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Daily Eastern News: April 19, 2002

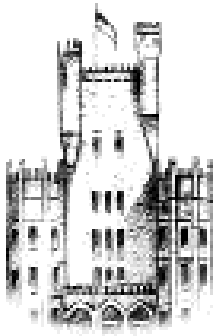
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The Daily Eastern News

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



Vol. 86 No. 143
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Deadline approaches

Freshmen applications due by April 30

By Melissa Nielsen
Campus editor

Incoming freshman applying to attend Eastern may be running out of time as increases in application numbers have sparked interim President Lou Hencken to impose an admissions application deadline.

An April 30 deadline for all incoming freshmen applications has been set, but Dale Wolf, the director of admissions, said the deadline would not affect transfer students or any students with partial applications already submitted.

Enrollment applications are up by 20 to 30 percent from last year, causing Hencken to institute the application deadline. No deadline has been established in past years because application numbers have been too low, but Hencken said he wants to ensure there will be enough resources, classes and

“We want to make sure we have enough room and classes for all the people we admit.”

Lou Hencken,
interim president

housing for everyone.

“We want to make sure we have enough room and classes for all the people we admit,” Hencken said.

A deadline for transfer students has not been imposed yet because they have different class and housing needs than incoming freshmen, Wolf said.

“It depends on how the flow (of transfer students) goes,” he said.

Hencken attributed the rise in enrollment to three extra admission counselors hired to visit high schools and community colleges more often to recruit possible new students.

The university has received 7,376 freshman applications and 1,255 transfer applications, Hencken said, bringing a total of 8,631 prospective students. Last year 7,101 new students actually enrolled during fall semester.

Wolf said of the applications received so far, 70 percent of incoming freshmen have met the standards for acceptance and over 66 percent of transfers have been accepted.

However, Wolf said the actual number of students that will register for fall is difficult to predict.

“We won't know the actual numbers until school actually starts,” he said.

Despite the increased number of applications, Hencken said the university cannot change admissions criteria.

Forum focuses on unity

By Benjamin Tully
Student Government Editor

A forum sponsored by the Eastern chapter of the NAACP focused on black unity for the progression of the black student body and the black race as a whole.

Members of the Eastern chapter of the NAACP discussed the problem of segregation among black students of Eastern and how it is slowing the overall progress of black representation and success at the university.

The forum began with a talk by Joaquin Rodgers, vice president of the Eastern chapter of the NAACP and senior psychology major, who said when he transferred from Southern Illinois University, he felt like the black student social variety on campus was one-dimensional.

Rodgers said the athletes hang out with the athletes and saw the same clique mentality in the black fraternities and sororities.

Rodgers also said the division promotes individuality, but negatively promotes selfish behavior, something that is a deeply rooted problem dating back to slavery.

“It's all about 'I' and it should be about 'we,’” Rodgers said.

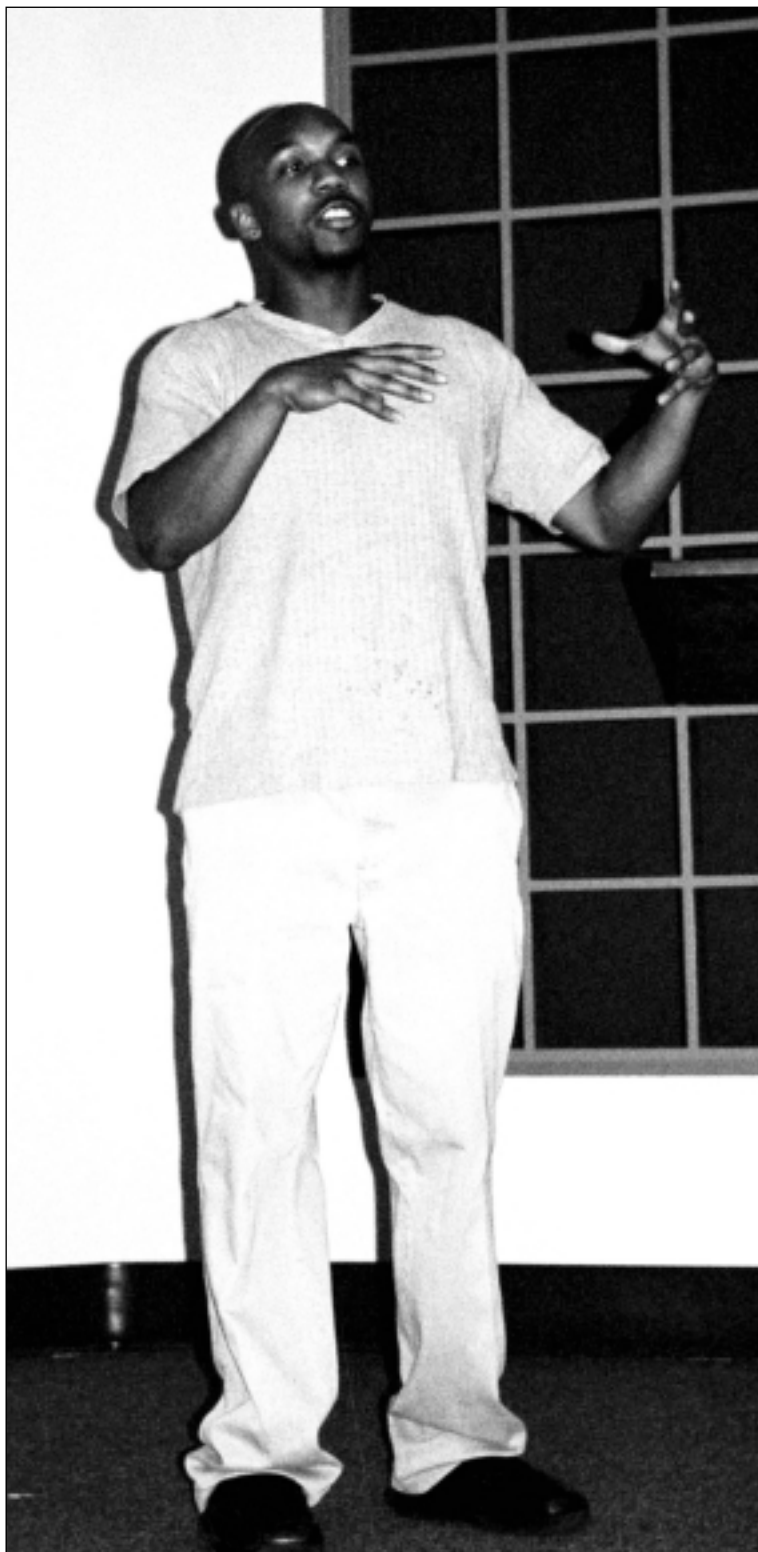
Rodgers explained that the black mentality should be less about who individually succeeds and has the most material things, but rather how all who are successful can help others be successful.

Rodgers said that black people are still feeling the affects of slavery in a literal sense and that the slave masters who stripped the black people of their dignity also methodically and mentally pitted the black people against each other.

“Our own culture is exactly what the white man wants us to have, because it will continue to perpetuate racism...we have to realize we are all the same people,” Rodgers said.

Audience member Winton

See NAACP Page 6



Colin McAuliffe/Photo editor

Joaquin Rodgers, a senior psychology major and vice president of the Eastern Illinois University's chapter of the NAACP, speaks Thursday evening in the Buzzard Hall Auditorium. Rodgers informed the audience of slavery's continued negative influence on current black society.

Presidential search into final stage

By Scott Miller
Administration editor

Eastern's search for a new president is in its final stage, negotiations.

Lou Hencken, who has been serving as the interim president since late July, will step down once the new president is named.

Although university officials will not disclose the name of the new president until Eastern's Board of Trustees meets on April 29 and announces its final decision, Vicki Woodard, director of media relations, said “negotiations are being made right now as far as contracts goes.”

“They are chatting with an individual to set a contract,” she said.

On Wednesday night at the Student Senate meeting, Katie Cox, a student member of the presidential search committee, told the senate the BOT met in an executive session following its meeting with the search committee.

The presidential search committee met with the BOT on April 14 before they went into executive session to provide information on the candidates on-campus interviews, not to make a recommendation.

Cox said Thursday, “I am assuming (the BOT) discussed the search because that's why we were meeting with them.”

Cox declined further comment on the search committee's meeting with the BOT.

In March, the university named three finalists to be interviewed on campus: Livingston Alexander, vice president for academic affairs at Kean University in Union, N.J.; Philip Conn, vice president for special programs at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville and John Cavanaugh, vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington.

Eastern's last president, Carol Surles, resigned from her position last summer to continue getting treatment for breast cancer. Lou Hencken, who was formerly the vice president for student affairs, was named interim president after her resignation.

— Joseph Ryan, senior reporter, contributed to this article

Mertz defense team adds one

By Maura Possley
City editor

An additional attorney qualified to work on death penalty cases will join the two attorneys defending Anthony B. Mertz next week, lead defense attorney Paula Phillips said in court Thursday.

David Williams, of Fairfield, will serve as the third defense attorney in the capital murder case. Mertz, a 26-year-old former Eastern student, has been charged with the June 12 murder of Eastern student Shannon McNamara.

Williams was hired to the case to assist Phillips and public defender Lonnie Lutz with the

“I'm determined to keep this case moving.”

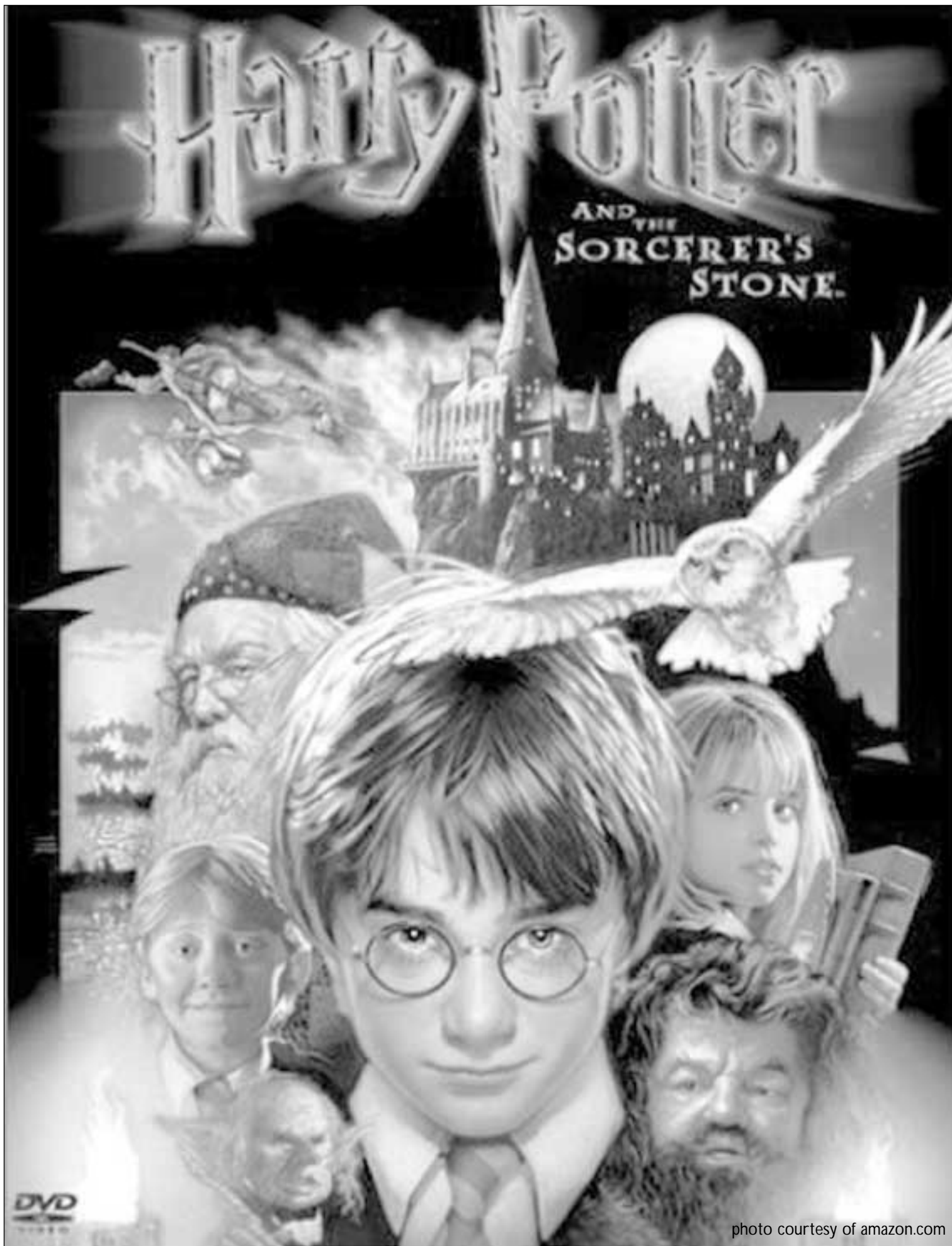
Dale Cini,
5th district circuit court judge

workload. The attorney, who has worked on capital murder cases in Wayne County, is certified by the Capital Litigation Trial Bar, a special section of the state Supreme Court that certifies attorneys to be qualified to work on death penalty cases.

See MERTZ Page 6

ON THE *Verge* OF THE WEEKEND

Harry Potter and a slew of other activities



invade campus for Little People's Weekend

MOCKING EMINEM

When rappers make themselves a laughing matter

Page 2b

MUSIC REVIEWS

Andrew W.K.
Dashboard Confessional

Page 4b

MOVIE REVIEW

See where "The Sweetest Thing" went wrong.

page 8b

11 DAYS

Celebrating the release of "In a Year"

Page 8b

The Daily Eastern News

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Poetry reading celebrates diversity

International program host multi-cultural experience Thursday

By Brittany Potocnic
Staff writer

Students, faculty, members of the International Students Program and members of the community gathered in the Tarble Arts building at 4 p.m. Thursday, for the fourth annual International Poetry Reading.

"[Reading poems] is a way to celebrate the diversity that exists on this campus," said Sandra Beauchamp-Karns, English instructor in the International Students Program.

Each speaker choose a poem that represented his or her language and culture. All the poems were read in the chosen language and the audience was also offered an English translation.

The following speakers volunteered to read at the forum: Eulalee Anderson, a member of the community and retired international advisor; Saifur Bhuiyan, a sophomore computer management major; Michael Louden, an English professor; Luis Clay Mendez, a foreign languages professor.

Four members of Eastern's International Students Program spoke as well; Letty Amaya, Chan Kim, Oscar Salazar and Shiling



Colin McAuliffe/Photo editor

Shiling Sze Tho, a freshman English major in the international program, shares her poem in Chinese, one of the several languages she speaks, at the third annual International Poetry Reading Thursday afternoon in the Tarble Fine Arts Center.

Sze Tho.

"I hope the audience gathered that the beauty of the nature is the same everywhere, you love your own country," said Bhuiyan.

"I liked hearing all the different languages," said Andrea Fritz, a sophomore English and French

major.

The reading was open to the public with no admission charge.

"I'm really happy this many people showed up and enjoyed the beauty of the different languages," said Beauchamp-Karns said.

campus news inbrief

Haiti Connection collecting for sale

The Haiti Connection will be collecting donations for a yard sale to be held Monday.

The Haiti Connection is a group that works on different programs every year with a similar group in Haiti, said Theresa Kronenburger, sophomore elementary education major and chair of the yard sale committee.

She said anyone can donate anything such as dressers, carpet or tables. However, the group cannot accept large appliances like washers, Kronenburger said.

Kronenburger said the group will place donation bins throughout each dormitory and one in Greek Court.

She said the Haiti Connection previously had a program called the "Gift of Water," where they helped get water purification systems installed in a rural Haiti town.

This event is one of many fund-raisers the group conducts every year to assist their sister group in Haiti, Kronenburger

said.

"We've already made around \$3,000. All of the money raised [from the yard sale] will go to the corn mill we are sponsoring in Haiti. We are close to buying the corn mill. We expect to make about \$10,000," Kronenburger said.

To make a donation directly or to have someone pick up a large item, call the Newman Catholic Center at 348-0188.
— Charita Callaway, staff writer

Newman, Habitat to bless EIU house

To commemorate the near-completion of the Habitat for Humanity "House that EIU Built," the Newman Catholic Center and Habitat for Humanity will hold a prayer service at the site at 2 p.m. Sunday.

Habitat for Humanity, with the help of students and organizations, has been working on the house for the last five years. All work on the house should be finalized in the next two weeks, said Holly Walters, adviser to the campus Habitat for Humanity chapter.

"We're having the house blessing now because we want students who worked on the house to be present," Walters said.

The House the EIU Built will donate the house to a "partner family" in need of more adequate

shelter at Sunday's ceremony.

"A service will be held with prayers, and then a minister will bless the house," said Bonnie Stevens, administrative assistant at the Newman Catholic Center.

Scheduled to speak at the event are Walters; Marilyn Purcell, president of the Coles County Habitat for Humanity chapter; Tiffany Zueck, president of the campus Habitat for Humanity chapter; pastor Sharon Monroe, secretary of the Coles County Habitat for Humanity chapter; and Jim Wooten, the "House that EIU Built" site coordinator.

"He's the one that has been at the house every day all year long," Walters said of Wooten.

The "House that EIU Built" is located on 1108 Kemp Street in Mattoon.

— Caitlin Prendergast, activities editor

Fine Arts Center to host comedy

The Reluctant Dragon, a story of a man who goes out to slay a dragon only to hurt its feelings, will open Friday in the Doudna Fine Arts Center main stage.

The comedy is an adaptation of the famous children's story written by Kenneth Grahame, also author of "Wind in the Willows." The play has already been performed as a matinee for grade school children, based in to

campus forecast

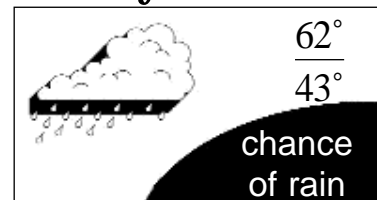
today



Saturday



Sunday



Correction

■ A headline in Thursday's edition of *The Daily Eastern News* incorrectly identified the legislator who proposed cutting state funding of higher education. Leaders of the House and Senate Appropriations committees made the proposal.

The *News* regrets the error.

see it.

The story is aimed at third grade kids, but has been performed for everyone from first grade students to junior high kids.

"We get people of all ages," Jerry Eisenhower director directed by Dr. Eisenhower of the Theatre Department said Eisenhower.

The director said the college students would also enjoy the play because the type of humor used is sometimes mature. Even with a few jokes that kids might not understand it is still a children's story.

"I think everyone loves kids' stories. We all still love cartoons and remember being read to," said Eisenhower.

The cast is made up of Eastern students from all different grade levels but all have performed before. The cast has had plenty of time to get comfortable with the play and has been rehearsing since the day after spring break, Eisenhower said, in addition to performing it in six matinees

The play is only an hour long, to keep the attention of children it can't be too long.

"With the last two weeks being so stressful, (the play) is a nice stress reliever," Eisenhower said, students can come in and relax and be a kid for an hour.

The play opens 7 p.m. Friday and will begin at 2 p.m. Saturday. Admission is \$3.50 per student.
— Barry Hickey, staff writer

Just thinking. . .

Eminem: Just one big punchline



by Heather Robinson
Associate Verge editor

A couple weeks ago, I was walking home from class on a sunny day. A car with its windows rolled down and music turned up drove past me and a few other individuals. Nothing out of the ordinary, right?

Well, the person in the car was playing an Eminem CD. Everyone around me started laughing. I was too, but I couldn't figure out why. I was making fun of someone for listening to a CD that I actually own. Why was I laughing?

Isn't Eminem the same guy that has intrigued critics and music fans alike for over three years? Didn't his second album sell millions of copies almost two years ago? The CD the person was playing was the same CD that I flocked to the record store to buy the day it was released. But where is Eminem now? He's busy recording his third album.

I can't help but wonder how many copies his new album will sell. During a recent MTV News brief, Dr. Dre, Eminem's producer, said Eminem is coming up with even more controversial things to say. What is left to say? Enough is enough!

Well, I started thinking even more and decided that I was mad at myself, and even a little embarrassed, for liking Eminem's music at one time. What is so cool about raping women and killing people?

Absolutely nothing. It's actually pretty scary stuff when you think about it. Why do so many people like him? He rips on gays and lesbians in almost every song on his album. He talks about killing his wife and raping his mother. Honestly, if your friend came up to you and said, "I'm thinking about killing my girlfriend," you would probably be very frightened, as would I.

I think I was laughing at the person for playing the CD because after three years of Eminem mayhem, I'm not taking him seriously anymore. Maybe he will go on to sell even more millions of records, but I think that we, as a society, have accepted his abuse of his First Amendment rights. Society is now saying, "Hey! Why are we listening to this guy?," which makes me happy. Also, the whole Elton John thing didn't help his tough image. Eminem said during an interview that he didn't know Elton John was gay until after he decided to perform with him. Good one!

I hope that we can all take Eminem's upcoming album in stride. He's just another American practicing free speech. We don't have to listen to him. Why is he more important than me or you or anyone else? I'm not going to take him seriously any more, and this time, I won't run to the record store to buy a CD that possesses nothing more than obscenities and derogatory remarks.

“

What is so cool about raping women and killing people? Absolutely nothing.

”

Quote This: What have you enjoyed most about the recent warm weather?



Gus Gerhardt, junior art major



Jon Hallett, senior Administration internet services major



Katie Grenda, senior sociology major and Amanda Scharr, senior English major

“Absolutely nothing!”

“Spending my time in Buzzard because it's 90 degrees in my room.”

“Being able to sit outside and relax.”



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Projects, pies, positions

By Avian Carrasquillo
Administration Reporter

The Residence Hall Association held its final meeting of the year Thursday in Andrews Hall and concluded the meeting by pelting executive board members and housing and dining staff with pies.

The pie-throwing was a fund-raiser for the exec board members to be able to attend the conference of the National Association of College Universities and Residence Halls this summer. RHA members or representatives of residence halls could bid for the chance to hit the person of their choice with a pie.

The RHA also addressed its need to fill two executive board positions for vice president and vice president of finance. Nachel Glynn, a sophomore secondary education major, was elected to another term as RHA vice president

of finance, and Stina Heldmann, a junior psychology major, will take over as vice president.

Kevin Leverage, a freshman psychology major, said he looks forward to another term as RHA president.

"I felt we got a lot accomplished, it's been a very productive year," Leverage said.

Mark Hudson, director of university housing and dining services, addressed temperature concerns in the dorms.

"The project that was going on was scheduled for a May 1 completion, because we had this little hot snap here, it got ahead of us before we could get any cooling turned on. We're doing everything we can to deal with the problem, we'll have it under control as soon as possible," Hudson said.

The RHA executive board will meet over the summer to begin planning for next school year. Next week, an awards banquet will be held in place of the regular meeting.



Colin McAuliffe/Photo editor

Denise Peters, a sophomore special education major and secretary of RHA, is not looking forward to getting a pie in her face outside of Andrews Hall Thursday evening. The RHA pie event took place after the RHA meeting.

Prerequisite flag program likely

By Scott Miller
Administration editor

Department chairs will be reviewing prerequisite requirements for a new part of Panther Access to Web Services online registration that would stop students from registering for classes for which they have not met the prerequisites.

The Council on Academic Affairs passed the request to Blair Lord, vice president for academic affairs, who said he "would be more than happy" to ask the departments to review their requirements and set up a chart of which classes they want the PAWS system to flag during the

Council's Thursday meeting.

Currently, students can register for classes without meeting prerequisite requirements because no system is in place to stop the registration. The prerequisites are listed in the student catalog, but not in the computerized registration systems.

"We have a prerequisite policy that is not being enforced by all departments," Larry Helsel, technology professor and member of the CAA subcommittee on prerequisites, said.

In effect, students who take an advanced class without meeting the prerequisite then have to go back and complete the prerequisite, but will not get credit for it toward graduation.

Tim Shonk, an associate English professor and chair of the CAA subcommittee on prerequisites, said.

"Some departments may find some prerequisites they don't use anymore or that are no longer necessary," he said.

Once the departments review their prerequisites they will prepare a chart of classes they want PAWS to flag. Then PAWS and touch tone registration systems "wouldn't let students register for courses if they have not met the prerequisites for it," Shonk said.

"In two years, this could be in place," Mary Herrington-Perry, assistant vice president for academic affairs, said.

CUPB reviews budget

By Scott Miller
Administration editor

The Council on University Planning and Budget will be discussing the 2004 fiscal year budget, as well as hearing reports from various subcommittees on Friday.

CUPB Chair Hank Davis, associate professor of accounting and finance, said he did not know of any new agenda for the council to be acting upon, and the council has no old business needing to be acted upon.

However, Davis said the council would be hearing several reports from various subcommittees on areas such as academic affairs and

business affairs.

The CUPB will also be looking at the 2004 fiscal year budget, which is expected to see many cuts in uncertain university areas because of the slumping state economy, in order to make any comments or suggestions to the President's Council.

Davis said the CUPB does not vote to approve the budget. It can only vote on a list of suggestions arriving through the council's discussion during the meeting.

The council meets at 3 p.m. Friday in the Arcola/Tuscola Room of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

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The Rookie G
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Daily 5:15 7:30 9:30
Mat Sat Sun 12:30 2:45

Panic Room R
Daily 4:30 7:10 9:45
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REVIEW

Andrew W.K revitalizes moron rock

by Ben Erwin
Verge editor

With track titles like "Party Hard," "It's Time to Party," "Party 'Til You Puke" and "Fun Night," the inane and ignorant musings of Detroit native Andrew W.K.'s debut album "I Get Wet" make the likes of Kid Rock sound like John Lennon.

Combining the testosterone-drenched flair and attitude of Poison with the keyboard-laced melody of '80s hair-metal one-hit wonders Flock of Seagulls and the over-the-top and mindless bravado of Kiss, Andrew W.K. seems more than content to raise every metal cliché ever created. With trite, simplistic lyrics, dated guitar riffs and a simple love of women, liquor and fun, "I Get Wet" is the perfect celebration of the id.

The album opens with the one-minute opus "It's Time to Party" in which W.K. grunts and shouts his way through a tune with roughly 10 words in it, four of which being the title. Thundering guitars crash above a din of bubbling keyboards and chanted "heys," and "It's Time to Party" sets the tone for the next half-hour of musical buffoonery.

The staccato riffing and grunted/chanted lyrics of "Party Hard" do little to show the formal, classical piano training that W.K. had as a child. Instead, they show a grown man screaming at the top of his lungs and trying his best to pilfer any sort of rebellion from his middle-



Photo courtesy of Amazon.com

Andrew W.K combines cliches and recycled melodies in his debut album "I Get Wet"

class upbringing.

Likewise, the simple piano fills and chanted melody of "Girls Own Love" and the straight-out-of-1985 guitar tone and keyboards of "Ready to Die" make it impossible not to alternate between smiling and cringing while taking in W.K.'s catchy hooks and pounding rhythms. Even with the background chants and harmonies of "Take It Off" (a love song, if you'd believe such a thing on an

album such as this), Andrew W.K. is incapable of casting aside any number of cliches in favor of recycled melodies and reusable hooks.

Possibly the worst track on the album, however, is the pathetic pandering of "I Love New York City" on which W.K. insists on screaming "I love New York City/Oh yeah/ New York City" until you're ready to rip your hair out. It's not as if Andrew W.K. is the first artist to decide they now love the Big Apple, but the

Andrew W.K

"I Get Wet"

★ 1/2

(Out of four stars)

fact remains that he does it the worst.

The entire last third of the album seems to bleed together in one loud, distorted blur accented only by keyboard trills and the occasional howl. The album essentially lives off of razed cliches brought together as one gigantic and formulaic Frankenstein's monster.

While the songwriting is atrocious, the guitar work is simplistic and the hooks have been reduced and reused by at least a half a dozen other artists, "I Get Wet" is an undeniable catchy album with and unabashed love of hedonism. Many of the lyrics are so bad in fact that it leaves you wondering if Andrew W.K. is in

on the joke or just a moron.

Either way, "I Get Wet" is an incredibly infectious, if not moronic, album that leaves hooks stuck in your head for hours. Although it has no real redeeming qualities, it is undeniably catchy and sure to be a hit even if listening to it a handful of times has made me even more stupid.

CD

REVIEW

Dashboard favorites revisited in 'Summer Kiss'

by Ben Erwin
Verge editor

Recorded during the Vagrant America Tour, Dashboard Confessional's latest EP "Summer Kiss" masterfully reworks four tracks from the group's 2000 release "The Swiss Army Romance" with a full band and a decidedly rock edge.

Chris Carrabba, singer, songwriter and current pied piper of Emo has been making waves in the musical community for a number of years with Dashboard Confessional, using the one-man band as a vehicle for highly personal, if not at times whiny, songs about personal pain and strife. On releases like "The Drowning" and "The Places You Have Come to Fear the Most," Carrabba has deftly used the one man, one guitar formula

to garner numerous accolades and an army of devoted fans.

Never before "Summer Kiss," however, has Carrabba used a full live band on record. And while many previous Dashboard tracks take on a very stark and contemplative edge, "Summer Kiss" ventures into the previously untouched areas of distortion and electric guitar.

Written essentially as a companion to the December release of the "So Impossible" EP, "Summer Kiss," although displaying no new material, works on stretching Dashboard's usual aesthetic. Backed by members of the band Seville, Carrabba's old material takes on an entirely new life and sensibility.

Songs like "The Sharp Hint of New Tears" see added harmonies and layered guitars to the once sparse arrangement to thick-

en up a song that once thrived on Carrabba's voice alone. With the added instrumentation, however, Carrabba's usual gut-wrenching howl seems somehow forced and overly labored.

Even Dashboard favorites like "Living in Your Letters" and "Turpentine Chaser" are given new life on "Summer Kiss" with the accompaniment of rock guitars. Again, however, these added elements seem to somehow muddle songs that were once driven by deli-

cate guitar arrangements and a pained voice.

These complaints notwithstanding, the songs on "Summer Kiss" sound original and fresh with the new elements. Sounding much more like Further Seems Forever, the band Carrabba once fronted, it seems as though Dashboard Confessional is poised to begin making records with something more than merely Carrabba and his acoustic guitar.

The true downfall of the album is that it is too short and contains no new material. Although releasing an EP with old standards on it in a new form may serve as a great litmus test as to how fans will react to the new direction of the band, it would be far more productive and daring to simply release an entire record in the same vein as "Summer Kiss."

Dashboard Confessional

"Summer Kiss"

★★

(Out of four stars)

In the DEN

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Mediocrity rewarded

The university agreed to a five-year maintenance agreement with IBM last week. The agreement, which is Eastern's largest contact with a hardware or electronic vendor, requires IBM to do any preventative maintenance to the company's equipment on campus.

But will IBM come through for Eastern?

Past performance

A new maintenance plan may not necessarily solve Eastern's ongoing problems with the network.

offline for Internet research and access to the campus network.

The problems not only cost students valuable research time, but the school spent \$280,000 in maintenance this fiscal year.

Under the agreement with IBM, costs can't exceed \$400,000.

If the 6-year-old enterprise server, which holds most of Eastern's information, is replaced, costs will decrease. Plans to purchase a new server are only in the beginning stages, Bill Witsman, associate vice president for Information Technology Services, said last Thursday.

But as budget cuts are the theme this year, it isn't likely that Eastern will purchase a new server.

The company will cover filters or parts that need to be replaced on a regular basis and IBM will also monitor equipment for potential malfunctions, Witsman said.

What was IBM monitoring before Eastern's network problems this year?

IBM's preventative maintenance plan hasn't prevented problems from occurring in the past. Another agreement with IBM could give students and faculty more computing blues and cost Eastern a lot more money.

Good service merits the reward of a new contract in most other fields, but IBM's service was lackluster as the network problems showed.

Why reward IBM with a new contract?

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

Today's quote

“If you pick up a starving dog and make him prosperous, he will not bite you. This is the principal difference between a dog and a man.”

Mark Twain (Samuel Longhorne Clemens),
1835-1910

Proposed bill is off target

Is it just me, or does this proposed bill going through the Illinois

Congress a dumb idea? House Bill 5941, if passed, will allow for the revocation of the drivers' license of persons caught in possession of alcohol or consuming alcohol while underage at a licensed establishment.

This revocation would take place without a hearing. Not allowing a hearing is against the Bill of Rights. You know, the document that prevents the government from taking away certain freedoms, like that of speech, press, religion or a fair trial.

While being able to drive is a privilege, not a right, when accused of breaking the law, the accused deserves a hearing. People who get speeding tickets can request a hearing if they believe they were not breaking the law. This should be the case for underage drinking as well.

What reasoning is there to go to such extreme measures? Underage drinking is a problem, but it's just like speeding, you do it a lot more often than the few times you actually get caught, if you get caught at all. And who knows if getting caught and losing one's license would make them stop drinking?

The purpose of this law is to scare those who are underage with the threat of losing their license. However, if they don't get caught, they will continue to drink. If you don't get caught speeding, you will keep doing it. Passing a law, whether it threatens loss of driving privileges or not, is not going to make the problem go away.

I'd be willing to bet such a law will make the problem worse, just as drug laws and gun control laws have made those problems worse. I'm not saying I'm against those types of laws, but lawmakers need to spend more time trying to make things better than just imposing more penalties for those who are caught.

How many people on this campus took part in the



Jessica Danielewicz
Editorial page editor

“While being able to drive is a privilege, not a right, when accused of breaking the law, the accused deserves a hearing.”

consumption of alcohol before they were of age? I won't lie, I engaged in underage drinking, as did a great many people, I'm sure. I bet a lot of the people in support of this bill did the same things. The people within the state government were underage once.

I can see the intent of such a law. It's well known that many people drink while

they're underage, and though the majority of the time it's harmless, such activities can be harmful.

Instead of trying to punish those under the age of 21 for drinking, more time should be put into safety programs and campaigns. People who drink while underage face the same risks as those who are of age as far as health risks and accident risks. I'm not saying the minimum age should be lowered or abolished, I just think actions should be taken to prevent accidents and other problems that can result.

And just to clear one thing up, I am not against this as an underager. I made my rite of passage in December.

Underage drinking is not a new problem. And this isn't the first time new regulations have been taken against it. The state just started a program this past fall called Project 21, to combat the problem of underage drinking in bars. However, it is only targeted at college towns, and inconsistently at that. Project 21 has only hit Charleston twice, so what has that told us? They won't come into town when I go out.

Why not get the bugs worked out of that program before undertaking more actions? Is underage drinking a bigger problem than any of the other numerous problems our state and country are facing?

■ Jessica Danielewicz is a junior journalism major and a monthly columnist for *The Daily Eastern News*. Her e-mail address is jdanielewicz@eiu.edu. Columns are the opinion of the author.

Consider a different point of view

This is a response to Stephanie Ernst's letter concerning homosexuality from April 5. Stephanie, I read and reread your letter, and reflected upon it a great deal. It makes me think back to all the times I have been rude enough to say something mean about those people who practice homosexuality. I was wrong for saying such mean things. I, like you, am going to say some things that make people mad in this letter. However, it is in complete disagreement with you, but in a very respectful way, because I have a very different viewpoint.

I agree that it is inappropriate to put people down and say hurtful, derogatory things to them or about them because of their sexual preference. I think such acts are wrong. However, I do not believe that the act of homosexuality itself is right. People like me are accused of being closed minded because we cannot and will not accept everything that society says is right and acceptable or tries to convince everyone that certain things are acceptable, such as homosexuality.

I am a Bible-believing Christian. I know some of you realize what I may be about to say, but before you stone me, put your rocks down and listen. I believe in the bible as the infallible word of God, written by the hands

of people through God's inspiration. Our scriptures say that homosexuality is wrong. However, that does not give us as Christians the right to point fingers at homosexuals and say “You are all going to hell.” In the words of Jesus Christ, “You who are without sin, cast the first stone.” We as Christians disagree with homosexuality, as the Bible clearly points to it as sin. We don't hate you, we love you as people. If we hated you, we would be no better than most people. However we do hate and cannot tolerate the sin. Those are strong words I know, but I am not singling out anyone. Sin is sin. Even we as Christians are intolerable of our own sins. So I am not picking on anyone, just sharing where I stand on this issue.

I can imagine this letter will make a great deal of people on campus very angry with me, but I cannot help that. I am not even asking you to agree, but to consider my words. I do not agree with homosexuality but that does not make me prejudiced or politically incorrect. If it comes down to being politically correct, I will stick with the word of God which has withstood the test of time in its accuracy. And I will not hide who I am or what I believe. I will follow

the footsteps of Jesus, who abhorred all sin, but loved people regardless of their faults.

Pete Grant

Graduate student in technology

Students are why dining service exists

Almost two years ago, myself and five associates joined forces to protect something we believed was just. We cared enough to try and preserve the integrity of the positions we honestly earned. Protection of the “Higher Classification” in a promotional line, State Universities Civil Service Rules, Seniority (Rule 250.120 e.), this was our cause, but we failed. We went through the chains as we were instructed, this circle led us to outside legal counsel, and here we discovered the time had already run out. We have learned that rules can be bent and statutes swayed to accommodate a trade off.

We will continue to do all that we can to maintain the standards our patrons deserve. Customer service is our driving force in dining service. Home made products are fading from our menus, but we hear it's for the good of the university.

Fill out the comment cards, make suggestions, voice your concerns. You are why we are here!

Nancy Kingery

Cook, Carman Hall

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printed. Depending on space constraints, we may have to edit your letter, so keep it as concise as possible. Letters can be sent to *The Daily Eastern News* at 1811 Buzzard Hall, Charleston IL 61920; faxed to 217-581-2923; or e-mailed to slgustafson@eiu.edu.
EDITORIALS – *The Daily Eastern News* prints editorials that reflect the majority opinion of *The Daily Eastern News* student editorial board.

Cover story

Food, fun to highlight sibling weekend

by Karen Kirr
staff writer

Instead of focusing on the inevitably mounting stacks of coursework as the semester winds down, students can divert their minds from the stress by enjoying the annual "Little People's Weekend" with siblings in tow.

The aforementioned event, which kicks off with bingo tonight from 8 p.m. until 9 p.m. in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union, will pack two days of food, fun and prizes into an appealing twist geared toward younger siblings. However, Sarah DeLoche, the co-chairwoman of "Little People's Weekend" contends students of all ages should enjoy it.

"It is basically a weekend for students to invite their siblings and (gives them a chance to) spend a little time with them," DeLoche said. "Community kids are welcome too."

Besides bingo, the weekend schedule of events includes a library quad picnic, which will run from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. alongside a carnival, which will run from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. The University Board premiere of the movie "Harry Potter and The Sorcerer's Stone" will show Saturday evening at 4 p.m. and again at 8 p.m. in the Buzzard Hall auditorium. A variety of activities in each hall will commence at 9 a.m. and end at 3:30

p.m. each day of the weekend.

The carnival, sponsored by recognized student organization Circle K, will benefit children with spastics paralysis, said Deshea Dwinells, president of Circle K, an organization that focuses on children. Tickets for various carnival games will cost 25 cents a piece with all proceeds going to the young sufferers of the debilitating condition.

"(The carnival) will be a lot of fun," Dwinells said.

As for the picnic, a \$2 fee will be tacked on to the ham and turkey sandwiches, cookies and drinks that are set to be served at the gathering.

Despite the rain showers in the forecast for Saturday, DeLoche said she doesn't expect the mood or attendance of the event to be dampened.

"I've heard a lot of people are bringing their little sisters," she said. "It is supposed to rain Saturday, but I still think we will



file photo

Come out to Little People's Weekend, they might even have monkeys again this year. **MONKEYS!**

have a good turnout. This event promotes Eastern to families and future generations." If it does indeed rain, the picnic will take place in Thomas Hall.

The UB and its vice chairman, Ryan Rinchiuso, worked diligently to reserve a copy of the popular Harry Potter film in time for "Little People's Weekend."

"We (UB) knew it was going to be April 20 and I called ahead to the company we get our movies from to see when Harry Potter was coming out," Rinchiuso said. After he was informed the movie would indeed be available from Swank, a company that specializes in licensing movies, "(UB) booked it at the beginning of the semester."

Considering the large audiences the movie continuously drew after it was released in theaters late last year, Rinchiuso was confident it will be equally appealing to Eastern students as well as their siblings.

"It's great for people of all ages," he said. "It is a great movie to see with siblings whether you read the novels or not. It is free, and I hope a lot of people come out."

As for deciding on what activ-

ities the weekend would feature, DeLoche said she and her committee distributed information on possible activities to residence hall councils and let them choose.

"We gave them some ideas, but left it up to them," she said. "As far as the ideas we gave them, they were ideas that worked in previous years and that we brought up in RHA (Residence Hall Association)."

After working tirelessly helping to plan the weekend with her committee, DeLoche said when it came to the promotion aspect of "Little People's Weekend," the group left the task in the hands of the RHA.

"We put up sign up sheets in the halls but have really depended on RHA to promote it," she said.

DeLoche also expressed her gratitude to the numerous surrounding Charleston businesses donated prizes, which will serve as rewards for the different activities that comprise the weekend. She said some of the prizes include movie passes and food coupons from different local restaurants.

After all the efforts put into the weekend, DeLoche said the "Little People's Weekend" committee and RHA are anticipating an exciting weekend for all in attendance at the various activities.

"I think it will be a lot of fun for everyone involved," she said. "I think everyone should check it out

Velvet Jones to make debut at Friends Saturday

by Niki Jensen
staff writer

Friends & Company will be rocking and rolling Saturday night with the boys of local rock act, The Velvet Jones. Headlining their first show at this cozy tavern on the Square, Velvet Jones can be expected to play a vast array of songs cover songs ranging from groups such as the Ramones to the more current Stone Temple Pilots and the Black Crowes.

Relatively new to the Charleston music scene, the

Velvet Jones first played Friends during a recent Wednesday open mike night that the bar hosts. Jason Kottwitz, an employee of Friends & Company, said, "These guys got a pretty good response from the crowd at open mic night. We should have a nice crowd on hand [Saturday]."

Comprised of Andy Peocia on lead vocals, Dave Fitzgerald on lead guitar, Ryan Peterson on bass and Doug French on drums, the band has only recently begun to play clubs in the Charleston music scene. Crossing from the likes of Black Sabbath to the Black Crowes

within a single set, the sound of The Velvet Jones is incredibly varied and eccentric.

As the band is scheduled to take the stage at around 10 p.m., Kottwitz said it wouldn't be a bad idea to arrive early in order to nab a comfy booth or to procure a cluster of bar stools near the elevated corner stage. The \$2 cover charge is not bad at all for a night of jamming with Velvet Jones, so gather some friends and head over to Friends & Company for some classic rock covers from one of Charleston's premiere acts.

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Route 16 resurfacing

By Melissa Nielsen
Campus editor

Illinois Department of Transportation started construction on Route 16 yesterday to repair damage done from high traffic in the area.

The concrete surface along Illinois Route 16 and County Highway 1 near Sarah Bush Lincoln Hospital road needs to be resurfaced and patched to repair potholes and cracks, Mark Reeley, contract support manager for IDOT said.

"The condition of the road warranted resurfacing because of the volume of traffic," he said.

The construction is part of Gov. George Ryan's Illinois First Program aimed at repairing and improving the state's infrastructure and Reeley said the \$79,000 needed to repair the road will be taken from that fund.

While delays on the two lane highway are expected to be limited, crews may have to close one lane in each direction while using equipment. However, lanes will be open in both directions when crews are not working. Work is expected to end at the end of May, weather permitting.

"We do not expect to disrupt traffic that much on 16," Reeley said.

Sigma Lambda Beta hosts international dance revue

By Caitlin Prendergast
Activities editor

An international dance revue hosted by the Sigma Lambda Beta fraternity will showcase dances of different cultures, including Native American, Puerto Rican, African and Irish, at 7 p.m. Saturday in the University Ballroom at the Martin Luther King Jr. Union.

"We've got all of the continents covered except Australia," Neftali Droz, Sigma Lambda Beta member and co-organizer of the International Dance Night said.

Droz said a variety of dances will be performed by a mixture of about 20 professional and student dancers.

Katie May, a freshman middle level education major, will perform an Irish dance. May competed in Scotland over Easter, and plans to dance Saturday with her two younger cousins.

The Kaskaskia River Dancers, a professional troupe from Mattoon, will perform a Native American dance in the diverse showcase.

"The purpose of the International Dance Night is to bring awareness and expose people to the diversity we do have on campus," Droz said. "It will be very different from most shows, and we're planning a big surprise."

Sigma Lambda Beta, a new fraternity on campus, focuses on bringing education through cultural awareness, Droz said.

Droz said anyone is welcome to come to the free dance review, and he has invited other Greeks to come and wear their letters to support diversity as well.

Training the enemy

By Melissa Nielsen
Campus editor

Several Eastern students are traveling to Washington, D.C., this weekend to let their voices be heard in protests against what they believe to be terrorism.

Sean Barth, a senior history major, said 14 students will participate in a mass demonstration at the Capitol Building as part of an ongoing effort to cut funding to the United States Army's Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation in Fort Benning, Ga. They believe the school is using tax dollars to train terrorists and then send them to countries across South America.

The demonstration is being held to rally support for a house resolution calling for Congress' defunding of the WHISC, formally the School of the Americas, he said.

"It's not about winning or losing, it's about fighting a good fight," Barth said.

Students will leave by bus Friday and arrive on Saturday for the first day of protest which includes attending information sessions on U.S. military policy and other issues.

On Sunday, Barth said protesters will attend a reading of names of victims believed to have been

murdered by people associated with the WHISC and pass out flyers.

Others students will stay until Monday for a non-violent protest at the Capitol Building, he said.

"I just want to do my part in ending unjust violence," Fran Nelms, a senior early childhood education major said.

Barth said he believed people trained at the school have been associated with kidnapping, torturing and mistreatment students, labor organizers and other groups who speak out against governments in South America.

The demonstration, sponsored by the School of Americas Watch, will focus on atrocities like these happening in Columbia where the majority of the school's graduates are sent.

However, the WHISC denies that it supports terrorism. According to the WHISC official Web site, the institute was founded to provide professional and educational training to military, law enforcement officials and civilians to support democracy, to build strong peace-promoting relationships among other nations and to spread knowledge and understanding of U.S. customs and traditions.

Despite the WHISC's claims, Barth said that knowing what he knows about the school, he feels it would be "apathetic" to do nothing.







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Absinthe Blind to perform at 7th Street Underground

by Brett Ziegler
staff writer

The Midwest band Absinthe Blind will be performing at 8 p.m. this Saturday at 7th Street Underground.

The young group from Champaign-Urbana has grown dramatically in popularity since they started six years ago. In 1996, friends Tristan Wraight, Mike Zolfo and brothers Adam and Seth Fein got together and formed the group that they named after a painting by Edgar Degas entitled "L'absinthe." The group started off performing at any venue possible, and, not long after, they began to get noticed.

Todd Thorstenson of Hammerhead Records was one of the people that first noticed the group and he offered them a record deal. In the summers of '97 and '98, the band released "When Our Flashes Sway," and "Solarshift," both selling reasonably well for a band just starting off. Along with the albums came media attention. The band was voted "Best Band in Champaign-Urbana" in '98 by the local magazine, Octopus, and

received countless rave reviews after their live performances.

In 1999 the band took a new step by adding Yichel Chan and another Fein sibling, Erin, on lead vocals.

After months of recording, the band released another album in late '99 titled "Image EP," which garnered even more attention and better reviews than their previous albums. The band changed record labels in 2001 to Parasol Records and released "The Everyday Separation."

Now a five-member group, Wraight on guitar, Zolfo on bass, Adam Fein on vocals and lead guitar, Seth Fein on drums and Erin Fein on lead vocals, Absinthe Blind will begin recording their fifth full album in May. The band has been compared to such greats as Radiohead, Pink Floyd and U2. They will be playing at venues such as the Canopy Club and The Highdive at the University of Illinois within the next few weeks and will begin an extensive South, Southwest and West Summer Tour in early June and a tour of the Eastern region of the country in late July.

Salem to host stars of 'Days of Our Lives'

Stars and fans of the NBC soap opera "Days of Our Lives" will gather in Salem, Ill. April 27 and 28 for the seventh annual Salem Days Fest. The free outdoor festival, originally scheduled for Sept. 15 and 16, 2001 was postponed due to the events of Sept. 11.

Actors from the long-running daytime series "Days of Our Lives," whose characters inhabit the fictional city of Salem U.S.A., will meet and greet fans on the lawn of the Marion County Courthouse and engage in a number of other activities with their loyal fans.

Bill Hayes and Susan Seaforth Hayes (Doug and Julie Williams) will headline the festival on Saturday April 17 with Farah Fath (Mimi). Sunday April 28 will feature Peter Reckell, one of the daytime program's leading men, among other stars of the show.

In addition to question and answer sessions with the fans, actors will participate in autograph sessions and assist with an auction

which will feature "Days of Our Lives" merchandise and memorabilia among other items. The proceeds from the event will be going to charity.

The festival will also include food and craft booths, contests and other items for both the fans as well as the stars.

A new attraction added to the Fair this year will be a 25 foot climbing wall and other activities.

Also appearing at the event will be noted author Laura Zenka, former west coast editor of Soap Opera Update and author of two books dedicated to "Days of Our Live."

Zenka will be on hand to meet fans and answer questions about the world of daytime television.

For more information on the event, chairperson Barbara Schoonover can be reached at (618) 548-3003 and more information on Salem Days Fest can be found at the group's website <http://www.geocities.com/salemdaysfest>.

Area 51 offers night-life alternative

by Meredith Long
staff writer

Area 51: The Hot Spot, a new restaurant and club, has opened in the Village Square Mall in Effingham. Owners and operators Steve Linton, 25, and Brian Price, 29, opened Area 51: The Hot Spot March 20 and expanded on April 11.

As a restaurant, open every day of the week, menu items like Chicago-style pizza and specialty coffees are served. On Friday and Saturday nights, Area 51 becomes a non-alcoholic dance club starting at 9 p.m. The club features a newly expanded dance floor as well as a light show and DJ Terry Hopper to complete the dance atmosphere.

"We wanted to have a place for everybody,"

Linton said. "We felt like a place like this would give kids something to do."

Linton and Price say they are also interested in booking local bands to play the club. The band Lysogenic played Area 51 on April 6, being the first band to do so. "We both want some exposure. We want it as a band, and they want it as a club," said Corey Fellows, 19, of Lysogenic. "It's great to have a new place to play."

Additional features of Area 51 include pool tables, air-hockey tables and video games. Linton and Price have also constructed a "quiet room filled with couches and books for anyone needing to study and read. Upcoming band and event information is available by calling Area 51: The Hot Spot at (217) 347-5110 or (217) 347-5639.

11 Days celebrates 'In a Year' release

by Carly LaMonica
staff writer

Gunner Buc's will be flooded with rock fans this Saturday night. The band Eleven Days will be performing to promote their third record, "In a Year."

Eleven Days, a four-man band that started off in Shelbyville, is going to be at Gunner Buc's in Mattoon on Saturday night from 9 p.m. until 1 a.m. playing an extended set to promote the record.

The band members include Josh Jones, 25, on lead vocals; David Caughran, 26, on lead guitar; Tim McConnell, 25, on bass guitar and vocals and J. Michael Wake, 29, on drums. The band has been together for three and a half years. They have been playing throughout the state since their inception in hopes of making it big one day.

Eleven Days has received nation-wide acclaim and has been nominated by "Musician's Guide Magazine" as being one of the "Best Unsigned Bands in North America" in 1999.

The group has also opened for the likes of Vertical Horizon in 1999 at Sneaky Pete's in Effingham. Vertical Horizon lead singer Matt Scannell commented

that Eleven Days is one of the "coolest bands that they have ever gotten to play with."

The record release party at Gunner Buc's is expected to have somewhere around 300 to 400 people, and the band expects it to be a spectacular show.

They are celebrating their third album, "In a Year," and plan to tour extensively to promote the album. In an interview with drummer Michael Wake, Wake said that they are "definitely ready to have this release party for the album."

The first two albums, "Where I Used to Go" and "Inside," released in 2000, were a great success for the group. The second album even sold out at the local music stores in Mattoon and Charleston and brought the band a wider fan base.

The band's web site contains more information on upcoming events and information about the band itself and can be accessed at www.elevendays.com.

Eleven Days is going to be performing in Effingham on Friday night at Sneaky Pete's and the show is open for all ages.

The band has music available at several of the local stores in the Charleston/Mattoon area including Positively 4th Street Records.



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Accounting to receive \$75,000

By Benjamin W. Tully
Student Government editor

A donation to the "2000 and Beyond Capital Campaign" for the Lumpkin College of Business and Applied Sciences will help fund a group of alumni and non-alumni who help advise Eastern's accounting program and will help the general accounting program.

The Lumpkin College of Business and Applied Sciences will hold a luncheon Friday to accept a donation from KPMG L.L.P., the fourth-largest accounting firm in the world and workplace of several eastern alumni.

Paul Snyder, a KPMG L.P.P. partner and 1970 Eastern accounting graduate, will present a check to the accountancy program for \$75,000.

1986 accounting graduate Jeff Bierman and 1989 accounting graduate David Hering, also KPMG L.L.P. partners, helped lead the funding project and will also attend.

The money is in support of the "2000 and Beyond Capital Campaign," which provides financial assistance necessary to fund the accounting program at Eastern.

Bierman and Hering are members of the accounting advisory board which advises the accounting program.

Vicki Woodard, Eastern's director of media relations, said the luncheon is a way to publicly thank KPMG L.L.P. for their assistance and donation.

The luncheon will be held at 12:30 p.m. Friday in 7th Street Underground.

NAACP

from Page 1

Stacy, a junior communications major, said one reason black people don't get together is a fear of the unknown and that people are afraid to branch out.

One issue discussed was the Martin Luther King University Union Ballroom dances run by black student organizations.

According to one audience member, the bright overhead lights kept on at dances put a damper on the mood of the dance, but remain on allegedly to keep those in attendance in plain view of police when there has not been a problem after five years of functions.

Continuing on the issue of unity, Eastern NAACP Chapter President Sherman Thomas said fraternities and sororities continue to dominate black student social involvement, while functions like diversity forums and meetings go ill-attended.

"I think fraternities and sororities need to step up as leaders," Thomas said.

Thomas said he personally wrote an invitation to the NAACP forum Thursday to every black Greek organization, but that only a few were represented.

Cyprus Hughs, a graduate who earned a business degree from Eastern in 1973 and a

masters degree in education in 1995, spoke to the audience about coming together.

"If you profile what has taken place (at Eastern) since 1969, you'll think we went backwards, Hughs said.

Hughs, who attended Eastern in the late 1960s and early 1970s, said his class had only about 50 black students, yet they achieved more unity.

Hughs also said that students shouldn't feel that school is all about being smart, but rather, is about coming together, studying together and helping fellow black students utilize the system rather than allowing it to discourage them.

Hughs said the best place to start is to form a freshman student orientation for black students to start the feeling of unity early.

James Harden, a 1998 graduate of Eastern, said black students need to pursue majors that will get them careers.

"Some how, some way, we need to learn how to excel in these systems," Harden said.

Harden, a social sciences teacher at Urbana High School, said black students should concentrate on being professionals, which means getting certified to teach. Harden also said for students to ignore the myth that teaching does not pay well.

"How can (black people) fight institutionalized racism if you're not part of the system?...We need professionals," Harden said.

Mertz

from Page 1

"He is a very competent attorney," Circuit Court Judge Dale Cini said Thursday in a pre-trial hearing.

The team of Phillips, Lutz and now Williams matches the three attorneys assigned for prosecution of the case.

In order to hire Williams, funding is derived from the Illinois Capital Litigation Trust Fund, which is a program designed to assist trial lawyers in capital punishment cases. Phillips was also hired through the trust fund in order to serve on the defense last October.

Also at Thursday's hearing, Cini said Williams must be present at the next pretrial hearing Tuesday that will set a plan for the prosecution to transfer evidence to the defense to physically examine and run DNA tests on

Gov. Ryan's aides plead innocent

CHICAGO (AP) — Gov. George Ryan's campaign committee and a former top aide pleaded innocent Tuesday to racketeering charges alleging political operatives secretly used state workers for campaign work.

Federal prosecutors argued at the hearing for freezing Ryan's multimillion dollar campaign fund to make sure there is money left to pay the \$1 million forfeiture they are seeking as part of the case. And they also sought to have a politically connected law firm removed as the representative for Ryan's campaign fund.

Scott Fawell, 44, Ryan's former campaign manager and chief of staff in the secretary of state's office, appeared tanned and relaxed following a Hawaiian vacation last week as he pleaded innocent before U.S. District Judge Rebecca R. Pallmeyer.

Fawell declined to comment after the hearing.

"He's holding up pretty well," Fawell attorney Edward Genson told reporters. "We've been expecting this for some time so this is not a surprise."

items from Mertz' apartment, fingerprints and other physical evidence.

Previously, the defense was denied access to the evidence because there was not enough time for it to be examined by the deadline of two days prior to the start of the trial. However, because the trial date has been pushed to Sept. 30, Cini set Tuesday's date to discuss a plan for the evidence.

"I'm going to hear it Tuesday," Cini said. "I'm determined to keep this case moving."

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Tennis teams take on OVC

By Mike Gilbert
Staff writer

The Eastern mens tennis team will travel to Nashville, Tenn., this weekend for the opening round of the Ohio Valley Conference Championship.

The Panthers are seeded No. 6 in the eight-team field and will begin play against the University of Tennessee-Martin, who owns the third seed.

Earlier in the season, the Panthers fell to Tennessee-Martin in split sets.

Despite the loss to the Skyhawks in the regular season head coach Brian Holzgrafe believes the Panthers match up well because his team has the close-knit unity that Tennessee-Martin lacks.

Holzgrafe said Tennessee-

Martin head coach Dennis Taylor has a talented group, but they are also an unfocused group.

"We are short a few players because of injury but we have a solid team and we will be ready for Tennessee-Martin," Holzgrafe said.

"This will be a good test of our heart and character, we may be seven or eight individuals but more importantly we are one team."

The Panthers will be counting on solid play from Brandon Blankenbaker and Kyle White as well as leadership from Lukasz Pluta and Andy Baker this weekend.

"Brandon has really intensified his play since the beginning of the year. Right now he is going all out," Holzgrafe said. "Kyle White was our No. 9 singles player at

start of season but he has really improved and now is in one of the top six spots on the roster."

"Lukasz is the team's unwritten leader while Baker is our leader on paper. Lukasz has the best tennis technique on the team and his play has made him a leader," said Holzgrafe.

Regardless of what happens in Tennessee, Holzgrafe said he has been pleased with his first year as head coach.

"It has been a great experience and definitely a challenge. It has become my life," said Holzgrafe. "I don't do this for the school or the money but for the kids. I'm blessed to have good kids with good grades and I am very honored to be their coach."

The women's squad earned the No. 4 seed and will face off with No. 5 Morehead State.

Track season winding down

By David Carter
Staff writer

The Eastern track teams hope to continue to improve pace this weekend.

Both teams will travel to Indiana State to participate in the Pacesetter invite. The meet received its name from its sponsor, Pace Center Sports Company, a sporting goods store based out of Terre Haute.

The track teams have gotten plenty of practice in this week because of the warmer weather.

"It's an adjustment for all of us," men's track coach Tom Akers said.

Last weekend the men took second place at Western Illinois and the women had strong individual performances at Miami of Ohio.

"We were very excited for the PRs," said head women's coach John Craft. "We will use that to focus on the task at hand."

Akers was not content with his team's results at Western.

"I expect bigger performances this weekend," he said.

Western was able to pull ahead of the Panthers last weekend cause of better scoring in our weaker events.

The only event the men will not be participating in is the 3,200-meter relay because Akers is sending those four team members to run in the Kansas Relays instead.

The women's team is changing some athlete's events so the team can have better experience and still rest up after the last few weeks.

"Next week we will be back to normal," said Craft. "We just won't be doubling up on events this weekend."

Craft said he wants his team to be well rested with the championship meet about two weeks away.

"I want them to be on term of believing in themselves," Craft said. "It's all about being in the right mind set." Craft said.

This will be the first time the men are competing against conference rival Southeast Missouri State since the indoor season. Both teams are battling for first in the league.

Akers isn't worried about the outcome of the meet as long as the team does its best in every event.

"We work through meets to train, not worry about our overall team scores," Akers said.

Volleyball seeks leadership roles

By Nate Bloomquist
Sports editor

The Panther volleyball team will get a taste of what life is like without the senior leadership it had this season at this weekend's eight-team tournament in Lantz this weekend.

Seniors Carrie Stevens and Marcia Hahn, who are volunteering their services, will be with the team this weekend when the Panthers play against Southeast Missouri State, Parkland Community College and Southwest Illinois College in their half of the round-robin tournament.

Stevens and Hahn make up only one third of the six seniors providing the leadership that got

the Panthers an NCAA Tournament berth and an Ohio Valley Conference tournament title.

Stevens will be playing out of position and Hahn will play in the middle hitter position when freshman Shanna Ruxer, who saw limited playing time this season isn't in the lineup.

"With six seniors exiting this spring it was a really quiet court during practices," Panther head coach Brenda Winkeler said.

The quest for leadership begins during the spring season. The Panthers will have seven newcomers in the fold next spring.

"We have no idea what team chemistry will be like until we get the new people," Winkeler said.

"But right now one of our goals this spring season is to find that leadership."

It could come in the form of senior-to-be Karen Liss. The 5-foot-10 outside hitter had shoulder surgery in the offseason and Winkeler said she's confident Liss would be at full strength in fall.

Winkeler said middle hitter Jennifer Fisher, the team's only other senior next season will need to turn up her level of play a few notches next season to fill the void of departing senior and the Panthers' all-time hitting percentage leader, Leslie Przekwas.

The Panthers begin play at 9 a.m. Saturday against Parkland. They play against SWIC at 10:40 a.m. and SEMO at 1:10 p.m.

Guinane

from Page 8a

The cold cuts they acquired must have provided ample sustenance and may have even helped

spark the last-inning offensive surge.

A change in pregame meals might not end the Panther's pitching woes, but I imagine they're willing to try just about anything.

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Inside

Track season winds down. **Page 7a**
Tennis teams head into OVC tournament. **Page 7a**
Volleyball host spring tournament. **Page 7a**

8a

Sports

Panther Sports Calendar

Friday: M/W Tennis at OVC Tournament
Friday: M/W Track at Pacesetter Invite
Saturday: Volleyball hosts Spring Tournament
Lantz Arena

4th and 20



Pat Guinane

Senior reporter
e-mail: cupjg@pen.eiu.edu

Save early, save often

A friend of my friends was in the computer lab Wednesday when the power went out. He was sitting near another student who had been frantically typing a five-page paper that was due the next hour.

When the power came back on the student's paper was gone — he hadn't saved it.

Given his recent experience, that student could probably empathize with Jim Schmitz, Eastern's head baseball coach. The Panthers gave up seven runs in the ninth inning Wednesday, handing the visiting Boilermakers a 12-10 victory.

Eastern entered the final frame ahead 8-5, but three Panther pitchers couldn't save the game. Much like five-page papers, it's tough losing games against Big Ten teams.

Wednesday's defeat at the hands of Purdue was the second Big Ten loss in two days, the Panthers lost to the Fighting Illini in an error-filled contest at Coaches' Stadium Tuesday.

As brutal as Tuesday's loss may have been (five errors and four baserunning blunders), Wednesday's loss had to hurt more. Seeing eight innings of work disappear in the ninth is a painful thing.

That's why the Panther's must now search for a closer — the baseball equivalent of a bouncer — someone who can get everyone out so the staff can go home.

As Wednesday's contest proved, the final three outs are often the most difficult of any ballgame. The Panther's got out to an early lead, but the Boilermakers were resilient, tying the game at five in the sixth and going ahead in the ninth.

Perhaps the Boilermakers garnered it's strength from a team lunch purchased at a local grocer. I saw a Purdue coach with a player buying the makings of a picnic lunch at Save-A-Lot (incidentally something Panther pitchers have been unable to do).

The coach was telling the young lady working the checkout that a local sandwich shop had denied the team's order of almost 30 subs. I'm not sure if he wanted the subs so fast the restaurant manager freaked or if some sandwich artists didn't want to rush the masterpieces, but for whatever reason the Boilermaker bus headed for Save-A-Lot.

See **GUINANE** Page 7a

SEMO's Birk buries Panthers

Freshman pitcher works shutout, drives in pair of runs

By Matt Meinheit
Associate sports editor

Southeast Missouri freshman pitcher Kelly Birk held Eastern's softball team to four hits in a complete game shutout.

"She has struggled all season," SEMO head coach Lana Richmond said. "She hit her spots today and kept the ball down. Her last three starts have been real consistent, so we are going

to ride her all the way through to the (OVC) tournament."

After yielding a leadoff double to junior catcher Kristin Darnell in the bottom of the first, Birk did not allow another hit until the fifth inning when junior right fielder Carrie Ninness dropped a single into left field.

Birk's teammates gave her all the run support she needed in the opening frame of the game. The Otahkians (10-22, 7-10 in the Ohio

Valley Conference) jumped on Eastern starting pitcher Kristen Becker for two runs in the first.

Becker got in trouble after the umpire ruled that SEMO senior catcher Jennifer Cobin was hit by a pitch and walked senior right fielder Courtney Edlund. Birk helped her own effort with a two run double to leftfield.

The inning ended after the following batter single to right field and Ninness gunned down Birk at the plate.

SEMO tacked on two more runs before they chased Becker out of the game with two on and no one out in the fourth inning. Sophomore Trish Sanders got eastern out of the jam, but not before walking a batter to load the bases. After the bases were loaded, Sanders struck out the net batters to end the at-bat.

Eastern (14-17, 6-8) continued to struggle against Birk and had their best scoring opportunity snatched away by senior shortstop Dawn Piantino.

Sanders led off the the seventh with a single up the middle and sophomore pinch-runner Lorie Daniel stole second. Daniel then advanced to third on a ground out. Ninness followed by lining a sure single to leftfield, but Piantino made a diving catch to rob Eastern of a run.

"Four hits," Eastern head coach Lloydene Searle said. "That's the story right there. From the fifth inning on, we started hitting better. We just couldn't get anything going."

Darnell fulfilled her role at the top of the Panthers batting order. After she double in the first, she drew two walks in her only other at-bats.

"It was just knowing this pitcher," Darnell said. "I knew that she would bring it to me."

Eastern will have a chance to gain some larger ground in the OVC this weekend when the team travels to Richmond Ky., to face Eastern Kentucky in a three-game series.



Colin McAuliffe/ Photo editor

Panther junior pitcher Kristen Becker delivers a pitch against Southeast Missouri State Thursday. Becker was knocked out of the game in the fourth inning after giving up four runs.

Panthers try to move up in OVC

Baseball team scheduled to play three games with eighth place Tennessee Tech on road

By Nate Bloomquist
Sports editor

The Panther baseball team will try to make their move in the Ohio Valley Conference this weekend in a three-game series at Tennessee Tech.

Eastern is 4-4 in league play and 12-17 overall and has lost its last two games this week, both coming against Big Ten Conference teams.

The Panthers have also squandered leads in both of their games.

Tennessee Tech is 2-4 in league play (eighth in the OVC) and 18-17 overall. The defending OVC Tournament champions have struggled this season against conference foes.

The Golden Eagles have lost

10-0 and 8-1 to Tennessee-Martin and lost 3-0 and 5-4 to Austin Peay.

The Golden Eagles have shown signs of hope recently by winning three of their last four games.

Shoddy defense has plagued Tennessee Tech this season. The Golden Eagles have made 44 errors in 34 games this season.

They averaged almost two errors per game last season.

The Panthers will look to find a pitcher who can deliver in the late innings as that has been Eastern's downfall in the last couple of games.

"We need someone who can come in to be our closer," Panther head coach Jim Schmitz said after Wednesday's 12-10 loss to Purdue. "Right now I



Colin McAuliffe/ Photo editor

Eastern senior right fielder Pete Pirman slides into second base Wednesday against Purdue. The Panthers are looking to bounce back from a pair of losses to Big Ten foes and improve in the OVC standings against Tennessee Tech.

have no idea who that will be."

Tennessee Tech is batting .308 as a team, but the squad's pitching staff has struggled this season with a team ERA of 6.24.

Casey Benjamin leads the team in hitting with a .370 average and 17 RBI.

Senior right fielder Pete Pirman will lead the Panthers

against Tech's pitching staff. The leadoff man is batting .387 and has 23 RBI.

Senior Scott Metz (1-2, 4.09 ERA) will start the first game of Saturday's doubleheader with classmate Pete Martin (2-2, 4.50) throwing in the night cap. Junior Micah Gray (1-3, 6.90) will throw in Sunday's game.

The Sweetest thing unfunny, unwatchable

by Ryan Rinchiuso
staff writer

Every once in a while, a movie comes along that makes the viewer shake their head in disgust and leave the theater muttering about how they wasted their money and time. A new movie just came which fits in that category, and the film is "The Sweetest Thing."

"The Sweetest Thing" stars Cameron Diaz and Christina Applegate as Christina and Courtney respectively, two man-hungry females who are only looking for "Mr. Right Now" as opposed to Mr. Right. This changes when Christina (Diaz) meets Peter Donahue (Thomas Jane) in a club. The two have the obligatory fight scene after which they decide (surprise) that they like each other after all. Christina lets Peter slip away and then she decides to crash his brother's (Jason Bateman) wedding. Along the way hilarity ensues, or at least I think hilarity was supposed to ensue.

That is the main problem with this excuse for a movie. There is no plot whatsoever. All the actions in

the film do not further the plot, but simply jump to the next, even more disgusting, joke. Yes, "The Sweetest Thing" is the female version of the popular gross-out comedy.

The problem is that the jokes are just gross and not at all funny. Movies like this make people yearn for smart comedies where the dialogue and the plot are what is funny and not watching some women trying to pee in a men's urinal.

If it is a must to do a gross-out comedy, at least try to think of something funny and original. "The Sweetest Thing" is more concerned with trying to top the few good gross-out comedies that it doesn't have anything original at all.

The stain scene with Jane (Selma Blair), who is only in this movie to be the brunt of many mean jokes, is just a variation of the zipper scene from There's Something About Mary but not as funny because no one cares about the characters. The fact that none of the characters gain any sort of sympathy at all is a big problem because you just get bored with

them and their "I am really hip and trendy" attitude.

Cameron Diaz doesn't show any sort of flair or great acting, which she displayed so well in the vastly superior "Vanilla Sky," and all she does in this movie is fall down a lot and run around in tiny clothing. Christina Applegate actually doesn't do a bad job in this film and had great chemistry with Diaz. It would have been nice to be able to transport these good qualities to a deserving movie. Unfortunately, that can't happen, and her ability is wasted.

Thomas Jane once again shows that his performance as Mickey Mantle in "61" was a fluke and that he is great at picking bad movies ("Deep Blue Sea" anyone?). Jason Bateman, as his brother, is just cast as the womanizing, partying brother that has become a cliché.

The script was so weak that it confused the audience in parts and bored them in others. A twist halfway through the film will have you scratching your head not for the fact that it took you by surprise, but because they don't explain it whatsoever.

The director, Roger Kumble, did



Cameron Diaz, Selma Blair and Christina Applegate stink up the screen in the gross-out comedy "The Sweetest Thing."

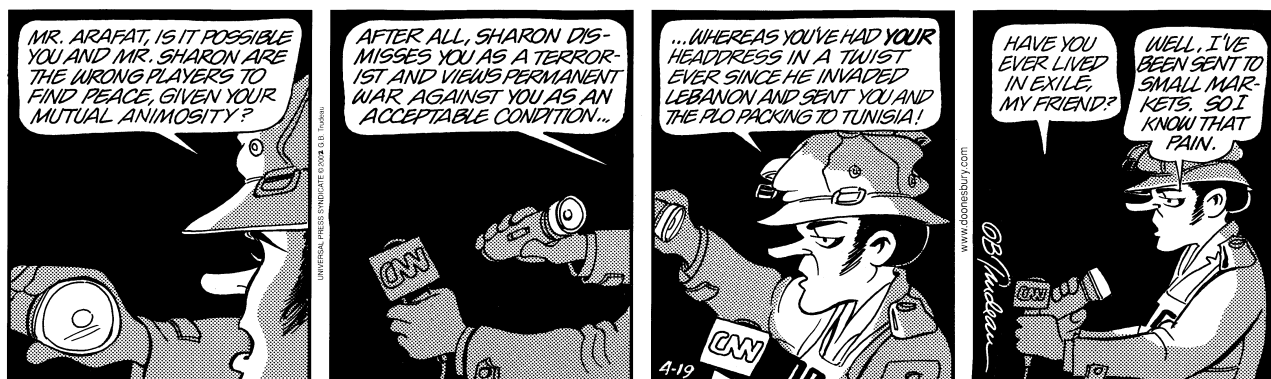
"The Sweetest Thing"
★
(Out of four stars)

the impossible and directed a film that was more visually boring than (his other film) "Cruel Intentions." He tries pepping up the film, like a mid-movie montage of the two main characters playing dress up, but this just grates on the nerves. Hopefully, this movie will be the final nail in the coffin of the gross-out humor film. For every entertaining film like "American Pie" or "There's Something About Mary," there are four or five that are bad like this. Men, be warned, if your

girl tries to make you see this, do everything to change her mind. Whatever you would have to do would be time better spent than seeing "The Sweetest Thing."

DOONESBURY

BY GARRY TRUDEAU



MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS



Crooner R. Kelly in hot water ... again

by Tim Edwards
staff writer

This is your man, Notorious T.I.M., bringing the news. This week's topic shows the fall of what could have been one of the greatest collaborations in hip-hop history. R. Kelly and Jay Z's "Best of Both Worlds" was supposed to break new ground for urban music. It did not because of a very controversial topic that deals with R. Kelly.

The Chicago Sun-Times reported that it had received a videotape of Kelly engaging in sexual activities with an underage female. Illinois state law prohibits adults from having sex with children under 17 years of age. The underage girl's aunt identified the girl on the video to the police. She claims that the girl was only 14 at the time of the taping. The police have since started an investigation on Kelly because of the allegations.

Tim's Hip-Hop RAP-UP

The latest allegations on Kelly have not gone over well with the people in charge at Def Jam. People at the Jay Z camp are looking at this collaboration as a major mistake. Jigga was originally looking to take the media and fans attention in order to further the beef he has had with Nas. Def Jam and Jive Records were both looking to bring in huge numbers from the two superstars, but, since the Kelly allegations



have surfaced, the "Best of Both Worlds Tour" has been cancel. There will not be a video for the LP either.

For Kelly, the album is the least of his worries. If he is charged and convicted of a felony, he can receive up to 15 years in prison.

There are also lawsuits for Kelly to worry about too. Since news of the first tape broke, there have been discoveries of new

tapes on the man who made "Feeling on Your Booty" famous. When I was in New York, he was the talk of the town. To others in the Kelly camp, the allegations on the superstar come as no surprise since he has been linked to young girls for a while. He was married in August 1994 to the then 15-year-old Aayilah.

Another woman, Tiffany Hawkins, filed a \$10 million lawsuit against Kelly at the Cook County Circuit Court on Christmas Eve of 1996. She charged Kelly with severe emotional harm because of her past relationship with him. She interned for the label R. Kelly was on and claims he required her to perform certain activities for him. Kelly denied the charges but later paid a settlement out of court.

What will happen to R. Kelly? We will just have to wait for the investigation to play out.

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