

Gospel Explosion 2004 set for Sunday at EIU

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CHARLESTON — Those looking for a quiet getaway this weekend might want to steer clear of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union on the campus of Eastern Illinois University. There'll be a Gospel Explosion going on there. Several area groups and soloists plan to perform during this 11th annual event, taking place in conjunction with African-American Heritage Celebration 2004. Admission to the performances, scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. Sunday in the Grand Ballroom, is free and open to the public. Scheduled performers include the Unity Gospel Choir, comprised of students enrolled at EIU; the Second Missionary Baptist Church of Mattoon; Psalms of Praise, a campus gospel group; and the New Covenant Praise Team. Faculty member Mildred Pearson and former EIU student Kaleb Searcy also will share their talents with the audience. "This will be an opportunity for those who have never heard traditional black gospel music to finally hear it," said Claude Magee, event organizer and director of Eastern's TRIO Program.