

2-3-2014

## Daily Eastern News: Feburary 03, 2014

Eastern Illinois University

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## BIRTHDAY WISHES

Freshman forward Jake Verhagen steps in to help the men's basketball team beat Southern Illinois University - Edwardsville.

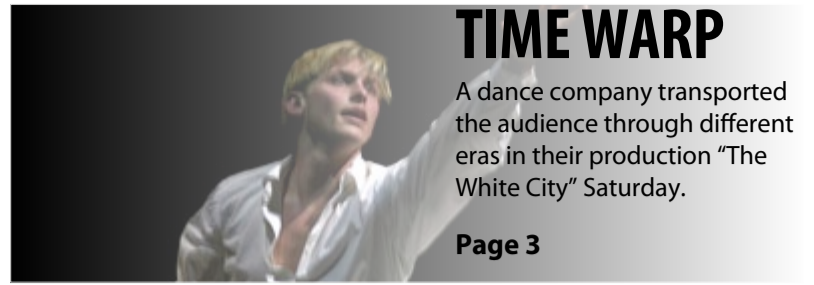
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## TIME WARP

A dance company transported the audience through different eras in their production "The White City" Saturday.

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# THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Monday, Feb. 3, 2014

"TELL THE TRUTH AND DON'T BE AFRAID"

VOL. 98 | NO. 92

## Voter Registration Drive less successful than hoped

By Jarad Jarmon  
Associate News Editor | @JJarmonReporter

Throughout last week, student government tried to encourage students who have not already done so to register to vote for upcoming elections.

Student government, as well as everyone who sponsored and helped out, such as the Pan Hellenic Conference, Inter-Fraternity Council, Alpha Phi Alpha, College Democrats and College Republicans, did not reach their goal of registering 1,000 students, but came short with only 375 people registered.

Executive Vice President Mitch Gurick said a number of factors led to a lack of registration. He said the type of elections being run on campus have an impact of the successfulness of the voter registration campaign. Presidential election years have a higher turn out.

The elections taking place this year are all state elections. This year's elections include the race for U.S. senator, governor, Lt. governor, attorney general, secretary of state, comptroller, treasurer and state senator for the 55th state district and state representative for the 110th District.

There are also some major local elections taking place including the county clerk, treasurer and sheriff, regional superintendent of schools and the circuit court judge retentions. Positions will also be open for the county board districts three, four, six, seven, nine and 10.

A good portion of students they came in contact with about voter registration were either already registered, wanted to be registered in their hometown or didn't feel they were knowledgeable enough to vote on particular candidates so they did not feel right registering, Gurick said.

Not being able to reach his goal, Gurick said he was disappointed and believed it important for students to care and vote.

"Students live in this district in this community and the university makes up about half the population of Charleston," Mitch said. "It is important for the students to have a voice and to have an opinion and make sure the that the candidates realize that the university does exist here."

While he did not reach his goal, Gurick said he was very proud with the support from the volunteers.

"They were very enthusiastic," Gurick said. "They did an outstanding job trying to convince students to register."

Roughly 100 volunteers helped out luring people to come to the voter registration tables outside the Food Court and at the entrance of Coleman. This was the first year student government have put up tables in Coleman, which Gurick said helped in reaching out to more people.

Gurick also made sure those volunteering had ways to make people stay and register instead of walk past.

"We gave people 10 reasons why they should vote," Gurick said.

VOTERS, page 5

## Super Sunday



DION MCNEAL | DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Lisa Walker, the Thomas Hall Area Director and other students help set up food and a screen projector Sunday in the lobby of Thomas Hall before the Super Bowl. Residents were invited to eat snacks and watch the live screening of the game.

## Pepsi yields no profit in Eastern partnership

By Jack Cruikshank  
Administration Editor | @DEN\_News

Since 2008, Eastern has received \$303,000 annually from Pepsi as a part of the contract between Eastern and the beverage distributor.

While Eastern is contracted with Pepsi until 2018, Eastern's treasurer Paul McCann said throughout all of Eastern's Pepsi sales, there has "never" been profit.

McCann said Eastern receives a commission based upon the amount of product it buys or sells, but the university never sells enough to merit an increase in commission.

"We never hit the amount in the contract to increase it," McCann said. "For all the years we have been with them, we get the same amount, and it is a base amount. \$303,000 in total."

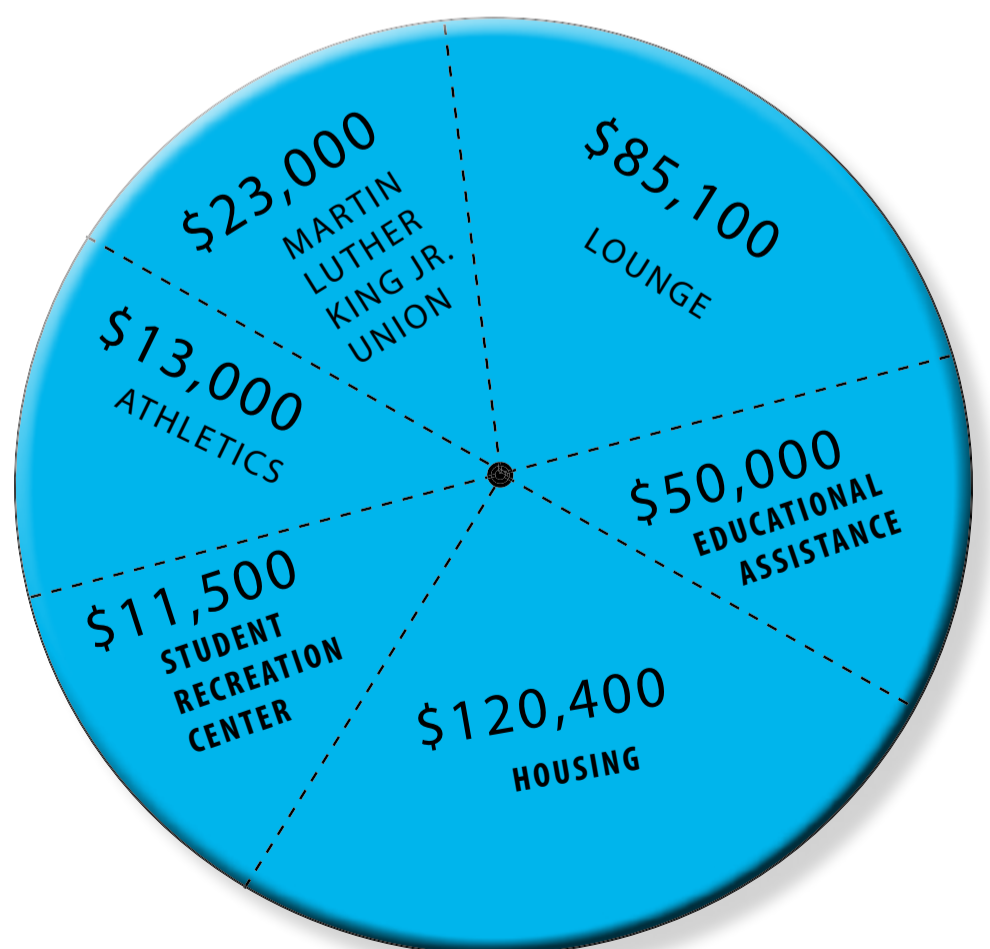
Of that \$303,000, \$230,000 of it is straight commission, \$50,000 goes to the president in an educational assistance fund, \$13,000 goes to athletics, and \$10,000 goes to housing.

Of the portion that goes to housing, McCann said it is used for a scholarship every year.

According to an April 2008 press release, Pepsi has been the sole beverage provider for Eastern since 1998.

The contract with Pepsi was originally signed in 1998, and the contract lasted five years, at which time Eastern took the option to extend it another five.

Then, in 2008, Eastern re-bid the contract for beverages around campus, and Pepsi again won the contract, which will last until 2018.



GRAPHIC BY MEGAN IVEY | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Eastern renewed their contract with Pepsi through 2018, receiving a total of \$303,000 annually. Housing receives the greatest sector of profit at \$120,400, allotting \$10,000 for scholarship.

McCann said the sole factor when determining who to award the contract was the price of the product even though the contract

added the three annual stipends to the president, athletics and housing.

PEPSI, page 5



# Local weather

TODAY TUESDAY



Partly Cloudy  
High: 26°  
Low: 15°



Snow/Rain Mix  
High: 29°  
Low: 18°

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# THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

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KATIE SMITH | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Big Blue Mountain performs bluegrass music Saturday at Jackson Avenue Coffee. The band composed a set list of 27 songs to fill their two-hour time slot for their performance, which Porter said showed off their "signature sound."

# Big Blue Mountain plays acoustic show

By Blake Warman  
Staff Reporter | @DEN\_News

Cold weather, hot coffee and bluegrass music all made up components of Saturday when Big Blue Mountain took to the stage.

Whether it was the nasty winter weather, an absent member of the band or a violin string breaking, but nothing could bring the spirits down for Big Blue Mountain.

Cullen Porter, Kris Bertrand, Don Drake and Missy Meiners put on a show for the patrons of Jackson Avenue Coffee.

Bertrand first introduced her violinist skills in the all-instrumental song, "Soldier's Joy."

However, shortly after "Soldier's Joy," Bertrand broke two strings on her violin, which she was unable to restring during the performance, and prompted them to have an intermission.

Bertrand said when the strings broke she was not too worried about it because of the multiple instruments in the band. She added there were plenty of songs that did not need the violin.

With a set list consisting of 27 songs during a two-hour time slot the band utilized all the time they had to showcase their musical talents. The concert kicked off with the fast-paced song "Eight More Miles To Louisville," originally by



KATIE SMITH | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Cullen Porter plays the mandolin with his band, Big Blue Mountain, Saturday evening at Jackson Avenue Coffee. Porter said the band is able to easily pick up the harmonizing tones throughout the performance because they have been together for so long.

Grandpa Jones.

From the very beginning of their performance they showed off what Porter described as their "signature sound." This musical signature sound would be the band's four part harmonies and rollicking sound.

Porter is the only member of the band to switch off instruments throughout the performance. He went from the guitar to the mandolin to the ukulele as the night wore on.

Porter said his biggest preference

was the mandolin.

Porter said the band is able to easily pick up the harmonizing tones throughout the performance because they have been together for so long.

He said if it was his choice, they would harmonize the entire performance instead of taking breaks.

Big Blue Mountain is a fully acoustic band, which means they do not need electric instruments, something Porter said he prefers.

He said the band is able to get a "fuller" and more distinct sound

than when using electric instruments.

Porter showed off his soloist vocals in Tom Petty's "Yer So Bad," giving a reminiscent feel of folk singers like Bob Dylan.

Drake, the bass player, found the spotlight with the song "Wagon Wheel," by Old Crow Medicine. With the upbeat tempo and bass-line, Drake kept the pace of the evening going.

Drake said he went into some of the songs without rehearsal, and instead just picked up the bass-line as the song went on.

He also said he had not been with the band for more than a couple of months.

Meiner, the guitarist, also was given moments to shine. "Tequila Sunrise," by the Eagles was accompanied by her backup vocals.

Meiner, who has only been with the band for one month, is not a regular of the band. She only comes in for certain performances, such as the JAC.

The JAC will be hosting a 50th anniversary of the band The Beatles' first performance on "The Ed Sullivan Show" in 1964 with the band Tequila Mockingbyrd performing all Beatles songs.

Blake Warman can be reached at 581-2812 or [brwarman@eiu.edu](mailto:brwarman@eiu.edu).

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KATIE SMITH | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Dancer Kyle Hadenfeldt reaches for a light during Root's Vision as part of the Thodos Dance Chicago performance Saturday in the Theatre of the Doudna Fine Arts Center. This number told the story of John Root, who became ill with walking pneumonia. As he dies, he envisions the idea of "The White City."

# Production molds history of World's Fair with dance

**By Bob Galuski**  
Managing Editor | @BobGaluski

The woman, trapped in the dimly lit box, feverishly climbs both sides of the wall, desperation creeping around her. As she climbs the walls, the air around her is quickly escaping. She is suffocating.

She sucks in the last breath she has, and collapses – dead.

The woman, Jessica Miller Thompson, a dancer for Thodos Dance Chicago, re-enacts a scene about one of Dr. H. H. Holmes' victims Saturday in the Theatre of the Doudna Fine Arts Center.

Thompson's performance was only one part of the sprawling dance production "The White City," a dance loosely based on Erik Larson's book "The Devil in the White City."

The performance covered the 1893 World's Fair in Chicago, a time filled with Holmes stalking young women, a fan obsessed with the mayor and one man's dream.

The first act of "The White City" detailed the evolution of the 1893

World's Fair.

With the opening narration, setting the stage for all the events kicking off the performance, the stage became filled with men, all in period-appropriate suits, dancing around a table.

The table became the focal point of the dance, as the dancers spun, twirled, flipped over the table, all in a frenzy of discussion on the architecture of the White City.

And in a turn of tragedy, one of the architects – John Root, as performed by dancer Kyle Hadenfeldt, contracts walking pneumonia.

Dressed in the white hospital gowns, Hadenfeldt slid across the floor and the hospital bed as the creation of his dream played out before him.

Spanning the entire story of "The Devil in the White City," "The White City" condensed itself to one act only. With longer, haunting pieces, each new piece showcased another facet.

"The White City" also focuses on the obsession of a man and Mayor Carter Harrison, intercutting

the creation of the World's Fair and Holmes' crimes with this interlude.

However, once the first act ended, the production time-jumped into the 1960s with pieces by cinematographer Bob Fosse.

Completing the "Bob Fosse Trilogy" were pieces based on "Cool Hand Luke," "Tijuana Shuffle" and "Mexican Breakfast."

Ending with a flourish was a contemporary piece by Thodos' choreographer Lucas Crandall. This completed the transition of times during the production.

Dwight Vaught, the director of Doudna, said bringing "The White City" to Eastern was a two-year endeavor.

The performance at Eastern was the finale for the dance company's Midwestern tour.

While the first act was inspired by Larson's book, Melissa Thodos, the artistic director for Thodos Dance Chicago, said a lot of research went into the piece, including the Chicago History Museum.

She said she chose the story to make people from Chicago aware of



KATIE SMITH | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

John Cartwright and Jessica Miller Tomlinson dance to "Dr. Holmes' Next Possession" during the Thodos Dance Chicago performance Saturday in the Theatre of the Doudna Fine Arts Center. In this scene, Dr. Holmes approaches a young woman who has been drawn in by his gentlemanly behavior, and begins to make advances.

this particular part of history.

Thodos added that while people who enjoyed the story and history of piece would come and see the production, they would also enjoy the dance.

"It draws in a different audience for that reason," she said.

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

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## Letter to the Editor Ads hurting enrollment

To Whom It May Concern,

I was recently reading the latest edition of the EIU newspaper when I found myself quite disturbed. On the very first page the newspaper was talking about low enrollment rates and how other universities in Illinois were doing better than us in getting and retaining new students.

This is fine and I am glad we are coming up with a new strategy to help with our enrollment issues.

The problem exists on the second page of our newspaper. There was an advertisement for a 7 bedroom house for rent next to IKES.

This part was even fine, but it was the wording on the advertisement that I found so undesirable.

“Imagine walking only steps to campus or being able to roll out of bed onto a barstool.”

How can we be worried about our enrollment rates when in our own newspaper we cannot even take education and the scholarly process seriously?

To me this advertisement is saying that getting drunk and drinking in your spare time while being a student is ok and acceptable.

Going to college is supposed to be about learning, education and furthering ourselves as individuals; not about being able to consume alcoholic beverages at whatever time “you roll out of bed.”

If this is in our newspaper and our students are reading it how many other potential students are reading this and thinking that the school is a joke because of our articles in the newspaper?

Sara Smith

## Quote of the Day Today's quote:

“If you can't get rid of the skeleton in your closet, you'd best teach it to dance.”  
- George Bernard Shaw

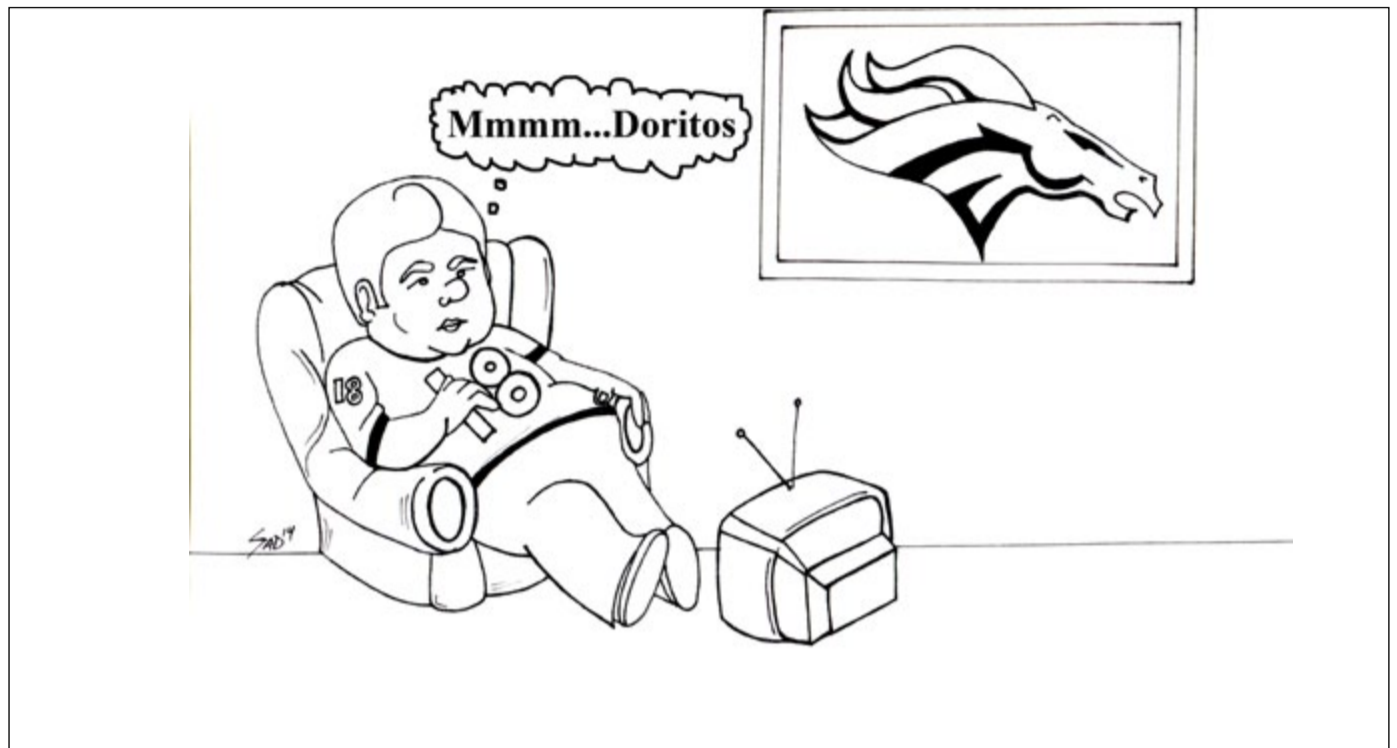
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## The only time everyone watches the commercials



SABRINA ANN DUNCAN | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

## We deserve more than 1 month

Why isn't there a White History month? The reason white people don't have an ethnic month of appreciation is because every day is about them. Shocking, isn't it?

Before you furiously open your Panthermail, poised and ready to send a letter of hate, hear me out, I have a few questions for you. I want to know how much cultural information about other ethnicities you know, and be honest. Oh, and your token black friend, whom you usually only call asking about a Que party on the weekends does not qualify.

Tell me, did you know that Africa had many other kingdoms that ruled over its continent besides the infamous Egypt? Did you also know that the people of Africa and Europe used to trade goods and resources long before they were tricked into slavery by the very same people they once traded with? What about the fact that Africa fought many wars resisting its capture and only few countries were able to successfully win, such as Ethiopia.

I would think not. Many people, white or black, know nothing of this because of one



Roberto Hodge

simple fact: We're not taught any of this in basic core history courses K-12. This is all information that has to willingly be sought out from classes designed to teach about African or African-American History.

The information that's forced down our throats, ever since we first learn to say the words; “I pledge allegiance to the flag,” has been strictly related to things dealing with American and/or British culture—seldom African-American.

Also, to all ethnic minorities, peoples of British, French, Dutch and German descent

are all still considered white. White privilege is real, and it's the reason some people question why black people have a month and why white people don't.

Every single day, blacks are reminded of their social standing and for one month, whites are placed on the backburner to realize it's not all about them, and then complain asking, “Why don't we have our own month?” Well, that's why.

It's a shame that a black man and woman can recite the events of the wars throughout American history, but can't even name all of the influential black leaders outside of Malcolm X, Martin Luther King Jr. and Nelson Mandela.

February is a month dedicated to us and our accomplishments. Remember, February is only 28, or 29 days. Beginning in March, it goes right back to being all about everybody else.

Roberto Hodge is a senior journalism major. He can be reached at [denopinions@gmail.com](mailto:denopinions@gmail.com)

## STAFF EDITORIAL

### Expect success from coaches' increased salaries

It's nothing new – coaches make a lot of money and in most cases they make more than professors, and more than what fans think they deserve.

But, that's the issue. It isn't new so, get used to it at Eastern, and every university across the country.

In the past year Eastern has hired three coaches that make more than their predecessors and one new coach who earns the same.

Kim Dameron will make \$170,000 his first season as the football coach this season after taking over for Dino Babers, who earned this same in each of his two seasons in charge of the Panthers, excluding his bonuses.

Whether anyone thinks \$170,000 is too much for Dameron is beside the point. Only worry about the salary if and when the team is struggling. Because Dameron and Babers have the same salary, judge them on the wins and losses.

Eastern won two Ohio Valley Conference titles with Babers, so because Dameron receives the same money expectations should be high.

Of course, losing the program's best quarterback in Jimmy Garoppolo may slow down the team from continuing its success, but nonetheless winning and losing will be the ultimate measuring point for Dameron.

So, when bringing up how much money he makes fans should only worry about Dameron living up to the contract and not focus on the actual amount.

The same goes for Debbie Black, who took over for Lee Buchanan, as the women's basketball coach.

Black knows all too well how painful it can be to take over a program that has been successful for several years and then all of sudden lose its best player.

As Ta'Kenya Nixon graduated Eastern last year, the women's basketball team entered the 2013-14 season without the school's all-time leading scorer.

With six regular-season games remaining for Black, who is fighting to get the Panthers into the OVC tournament, it has been an up and down season for the first-time head coach.

Black makes \$115,000 per season in her three-year contract – which is \$5,000 more than Buchanan. Now, it is more but the increase is minimal.

Second-year coach Jay Spoonhour leads the men's basketball team.

Spoonhour replaced Mike Miller, who was not a fan favorite during his seven-year stint at Eastern, where he only had one winning season. Miller made \$137,389.30 for the 2011-12

season – his last with Eastern.

Spoonhour signed a three-year deal, earning a base salary of \$160,000.

During his first season, Spoonhour struggled to get much consistency from his team, but did coach Eastern into the OVC tournament, which Miller only did twice in his seven years.

The men's team currently sits in second place in the West Division of the OVC this season, as they look to be on its way to the postseason tournament.

Now, Spoonhour is making a little more than \$22,000 more than Miller and hovering around .500 should not be the highest expectation, but people should prefer this team than the old Miller teams.

Again, Spoonhour's salary is not ridiculous relative to college coaches and even if it was the criticism should come when fans feel he isn't living up to expectations, which come down to wins.

As a matter of fact, fans should want the coach of their favorite team to make as much money as they can on every contract because, more often than not, that means that coach is winning, and winning a lot.

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

### Editorial Board

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# CUPB begins cuts discussions

By Jack Cruikshank  
Administration Editor | @DEN\_News

The Council on University Planning and Budget began its assessment of university program analyses at the meeting Friday.

The meeting consisted of the three main subcommittees dividing and reviewing their individual areas of assignment.

The three subcommittees are academic affairs, student affairs and a group that reviews analyses from business affairs, the president's area and university advancement.

The three subcommittees, while tasked with an individual set of program analyses to review, will all read all of the analyses to prepare for the final discussions surrounding the cuts.

The groups met for over an hour, then reconvened to talk about how the group collectively wants the talks to precede.

Although the council will continue to meet regularly with time for the subcommittees to meet, subcommittee conveyors have the ability to set meeting times other than during the regularly-scheduled meetings normally on Fridays.

One councilmember brought up the issue of closing the meetings to the public, as the meetings can be sensitive in nature.

Allan Lanham, the dean of library services and the chairman of the CUPB, said he agreed the privacy of situation is important, as no one wants to go on record as saying they want to cut a certain program.

Grant Sterling, the chair of the Faculty Senate, also agreed. He said he does not want individual recommendations released until the council meets formally to vote on the cuts to present to President Bill Perry.

Lanham suggested calling a private meeting similar to an executive session, in which only members would be allowed to attend.

Pat Early, the assistant vice president of communication, marketing and brand strategies, asked the council to consult with general council before closing any meeting, as to ensure the legality of such a meeting.

Perry has tasked the council with recommending \$7 million in cuts over the next two years, with an additional \$1 million to reallocate "to provide additional support to programs that can produce sustainable, quality enrollment growth for the university."

The council will meet next at 2 p.m. Friday on the fourth floor of Booth library to continue the discussions among the subcommittees.

Jack Cruikshank can be reached at 581-2812 or [jdcruikshank@eiu.edu](mailto:jdcruikshank@eiu.edu).

## » VOTERS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



DION MCNEAL | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Nick Smith, a junior pre-medical student and Sam Deyoung, a freshman pre-nursing student register to vote Thursday outside the food court of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union. 375 students registered to vote.

He added volunteers made sure to stress to people this is their civic responsibility.

While voter registration is over, students can still register to vote in the Student Activ-

ity Center in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

The polls for the general primary will be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mar. 18 and the

polls for the election will be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. Nov. 4.

Jarad Jarmon can be reached at 581-2812 or [jsjarmon@eiu.edu](mailto:jsjarmon@eiu.edu)

## » PEPSI CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"(Pepsi) wanted to have the contract," McCann said. "(The additional stipends) was something they added as a sweetener, if you want to use that word. It was certainly not something we asked for and it was not something we based our acceptance of the contract on. How we evaluated the contract was totally based upon price."

While the contract originally stipulated that 20 ounces sodas would be \$1.25 each, Pepsi raised the price to \$1.50 last summer when Eastern renewed the contract until 2018.

"There was a caveat in the contract that allows them, after so many years, to increase the price," McCann said. "They wanted to go up quite a bit more than that, and we said no, that's too much."

As far as profits accrued as a result of the soda sales around campus and at events, McCann said Pepsi would receive them, as Eastern gets the same money no matter what.

He said he has never seen a profit from the soda sales, which is why the original stipend included a minimum commission of \$230,000 plus the three stipends to the various departments on campus.

Per the original contract, 20 ounces bottles of soda cost Eastern 56 cents, but it has risen slightly since last summer.

"We don't sell enough to cover the amount that they are paying us," McCann said. "They are selling it to us at whatever their pricing is and then we pay that and that amounts to \$200,000 a year. Then they turn around and give us \$303,000."

At various soda machines around campus,

soda prices are \$1.75, but McCann said all soda on campus should be the same price of \$1.50, with the exception of sports drinks such as Gatorade.

"There shouldn't be any different prices for any different sodas," McCann said. "All the sodas should be at the same price."

He offered a possible explanation of an error when stocking the machines.

"Maybe they got something in the wrong slot when they filled up the machine," McCann said. "Every soda should be \$1.50."

Jack Cruikshank can be reached at 581-2812 or [jdcruikshank@eiu.edu](mailto:jdcruikshank@eiu.edu).



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# Payne leads Panthers to OVC win

By Bob Reynolds  
Staff Reporter | @BobReynoldsDEN

After shooting 7-of-16 from the 3-point line Monday, Eastern women's basketball guard Katlyn Payne shot 6-of-8 from the 3-point line in Saturday's 71-61 win over Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville in Lantz Arena.

Payne spotted up behind the 3-point line five minutes into the game and made a 3-pointer to break the all-time 3-point field goal record in a single season for Eastern.

The previous record was 58, which was held by Michelle Lewis, who set it during the 2002 season.

With the Panthers leading 14-7 early in the first half, Payne made two three's back-to-back to give Eastern a 20-7 lead.

Edwardsville started to get back into the game when it went on a 16-4 run to cut the Eastern lead down to one with about three minutes left to play in the first half.

Payne ended her strong first-half shooting after she stole an inbound pass from Edwardsville and then stepped up and hit a 3-pointer to give the Panthers a five-point lead at halftime.

Eastern coach Debbie Black said that sequence from Payne to close out the first half was vital to keeping distance between the Panthers and Cougars.

"That three was great," Black said. "She got that steal, made that three and put us up five, which really helped us. When a shooter is in that zone they are unbelievable."

Payne shot 75 percent from beyond the arc in the first half, and said she went into the game with confidence after breaking out of her slump on Monday in the loss to Tennessee-Martin.

In the second half, every defender that drew Payne's assignment guarded her closely. Payne did not make a 3-pointer after in the last 20 minutes of play.

Late in the second half after the Cougars took their first lead of the game at 54-53, the Panthers went on a 17-8 run to close out the game.

Payne said this was a must-win game for Eastern. "We've been struggling on the road in conference and we really want to make it to the tournament," she said. "To get to that tournament there are teams you got to hold down and beat."

Morgan Palombizio set a new career-high with 14 rebounds, which provided a spark for the Panthers.

She only shot 2-of-12, but her rebounding played a pivotal part in the game and Black was impressed with the way she played Saturday.

"Someone is going to have to make shots," Black said. "She made a shot that was telling of our game. She won the game for us. What I tell my team is if they are not going to play do something else. I think the shots she took were good ones and they are going to go in."

The Panthers have a 4-6 record in the Ohio Valley Conference and currently sit half a game behind the eighth and final tournament spot with six conference games left.



JASON HOWELL | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Jordyne Crunk, a senior guard, puts a shot up in a game against Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville on Saturday in Lantz Arena. The Panthers beat the SIUE Cougars 71-61.

Bob Reynolds can be reached at 581-2812 or [rjreynolds@eiu.edu](mailto:rjreynolds@eiu.edu).

## Eastern track, field posts 6 first-place finishes

By Blake Nash  
Staff Reporter | @DEN\_Sports

The Eastern men's and women's track and field team wrapped up a two-day meet on Saturday with six first-place finishes at Northern Iowa.

Sophomore sprinter Calvin Edwards led both teams, with two of those first place finishes in the 200 and 400-meter races.

In the 200m race he finished with a time of 21.62 and 48.98 in the 400m. He was also a member of the first-place 4x400m relay team, which finished with a time of 3:19.73. This marks the second consecutive week that Edwards placed first in all three events.

The pole vault was once again a tight con-

test with Mick Viken picking up the win for Eastern. The red-shirt senior cleared 17-feet, 2.75-inches to beat out his teammate Peter Geraghty who finished with a height of 16'8.75". Sophomore Eric Gordon rounded out the top three for the Panthers with a leap of 16'2.75".

The men's team also won the 3K, after a great performance by Paxson Menard. The freshman from Poplar Grove won with a time of 8:35.74, narrowly beating Northern Iowa's Andrew Swanson who finished with a time of 8:36.23.

Jalissa Paramore took the lone first place finish for the women's team in the 60m hurdles and a second place finish in the long jump. She finished with a time of 8.50 in the hurdles and

a mark of 18'7.25" in the long jump.

The Panthers also secured top three finishes in the 400m hurdles.

Amina Jackson placed second in the women's hurdles with a time of 1:03.80. Emily Roberts of Northern Iowa, who finished with a time of 1:02.48, defeated her. On the men's side, Danny Trevor finished third with a time of 54.31.

In field events, Janie House cemented a second place finish in the weight throw and a spot on the Panthers all-time list.

Her mark of 54'10" placed her seventh on the Eastern career list. Kailey James placed second in the high jump with a mark of 5'5", tying Emily Endelman of Northern Iowa.

Kirstie Wieber led the women's pole vault

team, missing all-American Jade Reibold, to a second place finish. Wieber finished with a height of 12'3.50".

Her counterpart from Northern Iowa, Libby Torresani, took first place and broke the Northern Iowa all-time record with a height of 13'1.50".

The women's 4x400m relay team took home second place with a time of 3:55.55. Bryce Basting capped the men's meet with a 4:16.43 second place finish in the mile.

The Panthers will return to action next weekend at the University of Notre Dame.

Blake Nash can be reached at 581-2812 or [banash@eiu.edu](mailto:banash@eiu.edu).



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# Verhagen surprises in Panthers' win

By Anthony Catezone  
Sports Editor | @AnthonyCatz

Jake Verhagen knows how to celebrate a birthday.

And the Eastern men's basketball team gave him the perfect present on his 19th birthday with a 76-70 win over Ohio Valley Conference rival Southern Illinois-Edwardsville to move into second place in the west division and improve to 5-5 in conference play.

With 3:54 remaining, Verhagen, who was in for just the second time all game, made a 3-pointer to cut the Eastern deficit to 63-62 Saturday afternoon in Lantz Arena.

"When I put him in, I was hoping he would get an open look and knock one in," Eastern coach Jay Spoonhour said.

At that time, Verhagen had been sitting on the bench for the last eight minutes of the game, but the lack of action Verhagen saw did not change his mindset.

"Going into a game like that, with the crowd like that, you're ready right away," Verhagen said. "No matter how long you've been sitting, you need to be ready to make a play, help your team out."

On the ensuing possession, Edwardsville's Donivine Stewart missed a jumper with Sherman Blanford getting the defensive rebound for Eastern.

Once again, Verhagen was at the top of the 3-point line where he received the ball from Zach Dickerson with 3:05 left to play.

"I knew when he was open that he was going to knock it down," Eastern forward Sherman Blanford said. "I saw the ball get swung to him, I said, 'oh, yeah that's going in.'"

Blanford was right.

With another wide open look, Verhagen took the shot and made just his second attempt of the night — only this time giving the Panthers a 65-63 lead.

"The two 3s — bang, bang — it's a huge deal," Spoonhour said.

Verhagen gave the Panthers their first lead since 3:16 in the first half. But before his late-game heroics, the Eastern forward was not making his head coach as happy.

Before Verhagen attempted either shot, Edwardsville had three shot attempts and two offensive rebounds in one 26-second possession.



SAJJAD ABEDIAN | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Jake Verhagen, a freshman forward, shoots a three pointer during a game against Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville Saturday in Lantz Arena. Verhagen successfully shot two three-point baskets during the game, for a total of six points.

## Eastern Illinois vs. Southern Illinois - Edwardsville

76

Lantz Arena  
Charleston, Ill.

70

The Cougars' Ray Lester missed a jump shot and battled Verhagen for his own rebound. Beating out Verhagen, Lester tipped in his own miss and extended the Cougars lead to four points with 4:06 remaining.

On the way back down the court, Spoonhour told Verhagen that he needed to be tougher, something the 6-foot-6, 200-pound

freshman clearly took into consideration.

"As he was coming down (the court), I just told him, 'you need to grow up and grab that ball,'" Spoonhour said. "He just nods and then makes the shot. I guess that's his way of growing up."

But Verhagen considers Spoonhour giving him the opportunity to go in and make a play

somewhat of a birthday present, whether his head coach knew it or not.

If that were the case, it could be said that Verhagen not only made the most of his birthday present, but also returned the favor to his coach.

"I would have to say this is the No. 1 birthday," Verhagen said. "We got the win, my parents came down. I couldn't ask for anything more."

Anthony Catezone can be reached at 581-2812 or [ajcatezone@eiu.edu](mailto:ajcatezone@eiu.edu).

# Eastern swimming drops rematch against Saint Louis

By Dan Hildebrandt  
Staff Reporter | @DEN\_Sports

Friday night marked the end of the regular season for the Eastern swimming program, as the men's and women's teams dropped their meet to the Saint Louis at Padovan Pool.

The men's meet ended with a 200-60 win for the Billikens, while the women's meet ended with a score of 170-92 in favor of Saint Louis.

Eastern began on a good note as the women won the first event of the day in the 200-yard medley relay. Despite the winning start, the women came up with only three more victories.

The men's only event win came at the hands of sophomore Conner Conroy in the 200-yard butterfly.

The energy on the pool deck was lacking for the Panthers as they were having trouble coming up with event victories. Eastern coach Elliot McGill said the mental aspect during Friday's meet led to unsuccessful races.

"We had a few solid individual performances, but as a whole we let how we were feeling dictate our energy towards our races," McGill said. "We are a young team that has to learn our mental and physical approach to a race can affect when we are feeling funky or tired at this time in the season."

The men and women both ended up with

**"We will be focusing on some skills we need to clean up and we will have a few race-oriented sets."**

Elliot McGill, Eastern head coach

losing records this season, as the men finished at 0-8 and the women finished 2-7.

Despite what the records show, Eastern put together a very solid season, McGill said. The Panthers faced some very good competition throughout the season, which will help them come the Summit League Championships in late February.

"We had no cupcakes on our schedule this season," McGill said. "We took the approach of if you want to be the best, you have to compete against the best. We did and I thought even though we didn't win very many meets we competed very well. That will only make us tougher and more ready for conference."

With the regular season coming to an end Friday, the Panthers will only have one more meet to focus on — the Summit League Championships.

The Summit League Championships will be in Indianapolis on Feb. 19-22. This means the



FILE PHOTO BY DOMINIC BAIMA | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Conner Conroy, a sophomore butterfly/freestyle swimmer, takes a breath before diving back under the water during a meet Nov. 11. Conroy's top record is having come in the top five for a relay at the 2012 state meet.

Panthers will have nearly three weeks until they compete again.

Some of the preparation for the Panthers will include a few tweaks to their practice schedule.

"We will be focusing on some skills we need to clean up and we will have a few race-oriented sets," McGill said.

Besides the sets the teams will do in the pool, the rest of the time leading up to con-

ference will all be time for resting.

"Outside of those few sets, the next two and a half weeks will all be rest," McGill said. "We will slowly go down in yards and intensity as we approach conference."

Dan Hildebrandt can be reached at 581-2812 or [djhildebrandt@eiu.edu](mailto:djhildebrandt@eiu.edu).