her father's memorial service and offered "wild stories" instead, Linda watched closely and did not like what she saw.

Pam, while in her 30s, would arrive to family functions late and she spoke fast and loud, Linda said. Her personal hygiene was lacking.

"With Pam you couldn't ever really tell," Linda says, as a confused look washes over her face.

She did not lose weight or have problems with her teeth, like many other meth addicts. Aside from the physical and mental effects, Linda discovered how meth affects the family.

Pam's sons, Brian and Derrick, were home Feb. 20, 2004 – the day their parents were arrested. They watched as their father ran out the door, fought the police and resisted arrest, and as their mother's hands were cuffed.

Since no family members were available at the time, a social worker from the Department of Child and Family Services picked up the two boys. By the time anyone was able to take them, it was too late – Brian and Derrick were wards of the state.

Linda could not take the boys. As much as she wanted to, it was not an option.

"DCFS was a godsend," Linda said. "We couldn't handle this alone."

One of the saddest parts of Linda Kingery's job as a child protective services worker for DCFS is taking children away from their parents, school, home and friends.

Her top priority, "first, do no harm," includes reuniting families, because she wants to make a permanent home for the children.

When finding these homes, relatives are at the top of the list, but sometimes this is

"It's been a real struggle- I went the day they sentenced her- to know that they were taking my daughter away and possibly for 15 years."

not always possible.

"It is always sad," Kingery says, reflecting on her 20 years of experience. "Children are being re-victimized."

Children adapt and adjust to their living conditions. What most consider bad, they see as home. They learn to live where they are raised. Even though the protective services worker "saves" them, the kids do not see it that way, Kingery said. Although their homes are unsafe, all they see are strangers taking them away from everything they know.

Linda slowly takes the few steps to the coffee pot and carefully pours another dark cup. She came home from work to find a message on her answering machine from DCFS. She called and was informed that Pam had been arrested and of the circumstances. Until then, Linda had not known for certain the depth of her daughter's problems.

Someone "ratted them out" about three years ago, Linda said, informing the police of an old barn near Pam and husband Willie's trailer, where they were making meth.

Linda, wanting Pam to take responsibility for her actions, stood back, but she never expected the outcome.

Pam was convicted of a Class X felony for manufacturing and possessing more than 600 grams of liquid meth. She received the minimum sentence of 15 years, but will serve seven and a half years after receiving dayfor-day credit, meaning that every day she serves counts as two. Pam was arrested nearly three years ago and entered the Lincoln Correctional Center, a high-minimum security facility, on June 24, 2004.

"It's been a real struggle," Linda said. "I went the day they sentenced her – to know that they were taking my daughter away – and possibly for 15 years."

Pam wanted her mother to be with her in the courtroom. Linda didn't want to be there, but she went – alone.

"Shocked but not, I guess. It was quite a blow. I guess I was expecting it."

Linda tried to be brave, but her attempt failed.

Pam, who needed her mother for support, became – for a brief moment – the rock and consoled Linda. Thirty minutes passed before Linda regained her composure.

"She's in there with people that have committed murder," Linda says, allowing wariness to creep through her otherwise cool and collected demeanor.

Willie, whose sisters helped hire a lawyer, received a lesser sentence of 10 years, which was then halved to five years. When good behavior and work release are factored in, he will serve about three and a half to four years. He will be released soon.

THE BOYS

Linda was upset and worried, but she was more concerned with what would happen to Pam's two boys. Once Pam has been behind bars for so long, the state takes away all parental rights, Linda said.

Although the numbers are not definite and factors vary from case to case, sometimes parents will retain parental rights if they show improvement within 15 of the last 22 months of their sentence, Kingery said.

Brian and Derrick, scared, upset, homesick and devastated, have been moved three times.

Brian, now 15, reacted to his parents' convictions with anger and rebellion, not following rules nor doing his homework. Derrick, 11, who deeply misses his mother,

"At first it was hard to make the adjustment that they were the bosses, because mothers are used to being bosses," said Sandy Waters. "But now it's good."

The move proved to be for the better, as in 1992, Sandy Waters was diagnosed with Primary Lateral Sclerosis, a form of Lou Gherig's disease that affects the body's leg muscles. The condition prevented her from working in General Electric's factory setting anymore.

Ultimately, Sandy Waters has enjoyed working at the comic shop.

"This is my type of work anyway," she said.
"The book keeping and stuff like that."

The job also allows her to spend time with her husband, Floyd, a retired worker for Anamet Electrical Inc., who comes in every Wednesday to help his wife when new comics

Though at first, the prospect of working in a college town wasn't a particularly happy one.

"To be perfectly honest, when we first started, I was very leery because of the reputation college kids have had," Sandy Waters said. "But now I'm very comfortable with it. And it didn't take long to get comfortable."

An avid Christian, Sandy Waters enjoys gospel music while she works.

Though it's not necessarily considered comic store music, Sandy Waters said that when she does hear comments about it, they're usually positive.

"I try to keep it low enough that it doesn't disturb customers or anything," she said.

More recently, Mark Waters' 15-year-old daughter, Mallory, has also taken up working at the store.

"I love it," Mark Waters said. "Ever since she was starting to get a little older and responsible, I kind of hoped that she, maybe for awhile, would want to work here part time."

Though at first a bit shy about letting her

friends know she was working in a comic shop, Mark Waters says his daughter is now proud to be associated with it. "Hopefully, if she goes to college here in

"Hopefully, if she goes to college here in the area, she'll still work here through her college years," he said.

» Comics

FROM PAGE 1

Waters' first step into the business end of comics came in 1990 when he was part of a sports card show at the Cross County Mall in Mattoon.

But Waters wasn't looking to become an active comic book dealer at the time.

"It was just for the love," Waters said. "I just wanted to be around the medium."

With encouragement from his wife and his brother-in-law, Mike Reinhart, as a partner, Waters leased a portion of the house at 102 W. Lincoln St.

The house had originally been a living space for Eastern students.

Midgard Comics opened its doors in September 1992, which Waters remembers as a boom period.

The fact that DC Comics killed off Superman that same month only made things more interesting.

"I only ordered about 25 copies of Superman #75, because I didn't know..." Waters said. "I could have sold 500 easy on that one."

In the beginning, the store had bare walls, one rack of comics, and one table for back issues. Waters continued to do shows at the mall every two months.

Midgard Comics turned a profit sooner than anyone expected.

"They say give it two years before you actually make any money for yourself," Waters

"It was more like eight months for us ... So for eight months we worked for free, which was fine. I didn't care. It wasn't about the money."

Though profitable, the store has never been Waters' primary source of income. He works as a Lead Assistant at Arkwright Imaging.

"I really never have used anything I've made here to support my family," Waters said. "It's really more of a hobby actually."

When Mark Waters was looking for someone to maintain the store while he worked at Arkwright, he ultimately turned to someone with experience. Someone whom he'd spent a great deal of personal, one-on-



Mark Waters poses next to a Captain America display at his shop, Midgard Comics on Lincoln Ave. Midgard Comics has been family run since September of 1992.

one time with.

His mother.

Sandy Waters, 64, has worked at Midgard Comics since its opening.

A Mattoon native and mother of three, she describes her job as "a little bit of everything."

Paperwork is one of her main duties.

After working as a secretary at General Electric for 13 years, Sandy Waters suddenly found herself in the potentially awkward position of working for her son and son-in-

nationbriefs

The Associated Press

New passport rules cause few problems for travel

ATLANTA — A new rule requiring U.S. airline passengers to show a passport upon their return from Mexico, Canada or the Caribbean took effect Tuesday, with few reports of stranded travelers. Most travelers who forgot about the new requirement were allowed to enter after receiving a warning and a passport application. But their names were entered into the agency's computer system, and they will be scrutinized if it happens

Eight arrested for 1971 murder of police officer

SAN FRANCISCO — Eight men were arrested Tuesday in the 1971 slaying of a police officer that authorities say was part of a black power group's five-year campaign to kill law enforcement officers in San Francisco and New York. The Aug. 29, 1971, shooting death

of Sgt. John V. Young, 51, at a San Francisco police station was one in a series of attacks by BLA members on law enforcement officials on both coasts, police said.

Study finds high school football players overweight

IOWA CITY, Iowa — Heavy tackles and 300-pound nose guards are common in pro and college football. Now a study shows the trend toward beefier, overweight linemen is emerging at the high school level. Researchers at Iowa State University found nearly half of the offensive and defensive linemen playing on lowa high school teams qualify as overweight, and one in 10 meet medical standards for severe obesity. The study appears in Wednesday's Journal of the American Medical Association.

WHITE HOUSE | SCANDAL

Libby sacrificed in Rove case

Cheney intervened to publicly clear vice presidential aide

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON -House officials tried to sacrifice vice presidential aide "Scooter" Libby to protect strategist Karl Rove from blame for leaking a CIA operative's identity during a political storm over the Iraq war, Libby's lawyer said Tuesday.

After Libby complained "they want me to be the sacrificial lamb," Vice President Dick Cheney personally intervened to get the White House press secretary to publicly clear Libby in the leak, defense attorney Theodore Wells

said in his opening statement at Libby's perjury trial.

The new details of behind-thescenes conflict at top levels of the Bush White House, along with some previously unseen blunt language from Cheney, were the high points of a dramatic day in which the prosecutor and the defense dueled in multimedia statements to the

Wells also disclosed that Libby was preoccupied with many national security issues in July 2003, including possible al-Qaida threats to assassinate President Bush on a trip to Africa and the possibility al-Qaida had brought anthrax into the United States. Wells read about these threats from a court-approved summary of classified information to argue that Libby could honestly have forgotten what he told reporters about the CIA operative.

Earlier in the day, prosecutor Patrick Fitzgerald told the jury Libby lied to the FBI and a grand jury about his contacts with reporters concerning CIA officer Valerie Wilson to save his job and avoid political embarrassment. In a rarely seen move, Fitzgerald played four short tape recordings of Libby's statements to the grand jury that he said were lies.

The grand jury was investigating the leak of Valerie Wilson's name and CIA employment, which came shortly after her husband, ex-ambassador Joseph Wilson, had become one of the most prominent critics of the months-old war. On July 6, 2003, Wilson alleged in a New York Times article and on NBC-TV's "Meet the Press" that Bush had told the nation Iraq was seeking uranium in Africa for nuclear weapons although the administration had known for some time that story was untrue.

Both sides agreed the Bush White House was consumed with responding to the allegation it had lied to push the nation into war.

Wells said Cheney also was concerned that Wilson indicated Cheney was responsible for sending Wilson to Africa to check the uranium story and that his office surely had seen Wilson's report. He said Cheney ordered Libby to rebut that allegation to reporters.

The leak of Wilson's wife's name came in a Robert Novak column July 14, 2003, that said she had arranged for her husband to go on the Africa trip.

When the White House press secretary publicly absolved Rove in the leak but later refused to clear Libby, Libby sought Cheney's help in defending himself, Wells said.

Amtrak wants government help

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON--Amtrak's new president wants to upgrade the passenger railroad's image and the tracks it shares with the nation's increasingly busy freight rail carriers, and he expects the federal government to help.

Four months into the job, Alex Kummant said he found the muchmaligned railroad in better shape than he expected. But he said it could still do a better job taking advantage of a growing appetite for rail travel fueled by high gas prices and highway congestion.

There is a lot of good news to talk about," Kummant told The Associated Press in an interview in his office atop Washington's Union Station. "You have to build the Amtrak brand for people."

Amtrak needs to work with states to expand service over medium distances and improve the longdistance trains that account for most of its losses, Kummant said. Government incentives to stimulate capital investment in the nation's nearly maxed-out rail infrastructure are also key, he said.

government-owned corporation reported record ticket revenue of \$1.37 billion in the fiscal year ended Sept. 30, an 11 percent increase over fiscal 2005, with ridership ticking up 1 percent to 24.3 million passengers. The system, created in 1970 to take over declining passenger rail service, is heavily dependent on government funding; it received \$1.3 billion from Congress, including a \$485 million operating subsidy, for the 2006 fiscal year.

Kummant, a 46-year-old former freight railroad and manufacturing executive, said expectations that Amtrak could be self-sufficient are

Laura Thomas

DNA evidence sets men free

Former prisoners freed Tuesday

The Associated Press

AUBURN, N.Y. - Two inmates - a convicted rapist in Georgia and a man who was unjustly convicted of murder in New York but helped find the real killer from his prison cell were granted their freedom Tuesday after DNA tests proved their innocence.

Innocence Project co-director Peter Neufeld said he had never seen a case like that of Roy Brown, whose 1992 murder conviction was thrown out by a judge.

"Armed only with a notebook, stamps and a copy of the state's Freedom of Information Law, Roy Brown identified the true perpetrator from a prison cell," Harvey said.

said Nina Morrison, an attorney at the Innocence Project.

In Georgia, Willie O. "Pete" Williams, 44, awaited release from prison after spending nearly half his life in prison for rape.

Williams was convicted in a

1985 attack on a woman at an apartment complex parking lot. The woman identified him as her attacker. But DNA tests on genetic material from a rape kit examination cleared Williams.

We are convinced today Mr. Williams was not responsible for this," Fulton County District Attorney Paul Howard said.

His attorney said he plans to take Williams and his family out for a steak dinner.

"I just think it's absolutely phenomenal for Pete," Bruce

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Mourners remember slain journalist

Funeral resembles massive protest

The Associated Press

ISTANBUL - More than 100,000 mourners marched Tuesday in a funeral for a slain ethnic Armenian journalist who had angered Turkish nationalists - an extraordinary outpouring of support for freedom of expression and reconciliation.

Hrant Dink was gunned down outside his newspaper, Agos, on Friday. He had been outspoken in labeling the mass killings of Armenians in the last days of the Ottoman Empire as genocide.

Amid the grieving, there were signs his funeral might become a catalyst for easing the antagonism between Turks and the dwindling ethnic Armenian minority.

The crowds marched along a five-mile route from Agos to an Armenian Orthodox church in one of the biggest funerals ever held in the city. They carried placards that read, "We are all Armenians" in Turkish and Armenian.

Onlookers filled bridges and streets, and the center of Istanbul was shut down.



YOMIURI SHIMBUN | MCT

A crowd observes a moment of silence at Higashi-Yuenchi Park in Kobe's Chuo Ward in Japan, Wednesday, January 17, 2007 at 5:46 a.m., when the Great Hanshin Earthquake struck 12 years ago.

Sticking to one-child policy

China expects to end gender gap by educating, punishing and rewarding

The Associated Press

BEIJING — China will not loosen its one-child policy, despite a top family planning official's acknowledgment Tuesday that it was partly to blame for a worsening problem of too many boy babies and not enough girls in the world's most populous nation.

In 2005, some 118 boys were born in China for every 100 girls. In some regions, the figure has hit 130 boys for every 100 girls; the average for industrialized countries is between 104 and 107 boys for every 100 girls.

Zhang Weiqing, minister of the National Population and Family Planning Commission, said the government is committed to solving gender imbalance within 10 to 15 years with education campaigns, punishments for sex-selective abortions and rewards like retirement pensions for parents who have girls.

"This problem is a reality of country life in China," said Zhang. "We have a 2,000-year feudal history that considered men superior to women, that gave boys the right

to carry on the family name and allowed men to be emperors while women could not."

He called gender imbalance "a very serious challenge for China."

Bates Gill of the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington said pension benefits would help, but other financial incentives like school fees for girls, would also need to be included. He also thought the effects of such projects would take several years before families learned they could trust the government to deliver on their promises.

WEDNESDAY
1.24.07

worldbriefs

The Associated Press

U.S. helicopter goes down in Baghdad; 5 civilians killed

BAGHDAD, Iraq — A helicopter owned by the private security firm Blackwater USA crashed Tuesday in central Baghdad, killing five civilians on board, U.S. military officials said. A senior Iraqi defense official said the aircraft was shot down over a predominantly Sunni neighborhood, but an American military official said there was no indication the helicopter was shot down.

U.S. diplomat warns Iran to back off in Persian Gulf

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates - A second U.S. aircraft carrier strike group now steaming toward the Middle East is Washington's way of warning Iran to back down in its attempts to dominate the region, a top U.S. diplomat said here Tuesday. Nicholas Burns, U.S. undersecretary of state for political affairs, ruled out direct negotiations with Iran and said a rapprochement between Washington and Tehran was "not possible" until Iran halts uranium enrichment. Iran is in a standoff with the West over its defiance of U.N. demands to halt uranium enrichment.



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appointment!



Clutter

FROM PAGE 12

Manto broke her right fibula during the rugby season. The hardest thing for Manto is watching her teammates compete as she watches from the side.

"It's never fun to sit on the sidelines and want to be a part of something at that moment and not be able to," said Manto.

However, Manto won't be sidelined for long.

"Practice is getting better; I can pretty much do everything everyone else is," said Manto.

"Right now my biggest goal is

keeping up with the people in my group to get back into the swing."

Manto is not sure of when she will begin competing, but as the time gets closer, her nerves will start to creep up on her.

"I haven't competed in track for about eight months, but I think the first meet will just be to get familiar with racing again," said Manto.

From broken fibulas to the common shin splints, injuries are nagging and not fun at all. However, after recovery it's not all about winning.

To some people it's all about getting out on that track and competing again.

Sudoku By Michael Mepham



Sudoku on your cell phone. Enter 783658.com in your mobile Web browser. Get a free game!

Level: 1 2 3 4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk.

6	2	1	5	7	8	9	3	4
3	7	9	6	4	2	5	8	1
4	5	8	3	9	1	7	2	6
9	1	6	8	2	4	3	5	7
7	3	4	9	6	5	8	1	2
5	8	2	1	3	7	4	6	9
8	4	3	2	1	9	6	7	5
2	6	7	4	5	3	1	9	8
1	9	5	7	8	6	2	4	3

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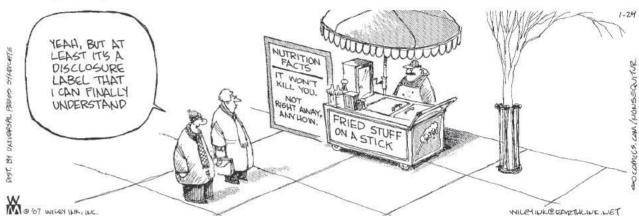
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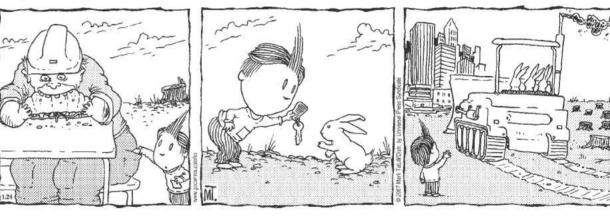
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NON SEQUITUR | WILEY MILLER



LIO | MARK TATULLI



The New Hork Times Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Slap on
- Kadiddlehopper, old TV hayseed
- 9 Losing rolls
- 14 Mont Blanc, e.g., locally
- 15 Classic theater name
- 16 Cousin of a cockatoo
- 17 Sign above a
- Tijuana A.T.M.? 20 2004 Will Smith thriller
- 21 Solver's cry
- 22 Campsite hookup user
- 23 "Oh Boy! What " (1920's hit) 25 One listed on
- MySpace 27 "Why did the chicken cross the road?," e.g., in Tijuana?
- 31 "Excuse me ..."

U A W F A M E D S T O N E C O L D

TEETH

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

THROWER SHELTER

PRETAPE NAMETAG

BAYAREA SINEWED

I L K S H O A R S E

NIGELNSA

EBERT

TONES

ETC TIM ISLA

ALAMO

SEND RAG OYL

ESP LYSOL CANALS MIRE

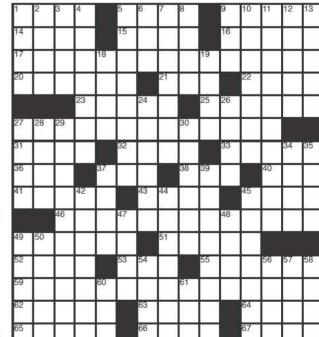
- 32 Letters before Choice or Prime
- 33 Web-footed mammal
- 36 Plastered 37 Pick up on
- 38 Co. informally known as Brown
- 40 Charlottesville
- 41 Israel's Dayan 43 Brontë heroine
- 45 QB Tarkenton
- 46 Tijuana air freshener? Morning hour
- 51 Japanese cartoon genre
- 52 Spot for a nap 53 Biblical verb ending
- 55 He did not beware the Ides of March 59 Advice
- regarding a good poker hand in Tijuana?

ONEUP

No. 1213

- Edited by Will Shortz 62 Hoops coach
- Thomas 63 Crowd sound
- 64 Kind of clef 65 Brings in
- 66 Yorkshire river
- 67 Cry out for DOWN

- 1 Painter of dreamscapes 2 Controversial
- spray 3 As many as 4 Plant yielding a
- fragrant oil 5 Point out the pluses and
- minuses of 6 Enter, as a
- record 7 Blew out
- 8 Washington chopping down the cherry tree, e.g.
- 9 Early 10thcentury year 10 Went wild
- 11 Jim Carrey title
- 12 Emoticon element, for short
- 13 Duel tool 18 NASA scrub 19 Batty
- 24 Like the Tin Man, upon discovery
- 26 Ocho Jamaica
- BITTEREND coin



- 28 Where John Glenn was senator
- 29 "Gimme a break" 30 A Tolkien Dark Lord
- 34 Politico Bayh 35 Go ballistic
- 37 Trait carrier
- 27 Conceal, as a

50 " birth 54 Newbie 44 "Me?" response

39 Spa treatment

42 Baseball's Jose

Canseco, by

- 56 Realtor's goal 45 Ex-slave 57 Part of A.M.
- 47 First-floor 58 Chancel cross apartment 60 Some A.L.'ers

49 Davis of "The

Reloaded"

61 West. alliance

luck!"

Matrix

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48 Actor Epps

OVC WOMEN'S BASKETBALL | NOTEBOOK

Morehead hitting stride at right time

By Matt Daniels Sports Editor

Eastern Illinois head coach Brady Sallee can't receive part of Morehead State's head coach Matthew Mitchell's check.

Sallee joked Tuesday that he should have part of Mitchell's check because his Panthers were the first team Morehead beat on the Eagles' current seven-game winning-streak.

Mitchell's team beat the Panthers 88-76 in Charleston on Dec. 20. Before the game against EIU, Morehead was 2-9.

That record now stands at 9-9 and the general consensus among the league coaches is the Eagles are the hottest team at the midway point of the Ohio Valley Conference season.

Morehead puts its winning streak on the line tonight when they host Southeast Missouri. Both teams are tied for second place in the OVC with an 8-2 conference record.

"It's not the LaKrisha Brown show either," Salle said. "You knew it was just a matter of time that you got this surrounding cast going."

Brown, Morehead's leading scorer last season, is still leading the team in scoring this season (11.9 points per game), but the 6-foot-3 center's points per game has dropped four points from last season.

"It's sort of an amazing thing because we're not getting good scoring from her," Mitchell

With three head coaches in

California for the most coaches in

Mike Shanahan and Minnesota

Vikings head coach Brad Childress

are the other two Eastern graduates

student affairs said that there is

no way Eastern could buy all the

publicity that guys like Romo and

increase in the number of recruits

The football team has seen an

Defensive coordinator Roc Bellantoni said having Payton and

Payton are giving the university.

being interested in Eastern.

Dan Nadler, vice president of

serving as head coaches.

Denver Broncos head coach

>> Romo

FROM PAGE 12

the NFL.

said about Brown.

Brown is the lone Eagle in double figures, but six other Morehead players are averaging more than five points per game.

Inman records milestone win

Wins haven't been plentiful for Eastern Kentucky head coach Larry Joe Inman the past season and a half. The Lady Colonels have won 14 games the past two seasons, but Inman just recorded his 300th career win at EKU last Thursday.

Inman's team beat Jacksonville State 80-70, securing a historic win for Inman that he had forgotten about.

'The record thing I don't get into much," said Inman, in his 19th year at EKU. "The kids were in a dressing room with a sign up. If I had lost 300, though, I probably wouldn't be talking to you today."

Inman is 39 wins shy of his 500th career

20-game conference schedule

Last season, the OVC switched to a 20game conference schedule for the first time. All teams play each other twice, making conference games start in early December.

Samford head coach Mike Morris is in favor of the 20-game conference schedule because not all 11 OVC teams make the conference tournament.

"If you don't take everybody to the tournament, I think you've got to play

Women's basketball (as of Jan. 23)

IEAM	OVC	OVEKALL
Murray State	8-1	12-4
Morehead St.	8-2	9-9
SEMO	8-2	13-5
Austin Peay	5-4	6-12
Samford	5-5	10-9
Tennessee Martin	5-5	10-8
Eastern Kentucky	4-6	7-12
Tennessee Tech	4-6	5-14
Eastern Illinois	4-7	7-13
Jacksonville St.	2-8	5-14
Tennessee State	1-8	1-8

everybody twice," he said. "If we took everybody to the conference tournament, I'd say 20 games is too much."

Morris' team, the preseason favorite to win the league, currently sits in sixth place at the halfway point.

Morris said he is actually in favor of having all 11 teams qualify for the tournament because "no matter what happened with the season, you're going to play in a college basketball tournament."

Murray State assistant head coach Rob Cross said because of the 20-game schedule, there's no talk around the league about "conference supremacy or a conference showdown" in late January. Murray (12-4, 8-1 OVC) is currently in first place, half a game in front of Morehead State and SEMO.

"The basic mathematical theory to win the conference title is win all your home

games and split on the road, then you've got a chance," Cross said. "I think most coaches would say 15-5 would win the league. We feel good about where we are right now."

Ishee keeps SEMO rolling

SEMO, the league's tournament champion last season, graduated four starters from last year's team and has had to undergo the resignation of head coach B.J. Smith this

It doesn't seem to be affecting the Redhawks and interim head coach John Ishee. Ishee joined Smith's staff May 31, 2006, and has been the head coach all season after Smith was put on personal and paid leave Nov. 9. Smith's resignation was deemed effective Dec. 1, according to a Dec. 6 article in the Southeast Missourian.

The drama surrounding Smith's departure and his alleged NCAA rules violations, haven't put a damper on the current Redhawk squad. SEMO (13-5, 8-2) has won 10 of its last 11 games, and feature the nation's top rebounder.

Lachelle Lyles, a 6-foot-2 senior, is leading the nation in rebounds per game at 16.8. Lyles grabbed the fourth-highest rebounding total in NCAA history with a 32-rebound effort at Tennessee State on Dec. 7.

We had a good, solid nucleus coming back," Ishee said. "We don't have the height or overpowering play. We're a team and we're greater because of that."

DAN NADLER | VICE PRESIDENT OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

"I am certainly a Saints fan. I'm a Bears fan but most importantly I am a Panther fan and so with one of our own serving as the head coach I was really rooting for him."

the NFL, Eastern is being referred to as "the cradle of coaches" and Romo known nationally has helped is currently tied with Southern

"It makes you think, 'Who on our team now could have potential and possibility of making it in the NFL," he said.

Chris Dolak, a sophomore pre med. major said he used to think Eastern as a "little school" and that "nothing big ever happens here" but is beginning to change his mind.

Sophomore business management major Josh Studzinski said it is crazy to see former Eastern students on television and know that they went here and walked through the same halls.

"I think about what dorms they could've lived in and I imagine them back on campus," said Matt Sopiais, a freshman physical education major. "They were probably working out in the Rec and just being normal students. Now they are famous and talked about nationwide and it is really cool that they came from the same

Many students on campus are inspired by what Romo and Payton have done.

When I hear it, it makes me feel like there is a chance for all of us to know we can also accomplish something," freshman sociology major Debbie Phillips said. helps us to know that it is not impossible.

Nadler said that it makes you feel like you are a part of something even if you didn't personally know Romo or Payton.

In the NFC championship game Nadler said he found himself in a win-win situation. He had grown up a Chicago Bears fan, but also worked at Tulane University for twelve years, where he developed a fondness for then-Saints head coach, and former Bears head coach, Mike Ditka.

"I am certainly a Saints fan," Nadler said. "I'm a Bears fan but most importantly I am a Panther fan and so with one of our own serving as the head coach I was really rooting for him."

EASTERN FACES IN THE NFL

•Tony Romo - Dallas Cowboys QB

» Graduated from EIU in: 2003

» Key Tidbit: EIU coaches wanted to move him to TE after freshman year

Sean Payton – New Orleans Saints head coach

» Graduated from EIU in: 1987

» Key Tidbit: Former Panther QB is Eastern's career leader in total offense

Mike Shanahan – Denver Broncos head coach

» Graduated from EIU in: 1974

» Key Tidbit: EIU's offensive coordinator for 1978 D-II national champs

•Brad Childress - Minnesota Vikings head coach

» Graduated from EIU in: 1978

» Key Tidbit: transferred to EIU from Illinois, but did not play football here

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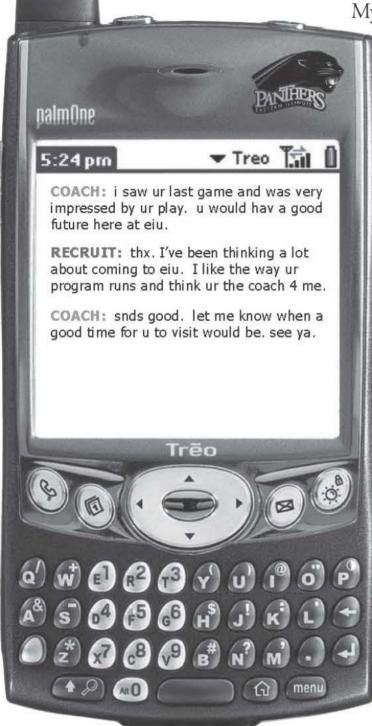


sports 11

RECRUITING | TEXT MESSAGING

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While the NCAA lags behind in new regulations, coaches use new technologies – from text messages to MySpace – to try and get an advantage in the battle for the next big recruit



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THURSDAY'S

7pm



By Marc Correnti Staff Reporter

Brady Sallee remembers when he was an assistant coach for the women's basketball team at East Carolina University.

One of Sallee's coaching duties was to help with recruiting.

He had been trying to get a prized recruit to commit to East Carolina for months.

The moment came when the recruit, better referred to by Sallee and his staff as "Red," visited Greenville, N.C. for a football game.

Watching the football game while sitting next to Red, Sallee was on edge about whether she would come to help the school's basketball program.

A few moments passed and Sallee heard a sound from his cell phone. He opened his cell phone and saw a text message that read: "Red goes to ECU!"

Sallee turned to his prize recruit, uncorking a smile with a sense of relief that had been lifted off his shoulders.

"It proves the point in differences in generations," Sallee said. "Before, we were used to getting oral commitments. Now we're getting this. The (text messaging) allows them to open their mouth without actually doing it."

The 35-year-old Sallee, now in his third season as head coach of Eastern's women's basketball team, can be counted on as one of the fans of text messaging, a craze that has given coaches and recruits loopholes.

NCAA rules limit coaches to one phone call per month to high school juniors and two per week to seniors.

But with no limit on text messages, it has given coaches the opportunity to "talk" to recruits through a different forum.

"It's a big part of kids' lives," Sallee said. "Now-a-days, kids prefer to communicate through text. (Coaches) take advantage of that"

While younger coaches like Sallee are more adept at using text

NORRIS SMITH | SOPHOMORE RUNNING BACK

"As long as you get noticed from coaches, that's all that matters. But I know a text message (from a coach) will bright up a kid's eyes."

messages, older coaches, like Eastern head football coach Bob Spoo, leave it up to their assistants to incorporate the new technology.

"I don't even use the Internet," the 69-year-old Spoo said. "But I know a lot of our coaches use (text messages). That's just another way of communicating."

For many athletes, text messaging has become more prevalent through the years, helping usher new avenues to a high-school athlete that may be undecided.

Some athletes prefer the intimacy of a phone call compared to text messaging, but realize the importance of both.

"To be honest, it doesn't matter if you call or text," Eastern sophomore running back Norris Smith said. "As long as you get noticed from coaches, that's all that matters. But I know a text message (from a college coach) will bright up a kid's eye."

It's a phenomenon that has gotten bigger in college recruiting. It comes at a time where verbal communication is being pushed aside.

"I know a lot of kids in high school don't like to be on the phone," Eastern junior forward Bobby Catchings said.

When Catchings was playing basketball at Naperville Neuqua Valley High School, he doesn't remember text messaging being as common as it is today.

"I kind of wish it was more prevalent," Catchings said. "It would have been more convenient for me."

Text messaging isn't the only new technological recruiting tool coaches are using. Even with e-mail still a part of the process, some coaches may worry if the e-mail actually gets received or that recruits may have changed their e-mail address.

The coaches then look if the

recruit has their own Web page.

"MySpace wasn't as big a few years ago as it is now," Smith said. "Coaches are leaving messages on MySpace so they can get a better relationship with the player. It's big."

With an unlimited amount of text and internet messages being sent, the NCAA has yet to sanction or pass any legislation in limiting the messages.

But it has been discussed.

Eastern women's basketball forward Rachel Galligan met with 10 other women's basketball players during the Ohio Valley Conference Media Day in October to discuss certain policies, one of which was text messaging.

"Everyone was more wrapped up in the number's standpoint," Galligan said about the cost of text messaging. "It was more about the big bills for the parents, or not everyone having (unlimited text messaging) packages. None of us have really gone through it."

The sophomore said the panel brushed aside the possibility of legislation, leaving it up to the NCAA. However, many of the coaches and athletes know that the bigger it gets, the more likely something will be passed.

"I'm certainly open-minded to any kind of legislation," OVC Commissioner Jon Steinbrecher said. "But it becomes a situation of how do you monitor or how do you track? Then, after you figure that out, it becomes how do you enforce?"

Most athletes have admitted to wanting some sort of ban during school hours. But coaches say text messaging is now just part of recruiting life.

"You can argue whether it's good or bad," Sallee said. "But, that's the landscape now."

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MOLLY CLUTTER

AROUND THE TRACK

Back in the swing of things

Everybody has good days and

In track and field, your day may affect the way you practice or practice can help your day get better.

Sometimes it can be a lose-win day or maybe a lose-lose day. Either way, no matter what kind of day you are having, somebody else has been there before.

In track and field there are also stepping stones and setbacks.

Most setbacks are because of injury, and when you get injured in track and field, you might need some recovery time.

Sometimes you might get lucky and will only have that injury once, or it could come back to haunt you later in the season.

Whatever the case may be, there is one thing that is certain, being injured just plain sucks.

Some athletes are lucky and will get through weekly practice by simulating a workout on a bike. But some athletes may have to take a year off of competing.

Sophomore sprinter Tarra Grant was one of those athletes.

Grant suffered from a stress fracture to her right tibia bone.

This injury caused her to sit out a season last year.

"I did not like the idea that I had to take a year off from competing because, of course, I would have rather been running," Grant said.

"But at the same time, I was out for a reason, so instead of complaining about it, I just made sure that I rehabbed all the time and trained hard when I was finally

All that training paid off for Grant as she competed in her first meet of the season last Saturday.

She placed fourth in the 60meter dash and fifth in the 200meter dash.

"This last meet I felt was a pretty good start. I definitely have a lot of work to do still, but I was pleased with my performances in both the 60 and the 200," said Grant.

"Now its time to get better and in time, I will."

Another athlete sidelined because of injury is sophomore hurdler and sprinter Samantha

>> SEE CLUTTER PAGE 9



Molly Clutter is a sophomore member of the Women's Rugby and Track and Field teams.

NFL | PANTHERS IN THE PROS

Big Time Alumni

Spoo, students reflect on Romo, Payton at Eastern and in the NFL

By Brandy Provaznik

Staff Reporter

Eastern head football coach Bob Spoo remembers Tony Romo differently than the announcers and reporters in the NFL see him

Spoo said that something people have become impressed with about Romo is that he is mobile and can move around in the pocket avoiding tackles.

'Well, he has always been able to do that, but when he was with us his feet were the last things that were impressive about him," Spoo said. "He wasn't the swiftest guy."

Spoo remembers one game against Eastern Kentucky where Romo was scrambling and ran the ball nearly 70 yards for a touchdown but said it took him so long to get to the end zone.

Spoo said a local reporter made the comment that while Romo was making that run Nielsen was able to finish off a sandwich.

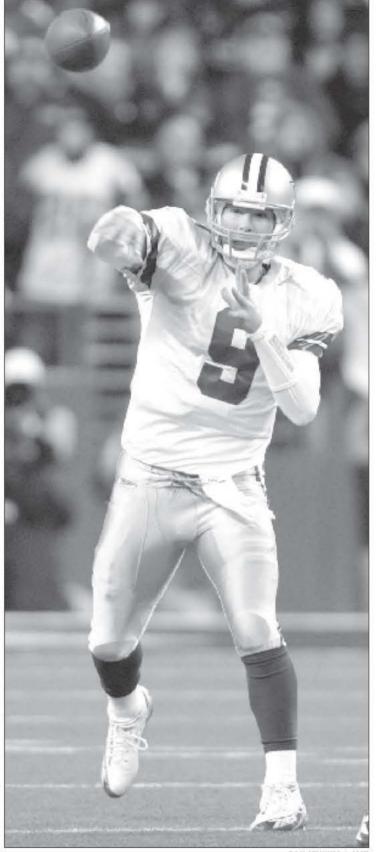
"He was a lumbering type of runner, not great speed but he made it down the field and scored and that's all that mattered," Spoo

Spoo said it is amazing that Romo has gained respect by making plays not only with his arm, but also with his feet.

Add to the fact Romo is now the starting quarterback of the Cowboys, and not a backup anymore, has made him more

"Before he was actually playing he'd come back and I'd see him around campus, people were like, 'Cool, Tony Romo. He sits the bench," said Dave Heffernan, a senior family and consumer science major. "No one really knew him but now he is everywhere."

The outbreak of Romo in Dallas and New Orleans Saints head coach Sean Payton in New Orleans has given Eastern much NFL recognition in the past year.



RON JENKINS | MCT

Former Panther Tony Romo throws a pass for the Dallas Cowboys in the first half of the NFC Wild Card game against the Seattle Seahawks on Jan. 6 at Qwest Field in Seattle, Wash.

>> SEE ROMO, PAGE 10

scoreboard

PANTHER SPORTS SCHEDULE

SWIMM NG AND DIVING Thursday at IUPUI | 5:30 p.m. Indianapolis

triplethreat



Almost a year ago Eastern was in the national news when two alumni, Sean Payton (above) and Brad Childress joined another Panther, Mike Shanahan, in the NFL's head coaching ranks. This season also marked former Eastern quaterback Tony Romo's ascension from bench player to Dallas Cowboys starting QB.

Making the jump from EIU to the NFL is extremely difficult, so all four of these men must be superheros.

Yes, this might be a stretch, but seriously, it's an angle the national media has not hit on yet.

And since Romo already hit on Carrie Underwood, here are three superheroes that remind us of Childress, Payton, Romo and Shanahan.

- 1. Superman Shanahan and Childress are both like the Man of Steel. They're unassuming, a little nerdy, but take people by surprise. Plus, Shanahan's won two Super Bowls. and Childress has a super mustache.
- 2. Professor X Payton best fits this description of the X-Men's fearless leader. Professor X fosters the outcasts of societies and hones their powers. Payton honed the athletic powers of Reggie Bush, Drew Brees, Deuce McAllister into a great team and took the Saints to the NFC Championship.
- 3. Captain America Romo best personifies this super soldier. The All-American boy meets the All-American superhero. Romo's the quarterback of America's team, so it's an obvious choice for his superhero counterpart. Captain America is called the "perfect specimen." For a while in Dallas, Romo was the equivalent in the minds of Underwood and Jessica Simpson.

-Matt Daniels

WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD | NOTEBOOK

Walcott excels in multiple events

By Brandy Provaznik

Staff Reporter

Nicole Walcott is both a thrower and a jumper. However, she doesn't necessarily fit the stereotype for either.

When thinking of a jumper a stereotype would be tall and skinny where a thrower may be stockier and built, although that is not always the case, said women's head coach Mary Wallace.

"When I was younger there was a lot of really big girls throwing and I could throw further than them," Walcott said. "It just proves that physical stature means nothing; it is more about the mental."

Walcott can compete in the long jump, high jump, weight throw and shot put and is the only multi-athlete on the indoor track

Wallace, who coaches with the throwers, and jumps coach Nate Davis discuss what events she will compete in on a meet by meet basis depending on her training that week.

"She is a very astute athlete and she is able to separate each event focusing on them as they come," said Wallace. "I think that is what allows her to go from a jumping event, to a throwing event, and then back to a jumping event and be as successful as she has been."

Vaulter's 'Glorified practice'

Because of the smaller number of teams and individuals at the Mega Meet there were no outside competitors in the pole vault.

The Mega Meet ended up being what Davis called a "glorified practice" for senior Nicolene Galas, sophomore Tricia Gaumer and freshman Anci Borozan.

Gaumer said it took some of the pressure off and was a good way to introduce Borozan into the way a meet runs.

On her first jump, Borozan

made it up over the top of the bar but fell back down onto it.

On the second jump her hand slipped and she ended up doing a back flip and barely landing in

"I was very impressed with her coming back from that because people don't realize how scary that is," Davis said. "Being in the air ready to turn around with a metal box underneath you and all of sudden your hand slips. It's scary and she showed just how tough she was."

Borozan said it was most likely her nerves that got to her.

"I learned a lot from this first competition," Borozan said. "It was a zero in the competition. I scored nothing but it was getting used to all of this."

Arnold showing potential

Freshman Kandance Arnold came in this year and made a name for herself right off the bat,

throwing 52 feet in the weight throw at her first collegiate meet.

The throw placed her sixth on Eastern's top 10 list and she was named the Ohio Valley Conference's female athlete of the

Wallace said she knew Arnold had potential but was surprised at how soon Arnold began to catch

Arnold has been trying to learn the steps to a double turn before throwing and that has been somewhat difficult, she said.

Two of her throws in the weight throw hit the side poles and she scratched at the Mega Meet.

"I was getting real mad because I thought I was getting better with the two turns but I guess I am not and we haven't been working on the one turn so my one turn was messed up too," Arnold said.

The one turn is what she did when she threw 52 feet in December.