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Daily Eastern News: April 01, 2014

Eastern Illinois University

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THOMAS HALL TUNNEL
The RHA event Tunnel of Oppression raises awareness about major social and cultural issues that currently affect the nation.

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JENNINGS JUGGLES SCHOOL, FOOTBALL
Brian Jennings carries a football around with him wherever he goes. The sophomore running back said it keeps him in check for his job on the field.

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Candidate prepared to fight 'no confidence'

By Jarad Jarmon
Associate News Editor | @JJarmonReporter

Editor's note: The Daily Eastern News will be taking a more in-depth look into the candidates for the student vice president for student affairs and the student vice president for academic affairs later in the week.

Only one of the four student government executive positions, excluding the student senate speaker, is contested this year.

While Lauren Price, the vice-chairwoman for the Student Senate Action Team, and Brandon Goodman, the Student Senate Speaker, fight it out campaigning to prove themselves more worthy for the executive position than the other, Reggie Thedford is fighting an entirely different battle.

Instead of another candidate, Thedford, the current student affairs committee chairman, will be competing against the "no confidence" option on the ballot April 7 midnight until April 8 midnight.

In some ways it is more terrifying to have another candidate running to understand where the opponent is coming from, Thedford said.

"I wish there was another individual I could run against because I want to feel like I did earn the spot," Thedford said.

He added he still had not one the election yet forcing him to stay in game and focused. When he realized he wanted to run for the position, he said it was necessary in his mind to run a joint campaign with Price.

"You have a running mate just to make the campaigning a little more appealing," "It combines both of our visions into something bigger," Thedford said.

To fulfill these visions like starting a leadership conference on campus to eventually become an annual in the future, Thedford would get co-sponsorships to significantly help pull off this grand undertaking especially with the lack of increase in the student government budget.

Thedford said he uses a guide, which had been beneficial to him previously looking for co-sponsorships. He had previously gotten co-sponsorships to fully support some of the Blue Crew's, a student spirit group that attends Eastern sporting events, cheer events he had coordinated in the past.

Thedford said he had a template he used to pick up co-sponsorships.

He is expecting to get larger registered student organizations and university support to offset the undetermined price of the conference.

"Ideally, it wouldn't just be coming out of the student government budget," Thedford said. "Hopefully, it will be a collaborative effort."

In Thedford's vision of the conference, student leaders in RSOs and in other avenues will be able to attend workshops to enhance their skills as a leader. He plans to have a constitution writing, executive position etiquette, time management, executive role in RSOs, organizational communication enhancement, and utilizing resources workshop.

He would plan to have more workshops for the conference when it comes time adding he would be open to suggestion. For potential student leaders interested in the convention, current student leaders could sponsor them giving them access to these workshops.

"I think with any student not having an executive role, it can be a challenge," Thedford said. "I think the leadership conference would be beneficial for them."

The conference would also serve as an experience for RSOs to network with other RSOs outside Pantherpalooza, Thedford said.

"Pantherpalooza is mainly for students to learn general information about the RSO," Thedford said.

He expected the conference to be more interactive and to increase communication between the RSOs.

He also said he wanted to campaign for improvements to the cultural center. While Dan Nadler, the vice president for student affairs, and others in the student affairs department are also planning to improve the building, Thedford wanted to make sure he had an active role in the process.

A big issue the department is finding is an issue with funding, especially with cuts expected to be made throughout the university.

Thedford said he had ways in which to fund the improvements including having brick campaign where RSOs can sponsor a brick on the cultural center and it would be placed on the cultural center.

CONFIDENCE, page 5



KATIE SMITH | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Reggie Thedford runs unopposed in the student body president election to take place April 7 at midnight until April 8 at midnight. He is hoping to get a leadership conference started if he is elected.

Faculty Senate election results complete

By Bob Galuski
Managing Editor | @BobGaluski

Faculty Senate election results have been tallied and totaled with various faculty members filling in the different committees and organizations.

Out of the 421 registered voters, 172 cast their vote in the 2014 election.

Grant Sterling, a philosophy professor, led the round of Faculty Senate positions. For Faculty Senate, there were five at-large positions available to fill.

Sterling had 125 of the votes, followed by Jeff Stowell, a psychology professor with 120 votes. Jemmie Robertson, a music professor, tied with Stefan Eckert, a music professor with 88 votes each.

Amy Rosenstein, a special education professor, sealed the final spot for Faculty Senate with 77 votes.

For the Academic Program Elimination Review Committee, there were two spots available. One came from an at-large position, which Jeanne Okrasinski, an education professor, won.

The second spot needed a representative from the College of Science. James Conwell, a physics professor, was elected for this spot.

The Admission Appeal Review Committee had all ties for the representative

BREAKING DOWN THE NUMBERS

172 Cast votes

421 Registered voters

5 CONTENDERS

Tied for College of Education & Professional Studies Rep

CANDIDATES	NUMBER OF VOTES
Grant Sterling	125
Jeff Stowell	120
Jemmie Robertson	88
Stefan Eckert	88
Amy Rosenstein	77

from the College of Education and Professional Studies.

Mei-Ling Li, a special education professor, James Barkley, a recreation administration professor, Jennifer Stringfellow, a special education professor, Mildred Pearson, an education professor and Kathlene Shank, the department chair for special education, all tied with one vote each.

However, for the Admission Appeal Review Committee representative from the College of Science, Linda Ghent, the department chair of economics, was elected.

Luke Steinke, a professor in the school of technology, won the representative po-

sition for the Admission Appeal Review Committee from the Lumpkin College of Business and Applied Sciences.

The Council on Academic Affairs had three spots to fill – two at-large and one from the Lumpkin College of Business and Applied Sciences.

Debra Reid, a history professor, and Rebecca Throneburg, a communication disorder and sciences professor, both won the at-large representation.

Rick Wilkinson, a family and consumer sciences professor, won for the representation of the Lumpkin College of Business and Applied Sciences.

The Council on Faculty Research needed only spot, and that was from the

College of Education and Professional Studies. Rosenstein won that position with 14 votes.

The Council on Graduate Studies had four positions to fill. Ed Wehrle, a history professor, won the one position from the College of Arts and Humanities. Two positions were needed from the College of Education and Professional Studies. Kiran Padmaraju, an education professor and Melissa Jones, a special education professor, both snagged the two open spots.

The College of Sciences also needed a representative. Chris Laingen, a geology-geography professor, was elected to this position.

For the Council on Teacher Education, three spots needed to be filled. Kathryn Havercroft, a special education professor, won for the College of Education and Professional Studies.

Marshall Lassak, a mathematics and computer science professor, won for the College of Sciences. Jerry Cloward, a professor in the school of technology, won for the Lumpkin College of Business and Applied Sciences.

The Council of University Planning and Budget needed two spots filled – one from the College of Education and Professional Studies, which Gloria Leitschuh, a counseling and student development professor, won, and a spot from the College of Sciences, which went to Steve Daniels, a physics professor.

The Enrollment Management Advisory Committee also had two spots open. Dawn Paulson, an education professor, won for the College of Education and Professional Studies, while Rick Anderson, a mathematics and computer science professor, won for the College of Sciences.

The Sanctions and Terminations Hearing Committee had three spots available. Steve Brantley, a library services professor, won the only at-large opening.

ELECTION, page 5

Local weather

TODAY

WEDNESDAY



Sunny
High: 59°
Low: 43°



Rain
High: 58°
Low: 50°

For more weather visit castle.eiu.edu/weather.

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Sunny day shenanigans



DION MCNEAL | DAILY EASTERN NEWS

(Left to right) Anthony Embry, an Alpha Phi Alpha alumni; Brandal Miles, a senior kinesiology major; and Dimarcko Gray, a senior management information systems major, spent their evening in the warm temperature playing football with other Eastern students.

Panel to explore interfaith beliefs on animals, morals

By Brian Hartman
Staff Reporter | @DEN_News

Booth Library will host an Interfaith Panel on Tuesday where animal welfare will be the center of discussion.

Kirstin Duffin, a reference librarian at Booth Library said the panelists will be speaking on the topic of stewardship of animals and the earth in scripture and practice.

The event will be at 7 p.m. in Newman Catholic Center's main gathering area.

"The panel offers an opportunity to learn about shared values among a variety of faiths. Audience members will hear from the perspectives of Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism. Those who attend will be able to pose questions for the panelists to answer," Duffin said.

Duffin said the audience should be able to come away with a better understanding of morals between faiths.

"I hope audience members will walk away from the panel with an understanding that our moral code, as hu-

mans, is quite commonly similar, regardless of individuals' spiritual beliefs," she said.

Three Eastern professors will sit on the panel.

Jyoti Panjwani, an English professor, will represent Hinduism; Jaysinha Shinde, a business professor, will represent Islam; and Duangrudi Suksang, an English professor, will represent Buddhism.

Roy Lanham, director of campus ministry for Newman Catholic Center, will be the representative for Christianity; and Carly Froomkin Burak, the engagement coordinator at the Illini Hillel-Cohen Center for Jewish Life in Champaign, will be the Judaism representative.

Moderating the panel will be Dannie Otto, a philosophy professor.

The panel presentation is a part of Booth Library's "Let's Talk About It: Muslim Journeys" series, and is related to Eastern's Humanities Center's guest lecturer Jessica Pierce who spoke last week on end-of-life care for animal companions.

Duffin said the series is a grant-funded book discussion series that Booth Library was awarded from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Library Association.

Booth Library has hosted multiple events in conjunction with the series.

"Already this semester, we've had film screenings, book talks and a student research panel featuring EIU undergraduate and graduate students," Duffin said.

The grant also gave Booth Library a collection of books and DVDs that Duffin encourages the public to check them out to explore more about the culture and religion of Islam.

The series will continue throughout the Spring 2014 semester. There are two more events related to the series still to come. A discussion of poetry will be on April 9, and another panel discussion on April 15.

Duffin said that all of the events are free and are open to the public.

Brian Hartman can be reached at 581-2812 or bjhartman@eiu.edu.

BLOTTER

Burglary reported in Charleston

- A stalking report was taken at 3:12 a.m. Saturday at Andrews Hall. This incident is under investigation.

- A burglary was reported at 9:07 a.m. Saturday in Lantz Arena. This incident is under investigation.

- A residential burglary was reported at 11:52 a.m. Saturday in Thomas Hall. This incident is under investigation.

- A disorderly conduct was reported at 3:31 a.m. Monday at Taylor Hall. This incident is under investigation.



‘Tunnel’ to let students see new viewpoint

By Nicole Ellement
Staff Reporter | @DEN_News

The typically vacant first floor of the north tower of Thomas Hall will be filled with the Tunnel of Oppression Tuesday.

As a part of a weeklong event, Social Justice and Diversity Week, sponsored by the Residence Housing Association and Housing and Dining Services, students are going to be given the opportunity to experience different events and scenarios that others, and maybe even themselves, go through daily.

The Tunnel of Oppression is one of the events planned and will be from 3 p.m. until 6 p.m. Tuesday.

Housing and Dining Services has reached out to organizations and committees on campus to participate. Some of the organizations include PRIDE, Counseling Services, Women’s Empowerment and Community Service, who is partnering with local groups such as PADS. There will also be rooms for those who suffer from depression and for African American students.

The Tunnel of Oppression is going to be using roughly 10 rooms and the bathroom on the first floor and each organization will be in a different room, with the exception of some using more than one room.

Students are going to be able to go on tours of these rooms anytime between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. on Tuesday, and each committee has something different planned for each room.

Some of the groups are going to be acting out scenarios or situations that students affiliated in these groups experience.

Other committees are filling the room with posters, quotes or sayings of how they feel, think or react to issues they are faced with.



SHEA LAZANSKY | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Mario McCart, a senior English education major, applies fake blood to Kate Ferdon, a senior special education major, so she can participate in one of the two rooms sponsored by PRIDE during RHA’s Tunnel of Oppression on March 29 and March 30, 2012. The event raised awareness about major social and cultural issues that currently affect the nation.

“We want students to get a better perspective and to view things through a different lens.”

- Shane Thomas, associate resident director in Ford Hall

Shane Thomas, the associate resident director in Ford Hall, said this is his first year assisting in the planning for the Tunnel of Oppression.

He said he did not give specific rules or guidelines for the organizations to follow, but rather just invited the groups and is letting them do what they want with the time they are given.

The students will spend on average five to eight minutes in each room, totaling a 35-45 minute tour. The event is free, snacks will be provided, and students are free to show up at anytime between 3-6

p.m. – there are no limitations and all are welcome, Thomas said.

The Social Justice, Diversity and Community Engagement Committee, through Housing and Dining Services, reached out to the organizations late last November.

The event was done in the fall of 2011, and was a two-day event that took place in Carman Hall. Thomas said because it has not gone on in a while it will be new to almost everyone and no one knows fully what to expect.

“We want students to get a better perspective and to view things through a different lens,” Thomas

said. “To view things that happens on our campus and in our country from a different viewpoint, even though most students do not experience them personally.”

He said students going into the rooms should enter with an open mind and try to embrace everything going on around them, and realize how each room can impact them, their family members or their friends.

“Some of the rooms may impact others more personally because we assume we will have people that fit in that category, and for a lot of people it will be a lot of reflecting of how the issues impact them,” Thomas said.

Social Justice and Diversity week begins Monday.

Nicole Ellement can be reached at 581-2812 or dennewsdesk@gmail.com.

CAA to host final learning goals forum

By Jack Cruikshank
Staff Reporter | @DEN_News

The Council on Academic Affairs will host the sixth and final learning goals forum for faculty and staff at 10 a.m. Tuesday in the Arcola-Tuscola Room of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

Wesley Allan, a psychology professor, will be presenting the workshop where they will review quantitative learning and its integration into all the academic areas of Eastern.

Stephen Lucas, the secondary education and foundations department chairman, said quantitative learning does not apply only to mathematics and sciences fields.

“Quantitative reasoning is important as a goal because virtually every academic discipline has quantitative aspects to it,” CAA member Lucas said. “Even fields such as literary studies and linguistics are now employing statistical methods to analyze writing and speaking in order to develop deeper understanding.”

Lucas said the integration of quantitative skills is a vital skill in today’s post-collegiate world.

“We want all EIU graduates to have fundamental quantitative skills in order to make better decisions as citizens, workers, and leaders,” Lucas said. “Our increasingly complex and technological world requires quantitative reasoning skills in day-to-day life and work.”

Lucas said he thinks the learning goals forums have been going well, and he feels that the various learning goals faculty groups have worked together well in the five workshops presented so far.

“I think the various learning goals groups have done a terrific job in creating workshops that have not only presented good information, but have had an interactive format, such as breakout sessions, that have enabled (the CAA) to develop some new ideas based on faculty feedback,” Lucas said.

For more information on the learning goals or to view videos and resources from previous forums, those interested can go to the learning goals page of the Eastern website.

Jack Cruikshank can be reached at 581-2812 or jdcruikshank@eiu.edu.

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STAFF EDITORIAL

Vacancies can lead to uncertainty

It seems like one bomb is dropped right after the other around here: enrollment in a decline, pension reform striking out at retirement-hopefuls, and now it seems as if administrative figures are marching out.

With the announcement on Thursday that President Bill Perry would not be extending his contract at its end in June 2015 and Athletic Director Barbara Burke is accepting a job at Tulane University, it seems like it's time to get out while you still can.

Although it is a massive coincidence that Perry and Burke both announced their decision to vacate Eastern on the same day, it does present the university in a state of uncertainty.

For prospective students who are looking at Eastern, this should send signals up. Former head coach Dino Babers left earlier in the year, taking his staff with him. Now Perry and Burke – two high-ranking administrators – have decided to up and leave. While presidents stepping down and athletic directors leaving for better opportunities are not out of the ordinary, the timing is something to think about.

Currently the Council on Planning and Budget is discussing how to best cut \$7 million from the budget, and faculty are worried for their jobs.

Enrollment is on a downward spiral and state funding is nearly non-existent. With the state of Illinois and Eastern hazy at best, our leaders are heading out.

It's not that the fact they are leaving should be worrisome, it is however bothersome that the timing seems too perfect. Dark clouds have loomed over Eastern when it comes to state funding and enrollment and pensions, and now the common thought is "Get out while you still can."

Although intentions are innocent and ordinary, because of the timing it sends out the wrong signals. Instead of giving prospective students a certain staff of educators and administrators, it gives them uncertainty.

These seems like bleak times for Eastern and the staff leaving does not give it much hope. This should be a period of rebuilding, not deconstruction.

Without a stable staff Eastern will stay in a state of flux for a few years as new people shift over and new policies are enacted. While the university does evolve, it should not evolve all at once and especially at such a turbulent time.

There should be some sort of security during this kind of situation and instead all Eastern gets are people leaving high and dry.

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

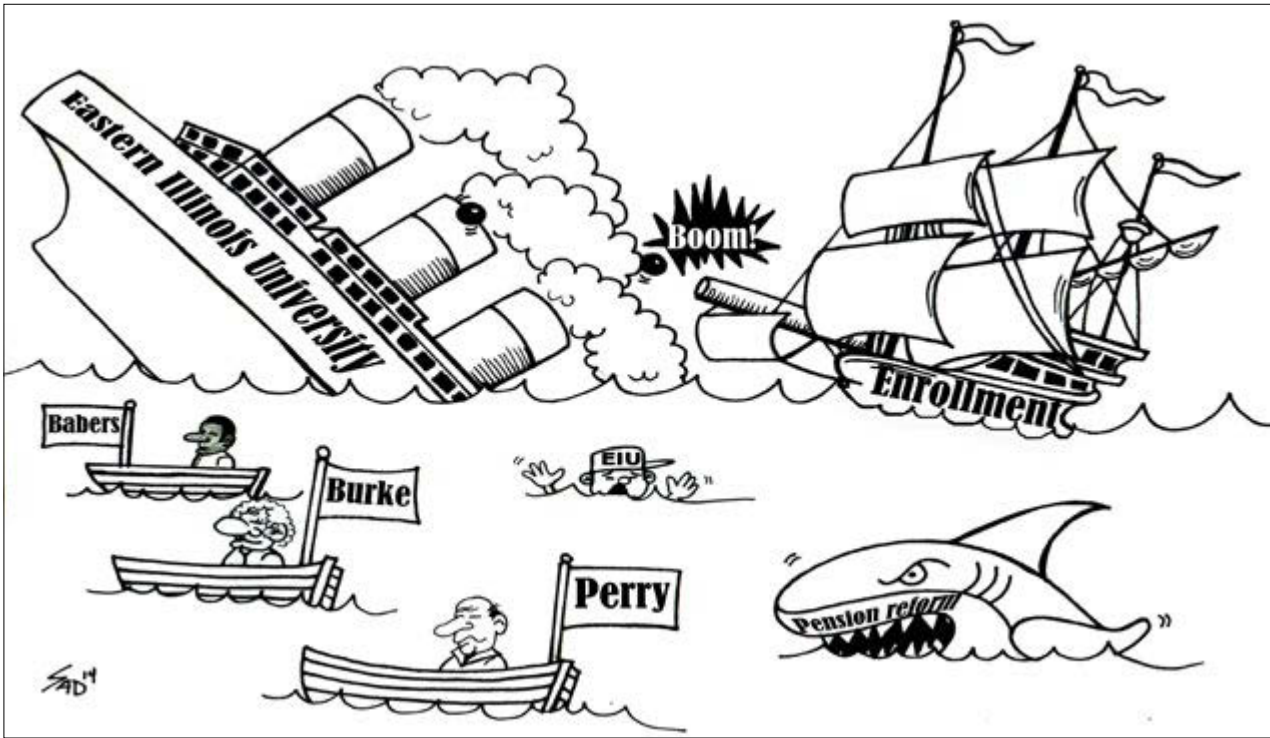
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FROM THE EASEL



SABRINA ANN DUNCAN | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

We are turning into a nation of fools

Only two weeks before the looming tax deadline, we find ourselves at a day originally defined by an argument during the middle-ages over when the new year began. Those that celebrated the new year on the 1st of January mocked those that held a week long celebration that ended on the 1st of April. Now, we have our elected leaders in both Springfield/Chicago and Washington, D.C., mocking our common sense with their continued fiscal recklessness.

Representatives and Senators from both parties have been, and continue to be, completely irresponsible with "our" money. That's right, it's our money. We vote for them to be our proxies in the business of managing our nation's governmental bureaucracy. But, instead of engaging in rational fiscal practices, they treat our tax dollars as their own personal reelection funds.

It is purely common sense that you can only spend what you have. Taking out a loan for something substantial, like a home, is one of the few purchase decisions that merits going into debt. Yet, our glorious leaders at all levels of government, rack up charge after charge in the name of public good and drive us deeper and deeper into debt. The current federal budget deficit stands at 17.5 trillion dollars.



Brian Weaver

Yes, that is trillion. The debt keeps going up by over 2.7 billion per day!

Would you or I be allowed to keep spending that way and keep our homes or businesses? No, of course not. So, why do we do nothing while our elected officials behave so insanely with our economic well-being? Put simply, it's selfishness. Think I'm wrong. What happens whenever that rarity of a responsible politician attempts to cut our government's spending? Not reduce the amount of increase, but actually cut the budget?

Every time some brave, idealistic soul marshals their courage and proposes legislation to cut some program, earmark, department, or anything at all, the howls of outrage erupt from whichever special interest group is impacted by this. If this happens to effect our own lives in any way, we usually join the howl-

ing, rabid masses in calling for the removal of that insensitive politico from office. It doesn't matter if they're right about the need to cut spending, it only matters that somebody is upset about it.

Most state governments have enacted so-called "Balanced Budget Amendments" to give the illusion that they are serious about curbing our bloated budgets. These amendments often have numerous options to get around the spending restrictions if the legislatures really, really feel it's necessary. Guess how often that happens.

The bottom line is that it's our own fault. We have failed in our responsibility to keep an eye on our elected officials and keep reelecting them while expecting different results - the definition of insanity. Until we as a nation rise up and say enough is enough, our government bunglers will keep spending the way they do. Maybe, just maybe, we could start by limiting the federal government to powers specifically given it in the Constitution. Nothing more. Time to stop being foolish, America.

Brian Weaver is a history major. He can be reached at 581-2812 or DENopinions@gmail.com

Growing up doesn't have to make you boring

Before I walked out the door the other day, I took that last look in the mirror, like I'm sure most people do. I do this almost every day, and largely, I never think anything of it. It's essentially the final part of my routine before I face the day. I'm 21 years old now, barely an adult, but still legally one. When I looked in the mirror the other day, I saw myself and I just said, "This is not an adult."

I don't know what it was. I just knew at that moment that I was still a kid. Just a big, grown kid. Adults don't have a haircut like I do. Adults don't wear Social Distortion hoodies and baseball caps every day. Adults don't listen to music coming out of headphones. Adults are copy-pasted, cookie cutter, cut and dry. Boring, really. Right?

I came across this documentary called "The Other F Word," which profiled a number of aging punk rockers trying to adapt to a new life of fatherhood. For so long, they had sung about defying authority, not listening to your parents, doing whatever you want, but now the tables have turned. They were the authority. They were the parents. For some, the transition was easier than other. Blink 182 bassist Mark Hoppus talked about how strange it



Dominic Renzetti

was that he finally had to buy the clean version of his record to play for his kids in the car. NOFX bassist Fat Mike, on the other hand, chose to change seemingly little about his personality, still being the loud, flamboyant person he is.

The biggest thing was, though, they didn't instantly turn into the dad from "Leave It To Beaver." Just because you grow up and are met with new challenges, doesn't mean you have to totally change who you are. You can still be fun. You can still be original. You don't have to be, you know, boring.

Over the weekend, a good friend of mine, who isn't that much older than me, got married. I feel like marriage is something I've been actively trying to avoid for awhile now,

and not because I'm afraid of commitment or because I'm worried about not finding the right person. I'm certain those things will come. I think more so what I'm trying to put off is being an adult. I don't think marriage is a decision you can make when you're a kid. In my friend's case, he isn't a kid. He and his now wife both have jobs, their own place, and all that. But when I look in the mirror, just like I do each day, I still see a kid.

Eventually, I will have to change a little bit. I will have to put on a nice shirt, get a real job, and, as scary as it sounds, provide for other people. It's not that I don't think it will ever happen. It will. It happens to everyone, and if it doesn't, you'll probably end up in a gutter. But when it does happen, and when I do look in the mirror before I head to my real job with my nice shirt, I might not see the same kid I see today, but I'm definitely not going to be looking at Ward Cleaver. Just because you grow up, doesn't mean it all has to change.

Dominic Renzetti is a family and consumer sciences major. He can be reached at 581-2812 or DENopinions@gmail.com

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» **CONFIDENCE**
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“A lot of students want to come back and see their name on something to know that they left something here,” Thedford said. “It could serve as a graduation present.”

He would also plan to improve student awareness of the building.

“I am pushing for improvements because students don’t know about it,” Thedford said.

He added it might lead potential multi-cultural students coming to Eastern knowing the cultural center is a big thing for campus.

Student Body President Kaylia Eskew said if elected, it is important to for Thedford to get out of the office in the Student Activities Center. She added there are over 8,000 students and they are not cooped up in the center.

Handling the student government budget is also a major duty required of the position. While he has never handled a budget of this scale, it is not foreign to him. He has had to handle budgeting movies as the University Board movies coordinator. Eskew’s term ends June 30. If the students vote “no confidence” for Thedford, a special election will have to be set up before the start of the new school year.

“I am treating “no confidence” as my opponent,” Thedford said.

Jarad Jarmon can be reached at 581-2812 or jsjarmon@eiu.edu .

» **ELECTION**
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Paulson won the representation of the College of Education and Professional Studies. Nicole Mulvey, a communication disorders and sciences professor, won the representation of the College of Sciences.

Five contenders tied for the University Personnel Committee for the representation of the College of Education and Professional Studies.

Kathy Phillips, a health studies professor, Stringfellow, Pearson, Christy Hooser, a special education professor, and Rosenstein all tied with one vote each.

The University Personnel Committee also had a tie between Angela Vietto, an English professor, and Katherine Shaw, an FCS professor with three votes each. They were contending for the at-large representation.

The University Personnel Committee also selected a representative from the College of Arts and Humanities, which went to Bailey Young, a history professor.

The Faculty Senate will meet at 2 p.m. Tuesday in the Conference Room of Booth Library, where the results will be discussed.

Bob Galuski can be reached at 581-2812 or dennewsdesk@gmail.com.

Harry Potter potion pals



KATIE SMITH | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS
Kathryn Caulkins, a freshman English major, makes a potion during a Harry Potter Club meeting Monday in the Coleman Hall auditorium. The group used materials including glass bottles, jars, glitter and sand to concoct their own “potions.” The Harry Potter Soundtrack played in the background. Harry Potter Club meets every Monday at 6 p.m.

Tai Chi classes offered to balance life

By Logan Pullen
Staff Reporter | @DEN_News

Tai Chi, also known as “supreme ultimate boxing” is being offered at the Academy of Lifelong Learning Center, Tuesday through April 17.

Tai Chi is a form of Chinese martial arts that can help put life in balance, help with relaxation and relieve stress.

Suzi Coffman, the instructor for the Tai Chi class, said Tai Chi is beneficial in dealing with stress and increases flexibility.

“In fact, the Chinese use Tai Chi as a form of healthcare,” Coffman said. “A 90-year-old started here with a cane and after a few months of Tai Chi, no

“A 90-year-old started here with a cane and after a few months of Tai Chi, no cane was needed.”

There are other stories shared around the world about the benefits of Tai Chi such as Francesco Garripoli, who teaches a form of Tai Chi, getting in a serious motorcycle accident and fighting for his life — doctors told him he’d never walk again.

He had an incredible transformative experience, Coffman said.

His state of health and qual-

Suzi Coffman, Tai Chi instructor

ity of life hinged on his ability to draw from Tai Chi, Coffman said. Today Garripoli functions just as he did before.

Tai Chi is not necessarily fighting, but more of breathing techniques and movements to relieve stress and pain, she said.

Coffman said it is easy to do and even people with health limitations can modify their movements to work on their craft.

For those worried about the

religion aspect of Tai Chi, the art form itself is not a religion, but a change in belief system, Coffman said. Coffman said people just have to have an open mind.

The class will be offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. at the Academy of Lifelong Learning Center starting Tuesday.

The fee is \$40 for Academy members and \$80 for non-members.

“We can all use balance and stress relief from our everyday lives,” Coffman said.

Logan Pullen can be reached at 581-2812 or lbpullen@eiu.edu.

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Poor pitching, defense lead to practice changes

By Aldo Soto
Assistant Sports Editor | @AldoSoto21

Eastern’s pitching staff allowed 39 runs, the team’s defense committed nine errors and Eastern baseball coach Jim Schmitz saw his Panthers swept at home by Ohio Valley Conference foe Jacksonville State.

Schmitz said it was time for a change, following Sunday’s 8-6 series finale loss, which was Eastern’s fifth straight conference loss of the season that dropped the Panthers to 2-7 in the OVC – second to last behind Tennessee-Martin in the standings.

“Right now, I’m looking at OVC stats only, not games against Arkansas and Mississippi State, but we’re last in pitching and we’re last in defense,” Schmitz said. “That’s the problem in a nutshell and the changes will come in the way we practice.”

Schmitz is 27 games into his 20th season coaching Eastern’s baseball team and has always been more of a hitter’s type of coach, but the emphasis on pitching and defense has been raised, starting Monday.

“Being indoor in the fieldhouse all this time, we put a whole lot of attention on hitting in the offseason and that’s the change in practice, we’re really going to be defense and pitching oriented,” Schmitz said.

In their nine games in conference play, with three-game series against Southern Illinois-Edwardsville, Austin Peay and Jacksonville State, respectively, the Panthers have made 19 errors.

During that same nine-game stretch, Eastern pitchers have accumulated a 7.24 ERA, allowing 66 earned runs. With the 19 errors in conference play, the Panthers have surrendered an additional 21 unearned runs.

Eastern will begin to devote double the amount of its practice time to pitching and defense than it has through the first seven weeks of the season, Schmitz said.

“Sometimes we do defense when hitting is going on during practice, so there’s not that attention to detail – fungos are being hit and they’re fielding ground balls, but it’s not live,” Schmitz said.

With more time being dedicated to taking live ground balls, the Eastern fielders would feel more pressure similar to what it would feel like during a game, as they have the visual of having to throw runners out during practice, Schmitz said.

Against Jacksonville State, the Pan-



KATIE SMITH | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Troy Vandenbroek, a freshman outfielder, watches his teammates from the dugout Friday at Coaches Stadium. The Panthers lost 8-2 to Jacksonville State. The team take on Illinois State at 3 p.m. Tuesday in Normal.

thers were charged with 13 unearned runs coming from their nine errors.

Eastern back on the road

Eastern is back on the road after playing eight straight games at Coaches Stadium and will play Illinois State Tuesday afternoon.

The Redbirds are 17-8 overall this season and are coming off an 11-1 win over Indiana State Sunday that improved their record to 4-2 in the Missouri Valley Conference.

Illinois State’s projected starter is Will Headean, who is 0-1 with a 10.61 ERA in seven appearances. He will be making his second start of the year Tuesday.

Eastern lost left-handed pitcher Christian Slazinik to a hamstring injury Sunday against Jacksonville State, which does not bode well to the Panthers’ dwindling bullpen, Schmitz said.

Although he believes Slazinik is not ruled out for the remainder of the season, Schmitz said the red-shirt junior would be re-evaluated by the end of the week.

With Slazinik’s injury and Joe

Greenfield’s inconsistent pitching this season, Schmitz still has not settled on who will pitch against Illinois State and has not yet decided who would be his third starter against Murray State.

Following a three-game sweep, Schmitz is looking forward to simply getting back on the field, he said.

“In football, if you lose two week-ends in a row, it’s three weeks until the next time you get out there with a chance to win,” Schmitz said. “Baseball is good, in that when you have a bad weekend, you’re right back up on the horse.”

First pitch is scheduled for 3 p.m. Tuesday at Bob Warn Field in Normal.

Who’s hot, who’s not

Red-shirt sophomore Demetre Taylor hit .500 (8-for-16) in four games – one against Saint Louis and three against Jacksonville State.

Taylor hit three home runs against the Gamecocks, including two Saturday against Casey Antley in Eastern’s 23-15 loss.

The Tampa, Fla., native drove in

nine runs and scored six times, while also reaching base an additional three times with walks. Taylor currently leads the OVC in conference-only games with a .909 slugging percentage, which measures a hitter’s power.

Overall, he is batting .362, with four home runs and 29 RBIs, with an on-base percentage of .450.

Junior Caleb Howell leads the OVC with a .500 batting average in OVC games and is coming off an 8-for-16 week.

Eastern’s leadoff man scored six runs in four games and also had three RBIs, while getting on base three more times with two walks and one hit by pitch.

Howell leads Eastern with an overall .429 batting average and a .492 on-base percentage. In OVC play, Howell has a .581 on-base percentage, which is tied with Austin Peay’s Cayce Bredlau for a conference-best mark.

Senior pitcher Joe Greenfield made two appearances out of Eastern’s bullpen against Jacksonville State and picked up consecutive losses on Saturday and Sunday.

In the Panthers’ eight-run loss Saturday, Eastern allowed 13 runs with two outs in the seventh inning, five coming against Greenfield who did not record an out after giving up two hits and three walks and also throwing two wild pitches.

Sunday, he took the loss, being charged with two runs (one earned) on four hits and a walk.

Greenfield has a 6.28 overall ERA and has allowed 43 hits in 28.2 innings, giving up 20 earned runs.

Freshman Frankie Perrone is 3-for-28 (.107) in his last nine games, striking out nine times. In Friday’s series-opener against the Gamecocks, Perrone was 0-for-4 with two strikeouts.

In the final two games of the series, he was relegated to pinch-hitting duties, as he went 1-for-2 with a run scored.

In 25 games this season, Perrone is hitting .253 with three home runs and 12 RBIs.

Aldo Soto can be reached at 581-2812 or asoto2@eiu.edu.

Check the sports section tomorrow for all your Panther updates!

» SECURITY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

“It’s new offense, so I’d be learning either way,” Jennings said.

So far, Eastern running back coach Danny Nutt said he likes what he has seen from the Decatur MacArthur High School product.

While at Arkansas under the same position, Nutt coached NFL running backs Darren McFadden, Felix Jones and Peyton Hillis.

“He’s not as shifty as Shepard (Little) and not as much of a bull as Peyton (Hillis), but he has a good mixture of both,” Nutt said.

He said Jennings had an impressive

20-yard run in the Panthers’ second spring practice, which proved the athleticism and physicality he had to become a fullback Eastern is in search for.

At 5-foot-10, 200 pounds, Jennings has come a long way, Nutt said, but still has room to improve.

“Put another 10 pounds on him and work on his blocking, and he’s there,” Nutt said.

Anthony Catezone can be reached at 581-2812 or ajcatezone@eiu.edu.

» RALLY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Mennenga gave up five hits, while walking two batters in the nightcap. She also struck out six batters and hit another.

Murray State wound leaving eight batters on base in the evening matchup with the panthers, as they had multiple opportunities to score runners. Mennenga pitched well, and did not allow any Racer runners to score in the contest.

Eastern offensively scored three runs, one in the second, one in the fifth and one more in the seventh inning. Hannah Cole scored on a wild pitch, in the second

inning after reaching base on a double.

Jennette Isaac added to Eastern’s lead in the fifth inning as she doubled down the left field line scoring Carly Westover.

Bailey O’Dell then capitalized the Panther victory with a seventh inning solo home run.

Eastern came away from the three-game set with Murray State at 23-10, 4-3 in the Ohio Valley Conference while Murray State is now 16-16, 5-4 in the OVC.

Kaz Darzinskis can be reached at 581-2812 or kcdarzinskis@eiu.edu.

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KATIE SMITH | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Brian Jennings, a sophomore journalism major from Decatur, carries a football with him around campus wherever he goes as a way to practice holding on to the ball. Jennings was invited to play in the National Underclassman All-Star game following his senior season at Decatur MacArthur High School. He played in three games last season for the Panthers.

BALL SECURITY | Sophomore running back never leaves home without football

By Anthony Catezone
Sports Editor | @AnthonyCatz

Editor's note: This is the second installment in a series about Eastern athletes in the offseason of their sport.

If Brian Jennings is on campus, he won't be alone.

A football will be tucked away securely under Jennings' arm, as he makes his daily trek from class-to-class.

"It's to incorporate ball security — the most important thing for a running back," Jennings said. "I use it as free practice."

Jennings, a sophomore running back for the Eastern football team, saw teammate Shepard Little doing the same technique during pregame

"I just chose to take it to another level and started carrying it to class."

—Brian Jennings, sophomore running back

meetings inside the hotels for away games last season and decided to pick the idea up and run with it.

"I just chose to take it to another level and started carrying it to class," Jennings said.

Just like in a game or practice, Jennings' ball security is never easy.

If teammates walk past Jennings on campus, they will surely try to take the ball away.

"The thing is, if they get it, I owe them 10 pushups on the spot," Jennings said.

But Jennings has only had to do 30 pushups this year, as only three Pan-

thers have stripped the ball from him, to his recollection.

Just three were successful in taking the ball away from Jennings: red-shirt junior running back Reggie Box, sophomore safety Vince Speller and red-shirt offensive lineman Xzavier McAllister.

"Those are the three big guys," Jennings said.

He mostly gets the ball stripped inside Douglas Hall, when Jennings is in a relaxed position.

The only time Jennings was stripped of the ball outside, though, the time he remembers the most, was

at the hands of Box.

It came just outside of McAfee Gym at the east entrance.

"I wasn't paying attention," Jennings said. "He was talking to me and I walked off. The next thing I know, the ball just popped out. He went underneath the ball."

Jennings did his 10 pushups there on the sidewalk, but since then, no one else has been able to take the ball away from him on campus.

Incorporating carrying a football into his daily routine is not the only thing Jennings had picked up on since coming to Eastern.

With its new coaching staff, Eastern has also seen a new offensive game plan implemented.

Former coach Dino Babers' rapid play style left no need for a fullback,

making the position obsolete to the Panthers the past two seasons.

This season, however, the Panthers are trying to blend up-tempo with the capability to slow the offense down on a dime.

That is where Jennings comes in. "It's more of an athletic position than what you would think of for a traditional fullback," Jennings said.

The Decatur native said he has to learn the aspect of not only the running the ball, but also utilizing his role on option routes, whether it be blocking or catching out of the backfield.

Jennings said the learning curve with a position change is not too steep for him, as he is already learning a new system.

SECURITY, page 7

Racers' rally drops Eastern in OVC showdown

By Kaz Darzinskis
Staff Reporter | @DEN_Sports

Jocelynn Rodgers' walk-off grand slam for Murray State in the bottom of the seventh inning downed the Eastern softball team 6-4 Monday in Murray, Ky.

With the Racers' trailing 4-2, Rodgers homered to left field off a 0-1 count with two outs, scoring Mallory Young, Casey Castile and Jessica Twaddle to give Murray State the victory after losing a double-header to Eastern Saturday.

Murray State scored all of its six runs in the final two innings.

Senior Stephanie Maday started the rubber match for the Panthers, pitching 5.1 innings, giving up one earned run on seven hits.

Maday also struck out three batters, while walking two.



In the top of the first inning, after a Carly Willert ground out, senior Brooke Owens walked, and senior Reynae Hutchinson hit single, placing runners on the corner for junior Hannah Cole.

Hutchinson then stole second base, moving two runners into scoring position for Cole.

She responded with a single, which drove in two runs, and allowed Cole to advance to second base on the throw.

Eastern then added another run in the fourth inning off a single by sophomore pinch hitter Kylie Bennett, who singled through the left side as the bases were loaded.

Bennett had come in to pinch hit

 MURRAY STATE 15-15, 5-4 (OVC)	6-4 RACER FIELD MARTIN, KY.	 EASTERN ILLINOIS 23-10, 4-3 (OVC)
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for senior infielder Ashleigh Westover.

After Bennett's single, with the bases still loaded, Willert walked to bring in another run, putting the Panthers up 4-0.

The comfortable lead would not last as the Racers kept chipping away at Panther pitching.

Maday ran into trouble in the bottom of the sixth inning, giving

up a run after a walk and two singles.

Costly errors did not help Eastern's cause, as it committed three in the final game with Murray State.

Senior Hanna Mennenga then came on in relief for Maday, and she was hit hard after the third straight game pitching against Murray State.

Mennenga pitched 1.1 innings and received the loss, putting her at

14-3 on the season.

Mennenga, in just more than one inning of work, gave up five earned runs on three hits, also walking two batters.

She used 50 pitches in 1.1 innings of work, where Maday used 98 pitches in 5.1 innings.

The Panthers got off to a hot start Sunday, beating Murray State in the series-opener, 7-1.

Mennenga was again called upon to pitch in game two of the double-header, after throwing a complete game in the first contest.

Mennenga pitched seven more innings en route to a Panther victory.

This time she posted a shutout with Eastern winning 3-0.

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