

Eastern Illinois University

The Keep

January

2020

1-30-2020

Daily Eastern News: January 30, 2020

Eastern Illinois University

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Eastern Illinois University, "Daily Eastern News: January 30, 2020" (2020). *January*. 13.
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CORRECTION

In the Jan. 29 edition of *The Daily Eastern News*, there was a misstatement in the article "Spring enrollment numbers 'really good.'" Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker only requests, not mandates, that universities send him enrollment numbers before public release.



BIG GAMES AHEAD

The Eastern women's basketball team will face Murray State and Austin Peay this week in important conference games.

PAGE 8

THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Thursday, January 30, 2020

"TELL THE TRUTH AND DON'T BE AFRAID"

VOL. 104 | NO. 86

CELEBRATING A CENTURY OF COVERAGE

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10th-Day: Eastern sees spring-to-spring rise

By Corryn Brock
News Editor | @corryn_brock

Tenth-day enrollment numbers revealed a total of 7,621 students enrolled in classes at Eastern, 181 more students than the Spring 2019 semester.

Excluding high school, the students taking dual-credit courses enrollment is at 5,886.

The total amount of high school students taking dual-credit courses is down 0.91 percent from last spring at 1,735 students, and total undergraduate students is down 0.38 percent from last spring at 4,217 students.

Post-baccalaureate undergraduate students

are up six students from last spring and now totals 48 students.

This leaves total undergraduate enrollment down by 0.43 percent.

Graduate student enrollment increased from 1,454 to 1,593, and post-baccalaureate graduate enrollment increased from 23 students to 28 students.

In total, graduate student enrollment increased 9.75 percent.

Eastern President David Glassman said the increase in overall enrollment demonstrated Eastern's capability to compete in high education.

"Our spring increase is an impressive step

in showcasing Eastern's adaptability and responsiveness in today's higher education arena," Glassman said. "This growth, combined with EIU's above-average national retention and graduation rates for universities in its class, are categorical indicators of our enduring success and preparation for future growth."

Josh Norman, associate vice president of enrollment management, said the increase showed that the university is meeting student's needs.

"Another semester of increased enrollments at EIU — especially in the spring — is a candid assessment of our ability to meet students' needs where they are and with the academic programming they need," Norman said.

According to a press release about the 10th-Day enrollment numbers, "EIU's official spring 2020 figures come from the university's 10th-day enrollment reports. Tenth-day enrollment reports are the nationally accepted standard for tracking university and college enrollments. Several of EIU's standalone 10th-day enrollment reports are individually processed and combined to create a comprehensive university enrollment report that, once complete in its entirety..."

No specific date was named for the full report to be released.

Corryn Brock can be reached at 581-2812 or at cebrock@eiu.edu.

DAC tabling event talks word choice

By Kate Figlewski
Staff Reporter | @DEN_news

The Diversity in Action Council hosted an informational booth called "The Words We Use" in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union to start conversations about the power of words.

The DAC was brought back to campus in 2019 to discuss alternatives to student requests of flying a Black Lives Matter flag in the south quad during the month of February last year, a petition that was controversial at Eastern last spring.

"The Words We Use" was the third event hosted this week for its DAC Week of Events.

On Monday, it hosted a mental health informational booth, and on Tuesday it hosted a "colorism" event.

Samira Abdoulaye-Pedila, a psychology senior and Student Senate's vice president of student affairs, said the week is meant to start discussions on a variety of issues.

"Yesterday we had our colorism event, and then Monday we talked about mental health," Abdoulaye-Pedila said.

At "The Words We Use" table, DAC members handed out brochures containing words that the DAC felt should not be said along with the meanings behind each of them.

WORDS, page 5



JALYN LONG | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

During the Diversity Action Council tabling event, Samari Abdoulaye-Pedila, senior psychology major, gives a student a stress ball and pamphlet on Wednesday afternoon. The event was called "The Words We Use," and its purpose was to create dialogues about the importance of word choice and how it can affect others.

Educational census forum to be held Thursday

By Logan Raschke
Managing Editor | @LoganRaschke

The Office of Civic Engagement and Volunteerism will educate Charleston's community about the 2020 Census during an open forum Thursday evening.

The forum is free and open to anyone in Charleston, including Eastern students. It will be at 6 p.m. at the Charleston Carnegie Public Library.

Beth Gillespie, director of the Office of Civic Engagement and Volunteerism, said the Census count is something many students and adults have limited knowledge about.

When it comes to Eastern students, they need to participate in the 2020 Census.

Crystal Brown, assistant director of the office, said students living on campus do not have to

fill out a census form.

"Residence halls, Greek Court, things like that, group homes, prisons, nursing homes—all of those are considered group homes, so sometime in March the state will reach out to whoever oversees those, so like EIU Housing, to find out how many people live in those units," she said. "Those individuals specifically are students in residence halls and Greek Court (and) will not have to fill out a census because they are already accounted for."

However, students living off campus in apartments, rental homes, mobile homes and anywhere else off campus will need to participate in the census.

Brown said just one person living in each household needs to complete a form for every-one living in the space.

That means if a student is sharing a living

Quick facts:

- On-campus students *do not* need to complete the census form.
- Off-campus students *do* need to complete the census form.

space with one roommate, they both need to figure out who will fill a census and include that there are two people living in the space.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau's website, the state sends letters to individuals, and people can complete the form online or by calling in.

The census questionnaire will ask for people's genders, races and dates of birth, and Gillespie said the information the state collects can only be used for the census.

Alex Marten, senior graduate assistant for the office, said getting accurate numbers from the census is important because it ensures the right amount of representatives get sent to Washington D.C.

If an inaccurate amount is collected from the census, it could have a negative effect on the federal funds, grants and support the state will get, too.

The next free and open informational forum will be on Feb. 5.

Logan Raschke can be reached at 581-2812 or at lrraschke@eiu.edu.

Student Senate inducts new senators

By **Jelan Buchanan**
Staff Reporter | @DEN_news

Student Senate started its Wednesday meeting by swearing in four new senators and making nominations for speaker of the senate.

The four new senators that were sworn in were: Benjamin Drake, Paul Abraham, Dylan Johnston and Keith Kerrigan.

Abraham and Johnston said they were excited about being a part of the senate and had goals on what they wanted to bring to the table.

"It feels good; I think the biggest thing for me is that I get to give something back to Eastern," Abraham said.

His goals for being part of the senate now is to make sure that the older students who are enrolled at Eastern feel more included because he is a non-traditional student.

"When I came to Eastern, I was 27. Now I'm 29. I'm just trying to keep the inclusivity in there for the older people," Abraham said.

Johnston said it felt good to be a part of the senate because he was focusing only on himself, but now it is bigger than him.

He said his goals are to bring fresh ideas to the senate and to utilize former Eastern students to encourage current students.

"I had an idea for an event to have the alumni come down and motivate the students by speaking, so hopefully I can get that in action," Johnston said.

At the meeting, nominations were held for the new speaker of the senate; Senator Seth Yeakel gave some reasons on why he believes he should be the next speaker.

He said he wants to be a role model for the other senators, and he wants to promote other senators' success with his mentorship and leadership.

He said cutting back from work and taking on more responsibilities with the senate might also be beneficial.

"I work seven hours a week, and I'll cut it down to four," Yeakel said.

He is very confident



KARINA DELGADO | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Michael Perri, a political science senior, waits outside of the Student Senate meeting on Wednesday night. Perri had to wait outside during the speaker elections because of senate bylaws, which state an individual cannot be in the room while the candidate they spoke for is taking questions during the meeting.

that he can handle the responsibilities of being the speaker.

Michael Perri, last semester's speaker of the senate, vouched for Yeakel.

"Without a doubt, I do not have a single doubt in my body that he will be the speaker that student government needs," Perri said.

Perri said that he was not the best at keeping a long-term focus; most of his work was planned a week before, but Yeakel is the kind of person to plan

a month in advance. The senate will vote on Yeakel becoming the next speaker during its meeting Feb. 5 at 7 p.m. in the Arcola/Tuscola room in the

Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

Jelan Buchanan can be reached at 581-2812 or jjbuchanan@eiu.edu.

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STAFF EDITORIAL

Insulin price cap excellent idea for state

Illinois just became the second state to put a cap on monthly insulin prices after Gov. J.B. Pritzker signed a bill into law Jan. 24.

The new law will not go into effect until January 2021, but once it does, diabetics will no longer have to pay more than \$100 a month for their insulin.

In 2012, the average yearly cost of insulin was \$2,864 and jumped to \$5,705 in 2015, according to Health Care Cost Institute.

That's nearly \$280 a month in 2012 to \$475 per month in 2015, which many families in America struggle to afford.

Insulin is a hormone produced in the pancreas that helps to regulate a person's blood sugar, unless that person has type 1 diabetes.

A type 1 diabetic's pancreas produces little to no insulin, so those with the disease must follow a lifelong insulin regimen where they administer the insulin through either an injection or an insulin pump.

Along with all type 1 diabetics, some people with type 2 diabetes also need insulin to survive.

We at The Daily Eastern News were glad to hear Pritzker signed the bill to cap the monthly cost at \$100 because, like Pritzker, we believe that healthcare is a right rather than a privilege.

Almost 100 years ago, Dr. Frederick Banting created the lifesaving insulin drug and sold the patent for \$1 because he believed it was such an important medication that needed to be affordable.

If only every pharmaceutical company thought like Banting did.

Instead, they sell these lifesaving drugs for a price that is nearly impossible for many people in the U.S. to afford.

There are currently no generic forms of insulin drugs, so buying the cheaper version is not much of an option for people because all of the available forms are expensive in their own way.

The cause of type 1 diabetes is unknown, and there is no cure, so the people with this disease have no control of whether or not they eventually get it.

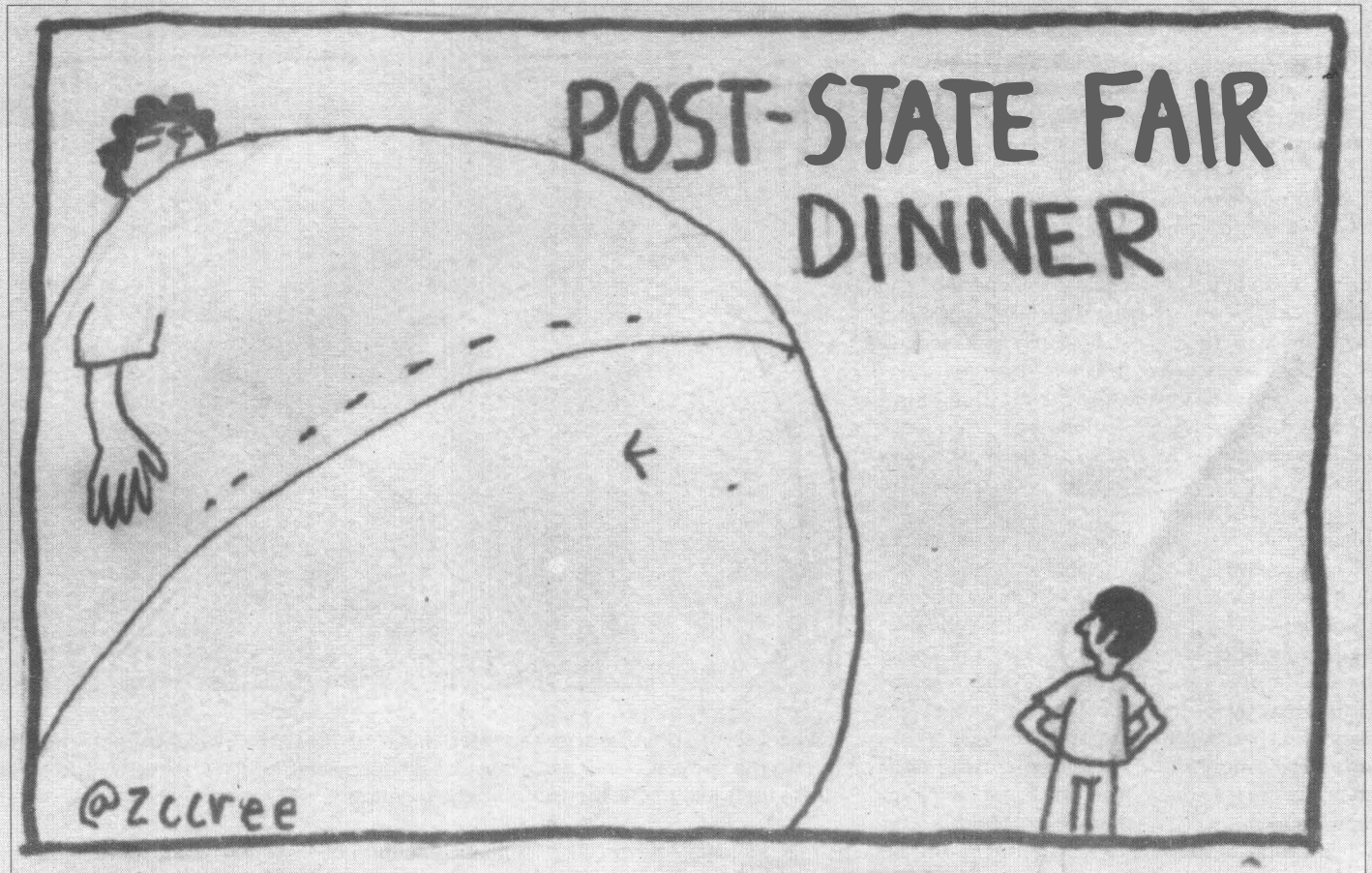
When this new law goes into effect in 2021, many people will not have to worry as much about how they are going to pay for their medication.

While \$100 a month may still be a lot for some, it is definitely a step in the right direction as far as affordable healthcare goes.

We fully support Pritzker's action and we hope that other states follow suit.

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

Feeling bloated



Ode to snakes in basement

As the days continue to freeze students on their way to class to the bone, they find shortcuts to class, cutting through adjacent buildings to get out of the cold and the wind.

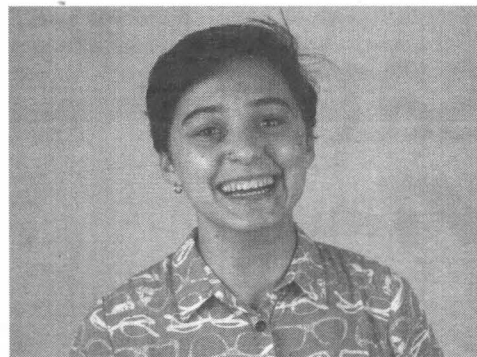
For me, almost daily I find myself walking the short distance from Weller Hall, where I currently reside, to Buzzard Hall, and back again. It's not a far walk but with Illinois winds and temperatures below 30, no walk outside is pleasant.

Late last semester, on one of the colder days, I too joined the legions of students retreating from the cold, crossing the brick tiles as quickly as I could between the library and Alumni clock tower, and pulling open the glass doors of the Biological Sciences Building.

Down the stairs and into the basement I ventured that day, ears stinging as they readjusted to the temperature and my glasses fogging up.

Had I been a bit quicker, or a bit less perceptive I would have missed the tanks lining one wall, or the wooden box with chicken wire walls.

A snake, long and thin and curled up around



ZOË DONOVAN

itself and a hollow log, was sitting in one of the tanks, and in the chicken wire box there was a turtle, not doing much just clawing at something, a little tick-tack with her claws.

Being that I was on my way to class, I didn't have much time to marvel over the small discovery I had made. As a transfer student, I never took the general education biology classes here

and all of the classes at Eastern I needed were in regards to my major and minors, there had never been a need for me to come into this building.

It was a nice surprise, to share the warm basement with the reptiles. I was later told by some herpetology club members that the snake I had been enamored with during the Fall Student activity Fair, was the same one that caught my attention that day, Odin.

On bad days, I make an effort to walk through the building after class, to take a minute to share the space with beings that don't really care, who are also just trying to stay warm.

So be this a warning to those who are afraid of reptiles, and just a nice surprise to those who find their company to be pleasant, there are snakes in the basement of the biological sciences building.

Zoë Donovan is a junior journalism major. They can be reached at 581-2812 or at zedonovan@eiu.edu.

Stevenson, what is going on?

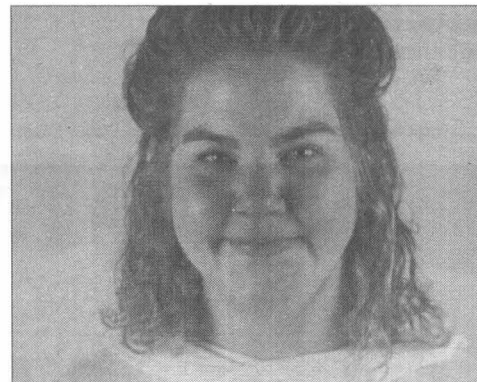
Imagine this: you're in a deep, deep, dreamless slumber. It's peaceful and mindless and you're thankful even if you're not conscious about your thankfulness. You're warm, you're comfortable and your mind is blank for what feels like one holy minute.

And, then, wailing sirens break through that blackhole of sleep, disturbing you so much your heart picks up right away, as if you've been running a one-minute mile. The combination of adrenaline and fear freezes you momentarily while you're left trying to decipher what year it is, what day it is, what time it is and what's going on.

It's the fire alarm, of course. Of course, the fire alarm would go off while you napped. What else would you expect, truly?

Disoriented, you try not to trip down the twelve flights of stairs. Disoriented, you stand in the freezing cold, your body already pre-disposed to being extra cold because of the whole previously-being-wrapped-in-a-blanket thing. You're shaking. There's a lot of firetrucks—like three, and some ambulances, and you wonder, what is going on?

This was my Tuesday evening at Stevenson Hall. I'd laid down for a nap after a long sleepless night and a rewarding but draining day, only to be woken into a panic. We weren't ever told what happened,



MEGAN KEANE

really. Was there a fire? Did someone burn popcorn? False alarm? We got no information.

And, then, 9 a.m. Wednesday morning, the fire alarm wakes me up. Are residents starting little fires? Did someone leave their curling iron on the carpet? Is someone burning candles? Incense? Smoking? We're left, yet again, groggy and uninformed.

We were told that, in both cases, it was not a drill. That's good to know—so, we should be expecting at least one more fire alarm soon. But, do we not have a right to know that everything's safe? There was an in-

cident? Or, maybe the two consecutive alarms are a symptom of a system error?

I understand the protection of the identity of whoever is causing the fire alarm—you don't want the other residents to give them a hard time, or, if it was a very personal matter, you simply don't want them to know. But, shouldn't we be told something?

I'd rather hear, "Everyone's okay; there was a little smoke from some burnt popcorn," rather than receiving a shrug in response. Let us know if it was a system error, let us know if it was a false alarm—most importantly, let us know if there were fires. I don't think it's right to leave a building of students completely in the dark and baffled.

What's the harm in emailing the students affected by the fire alarms and letting them know that everything's good? There should be an update notification system in place for when stuff like this happens. Let me reiterate, it wouldn't have to disclose any personal information, it would just let us know that things are okay.

Megan Keane is a senior psychology and English major. She can be reached at 581-2812 or at mkkeane@eiu.edu.

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Today's Quote of the Day:

“There's not a word yet for old friends who've just met.”

-Jim Henson

Editorial Board

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» WORDS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The DAC also passed out stress balls. Abdoulaye-Pedila said the purpose of the information booth was to help students understand how the words they use can affect others, especially those of different backgrounds.

"We all come from different backgrounds, and some people are just unaware of the words they use and the context they have in those words," said Arcadus Nance, a criminology junior and student senator.

Abdoulaye-Pedila said the DAC believes it is important to have these kinds of conversations, even if it is difficult.

"Our overall goal is to start having those uncomfortable conversations that people are so afraid (of)," Abdoulaye-Pedila said, "But most importantly to promote that everybody comes from a different background, and before you go and judge somebody, make sure you sit down and actually get to know a person because we all have different stories."

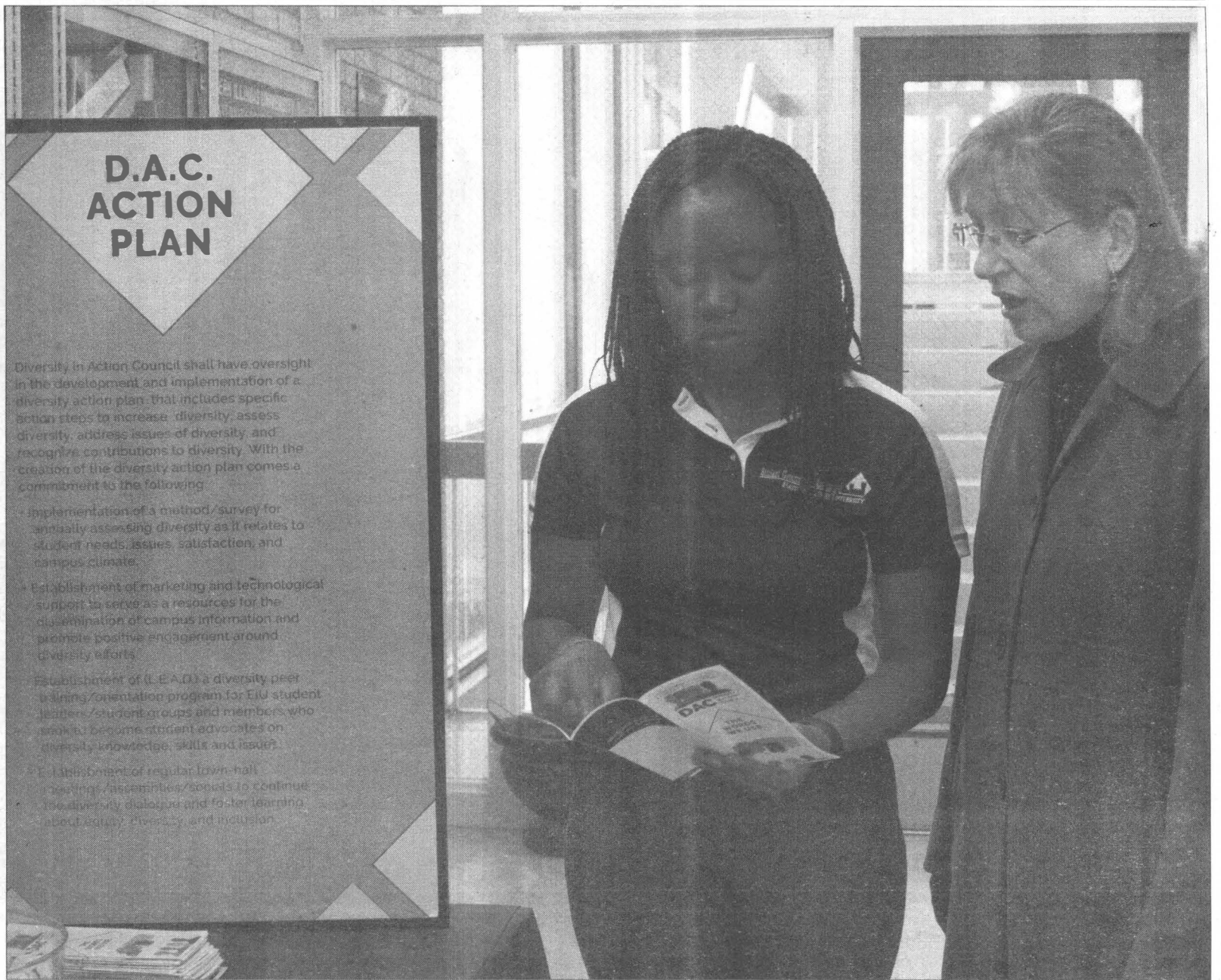
Nance believes this is a good way to spread information and promote communication education.

The DAC will have two more events this week on Thursday and Friday.

Thursday's event is Community Fish-bowl Conversation, and it will be from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the McAfee Gym.

Friday's event is Taste of Diversity, which will feature cuisines from around the world; it will be from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Cultural House.

The DAC's purpose is to bring together multicultural organizations and promotes diversity.



D.A.C. ACTION PLAN

Diversity in Action Council shall have oversight in the development and implementation of a diversity action plan that includes specific action steps to increase diversity, assess diversity, address issues of diversity and recognize contributions to diversity. With the creation of the diversity action plan comes a commitment to the following:

- Implementation of a method/survey for annually assessing diversity as it relates to student needs, issues, satisfaction, and campus climate.
- Establishment of marketing and technological support to serve as a resources for the dissemination of campus information and promote positive engagement around diversity efforts.
- Establishment of (LEAD) a diversity peer training/orientation program for EIU student leaders/student groups and members who seek to become student advocates on diversity, knowledge, skills and issues.
- Establishment of regular town-hall meetings/ assemblies/socials to continue the diversity dialogue and foster learning about equity, diversity and inclusion.

Kate Figlewski can be reached at 581-2812 or at kjfiglewski@eiu.edu.

Samira Abdoulaye-Pedila (left), a psychology senior and vice president of student affairs, shows Lynette Drake, interim vice president for student affairs, a pamphlet during the Diversity Action Council tabling event Wednesday at the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

JALYN LONG | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

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Let's play



LOGAN RASCHKE | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Maxine Newberry, an English education junior, plays various tunes at the piano located on the second floor of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union Wednesday afternoon. Newberry said her grandmother laid a foundation for her to learn to play the piano years ago. She became more interested in playing during her junior and senior years of high school, where she took her skills to the next level. Newberry said she prefers to play her songs by memory because the learning process is much faster than reading music. Newberry plays at the Union for about half an hour once a week.

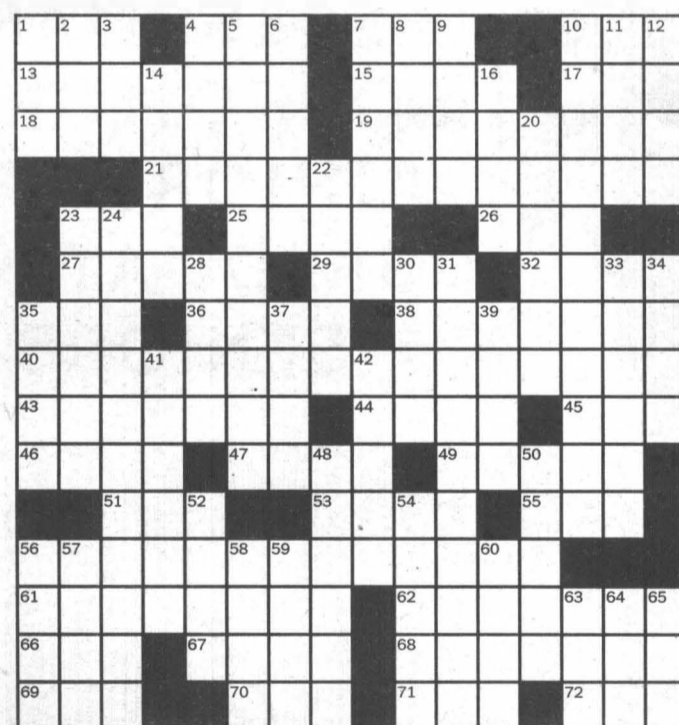
The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 1226

- ACROSS**
- 1 Bind
 - 4 It's not much work
 - 7 Short
 - 10 Average name
 - 13 Talk show medium
 - 15 Quite an accomplishment
 - 17 Señora Perón
 - 18 Secret headquarters for Bruce Wayne
 - 19 Not be oneself?
 - 21 "I've heard everything I need to hear"
 - 23 Relative of a haddock
 - 25 Moon of Saturn named for a Titaness
 - 26 Instant
 - 27 Black-and-white predators
 - 29 Martin _____, "London Fields" novelist
 - 32 Comic strip title character who is Beetle Bailey's sister
 - 35 Winter D.C. setting
 - 36 Quite an accomplishment
 - 38 Do some underground exploring
 - 40 Find an ideal compromise
 - 43 Transitional zone between two biomes
 - 44 Early Cuzco resident
 - 45 Pull
 - 46 End notes
 - 47 Highland tongue
 - 49 Aunt _____ of "Oklahoma!"
 - 51 Estadio exclamation
 - 53 Pie hole
 - 55 Places where people may have the knives out for you, in brief
 - 56 Classic tune often played by ice cream trucks
 - 61 Adjust
 - 62 Sport that is the key to interpreting the answers to 21-, 40- and 56-Across
 - 66 Consist of
 - 67 Get to
 - 68 Temporarily inactive
 - 69 "That really hurt!"
 - 70 Waitress at Mel's Diner
 - 71 Magic 8 Ball response
 - 72 Prefix with -phyte
- DOWN**
- 1 Snarky remark
 - 2 Residents' org.
 - 3 Musclemen with a mohawk
 - 4 Eponymous Dutch town
 - 5 Subject of several Georges Seurat paintings
 - 6 Doth proceed
 - 7 Horror movie staple
 - 8 Part of a parka
 - 9 Winter season
 - 10 Place for cold cuts
 - 11 Like skating rinks, typically
 - 12 Manners
 - 14 Rock group from Sydney
 - 16 Vets' charges
 - 20 Dish seasoned with saffron
 - 22 Uncultivated tract
 - 23 Bulk-purchase retailer
 - 24 One who closely adheres to the Torah
 - 28 Picked locks?
 - 30 Some library catalog info, for short
 - 31 Magellan, e.g.
 - 33 Runs up, as expenses
 - 34 Surfboard stabilizer
 - 35 Higher-up
 - 37 Golden _____
 - 39 Carrier that offers only kosher meals
 - 41 Bibliographer's phrase of inclusion
 - 42 Levels
 - 48 Something no single speaker provides.
 - 50 Menial
 - 52 Certain B.S. holder: Abbr.
 - 54 Cornered
 - 56 Letter in the NATO alphabet
 - 57 Prefix with -phyte
 - 58 "What a long week!"
 - 59 "_____ is other people": Sartre
 - 60 Commands respect from
 - 63 Swimming gold medalist Thorpe
 - 64 Columbus-to-Cleveland dir.
 - 65 Old Pontiac with a V8 engine

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

P	S	S	T	B	A	S	K	P	I	N	A
A	C	A	I	I	S	L	A	M	O	N	E
L	A	N	D	H	O	H	O	H	O	O	T
O	L	D	I	E	T	L	C	L	O	L	A
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E	L	M	O	N	O	O	S	E	E	D	I
R	E	S	T	N	O	U	N	N	E	S	S



- PUZZLE BY TRENTON CHARLSON
- 23 Bulk-purchase retailer
 - 24 One who closely adheres to the Torah
 - 28 Picked locks?
 - 30 Some library catalog info, for short
 - 31 Magellan, e.g.
 - 33 Runs up, as expenses
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Announcements

The EIU Astronomy Club will be holding a free public open house at the EIU Observatory Friday Jan. 31 2020 7-9 p.m. See <https://www.eiu.edu/physics/observatory.php> for further information and map and directions to the observatory.

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Track, field to compete against 9 schools

By Oscar R zodkiewicz
Assistant Sports Editor | @ORzodkiewicz

The two-day Iowa Black and Gold Premier begins for the Eastern men's and women's track and field teams starting Friday at 1 p.m.

Both teams are starting to find some traction, as this marks the fourth scheduled invite of the indoor season and third of the new year.

Last time out at the Illinois Invite, four different Panthers took home a first-place finish, with three coming from the men's team and one from the women's.

Dustin Hatfield placed first in the 3000-meters with a personal best time of 8 minutes, 34.25 seconds, Adam Swanson did the same in the 800-meters with a 1:55.97 and Nick Oakley was the last of the men to take first with a time of 4:17.68 in the one-mile.

Hatfield and Swanson's time rank them second in the Ohio Valley Conference, and Oakley's ranks him third.

On the women's side, Danielle Frank won the 200-meters, but she also moved up to eighth in the history of Eastern with a 7.67 time in the 60-meters, which placed fourth at the Illinois invite.

With the OVC Championships under a month away in indoor season, junior Avani Flanagan says the team is just taking the time to get better step-by-step.

"Whether it's shedding seconds off your race time, improving handoffs, getting out of the blocks quicker, throwing further or jumping higher, there's always some type of work to be done which will increase our chances of performing well at conference," Flanagan said. "I'd say that's everyone's goal: Just

keep improving and reaching the best we can be."

Eastern currently has 14 top-three conference times, marks or points in 12 different individual events, as well as first in the men's 4x400 relay, the men's distance medley relay and the women's distance medley relay.

The Panthers show strengths in a lot of different areas, and Flanagan says the team's multifaceted nature of the athletes is important too.

"Luckily, it's not too often that there's a limit of people you can enter per event. That gives us all a chance to mix it up and race different races and see which ones are each of our strong suits," Flanagan said.

She added that the coaches do a great job of mixing things up for the track athletes, which, she said, gives the athletes the opportunity to compete well in a multitude of events.

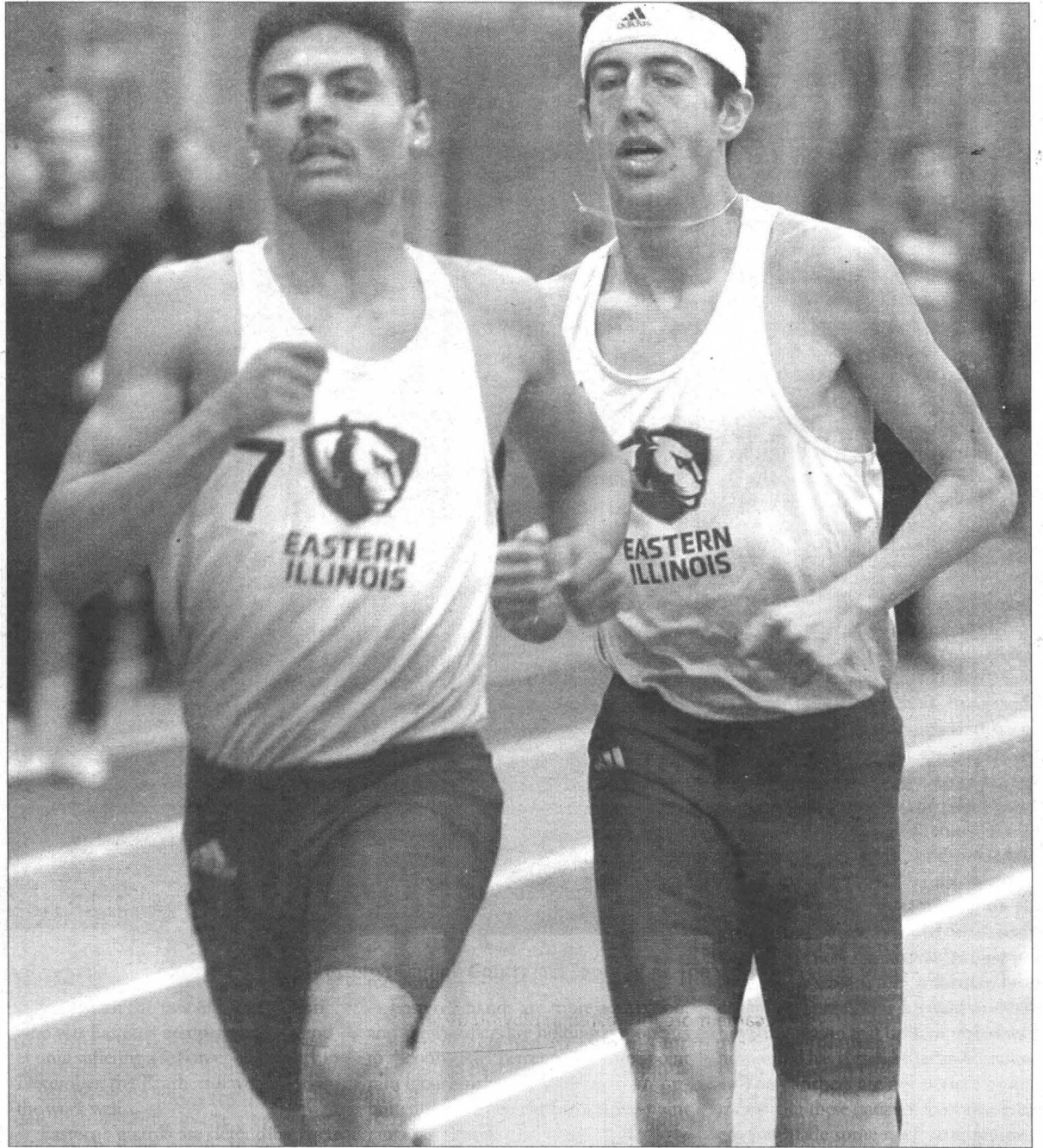
Flanagan said this gives the team great depth.

No other OVC schools will be competing at the event, but the list of competition includes: Barton College, Bradley, Drake, Iowa Western, Loyola, Marquette, Minnesota State, Northern Iowa and Tulsa.

Day one begins with women's weights followed by men's weights, and Saturday's events kick off at 11 a.m. with the shot put, with the running events to start at 2:30 p.m.

After this weekend, Eastern stays on the road as the Panthers head to South Bend, Indiana for the Notre Dame Mevo Invite on Feb. 7 and 8.

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KARINA DELGADO | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Jeremy Bekkouche (left) and Marcus Skinner (right) run next to each other during the men's 1 mile run in the EIU John Craft Invite Jan. 18 in the Lantz Fieldhouse.

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Eastern faces embattled conference foes

By JJ Bullock
Editor-in-Chief | @bullockjj

On paper the Eastern women's basketball team (5-3 OVC) looks like it should be headed into a weekend where it can pick up wins against two opponents in Murray State and Austin Peay, who both have 2-6 conference records.

That's on paper at least.

The reality behind the paper tells a different story.

Eastern head coach Matt Bollant said he has been telling his team all week ahead of their Thursday game against Murray State and Saturday game against Austin Peay, that both teams are better than their 2-6 records indicate.

Bollant said Murray State's record is particularly deceiving because five of the Racers' six losses this season have come against the top-four teams in the OVC. Murray State lost to Tennessee-Martin (7-1) twice and Southeast Missouri (6-2), Tennessee Tech (8-0), and Belmont (7-1) each once.

Austin Peay falls under a similar umbrella. The Governors have lost to Tennessee-Martin twice, Southeast Missouri twice and then dropped games against Belmont and Tennessee Tech.

Both teams have had arguably the hardest schedule in the conference so far.

"Obviously its two games we think if we play well we can get, but I am also trying to prepare our teams that, 'Hey, these two teams are way better than their records,'" Bollant said. "Austin Peay lost a one-point game to Belmont at the buzzer and certainly we have to be ready to go."

Eastern is headed back on the road following a four-game homestand, which the Panthers finished 2-2, beating Tennessee-Martin and Jacksonville State, while losing games to Southeast Missouri and Tennessee Tech.

Bollant was disappointed after his team's most recent loss to Southeast Missouri 77-65, saying after the game his team did not play with a lot of energy. But he said the loss is something his team has been trying to grow from in



ADAM TUMINO | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Grace McRae tries to get a layup attempt off as two defenders sandwich her in the post. Eastern lost to Southeast Missouri 77-65 Jan. 25 in Lantz Arena for the Panthers' third loss of the season.

practice this week.

Bollant said he has reiterated that what makes Eastern so special is "how hard we play."

"Certainly we have to figure that out because we have been better on Thursdays than we have on Saturdays, and I don't know if it is just the fatigue or the physical play, but I just said, 'Hey we have to show up and you have to play hard if we want to be good,'" Bollant said.

Murray State brings in the con-

ference's fifth-highest scoring offense, led by the OVC's third-leading scorer Macey Turley (17.8 ppg). The Racers also boast a 6-3 record at home compared to just 3-7 on the road.

Bollant said the key to beating Murray State will be limiting Turley, which he described as "cutting off the head" of the offensive unit.

"We have to make everything as hard as possible (for Turley)," Bollant said. "We have to get her picked up as early as possible and

not let her get it deep and into the lane. When she drives and they don't get early help and they foul her she shot 109 free throws on the year."

Eastern is 3-1 on the road in conference play this season; after years of struggling on the road, it appears Eastern may have finally figured it out. But the Panthers will need to prove that this weekend.

"We said, 'Hey, we have been one of the best road teams in our

league, and let's take that identity,'" Bollant said. "There's not many teams who have been able to do what we have done on the road and in the non-conference too, so let's go play great on the road again."

Eastern plays Murray State Thursday at 5 p.m. and Austin Peay at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday.

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Men's basketball faces top 2 conference teams

By Blake Faith
Men's Basketball Reporter | @BFAITH0024

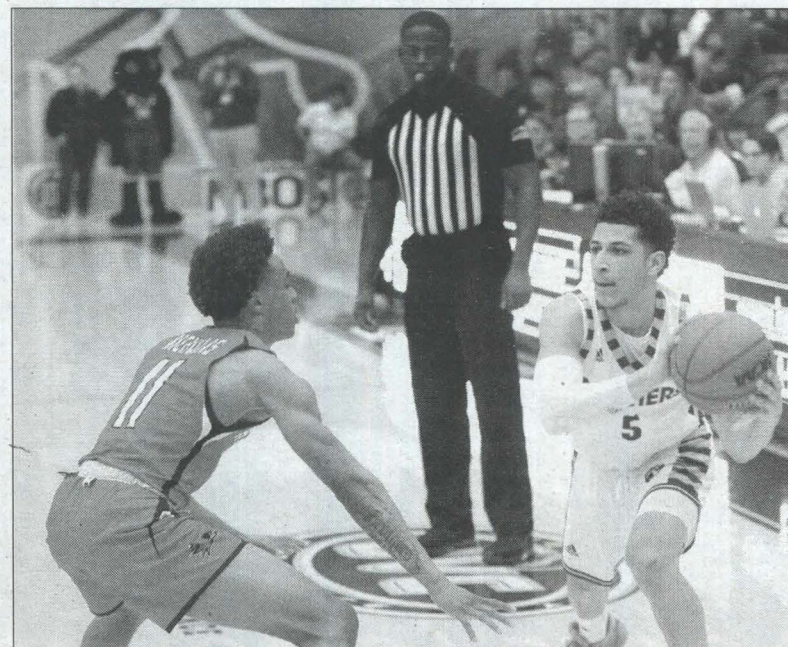
The Eastern men's basketball team's game Thursday will be a matchup of contrasting records.

Murray State has yet to lose a game at home and the Panthers have yet to win a conference game on the road.

Murray State is currently 15-5 overall, 8-0 in conference play, and 10-0 at home. The Racers come in to Thursday's matchup with a nine-game winning streak and are first in the OVC standings.

The Racers have four scorers that average double figures: Tevin Brown, KJ Williams, Anthony Smith and Jaiveon Eaves. Brown's average of 18.3 points per game is fourth in the OVC.

Smith averages 10.7 points per game and leads the Racers in rebounding with 8.1 rebounds per game. He is third in rebounding



ADAM TUMINO | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Shareef Smith looks around his defender to try and get a pass attempt off. Eastern defeated Southeast Missouri 61-59 Jan. 25 in Lantz Arena.

in the OVC.

Eastern is currently 11-9 over-

all, 4-4 in conference play and 3-8 on the road. The Panthers are 0-4 in conference play on the road and sit in fifth place in the conference standings.

The Panthers have three scorers in double figures: Juniors George Dixon, Mack Smith and Josiah Wallace. Smith leads the Panthers in scoring (12.7 points per game), and Dixon leads the Panthers in rebounding (8.5 rebounds per game).

Dixon is third in the OVC in rebounding and was named this week's Co-OVC Newcomer of the Week. This is the third time this season Dixon won the award.

The Panthers come off a four-game homestand in which they won all four; they had two really close games and two dominant games. The difference makers between the games were the assists and turnover columns for the Panthers.

Spoonhour believes that the

Panthers are a much better team when they pass and move the ball, and it is evident in the box score. In the home games, where the Panthers had 22 assists in each game, they won by double figures. In the games where they averaged less than 10 assists, the Panthers only won by two or fewer points.

Last year the Panthers lost both games against the Racers. At home the Panthers lost 83-61 with Smith scoring a team-high 22 points. Ja Morant led the Racers and game in scoring with 27 points as he played in front of NBA scouts in Lantz Arena.

On the road the Panthers lost 86-75 as Wallace led the Panthers in scoring with 22 points. Morant led the Racers in scoring again, that time with 23 points.

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