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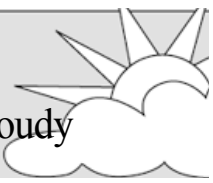
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The Daily Eastern News

Eastern Illinois University
Charleston, Ill. 61920
Vol. 85, No. 83
16 pages, 2 sections

Friday
January 21, 2000



Inside In the name of choice

Four local bands to perform
this weekend to support pro-
choice activism.

Story in section B

Sports Bad breaks

Senior Marc Polite reinjures
knee, but expected back in
two weeks.

Story on Page 8A



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

Contract off BOT's agenda

Late paperwork makes UPI wait until special board meeting is called

By Shauna Gustafson
Administration editor

The recently ratified contract that was agreed upon by the administration and the negotiating team for Eastern's chapter of the University Professionals of Illinois will not be on the agenda for the Monday meeting of Eastern's Board of Trustees because the language of the contract is still being finalized.

The BOT will meet at 8:30 a.m. in the 1895 Room of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

UPI, which represents about 600 tenure, tenure track and academic support employees, ratified their new contract on Jan. 14.

Shelly Flock, director of media relations, said university and UPI representatives might not finish finalizing the language of the contract before the BOT meeting.

"This process is not expected to be completed in time for the contract to be provided to Board of Trustees members for Monday's meeting," Flock said. "To ensure that faculty are not inconvenienced, we will call a special meeting of the BOT to approve the contract."

Flock said the additional meeting will be held early in February so that faculty salary increases will be able to be added into the March 31 payroll.

"Even if the UPI contractual item had been included on the board's January agenda, the implementation of faculty salary increases could not have occurred prior to April 1 due to the payroll process," Flock said.

UPI president Sue Kaufman said the setback was not a total surprise.

"While it is disappointing to learn that the board will not be able to vote on the contract Monday, we appreciate the administration's desire to make sure that all the i's are dotted and the t's crossed before they take the contract to the board," Kaufman said. "That said, there must be some way for the administration to provide a quicker system by which to process salary data."

Kaufman also said she was dismayed by the length of time involved in applying the new contract.

See CONTRACT Page 2A

African-American Heritage Month

Amazing Acrobats



Mandy Marshall / Photo editor

(above lower) Julius Marumbl, one of the younger African Acrobats, shows off his skills in doing the limbo. During the limbo sequence Eastern students also got to participate. (above top) John Jacob concentrates on his form as he is in the air.

About 400 watch the Mapapa African Acrobats in awe

By Branden Delk
Staff Writer

The Mapapa African Acrobats from Kenya wowed the audience of about 400 people with human pyramids, balancing acts on chairs stacked on top of bottles and limbo dancing among other acrobatic feats.

The group performed to a combination of ancient Chinese acrobatic techniques with an East African musical tradition.

"It was spectacular to see their incredible balance," said Sarah Robinson, a junior elementary education major.

The acrobats have been performing Mapapa, a dance style developed in Kenya, since they were children. They

began performing professionally seven years ago.

In Kenya, Mapapa is the only thing people can do, said John Jacob, a member of the Mapapa African Acrobats.

Since their choices were limited, Jacob and the other acrobats decided to form a group and travel, Jacob said.

Once they formed their group, the acrobats got their start performing at hotels in Kenya. Later when they got an agent, they began performing across Europe.

The group first performed in America for the Universal Circus which included the members in its HBO special in 1998 and 1999.

After getting a new agent they began to perform in half-time shows at NBA games, which eventually led

them to Eastern.

One of the agencies the University Board has worked with in the past contacted the UB, telling them the acrobats would be in the area, said Ceci Brinker, acting director of Student Life.

The agency offered a reasonable price to book the usually expensive group, Brinker said.

The group is very expensive to book and high in demand, so the university took advantage of the opportunity to have them perform, Brinker said.

"They've have an amazing display of athleticism," Brinker said. "What they do is an amazing display of coordination and skill all placed into exit-

See ACROBATS Page 2A

UPI Web site displayed higher pay increases than proposed

"I don't believe it had any effect on the voting."

David Radavich,
UPI chief negotiator

By Shauna Gustafson
Administration editor

A problem on the University Professionals of Illinois Web site led some Unit B faculty members to believe they would receive a higher pay increase than they will actually be provided with if the new contract is approved by Eastern's Board of

Trustees.

The discrepancy appeared in the minima salary lanes and showed unit B members, academic support employees, as receiving a higher rate of salary increase.

The salary increases are part of a new faculty contract that was agreed upon by administration and UPI negotiating teams.

Members of UPI voted to ratify the new contract on Jan. 14.

One unit B faculty member said UPI members were voting to ratify the contract based on minimas that were incorrect.

David Radavich, UPI chief negotiator, said the error occurred over the semester break and the correct numbers were placed on the Web site sev-

eral days before final votes were due.

"I don't believe (the problem) had any effect on the voting. I feel people understood the tentative nature of what we had on the Web site," Radavich said. "Once we noticed the error, we corrected it."

Radavich said votes were not able to be changed once they were made, and there will not be a revote.

The Daily Eastern News

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Pleading their case

Elian Gonzalez's grandmothers heading to U.S.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The custody fight over Elian Gonzalez took a new turn Thursday as the grandmothers of the 6-year-old obtained visas to travel to the United States to make their case that the boy should be returned to his father in Cuba.

The U.S. diplomatic mission in Cuba issued visas to the two women Thursday afternoon as a group from the National Council of Churches was flying to Havana from New York to meet with them and with Cuban government officials.

They were expected to fly to

New York on Friday, apparently escorted by the church group. According to congressional sources, the women hope to return with the boy to Cuba. An aide to Rep. Charles Rangel, D-N.Y., said the congressman will meet with the women on the arrival in New York on Friday or elsewhere in the city later on.

Rangel has been a strong proponent of allowing the boy to return to Cuba and has offered to accompany the boy back.

The congressional sources said New York was chosen as a destination because the welcome there

would be far friendlier than in Miami, where Elian has been living with relatives for almost two months and where sentiment for his remaining in the United States is strong.

Elian survived a shipwreck in late November. The boat on which he was heading for south Florida capsized, killing his mother and nine other would-be refugees.

The United States refused to return Elian immediately to Cuba, aggravating the already hostile relationship between Washington and Havana.

police blotter

18-year-old receives multiple citations

Kristina E. Kristofer, 18, of Lawson Hall, was cited for driving the wrong way down a one way street, minor consumption of alcohol, possession of drug paraphernalia, and possession of less than 2.5 grams of cannabis at 1 a.m. Thursday in the 600 block of Jackson Avenue.

3 cited for disturbing the peace

Jared T. Schatz, 22, of the 900 block of Fourth Street, was cited for disturbing the peace at 1:59 a.m. Sunday at his place of residence.

Christopher B. Hill, 22, of the 1400 block of Ninth Street was cited for disturbing the peace at 2:32 a.m. Saturday at his place of residence.

Cory W. Easley, 20, of the 1000 block of Second Street, was cited for disturbing the peace at 1:40 a.m. Saturday at his place of residence.

Minor cited

Trisha A. Creech, 20, of the 1400 block of Tenth Street, was cited for acceptance of alcohol by a minor at 2 a.m. Monday at Sixth Street and Taylor Avenue.

Damage to property

Matt J. Boyle, 21, of the 2000 block of Tenth Street reported criminal damage to property at 2:05 a.m. Jan. 13. The investigation is continuing and there are no suspects.

The Student Supreme Court has nothing to do with the university judicial board. The supreme court exists solely to interpret the student body constitution. The judicial board is part of the university's disciplinary system as specified in the student conduct code. The News regrets the error.

Student: Violence against women should be seen as global problem

BALTIMORE (AP) — One of every three women worldwide has been beaten, raped or somehow mistreated, according to a sweeping new report that says violence against women should be treated as a global health problem rather than just a law enforcement matter.

"I see the health care setting as an opportunity - and right now, it's an opportunity lost," said co-author Lori Heise, who visited at least 20 countries during the past decade, collecting data from 2,000 domestic violence studies. "It's an opportunity to perhaps prevent a health problem from materializing."

Authors of "Ending Violence

Against Women," released Thursday by the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health and the Center for Health and Gender Equity, say it is the first study to take a worldwide look at violence against women.

Besides immediate physical injuries, abuse has also been linked to problem pregnancies, substance abuse, gastrointestinal disorders and chronic pain syndromes, perhaps due to anxiety, the study said.

"Women who have a history of abuse are at much higher risk of having these chronic conditions than other women," said Heise, the co-director of the Center for Health and Gender Equity.

Contract

from Page 1A

"There have got to be ways to process data more efficiently and more quickly, and I certainly hope that the administration will begin to address the data systems problems immediately," Kaufman said.

The BOT Monday will consider a labor agreement for Eastern's chapter of American Federation of State, County and Municipal

Employees which represents about 195 building/food service employees.

The AFSCME contract was ratified by the union on Jan. 11. Bargaining unit employees will receive a 3 percent pay increase during the first year of the agreement and would see a percentage increase appropriated for Eastern salaries during the second and third years of the contract, according to press release.

The BOT also will look at a contract change order concerning a clinical service expansion.

Acrobats

from Page 1A

ing routines."

The group performed many dazzling acts such as hurling through hoops, doing handstands on boards with one hand and a leg extended.

A segment of the show featured the acrobats doing a handstand on boxes and then throwing the boxes, while still in the position, to another acrobat.

"Sitting in the front was a up close and personal experience," said Nicole Tumble, a sophomore business major.

The acrobats even got the audience involved by pulling them out of their seats to do limbo dancing.

"It was fun; it was a good experience. They were very talented," said Trenton Gorrell, a graduate student. "They were awesome."

Clarification

The Daily Eastern News received incorrect information regarding the judicial board and supreme court justices for an article in Thursday's edition of The News.



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Erin Johnson / Staff photographer

Snow dino

Brigid Matchen, a sophomore sociology major, pats more snow on the side of the newly decorated panther outside of Marty's on Thursday afternoon. Since all of the snow has fallen, Eastern students have made the panther statue into a dinosaur.

Verbal protection

Students shown how to demonstrate good self esteem, defend themselves

By Jason Maholy
Staff writer

The EIU Counseling Center Thursday presented "Tongue Tied," a workshop designed to help students learn how to verbally protect themselves and demonstrate self-esteem when faced with a verbal confrontation.

Lari Meeker, who works for the EIU Counseling Center, told about 60 students how verbal confrontations can be avoided, how to keep the peace if a confrontation does ensue and what to do if the confrontation gets out of hand.

Meeker said it's important to know how to defend oneself because verbal abuse, especially that by a family member or boyfriend or girlfriend, can lead to physical problems such as ulcers or headaches and emotional problems such as anxiety and low self-esteem.

"We all need self-confidence," she said. "What people say will affect you less, and people will see they can't bother you because they know you'll fight back."

Meeker said the first thing people should do when involved in any conversation is to be observant to both what they say and how they act.

"Body language is very important because sometimes what people say is much different than what they actually mean," she said.

Meeker also said it is best to avoid those who talk about other people because anything said to that person

will likely find its way to the ears of another.

"People talk about others because they have low self-esteem and they want to feel better about themselves," she said.

Meeker said one thing people tend to do in conversations is deny to themselves what others say when it is something they don't want to hear.

She said she often counsels students who have recently had somebody break up with them but say they couldn't see it coming, even though the person was obviously and honestly upset with them.

"We all do this to some degree," she said. "We filter what people say because we don't want to hear it."

The biggest reason people get into verbal confrontations is because of misunderstandings, Meeker said. In order to avoid these situations people should ask questions about anything they are unsure of and try not to get stressed or emotional about something they may have simply interpreted the wrong way.

"If you're offended, ask them to explain themselves so you can be sure you heard them right," she said. "The worst thing to do is to not say anything at all. This is when we go home and think to ourselves, 'I should have said this, or I should have said that.'"

In the event that a confrontation cannot be avoided because somebody is uncooperative or just plain nasty, Meeker said the best thing to do is to just say what needs to be said and walk away.

'Opening Doors' to discuss various diversity issues

By Michelle Jones
Activities editor

Issues of race, gender, national origin, sexual orientation and ability will be addressed at an all day conference Thursday.

In celebration of diversity at Eastern, the conference titled "Opening Doors" will be held from 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

"(The conference is) an opportunity to enhance participants knowledge and understanding about various diversity issues," Kristi Miller, assistant director of civil rights, said in a press release.

One aspect of the day is two presentations by speaker Juan Williams. Williams will discuss national issues

and discuss his biography of Supreme Court Judge Thurgood Marshall, the press release said.

Williams will present "Current American Race Relations" at 12:10 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom during the luncheon. Preregistration is required for the luncheon, however, there will be seats available for those who wish to only hear the speaker.

Williams also will present "A Dialog: Diversity Issues" at 1 p.m. in the 1895 Room of the Union.

A presentation on international exchanges available at Eastern will begin at 9 a.m. A panel including Bob Augustine, dean of the graduate school, and current international students will discuss the topic.

Another panel presentation, "ADD/ADHD" will address issues

of disabilities. Areas covered include diagnosing, teaching, advertising, parenting and personal experiences from people on the panel. The discussion begins at 10 a.m. in the Mattoon Room of the Union.

The next session, "Diversity in the Core," will address the issue of having diverse courses offered at the university. It will begin at 10:45 a.m. in the Greenup Room of the Union.

"Sexual Harassment" begins at 1:10 p.m. in the Charleston Room of the Union.

"Sexual Harassment" is a training workshop on how to identify and deal with sexual harassment.

Doug Howell, treasurer of Lesbian Gay Bisexual Allies Union, will hold another panel at 2 p.m. in the Kansas Room of the Union.

The discussions will address what Howell believes are common stereotypes and misunderstandings that affect the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community.

From 2:30 to 4 p.m. members of the Eastern Latino community will discuss differences among the growing Latino and Hispanic population in Illinois. The presentation "Latino's in Illinois: Exploring Their Differences" will be held in the Greenup Room of the Union.

The final session for the day is "Cultural Tension: Conflict Resolution Skill Development." Participants will be allowed to explore their own perspectives on racial and cultural differences. The workshop is intended to be a non-threatening interactive discussion,

and pizza and soda will be provided.

The celebration of diversity will continue from 9 a.m. to noon Friday in the Charleston/Mattoon Room in the Union with two more workshops.

A presentation titled, "Employment Discrimination: How to Hire Faculty and A and P," will review how to address problems found in the employment process and how to avoid discrimination.

Several of the workshops require preregistration. Those interested in attending the luncheon, "Sexual Harassment," "Cultural Tension" and "Employment Discrimination" can call the Office of Affirmative Action and Cultural Diversity at 581-5020 or register online at www.eiu.edu/~affirm/opening-doors.html.

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Opinion page

Friday, January 21, 2000

Page 4

A question of integrity

Recently students have been bombarded with advertisements for Varsity.com, an Internet based company that pays college students to take notes in their classes and post those notes online.

Although obtaining class notes off a Web site might sound easier than attending class, students should not rely on a Web site to gain knowledge from classes.

Merely getting notes does not supplement class attendance. Both students and teachers will benefit more from in-class discussion and interpreting the lecture for themselves.

Students who take notes in their classes for Varsity.com can make between \$8 and \$12 per lecture, depending on how quickly the notes are submitted and how much the notes are used.

Although making money usually is a good incentive for students, taking a professor's notes and posting them online is not a very ethical choice.

Many professors already voluntarily post their notes online or provide copies of their notes at the University Print Shop.

Students who are getting paid for professor's notes are cashing in on their professor's property.

Janet Cardinell, director of campus relations for Varsity.com, said she thinks obtaining notes from the Web site enhances the educational process.

Cardinell also said Varsity.com could benefit professors because they can look at the notes posted to see if their students understand the material. However, the point of attending classes is not only to learn about the subject matter for the course, but to interact with other students and gain knowledge from them as well.

An easier and more effective way of doing this is for students and professors to interact and discuss subject matter rather than try to guess if the material is being understood.

The best way for students to learn is to attend classes and gain information from professionals who know the subject rather than from students who just want to make a few extra dollars.

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

Today's quote

It is as impossible for a man to be cheated by anyone but himself, as for a thing to be, and not to be, at the same time.

Ralph Waldo Emerson,
American essayist and poet, 1803-1882

Winter wonderland not so wonderful

Everyone knows the old sayings about weather that have been passed down through the ages. Red sky at night, sailors delight. The darker the caterpillar, the colder the winter.

Well, I have made up a saying too. The clearer the steps look, the icier they are.

OK, so maybe I don't have a great career waiting for me in catch-phrase writing, but I do know how it feels to go sailing down a flight of stairs after an evening of icy rain. And I also know all about the wonderful time that can be had by spending three hours of the following day at Health Services.

I am not going to talk about a terrible experience at Health Services. In fact, I had a good one. The doctor and nurses were great and they didn't even laugh when I told them of my fateful night on the stairs. Thanks, Health Services.

What I am perturbed with is the lack of salt I found on the stairs as I laid on my back in agony. Granted, it was late at night, and the storm that had left the stairs covered in ice had subsided only a few hours before. That logic doesn't seem to be making my back feel any better though.

So, I had a wonderful day at Health Services, spent an enjoyable time getting X-rays taken of my back and ended up going home with some pain killers and the promise of a call in the morning to let me know how the X-rays came out. I also was lucky enough to have friends who babied me while they made fun of the possibility of me carrying around a doughnut pillow for a few weeks. Fortunately, there were no broken bones and therefore, no doughnut. But thanks for asking.

Lynette Drake, clinical services director for Health Services, said there have been five snow and ice related injuries this week — three of which occurred on-campus.



Shauna Gustafson
Administration editor

"What I am perturbed with is the lack of salt I found on the stairs as I laid on my back in agony."

Two off-campus incidents that occurred were motor-vehicle related.

By Thursday I found that most sidewalks around campus were still covered in ice. That made me a little cranky. Some sidewalks had patchy layers of sand on them, which helped a little, but by mid-afternoon most of the sand was stuck to the bottom of shoes or was all over floor mats at the entrance

of buildings.

And the ice remained.

I understand that salt is not good for the environment and is hard on cars, but it does do a superior job to that of sand as far as ice is concerned.

Jon Collins, superintendent for grounds, said the physical plant uses salt for stairs and sloping areas and uses sand for traction on sidewalks. He also said they try to clear snow before salt or sand is put down.

"We try to get the snow off before anybody walks on it or drives on it," Collins said.

Collins said workers went out Wednesday night and Thursday morning to put out sand and salt.

So why were most of the sidewalks still covered in ice and snow Thursday afternoon?

I can only speak from personal experience, but personally, I was perplexed by the removal of ice and snow around Eastern. The roads look great, so why don't the sidewalks and stairs?

My only nugget of wisdom to pass on is to beware the icy stairs, and don't assume that sand will save you from an untimely fall.

Shauna Gustafson is a freshman journalism major and a monthly columnist for *The Daily Eastern News*. Her e-mail address is cuslg12@pen.eiu.edu. Columns are the opinion of the author.



King tribute brings community together

We have just come from the annual march and vigil for Martin Luther King Jr., and we would like to applaud the brothers of Alpha Phi Alpha, Norman Greer, University Gospel Choir, Chris Eatmon, Sirah Abdullah and Derrick Edwards for an excellent tribute, not only to a great man who was committed to non-violence and social justice, but also for the challenge and invitation to live life with a commitment to "the dream." May this dream, as Greer said so well, call us to

Your turn

Letters to the editor

immerse ourselves fully in community.

Roy, Sher, Geri and Frank Lanham
and Keri Stolz
Charleston residents

Letter policy

The Daily Eastern News accepts letters to the editor addressing local, state, national and international issues.

They should be less than 250 words and include the author's name, telephone number and address. Students should indicate their year in school and major. Faculty, administration and staff should indicate their position and department. Letters whose authors cannot be verified will not be printed.

Depending on space constraints, we may have to edit your letter, so keep it as concise as possible.

Fraternity, sorority join forces for heritage event

By Michelle Jones
Activities editor

Sigma Gamma Rho sorority and Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity are joining forces to provide an evening of fun for the campus and community.

The fraternity and sorority are hosting "Heritage Ball" from 5 p.m. to 12:15 a.m. Saturday at the Worthington Inn in conjunction with African-American Heritage month.

Normally the ball occurs in December, but this year the organizers wanted to bring back some of the traditions from the 1970s and host the ball in conjunction with African-American Heritage.

The event is unlike any other campus event, said Monique Cook, Sigma Gamma Rho sorority.

"People can get away from normal activities and be in a formal setting," Cook said.

Those in attendance at the ball will have a chance to "get to

know us and take pride in the festivities," Cook said.

Food and drinks will be served and activities, such as a performance by a comedian, are planned. Many alumni and visitors from Chicago and various colleges also will be in attendance, Cook said.

There is a long tradition behind the ball. Originally Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity sponsored an event called "Player's Ball," and Sigma Gamma Rho sorority had a similar event. Then for the past two years, the two groups combined and celebrated together with the "Heritage Ball."

Most black fraternities and sororities are founded at Howard or Cornell, Cook said; however, Sigma Gamma Rho sorority and Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity were the only two to be founded in Indiana.

"We decided to come together and celebrate that heritage of being the only black fraternity and sorority from Indiana," Cook

“ (We want people) to see that we are a diverse organization; we don't limit. We're classy and can hold functions together.

Monique Cook,
Sigma Gamma Rho sorority

”

The ball is open to the entire campus and community.

"We believe in community, not only Black History Month," Cook said. "(We want people) to see that we are a diverse organization; we don't limit. We're classy and can hold functions together."

Tickets for the ball are \$12 a person. Those interested can purchase tickets by calling 581-7088 or buy them at the door.

RHA members learn about alternative spring break

By Kaycee Connell
Staff writer

RHA members heard about Alternative Spring Break options and opportunities to win prizes at home basketball games at Thursday's RHA meeting.

Students participating in Alternative Spring Break will do work solely for others in need, said Jen O'Rourke, student volunteer.

Alternative Spring Break options include helping through Habitat for Humanity, serving in soup kitchens, repairing homes or through helping those with HIV and AIDS.

"There are 20 different locations for alternative spring break this year," O'Rourke said. "I've been to Louisiana twice, and this coming spring will be my second trip to West Virginia."

The alternative spring break trip is scheduled for March 11-18. The cost for the trip is \$125 per student after funds were donated from the Newman Catholic Center and RHA.

Anyone interested in participating can contact Holly Waters at 348-0230.

RHA also had Jenna Moroney speaking for the upcoming Winterfest, which will be held at the basketball games on Thursday and Jan. 29.

Thursday night's game will follow a "Let's Make a Deal" theme, and students will be randomly drawn out of the crowd to win prizes including free housing and CD players, Moroney said.

The Jan. 29 game will take a Vegas theme with "Viva Lantz Vegas" and students will be able to play casino games to win prizes including a trip to Las Vegas over spring break.

Students are encouraged to wear face paint and Eastern clothing to show their support for the team.

In other business, RHA took nominations for a communications coordinator and a fund raising coordinator.

Lisa Ogle, sophomore English major, was elected to be the communication coordinator.

Ogle will be talking with students from other schools about residence hall living and to get new ideas for programs. She will also be looking for new ways to increase attendance at RHA meetings.

Ogle was previously the secretary of RHA.

Kipp Boesdorfer, sophomore administrative information systems major, was elected to be the fund raising coordinator for RHA.

Boesdorfer plans to provide care packages during finals week and continue with the campus voice posters.

daily briefing

Daley won't oppose Santo's employment

CHICAGO (AP) — Mayor Richard M. Daley dismissed any notion that he might oppose an effort by Miriam Santos to get her job back as city treasurer now that an appeals court has released her from prison.

"I have no problem with her coming back," Daley said Thursday. "I have no idea what the legal problems would be."

Daley met with reporters briefly following a neighborhood library opening, a day after a three-judge panel of the U.S. 7th Circuit Court of Appeals overturned Santos' conviction for extortion and mail fraud.

Former UIC chief looking at Bradley

PEORIA (AP) — David Broski, who resigned as chancellor of the University of Illinois at Chicago last year amid criticism over the suspension of research on humans at that institution, is a candidate for the president's job at Bradley University.

Broski, 54, has been invited to meet with students and faculty in a public forum on Feb. 2. The last president, John Brazil, was named to the post one day after a similar meeting.

Bob Viets, chairman of Bradley's search committee, said Broski's departure from UIC drew a lot of attention from committee members, but they are satisfied with his explanation of the problem that led to the research being suspended.

"He is a very forthright person, and we have done enough research on what his capabilities are," Viets said. "If you look at the progress that was made at UIC during the time David was chancellor, it is very impressive."

'South side rapist' gets three life terms

CLAYTON, Mo. (AP) — The confessed "South Side Rapist" who terrorized St.

Louis area women for at least a decade was sentenced Thursday to three consecutive life sentences, and still faces hearings in other jurisdictions.

Dennis Rabbitt entered a guilty plea in St. Louis County Court. Rabbitt entered the same plea earlier this month in St. Louis city, where sentencing is scheduled for April 7. He is expected to be sentenced to five consecutive life sentences for assaulting 13 St. Louis women and attempting to assault one teen-aged girl.

Rabbitt also faces trials in nearby St. Charles and Jefferson counties.

Some of Rabbitt's victims made tearful statements during the penalty phase of Thursday's hearing. St. Louis County prosecutor Bob McCulloch said he welcomed the guilty plea.

Census 2000 begins in Alaska

UNALAKLEET, Alaska (AP) — The sun was barely up at 11 a.m. Thursday when Census Bureau Director Kenneth Prewitt, bundled up in a fur parka, mittens and heavy boots, knocked on the door of a small wood-frame house in this western Alaska village to begin the nationwide head count.

Stanton Katchatag, an 82-year-old Inupiaq Eskimo elder, welcomed Prewitt into his home in this isolated, windswept village near the frozen Bering Sea and became the first American to participate in Census 2000.

Fifteen minutes later, the director came back out into temperatures just above zero.

"We are very excited to have taken our first enumeration," Prewitt said before getting on a snowmobile for a ride to another house.

Unalakleet, situated about 400 miles northwest of Anchorage, is accessible only by plane or snowmobile this time of year. Most of its 800 residents are Inupiaq or Yupik Eskimos.

While such an out-of-the-way place may seem an unlikely spot to begin the head count, census officials said they need to reach Alaska Natives in winter, before they leave their villages for spring fishing and hunting.

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Panthers seeking second road win

Women's basketball team sees SEMO as season turning point

By Kristin Rojek
Associate sports editor

The women's basketball team will have the opportunity to use Saturday's game at Southeast Missouri as a turning point in its season.

After suffering a conference loss Tuesday night to Middle Tennessee, the Panthers (4-11, 2-5) will try to gain their second road win of the season and place themselves within the top eight teams in the Ohio Valley Conference.

SEMO is currently tied with Eastern at 2-5 in the OVC, and a win will truly be a battle to be one step closer to the last bid at the conference tournament.

"Records are deceiving," head coach Linda Wunder said. "Even though they have won two OVC games, they were picked to be in the top four during the preseason."

SEMO certainly has been struggling this season. Although the Otahkians are 2-1 on their home court, they are now on a three-game losing streak after a 82-65 loss to first place Tennessee Tech Tuesday night.

"They've struggled and have lost some close games, but they can be in the upper division," Wunder said.

"They do shoot the ball from the three-point well and have a good inside game. They have good balance."

The Panther line-up will remain unchanged from recent competitions, with junior Renee Schaul remaining as point guard.

"She's done a good job for us, so there's no reason to move her," Wunder said.

Leah Aldrich-Franklin has slowly been increasing her minutes on the floor, and Wunder said she is responding well to the longer play.

"She's closer to 100 percent than she was a month ago and after moving back up to starting after Christmas, she's working back into the flow of things," Wunder said.

Although Eastern has been executing well on the court, its main objective this weekend will be to finish plays. The team's ability to make shots hasn't been as successful as Wunder would like.

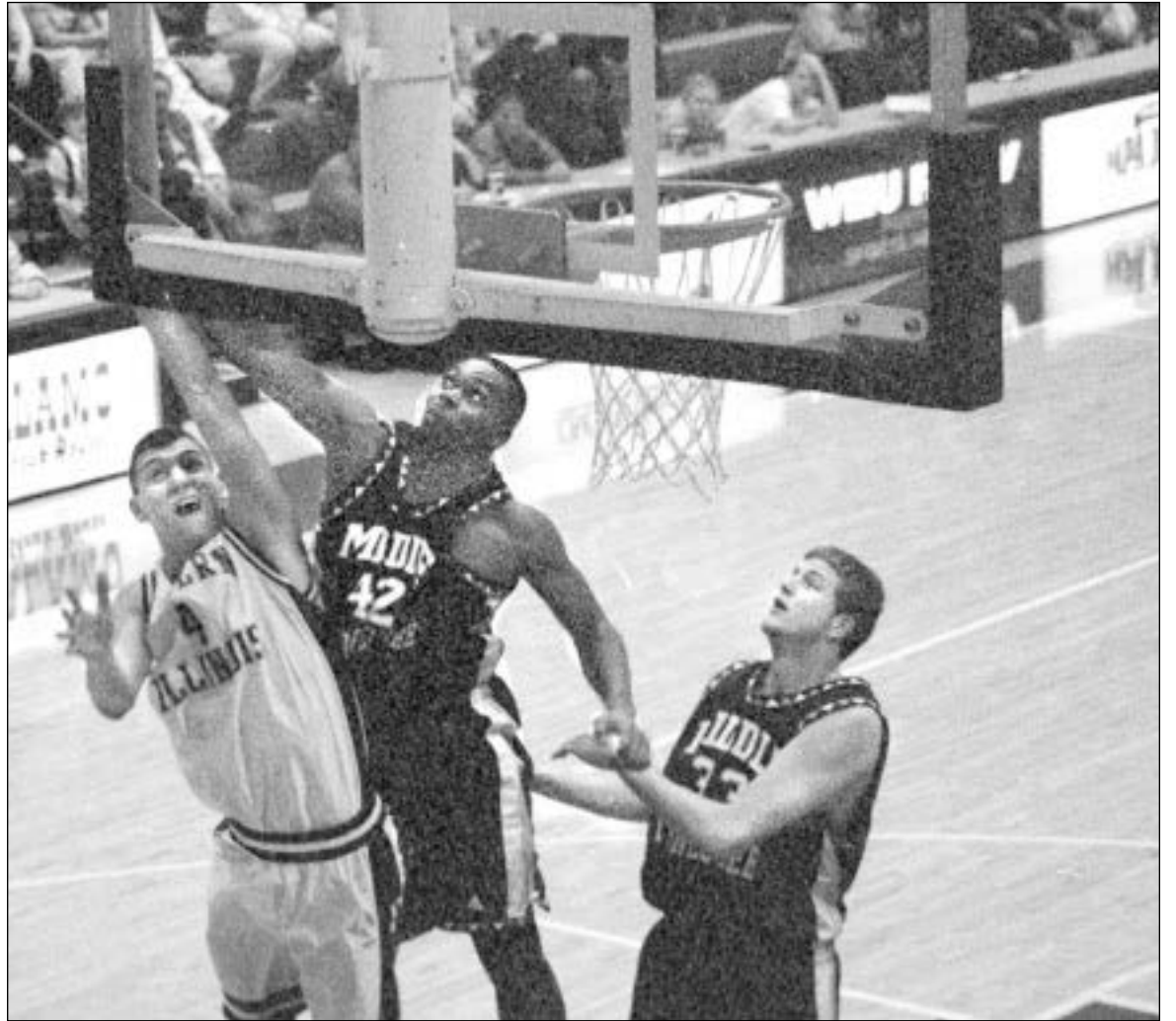
"There's only so much you can do," Wunder said. "When you step on the court you have to be mentally ready to play. They need to be mentally tough to win on the road, and we're going to try to focus hard on that."

The Panthers took a day off after Tuesday night's loss, but they returned on the practice court Thursday to prepare for the matchup against SEMO.

"SEMO isn't an easy place to play at, but we had a good win on the road at Tennessee-Martin, so that will certainly help," Wunder said. "We hope we can build on that and bounce back from our loss against Middle (Tennessee)."

This weekend will be a test of both strength and focus as the Otahkians and Panthers match-up to climb one step higher in the OVC standings.

Taking the offensive



Mandy Marshall / Photo editor

Sophomore forward Luke Sharp battles a Middle Tennessee defender for a rebound in the Panthers' win Tuesday. Sharp has been starting in place of the injured Merve Joseph. Eastern will take on first place Southeast Missouri Saturday.

Panthers look to balanced offense to combat top-ranked defense

By Anthony Braviere
Staff writer

Eastern's men's basketball team will face their toughest challenge so far this season Saturday night when they travel to Cape Girardeau, Mo., to take on the Otahkians from Southeast Missouri.

The Otahkians (13-3, 6-1) come into Saturday night's contest in first place in the Ohio Valley Conference. They also recently broke Murray State's 47-game home winning streak.

Eastern will have to somehow make up for the recent loss of forward Marc Polite, whose 13.2 points per game is second on the team, and Merve Joseph, who despite being injured, is still sixth in the OVC for rebounding with 7.2 rebounds per game. But don't expect to see the Panther offense turn into the Kyle Hill show.

"It doesn't mean ten extra shots for Kyle," head coach Rick Samuels said. "But it might mean an extra basket or two for Kyle, or

extra baskets for Michael Forrest, or whoever."

Filling in for Polite in the starting line-up will be either senior Michael Forrest or redshirt freshman Henry Domercant. Both are coming off of solid efforts in Tuesday's contest against Middle Tennessee.

Joseph's replacement in the starting five will be 6-foot 8-inch sophomore forward Luke Sharp. Sharp was one of the Panthers who contributed with timely baskets against the Blue Raiders.

The Panthers will have to be ready on the offensive end of the floor against SEMO. The Otahkians are ranked first in the OVC in scoring defense, points against average, and blocks per game.

"They play great defense," Samuels said. "It's a great position defense. They stay between you and the basket and make you shoot over their extended hands."

With Hill averaging 18.9 points per game and coming off one of the most dominating efforts this season

for the Panthers, Eastern should be able to combat the Otahkian defense with the balanced offensive attack they've featured all year long and by cleaning up on the glass.

The Panthers will once again play a team that is bigger than it is on the front line.

With 6-foot 8-inch center Brian Bunce, 6-foot 6-inch forward Mike Branson and 6-foot 6-inch forward Roderick Johnson, SEMO should have an advantage on the boards.

Johnson, a senior, has been the Otahkians most consistent player so far this season. The forward is averaging 12.2 points per game and 7.9 rebounds per game, which is good enough to place him fifth in the OVC.

He also is third in the conference in blocks with 1.19 per game and is a major reason SEMO is in first place in the conference.

"He is a very solid player for them," Samuels said. "He fits into their scheme very well; and with eight rebounds a game, we'll have to keep them off the glass."

Sports letter policy

The *Daily Eastern News* sports section accepts letters to the editor addressing opinions, concerns and criticisms of Eastern's athletic teams.

They should be less than 250 words and include the author's name, telephone number and address.

Students should indicate their year in school and major. Faculty,

administration and staff should indicate their position and department.

Letters whose authors cannot be verified will not be printed.

Depending on space constraints, we may have to edit your letter, so keep it as concise as possible.

Letters should be e-mailed to cukmb12@pen.eiu.edu

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For questions
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spring hours

Monday-Thursday: 7:30pm to 10:00pm
Friday: 7:00pm to 9:00pm

Lantz Pool

Eastern soars north to tangle with Eagles

By Kevin Mulcahy
Staff Writer

Wrestlers take on Eastern Michigan in second dual

After competing in only one dual meet in the first two months of the season, the Eastern wrestlers meet Eastern Michigan Saturday in their second consecutive dual meet.

Eastern will be leaving this afternoon for the six and a half hour travel to Ypsilanti, Mich.

"The win last week will stimulate the positive, but we were at home," Panther head coach Ralph McCausland said.

"Now we're on the road six and a half hours for one match. We're

going to be in a different mind set."

"We want to go there with a 'take no prisoners' mind set," McCausland said.

The Eagles are 1-6 in dual meets this season. The only win for the team was against Boston University by the score of 39-18.

The Eastern wrestlers have been working hard at practice preparing for this weekend's meet.

"We've had a good week of practice coming off last week's win," senior Jason Lawrence said.

"We'll have to capitalize off that and do the best we can. We'll all have to wrestle really well; we're going to have to take it to them."

Lawrence will be competing in the 147 pound weight class.

"That's the attitude that we need the guys to have," McCausland said.

"Practices have been good, and there is progression since last week in endurance, strength and intensity."

Some of the key matches of this

meet will be with senior Jason Lawrence (147), freshman Frank DeFilippis (157), junior Mike Kelly (165) and Louis Taylor (174).

"They (Eagles) have strengths in the middle," McCausland said. "Their 125 pound guy is good. He has wrestled something like 30 matches this season."

After posting a win over Big Ten Northwestern last weekend, the Panthers will be looking to avoid a let down.

"As coaches, we need to nip any chance of a let down," McCausland said. "We need to pick up the intensity week in and week out."

The wrestlers are looking to carry the same intensity from last week to Eastern Michigan this Saturday.

"Hopefully we can come out and wrestle with the same intensity and wrestle just as hard," senior Kelly Revells said.

"This will be a tough match, but we shouldn't worry as long as we wrestle with the same intensity that we have been and try to keep our focus."

Scoreboard

EIU CALENDAR

Today
7 p.m. - M/W swimming vs. Millikin (at Lantz Pool).
Saturday
TBA - M/W track in EIU Mega Meet (at Lantz Fieldhouse) noon - M/W swimming vs. IU/PUI (at Lantz Pool).
2 p.m. - Wrestling at Eastern Michigan
5:30 p.m. - women's basketball at Southeast Missouri
7 p.m. - men's basketball at Southeast Missouri

NFL

Conference Championships
Sunday, Jan. 23
Tennessee at Jacksonville, 12 p.m.
Tampa Bay at St. Louis, 3 p.m.
Super Bowl
Sunday, Jan. 30
at Atlanta, 6:18 p.m.

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE			
Atlantic Division			
	W	L	T
New Jersey	28	13	5
Philadelphia	25	14	6
Pittsburgh	18	22	3
N.Y. Rangers	16	20	7
N.Y. Islanders	10	28	6
Northeast Division			
	W	L	T
Toronto	24	15	4
Ottawa	21	14	6
Buffalo	17	20	5

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE			
Atlantic Division			
	W	L	GB
Miami	24	12	—
New York	23	14	3.0
Boston	17	20	7.0
Orlando	16	23	9.0
New Jersey	15	22	9.0
Washington	12	27	13.0
Central Division			
	W	L	GB
Indiana	25	12	—

COLLEGE

Men's Basketball OVC Standings			
	OVC	Overall	
Southeast Missouri	6-1	11-3	
Murray State	5-1	12-5	
Tennessee-Martin	4-2	7-9	
Tennessee Tech	4-3	9-7	
Eastern Illinois	4-3	8-7	
Austin Peay	4-4	10-6	
Morehead State	3-4	8-8	
Eastern Kentucky	2-5	6-10	
Tennessee State	1-5	2-14	
Middle Tennessee	1-6	5-10	
Thursday's Results			
Murray State, 82, E. Kentucky 77			
Tenn.-Martin 79, Morehead St. 62			

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division			
	W	L	GB
Utah	24	11	—
San Antonio	25	14	1.0
Minnesota	19	16	5.0
Denver	17	19	7.0
Houston	13	24	12.0
Dallas	12	25	13.0
Vancouver	10	27	15.0
Pacific Division			
	W	L	GB
L.A. Lakers	32	7	—
Portland	28	9	3.0
Seattle	25	13	6.0
Sacramento	23	12	7.0
Phoenix	21	15	9
L.A. Clippers	10	27	21.0
Golden State	7	30	24.0

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division			
	W	L	GB
Utah	24	11	—
San Antonio	25	14	1.0
Minnesota	19	16	5.0
Denver	17	19	7.0
Houston	13	24	12.0
Dallas	12	25	13.0
Vancouver	10	27	15.0
Pacific Division			
	W	L	GB
L.A. Lakers	32	7	—
Portland	28	9	3.0
Seattle	25	13	6.0
Sacramento	23	12	7.0
Phoenix	21	15	9
L.A. Clippers	10	27	21.0
Golden State	7	30	24.0

national sports inbrief

Bulls sign Carr to 10-day deal

DEERFIELD (AP) — With their backcourt still ailing, the Chicago Bulls on Thursday signed Chris Carr to a second 10-day contract.

Carr, who signed his first 10-day contract Jan. 10, has averaged 5.8 points, one rebound, one steal and 13.4 minutes in five games with the Bulls. He scored a season-high 14 points Tuesday in Chicago's overtime win at Miami, going 6-of-11 from the floor. He also had three rebounds.

The Bulls also released guard Dedric Willoughby on Thursday. Willoughby, who signed a 10-day contract Jan. 10, averaged 5.6 points in three games. In a stint with the Bulls earlier this

season, Willoughby averaged 7.9 points, 2.7 assists and 2.1 rebounds in 22 games.

Atlanta tries to avoid repeat of Olympics

ATLANTA (AP) — Three and a half years after the Olympic Park bombing, law enforcement agencies in Atlanta are preparing for another major sporting event — and considering every possible safety precaution.

"We understand this is the first major sporting event of the millennium," said Michael Humphrey, a Super Bowl special events manager. "It's our hope certainly not to see a repeat of earlier events. That was a tragedy."


Contemporary Services Corp., an NFL-contracted crowd management firm, will have up to 2,500 private security officers working in Atlanta on game day, Jan. 30, and that's in addition to officers from the Atlanta police, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, the Georgia Dome and the National Football League.



WEEKEND

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The Green Mile R	4:20 8:10
The Hurricane R	4:40 7:50
Next Friday R	5:10 7:40 9:30



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Home track advantage

Panther track and field teams open up at home in Mega-Meet

By **Jeffrey Price**
 Staff Writer

With the cold weather freezing everyone's bones outside, the men's and women's track and field teams look forward to having an advantage indoors over some of the visiting schools competing this Saturday in the EIU Mega Meet.

Some of the 15 to 20 schools who will be competing Saturday include Lindenwood, McKindrey, Indiana Wesleyan, Tennessee

Tech, University of Dayton and Parkland College.

"It's nice to have a meet at home with your friends and family and having the home track advantage," Marissa Bushue said. Bushue finished second in the triple jump and third in the long jump last weekend at Illinois State.

Junior Keri Davis shared this sentiment as well by adding that there is an advantage because other indoor surfaces are a lot

softer and Eastern's indoor floor is much harder, making it better to run on.

"You're more relaxed and not as nervous, and you don't have to worry about waking up and traveling on a bus in the morning," 60-meter hurdler Candy Phillips said.

Bushue believes because it's the first home track meet, everyone will be ready to work hard and give it their all on the track and the field events this Saturday.

The only advantage women's

head coach John Craft sees is that the Panthers do not have to travel far.

Men's head coach Tom Akers doesn't really see it as an advantage or disadvantage being on the home turf.

"It all depends. When you're on the road, everyone has a curfew when to be in bed, but when you're at home it can be a disadvantage because you can be up all night partying in the dorms," Akers said.

By **Sarah Marten**
 Staff writer

Swim teams double up on dual meets

As the end of the season draws near, the Panther swim teams will have a long weekend ahead of them.

The Panthers start off the weekend tonight with a 6 p.m. dual meet against Millikin

Eastern will then get up and do it all over again with another home dual meet, this time a noon competition against Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis.

Entering tonight's meet, the Panther men are 3-2 in dual competition while the women are 4-1.

The Big Blue of Millikin are 4-4 on the women's side and 3-6 on the men's side. For IUPUI, the men have a record of 3-5, along with the women's record of 2-6.

One of the main concerns for the Eastern men this weekend is freshman-standout Josh Kercheval's shoulder injury. Kercheval is still expected to swim his scheduled races.

Kercheval's main competition of the two meets will be Justin Cox, of Millikin, who he will compete against in the medley and backstroke.

Kercheval holds the advantage in the backstroke as his season best is five seconds faster than Cox's season best.

For the women, Amy Nelson of Millikin leads the team as a backstroke and butterfly specialist. She holds five season-bests performances.

The Panthers will counter Nelson's strong times with junior Amanda Dore, who is coming off of a good meet last weekend at Illinois State and is expected to do just as well this weekend.

"She's a solid swimmer," Panther head coach Ray Padovan said.

"We are going to give her a change of pace and put her in some different races. It will be more fun for her."

Another swimmer expected to contribute this weekend is freshman Allison Kenny, who Padovan calls a "pleasant surprise."

Kenny is a freestyle swimmer and will most likely go up against Megan Parker or Nelson from Millikin.

The meets this weekend will mark the first time the Panthers have competed in back-to-back meets this season.

Fatigue is always a worry by the end of the weekend, but Padovan said he is not too concerned.

"It is getting a lot easier, and the end is in sight," he said.

After competing at Illinois State last weekend, Eastern finds itself in a different position this weekend as they are favored to win.

"We have a situation where we can control the meet," Padovan said.

"It shouldn't be real close and we will be able to switch people around and put them in different events."

Panther



Watch

A season full of bad breaks

Polite reinjures knee, expected to make return in two weeks

By **Kyle Bauer**
 Sports editor

When senior small forward Marc Polite came hobbling off the court in the first half of Eastern's Jan. 18 win over Tennessee State, it looked as though the Panthers were going to lose their main offensive threat for at least a couple of weeks.

Just one week later, Polite was back in the Panther lineup against Murray State, playing a limited role with a partially torn meniscus.

Two days after the Murray State game, Polite made even more progress, playing a game-high 38 minutes and scoring a game-high 24 points against Tennessee-Martin.

The Panthers had one of their best offensive weapons back and things appeared to be going fine — for the time being.

Tuesday against Middle Tennessee, Polite reinjured his knee, this time completely tearing the meniscus he had injured just a week before.

"When I did it, I thought I would probably be done," he said. "I was thinking this is my senior year and this will be the last game I will ever play in."

Fortunately for Polite, the injury did not turn out to be as serious as first feared. Polite underwent surgery Wednesday night to repair the tear in his knee, and if all goes well, he will return to the court as early as two weeks from now.

"He had surgery Wednesday night and it went well," head coach Rick Samuels said. "He's obviously sore, but the prognosis is good. We are hoping to have him back in seven days and perhaps playing in 10 days to two weeks. I have my fingers crossed."

For the time being, the Panthers will be without Polite and his 13.2 points per game average and Polite will be forced to retreat to an unfamiliar seat on the bench.

"He has been a starter since his sophomore year," Samuels said. "We are losing a wealth of experience as well as emotional toughness and on-court leadership."

While the Panthers will have to deal with the loss of Polite for the next two weeks, Polite will have to deal with the agony of watching his team helplessly from the end of the bench.

"It is going to be real tough," he said. "This



Mandy Marshall / Photo editor

Senior small forward Marc Polite attempts a jumper in Eastern's win over Tennessee State earlier this season. Polite reinjured his knee in the Panthers' win over Middle Tennessee State Tuesday. Polite underwent surgery Wednesday night and is expected back in the lineup in two weeks.

is the first time I have been injured in my career at Eastern. I have spent a lot of time laying up at night wondering why this had to happen now. But everything happens for a reason, and this is just something that happens in life."

Samuels agrees the next two weeks could be trying for Polite, but he has confidence his senior will return to his regular form.

"It would be tough for anybody, but Marc puts his heart into everything he does," Samuels said. "He will handle it, but it will be difficult for him. There is not a better example for people to look at in terms of a guy who commits. He never takes a day off. When he was injured the first time, he was on the sidelines during practices doing sit-ups."

on the

friday, january 21, 2000

VERGE

of the weekend



The Dorothy Perkins Trio
Featuring Special Guest Clarice Benson



Local Superheroes
Friction Machine



AND CHAMPAIGN/URBANA'S GLOBETROTTING PLAYBOYS
TUMMLER

by **tony scott**
Associate Verge editor

It was 27 years ago this weekend when the Supreme Court decision Roe v. Wade made the process of abortion legal. This weekend, four local bands will be performing for pro-choice activism in a Rock for Choice show at the Dungeon, located next to Friends & Co. at 509 Van Buren Ave. in Charleston.

Charleston bands Hit Gone Bad, Friction Machine and the Dorothy Perkins Trio (with special guest Clarice Benson) and Champaign rockers Tumbler will be hitting the stage at the Dungeon Friday, Jan. 21.

Hit Gone Bad is a surf rock combo with an interesting story to tell. Sometime in the 1970s, U.S. Special Agents Dick Hit, Harry Gone and Tom Bad were involved in a hit in a foreign land that went horribly wrong.

As a result, everyone from the Mafia to several terrorist groups have been out to get them, and the trio travels throughout the world disguised as a surf rock band. This summer, however, they allegedly contacted EIU students Phil Manning, Dave Johnson and Dave Gierhahn and trained them on surf guitar, bass and drums, respectively.

It is unknown whether fans will see the original Hit Gone Bad on Friday or Manning, Johnson and Gierhahn. Manning elaborated on his training from Special Agent Hit.

"He taught me a lot," Manning explained. "I've played in bands before, but Dick taught me some surf licks and stuff. Every now and then, they won't be able to show up for a gig just because there will be too much pressure by their enemies; it will be too dangerous for them to play, so myself and the other two guys I know will have to fill in for them."

The Verge staff was able to contact Hit in his bungalow in Guam, but he refused to comment.

Also playing the Rock for Choice show is Charleston funk-rock band Friction Machine. Drummer Jake Pope described the band's sound as a cross between the Red
see ROCK, page 3b

-Photo Credits-

Clockwise from upper left:
Dorothy Perkins Trio (L to R): J.B. Faires, Jim Standerfer, Clarice Benson, Jason Kottwitz. *Photo courtesy of the Dorothy Perkins Trio.*
Hit Gone Bad (L to R): Tom Bad, Dick Hit, Harry Gone (yes, we know their heads are gone; bother them about it). *Photo courtesy of Hit Gone Bad.*
Tumbler: *Photo courtesy of Tumbler.*
Friction Machine (L to R): Jake Pope, Pat Collins, Joe Sanner. *Photo by Tony Scott/Associate Verge editor.*



That Verge Column

Grammy = crappy

by **tony scott**
Associate Verge editor

Well, it's that time of year again: the nominees for the Grammy Awards were announced earlier this month, and next month the awards for prestige and artistic excellence will be handed out. And with this naming of nominees comes complaints from people who enjoy decent music.

It seems that this year, even more than years past, people who have real songwriting merit and musical ability are passed up for safer, cleaner, and better-looking substitutes. It's not that all of the nominees are god-awful; that job is given to the American Music Awards. Music veterans Bruce Springsteen, Tom Waits, and Carlos Santana all received nods from Grammy higher-ups, and so did lesser-known newcomers like blues songstress Susan Tedeschi and R&B singer Macy Gray.

The bulk of the nominees, though, are pre-pubescent talent have-nots like the Backstreet Boys and Britney Spears, who have had unfavorable reviews by both critics and music lovers alike, and songs that have worn out their welcome. For instance, why does it seem like the only examples of Latin American culture and music we had last year were "Livin' La Vida Loca" and "Bailamos?"

Well, I think I know the reason why this year's nominees are especially crap-ridden. I have recently learned that there is a complete, written-out list of criteria that judges use to pick nominees. And it just so happens that that list was changed last year with this year's picks in mind. This list is provided free of charge by the Grammy committee of TIRNTGC, or the This Is Really Not The Grammy Committee committee, on their web site.

Unfortunately, the web site address was burned in a very tragic and ambiguous accident some other night some time ago, so it is not available here. But I was able to save the list of criteria, and here it is.

1. Any and all nominees, from here forthwith, must have the talent level of an 8-year-old chimpanzee. If the nominee expresses intelligence of a 16-year-old kangaroo, he or she may be considered for nomination but must come before review of the TIRNTGC committee.
2. Any and all nominees must have no less than three (3) quarts of hair gel on their scalps at all hours of the day. In the case of females, they must spend no less than 95% of their day worrying about their hairstyle, and less than 2% on their songwriting or singing ability. Perky breast implants will help an artist's chances for nomination.
3. Any and all nominees capable of actually writing a song will be disqualified and/or placed in an obscure category that no one understands like "Best Rock Vocal In A Recording" or "Best Alternative Record."
4. Artists in a rock category (i.e., Kid Rock, Limp Bizkit, etc.) must take a genre that "they" created and claim it as their own. Mixing genres, such as hip hop and rock, must be considered new territory and pioneers like Faith No More, the Red Hot Chili Peppers and the Beastie Boys must be eliminated.

Well, that is all I can repeat here, but just remember, it could be worse. Then again, maybe not.

send comments or questions to tony via e-mail at shaft76@mailcity.com, or call 581-2812

Normally, ads would go here. This week, there are no ads here. Competent as some of us may be here at The Verge, we are not prepared for everything. So, instead of a really short story, we thought our fine readers should feast their eyes upon ...

The Verge Quotes of the Week

- "Animals, which move, have limbs and muscles. The Earth does not have limbs or muscles, therefore, it does not move."
- Scipio Chiaramonti, distinguished medieval scientist
- "My friends, no matter how rough the road may be, we can and we will never, never surrender to what is right."
- former Vice President Dan Quayle
- "I have a claustrophobia for heights."
- Lady Elizabeth "Kanga" Dale. "60 Minutes Australia"
- "I think we're capable of going exactly as far as we go."
- Ex-Boston Celtics coach Chris Ford

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Quote me

backstreet boys or 'n sync?



"I like 'N Sync better because they can dance."

- Ericka Doan, sophomore, communication disorders major



"I think 'N Sync is smarter and cuter."

- Allison Doan, sophomore, undeclared major



"Backstreet Boys because 'N Sync is terrible and I like no. 2 on the 'Millennium' CD."

- Lisa Judd, freshman, elementary education major



"Neither, because I got over New Kids on the Block 10 years ago."

- Angie Ballinger, sophomore, communication disorders major

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Dr. Steve Lane, O.D.

Witty script, sharp actors make for a fun 'Galaxy Quest'

by sean stangland
Verge editor

The advertising campaign for "Galaxy Quest" (rated PG) got it all wrong. From the previews and trailers, most would surmise that this latest offering from Dreamworks was nothing but a moronic kiddie flick rife with juvenile humor. Imagine my surprise when it turned out to be a sharply written "Star Trek" parody.

The star of the film is Tim Allen, a name that doesn't exactly inspire confidence in the hearts of ardent moviegoers. Allen's filmography almost reads like a list of the worst comedies of the 1990s: "The Santa Clause," "Jungle 2 Jungle," "For Richer or Poorer." In "Galaxy Quest," Allen seems to have found a role that suits him well.

Allen plays Jason Nesmith, an actor whose only claim to fame is that he starred as the captain of the starship Galaxy Quest on a '70s TV show of the same name. Allen is clearly aping William Shatner's Capt. James T. Kirk at every turn, from his corny delivery as the starship captain to his character's love for "Galaxy Quest" conventions.

Unlike Nesmith, the rest of the actors feel as if their fleeting television fame has doomed them. Alexander Dane (the droll Alan Rickman) is the most embarrassed of the group; he wanted to perform Shakespeare, and he has instead spent his career spouting Spock-like proverbs.

The film opens at a "Galaxy Quest" convention that ram-



Here's Tim Allen during his stint as Jethro Tull's bassist.
photo courtesy of www.darkhorizons.com

pantly mocks anyone who ever even thought of considering him- or herself a Trekkie. Fans are portrayed as psychotic losers who have nothing better to do than scrutinize every episode of a television show and worship their TV heroes as gods. If you've seen the documentary "Trekkies," you know that this isn't far from the truth.

A group of extremely eager convention-goers led by a man calling himself Malthesar (Enrico Colantoni of "Just Shoot Me") follow Nesmith home one night, telling him that he must join them on their spacecraft. Nesmith laughs this off as just another fan quirk; he soon finds himself on a real spacecraft with the fate of an entire alien race on his shoulders.

Malthesar's people picked up "Galaxy Quest" transmissions from space and took them as "historical records," leading them to believe that Nesmith really is the bravest space captain in the galaxy. They call on him and his reluctant crew to save them from Sarris, a nasty-looking green dude who seemingly does little more than make idle threats against his enemies.

Sounds pretty cheesy, doesn't it? For a while, "Galaxy Quest" is pretty cheesy, but in the best way possible. This film never takes itself seriously, and how could it? You've got octopus men in one corner and a sappy love story between Nesmith and his co-star Gwen (a newly blonde-haired Sigourney Weaver) in another corner.

While all this silliness is going on, you can't help but notice that the visual effects are particularly good and that most of the jokes are working. For example, human recruit Guy Fleegman (Sam Rockwell of "The Green Mile") is convinced that his number will be up at any time; after all, he played the ensign who got killed before the first commercial in his



Bowling becomes a team sport when you have to play with a ball this big.
photo courtesy of www.darkhorizons.com

episode of "Galaxy Quest." Sounds much like the curse of the red-shirted crewman from "Star Trek" to me.

The screenplay by first-timer David Howard and "Addicted to Love" scribe Robert Gordon is enhanced by a troupe of actors who play the material to the hilt. Allen, Weaver and Tony Shalhoub (playing a character who seems to regard his trek to the stars as a really "groovy trip") get the majority of laughs.

The only real problem with the film is the sloppy direction by Dean Parisot ("Home Fries"); many of the scenes carry on too long or are awkwardly staged. It's one of those things you can't put your finger on, but you know something's wrong.

Ultimately, "Galaxy Quest" isn't the greatest movie in the world, but it sure will put a smile on your face. Bring the kids and have a good time.

"Galaxy Quest"
Dreamworks Pictures
H H H

from ROCK, page 1b

Hot Chili Peppers and Nirvana.

"We just got together at the end of the summer [of 1999]," Pope said of the band's beginnings with bassist Joe Sanner and guitarist and vocalist Pat Collins.

Pope said that although a simple definition of his band's sound is funk-rock, the band fuses many different styles to make a sonic stew.

"We all listen to different types of music," Pope said. "It's kind of a melting pot of different styles."

Pope said Friction Machine has recorded a demo, and have plans to record professionally in about a month.

Also on the bill for Friday is Charleston's own Dorothy Perkins Trio, with special guest vocalist Clarice Benson. EIU grad Jim Standerfer, drummer for the band, credits Pope with the idea of a Charleston Rock for Choice show, and expounded on his feelings regarding the state of local rock in Charleston at the present time.

"The local music scene is kind of pathetic, but it used to be really good," Standerfer said.

Rock for Choice, Standerfer explained, is a national organization and a subsidiary of the Feminist Majority Foundation of California. Pope had ordered some Rock for Choice merchandise over their web site, Standerfer said, and with the merchandise came instructions on how to promote a local Rock for Choice show.

Nationally known musicians such as Eddie Vedder and Rage Against the Machine are staunch supporters of the Rock for Choice organization, Standerfer said.

Standerfer explained that the money raised from the event will go toward the Rock for Choice organization, and added that the organization provided promotional materials and merchandise to sell.

"We had to rent a little bit of sound equipment," he said of he and Pope's monetary involvement in the show. "We're not

looking to make any money."

The Dorothy Perkins Trio, ironically, has no one named Dorothy Perkins in the band. The name is "all sort of wrapped in mystery," Standerfer explained.

The four musicians, including Standerfer on drums, J.B. Faires on bass, Jason Kottwitz on guitar and Benson on vocals, have all been in a previous musical venture together called Bigelow.

"There's no denying that we're a rock n' roll band," Standerfer remarked, adding that the band's rock n' roll influences range from Led Zeppelin to Black Sabbath and that Faires graduated with a degree in jazz studies.

"It all blends together and sort of becomes rock n' roll music with a lot of character," Standerfer said.

Another rock band with a lot of character coming to the Dungeon Friday is Champaign-Urbana's Tumbler. The band's bassist, Dr. Stephen Hill, said fans usually comment on the band's style.

"I would have to say that we hear the words 'fuzzed-out '70s rock' more than anything," Hill said. The band is comprised of Hill, Brad Buldak on guitar and vocals, Cas on guitar, and J.Vance on drums.

According to Hill, Tumbler will be making their first appearance in Charleston on Friday.

"I'm sure it will be nothing short of our finest performance to date, though," Hill said.

Hill explained that Tumbler has just ended a tour with Alabama Thunder Pussy and Solarized, and have also played with the Gaza Strippers and L7. Tumbler fans can also expect an album in the near future.

"We are talking to a few labels right now and should be releasing an album during the summer," Hill wrote.

There will be a \$5 cover for the show, and doors will open at 7:30 p.m.



Who	When	Where	Price	Phone
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Dr. Wu	9 p.m. Fri. Jan. 21	Gunner Buc's (Mattoon)	\$3	235-0123
John Pennell, Donna Nelson	10 p.m. Fri. Jan. 21	Mike and Molly's (Champaign)	\$3	355-1236
Keith Hardon	5 p.m. Fri. Jan. 21	City of New Orleans (Champaign)	free	359-2489
Faculty Panio Recital	3 p.m. Sun. Jan. 23	Dvorak Concert Hall	free	581-3010
Krush	9 p.m. Sat. Jan. 22	Top of the Roc	\$3	348-8018
Sojourn	9 p.m. Sat. Jan. 22	Gunner Buc's	\$4	235-0123
Golden Egg	9:30 p.m. Sat. Jan. 22	City of New Orleans (Champaign)	\$5	359-2489
Hello Dali	10:30 p.m. Wed. Jan. 26	Rathskellar in MLK Union	\$1	
Campus Perk	10 p.m. Thurs. Jan. 27	Thomas Hall	free	581-3595
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True life depression makes a 'Girl, Interrupted'

by stella link
Staff writer

Isolation, loneliness, and deafening solitude were portrayed in Susanna Kaysen's autobiographical book, "Girl, Interrupted," which has now become a major motion picture from Columbia Pictures.

The story of Kaysen (Winona Ryder), a young institutionalized mental patient at Claymoore Asylum with a borderline personality disorder, unfolds as she triumphs over her own mental instability with only her journal to unleash her thoughts. Well-known patients Ray Charles, Sylvia Plath, and James Taylor are some of the famous names who were put into the hospital for one reason or another with the likes of Susanna, who wants to be a famous author, but cannot get a start because she has not gone to college.

Winona Ryder remembered her time as a former 19-year-old in a memorable stay at a 5-day insanity ward to get into the Susanna character. Ryder has quite bravely stepped forward in recent years to admit her own struggles with depression.

She is not alone in her battles against her own self-longing for freedom from the boundaries of life. A number of other celebrities have come out publicly to

reveal their bouts with depression and mental illness. "Girl, Interrupted" is a lavish tribute towards anyone who has suffered with these instabilities.

Set in the 1960s, the story revolves around a web of complex patients with disorders such as anorexia, panic attacks and personal confusions about self-identities. Each girl has a different background which unfolds in the story, along with joking stabs at hospital nurses, as well as the dry wit of young adult head cases struggling for identity and acceptance.

Lisa (Angelina Jolie) plays the high strung, chaotic young woman who has been in the Claymoore institution for about 8 years, bounced from ward to ward in an obvious attempt to improve her psychological instability. Susanna doesn't immediately become attached to Lisa as a friend because of her inner torment and self-propelled rage mixed with a dangerously seductive nature. Her sociopathic violence leads her to harming her new friends, despite all the love and kindness they have given to her. When Susanna first moves into the institution, she only has feelings of abandonment by her parents who pushed her into this decision to get therapy.

At the beginning of the movie, Susanna falls into the outrageousness of suicide by



Peekaboo! Angelina sees you ...

photo courtesy of movies.yahoo.com

downing a bottle of aspirin with a bottle of vodka. After this half-hearted suicide attempt, she is sent to a psychiatrist who quickly diagnoses her with Borderline Personality Disorder - "manifested by uncertainty about self-image, long-term goals, types of friends or lovers to have, and which values to adopt" - and whisks her away to Claymoore Hospital.

Here, Susanna meets an eclectic group of troubled young women who become the most prominent people in her life because they all care deeply about each other as soul mates in their new found friendships. Among Susanna's friends comes Daisy, played by Brittany Murphy (who was involved in the sardonic high school movie "Clueless"), who plummets herself into the role of an anorexic rotisserie chicken enthusiast with a dinner table drift towards laxative pills.

Her move towards a "daddy's girl" image becomes a reward from her father with an apartment of her own, away from the insanities of adolescent torments. Polly (Elizabeth Moss) is another one of Susanna's cohorts, who was burned severely and is contrasted by her rubbery skin. Throughout the movie, she feels outwardly different compared to the other girls because she used to be extremely beautiful, but now becomes put under the influence of bad luck.

Georgina (Clea Duvall) is the girl filled with joy towards a fantasy land of books, but her outside life is full of troubles. Ultimately, Susanna must choose between the world of those who belong on the inside of the institution and the difficult world of reality on the outside. Guided by determined ward nurse Valerie (Whoopi Goldberg) and the hospital's head psychiatrist, Dr. Wick (Vanessa Redgrave), Susanna, like Dorothy from Oz, resolves to leave the "analogous universe" behind, reclaim her independence and continue life on her own - and on her own terms.

This film made me laugh, cry, and shed away the outer layers of my imagination for two hours. The book and film were both filled with humor, hatred of life, as well as heartbreak from a loss of friends.

"Girl, Interrupted" is an extreme tear jerker, brimming with an inner home of darkness where no one knows your name, identity or background; the film makes the viewer embody that character.

For more information on the saga of "Girl, Interrupted," go to www.girlinterrupted.com. For more information on borderline personality disorder, visit <http://www.bpdcentral.com/>.

"Girl, Interrupted"
Columbia Pictures
H H H H



No, guys, this is not the pre-cursor to the girl-on-girl action you were all hoping for from this movie. Sorry.

photo courtesy of movies.yahoo.com

Tarble art exhibit showcases multi-cultural spirituality

by amanda jacobson
Staff writer

This month, the Tarble Arts Center will be hosting an art exhibition titled Altars and Icons. The two featured artists are Christina Emmanuel and Nancy Josephson, two prominent artists who deal with the religious and spiritual. The artists' works embody Latin culture and African-Catholic religions. The artists' sculptures will be on display in the main galleries from Jan. 22 to Feb. 27.

Christina Emmanuel lives and works in Rio Grande, Puerto Rico. Emanuel is a pioneer in the revitalization of Latino visual arts; her work combines autobiographical, romantic, and religious materials. The theme of her installation is titled Milagros (Miracles). The work

relates to healing and suffering, but rather than physical cures, Emmanuel's focus remains on spiritual regeneration.

"Articulating the difference between spirituality and religion is of great interest to me, and also the function of religious acts as a way of focusing the mind," Emmanuel said.

"In the process of creating my art, I initially work from the unconscious," says Emmanuel. "The images 'come' to me and I give them form. As I go through this process, I begin to see at a conscious level what the connections are ... I understand it to be akin to the dreaming process. Upon awakening, if we write down our dream, we begin to make connections with the most profound parts of our being, as the personal and universal manifest in archetypal form."

Emmanuel's work has appeared in two traveling exhibi-

tions and at exhibition venues across the United States. She will be giving an Artist's Talk Friday, January 21 at 4 p.m.

The second artist in the Altars and Icons exhibition is sculptor Nancy Josephson. This Chicago artist's piece is titled Mystere Pou Gran Bois. It is described by the artist as giving "a body to the [traditional vodou] spirit which suggests an all-seeing judge."

Josephson will be hosting an Artist's Talk of her own on Feb. 16 at 7 p.m.

Admission to the exhibit is free to the public and there is free visitor parking in the 9th street lot as marked. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday; closed Mondays and holidays. For additional information, call 581-2787 or find the web site at <http://www.eiu.edu/~tarble>.

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It's not super, but it certainly does suck

by **christopher weedman**
Staff writer

Due to the negative press surrounding the new sci-fi thriller "Supernova," I found myself becoming rather apprehensive walking into the theater. Sitting through a terrible film is not exactly my idea of having fun. I was surprised to find that the film was not as terrible as everyone had reported. It was actually much worse. I had entered the film expecting to see nothing and came out with a lot less.

The film begins in an unknown region of outer space during the 22nd century. A medical research ship, the *Nightingale*, receives an emergency distress call from a stranded young man in another galaxy. The ship's veteran captain (Robert Forster) decides to come to his aid.

After risking their lives to leap galaxies, the crew rescues the young man, Troy Larson (Peter Facinelli). He informs them that he was left behind by a scavenging crew looking for mining materials to sell on

the black market.

To the crew's surprise, their new ship-mate is not what he claims to be. Troy is actually a deranged madman who receives superhuman strength from a container of pink space matter. No, I am not kidding.

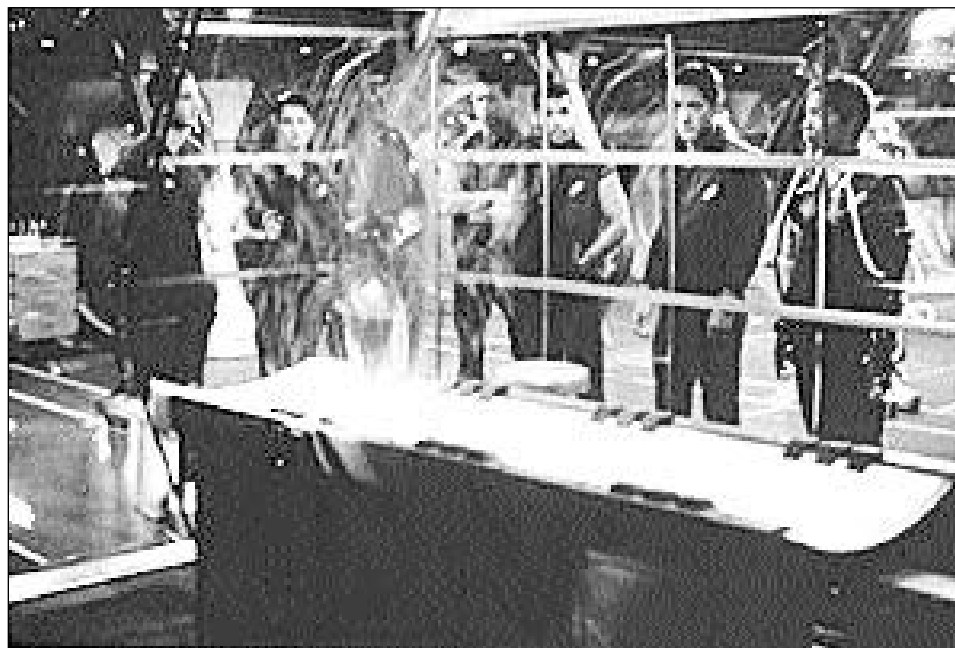
For reasons that are never entirely clear, Troy begins to pick off each of the crew members one by one until there are only a few left to stop him.

"Supernova" is so worthless and inept that the film's director, Walter Hill, did not even want his name listed on the credits. The studio awarded him the pseudonym Thomas Lee, and that is the name credited.

It is astonishing that a film this bad could have come from the hands of the usually dependable Hill. During the 1970s and early 1980s, Hill was known as one of the most stylish purveyors of macho action films in Hollywood. His credits include "48 Hrs.," "Hard Times" and the cult favorite "The Warriors."

Shortly after wrapping up filming, Hill left the production due to an argument with Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer and did not supervise the editing of the film.

Reportedly, acclaimed director Francis Ford Coppola took over after Hill's departure and tried to save the film through editing. He did not succeed. It goes to show that not even the man who brought us "Apocalypse



The cast of "Supernova" stands in disbelief as they watch their careers actually end during the filming of the movie.

photo courtesy of www.darkhorizons.com



"Look, Ricky, how many times do I have to tell you I'm NOT Tom Cruise's evil twin?!!!"

photo courtesy of www.darkhorizons.com

Now", "The Godfather" and "The Conversation" can make a silk purse out of a sow's ear.

The unimaginative screenplay by David Campbell Wilson borrows heavily from the "Alien" films (all produced by Hill), "The Thing" and countless other creature films. No attempt is made to bring anything fresh to the festivities.

Another problem with this lackluster thriller is the casting of James Spader ("Sex, Lies and Videotape") in the role of the film's central action hero. While Spader is a fine character actor, he is horribly over-the-top here.

Sporting an atypical muscle-bound physique and an inaudible low-pitched voice, Spader appears to be aping Clint Eastwood from Sergio Leone's spaghetti westerns. Spader fails to realize that no one does Eastwood like Eastwood.

Unfortunately, the acting supplied by the

film's supporting players - Forster, Facinelli, Angela Bassett, Lou Diamond Phillips, Robin Tunney and Wilson Cruz - is also below par. Bassett looks especially embarrassed as the crew's chief medical officer.

Surprisingly for a PG-13 film, "Supernova" contains a great deal of sexual activity. I do not know about you, but if I was being stalked by a demented killer in outer space, the last thing I would want to be doing is making love!

As I got up to leave the theater, I heard a man in back of me say to his friends: "Whose idea was it to see this movie? I haven't seen one that bad forever."

Oh, how right he was!

"Supernova"
Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer
H

Alt-country CDs show artists at their y'alternative best

by **tony scott**
Associate Verge editor

The world of alt-country is an interesting one. It's filled with brokenhearted lovers and hoedowning hillbillies, with singing cowboys and manic depressive playboys. But as interesting as it is, it hasn't gotten as much as an approving nod from the music-buying public.

Two recent releases by two fantastic artists, however, may at least throw a few glances in the direction of this burgeoning underground movement that some call insurgent country, some call cowpunk and others refer to as "No Depression." Neko Case, the sometimes-drummer for a Canadian punk-pop trio called Maow, is one of those artists who, although pigeonholed in one of the above-mentioned categories, uses her experiences in other genres to broaden her music.

Her latest album, "Furnace Room Lullaby," touches on everything from light, breezy acoustic melodies, such as those in "Porchlight," to dark honky-tonk on "Mood to Burn Bridges," moving-down-the-highway country on "Whip the Blankets" and shuffling sweetness on "No Need to Cry."

This album is gorgeous from start to finish, moving from room to musical room like a manic depressive cowgirl swinging from mood to mood. Case takes the listener on a journey, from gut-wrenching heartbreak ("Twist the Knife") to life in a boring town ("Thrice All American").

But as alone as Case makes the listener feel, she had a lot of help herself on this album from fellow alt-country musicians and songwriters like Bob Egan, who himself has played with alt-country giants Wilco and Freakwater, and singer-songwriter Ron Sexsmith, who has drawn comparisons to Elvis Costello through his recent work.

Another artist in the alt-country kingdom of music, Robbie Fulks, has also released an album recently, although it technically can't be considered new since it contains mostly previously unreleased older material and a few other rarities.

"The Very Best of Robbie Fulks" is kind of a strong title, since it really can't compare to his classics "Country Love Songs" and "South Mouth," but it packs enough punch to draw the attention of this fan.

The collection is interesting to say the least, and includes a duet with country songbird Kelly Willis and some behind-the-scenes work from legendary Chicago producer Steve Albini (Nirvana, Poster Children, Jon Spencer Blues Explosion).

Fulks has some very eclectic tastes, a fan of everyone from Louis Prima to the Velvet Underground, and showcases them on this album. He highlights that eclecticism in the instrumental bluegrass jam "Hamilton County Breakdown" and the child-like storytelling of Moon Mullican's "Wedding of the Blues."

The man also has one hell of a sense of humor, and takes a nice dig at popular culture with a musical rant called "Roots Rock Weirdos" in which he tells the tale of people

"dressed up like it's 1951." He also throws in some hear-breaking humor, along with Milwaukee songwriter John Sieger, on "You Break It—You Pay."

But the highlights are definitely those where Fulks sits down with his pen and writes up a catchy little tune. His duet with Willis, "Parallel Bars," is 100 percent pure country cheese, but is so catchy it's tough not to sing along, and the Western swing of "Love Ain't Nothin'" is also a toe-tapping little ditty to get over your girlfriend to.

Speaking of getting over women, Fulks has a few nice stories to tell with some unbelievably fantastic lyrics. There is the bitterness of "I Just Want to Meet the Man" and the even more bitter "May the Best Man Win" [Note that the title is actually quite sarcastic].

Overall, both of these albums are worth a music fan's time and money, and are quite listenable, despite the unlistenable title of "alt-country." Oh, well, I've always liked the term "y'alternative" anyway.

"Furnace Room Lullaby"
Neko Case and Her Boyfriends
Bloodshot Records
H H H H

"The Very Best of Robbie Fulks"
Robbie Fulks
Bloodshot Records
H H H 1/2

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Anderson's brilliance continues with epic 'Magnolia'

by sean stangland
Verge editor

Last week, I told you that I placed two films in a virtual tie for the title as 1999's best film ("American Beauty" and "The Green Mile"). Add a third to the list.

"Magnolia" (rated R for vulgarity, violence and sexuality) is only Paul Thomas Anderson's third film, yet it clearly cements his status as one of the best directors in Hollywood. He began with the little-seen, "Hard Eight" (1997), made a

name for himself with 1997's critically-acclaimed, "Boogie Nights," and now delivers a film so epic and matured that one could barely believe it was conceived by a filmmaker in the early stages of his career.

"Magnolia" could be called an anthology of stories, except that the stories all unfold at once, not one at a time. Characters drift in and out of each other's storylines, just as the film drifts in and out of each individual character's world. Credit Anderson's masterful screenplay and direction for never letting the narration get confusing or taxing for the audience.

Anderson uses many of the same actors and crew members that he has on his two previous films. Appearing in the current film are "Hard Eight" alums Philip Baker Hall, John C. Reilly, and Philip Seymour Hoffman, who were also all in "Boogie Nights" with fellow "Magnolia" co-stars, Julianne Moore, William H. Macy, and Melora Walters. They all give terrific performances; if ever a movie made a case for the creation of a Best Acting Ensemble Oscar, this is it.

The tapestry of characters includes a TV producer near the end of his life (Jason Robards), his younger trophy wife (Moore), his sympathetic caretaker (Hoffman), a frustrated game show host (Hall), his cocaine-addicted daughter (Walters), a former child celebrity (Macy) and so on and so forth. All of these personalities are intriguing, and all of them are given great perfor-



Jason Robards isn't dying of cancer; he's dying from the unbelievable stench of Julianne Moore's breath.

photo courtesy of movies.yahoo.com



"I am Cruise, hear me roar!"

photo courtesy of movies.yahoo.com

mances.

If one had to pick a main character out of all this, it would be cop Jim Kurring, played by John C. Reilly as the straightest arrow on the L.A. beat. Kurring talks to himself in his patrol car as if he was narrating an episode of "Cops," and these lonely soliloquies become a sort of narration for the movie. Reilly should garner an Oscar nomination for this film, but will likely be overshadowed by one of co-stars.

The media have been hyping Tom Cruise's turn as a male chauvinist/motivational speaker for months, and they sure should have been. Cruise is more energized and effective than he ever has been in the role of Frank T.J. Mackey, a man who makes his living teaching men how to "Seduce and Destroy" the women around them. His character is cold and crass, but also bares his soul in a climactic emotional scene that is one of the film's highlights.

Helping to connect the story threads is a score by Jon Brion, peppered with songs by Aimee Mann. The music tells the film's story as effectively as much of the dialogue does, and music also provides the film with its best scene.

Claudia Wilson Gator (Melora Walters), a woman who blames her father for her life's destruction, sits alone in her apartment, snorting cocaine and listening

to a CD. She begins to sing along with Aimee Mann's sad song, and the movie cuts to the other major characters in the story. They are all alone, all similarly defeated by life, and all are singing along with that same song, even though they are not listening to it. It is a moment that brings things together, a moment that shows the characters in their most spiritually-naked state and a moment that sums up why Paul Thomas Anderson is now one of the five or ten best filmmakers working today.

"Magnolia" is a very long film, but it does not seem to take anywhere near three hours to unfold. It is a masterful work of genuine emotion, an ode to the tragedies that we all overcome to make our lives work. And, like many of the films from 1999, it contains a totally unexpected plot twist at the end, although this one is probably the most shockingly weird of all plot twists from the last year.

The film has not played in Charleston yet, but it's worth a trip to Champaign or wherever else it is playing to see it. It is a wonderful capper to what I consider the best movie year of my lifetime.

"Magnolia"
New Line Cinema
H H H H

Cable channel rides the 'Who Wants to Be a Millionaire' wave all the way to the bank

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Clenching his fist in celebration, Game Show Network President Michael Fleming looks at the numbers on a piece of paper with a sense of wonder.

They're television ratings from the night before, but have nothing to do with his network. Rather, they indicate another stunningly large audience for ABC's quiz craze, "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire." For Fleming, that's the next best thing.

You would think now would be a great time to be running a cable network devoted to game shows, and you'd be right.

The previously little-noticed Game Show Network is surfing the wave of interest in "Millionaire." It is gaining in

viewers, attention and, most importantly at this stage, in cable systems that offer its service.

"It does, in some way, justify what we've always known — that this is a very powerful genre of programming," said Jake Tauber, a former "Match Game" writer who is head of programming at GSN.

In December, the Game Show Network was added to cable systems in 1.8 million homes, nearly double the best month ever in its five-year history. Roughly one-quarter of the nation's television homes have access to the network.

It has always had to struggle to be noticed by the people who decide which networks are picked up by cable systems, Fleming said. They tend to be middle-age white males, a group that traditionally has little interest in game

shows.

"Now they are calling us instead of us calling them," Tauber said.

Viewers of the Game Show Network get a steady diet of classic quizzes and a handful of originals, like "Inquisition," a challenging test of knowledge with an impatient mystery man as host, and "3's a Crowd," a remake of a relationship show with host Alan Thicke.

The classics, including "Match Game," "Family Feud" and "The Newlywed Game," are like a look into a time capsule with excruciating haircuts, clothing styles and social mores. The late "Match Game" host Gene Rayburn's leer is definitely the product of a different era.

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